

THE MESSENGER of the First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Steve Angus, Pastor

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THE PASTOR'S PEN

Most of us when we turn to the month of February on our calendars will immediately try to identify the date February 14. Of course that is Valentine's Day and we certainly do not want to overlook that special day. To do so would likely land us on someone's "How dare you forget!" list. If you have identified the date you probably made the connection that Valentine's falls on a Wednesday but not any Wednesday. It is also Ash Wednesday which signals the beginning of the church season of Lent. Although having the two events occur on the same day may interfere with plans for a romantic dinner with a loved one, I have always felt when this did occur it was somehow appropriate. Lent reminds us of ashes, nails, sin, repentance, crosses and other "heavy" topics but when it commences on Valentine's Day it drives home the fact that "the heavy stuff" occurred because God chose to romance us into a loving relationship. Lent and Love are both four letter words straight from the heart of God. I also find it equally ironic that the season of Lent concludes on Easter Sunday which this year falls on April 1, commonly referred to as April Fool's Day (All Fool's Day). It seems appropriate because Easter is God's ultimate trick played on death and sin. Perhaps this is the reason I have always enjoyed singing the song "Lord of the Dance" because it seems as if Jesus recognizes that he has tricked death and dances as he sings:

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he

As we journey through Lent I want you to be aware of some opportunities that I hope will help us keep a Holy Lent.

- Pastor's Bible Study begins Tuesday, February 6 at 10 am in Martin Memorial Chapel (topic Romans)
- Ash Wednesday Service, February 14 at 6:00 pm in the Martin Memorial Chapel.
- Community Noon Lenten Services begin Wednesday April 21 Sanctuary. (Theme: The Lord's Prayer)

Confirmation Classes begin Sunday afternoon February 18 (sign up below)

Blessings
Pastor Steve

What is a Confirmation Class?

A "Confirmation Class" is a group of individuals who come together typically with their pastor for a time of study, prayer and reflection to learn some of the basic beliefs of a United Methodist Christian. One does not have to have been previously baptized as an infant to be a part of a class. The purpose of the class is to help someone understand what it means to be a Christian and how they can express this in their life. It is a time for them to consider becoming a Christian and a member of the church.

Attending a **Confirmation Class does not make a person a Christian.** Nor is it necessary for someone to attend such a class to become a Christian or become a full member of the Church. One can do this at any time and at any age. However such a class can help us recognize how God is at work in our lives. Only God can make a Christian!

The classes will meet on Sunday afternoons for 4 weeks. After the classes conclude I will meet individually with families about where we go from here. For those who chose to be confirmed or baptized this will enable this to occur Easter Sunday April 1.

If you would like to speak with me please call me at 931-967-3333 or 615-925-2372 or by email at pastorsteve59@gmail.com.

Name _____ Birth Date ____/____/____ Age ____
____ Grades 4-7 ____ Grades 8-12 ____ Adult

Parents

Name _____

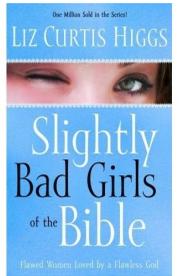
Contact Number _____

email address: _____

We have finished "Bad Girls of the Bible" so join us as we study "Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible:

Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God."

These ladies were far from evil, but hardly perfect...Mostly good, yet slightly bad. In other words, these matriarchal mamas look a lot like us! This is a 10 week study that will begin on Sunday, March 4th at 5PM in the banquet room. This series is NOT sequential which means you can join us for any or all lessons! The book cost is \$11. Please call the church office and sign up by Feb. 23rd in order to receive your book in time for the first class.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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| February 1
Jonathan Jones | February 15
Maggie Woodall,
Randy Davis,
Parks Knapper,
Perry Zimmerman |
| February 3
Wayne Nuckolls,
Michele Counts, Katie Hayes,
Alex Bradford | February 16
Zella Foster |
| February 4
Troy & Jessica Rackley | February 17
Jean Alexander
James & Karen Summers |
| February 5
Harvey Little,
Marie Stevenson | February 18
Howard & Linda Counts |
| February 6
Chris Vaughn, Owen Stewart,
Alyce Mansfield
Carter & Wanda Sanders | February 19
Julia Zimmerman,
Davis Hammond
Earl & Katherine Propst |
| February 7
Lisa Shepherd | February 20
David Mansfield
Keven & Sheri Smith |
| February 8
Dwight Stephens,
Leanne Turpin,
Jon Retherford,
Laura Lockmiller | February 21
Sarah Curtis |
| February 9
Brenda Limbaugh | February 23
Ronnie & Lisa Prince |
| February 10
Laura Rowland, Sue Baldwin
Jim & Loretta Smith | February 24
Fran Crenshaw |
| February 12
Kim Guzman,
Donald Limbaugh | February 25
Heather Crenshaw |
| February 13
Jan Stephens, Rhonda Gray | February 26
Nelson Crouch |
| February 14
Doris Elder, Philip Cash
James & Linda Burkman | February 27
Julie Vaughn, Bob James |
| | February 28
Keven Smith, Jeannie Warren,
Caroline Dennis |
| | February 29
Bryan Bean |

A FEW NOTES FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

On January 31, just past, we experienced an unique God-event in nature: On the same night, we had a partial lunar eclipse, a “blue moon” (two full moons in one calendar month), a “blood moon” (when the moon appears red as it rises), and a “super moon” (when the moon’s orbit brings it very close to the earth). All of these things are in God’s ordering of the universe, the “harmony of the spheres.” Rarely do all of these moon aspects fall together, and one cannot help but consider the hand of God which wrought the universe, setting in motion the complex orbits of overlapping cycles which produce such events.

In all our lives are moments where we experience some personal pain, some moments of physical or emotional misery. Others may not experience times of misery exactly when you do, because people, too, have complex orbits of overlapping cycles in their lives. However, God is still in control, and his mercy and grace await our prayers. Whatever you are experiencing in your cycle of life at this moment, God is there for you. Reach out to him in faith and trust him. Then, when your personal time of misery has passed, be sure to thank him for his hand in your life.

When we exercise such faith, our faith multiplies, both in our lives, and in our witness to others. Trust in the Lord, and rely upon him to see you through life’s cycles of up and down. You will be drawn closer to him in the process, and we all need a closer walk with the Lord.

Peace, Jon

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT WESLEY PRESCHOOL

We are looking forward to so many fun activities during the month of February at Wesley Preschool. This month we will be learning about the heart shape and the colors pink and purple. Our author study for February will be Dr. Suess. We have many Suess inspired crafts and activities planned as well.

The highlight of February will be our Valentine celebrations. We will decorate heart cookies and exchange cards with our classmates.

Please note on your calendar that we will not have school on Monday, February 19th due to President’s Day. Instead, we will have school on Friday, February 23rd as a make-up day.



STEWARDSHIP IS A LIFESTYLE: YTD AVERAGES 2018

Sunday School Average—150 Worship Average: 237
Weekly Needed: \$10327.00 Weekly Average Received: \$8970.00

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

We have begun studying The Story in children’s church which offers wonderful interactive stories from the Bible. Be watching for Parent Letters with activities you can do at home as a family to build on these lessons.

On Wednesday evenings we are continuing with Mission Possible at 6:00 and always can use extra helping hands if you would like volunteer. We continue to collect tithe to support Edo through Compassion International. Additional information about how to write to her or learn more available on request.

We will be updating information so please make sure to watch for a sheet to fill out for your children.

SAVE THE DATE! VBS June 25th-29th details coming!



YOUTH NEWS
Youth Super Bowl Party
Feb 4h
5pm—Game over???

Address: 215 Golf Course Lane Winchester, TN
Thanks to the WINE family for hosting our Super Bowl party this year. Come cheer on your team or just come hang out and watch commercial's.

Warmth IN Winter
Feb 10-11 Cost \$40

Come join in on the largest youth gathering in Middle TN. We will leave Saturday morning and spend the night back at the church after a day filled with worship, learning, & Fun

Summer Mission Trip
June 16—23, Jacksonville, FL

We will be traveling with Team Effort to help with flood relief . Even though the media has moved on the hurt and damage is still there.

Cost \$250 Deposit \$50 Due March 29th

MISSION COMMITTEE MONTHLY FOOD ITEM

We are collecting PEANUT BUTTER for Good Samaritan the month of February. Please bring your donations to church any Sunday in February. OUR GOAL IS 100

