

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.

April 7, 2010

A WORD from the PASTOR

Back several years ago in the Seattle, Washington Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally challenged, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the starting gun, they all began, not exactly in a dash, but with an ambition to run the race to the finish and win. One little boy stumbled on the asphalt and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back.

Then they all turned around and went back, every one of them! One girl bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better!" Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood and the cheering went on for several minutes.

The children were living out the dignity and love for that boy who fell, and this teaches us all a lesson. It was their natural instinct to be supportive and to work as a team. Oh, how we can learn from children!

We try to figure life out when we hurt, or when someone we love is hurting. We may not understand why we made a particular mistake, or what our bodies are doing to us. But we do have the capacity to stop the race of life, turn around--being a team member--and help one another over the finish line.

McKenzie First is a place of support for many people. We are a team, and we are winning the race, one day at a time. We are not without flaws and mistakes, yet we get up after falling and keep on going. It is true we are a mixture of people with different ideas and solutions.

What a gift we give to others when we turn around to help those in need, kiss them on the cheek, and link arms to finish the race.

I thank God for First United Methodist and all the people in it. We can see life differently when we open ourselves up to be more like Jesus.

Peace, Larry

Sunday, April 11 Text: John 20:19-31

Title: Blessed Are Those

*We are invited to a
Bridal Tea
honoring Leigh Buck,
bride-elect of Jake Smith
Sunday afternoon, April eleventh
between the hours of one and three o'clock
here in Underwood Hall*

Lenten World Hunger Offering
Our Lenten World Hunger offering will be collected this Sunday, April 11. If you've kept up with each day on your Lenten calendar, you know what a great need this offering fulfills.
Projects sponsored by this offering are UMCOR World Hunger/Poverty, Heifer Project International, Peanut Butter Project, Dream Farm, Hunters for the Hungry, Society of St. Andrew (Potato Project), Reelfoot Rural Ministries, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, Memphis Food Bank, RIFA Food Depot, Martin We Care, Paducah Cooperative Ministry, District Emergency Funds, and Emergency and Promotion. A small portion of the last one is used to print and mail World Hunger materials. The remainder is used for emergency situations that arise each year such as local tornadoes and national disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

What a Hunt!
We had quite a gathering of egg seekers on Saturday morning. The Mullins Sub-group members deserve a big round of applause for their tireless work on this yearly treat for children. Flyers were sent home with elementary students inviting everyone to share the fun, and many did!!!

Halleluia!
Our Easter Celebration was a beautiful, loud, musical, uplifting, joyous occasion. Both services were very well attended.
The Community Sunrise Service offering for McKenzie United Neighbors was \$386.00, which will be put to good use. There is always a great need for funds to help the ones around us who are suffering and need a little help.
A brass quartet of Bethel students added their musical contribution to our hymns and anthem. We made a lot of joyful noise!

A Big Welcome Home goes to Jacob Partridge and the other members of 194th ENBDE, who have returned from Iraq.

Please pray for... Family of Kelly Hart Curry; Family of Charlie Hodge; Family of Misty Brogdon; Scott Shepherd; Tina Shepherd; Sandy Hutt; Tommy Ellis; Lavelle Stockdale; Madeline Barker; Eva Sue & Jerry Dorris; Lynn Dorris; Don & Anita Heath; Thomas & Louceil Brummitt; Mickey Maddox; Shelly Dillon; Darlene Martinez; Ilene Pinkston; Becky Herron; John D'Adamio, Sr.; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Lossie Beers; Karen May; Ben Dill; Mary Martinez-Karas; Dooney Carroll; Alice Curnutt; The world; Mildred Bunnell; Carla Craddock; First Place 4 Health participants; Bea Phillips; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Sam Featherstone; Darra Adkins; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Jo Newton; Anna Weatherford; Mary Kee; Shirley Martin; Lucy Hickman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Sybil King; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Mary Frances & Don David; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Lola Alexander; Jim Purcell; Al Ownby; Ina Faye Hall; Muriel Johnson; Mary Jo Vaughn; Ray & Brenda Berryman; Our troops overseas and at home.

The next week at our church

Sunday, April 11

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
 1:00 p.m. Communion at Lakeside Senior Living
 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
 6:00 p.m. Peals of Praise Handbell rehearsal

Wednesday, April 7

No FLOW this week; Spring Break
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Emily Bolin, Allie Harvey

NURSERY – Leah Partridge, Diane Harvey

GREETERS – John & Susan D'Adamio

USHERS – Harold Russell; chairperson,
 Jason Pinson, Jim Arnold

April 10 Meals on Wheels Angels

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

April United Neighbors needed items:

men's deodorant, shampoo



"The Northern Tribe's having a hard time following your King James smoke signals... They'd like you to switch to the NIV if it's not too much trouble."

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*

CHILDREN & YOUTH news

Upcoming Events:

April 14 - Spring Break - No FLOW this week.

May 5 - Our last FLOW will be held at the City Park at the barn. We're grillin' burgers and hot dogs. Everybody is invited to join us for some great food and a fun game (with prizes) called "Win It In A Minute" (you may have seen this on TV!)

May 9 - Confirmation participants will be finished with their classes and joining the church.

May 21 - Last day of school!!! In celebration, we are going to the Jackson Bowling and Family Fun Center. Chaperones are needed. Watch the newsletter for more information.

"The Tribute Cookbook"

Are you gathering your recipes to share? We'd like recipes that you have from anybody who has touched you with their food offerings, or your own recipes if they're a blessing to your family and friends. Tell why you love each one and be sure to include your name as well as the name of the person you got the recipe from. We'd love to have an even bigger book than the last one, so pull out all those worn food-stained scraps of paper and copy them for us.

Our goal is to have the cookbook compiled and ready to sell by Fall 2010, just in time for Christmas. If you can, e-mail your recipes to either glassj@bethelu.edu or to ipinson4@gmail.com. If you don't have access to e-mail, there is a basket outside the church office where you can place your recipes for the cookbook. Proceeds will support the missions of the Mullin Sub-Group.

All recipes are needed by the end of April, so please, please, gather yours up and give them to us.

We are in the process of beginning a Sunday evening praise band.

The organizational meeting will be Sunday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in playing or singing in it or helping with sound system, please tell Kevin Harvey or Fred Sistler.

The future hope for this group is to start a Sunday evening service that will be geared more toward our older youth, Bethel students and anyone else that would enjoy a slightly different worship experience.



Prayers and Pray-ers needed

If you are interested in meeting regularly with one other person to pray (prayer partner), please let Fred Sistler know. There has been some interest expressed in this.

Thanks Corner . . .

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the fellowship hall and take care of the food serving and cleanup at Sunday's senior adult meeting. I'm really grateful to work with so many who have skills and gifts that I do not.

Fred