

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. As part of our observance, we will have an **Ash Wednesday Service at 6 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Come join us as we enter into the season of Lent and look forward to all that Jesus did for us through Good Friday and Easter.

An Ash Wednesday Prayer

Dear righteous Lord, we enter the holy season of Lent confessing our many sins that separate us from you. We're sincerely sorry for offending you repeatedly through our thoughts, our words and our actions—and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become your faithful and faith-filled servants. During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as you've shown mercy to us. In Jesus' name, amen.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

6:30 p.m. Prison Bible Study

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

5:00 p.m. Bible Study Millie's home

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9-12 noon Methodist Market



12. Brody Roberts

16. Brenda Oakes



Frances Pierce

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Erickson

Mary Stigler Thompson

Olivia & David Walker
Debbie & Mike Braswell
Mrs. Bruce Crook



The Very Best Valentine

Almost everyone — at least of the female persuasion — knows the romantic meaning of the phrase “hearts and flowers.” Valentine’s Day is coming! What will I get from my boyfriend ... my husband ... my best friend? I’m hoping for some sort of bouquet, a card full of loving words and red hearts, candy or at least a sweet balloon.

Human beings may disappoint. That special someone may forget to check the calendar for February 14. But even if he doesn’t come through exactly as I hope, I can still be amazed and happy with the valentine I am sure to receive every day from my heavenly Father and his Son: words of delight and joy and caring — always surrounding me with love and more love. These are the best “hearts and flowers” I could ever have, and which I do have, on Valentine’s Day and throughout eternity. —Sandy Hyland



For the month of February, our series is called *Power to Serve*. Our lesson this Sunday, "Hard Times," shows us how even in the midst of a dangerous storm, Paul continued to trust in the Lord. We are all going to have difficulties in our lives, but we must always remember that God is in control, and He has a plan for each of us.

W.O.W. Wednesday

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6th resumed in January and begins at 5:30 p.m. The Bible Study will continue to be Bible-in-Crafts. The children have enjoyed learning about so many of God's faithful followers in the Book of Genesis while creating crafts and activities. We are currently learning about the life of Moses.



Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group will begin a new study. We will be talking about entertainment, music, and social media. We will be discussing the progression of the types of entertainment throughout the past decades and how we have been manipulated to accept, become numb to, or just ignore the fact that wrong is being presented as right. We will connect scripture to these facts and talk about how/what we can avoid being too pulled in.

M28 CAMP

Sign up for M28 Camp at Lake Junaluska has begun. The youth are asked to sign up ASAP due to limited availability. Sign-up includes a \$50 deposit to secure their spot. Camp dates are Friday, July 5- Tuesday, July 9. The total cost is \$350.

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Greeters	Julie & De Paul/Amanda & Maddie Canard
Scripture	Matthew 9:9-13
Sermon	“The Doctor Is In”
Flowers	Deb Ragland

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY

11. Transfiguration Sunday	Mark 9:2-9
12. Called to bless others	Genesis 12:1-3
13. From an ancestor	Acts 17:24-27
14. All nations are yours	Psalm 82
15. God sent me	Genesis 45:3-11, 15
16. Trust in the LORD	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
17. From the dying seed	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50