

First United Methodist Church

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# FAITH @ FIRST

*McKenzie First United Methodist Church exists to worship God and*

*enable open-minded people to discover the freedom of God's grace through Jesus Christ.*

**February 10, 2010**

## **A View from the Pew**

My friend Linda wrote to me a few weeks ago. Her mother had just died, and Linda was not able to be with her at the time of death. It really bothered Linda for two reasons. One was that her mother told her she did not want to die alone, and Linda assured her she would not. The second was that Linda is a medical doctor, and she missed predicting when her mother was going to die. She would have been there if she had known. Linda had spent many hours with her mother in her final days - holding her hand, praying with her, assuring her that she loved her and doing those little things which one does when someone very special is dying. But when the end came, as a daughter and as a doctor Linda was a failure. She was not with her mother as she promised to be. Her mother died alone. The guilt was more than she could handle. And God was silent.

With some failures, there is a chance to redeem one's self, but not when death comes.

How do you respond? Do you say something like these things are beyond our understanding and few if any can tell the exact time when someone will die? Do you tell her she is not perfect and that it is ok to be human - that we all make mistakes? Or do you say that God will forgive her for whatever it is that she thinks she did wrong? That with time she will come to realize she did all that she could do and that was enough?

I read over and over the words of guilt, of remorse, and of pain. A soul looking for comfort and assurance and forgiveness when she was convinced there was none to be found. How could she let her mother face death and eternity alone?

The question that kept coming back to me and the one with which I responded was, "What made you think your mother faced death alone?"

In the book of Matthew, Jesus' last words to his followers were, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." We are not yet at the end of the age. Why would we expect our Lord who is with us throughout our entire lives to suddenly abandon us when it is time to die? He has already shown us that death is under his control. Who better qualified and more loving than Jesus - the one to whom all authority in heaven and on earth has been given - to escort us through death into eternal life?

She died alone? I think not.

*Fred*

## **UMCOR Health kit deadline is Sunday.**

### **Did You Know . . .**

One of the best known prayers of the Bible is the Lord's Prayer. This has been the subject of Wednesday night's group studies at 6 p.m. Attendance is growing but there is room for others.

As the most meaningful Season of Lent approaches, I can think of no better way to help prepare us for this significant time of the Church year than the study of the Lord's Prayer. It is a marvelous way to develop our personal prayer lives.

Let me encourage each one to make the Lord's Prayer the framework for your daily prayers. Brother John Pugh is so graciously leading us; showing us the importance of each clause in our Lord's wording. You will not need a study guide, only you Bible. See you here. *Larry*

### **LOOK - WEBSITE PICTURES - LOOK**

We are planning to post pictures of some of our activities on our website in the near future. **If you DO NOT want your picture posted**, please notify the office in writing. Parents, this applies for your children, also.

We already have our Sunday and Wednesday schedule posted, address, contact information, links to the United Methodist websites and a map service, a picture of the church, as well as the newsletter each week.

Pictures of members participating in our various programs are a very positive way to attract folks who may be new in our area and rely on the internet to learn about what is available in our town.

### **Sunglasses Sunday is February 28**

#### **Extend God's Love to Those Losing Their Sight**

It's that time of year again. There is a basket in the church lobby for eyeglasses and sunglasses for Project 20/20 and donations of money are also gratefully accepted in the office. Every \$5.00 donated pays the cost of providing a professional eye exam and eyeglasses to one person. Imagine how that one life will improve!

Your unused eyeglasses and sunglasses can be transformed into a miracle for a poor person. Many of us can remember the difference our first pair of glasses made to us. Volunteer medical teams offer the hope of restoring vision to people in places where there is no other way. Project 20/20 was created to collect, screen, and prepare donated eyeglasses and sunglasses for international vision care teams free of charge.

If you've already given all of your unused sunglasses, consider buying a new pair or two. Non-prescription sunglasses help to prevent eye diseases and blindness caused by intense sunlight, wind, and dust in tropical and high altitude countries.

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

Ash Wednesday is next week. Please come for our fellowship meal at 5:30 and stay for this most meaningful service.

**Please pray for . . .** Family of Lola Sistler; Family of Jesse Moody; Sam Featherstone; June Cook; Kevin Milton; Jennifer Pinson; Lynn Dorris; Rachel Pruiett; Charles Hodge; Eva Sue Dorris; Don Heath; Sybil King; Al Ownby; Juanita Gunter; Louise Moore; Vicki Foster; Shane McClelland; First Place 4 Helath; Lacey & Lynda Harvey; Tommy Ellis; Darlene Martinez; Dooney Carroll; Dr. Jon Carlock; Felicia Mesavage; Angela Ezell; McKenzie FUMC; Alice Curnutt; J. W. Sterling; Mildred Bunnell; Randy & Kelli Bailey & family; Thomas Roditis; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Jo Newton; Michelle Hagins; Anna Weatherford; David "Perk" and Betsy Kee Perkins; Mary Kee; Shirley Martin; Lucy Hickman; Jacob, Leah, & Emma Partridge; Soldiers & family members of 194<sup>th</sup> ENBDE; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Mary Frances & Don David; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Lola Alexander; Jean A. Melton; Margaret & Jim Purcell; Ina Faye Hall & family; Muriel Johnson; Mary Jo Vaughn; Ray & Brenda Berryman; Our troops overseas and at home.

### The next week at our church

#### Sunday, February 14

UMCOR Health Kit Deadline  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class  
10:50 a.m. Worship Service  
5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health  
6:00 p.m. Peals of Praise Handbell rehearsal

#### Monday, February 15

11:30 a.m. Hilltoppers

#### Wednesday, February 17

5:30 p.m. Fellowship meal  
menu: Potato bar, salad, dessert  
6:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday service  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

### VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

**ACOLYTES** – Emily Bolin, Timothy Dillon

**NURSERY** – Robin Russell, Doris Smith

**GREETERS** – Burnell & Lossie Beers

**USHERS** – Richard Chappell; chairperson,  
Brad Chappell, Steve Russell, Lee Russell

#### **Feb. 13 Meals on Wheels Angels**

Cook: Glenn Sacks  
Delivery: Tim & Curtis Broadbent, Hollye Rider

#### **Feb. 17 Wednesday Office Angels**

Mildred Colotta, Juanita Finley

#### **Feb. 17 FLOW Kitchen Angels**

Jimmy & Kathy Patterson, Truman & Trudy Bateman, Edward Sexton, Harold & Suzanne Russell, Mildred Colotta, Jim & Linda Arnold, John Oakley, Robin Russell

#### **February United Neighbors needed items:**

Peanut butter; plastic sacks

### Worry vs Work

The reason why worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work.  
~Robert Frost (1874-1963)~

### FUMC Staff

**J. Larry Riley, Pastor**  
**John Pugh, Pastor Emeritus**  
**Fred Sistler, Director of Ministries**  
**Charlene Jones, Director of Music**  
**Sandra McMahan, Organist, Handbell Director**  
**Donna Bruce & Gina King, C & Y Directors**  
**Kathy Patterson, Administrative Assistant**

## Honorariums and Memorials

February 7, 2010

**In Honor of Glenn & Kathleen Sacks and all who help with Meals on Wheels**  
Bob & Marilyn Putman MOW

**In Honor of Jennifer Pinson & Diane Stafford**

Barney & Lossie Beers C & Y

**In Memory of Betsy Barcroft**

Richard & Peggy Chappell MOW

Nicky & Diane Stafford Mission

Charles & Betty Thompson MOW

**In Memory of Finis Murray**

Richard & Peggy Chappell MOW

Charles & Betty Thompson MOW

**In Memory of Minnie Pinazzi**

Richard & Peggy Chappell Choir

Steve & Cherry Russell

Nicky & Diane Stafford Mission

**In Memory of Betty Simmons**

Bob & Jo Newton

Richard & Peggy Chappell C & Y

Nicky & Diane Stafford Mission

Charles & Betty Thompson MOW

**In Memory of Lola Sistler**

Hoot & Joan Gibson Choir

Nicky & Diane Stafford Mission

Mildred Colotta S.P.M.C.

Charles & Betty Thompson MOW

Ray & Brenda Berryman Choir

### UMW News

The following invitation has been received:

The Camden UMW of First United Methodist Church invite you to a Mission Study on Saturday, February 27th, 9:00 'til 2:30. Bring a hand mirror, food for food pantry, Bible, and your church Cookbook to swap.

### Methodist Mountain Mission

The next Mountain Mission pick-up date is Tuesday, March 9. Please hold your donations at home until Sunday, March 7, as we have no storage space here at the church.

Needs at this time are household items such as dishes, silverware, pots and pans, small kitchen appliances good usable furniture, underwear, socks, shoes, and as always, all of the other wonderful good and usable items you donate to the Mission.

The Mission reports that their people love it when they are able to purchase brand new items (with the tags still on them!) at the Opportunity Store. They thank us for sharing these treasures along with all the others.

They have also found that the best boxes in which to stock clothing in the warehouse are banana boxes. They stack flat and evenly. If possible, they would love to have the items we send packed in banana boxes (sometimes available at the grocery), or even empty ones. Of course, donations are always gratefully accepted no matter what kind of box or bag they are in!

### THANKS CORNER . . .

Thank You - - - to all our church family for your concern and support during this time of illness. We appreciate your prayers, cards, calls, food, and every expression of your Christian LOVE. We hope to be back in the fellowship of our church in the near future.

*In Christian love,  
Bob & Marilyn Putman*