



THE FLAME

2025 April Issue

From the Pastor's Study...

April is here! I can't believe that springtime is already well underway. I am so excited about having the opportunity to experience my fourth Easter season with you all as your Pastor here at First UMC. As we enter into this new month, the 40 day season of Lent will come to an end with Palm Sunday worship on April 13th. We will then enter Holy Week, which is one of the most sacred seasons in the church year. This is a time where we will intentionally seek to contemplate the days leading up to the passion and death of our Lord. It is a week meant for prayer, fellowship, scripture meditation, and participation in the story of our Savior. Below is a schedule of all the ways we are planning to move through Holy Week, as a community.

- ♦ **Sunday, April 13th:** *Palm Sunday Worship* at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
- ♦ **Wednesday, April 16th:** *Midweek Communion* at Noon in the Sanctuary
- ♦ **Wednesday, April 16th:** *Extended Brutality A Study of Crucifixion* at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ♦ **Thursday, April 17th:** *Maundy Thursday Communion Service with Tenebrae* at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
- ♦ **Friday, April 18th:** *Good Friday Way of the Cross Prayer Walk with Pastor Chris* at 11:00am, please meet and depart from our sanctuary
- ♦ **Saturday, April 19th:** *Community-Wide Easter Egg Hunt* at 11:00am at Houston Park in Downtown Madisonville
- ♦ **Sunday, April 20th:**
 - ~*Easter Sunday Worship Sunrise Service* at 7:00am at the home of Don and Kris Browder: 645 W. Crestview Drive, Madisonville, TN
 - ~*Fellowship time* begins at 10:00am in the Gathering Area
 - ~*Easter Worship Service* at 10:30am in our Sanctuary (Don't forget to bring flowers for *Flowering of the Cross*!)

To guide our devotional journey through Holy Week I will also be sending out a daily Psalm to all of you via email. The Psalms are the prayer book of the Bible, and the book that Jesus himself probably prayed from. My hope is that as we journey toward Easter together, and in the days after, the Psalms can help us to be rooted & grounded in scripture and in conversation with God. I hope and pray that you will find ways to participate in some (if not all) the things we have planned for you during this sacred week of the year.

Lots of hope!

~Chris



Fellowship Time

Sundays
10:00 am
Gathering Area

Worship Service

Sundays
10:30 am
Sanctuary

Midweek Communion

Wednesdays
12:00 pm
Sanctuary

Wednesday nights

Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm
Sanctuary

Ignite Children Ministry

6:00 pm
Classroom

United Methodist Youth

6:00 pm
Youth Room

Maundy Thursday Worship with Tenebrae

On Thursday, April 17th, at 7:00pm, our church will have a special evening service marking Holy Thursday. On this night we will remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples. Then, through scripture, prayer, light, sound, and darkness, we will also remember what led up to the death and crucifixion of Jesus with a service of Tenebrae. This service of worship will be a powerful way for us to participate in holy week as a community. It will mark the beginning of a vigil of prayer before we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday. We hope you will join us for this unique and powerful worship experience.



EASTER CANTATA

On Sunday morning, April 27th our Chancel Choir will present Russell Mauldin's cantata "*One Day*" at our 10:30am morning Worship service. The choir has been working on the music for several weeks. This is a beautiful Easter cantata. It's not too late to join the choir and be a part of this presentation. Choir practice is at 6:00pm on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, get in touch with Sue Hamilton.

Our annual Holston Conference *Hand's On Mission Project* continues

Can you help us get to our goal of 50 buckets!? There are buckets purchased by First UMC in the gathering area along with the pink slips containing the instructions for assembly of the buckets.

Pack in a NEW 5-Gallon Bucket with a Lid:

- 1 Bag of Sugar (4-5 lb.)
- 1 Bag of Rice (2 lb.)
- 1 Bag of Dried Beans (2 lb.)
- 1 Powdered/Dried Milk (64oz. or less)
- 1 Oatmeal (18 oz. or less)
- 1 Cooking Oil (48 oz. or less)
- 2 Cans of Meat: ham (1 lb. can), spam or tuna (12 oz. can)
- \$8.00 Check/Cash for shipping

Please bring your completed bucket to the gathering area by early May. Check/cash for the \$8 shipping donation can be brought to the office.

Thank you for supporting this mission!

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

On Friday, April 18th, at 11:00am Pastor Chris Black will lead the *Way of the Cross* through our downtown area. This will be a time for us to intentionally mark Good Friday as a faith community and to consider the full story of Christ's passion. We will meet in the sanctuary of the church and then begin our contemplative walk through downtown, and arrive back at the church once we are done. As we go we will stop at various places to hear scriptures read and offer prayer together. If you would like to participate, please wear comfortable shoes. If it is raining that day, we will do our prayer walk within the church.



Rev. Chris Black, Pastor
cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org

Nikki Rutzen, Executive Assistant
nikki@firstumcmadisonville.org

Sue Hamilton, Director of Congregational Care & Choir Ministries
sue@firstumcmadisonville.org

Erin Strickland, First Steps Coordinator
eroberts@firstumcmadisonville.org



FIRST UNITED METHODIST

Church: 143 College Street
Mail: PO Box 157
Madisonville, TN 37354
Call: 423-442-2471
Fax: 423-442-2434



Free Dental Cleanings!

On Wednesday, April, 23rd the students of Tennessee Wesleyan Wilhelm Dental Hygiene Program will be giving free dental cleanings starting at 10:00am and lasting until 2:00pm in the Community Room. It is by appointment only; both children and adults are welcome. Please call 423-252-1475 for one of the available hour appointments.

We Support Our Church By...

Our Gifts:

- Which goes toward making disciples of all ages.
- Helping to make our facility a vibrant home for worship, prayer and mission.
- Participating in local, regional & international missions.

Our Presence:

- In church average for March-95
- Attending one of the many classes/bible studies at FUMC



Coffee Bar

April 6th
Glenda Parker

April 13th
Kris Browder

April 20th
Janet Tweed

April 27th
Janet Tweed

Flowers

April 6th
Communion

April 13th
Palm Sunday

April 20th
Easter Sunday

April 27th
OPEN



Ignite & Youth Suppers

April 2nd
Lee Anne Strickland, Whitney Grubb & Janet Ruppel

April 9th
United Methodist Men

April 16th
Dora Nelson & Vanessa Barr

April 23rd
Janet Tweed, Regina Warfel & Angela Tallent

April 30th
Jan Johnson, Kim Townson & Veronica Venable



We Support Our Church By Our Prayers...

- ◆ Doug Warren and family
- ◆ Linda Giles (Barbara Penland’s daughter)
- ◆ Sharon Young (Hamilton friend)
- ◆ Travis Frye and family (Lindsay Liszeski’s friends)
- ◆ Family of Betty Dossett (Sharon Brown’s mother)
- ◆ Family of Doug Riddle (Patty Jones’ brother)
- ◆ Melinda Blankenship Torbett and family
- ◆ Kefauver family
- ◆ Josh Stuckey and family (Huff)
- ◆ Kayla Couch and family
- ◆ Hicks/Byrum/O'Neill family
- ◆ Shannon Larson and family
- ◆ John and Judy Maiuri
- ◆ Charlie and Phyllis Harrell and family
- ◆ Ben and Wanda Barger and family
- ◆ Unspoken Prayers

United Women in Faith Scholarship Salad Bar

Join us after worship at 11:45am on Sunday, April 27th for a Salad Bar Extravaganza. United Women in Faith will gratefully accept donations to fund our scholarship program for next year. We will be serving lettuce salad with lots of fixings & choices, fruit salad, pasta salad, chicken salad, egg salad, and pimento cheese sandwiches plus some delicious desserts. There will be a silent auction. We hope everyone will join us for food, fellowship and a chance to donate to help our graduating seniors. If you have questions contact anyone from UWF.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

The excitement is building! It will soon be time for our Community Easter Egg Hunt that will take place on Saturday, April 19th at 11:00am at Houston Park in downtown Madisonville. Last year’s event was a huge success and we need the assistance of the entire church to make this year’s event even more spectacular.

Our United Methodist Men will again be serving hot dogs from our command post—Volunteer Federal’s Weiner Wagon. Our United Women in Faith will be providing cookies. We’ll have some chips and drinks also. Our youth group stuffs and hides the eggs and we will need several more helpers to hide the eggs that morning. We need lots of individually wrapped candy and plastic Easter eggs. We have a collection tote in the gathering area or you can bring the items to the office during the week. This is a fantastic community outreach opportunity for our church and we always have a huge crowd. Everyone is invited!

SUE’S APRIL NEWS



I love the month of April. Flowers are blooming. Grass is turning green. Days are getting longer very quickly. At my house we can hear some of the excitement that is taking place on the outdoor ball fields at the high school and on the kids’ baseball fields. It is such an exciting month overall.

April is going to be an exciting and busy month here at church, too. As you look at the newsletter articles, I hope you get excited and mark your calendars to be present at most if not all of these upcoming services and events. Our Easter egg hunt on April 19th is an all hands on deck event as we host the community at Houston Park. This event does not last very long, but it is a wonderful outreach activity for our church. One of my other favorite events of this season is the Easter Sunday sunrise service on the Browder’s patio. The view is postcard spectacular as the sun rises. I know it is early for many people, but it is worth the effort to rise and shine and participate in this wonderful service. Of course I am also very excited about our Easter cantata *One Day* by Russell Mauldin on April 27th. I like doing the cantata after Easter Sunday. Eastertide actually does not end until Pentecost Sunday which is on Sunday June 8th this year.

I am going to skip ahead to July. I want to make sure that everyone has the week of July 13th marked on their calendars for our Bible School week. We will have classes for all ages from children to adults. The theme this year will be *Road Trip-On the Road with God*. Vacation Bible School week is a very special time, and we plan to have a great event again this year.

Hang on to the April newsletter and be sure to pick up the new calendar in the gathering area for April. It is going to be a very special month for First United Methodist Church Madisonville!

~Sue



“Read Together” in April

Rev. Chris Black invites you to continue or start (it’s not too late!) to participate in the Holston Conference’s “Read Together” initiative. This opportunity challenges us to read through the whole Bible in one year. We will be reading the Bible chronologically using a path laid out in J. Ellsworth Kalas’ *“The Grand Sweep: 365 Days from Genesis through Revelation”*. This reading plan asks us to read only 2-3 chapters a day which is much less burdensome than previous years’ studies.

Participating in this initiative as a whole congregation can uniquely bind us together as Christ’s disciples all while rooting us more deeply in God’s word. Even if you didn’t read every assigned reading in January/February/March you are welcome to jump in! There are schedules available in the welcome center with each month’s readings. As always if you have a question about a passage or verse you are reading, then please call or text Pastor Chris or even stop by the church office.