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NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS - MARCH 2



Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (601 Wellington Village Rd) - West Little Rock
Allsopp Park by Softball Field - Hillcrest
Courtyard at Church- Downtown
Reservoir Park Pavilion (8321 Reservoir Rd.) - Midtown

In the FIRST PLACE

With His Face Set Toward Jerusalem

We've heard the saying "Life's a journey, not a destination" so much that it's become a cliché. But for Jesus, in the Gospel of Luke, it's more like death is a journey, not a destination. Early on, in chapter 9, it says that Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem," and it seems like Jesus is in a hurry to get to his destination and face his ultimate act in death. But as resolute as he was, it takes him a long time to get there. In fact, he doesn't arrive in Jerusalem until chapter 19, and along his journey are some of the most important encounters. Jesus tells some of the most notable parables and gives some of the most critical teachings. He was resolved in going to the cross, but there is so much to gain in the journey.

This Lent, we are following Jesus' long journey from the moment he set his face to his triumphant arrival in Jerusalem and the days that follow. As we join the journey, we will discover deeper truths for our lives and the transformation we experience in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. So join us each Sunday, March 6 through April 10 at 9:00 or 11:00 am as we follow Jesus with his face set towards Jerusalem.

Lent Services, Events & Activities

Methodist Family Health Get Up and Give Challenge

Lenten Devotional Guide - Pick one up at church on February 27, or subscribe to the digital version by emailing Lesley (landrews@fumclr.org).

Lent Guide for families with small children- Rev. Brittany will be sending these out! Be on the lookout!

Ash Wednesday - March 2

Neighborhood Ash Wednesday Gatherings 5:30 to 6:00
Chapel - Come & Go (11:45 to 1:00)

Vespers- Every Sunday

6:30 pm each Sunday, live-streamed to Facebook and fumclr.org/LIVE

Savior Class

Mondays on Zoom at 6:30- March 7-April 4, Register by emailing Rev. Brittany (bwatson@fumclr.org).

Palm Sunday- April 10

Easter Egg Lunch and Hunt—12:00 to 1:30
People of all ages are invited!

Maundy Thursday - April 14

5:00 pm Soup Supper
6:00 pm Worship Service

Good Friday- April 15

Prayer Walk 10:00 to 6:00



Praying for YOU!

Months of separation and isolation have left us all feeling disconnected. To overcome that, we're searching for all kinds of ways to enhance people's sense of connection to one another and the church as a whole. That process begins with prayer. Each week, we'll be listing about 20 names in the newsletter for you to pray for during the week.

February 7-13: Patrick, Arielle, Claire, Eddie, Melinda, Marlee, Trip, Keith, Bobbie, Kathryn, Mike, Matthew, Russell, LeeAnn, Richard, Pat, Vera, John, Gayle, Julie, Kathryn, Tippi, & Barbara

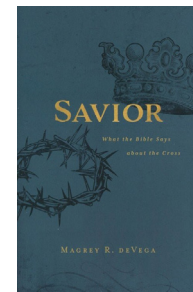
February 14-20: Nancy, Larry, Margie, Doug, Shelby, Bradshaw, Cherry, Stark, Marianne, Pat, Bob, Richard, Carolyn, Denise, Audra, Gene, Katherine, Samuel, Thomas, Sophia, Stuart, Suzanne, Emily, Stuart, Hannah, Kim, Scott, Ryan, Rylee

February 21-27: Lanie, David, Carter, John David, George, Shilo, David, Darlene, Jean, Terry, Gaye, Lynda, Barbara, Paul, Pam, Terri, Mary Ann, Jamie, Jacy, Bill, Sue, Lynda, John

February 28-March 6: Marie, Joe, Alex, Shelley, Edwina, Tommie, Lucy, Chelsea, Andrew, Sawyer, Finn, Clint, Jimmy, Judson, Terri, Brian, Heidi, Katelyn, Andrew, Jennie, Adam, Hayden, Hailey

Get Up & Give with Methodist Family Health Lenten Service Opportunity

FUMCLR is shaking things up this Lenten season! We are joining the mission of Methodist Family Health to give sacrificially for vulnerable children in our community. They are collecting funds and various items to support our state's children and families who are abandoned, abused, neglected and managing psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues. You can purchase items from their Amazon Wishlist (below), donate monetary funds to FUMCLR for donation, or donate these supplies to the Church for drop-off at MFH: card games, board games, art supplies, crayons, canvas and paints. For a link to the Amazon Wishlist, visit: <https://www.fumclr.org/getupandgive>



Lenten Study Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross By Magrey Devega

Join us starting on Monday, March 7th for the meaningful 5- week study. We will gather on Zoom at 6:30 pm. We will learn more about what the death and resurrection of Christ means for us and how it changed the world. While reading along is an option, it is not required to participate. If you would like to sign up, email Rev. Brittany (bwatson@fumclr.org).

New Enneagram Study

The Original Enneagram Group will begin a new study on March 8 and would like to extend an invitation for people to join in the fun. The Enneagram is a powerful gateway to self-awareness and understanding others. It describes the dynamics of nine personality types, opening pathways to a more integrated and rewarding life. All are welcome to join this new study who have some prior Enneagram experience or know their Enneagram type. The group will dive into exploring Richard Rohr's The Enneagram Discernment of Spirits. For more information please contact Stuart Mackey at smackey@hathawaygroup.com or Cindy Hedges at cindyhedges@me.com

Welcome Lanie Konecny!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Lanie Konecny will be joining our church staff as the Office Manager. Lanie brings a great deal of experience and skill to this role. With a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems, she has worked as an administrative assistant and manager for several years. However, for the past 15 years, she has taught business at the middle and high school level. Lanie, and her husband, David, have been members of First Church for almost a decade and are the parents of Carter, John David, and George. Please join us in welcoming Lanie to her new position.



Sanctuary Flowers – 26 Sundays left!

What better way to honor friends and family members than to donate the Sanctuary Flowers in their name on a Sunday in the next year? Our flowers are re-arranged each Monday by the Flower Girls who take them to members in hospitals and homes -a true example of adaptive re-use and sustainability! Your gift of \$75 will cover the cost of the two large arrangements in Sunday services. You may reserve your date by phoning 372-2256, or emailing Lanie Konecny (lkonecny@fumclr.org).

Sunday Morning Service Opportunities

Even though we are not in-person right now, we want to be ready for the rest of 2022! We are looking to reignite our Sunday Morning Hospitality Team, which now includes ushers and offering stewards for worship services. We'll send you an email to gauge your interest if you have served before! If you are unsure if your name is already on the list, please email Donna Hankins at dhankins@fumclr.org.

We are also forming a new Audio/Visual Team. We are looking for volunteers to run sound during First Tradition. Don't worry; there will be a quick training session before your first Sunday! It's very easy and fun – plus, it's a great way to serve your church! If you are interested, please email Lesley Andrews at landrews@fumclr.org.

Afghan Family Update

The Unity Sunday School class purchased a swing set for our adopted family from Afghanistan. Look how great it looks in their backyard!



FIRST YOUTH

We are fully back in person!!

However, we will pause meals for the time being out of an abundance of caution as it is the one time we are unmasked, even though we are distanced.

Feb. 20- Sunday School @ 9:50 am in person
IN PERSON Sunday Night Youth 5-7pm. We will finally have our White Elephant Christmas (President's Day) gift exchange. Gift Exchange info: Go to Dollar Tree., Spend no more than \$8-\$10 (includes tax). Buy 5 gifts with each gift meeting one of the following criteria. All criteria must be met with your 5 gifts: something to eat something random, something you'd like to have, something to wear, some useful/practical. Also, You can ADD any regifting of something from Christmas.

Feb. 27- Sunday School @ 9:50 am
Sunday Night Youth 5-7pm. Competition and Discussion "The Greatest Commandment + You"

Mar. 6- Sunday School @ 9:50 am
Sunday Night Youth 5-7pm. Competition and Lenten Worship (non-singing)

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Original Dixieland Jazz Band, often abbreviated as the ODJB, was an incredibly important group of musicians in the early twentieth century. Helmed by Nick LaRocca, a Sicilian-American cornetist, the ODJB billed itself as the "inventors of jazz" and is credited (though not without controversy) to have produced the first real jazz recording, a vinyl of the jazz standard Livery Stable Blues with Dixieland Jass Band One-Step on the flip-side-- the spelling of the word jazz was not normalized until considerably later. That record thrust jazz into the mainstream consciousness and is impossibly important due to its cultural impact alone: notably, a young Louis Armstrong was heavily influenced by the ODJB.

Of course, something is a bit off, isn't it? How absurd for a Sicilian-American and his entirely white band to claim to have invented jazz, the quintessential Black artform! How preposterously bold to name an ensemble the Original Dixieland Jazz Band when the very music being played is stolen; Black pianist Joe Jordan, in fact, successfully sued the ODJB arguing that sections of Dixieland Jass Band One-Step were copied from his composition That Teasin' Rag." And yet, through the long view of history, we cannot deny the ODJB's importance though their legacy is now justifiably scrutinized. It's mind-numbingly unfair.

However, it must be noted that the fame achieved by the ODJB opened doors for Black musicians that would certainly otherwise been shut; their contributions to the zeitgeist have been a net-positive for the very musicians from whom they stole. As easy as it is to villainize Nick LaRocca and the flagrant cultural appropriation of his Original Dixieland Jazz Band, the truth is more complicated; and doing so would be committing the same faux pas as celebrating him as the inventor of jazz-- a failure to view other people complexly. People and the things they do are so much more than "good" or "bad"; and to tell anything other than the whole story demeans all parties involved. **James Stanley**

KIDS@FIRST

God-Lessons: You don't have to come to church to learn about God! Each Saturday Rev. Brittany will be emailing out a video lesson for kiddos and their families to be used on Sundays or any time throughout the week. These videos will be a fun and simple way to get your family talking about who God is and how much God loves us! If you are not receiving these Saturday lessons, please contact Rev. Brittany so that she can add you to the list!

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Sympathy

To Christen and James Stanley and family following the death of Christen's mother, Joyce Schaar on February 13th.

To Ginny and Rob Mills and family following the death of Ginny's father Brian LaFollette on February 5th.

To Patty Barker, Scott Bowen and families following the death of their mother Connie Bowen on February 1st.

To Larry and Lisa Spann following the death of Larry's brother Ozzie Spann on January 22nd.

To Sue and Bill Lewis and family following the death of Sue's sister Margaret DiCocco, on January 17th.

To Rita Johnson and family following the death of her husband Dick Johnson on January 15th.

To the family and friends of Eva Rand who died on January 12th.

Memorial & Honorariums

In Memory of Eva Rand

By Martha Faulkner, Robin Smith, Mike & Beth Coulson, Cherry Light, Craig & Nancy Wood, Wally & Julie Allen, John Meador Jr., Paul & Ashley Rowton, Fred & Sharon Ursey, David & Amy Field, Terry & Mary Lou Rasco, Mary Ann Lee, Carolyn Owen, Nan Ellen East & Jack Milton East, Fed & Helen Harrison, Arkansas Grocers & Retail Merchants Association

In Memory of Margaret DiCocco

By Mary Sue Lewis, Bill & Sue Lewis, Cherry Light, Bowen Cabe Class, Dorothy Brown, Craig & Nancy Wood, Fred & Sharon Ursey, Everett & Mary Hawks, Mary Ann Lee, Terry & Mary Lou Rasco, Martha Faulkner, Linda Baker, Diana Holzhauser, Ruth Emerson, Dick & Sue Blake (Library), Terry & Jean Landrum, Emma Lou Hedden, Phil & Linda Deloney, Susan Crowley-Wasson, Bill & Sue Lewis, Sally Holberg, Patsy Frost

In Memory of Kyle Linson

By Tressa Asbury (First Arts)

In Memory of Dick Johnson

By Jay & Mary Ann Critz, Cherry Light, Craig & Nancy Wood, Bowen Cabe Class, Fred & Sharon Ursey, Evergreen Club

In Memory of Connie Bowen

By Bowen Cabe Class (Library), Dick & Sue Blake (Library), Garth & Joann Martin, Martha Faulkner, Sheffield & Mary Lynn Nelson, Terry & Mary Lou Rasco, Craig & Nancy Wood, Nan Ellen & Jack Milton East, Gene & Linda Pfeifer, James Kyser, Skip & Billie Rutherford, Rett & Becky Tucker, Richard Walt, Ruth Emerson, Gloria White, Jack & Jennifer Harvey, Martha Chisenhall, Bethany Janssen, Janie Tucker, Frances Cranford, Dorothy Brown, Larry & Molly Kircher, Mary Lour Cravens, Phillip Deer