



# The Messenger

*A publication of Smyrna First  
United Methodist Church*

*April, 2024*

## FROM THE PASTOR:

The good news of Easter is too joyous, too marvelous, and too important to be confined to one day of celebration. Therefore, church tradition allots a whole season to celebrate and be immersed in the joy of the good news of Christ's resurrection. The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset the day before Easter and continues through the Day of Pentecost. And even beyond these fifty days, every Sunday throughout the year when we gather to worship is considered a little Easter. Every Sunday is a day to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

Our celebration of the Resurrection is not limited to that one glorious day we call Easter when we cheerily share the good news with one another that Christ is risen! We are Easter people 365 days a year. We acknowledge this beautiful truth of the continual celebration of the Resurrection in that wonderful hymn "Easter People, Raise Your Voices." We sing in the last stanza of that hymn: "Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs."

Yes, the Resurrection of Jesus was a specific historical event in a specific moment of time in the past. But what Christ accomplished on that first Easter Sunday morning unleashed the power and promise of Resurrection life for all

humanity and indeed all of creation once and for all. It means we live our lives no longer fearing death. We live our lives knowing sin does not control us. We live our lives knowing that even when everything goes wrong, God has the power to right every wrong. Because of the ongoing work of Christ's Resurrection in and among us, we live with hope regardless of our circumstances. So, happy Easter, friends! Let's continue our Easter celebrations beyond Sunday, March 31 and keep the Alleluias coming for the next fifty days and beyond, because Christ is risen! He is risen indeed...then, now, and forever. Amen.

Wishing you many blessings this Easter season,

Pastor Theresa

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Church Family

Shirley Cobble	Malinda Lester
Ken Victory	Cheryl Byrd
Marie Tilley	

### Family Members & Friends

Roberta Nance

Our sympathy to Jewel Johns. Her sister, Juanita Nicholson, 94, passed away on March 22. The service was March 28 in Goodlettsville, Tennessee.

### Assisted Living/Home Bound

Ken & Shirley Cobble	Jo Motley
Larry Coleman	Richard Nelson
Jane Hollins	Bob Smith

If you add a friend/family member to the prayer list, please keep the office updated on their progress.

## APRIL SERMON SERIES



**FINDING NEW LIFE**  
in Christ as United Methodists



## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

### 8:30 Liturgist

April 7 Scott Buchholz  
April 14 Michelle Martin  
April 21 Mike Ashworth  
April 28 Candy Kane

### 8:30 Ushers

Candy Kane, Carolyn Fox  
Jan Schilling, Kim Honey  
Jared Cashion, Brinda Sullivan  
Trish Pendleton, Michelle Martin

### Communion Servers

Trish Pendleton, Andi Steinberg

### 11:00 Liturgist

April 7 Tom Wright  
April 14 Tom Wright  
April 21 Tom Wright  
April 28 Andi Steinberg

### Coffee & Conversation

Kim Honey  
UMM  
Trish Pendleton  
Dorris Waldron

### Children's Message

No Message  
Ken Sloane  
Lydia Oliver  
Andi Steinberg

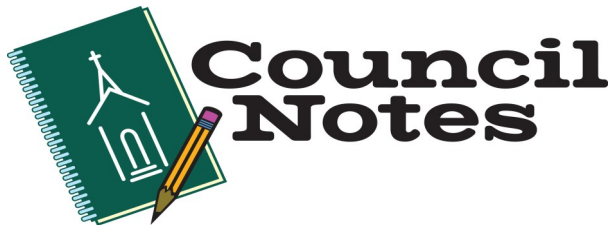
### 11:00 Ushers

Barb Huebel, Frank Pitts

### Communion Servers

Margie Crosslin, Jewel Johns

\*\*If anyone would like to be a liturgist, usher/greeter or communion server at the 8:30 worship service please contact Lynn Patterson or Mary Ann Rogers.



The Church Council voted at its last meeting to form a task group to put together a proposed structure for a simplified board plan for the future oversight of the church. In brief, this would combine the activities of the Finance Committee, SPRC, Trustees and Church Council into a single, unified board. The idea is that this board would provide general oversight and would put together teams from the congregation at large for specific tasks and events. We understand that not everyone wants to serve on a committee and attend monthly meetings; this would enable church members to serve where their interests lie. We hope the group will have a recommendation at our May Council meeting. We will be following many of the guidelines from the book "Mission Possible" by Kay Kotan and Blake Bradford. If you would like more information, please feel free to discuss this with any Council member.

Please remember that the Church Council meetings are open to all; we meet on the second Sunday of the month in fellowship hall following the 11:00 service.

~Nita Wright  
Church Council Chair



## WHO IS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE?

*Taken from Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation "Finance", 2017-2020. Copyright 2016 Cokesbury. Used by permission The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* says that the ministry of the committee on finance is to nurture the financial vitality of the congregation. This is a comprehensive assignment that encompasses a variety of responsibilities, all of which are necessary if the congregation is to accomplish its vision for ministry.

## WHAT DOES THE FINANCE COMMITTEE DO?

*Taken from Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation "Finance", 2017-2020. Copyright 2016 Cokesbury. Used by permission In The Book of Discipline the committee on finance is charged with all these activities:*

- Oversee stewardship,
- Compile a budget annually,
- Raise sufficient income to meet the budget,
- Administer funds received by the church,
- Count and deposit the offering,
- Disburse funds,
- Establish internal control policies,
- Review and report annually on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls,
- Provide for an annual audit of the church financial statements,
- Report to the annual charge conference on the audit,
- Recommend proper depositories for church funds,
- Use contributions in accordance with donors' intent,
- Report annually to the church council all designated funds that are separate from the church budget.

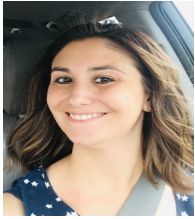
(Each month we will be looking at the role of the leadership committees we have at SFUMC and their responsibilities. If you would like a copy of the Guidelines for your specific committee, please notify the church office.)

**The Sparrow's Nest**  
Mother's Day Out



**Hello Families of Preschoolers!**

April 1st, new students register for 2024-2025  
Classes meet Monday and Wednesday, 9 am - 2 pm, August through May.



Betsy Jordan, Director

We would love to be a part of your child's education!  
Check out our website: [smyrna1stumc.org](http://smyrna1stumc.org)  
For questions contact [sparrowsnestdirector@gmail.com](mailto:sparrowsnestdirector@gmail.com) or call 615.459.2826.  
A ministry of Smyrna First United Methodist Church

Sparrow's Nest has begun registration for the next school year. Several students are returning, and we have had a lot of interest from new parents. We will begin registration for new students on April 1st for Ages 2-prek. Activities for the rest of the year are: meteorologist visit; water day; and special program and Graduation!

We will have our classrooms cleared out by May 22. Our current plans are to paint the 3 year old classroom and the current library (purple rooms) so they will match the others before PT begins. We are investigating the purchase of some items for the playground, such as tables and maybe another bench.

~Jeanne McDonald

**GENERAL CONFERENCE**

In a few weeks (April 23 - May 6) our denomination will conduct a world-wide General Conference in Charlotte, NC. This conference was originally scheduled for 2020 and was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID. Now, after a four year delay, it is finally happening.



I invite you to join United Methodists across the world in 40 days of prayer for the conference, for the attendees, for the support staff and for the United Methodist Church. Let's pray for safe travels for all those going to and returning from Charlotte and for good fellowship, discerning hearts and God's wisdom for the delegates. In particular, let's pray for our own Ken and Bridget Sloane who are part of the support staff. May this conference lead to the furtherance of God's kingdom here on earth.

Let's hold the conference up in our prayers over the next 40 days.

Blessings, Tom Wright

**NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Worship Committee gratefully thanks everyone for their help and support during Holy Week. We know how much time, energy, and love you put into our amazing SFUMC ministry. It truly is a group effort. It is such a blessing to know that the church can always rely on each of you. Gratefully, Lynn Patterson



Diana Hague	4/1
Nan Zoller	4/1
Karen Yatzuzis	4/2
Rachel Johnson	4/3
Shelby Kirk	4/3
Ella Clark	4/4
Tom Brown	4/5
Brit Clark	4/5
Daniel Stephens	4/8
Valerie Glasgow	4/9
Pam Faulkner	4/10
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 Vogler	4/24
Bill Franklin	4/25
Mary McClung	4/27
Emily Williams	4/28

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the church office: [sandra.phelps@smyrnafirstumc.org](mailto:sandra.phelps@smyrnafirstumc.org)



Mike & Pam Ashworth	4/2
Kevin & Michelle Parker	4/2
Charles & Chris King	4/7
Chris & Kathy Pitts	4/24
Josh & Melanie McCollum	4/28



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



Well, Spring has started off with a bang and we are seeing record numbers of families in the food pantry. On March 20 we served 59 families and we are thankful we could provide them with enough food to get them by for a few days. The committee is looking for ways to supplement our budget as we are running through our budget at a much faster pace than we ever anticipated. If you are able to contribute we would

really appreciate it. We are currently looking into another source of food that would be at a much reduced cost and we are also looking into ways to get support from other companies or agencies. If you work for a company that is civic minded and would like to find a service project we would love to have our Food Pantry be considered as a recipient. On a more personal level if you want to pick up some boxes of cereal or crackers or instant oatmeal we would be grateful.

Our mission team leaves for the Sager Brown UMCOR Depot on April 14 and we ask for your prayers for a safe journey. We look forward to helping the Depot prepare for disasters in any way we are needed. If you want to contribute to the project, we are still accepting donations to be applied to supplies in lieu of physical items. We just don't have room this year to take physical items as we have in the past. All donations will be given to Sager Brown to help with the cost of supplies for disaster kits.

We are thankful for the support we receive from this congregation to continue our ministries and missions. We pray God will continue to guide us in our mission to help others and spread the love of Christ.

~Trish Pendleton  
Mission Committee Chair



**IT COMMITTEE REPORT:** We've had a busy month with all the media postings for Lent. Please continue to send articles/pictures that you want shared on our church Facebook page. Postings are being staggered so that the information going out on a regular basis isn't so much that the important things get lost.

The Tech Team completed the installation of the new amps in the Sanctuary in late February. We continue to fine tune the sound and hope you have noticed an improvement. As of June 1, our new Managed Service Provider will be Cloud Smart. The team has been in contact with a couple of people regarding the maintenance of our website, and we hope to have the search narrowed soon.

~Jeanne McDonald

## ARE WE STEWARDS?

I was honored when I was asked to be the stewardship team leader for Smyrna First United Methodist Church (ok, right now I'm the "leader" of a team of one). Stewardship is my passion, and it's great when your passion is your job as well. I love to help people see stewardship in a broader sense than simply making the budget and paying the bills (certainly, those are important). Jesus spoke often in the Bible about stewards – those stories about people who are entrusted by "the master" (some important person who has property or monetary resources of value) to care for what the master owns while he is somewhere far away. In each story, there is a moment when the master returns to hold these stewards accountable for how well they have watched over what has been put in their care.

When we see ourselves as stewards of all God has entrusted to us, we begin to see that it's not just about what we give, but how we live faithfully with all we have. We remember that we have nothing that doesn't come from God's goodness and love for us.



More than fifty years ago, the world set aside April 22 as Earth Day, and since then it has been a month when we try to bring people's attention to care for this planet. I believe our stewardship extends to God making us stewards of God's good creation. So, this is an appropriate month for us to ponder a definition of stewardship that is broad.

If there is hope of reversing the growing climate crisis, it will happen when our leaders, our neighbors, and all of us take seriously our role as stewards of God's creation. As people of faith who have been taught what it means to be faithful stewards, we can lead the way!

~Ken Sloane

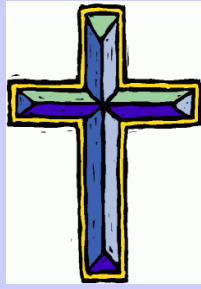


**Youth Bowling**  
**NIGHT**

**APRIL 21ST**

**\$21 ENTRY**

**AT 5:30 PM**  
**PIZZA & DRINK INCLUDED**  
STARS & STRIKES SMYRNA, TN



**SMYRNA FIRST UMC YOUTH**  
Sunday School & Sunday Youth Nights  
From Genesis to Revelations,  
learn more with us!  
Every Sunday morning, 10 am AND  
Sunday evenings at 4 pm in  
fellowship hall.  
*Meet new people and gain a deeper  
understanding of God's word to  
apply scriptural truth to your everyday  
life.*



**Our Youth at the  
Glow-in-the-dark  
Easter  
Egg Hunt**



# SALT

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

**April luncheon will be on the 18th  
at noon in fellowship hall.**

**Join us for a delicious lunch including  
a potato bar, salad, desserts and drinks.**

**The WSU Pickers will be entertaining us.  
Don't miss the fun and fellowship.  
Contact Tom Huebel for more information,  
gthuebel@aol.com**



## SAVE THE DATE

The Ladies' Tea is scheduled for April 27, 2024. The Tea food committee is asking for Volunteers to assist with food preparation, food purchase and/or cash donations toward the food. If you are able to help with this, please contact by phone or text to Nita Wright (615/828-9279), Wendy Cash (615/210-6907), Becky Jenkins (615/631-0165).

Contact Norma Hawk (615) 330-4608 if you would like to attend the Tea and have not already been in contact with one of the tea hostesses. The cost is \$20 per person. All proceeds will benefit our backpack food program with Smyrna Elementary.

A meeting is scheduled on April 7 at 9:30 am in the chapel for hostesses and anyone helping or wanting to help with the Tea.



Community  
Egg  
Hunt

## FINANCIAL UPDATE BUDGET VS ACTUAL

Mar. Tithes & Offerings Received (thru 3/24/2024)	\$ 28,882.00
Mar. Budget Needs	\$ 39,786.00
Mar. Over/(Under) Budget	\$ (10,904.00)
YTD Balance Forward	\$ (16,808.00)
YTD Over/(Under) Budget Needs	\$ (27,712.00)

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



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

The Easter egg hunt was a huge success! We estimate that about 200 children participated and we had almost 3000 eggs. We want to thank everyone who donated eggs, prizes, cookies and cupcakes. And a big thank you to those who donated their time as well. A special thanks to Food Lion for donating two baskets for prizes. Families expressed their appreciation for the activity: a mother, with her 3 young daughters and another baby on the way were one of the families that were the last to leave. She thanked us and had her daughters thank us as well. She then said that this would be their only Easter. They had just moved to Tennessee from Missouri and had no family here. Thank you all for helping to make this happen for them and everyone else. Next up -Vacation Bible School!

# 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
- 4:00 PM Youth

**MONDAY SCHEDULE:**

- 9:00 AM Sparrow's Nest
- 6:00 PM Cub Scouts
- 6:00 PM Sinfonietta Rehearsal

**TUESDAY SCHEDULE:**

- 11:00 AM Yoga Class
- 6:00 PM Boy Scouts

**WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE:**

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

**THURSDAY SCHEDULE:**

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

**FRIDAY SCHEDULE:**

- 10:00 AM Morning Glories  
(as scheduled)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 See Schedule 6 pm Worship cancelled	2 See Schedule 5:30 pm Trustee	3 See Schedule 10 am SALT Committee	4 See Schedule 5:30 Pack backpacks 6:00 Yoga in YR	5 See Schedule Church office is closed on Fridays.	6
7 See Schedule COMMUNION 9:30 am TEA Mtg.	8 See Schedule	9 See Schedule	10 See Schedule	11 See Schedule 6:30 Scout Leaders Mtg.	12 See Schedule	13
14 See Schedule 7:30 am Men's Breakfast - FH 12:15 UWF	15 See Schedule	16 See Schedule	17 See Schedule	18 See Schedule Noon Salt Lunch FH 7:00 SPRC Mtg.	19 See Schedule	20
← UMCOR Sager Brown →						
21 See Schedule 12:15 Church Council FH 5:30 Youth Bowling	22 See Schedule	23 See Schedule 11 am No Yoga 12:30 Sparrow's Nest Board	24 See Schedule	25 See Schedule BLOOD DRIVE 9:30-3:30 Fellowship hall 6:00 No Yoga	26 See Schedule Tea Set-up ↓	27 LADIES' TEA 1:00-3:00 PM
28 See Schedule	29 See Schedule	30 See Schedule				
Complete Cleaning Crew is on campus every Friday, 1:00-5:00 pm to clean our buildings.						

**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  
Instagram: @sfumc.tn  
Twitter: @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.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
8:30 AM  
Modern  
Worship  
10:00 AM  
Sunday School  
11:00 AM  
Traditional  
Worship

**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

**W.I.P.S.**, 10 am, room 309

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

**3RD-5TH GRADES**, 10 am, room 101

**PRESCHOOL-2ND GRADE**, 10 am,  
room 103

**Nursery**, 8:30 & 11:00 am, room 108

2024

**CHURCH STAFF**

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



ing volunteers to serve from 8:45 – 12:45 each day. Volunteers help with mealtimes, arts & crafts, reading, and safe sanctuary supervision. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Martin at memartin600@comcast.net or 615-516-9801 for more information. Project Transformation's mission is to transform communities by engaging children, college-age young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships. The mission is lived out through these three C's: College-age young adults implementing literacy and social-emotional interventions with Children, strategically housed in Churches. You can learn more here: [projecttransformation.org/tennessee](http://projecttransformation.org/tennessee)

