

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

P. O. Box 444, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

Pastor: Rev. Lauren Porter

Phone: 746-7648

Website: fmc Yazoo.org

April 13, 2025

Vol. 52 No. 15



LENTEN CALENDAR

April 13 – Passion/Palm Sunday

- 11:00 Children parade in carrying palm branches
3:00 Preschool Easter Egg Hunt – church
4:00 5K-6th grade Easter Egg Hunt—The Richards'

Monday, April 14

- 12 Noon Lenten Service followed by lunch Rev. Michael Lindsay

Tuesday, April 15

- 12 Noon Lenten Service followed by lunch Rev. David Slaughter

Wednesday, April 16

- 12 Noon Lenten Service followed by lunch Rev. Jim Genesse

Thursday, April 17

- 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 20 – Easter Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Joint Worship Service No Sunday School

April 27—Senior Recognition

- 10:00 a.m. Joint Worship Service No Sunday School

Special Announcement to our Congregation

This past Sunday, April 6, it was announced in worship that Bishop Scott Jones has appointed me to be the next Conference Superintendent for the Mississippi-West Tennessee Conference. Bishop Jones has asked that I begin working as the part-time Conference Superintendent starting June 1, while continuing to serve as your pastor full-time here at First Methodist Church in Yazoo City.

There is a proposal to Annual Conference this May to expand the Conference Superintendent to a full-time position. If that is approved, then Bishop Jones anticipates that I should move into that full-time role as early as July 1. However, he has given us some flexibility on that transition date. So, that transition could be as late as August 1, if needed. The goal is to provide a smooth transition here in Yazoo City.

Bill Kyle is the chair of our Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). And he has already begun along with our other Staff-Parish members to work toward our next pastoral appointment. Remember that one of the differences between the Global Methodist Church and the UMC is that the local church has significantly more say on who is appointed as their pastor.

So, the Presiding Elder and Cabinet will work to provide at least three excellent pastoral candidates to meet with the Staff-Parish. Staff-Parish will make their recommendation to the Cabinet as to which candidate they would prefer. Where the Staff-Parish, the pastoral candidate, and the Cabinet all agree, that is what will be recommended to Bishop Jones for a formal pastoral appointment.

Once that appointment is announced, we will work toward a transition to allow the new pastor to end well at his or her current appointment and begin the work to move here to Yazoo City.

During this appointment process, Staff-Parish will be the primary point of contact with the Presiding Elder and Cabinet. Understandably, to do their work well they will have to maintain strict confidentiality. This means that they will not be able to discuss who the candidates are or any details about them since that would complicate things for the pastoral candidates.

However, we do encourage you to talk with each Staff-Parish member and to share your hopes and dreams for our church, the things you value most in a pastor, and the needs you believe are most pressing for us here in Yazoo City. This will help them represent you well in this process. Our goal is to help provide a pastor who will be here ideally for the next ten years and will help our church thrive during that time.

In the meantime, I ask that you keep all of us in your prayers. Pray for our church. Pray for its leaders. Pray particularly for Bill Kyle and each of the members of Staff-Parish. And I would ask, please also pray for me and our Annual Conference as we move into this new season.

Continued on back page



SUNDAY, APRIL 13

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

9:50 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

3:00 p.m. Preschool Easter Egg hunt

4:00 p.m. Hiskidz Easter Egg Hunt

5:00 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

MONDAY, APRIL 14

12 noon Lenten Service and lunch

6:30 p.m. Prison Bible Study

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

12 noon Lenten Service and lunch

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

12 noon Lenten Service and lunch

4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir

5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

6:00 p.m. Youth

6:15 p.m. Snack Supper

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday

Communion Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

9-12 noon Methodist Market



13. Daniel Pender

15. Ardis Russell



HOSANNA!

Special Palm Sunday

Announcement

We invite all of our children to bring in the palm branches on Palm Sunday, April 13, at the 11 o'clock service.



Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday Egg Hunts

On Palm Sunday, April 13th we will be having our annual egg hunts for the Preschool and Grades K- 6th. The Preschool hunt will be held at the church at 3:00 p.m. The Hiskidz Egg Hunt will be held at Owen and Mary Lou Richards from 4:00-5:30 p.m.



We will begin a new series for the month of April, *Living a Godly Life*. Each week we will have a lesson about Jesus and the sacrifices that He made for us.

Jesus Promises Us a Helper - The Promise -

Jesus tells of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Died for Us - The Death of a Son - The Crucifixion of Jesus.

Jesus Lives!! - Easter Sunday - The Empty Tomb

Jesus Reaches Out - One Savior for All - The Samaritan Woman at the Well

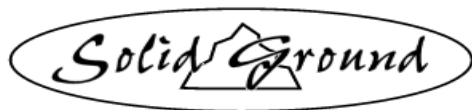
HISKIDZ/W.O.W. WEDNESDAY

Children's Bible Study meets every Wednesday. Our schedule will be as always. Bible Study at 5:30 pm, followed by snack supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15.

We will doing some fun and special crafts and activities pertaining to Holy Week and Easter.

Palm Sunday Egg Hunts

On Palm Sunday, April 13th we will be having our annual egg hunts for the Preschool and Grades K- 6th. The Preschool hunt will be held at the church at 3:00 p.m. The Hiskidz Egg Hunt will be held at Owen and Mary Lou Richards from 4:00-5:30 p.m.



Youth Bible Study and Small Group

Youth Bible Study will continue meeting every Sunday and Wednesday evening for a time of fellowship and group time together. Our Sunday night Bible Study just wrapped up our study on Revelation. We are preparing for a new series that we will transition for both Wednesday and Sunday nights dealing with Life Application Lessons.

Senior Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, April 27 at a combined 10:00 Worship Service, we will be recognizing our graduating seniors. We are so excited for this next step and chapter in their lives as they prepare to take a big step out into the world. We will have a lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service for the Seniors and their families.

While I am excited about where God is leading me in the Mississippi-West Tennessee Conference, I am saddened that this means leaving you here in Yazoo City. I have loved my time here, and each of you mean so much to me. Words cannot fully express how I feel. While there will be more time for goodbyes later, I want you to know how very special you are to me. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Brother Lauren

Staff Parish Committee:

Bill Kyle, Chair

Allison Hughes
Melinda Richards
Reece Vaughan
Rich Knox

Sammy Burnham
Christy Cader
Sam Pace

Angie Edgar
Lisa Henick
Emily Burton

VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, April 13, 2025

Greeters
Scripture
Sermon

Sandra Martin/Dixie & Jim Roberts
Matthew 27:32-50
“The Cross of Christ”

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

APRIL

13. Palm Sunday

John 12:1-8

14. Called to one hope

Ephesians 4:1-7

15. Joyful response to love

Luke 19:1-10

16. Let earth rejoice

I Chronicles 16:31-36

17. Rivers in the desert

Isaiah 43:16-21

18. Joyful dreams

Psalms 126

19. To know Christ

Philippians 3:4b-14