

MESSENGER

First Methodist Church of Pleasanton

March 2024

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Looking Inward, Looking Outward.....

Lent is the church’s season for us to make our spiritual pilgrimage to the Cross of Golgotha. We do this so we can fully appreciate the amazing gift of our Risen Savior on Easter Morning. As we make this trek we are called to reflect upon that which separates us from the Lord.

What obstacles stand between you and the One who died to save you?

This is an important question. A soul saving question!

Separation happens because of our sin and disobedience. Things we choose that harm our relationship with the Lord. We also create separation by what we **fail to do**. Such as when we neglect to worship the Lord, pray to Him daily, and study scripture.

Think of Lent as spring cleaning. You are going through your spiritual house to figure out what needs to be tidied up, repaired or simply needs to be thrown out because it is just in the way of you receiving the Lord into your heart. What do you need to throw out?

Preparing also includes looking beyond ourselves, to what is important to the Lord. Like helping those who are struggling. Jesus’ cared for the poor and the sick. He died to save them too? You can explore giving opportunities on page 5.

Easter is coming. The stone will be rolled away and the tomb will be empty. Let us prepare ourselves to welcome our Risen Savior. Let us commit to being spiritually prepared to receive him, knowing that Jesus has already paid it all so that we would experience forgiveness and new life. Praise the Lord for that!
 -Pastor Janet



Lenten Giving Opportunities

**Bountiful Blessings
 Nights of Hope
 UMCOR Disaster Relief**

See page 5 for more details

COUNCIL MINUTES

A note from the new Church Council Chair.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am both honored and humbled to serve as Chairperson of the First Methodist Church Council. Serving our Lord and this congregation is a joy. It is also a huge responsibility which I take very seriously. As has happened many times in the past, First Methodist Church of Pleasanton is experiencing another transition as the Church Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee work through the process of finding and hiring a new pastor.

I beg each of you to lift up the church's leadership daily asking for wisdom and one mindedness with the risen Christ. Know that your prayers are powerful and through them, God will guide this church through this transition as He has previously. As we experience the blessings of this Lenten season, may our focus on the sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ lead us, as a church, into a closer relationship with Him and each other. May we be one with Him.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Staci Barta, for her outstanding leadership of the Church Council for the past 4 years. She successfully led us through Covid and disaffiliation with grace and love and set an example for me to follow. Thank you, Staci, for your unwavering dedication to this church and to our Lord.

As before, the church newsletter will be the primary method used to communicate the activity of the Church Council to the church membership. If, by chance, you have any questions, feel free to contact me or catch me on any Sunday before or after worship, and I'll gladly visit with you.

May you be blessed during this Lenten season.

Dan Barrow
Church Council Chair



Children's Easter Egg Hunt

March 31-11:45 a.m.
(following Worship Service)



Celebrations!



03/01 Brooklyn Read
Raegan Read

03/06 Theo Fair

03/07 Blair Livingston

03/08 Jill Petter

03/09 Lela Spruill
Tycen King

03/10 Sandy Coward

03/13 Ginger Niemietz

03/15 Bill Havins

03/16 Ray Baca

03/19 Jeff Petter

03/20 Philip Tom

03/23 Paige David

03/27 Jack Petter

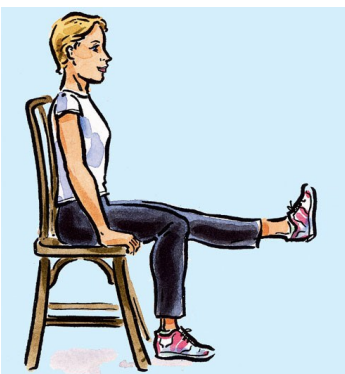
03/28 Abigail Kinsel

03/01 Jay & Libby Troell

03/19 Clarence & June
Thompson

03/23 John & Terry Raney

Are we missing your name on the birthday/anniversary list? Please notify the Church Office at 830-569-2083 so we can update your records. We don't want to miss anyone!



Chair- Meet & Move Exercise Class

This is an hour of prayer, stretching, fellowship, strengthening and keeping our old bones moving in a positive direction.

Come join us! \$5 each and bring a towel.

Wednesday 10-11 am in the Fellowship Hall

Led by Christi Kinsel

Need a prayer? We have a prayer team for that. Staci, Leigh Ann and Pastor Janet are happy to pray for you or your loved one. We believe in the power of prayer so leave a message at the church office, or fill out a prayer request card at church. They are at the entrance to the sanctuary.

March

03/01	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
03/03	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:03 a.m.	Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service* Holy Communion
03/04	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Boy Scouts-Fellowship Hall Monday Night Bible Study
03/05	6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting NOH Volunteer Training, Sanctuary
03/06	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Meet & Move Exercise Class-FMH Sunshine Kids Confirmation Class
03/08	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
03/09	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Brush Country Emmaus Walk #5 Fellowship Hall
03/10	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service* Senior High Youth
March 11-15 SPRING BREAK		
03/11	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEINGS—SPRING FORWARD! 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Monday Night Bible Study
03/13	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Senior Box Pickup-FMC Meet & Move Exercise Class-FMH NO SUNSHINE KIDS OR CONFIRMATION CLASSES
03/15	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
03/17	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service*
03/18	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Boy Scouts-Fellowship Hall Monday Night Bible Study
03/20	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Meet & Move Exercise Class-FMH Sunshine Kids Confirmation Class
March 22-23 COWBOY HOMECOMING		
03/21	7:00 p.m.	NOH Children's Ministry Training
03/22	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
03/24	PALM SUNDAY	
	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service*
03/25	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Monday Night Bible Study
03/27	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Meet & Move Exercise Class-FMH Sunshine Kids Confirmation Class
03/28	6:00 p.m.	Maunder Thursday @ First Methodist
03/29	6:00 p.m.	Good Friday @ All Saint's Episcopal
03/30	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Brush Country Emmaus Walk #5 Fellowship Hall
03/31	10:30 am 11:45 am	Easter Sunday Worship Easter Egg Hunt for our children

*Nursery Provided

Church News!

Nights of Hope for Atascosa is Coming!

Our Church Council has voted to support Nights of Hope for Atascosa, an interdenominational, evangelical event. It's goal is to share the good news with the unchurched in Atascosa County. We will join with other churches to be about the Great Commission.

April 4, 5 & 6

To learn more go to

www.nightsofhopeatascosa.org



SPECIAL SUNDAY


“The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief.”

—ACTS 11:29, NRSV

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

UMCOR SUNDAY

April 14, 2024



Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry needs



Canned Meat * Canned Fruit * Cereal
Bring to church and leave in the
boxes in the Narthex.



Thank You!



Bountiful Blessing Needs
Your Extra
Deer and Hog Meat.

It's time to donate last years
stash of frozen meat.

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School welcome children to join us in the classroom after Children's Time to explore the Bible in a fun, easy lesson. Jill Petter is leading the way and looking for others to join her. Volunteers will have lessons prepared and laid out for them ahead of time. No preparation needed! We will even have the TV tuned to the YouTube channel so you won't have to miss out on the sermon! This is a great way to get to know our youth! To sign up contact Jill Petter at 432-553-4086.

CHRISTIAN E D U C A T I O N

Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class

“Saints and Sinners” is an adult class that meets at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the classroom next to the church parlor. We use the Cokesbury Adult Bible Study series and always have a lively conversation and good fellowship. Fresh Coffee available. We meet year round, and any and all are welcome to join us. Facilitator, Dan Barrow.

Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class

This is an adult class for the young, mature, and old. We enjoy discussions about Bible passages and are eager to learn more about our Savior. We rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance. WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT? We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the classroom next to the Fellowship Hall. Facilitator, Peggy McCampbell

Monday Night Bible Study

Join us as we take a virtual tour of Rome through an in-depth study of Romans. Monday nights, 7:00 to 8:30pm. Classroom next to Fellowship Hall. We enjoy good fellowship and digging deep into scripture. Leigh Ann Shearrer will facilitate this study. All are welcome.

Women’s Bible Study

The Monday Women’s Bible Study is going to read the Bible in chronological order during 2024. If you would like to join us, we meet on Mondays from 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the classroom by the Fellowship Hall. We will begin January 8th. The books can be ordered from Amazon. You can use your Bible, you don’t need to order a special one. If you have questions, contact Denise Petter at 830-570-1700.

Attention High School Seniors!

In March, we will be sending letters out to invite our High School Seniors to apply for the Gene and Frances Winn Scholarship. This Scholarship is for any member of First Methodist that will be continuing their education. This includes all types of secondary training. Such as: 2- and 4-year Colleges, Trade, Schools, and Military Service.

Letters will be mailed on March 1st and the application is due by April 1st. They can be returned via email, snail mail or dropped off by the church office.

Notification of being awarded a scholarship, will occur at the “Senior Sunday” Church Service. Currently, scheduled for the end of April.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church office.

Congratulations to all our

Seniors on your Graduation!



Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Youth

We are so grateful to all the kids that showed up to help serve plates on Saturday. The Ladies' Luncheon is not a success without their help!

We are also grateful we were able to take our Sunshine Kids and Jr Youth to The Heights to share God's Love with their residents on Ash Wednesday/ Valentine's Day. It was great to be able to serve our community.

We had 10 young ladies attend Revive Winter Retreat! They all came back so invigorated from the weekend that was filled with praise, worship, and fellowship!

We continued to have great attendance on Wednesday and Sr. Youth Sundays.

Sunshine Kids and Jr Youth meet on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7pm. We are asking for help again this year with meals. If you are interested, please contact Jessica Tom at 210-382-3358 or [click here](#) to sign up.

Sr Youth dates to meet this Spring are 3/3, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5. We will celebrate our graduating seniors during Worship on **April 28th**. Several of you may have pictures to share with us of youth over the years, so please start gathering those.

Jr. and Sr. Youth will have their retreat **May 10-12** and they are still earning points to be eligible to attend the retreat.

We enjoy our time with your children and love to grow with them in their faith!

Jessica, Guy, Jill, Janna, Sheryl

EVENTS SCHEDULE 2024

SR YOUTH

10 pts

Sr Youth Sundays

1/21, 2/4, 2/25, 3/3, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5

Work Events

2/24 Women's Luncheon 10:30 - 12:30
(Friday between 3-6 is also an option)

4/6 UMCOR Volunteer Fun Day - all day

15 pts

4/28 **Graduating Senior Sunday**

5/10-12 **May Youth Retreat**

Save the Date. details to come on both

Optional Activities

- Serving as Greeter, Acolyte, or Liturgist during Sunday service
- Helping in Sunday School Classes

15 pts



MORE INFO:

CHECK THE GROUPME

YOUTH EVENTS 2024

SUNSHINE KIDS & JR YOUTH

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

5:45 - 7:00 PM

1/24
THRU
5/8

FEB
24

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON
SERVERS NEEDED
10:30 - 12:30

VOLUNTEER DAY
ALL DAY

JR & SR YOUTH

APR
6

MAY
10-12

JR & SR YOUTH
RETREAT

JR YOUTH HOLDS CONFIRMATION CLASS EACH WED NIGHT

Brain Injury Awareness Month

Blessing to all,

This month our awareness is on brain injury. Individuals who sustain brain injuries must have timely access to expert trauma care, specialized rehabilitation, lifelong disease management and individualized services and supports to live healthy, independent, and satisfying lives. Brain injury is unpredictable in its consequences. Brain injury affects who we are, the way we think, act, and feel. It can change everything about us in a matter of seconds. The most important things to remember are, no two brain injuries are the same, the effects of a brain injury are complex and vary greatly from person to person, and the effects of a brain injury depend on such factors as cause, location in the brain, and severity.

One brain injury that we may encounter is a stroke. A stroke is a medical emergency. Strokes happen when blood flow to your brain stops. Within minutes, brain cells begin to die. There are two kinds of strokes. The more common kind, ischemic stroke, is caused by a clot that blocks or plugs a vessel in the brain. The other kind, called hemorrhagic stroke, is caused by a blood vessel that breaks and bleeds into the brain. "Mini" strokes, or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), occur when the blood supply to the brain is briefly interrupted.

Symptoms of a stroke are:

- *Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg (especially on one side of the body)
- *Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- *Sudden severe headache with no known cause
- *Sudden trouble walking dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- *Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

If you have any of these symptoms, you must get to a hospital quickly to begin treatment. Acute stroke therapies try to stop a stroke while it is happening by quickly dissolving the blood clot or by stopping the bleeding.

Stroke is America's #3 killer and leading cause of a severe, long-term disability. Since managing high blood pressure is the most important thing you can do to lessen your risk for stroke, treatment for high blood pressure can save your life. High blood pressure damages your arteries, so they burst or clog more easily. High blood pressure weakening arteries in the brain puts you at much higher risk for stroke. 13% of strokes are hemorrhagic, which occur when a blood vessel ruptures in or near the brain.

When it ruptures, it can bleed into the deep tissues in the brain or in the space between the skull and the brain. Chronic high blood pressure or aging blood vessels are the main cause of a hemorrhagic stroke. Remember, it is critical to keep your blood pressure within acceptable ranges to protect your brain from this often disabling or fatal event. "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." Proverbs 4:23.

Your Wesley Nurse, Linda Harper, RN, BSN

