

The en - Light - ner

Monthly Newsletter of
First United Methodist Church
Portales, New Mexico

March 2018

Mission Statement: To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

March Sermon Series: Jesus The Wounded Healer

March 4: Mark 2:1-12
Withstanding Rejection

March 11: Linda Weems

March 18: Matthew 12:46-
50 A Commitment to Christ
is a Commitment to the
Faith

March 25: Luke 19:29-40
Faith is a Day to Day Jour-
ney

March 30: Good Friday
(6:30 pm) Matthew 27:32-50
It Cost to Bear a Cross

Exploring Christian Days and Seasons

This time of the year brings on several of the most important days and seasons in the Christian Faith. In this article, I will highlight some of the spiritual significance of Lent, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Lent (Luke 4:1-13) is the forty-day period before Easter, excluding Sundays. Sundays are excluded in the Lenten Season because we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus every Sunday. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, which is the day before Easter Sunday. Lent is influenced by the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted by the devil prior to beginning His public ministry. This is a time for our reflection, repentance and renewal. During this season, we must look inward to pinpoint challenges and sin that we need Christ to help us to overcome and to continue in spiritual growth.

Ash Wednesday (Genesis 3:19) is the first day of Lent. Christians receive a mark of ashes on the forehead as a token of penitence and mortality. We begin Lent with the understanding that we need God's purification because we are frail in our humanity. From dust we were taken and to dust we shall return.

Palm Sunday (Matthew 21: 1-11) is the time we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before His death and resurrection. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday (John 13:34) is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper (also called Communion). The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word for "command." Jesus gave a command to the disciples at the Last Supper, that they should love and serve one another as he had loved them. *(Continued on page 3)*





Mark Your Calendar

The Worship Committee Calendar for March, April and May 2018

March 4th	Communion
March 11th	Easter lily order forms in bulletin
March 18th	Easter lily order forms in bulletin
March 25th	Easter lily order forms in bulletin Palm Sunday
March 29th	Maundy Thursday
March 30th	Good Friday Service - 6:30 pm
April 1st	Easter Sunday with communion Sunrise service at 6:30 am Regular service at 9:30 am
May 6th	Communion
May 13th	Mother's Day
May 20th	Pentecost Sunday

March



2nd	Gina deGroot - B
5th	Amberlyn Mauldin - B
8th	Ben Myers - B
13th	Jasi Roberts - B
17th	Donny & JoBeth Massey - A
20th	Wendy Bonestroo - B
20th	Todd Mosier - B
23rd	Meno Banda - B
23rd	Meno & Beth Banda - A
23rd	Kenny & Katrina Prince - A
24th	Janet Roehl - B
28th	Cindy Cissell - B
28th	Kathy Durand - B
28th	Betty Hebert - B
29th	Susie Brown - B
29th	Hannah Cissell - B
30th	Tom & Betty Hebert - A

Memorial Service

Jo Nell Brooks

died January 31, 2018
Memorial Service - Saturday,
April 7th, 11:00 am, at First
United Methodist Church



Meals On Wheels' THANK YOU

Thanks to our church members who volunteered to deliver meals to shut-ins in February. This is a much needed service in our community and one of the ways our congregation is out there providing ministry. The drivers were Panzy Jordan, Marilyn Mabry, Elwyn Hulett family, Ginger Creighton, Mary Moherman, and Wanda Pettus.

We will deliver again in July and if anyone of our new members would be interested in helping deliver meals, please call Fayrene Powers at 356-4689. The meals are picked up at 11:00 a.m. at Heartland Continuing Care, and it takes about an hour to deliver and return the trays to the kitchen.

(Continued from page 1)

Good Friday (Mark 15:25-37) commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His death at Calvary. On this day we stand in awe and sadness. In awe that Jesus loved the world and God so much that He gave His life as a sacrifice. In sadness because of the torture, pain, agony and betrayal that Jesus went through.



Easter Sunday (Matthew 28: 1-10) is also referred to as Resurrection Day. The meaning of Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead. Of course, we have explored a synopsis of these sacred days and seasons. I hope you will utilize this as a starter to further your in-depth study. May God bless you in your faith journey.

Pastor Keith



On Sunday, February 25th, Pastor Keith announced that **Charles Chambers** was having knee surgery the next day. Congregation members showed their support. (Reports are that the surgery went well, and Charles is doing fine.)



D. J. Dunnaway presents the Children's Moment on the last Sunday each month.



Las Companas bell choir, under the direction of Bill Wood, played on Sunday, February 25th.

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor - Dr. Keith Wilks
Office Manager - Gerri Bradsher
Nursery - Melissa Borden
Lay Leader - Linda Weems
Choir Director - Jan Smartnick
Interim Choir Director - Amanda Rindlisbach
Accompanist - James Golden
Youth Director - Amberlyn Mauldin
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Bishop - W. Earl Bledsoe
District Superintendent - Jane Vaughan

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(You can click on any of the blue links in this newsletter, and they should open the link or website. If they do not open, you can cut and paste the URL into your browser.) The same is true with an email.

It's Summer Church Camp Time!

When I was 12 years old I had the opportunity to attend church camp at Sacramento Assembly. It was quite a bit smaller then, but it was just as powerful for our youth as it is now. That was when I began to develop my relationship with God. That was the time I began to realize I truly needed God in my life. I wanted to attend church for myself, not because my parents made me. I began to realize the impact my decision made on my life, and the power and influence God can have making those decisions.

Why do we need to leave home to have this experience? Camp gets our children away from everyday life and the distractions that come with modern life. Computers, television, cell phones, school, sports and endless activities all pull us away from God. When there is time away in a Christian environment, a relationship with God can be nurtured and developed. That's what we want for all of our children!

Summer camp at Sacramento is not just about getting away for fun, even though there is plenty of that! It is about growing in the Lord. Some of the most important and life changing decisions in people's lives have been made at camp. Emotional, physical, and spiritual revival make camp an important experience. Leadership and goal setting is encouraged. Self esteem is given a boost. New friendships and character can be built in a safe environment. Opportunities to try new adventures in a natural setting are provided. Memories will be made that last a lifetime. You are brought close to the creation God has made.

First United Methodist Church youth are making plans to attend church camps this summer. Campers will attend five different camps through the summer. If you have a child or grandchild, third grade to high school, interested in attending camp, please contact Donita Privett, 575-760-7676, or Amberlynn Mauldin, 575-749-2667, as soon as possible.

We also need adult volunteers to drive the church van, as well as be sponsors and councilors for camps. If God is calling you to work through him with these children, please let us know!

Camp dates are:

King's Kids Camp

Campers entering grades 2-4
June 8-10

Promise Seekers Camp

Campers entering grades 4-6
July 9-13

SYC (Sacramento Youth Camp – formerly RITMO)

Campers grade 7 - graduate
June 18-22

Music On The Mountain Camp

Campers grade 7 – graduate
(Campers sing, play musical instruments and perform dramas)
July 8-13

Camp Sunshine

For those with mental challenges – ages 16+
July 30-Aug 3

Don't forget our biggest fundraiser for camp is our dessert auction on Easter Sunday, April 1, following the service in the fellowship hall. Please join us and make a difference in the life of our children!

Donita Privett

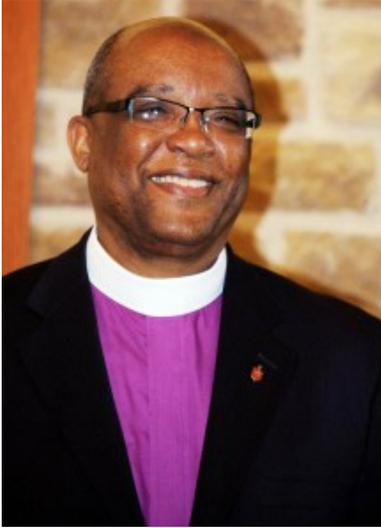


**It's Dessert
Auction Time!**

**Easter Sunday,
April 1
Fellowship Hall**

**All proceeds go to help our
youngest members grow
closer to God at Summer
Church Camps.**

A Letter From Our Bishop



Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

We are entering an important time in the life of The United Methodist Church for dialogue and prayer. During General Conference 2016, the Council of Bishops (COB) was asked to provide leadership to address disagreements associated with human sexuality in our church. In response, the COB organized the Commission on a *Way Forward*. This group has presented three preliminary model sketches, which provide policy options to address human sexuality concerns.

Bishops across our connection are now seeking feedback from their annual conferences. This is where we need your help. We would like to personally invite you to attend a *Way Forward Listening Session* with members of the NM Conference delegation. During this event, you will have a chance to participate in facilitated discussions about the model sketches, provide feedback to the delegation, and ask questions.

We request that your church be represented by your pastor, administrative council chair, member to annual Conference, and lay leader. Additional church members are welcome to attend. Please feel free to attend the meeting that is most convenient for your church.

- Western Hills UMC, El Paso, February 18th at 3 p.m.
- FUMC Odessa, March 4th at 3 p.m.
- FUMC Clovis, March 18th at 3 p.m.
- Central UMC Albuquerque, April 22nd at 3 p.m.

Please continue to pray for our church and delegation. We look forward to seeing you at one of the *Way Forward Listening Sessions*.

Sincerely,

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe
Conference Lay Leader, Sid Strebeck