



First United Methodist Church  
PO Box 130  
Cleveland, MS 38732  
(Return Service Requested)

Our Mission: Win people to Christ, involve people in ministry, and nurture all people



The Bellringer  
First United Methodist Church  
318 South Court Street  
Cleveland, MS 38732  
(662) 843-3414

Dear Church Family,

This season of the year is a special one in the life of the church as we are in the season of Lent and just a month away from Easter on March 31.

During the season of Lent, we have several special services that add meaning to this time of the year. Each of these services has a specific focus and meaning to them that fits together to provide a clearer picture of this season in the Christian year. I ask for your prayers as you take note of and participate in the different worship opportunities listed in the newsletter.

During the season of Lent, we are often encouraged to give up something we enjoy as a reminder of Christ’s sacrifice for us and as a sign of dependence upon God. However, I also want to encourage you to take on opportunities for service and mission that arise around you, both in the church and in your daily living. Taking on an act of service reminds us of Christ’s call to servanthood, a call that he exemplified in his own life.

I posted on our church’s Facebook media the following statement on Lent issued by Pope Francis. It is a great reminder that in “giving up” something for Lent, the goal is not to give up something we like just for the sake of it, but to give up those things that hold us back in our relationship with the God. And, as we give up these things, let us replace them with acts of service and mercy.


Peace in Christ,

Chris

# DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

[pietrafitness.com](http://pietrafitness.com)

**First United  
Methodist Church Staff**

**Rev. Chris Young**  
Pastor

**Angela Jefcoat**  
Director of Christian  
Education  
and  
Children's Ministries

**Collis Thorn**  
Director of Music

**Joyce Sledge**  
Organist

**Anne Henry**  
Pianist

**Julie Jackson**  
Handbell Director

**Don Conger**  
Church Secretary/  
Financial Secretary

**Pam Butler**  
Nursery Supervisor

**Isaiah Davis**  
Custodian

**Administration**

**Nott Wheeler, Jr.**  
Lay Leader

**Becky Nowell**  
Chair, Administrative Board

**Gary Crews**  
Chair, Trustees

**Marcia Houser**  
Chair, Finance Committee

**Rob Shipp**  
Chair, Staff/Parish Relations

**Joseph Crews**  
Church Treasurer

## Sunday School and Bible Study Information

**Children's Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.**  
In the Education Building  
5K - and under will meet downstairs.  
Upstairs Sunday School teacher is Emily Alford.

**DIG IN and Confirmation Class**  
**DIG IN SCHEDULE:**  
Sunday nights 5:00-6:30  
March 3 and March 17  
April, 7, 14, 21, and 28  
May 5 Last DIG IN

**CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE:**  
Sunday, March 3: 5:00  
Wednesday afternoons at 3:15 in the Parlor  
March 20  
April 3, 10, 17, 24  
May 19

### Youth

- **Youth Sunday School meets at 9:45 a.m.**
- **Youth meet on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.**
- **March 3: meet at First Presbyterian Church**
- **March 10: No meeting-- Spring Break**
- **March 17: Basement at 5:00 p.m.**
- **March 24: Palm Sunday - NO meeting**
- **March 31: Easter Sunday - NO meeting.**

### Adult Sunday School Classes

- **9:45 a.m. - Upper Room/Cornerstone Class led by Joyce Kennedy**
- **10:00 a.m. - Women's Sunday School Class meets in the Parlor.**
- **Men's Sunday School Class meets in the Fellowship Hall.**

### Abide Bible Study Group

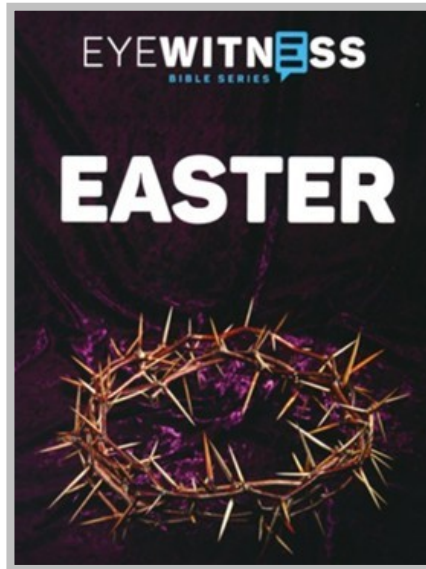
Abide Bible Study Group will meet at the Lenten lunches. They will resume their regular time of 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor on Wednesday, April 3.

### Wednesday Evening Bible Study

meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor. We are doing a special Lenten study titled "24 Hours That Changed the World" that looks at the last day of the life of Jesus from the Last Supper through the crucifixion. That study will conclude around Easter as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

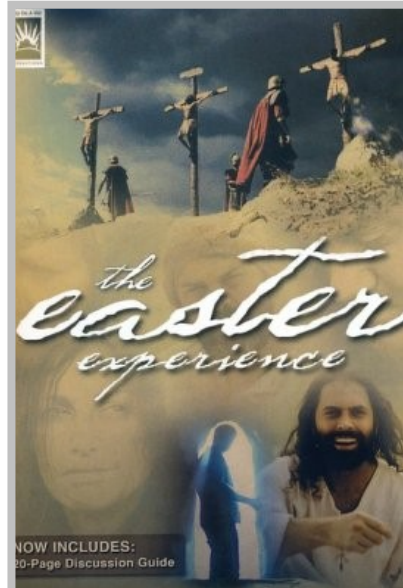
### CHURCH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Women's Bible study meets on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor.**
- **Prayer Chain meets on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor.**
- **Methodist Men meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**
- **Finance Committee meets on Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor.**
- **Administrative Board meets on Sunday, March 17 at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**
- **There is a church-wide lunch on Palm Sunday after worship followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.**



### Ladies Sunday School Class

This series is a collection of eight episodes from other Eyewitness series. Its starts with Palm Sunday, Fig Monday(7 Miraculous signs), Holy Tuesday-Andrew, Spy Wednesday-Judas, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Black Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Sundays at 10:00 in the Parlor. Begins in March.



### Monday Women's Bible Study

The Easter Experience brings the passion, and resurrection of Jesus to life. Through these in-depth teachings, your small group will grow spiritually, bonding with each other as well as with the eternal message of Easter.

## CHURCH IN PRAYER

Charlene Wolfe  
Paul Rainey  
Dr. Jon Meyer  
Jack Nowell  
Pittman Edwards  
Peggy Miller  
Porter Antici  
Joyce Kennedy  
Rose Bizzell  
Nicky Griffith  
Bobby McArthur  
Robert Martin  
Cynthia Weeks  
Lila Tatum  
Lee Speakes  
Richard Graham  
JoAnn Box  
Clint Horne  
Flip Godfrey  
Kenny Hawkins  
Collis Thorn

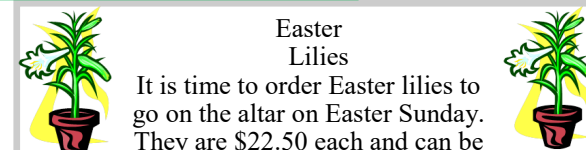
Larry McCalop  
Chris Mitchell  
Nolan Williams  
Nancy Gerrard  
Fred Johnson  
Cack Meyer  
Clay Matthews  
Joanne Crews  
Dawn Raybon  
Tim Sewell  
Hazel Cox  
Cookie Newman Jones  
Jimmy Bobo  
Jimmie Best  
Kevin Creasy  
Leslie Griffin  
Susie White  
John Henry  
Mary Lou Dilworth  
Eckward McKnight  
Roberta Wiggins Edwards

Prayer request cards are available in the office and in the church bulletin on Sundays.

Members of our prayer chain who pray for you daily: Joyce Kennedy, Margaret Tullos, Joyce Sledge, Ramona Rizzo, Susan Sledge, Joanne Crews, Jill Mahaffey, Phyllis McCalop, Cristyn Holder, and Betty Sullivan Johnson.



March 6: Our Lady of Victories  
March 13: First United Methodist  
March 20: Calvary Episcopal



Easter Lilies  
It is time to order Easter lilies to go on the altar on Easter Sunday. They are \$22.50 each and can be given in honor or in memory of a loved one.  
The deadline for ordering is Wednesday, March 27. Payment is due at the time of purchase. Order forms are in the Sunday bulletins and in the office.

This is a wonderful tradition in our church and makes our sanctuary so beautiful on Easter Sunday. There are order forms in the Usher's Parlor or you may call the office to order.

## THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

### March Volunteers:

**Ushers:** Homer Sledge, III, chairman; Buddy Long; Clint Allen ; Judd Jefcoat; Ben Pentecost

**Coffee Detail:** Gary Crews

### Acolytes:

March 3: Candles: Lannin Murphy; Cross & Offering: Maddie Murphy  
March 10: Candles: Anelise Houser; Cross & Offering: Nolan Williams  
March 17: Candles: William Makamson ; Cross & Offering: Noah Gainspoletti  
March 24: Candles: Lannin Murphy; Cross & Offering: Christopher Crews  
March 31: Candles: Knox Thompson; Cross & Offering: Levi Thompson

### Flowers: Altar and Foyer:

March 3: Church, both  
March 10: Kelly & John Capocaccia, both  
March 17: Altar-**OPEN** ; Christy & Chris Prine-foyer  
March 24: Palm Sunday  
March 31: Easter Lilies

### Liturgist:

March 3: Jasmine Shipp  
March 10: Becky Nowell  
March 17: Don Allan Mitchell  
March 24: Leslie Griffin  
March 31: Don Conger

### Stewardship Quote:

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

### Memorials:

**Ann Barnes**  
by  
June Fletcher  
Becky & Billy Nowell

**Nell Whitney**  
by  
Don Conger

**Fred Spain**  
by  
June Fletcher



### Memorials:

**Jack Fletcher**  
by  
Susan Denton  
Jasmine & Rob Shipp  
Kathy & Mike Reginelli  
Cynthia & Alan Morgan  
Caroline Gaines  
Jones Walker LLP  
Becky & Billy Nowell

**Pat McCaleb**  
by  
Kathy & Mike Reginelli  
Cynthia & Alan Morgan  
June Fletcher  
Becky & Billy Nowell

**John Thornell**  
by  
Kathy & Mike Reginelli  
June Fletcher  
Becky & Billy Nowell  
Joyce Kennedy  
Leslie & Keith Griffin

**Shirley Wilkerson**  
by  
June Fletcher  
Becky & Billy Nowell  
Joyce Kennedy

**Alberta Tucker**  
by  
Nancy & Eckward McKnight  
Joyce Kennedy