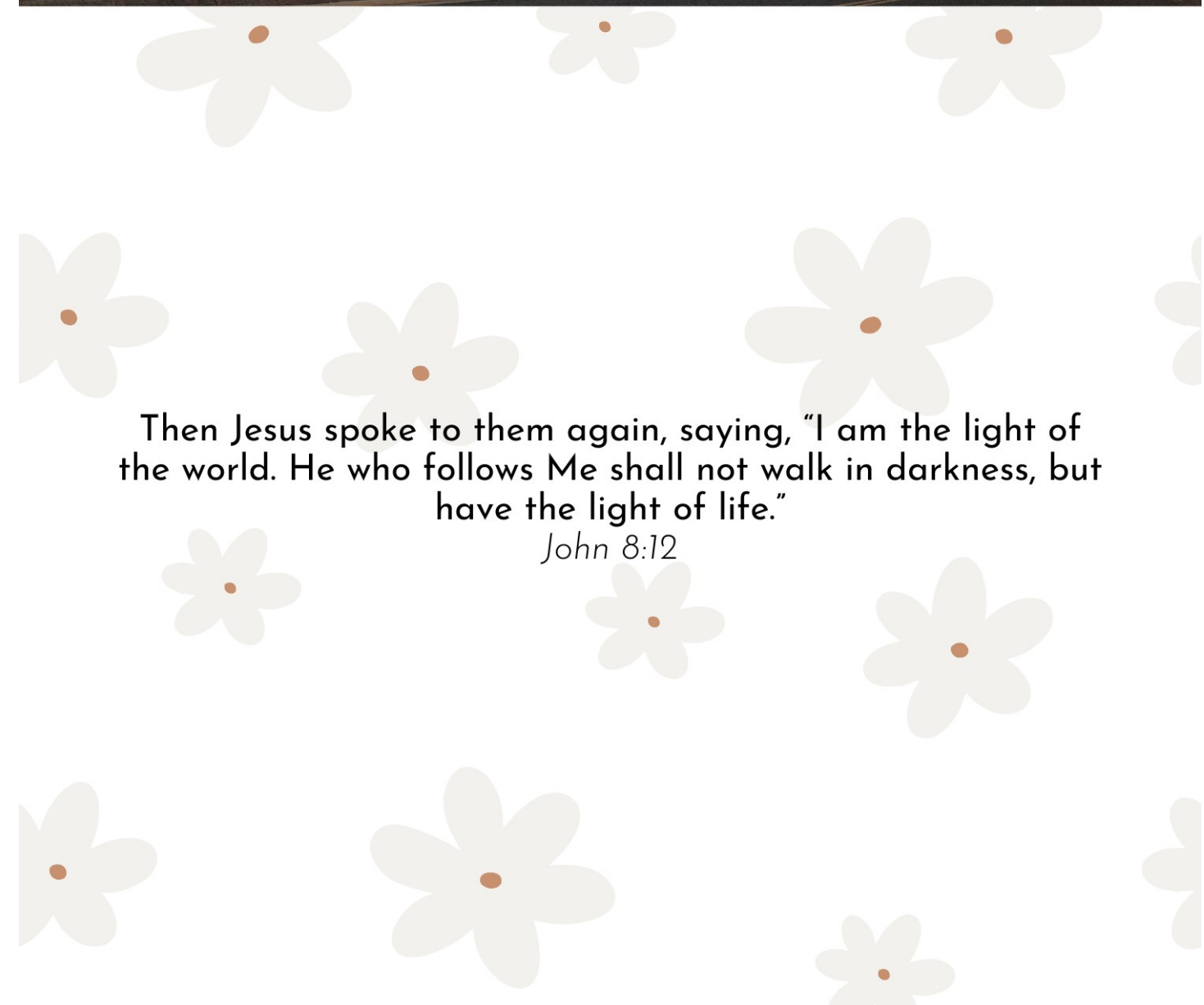




FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# *The Messenger*

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

*John 8:12*

# The Pastor's Pen

## Pastoral Appointment Announcement

Dear First UMC El Dorado Family,

When I was told that I would be moving to First UMC El Dorado almost two years ago, I felt joy, excitement, anticipation, and, yes, a little fear about what I would face due to all of the issues around disaffiliation. What I found when I arrived here in July 2023 was a congregation full of wonderful people who loved God and had a deep desire to serve their community. While we faced major financial challenges, God showed up in wonderful ways.

Since then, we have grown together as a community of faith, healed from some of the past wounds, and have great hope for the future of the church. It was not my intention to be here only a short time, but it seems God has different plans.

A week ago, I received a call from the District Superintendent and was informed that Bishop Laura Merrill and the cabinet have decided to appoint me as the next Senior Pastor of Bella Vista First United Methodist Church. This appointment will take effect July 1, 2025. Once again, the news of this transition brings back similar emotions—ones of excitement and some of great sadness. El Dorado has a very special place in my heart, not just because of the church but also because of my deep family roots in this area.

My hope and prayer for El Dorado First UMC is that you all never give up hope and keep loving God and loving your community in extraordinary ways. There is still much work to be done over the next couple of months before my departure, so let us remain focused on the task ahead.

In the coming weeks, the cabinet will work with our leadership team to identify your next senior Pastor, and hopefully, we will know something soon. But until then, may our focus always be on Christ and the hope for the future he brings.

Pastor Allen



## ACOUSTIC CAFÉ

Join us for *Acoustic Café* on April 15, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a friend and enjoy music, fellowship, and snacks!



United  
Women  
in Faith

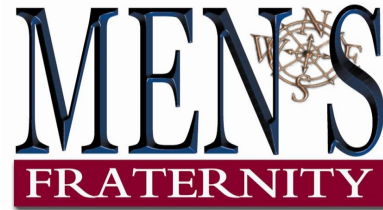
## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Join the United Women in Faith on Sunday, April 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Jennifer Schroeder will share exciting updates about South Arkansas College. All women are welcome!



## WOMEN'S EXERCISE MONDAYS

Join Women's Exercise Mondays each week at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall! Bring a friend and start your week off right. All fitness levels are welcome



## MEN'S FRATERNITY

Men's Fraternity meet each Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the Library



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Your weekly recharge

- 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir (Education Bldg. #308)
- 5:30 p.m. Church Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Classes (Ed. Bldg. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)
- Youth Small Groups
- 6:15 p.m. Carillon Handbell Practice
- 7:00 p.m. Motet Choir Practice



### 8:50 a.m. Service

Randy Jerry & Paul Stone

### 10:50 a.m. Service

- April 6: Jerry Huffman & Floyd Thomas
- April 13: Jerry Huffman & Dwayne Long
- April 20: Jerry Huffman & Nate Evers
- April 27: Jerry Huffman & Michael Young

If you have a conflict on one of your scheduled Sundays and are unable to usher, please reach out in the group text to request a swap.



# Ecumenical Holy Week WORSHIP SERVICES

Service each day begins at noon followed by lunch.

**HOLY MONDAY—APRIL 14**

FUMC OF EL DORADO  
Sermon by Rev. Janice West



**HOLY TUESDAY—APRIL 15**

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
512 Champagnolle Rd.  
Sermon by Rev. Allen Crum



**HOLY WEDNESDAY—APRIL 16**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
300 E. Main St.  
Sermon by The Rev. Caleb Roberts



The offering at each of these services goes to Interfaith Help Services.  
The suggested donation for lunch is \$5.00.

## Candy Drive!

Help make this year's Easter Egg Hunt a sweet success!  
Ms. Lisa is collecting individually wrapped candy donations to fill eggs for the kids' hunt on April 16th. Drop off your donations at the church office and let's make this Easter unforgettable for our little ones.

We appreciate your generosity and support!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF EL DORADO



# Lenten Food Drive

MARCH 9 - APRIL 17

The Three Pillars of Lent are Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. As we journey through the 40 days of Lent, we are hosting a Lenten Food Drive for IHS to support those in need in our community.

Suggested donations include:

- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables & Fruit
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Chicken or Tuna



Donations of non-perishable food will be accepted through April 17. You can drop them off during Sunday services (8:50 & 10:50 AM) in the collection bins, at our Maundy Thursday Service, or in the church office during office hours.

Thank you for your generosity!

THE PATH TO THE CROSS BEGINS HERE



# MAUNDY THURSDAY

Step into the story of Christ's final moments before His sacrifice.

April 17 | 5:30 p.m.  
FUMC Sanctuary



JOIN US THIS EASTER



# EASTER

*Sunday* @ 

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
OF EL DORADO

Easter Sunday, April 20:

- 10:00 a.m. Easter Gathering  
enjoy refreshments and good company before the Service
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Service with Arkansas Brass  
broadcast on KACL 93.3 FM and live-streamed on YouTube



**CINCO DE MAYO**  
**Taco Party**  
FOOD \* FUN \* FELLOWSHIP



MONDAY  
**MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
Fellowship Hall | 5:00 pm

## EASTER IS APRIL 20, 2025

The flowers and plants that will decorate our church at Easter are a sign of our joy in the Resurrection of Christ and our hope in the resurrection of those who have gone before us. We invite you to remember loved ones with a donation for our Easter decorations in memory of or honor of someone special.

Please fill out this form and return it with your offering to the Church Office.



Easter Offering  
Arkansas Brass

The names received by Wed, April 16th, will be included in the Easter bulletin on April 20th.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation:  \$20  \$50  \$100 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# April Birthdays



John Cary	April 1
Betty Linda Nolan	April 2
Jonathan Murphy	April 11
Floyd Thomas Jr	April 12
Calvin Young	April 15
Randy Jerry	April 19
Ellea Parker-McManus	April 19
Linda Bright	April 24



FUMK recently celebrated Dr. Seuss week with special dress up days, a focus book, and themed treats each day!



Easter  
HE IS RISEN!  
Sunday  
4.20.25

# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 8:30a Men's Frat	<b>2</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser.	<b>7</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise 11:00a Book Study Noon Prayer Min. 3:45p Staff Meeting	<b>8</b> 8:30a Men's Frat	<b>9</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Combined Sanctuary Ser. 2:00p United Women in Faith	<b>14</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise 11:00a Book Study Noon Prayer Min. Noon Holy Monday Service	<b>15</b> 8:30a Men's Frat 11:15a Fellowship of the Sent Noon Holy Tuesday Service 7:00p Acoustic Café	<b>16</b> Noon Holy Wednesday Service 5:00p Dinner and Easter Egg Hunt 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>17</b> 5:30p Maundy Thursday Service	<b>18</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10:00a Easter Gathering 10:30a Easter Service with AR Brass	<b>21</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise 11:00a Book Study Noon Prayer Min. 3:45p Staff Meeting	<b>22</b> 8:30a Men's Frat	<b>23</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser.	<b>28</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise 11:00a Book Study Noon Prayer Min.	<b>29</b> 8:30a Men's Frat	<b>30</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir			



**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

OF EL DORADO

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**Church Staff**

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Greg Oden	Director of Music	<a href="mailto:greg.oden@esd-15.org">greg.oden@esd-15.org</a>
Kevin Keele	Organist	
Andrea Hale	Church Administrator	<a href="mailto:fumcedfs@suddenlinkmail.com">fumcedfs@suddenlinkmail.com</a>
Emilia Gathright	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:fumcedcs@suddenlinkmail.com">fumcedcs@suddenlinkmail.com</a>
Lisa Oden	Director of Children's Ministries	<a href="mailto:lisa.oden@gmail.com">lisa.oden@gmail.com</a>
Thomas Brewster	Sound Technician	<a href="mailto:tbrewster1979@gmail.com">tbrewster1979@gmail.com</a>
Hunter Bates	Video Technician	<a href="mailto:hunterbates08@outlook.com">hunterbates08@outlook.com</a>
Ashley Nash	Director of Kindergarten	<a href="mailto:ashleynash01@gmail.com">ashleynash01@gmail.com</a>