

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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March 26, 2023

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Congregational Meeting



This **Sunday, March 26**, we will have a **10 a.m. Combined Worship Service** followed by an **11 a.m. Congregational Meeting**.

The Church Council has proposed a formal vote on whether or not to join the Global Methodist Church. So, after a short time of discussion with a question and answer period, the Church Council will make a formal motion to take a congregational vote.

We will vote by **written paper ballot**. You will simply mark either: 1) Yes, I want to join the Global Methodist Church, or 2) No, I don't want to join the Global Methodist Church.

The Church Council has established that a **simple majority** is required for the vote to pass.

The Global Methodist Church: Our Witness to the World



Ethics & Morality. For every church our theological beliefs will sooner or later affect our ethics and morality. That is, what we believe eventually comes out in how we live with others, either socially or politically. Our morality affects the laws we make, how we vote in elections, even how we treat our friends and neighbors.

So, before we join the Global Methodist Church, we need to ask: How do they interpret the morality and ethics of the Bible? What social and political commitments have they made?

The following is a brief summary of their moral and ethical witness to the world:

- Every person is made in the Image of God. So, each person should be treated with respect, dignity, and justice.
- Life is sacred. So, the Global Methodist Church stands against abortion and euthanasia.
- Workers ought to have safe working conditions and fair compensation.
- The Bible calls us to care for the poor, personally and collectively.
- There are only two genders: Male and Female.
- Marriage is between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. And human sexuality is a gift from God to be enjoyed only in godly marriage.
- So, the Global Methodist Church stands against same-sex unions, polygamy, polyamory, and transgenderism.
- The GMC also opposes all sexual unfaithfulness and immorality, such as promiscuity, pornography, and human trafficking.
- The Global Methodist Church believes every child should be properly loved, protected, and cared for. So, the GMC stands against all child abuse and exploitation.
- In the Bible, God told the Israelites to respect and care for the foreigner. So, the Global Methodist Church supports properly managed immigration.
- The Global Methodist Church supports freedom of religion. Every person should be free to pursue their faith in God without interference from the government.

These are some of the major moral and ethical commitments of the Global Methodist Church.

At its heart the Global Methodist Church is the best of what we have known from the Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church. In that sense, it will be the most familiar to us of all the Methodist / Wesleyan denominations. Most of what they have changed are the things we all tend to agree needed to be changed. And one of the advantages of joining now is that our voice as a congregation will be heard locally in the new Mississippi Conference of the Global Methodist Church as well as at the General Conference that will convene in summer or fall of 2024.

I hope you will prayerfully consider how God might be leading us to become a part of the Global Methodist Church.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Congregational meeting

6:00 p.m. Bro. Lauren's Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

MONDAY, MARCH 27

6:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

6:00 p.m. Emmaus Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir

5:15 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

6:00 p.m. Bro. Lauren's Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Snack Supper

6:00 p.m. Youth

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 31-APRIL 1

D-Now for youth

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

9-12 noon Methodist Market



LENTEN CALENDAR

April 2 – Palm Sunday – 11 a.m. service

Children bring in palm branches

Hiskidz Easter Egg Hunt – 4-6 p.m.

April 3 – Lenten Service – 12 Noon

Dr. Andy Miller,

Wesley Biblical Seminary

April 4 – Lenten Service – 12 Noon

Rev. Glenn Hoskins, Ellison UMC

April 5 – Lenten Service – 12 Noon

Rev. Ben Butler, Assoc. Pastor

Madison UMC

April 6 – Maunday Thursday - 6:30 p.m.

Communion Service

April 9 – Easter Joint Service – 10:00 a.m.



March

Birthdays & Anniversaries

27. Lauren Lynch

31. Sammy Burnham



The Real Meaning of the Cross

“At the cross we understand what God means when He talks of loving us, begin to take it in that there is nothing that He will not do, no sacrifice He will not make, no suffering that He will shirk, if only He can help us. ‘He loved me,’ said Paul, standing upon Calvary and gazing in a stunned way at the cross, ‘I who was a persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious, and yet He loved me and He gave himself for me.’ And with that Paul’s heart broke, and the old life was gone.”

—Scottish preacher Arthur John Gossip, 1926

*With
Sympathy*

Sympathy and love is extended to Nancy Hart, Claire Rogers, Todd Hart, Crosby Hicks and family in the death of their husband and father, Irma Newell Hart, who died March 20, 2023.



Hiskidz and Bible in Life

There will be **NO** Sunday School this Sunday due to a joint Worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and our Sunday school lesson is called "Close to Jesus." In this lesson we will be talking about a story in the Bible where Jesus used the illustration of a vine and branches. This is a reminder of how we must keep ourselves close and connected to Jesus.

W.O.W. Wednesday

W.O.W. Wednesday meets this week and begins a new series. Our new study will be The Ten Commandments.

"The Ten Commandments" are the heart of the Old Testament and are the core expression of God's rules for his people.

Christians have always looked to the commandments as simple directions for life and worship as the basis of right living. In this series, children will learn that God's rules show us our need for Christ and how we can express his love in how we live. The Ten Commandments are good rules that God gave to Moses for all people to follow, including you and me! These rules help us to have good relationships with God and people. After taking a week off for Spring Break, we are back to our 10 Commandments. Last week we talked about **Commandment 3 - Holy Name**. This week **Commandment 4 - Holy Rest** - reminds us of the importance of taking a special day each week to rest and worship God.



HISKIDZ EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday. We will meet at the Church at 4:00 and drive to Owen and Mary Lou Richard's place for a fun afternoon of games and Egg hunting. We should return to the church by 6:00.

Youth Sunday School



There will be **NO** Sunday School this Sunday due to a joint Worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Next week is Holy Week and our Sunday School lesson for Palm Sunday is called "The Reason for Doing." We are encouraged to remember, whatever you do, do it for the Lord.

Youth Bible Study and Small Group

Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group has resumed for the next couple of weeks for the remainder of the school year.

D-NOW

Disciple Now has been set and is scheduled for March 31st – April 1st. Information about the weekend event will be sent out soon.

If you would like to fill an Easter basket for a foster child, they will be available in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, March 28th.



1. Select the basket.
2. Write your name and the basket number on the list.
3. Fill the basket with candy, books, toiletry items, school supplies, gift cards, a Bible or devotional guide.
4. Return the baskets to the church by Wednesday, April 5th.
5. Use the card attached to the basket as a reminder to pray for your child throughout the year.

Most of those presently in foster care are teenagers. These young people need to know that they are not forgotten.

Also, funds for this ministry are running a little low. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please make your check out to the church and indicate it is for "foster children".

Call/text if you have any questions.

Allison Hughes (662-571-4964)

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Greeters
Scripture
Sermon
Flowers

Julie and De Paul
Luke 18:31-34
“The Suffering Savior”
Frances Pierce

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MARCH

26. 5th Sunday in Lent

John 12:20-33

27. A standard of righteousness

Amos 7:7-9

28. A more excellent ministry

Hebrews 8:1-12

29. They shall all know me

Jeremiah 31:31-34

30. Blot out my iniquities

Psalms 51:1-12

31. Fixed on your ways

Psalms 119:9-16

APRIL

1. Reverent submission

Hebrews 5:5-10