

THE MESSENGER
Steele Memorial United Methodist Church
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March 2016

FROM THE PASTOR

The Bible tells us about the power of Christ in Easter. Have you heard what it means to be saved from a life that was chained to the past, a life of sin whose inevitable consequence is death? Read from the second chapter in the letter to the Church in Ephesus, as St. Paul describes the real change in the believer's life:

¹Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. ²You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.

⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so very much, ⁵that even while we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead.

He gave us life! Through Jesus Christ, God the Father made it possible for you to rise above a world of sin – to be set free with the power of life and love! An incredible love!

We may still have trouble putting this awesome love into perspective.

Our granddaughter was "getting happy" with her mother while they were singing praise songs recently one morning. Her mother told her, "Do you know Jesus loves you and He died for your sins?"

Still a mighty big concept for a young preschooler!

"Yes!" she answered, thinking of her life-size poster and her life-size crush on a teen heart-throb! "And Justin Bieber kissed me!"

Okay! How do you top that? You begin to see how the minds of the three year old grasp certain ideas.

Comparing two different expressions of love – what Jesus did for you far exceeds what Justin will ever accomplish! So how do we compare what our children experience in this modern day to the joy and love of Jesus?

Well – be persistent, Mom! And look for the chance to teach your children through experiences in life, Dad! And pray ...asking the Spirit of God to teach, remind, and inspire your child with the internal story of His abiding love! Trust God to bring your children "Home!"

Pastor Kevin

CRUCIFIXION: A MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

The cause of death from crucifixion: asphyxia, or strangulation!

Pastor Kevin will describe the horrible agony and torture the Romans had prepared in order to discourage crime, nailing lawbreakers to a cross, in a sermon message Sunday, March 20.

The charges brought against Jesus by the Jewish court was blasphemy, claiming to be God! The Roman Court sentenced Him for treason, claiming to be a King! He did nothing to defend Himself, but willingly chose the suffering of beatings and three pierced nails!

Jesus died to pay the price for sin – your sins and mine! God stepped into our place ...without being asked. The Bible says, "**While we were sinners, Christ died for us!**" With the help from archaeologists and medical examiners, listen to the incredible message describing what Jesus endured because He loves you!

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

There are several opportunities for worship with family and friends this Easter Season. "Holy Week" is a very important part of Easter, as the Church traditionally remembers the events surrounding God's plan to conquer the power of sin in our lives! With Easter we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, but we should also remember the awful agony of Christ, who suffered and died for the punishment of sin.

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday, the evening of the Lord's Last Supper, will be remembered with special worship plans. Join us for this important memorial as we receive the gift from God, the bread and fruit of the vine that becomes for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ! It is God's gift to you, sealing the covenant promise of forgiveness from sin and life eternal!



Easter Sunrise Worship The community is invited to attend an early Sunrise Worship on Easter Sunday, March 27, 7:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. This early worship has been an honored tradition, as the Church remembers Mary's visit to the empty tomb at daybreak – that first Easter morning!

The brief Sunrise Worship will be followed by a breakfast in the fellowship hall.

Easter Worship – Please join us for the Easter Celebration during our regular Sunday morning schedule, March 27, at 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

ESTHER/RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, March 10 at 7:00 in the NEW FELLOWSHIP HALL. Kay Ratcliff will be hosting our meeting. Please bring a can of coffee (regular or decaf) to resupply the church kitchen. We will also continue our book study, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* with Chapter 8. We will discuss:

- *when God's will does not always proceed in a straight line
- *when God's love carries for our good and His glory
- *when God's plan is released when we believe and obey

Hope to see you there!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) MARCH MISSION SUPPORT will be items for the Upshur County Parish House. Please put donated items in the mission basket by the narthex.

THANK YOU CHURCH for being a blessing to others by making and donating the "Blessings Bags"; which have been donated to the Huntington City Mission. "God blesses us to bless others. He gives to us to give to others." Thank you for letting His blessings flow through you and your gracious giving. UMW

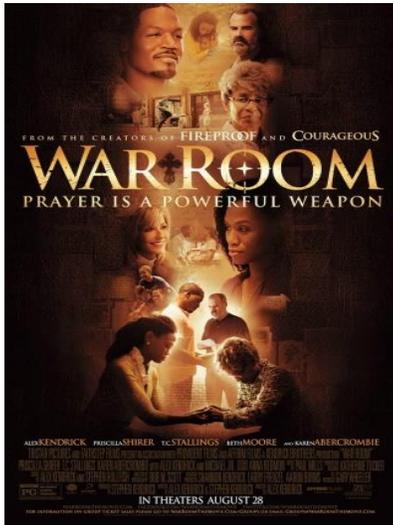


UMW members have been turning faith, hope, and love into action in their local churches and communities and around the world for over one hundred years. UMW is a community of women whose purpose is "to know God and to develop a supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through global ministries that serve children, youth, and women." If you would like to become part of a mission-based fellowship, who work to serve others, join us on the second Thursday of each month. We welcome you to walk with us in our service and our giving to others in His name. "He will not forget the work you did, and the love you showed for Him by helping His people." Hebrews 6:10

SEVEN THINGS I CANNOT EXPECT!

1. I cannot expect to win arguments with those who don't want to settle the argument, they just want to fight for the sake of fighting. (II Timothy 2:23)
2. I cannot expect people to read my mind. (I Corinthians 14:8)
3. I cannot possibly expect to have a complete and detailed plan from God that tells me exactly what His plans are for the next 20 years. (Psalm 119:105) He doesn't promise to let us see years in advance, but He does promise to show us our next step!
4. I cannot expect to be a follower of Jesus and keep everyone around me happy at the same time. (Proverbs 29:25)
5. I cannot expect to stay the same and see progress. (Isaiah 43:18-19)
6. I cannot expect to please God without taking steps of faith. (Hebrews 11:6)
7. I cannot expect to hear God's voice if I am always running at an unsustainable pace! (Psalm 46:10)

March 17, 2011 [Perry Noble; NewSpring Church in South Carolina]



MOVIE NIGHT: Steele Memorial Youth would like to invite you, your family and your friends to watch the *War Room* with us. The youth will provide deserts and refreshments before the movie. We hope everyone can come out and enjoy an evening of fellowship together.

- ❖ When: Friday, March 11, 2016
- ❖ Where: Steele Memorial UMC
- ❖ Time: 6:30 NFH – Desserts/Refreshments
7:15 Sanctuary – Movie

Donations are graciously accepted.

EASTER BREAKFAST - The Barboursville Parish United Methodist Women's 42nd Annual Easter Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Barboursville First United Methodist Church. Cost is \$4 per person. Reservations may be made by calling Joyce Spencer at 304-736-4522. Make your reservations today for this time of worship and fellowship!

IMPORTANT TEACHING!

Western District United Methodist Women invite you to join them for a Day Apart of Learning and Connecting: ***Understanding the Impact of Addiction and Supporting Recovery: Strategies and Tools for Clergy and Congregational Leaders.***

This seminar will be presented on Saturday, May 14th, 2016 at First United Methodist Church in Huntington in their Fellowship Hall at 1124 Fifth Avenue.

Registration/Continental Breakfast: 8:30 AM

Program: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Lunch Provided)

This free workshop provides a unique opportunity for clergy and other congregational leaders to receive the latest information, resources, and strategies on how to educate and give hope to individuals and families suffering from the impact of addiction.

Objectives:

- Raise awareness of how addiction to alcohol and other drugs impacts individuals and their families;
- Discuss the role of clergy and congregations in offering information, hope, and recovery support for individuals and family members (especially children and youth) affected by alcohol and drug abuse;
- Review core competencies for clergy and other pastoral ministers and learn of practical strategies for implementation of substance abuse prevention and recovery support ministries;
- Connect with local prevention, treatment, and recovery organizations.
- Certificate of Participation for 6 NAADAC Contact Hours available.

For more information, contact Margaret VanZandt at 304-360-7750 or vanzandt@marshall.edu

FOR TROUBLED PARENTS

Copies of a new article are available at Church for parents who may have learned that their child prefers same-sex relationships. You can find a copy of ***When a Loved One Says, "I'm Gay."*** distributed by "Focus on the Family," on the table near the sanctuary lobby. Pastor Kevin has extra copies for those who may be interested in a take-home copy which serves as a guide for parents.

It serves as an excellent resource for parents, family, and friends who must now find their way through the confusion of their own thoughts and the various voices of the culture in order to maintain a loving relationship and honest Christian witness to their children.

PREVENTING A HOLY TERROR

The following ideas come from a *U. M. Interpreter* magazine.

Church service is the last place you want your kids to throw a temper tantrum or cause a scene. Your best bet is to have a plan in place beforehand:

- ✓ **Dress them comfortably** - No child in a necktie is going to be in it for long. Dress them in layers so you can adjust for the Church's temperature.
- ✓ **Make the focus** - Tell them that after the worship, they'll be asked one important thing the pastor said. Reward them for paying attention.
- ✓ **Feed them well** - Don't fill them with sugary breakfast foods or they'll be wound up. But don't make them go hungry either.
- ✓ **Let them participate** - Appoint them to help take the offering. They'll appreciate having "grown-up" responsibilities.
- ✓ **Provide distractions** - Bring crayons and coloring books, favorite dolls and other "quiet" toys or use the game sheets available in the Church lobby from one of our ushers.
- ✓ **Work out sign language** - Teach them that a finger to your lips means "be quiet," but agree on a signal to indicate they need to use the restroom.
- ✓ **Set a good example** - Pay attention yourself. Sing along with the choir. Don't start looking at your watch if the sermon runs long. If your children see you enjoying church, they'll learn to enjoy it, too.



03 Judy May Hayes Lois Baker	22 Alexis Adkins Sue Ballengee
04 Andrew Damron Luke Damron	Nikki Kimball Angie Lingenfelter
05 Paul Turman II	24 Greg Crews
07 Mildred Maynard	26 Allyson Chapman
08 Laura Blake Danny Childers	Allison Jones
15 Peggy Fillmore Corey McGhee	27 Chase Blower Linda Kelly
Ralph Sager	28 Tim Damron Clay Johnson
16 Carl Sullivan	29 Tom Baker
18 Debbie Childers	31 Paul Hockenberry
21 Willie Adkins Jake Fife Teresa Pickett	



07 Randy & Stephanie Taylor
17 Reid & Sue Ann Carroll
20 Mike & Jean Anne McClung
23 Bobby & Mollie Bannister
24 Duke & Misty Hutchinson
28 Greg & Connie Gesner
31 Brad & Crystal Merritt



GREETERS

06 Kim Stanley & Kelly McGuffin
13 Pat Cornwell & Donnie Barbour
20 Gary Cox & Larry Dickens
27 Tony Ryder & Mike McClung

March 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH -Rhoades gym 6-7 -Bannister gym 7	2 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Church Dinner -Choir Practice 7:15	3 -Financial Peace 7:00 in OFH -M. Call gym 7	4 NO Church Family Gym Night 7-10	5 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -District Scout Pinewood Derby
6 -One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	7 -Trustees 7:00	8 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH -Finance com. 7 -Rhoades gym 6-7 -Bannister gym 7	9 -All Stars 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Youth 5:30 -Choir Practice 7:45	10 -Lydia Circle 1:00 -Esther/Ruth Circle 7:00 in NFH -Financial Peace 7:00 in OFH -Troop 88 7:00 -M. Call gym 7	11 -Youth Church Wide Movie Night 6:30 "War Room"	12 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -Sullivan NFH 12:00
13 Daylight saving time begins -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Bake Sale -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	14 -Adm. Council 7:00	15 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH -Rhoades gym 6-7 -Bannister gym 7	16 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	17 -Financial Peace 7:00 in OFH -M. Call gym 7:00	18	19 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -Carri Long Pageant Fundraiser in gym
20 Palm Sunday -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -BCCL 5:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	21	22 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH -Rhoades gym 6-7 -Bannister gym 7	23 -NO SERVICES	24 -Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 -Financial Peace 7:00 in OFH -Troop 88 7:00	25 -Church Family Gym Night 7-10	26 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM
27 Easter Sunday -Sunrise Worship 7 AM -Breakfast 7:45 AM -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	28	29 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	30 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	31		



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 13, 2016



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