



The Messenger

A publication of Smyrna First United Methodist Church

April, 2025

Welcoming All, Loving All, Serving All

FROM THE PASTOR

Grief and hope come together on that first Easter morning. The women come to the tomb grief stricken and traumatized by their experience on Friday. The most important person in the world to them has been ripped away in the most inglorious and cruel way. And then, to add insult to injury, they find the stone that guarded and protected Jesus' tomb rolled away when they come to anoint his body early Sunday morning. Is it grave robbers? Will they be denied even the simple act of honoring Jesus in death and saying their goodbyes? But then as quickly as their hearts are shattered all over again, something astonishing happens. Angels appear in gleaming bright clothing. Suddenly grief comes together with profound fear at these holy intruders.

But then hope breaks in. The angels proclaim that Jesus has been raised. The women find hope in their memories as they remember Jesus' words about being handed over and crucified...but then raised on the third day. A whisper of hope competes with the loudness of their grief. Could it be true? Oh, if only it is true. But could it be? It just seems too good to be true.

Grief, fear, hope, and doubt are all companions on that first glorious Easter morning. Grief does not neatly end before hope begins. And even when there is hope, grief still lurks in the background along with fear and doubts. It's a messy business, really, the Easter story. Since we know the end of the story, or really the new beginning the Easter story offers us, we are all too prone to jump ahead and focus only on the hope of Easter. However, we should also never forget the whole story of Easter. There is room for you to experience the glory and hope of Easter along with any grief, fear, and doubt you may be experiencing. Jesus meets us where we are and offers us hope in all circumstances.

Please join us for all our Holy Week events beginning on April 13 with Palm Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 am. Maundy Thursday will feature the men's group doing a drama of the Last Supper at 7 pm. Then on Good Friday, we will gather at 5:15 pm at the church to carpool to the entrance to the Sam Davis home, from where we will carry the cross and hear scripture readings that remember Jesus' journey to the cross. Our Good Friday sanctuary service will then begin at 7 pm. On Saturday, April 19, please join us at 1 pm for our community Easter Egg Hunt. Finally, we will begin celebrating the resurrection on Easter, April 20, with a community sunrise service at 6 am at the Depot with Elder's Chapel and Cornerstone UMC's. Then join us in the sanctuary for 8:30 am modern and 11 am traditional Easter worship services.

We hope to see you on this most holy week of the entire church year. Please invite your neighbors, family, and friends to join us for Holy Week and Easter. Come and experience hope breaking into our world like never before as we celebrate the power of the resurrection.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Theresa



*See page 3 for a list of scriptures for this sermon series.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL

8:30 Greeters

April 6 Michelle Martin
 April 13 Michelle Martin
 April 20 Candy Kane
 April 27 Candy Kane

Coffee & Conversation

Mike Ashworth
 UMM
 Norma Hawk
 Trish Pendleton

Sound Board

Jason & Cynamon Fritschler
 Lane & Geneva Cronan
 Jason & Cynamon Fritschler
 Lane & Geneva Cronan

11:00 Liturgist

April 6 Ken Sloane
 April 13 Ken Sloane
 April 20 Ken Sloane
 April 27 Ken Sloane

Children's Message

Sound Board

Scott Elledge, Ron Patterson
 Matthew & Peter Ferris, Tom Wright
 Ron Patterson, Tom Wright
 Matthew & Peter Ferris, Tom Wright

11:00 Ushers

Barb Huebel, Frank Pitts

11:00 Communion Servers

Tom & Barb Huebel

8:30 Communion Servers

Rick & Amy Wise

Mission and Outreach Committee

In March our food pantry was blessed with an amazing gift from Second Harvest. We were given a grant of \$2000 to purchase food. This allowed us to stock up on the basic items we give out in our pantry. When we normally place an order with Second Harvest it



costs us anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,200 and that will last us three to four weeks. Having this gift allowed us to give our budget a break for the

month of March. We still have to purchase cereal, oatmeal, Ramen noodles, crackers and various meats that we can't get at Second Harvest. That is why your participation in Sharing Sunday is so important.

In April we are asking for Ramen noodles to share. The congregation has been great at helping us each month in keeping our shelves stocked. The number of weekly clients in the pantry is still 45-50 families a week.

Please consider coming out on April 12 to help in our Adopt-a-Roadway ministry (check out page 4 for more details). Greg Upham does a fantastic job in organizing this activity and it makes you feel good to know you are helping keep our city clean.

-Trish Pendleton

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar for **April 5 from 8:30 am until 2:00 pm** for our second all church work day! We need to spruce up the property inside and out. Lunch will be provided. for more details and be a part of a spring cleaning at SFUMC!



SALT

(Senior Adults Living Triumphantly)
 For all who are 55+

Join us for our next SALT lunch at noon on April 17th. We will have pasta, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. AND the WSU Pickers will be here for our entertainment! Don't Miss It!!



CHECK OUT THE BULLETIN ON SUNDAY, APRIL 6! LOOK FOR:

***HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

***SIGN-UP TO CARRY THE CROSS**

(Please return by April 13)

***SIGN-UP TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS**

(Please return by April 16)

SCHEDULE FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

Wednesdays DURING LENT

LENT WEDNESDAYS NOON PRAYER EVENT.

We will gather in the Sanctuary for a special time of prayer at noon each Wednesday during Lent.
Don't Miss It!



COMMUNITY
Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 19, 1:00-3:00 pm at Smyrna First UMC. Please plan to come with young ones. Invite friends and family.

Also, if you are able to donate candy filled eggs, prizes, or snacks, that would be great. We can also use some volunteers to help with the event. Please see Diana Hague or Pastor Theresa. Thank you.



**everything
[in] between**
Meeting God in the midst of extremes

EASTER SCRIPTURES

Follow along with the Scriptures for worship services.

April 6	Luke 19:1-10	Righteousness & Mercy
April 13	Palm Sunday	
	Luke 19:29-40	Shouting & Silence
April 17	Maundy Thursday	
	Luke 22:1-27	Last Supper
April 18	Good Friday	
	Luke 23:32-47	Crucifixion
April 20	Easter	
	Luke 24:1-12	Grief & Hope
April 27	Luke 24:13-35	Emmaus Rd.

Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY

April 13

8:30 & 11 Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17, 7:00 pm

Last Supper Drama

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18

Carry the Cross

5:30 pm

Good Friday Service

7:00 pm

April 19

Community Egg Hunt

1:00-3:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service at Smyrna Depot

6:00 am

*Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am
in the Church Sanctuary*



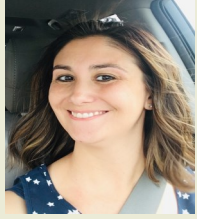
The Sparrow's Nest Mother's Day Out



Hello Families of Preschoolers!

Our classes are going great.

Classes meet Monday and Wednesday,
9 am - 2 pm,
August through May.



We would love to be a part of your child's education!
Check out our website: smyrna1stumc.org
For questions contact
sparrowsnestdirector@gmail.com or call
615.459.2826.

Betsy Jordan, Director

A ministry of Smyrna First United Methodist Church

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2025-2026 OPEN ENROLLMENT OPENS IN APRIL

Registration	\$100 per child
Monthly Tuition	\$200 first child
	\$180 second child
	\$170 for third child

Application forms are available online:
www.smyrna1stumc.org/Sparrow's Nest



Diana Hague	4/1
Nan Zoller	4/1
Karen Yatusis	4/2
Rachel Johnson	4/3
Shelby Kirk	4/3
Tom Brown	4/5
Valerie Glasgow	4/9
Bobby Medlen	4/10
Gloria Witherow	4/10
Lydia Jordan	4/11
Matt Johnson	4/14
Jeanne McDonald	4/17
Melinda Potts	4/17
Mike Lawrence	4/22
Anna Elizabeth Vogler	4/24
Mary Elizabeth McClung	4/27
Becky Baggett	4/28
Emily Williams	4/28
Lefty Barnett	4/29

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the church office: sandra.phelps@smyrnairstumc.org



Sparrow's Nest children enjoying a visit from the Librarian at the LaVergne Library.



Mike & Pam Ashworth	4/2
Charles & Chris King	4/7
Chris & Kathy Pitts	4/24



The Church will be holding its next quarterly
Adopt A Roadway cleanup
on Saturday, April 12, the day before Palm Sunday, at
9am. Meet at the Gregory Mill Park front parking lot.
Please RSVP Greg at 6215-512-0935 at least
a week in advance.
We now have two sites, Enon Springs Road and
Sam Davis Road, near the church.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Approved 1/19/2025

When Rutherford County Schools are closed for weather, the church office will be closed and all activities for the day will be canceled.

When inclement weather occurs on a weekend it will be discerned on an individual basis if the church will be closed and/or services will be postponed, and the membership will be notified.



**American
Red Cross**
Blood Drive

SAVE THE DATE

April 10

10:00 am - 4:00pm

Fellowship hall



Pastor Theresa prays over part of the group during a Worship service.

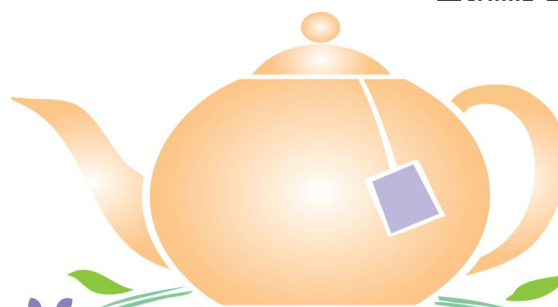
UMCOR/Sager Brown Mission Trip

A total of 8 participants from Smyrna →
First left on Saturday morning, March 20 to go to Baldwin, LA to put together relief supply kits at the UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) warehouse to help alleviate human suffering. Relief supplies provide care following a disaster.

FINANCIAL UPDATE BUDGET VS ACTUAL

Mar. Tithes & Offerings Received	\$ 30,618.00
Mar. Budget Needs	\$ 31,442.00
Mar. Over/(Under) Budget	\$ (824.00)
Feb. Balance Forward	\$ (10,429.00)
YTD Over/(Under) Budget Needs	\$ (11,253.00)

Use this QR code to access the VANCO donation page for a one time online donation or to set up recurring donations.



COMING SOON!

LADIES' TEA

APRIL 26, 2025

1-3 PM Fellowship hall

Contact Norma Hawk,

615-330-4608

for more information.



“Who Is Your Generosity Mentor?”

“Who is your generosity mentor? That question was posed at a continuing education event I attended. Our instructor got our attention with the question, then followed with this statement: “Before we attempt to teach you how to grow generosity in others, it’s important to reflect on who helped grow generosity in you.”

Let me pause before I share my answer and ask you, “Who is your generosity mentor?”

I could have named a lot of people: my dad and many people who were members of churches I served as pastor. There are famous people who are very generous and some whose generosity is kept secret. There are people who have very little but are still incredibly generous. I tell a story in some of my workshops about orphan children from Liberia who collected an offering for children in the U.S. affected by Hurricane Katrina.

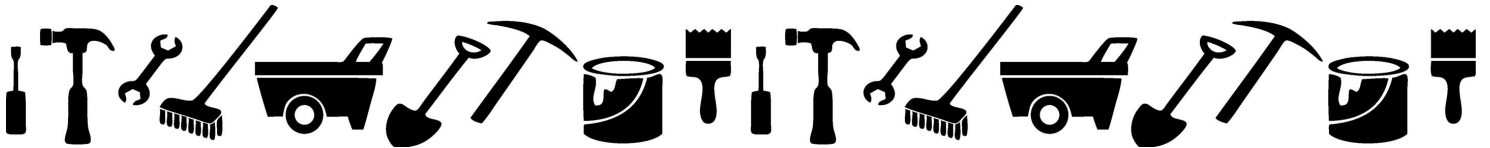
When the instructor at the continuing education event directed us to turn to the person next to us and share the story of our generosity mentor, one name came out without a moment’s hesitation: Clayton Miller.

Clayton was my pastor when I was growing up. That United Methodist church was lucky enough to have his pastoral leadership for eighteen amazing years, through my school years and into college. When I described him to my neighbor, I was conscious that the generosity I described had nothing to do with money or financial support. He is such a generous person who shares his time, guidance, affirmation, joy, and so much more. He has a generous soul and a generous spirit, and there is no way I could believe he was anything but generous with money.

So, how would you answer the question: “Who is your generosity mentor?”

Philanthropy is born not from a fat financial portfolio but from a generous spirit and a heart of gratitude. Sometimes, the greatest impact we make in our giving comes not from the place that receives our donation but from our influence on others who follow our lead. So, the final question is this: “How will you mentor generosity to someone else?”

-Ken Sloane
Stewardship



ALL CHURCH WORK DAY

Church work day on March 22 was a very busy day. We are so thankful to everyone who came out to help us clean up around our facilities. Another work day will be **April 5, 8:30 am - 2 pm**. Lunch will be provided. A variety of projects are planned. There will be something for everyone to help with. The more help we have, the more we can accomplish. Hope to see you then!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:30 AM Modern Worship
9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship
5:00 PM Youth

MONDAY SCHEDULE:

9:00 AM Sparrow's Nest
5:30 PM Girl Scouts (once a month)
6:00 PM Cub/Boy Scouts
6:00 PM Sinfonietta Rehearsal

TUESDAY SCHEDULE:

11:00 AM Yoga Class

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE:

9:00 AM Sparrow's Nest
3:00 PM Food Pantry
5:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study
(as scheduled)
5:30 PM Brownies (twice a month)
6:00 PM Hand Bells
7:15 PM Chancel Choir

THURSDAY SCHEDULE:

5:30 PM Pack Backpacks
(First Thursday)

6:00 PM Praise Band
6:00 PM Yoga Class

FRIDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 AM Morning Glories
(as scheduled)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June and July we will meet together at 10 am for a combined Worship service.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Complete Cleaning Crew is on campus every Friday, 1:00-5:00 pm to clean our buildings.						
					Church office is closed on Fridays.	
		1 See Schedule 11 am/6 pm Yoga Class	2 See Schedule 10:00 SALT Committee CR Noon Lent Prayer Time	3 See Schedule 5:30 Pack Backpacks	4 See Schedule Morning Glories Bible Study 10 am RM 303	5 8:30 am Church Work Day
← Spring Break week →						
6 COMMUNION See Schedule "Sharing Sunday"	7 See Schedule 5 pm Children/Youth Committee Mtg. 6 pm Worship	8 See Schedule	9 See Schedule Noon Lent Prayer Time 5:30 Brownies Rm. 311	10 See Schedule BLOOD DRIVE 10 am-4 pm FH	11 See Schedule	12 Adopt a Roadway 9 am
13 See Schedule PALM SUNDAY 7:30 am Men's Breakfast - FH 12:15 UWF 6 pm Youth @parsonage	14 See Schedule	15 See Schedule 11 am & 6 pm Yoga Class 5:15 pm TEA Mtg.	16 See Schedule Noon Lent Prayer Time 5:30 Bible Study Dismissed	17 See Schedule Maundy Thursday 12:00 SALT Lunch FH Worship Service 7pm Last Supper Drama	18 See Schedule Good Friday Carry the Cross 5:30 pm Good Friday Service 7 pm	19 Easter Egg Hunt 1-3 pm
20 See Schedule EASTER 6:00 am Sunrise Service at Smyrna Depot 4 pm Youth Dismissed	21 See Schedule	22 See Schedule	23 See Schedule 5:30 Brownies Rm. 311	24 See Schedule	25 See Schedule ↓ TEA set-up	26 LADIES TEA 1-3 pm Fellowship Hall
27 See Schedule 12:15 Leadership Board - FH 4 pm Youth	28 See Schedule	29 See Schedule 11 am & 6 pm Yoga Class	30 See Schedule 5:30 Pastor's Bible Study			FH=Fellowship Hall

**SMYRNA FIRST
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

301 Sam Davis Road
Smyrna, TN 37167

Address Correction
Requested

Tel: 615-459-2826

Visit us on the web:
smyrna1stumc.org
Facebook: [@sfumc.tn](https://www.facebook.com/sfumc.tn)
Instagram: [@sfumc.tn](https://www.instagram.com/sfumc.tn)
Twitter: [@sfumc_tn](https://twitter.com/sfumc_tn)

**Sparrow's Nest
Parents Day Out**

Monday &
Wednesday
9 am - 2 pm
For questions,
call 615-459-2844

A ministry of
Smyrna First UMC.

*"Smyrna First
UMC
is a community
who is passionate
about welcoming
all, loving all and
serving all so that
we may offer Christ
to all."*

WORSHIP with us

Modern Worship, 8:30 am; Traditional Worship, 11:00 am

**GET CONNECTED WITH A SMALL GROUP
AT SMYRNA FIRST**

Sunday school classes available each week:

Fellowship, 10 am, room 201

MINGS (Men in Need of God's Strength),
10 am, room 312

Motley Christians, 10 am, room 303

Pairs & Spares, 10 am, room 307

Searchers, 10 am, room 305

WINGS (Women in Need of God's Strength),
10 am, room 310

YOUTH (6TH-12TH GRADES), 10 AM,
rooms 315-317

**3RD-5TH GRADES,
PRESCHOOL-2ND GRADE,**

10 am, room 311

2025

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Theresa Johnson
Worship Music Leader.....Branson Clark
Youth Ministries Director.....Andi Steinberg
Office Manager.....Sandra Phelps
Organist.....Bobby Medlen
Pianist.....Jesse Bobick
Financial Secretary.....Andi Steinberg
Sparrow's Nest Director.....Betsy Jordan
Custodial.....Complete Cleaning Concepts

Coming Soon!

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION SUMMER CAMP

Enroll now for June & July, 2025

If you would like to be a volunteer, please
let Michelle Martin know.