

The Methodist Messenger

MARCH 2021

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Holy Communion Service/Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church

As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ's name.

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:20)

FROM
THE
PASTOR



This church season we have entered is not what I call a holiday season. However, like Advent, Lent is a time of active waiting. Beginning on Feb. 17th, Ash Wednesday, Lent is the church season when we mark and replicate in ways unique to each of us, Jesus' 40 days of sacrifice and isolation in the wilderness. In this “wild place,” Jesus daily faced tempting offers to remove himself from the torment he was experiencing. Yet, Jesus said no. He knew that too much would be lost.

As we enter this season of Lent, I am reminded of all that we have lost as a community – of all the gatherings, celebrations, fun and life we should have shared since this time a year ago. In some ways, we have been in a wilderness far more than 40 days. Since arriving to serve with you only 8 months ago, I feel like I have been exiled from my community, cast out from the worship and fellowship opportunities I adore, from meeting members and friends at a restaurant, or talking unveiled to my neighbor. I have faced temptations in this exilic time; so, have you. But while we are still not fully face to face, our live-stream worship, radio ministry, phone calls, zoom Bible study and meetings have served like a balm in Gilead or a loaf of bread in the desert. And yet, even these things are not enough to sustain me in the wilderness.

Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, and reflection. It is a time of deep, and a sometimes vulnerable and soul-wrenching search for God. There are days I feel as if God is on the dark side of the moon, nowhere to be seen or heard from. But, deep in my sometimes-wrenched soul, I know that is not true. I know that God is actively with me, is with us, and is actively working in the lives of every creature who will offer welcome. I know this because at the end of this 40-day season is the ultimate celebration, a celebration of life. The best news is that, unlike Mary and the first disciples, we do not have to wait to live into the ultimate celebration. Jesus is alive right now and is with us in our wild places, our places of exile, and places of deafening solitude or loneliness.

This year, as I continue the season of Lent, I will remember what we have all suffered and endured, but I will also take with me the blessings of virtual worship and living, and the truth that no matter the circumstances, Christ is alive and present with us, now. Jesus Christ is to be celebrated now for overcoming his temptations so that in the end, we too will celebrate with each other and all the saints in heaven who trod the Lenten Seasons of life to the ultimate celebration in the holy presence of the Living God.

May you move through this season of Lent in the assurance of God's loving presence with you, too.

~ *Pastor Terry*

“Reaching People to Teaching People to Reach People”

PARISH NURSING NOTES

Dear Friends,

As we journey through this season of Lent marked by many challenges, I am grateful for God's gift today of big doses of sunshine. And the weather forecast indicates that we may indeed receive several more sunny days this week. What a blessing!

As my spirits are lifted by the abundance of sunshine, I am reminded of one of the earliest verses I memorized as a child:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51: 10.

This prayerful verse, and several others that follow in Psalm 51, have been used over the years in wonderful hymns and anthems ...

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and take not thy holy spirit from me. Create in me a clean heart, O God!

This is my prayer for each day during the remainder of Lenten season, as we look forward to days of rejoicing ahead! Let us all reach out to others with a smile, a kind word, a prayer, a phone call, a text, an email, a note or card, gifts of food, etc., as God renews a right spirit within us and we journey together to Easter!

Joy and peace,
Patricia Ray

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The WUMWomen will meet on Monday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The program, on mindfulness and yoga practice, will be given by Heather Lilly, executive director of Yoga village. For an invitation to join please contact Carolyn Hankins at carolynjhankins@msn.com.

sharing love in our world

Whiteville United Methodist Women are grateful for those involved with frozen soup. Both the WUMW members who literally made gallons of soup, and for each person who ordered soup and donated funds.

In addition to our pledge to the District/Conference/National organization toward work around the world, we begin within our church family, our local community, mission with children (Methodist Home for Children) and retirees (Methodist Retirement Homes) as part of the outreach your donations helped underwrite. Our fund raising goal for 2021 was \$1,200 and that has been met and exceeded.

Again, THANK YOU! We hope to have a fellowship meal after church this fall to be together. That was frequently mentioned in the "I miss . . ." comments.

Carolyn Hankins, Treasurer

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

On Ash Wednesday (February 17th), we began celebrating Lent, which is a season of self-reflection, preparation, and repentance when we seek to live and love as faithful disciples. By observing these 40 days, Christians acknowledge Jesus Christ's journey through His life, death, and resurrection.

During this Lenten Season of 2021, let us seek to joyfully grow our connection to God as we worship together for the weekly Lenten Community Services, as well as on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. As we pray, sing, and read God's Word, receive Holy Communion, and seek ways to serve others, we are worshipping God in the way He designed.

As has been outlined in our weekly bulletins, our Lenten Community Services began February 17th and will continue through March 31st.

A spring meeting of the Worship Committee will be scheduled at a later time.

Betty Gray, Chair

SERVING IN MARCH

Acolytes

7th - Andrew Bullard
14th - Peyton Hunt
21st - Emily Sauls
28 - Grace High

Soundboard

7th - Lynn Inman
14th - Suzanne Hall
21st - Terry Simmons
28th - Robert Page

Worship Opportunities
Whiteville UMC

Virtual and In-Person

Lenten Services
12 Noon

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| February 17, 2021 | Rev. Dr. Terry Hunt |
| February 24, 2021 | Rev. Marty Sellers |
| March 3, 2021 | Rev. Bob Hankins |
| March 10, 2021 | Rev. Dr. Terry Hunt |
| March 17, 2021 | Rev. Marty Sellers |
| March 24, 2021 | Rev. Bob Hankins |
| March 31, 2021 | Rev. Bob Hankins |

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service

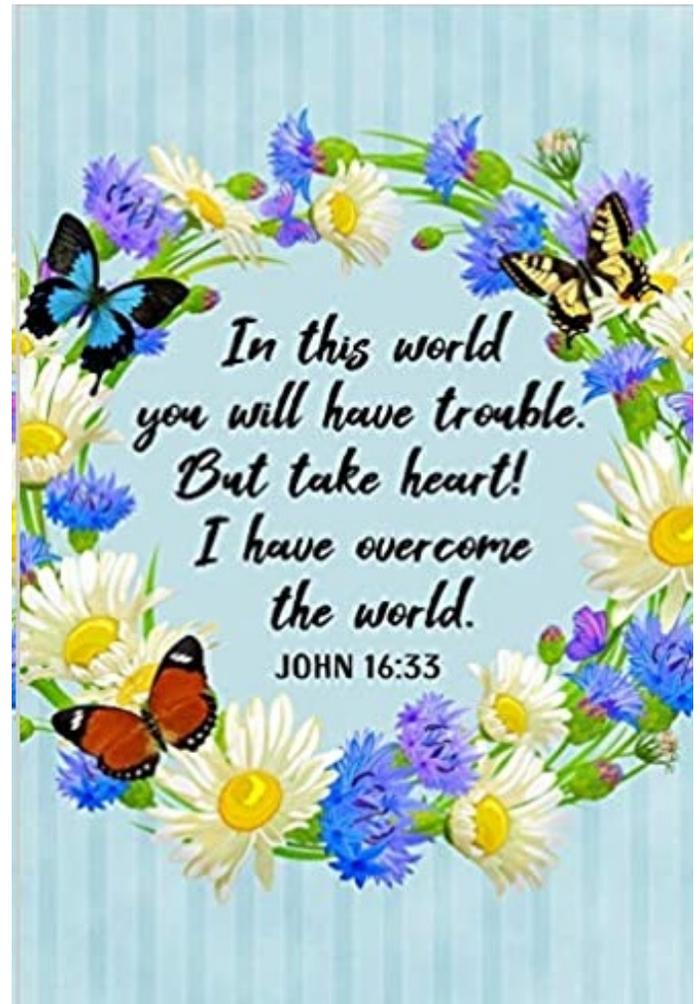
EASTER MORNING SERVICES
SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**You may also watch these services online at
whitevilleumc.org.**



The WUMC Preschool children will sing on March 21 at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service!



MARCH 2021

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|--------------------------|--------|----------|
| | 1 6:30 p.m. WUMW/ via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 2 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 3 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbell Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice/Fellowship Hall | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship | 8 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 9 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 10 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbell Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice/Fellowship Hall | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship | 15 6:30 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 16 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 17 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbell Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice/Fellowship Hall | 18 6:30 p.m. SPRC | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship | 22 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 23 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 24 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbell Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice/Fellowship Hall | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship | 29 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 30 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall | 31 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbell Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice/Fellowship Hall | | | |