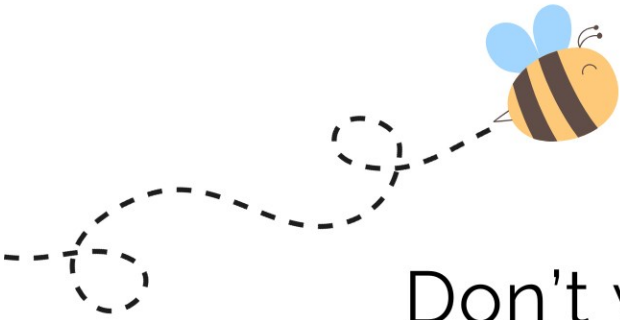


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about
anything
instead, pray about
everything



The Pastor's Pen

March Newsletter
2025

When discussing our 28-day prayer experiment at the beginning of February, I said, "A lot can happen in 28 days." And so I am curious to find out what happened.

Did this opportunity prove to be worthwhile?
Was your faith challenged or changed in any way?
Did God reveal something special to you?

I would love for you to answer these types of questions in the coming weeks. But maybe nothing extraordinary happened. Perhaps it was something as simple as a deepened reminder of your need for God regularly. Guess what? That, too, is just as important as a major revelation.

Often in life, when we devote time to a 28-day, 40-day, or month-long prayer time, we expect God to do something BIG! And while that could happen, more than likely, what happened was something simple but yet something that also needed. In 1 Kings 19 we read the following in verses 11 to 13:

"Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave."

Sometimes all we need is to hear that gentle whisper from God which is a reminder of God's all-encompassing presence with us. Sometimes that simple expression is all we need.

I do hope you will make every effort to join us March 2nd as we welcome author and pastor Rosario Picardo as our 2025 Nolan Preaching Series speaker. He will bring us, what I am sure will be a powerful message in worship then after we will share lunch together and he will spend some time talking about the "28 Day prayer experiment" has impacted his own congregation and how God is moving. This will be a great way to wrap up our own time together as we continue to seek God's direction for our community of faith.

We have lots coming up in the next month with the season of Lent beginning on March 5th so make sure you check our weekly newsletter for all that is happening around the church.

Blessings for the journey,

Pastor Allen



ACOUSTIC CAFÉ

Join us for *Acoustic Café* on March 18, 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, March 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

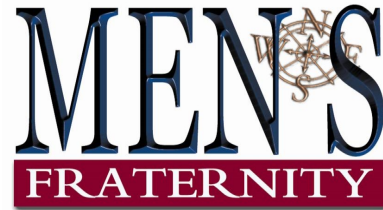
All women are welcome!



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. 3rd 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

- March 2: Jerry Huffman & Dwayne Long
- March 9: Jerry Huffman & Nate Evers
- March 16: Jerry Huffman & Michael Young
- March 23: Jerry Huffman & Greg Thomas
- March 30: Jerry Huffman & Rick Rainwater

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.




First United Methodist Church
Ash Wednesday Service *[INTO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN]*
March 5
 5:30 pm in the Chapel

DON'T BE LATE FOR CHURCH!



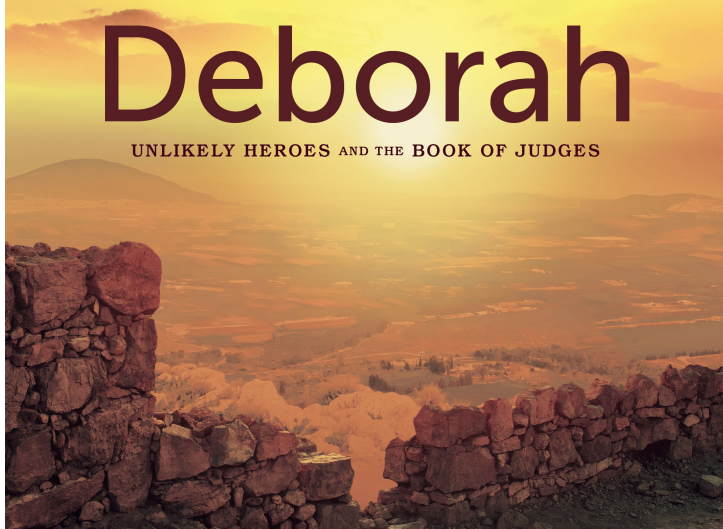
SPRING FORWARD
 On Sunday, March 9, 2025
 at 2 a.m. or before bed
 Saturday night, set your
 clocks forward one hour.



THE EPIC OF EDEN

Deborah

UNLIKELY HEROES AND THE BOOK OF JUDGES



EIGHT-SESSION BIBLE STUDY GUIDE + STREAMING VIDEO

SANDRA L. RICHTER, Ph.D

Video/Book Study—Deborah: Unlikely Heroes and the Book of Judges by Sandra L. Richter

Join us for an 8-session video/book study starting Monday, March 17th, from 11:00-11:50 AM in the Sunday School room (last door on the left). We'll explore *Deborah: Unlikely Heroes and the Book of Judges* by Sandra L. Richter, diving into the biblical story and its modern-day relevance. Sessions will run weekly until May 5th. Participants will need to purchase their own copy of the book.

Arkansas UMC laity tuition covered at 100% by the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas! (use code **FREEAMF**)

Featured guest lecturer:

PERKINS Summit FOR FAITH AND LEARNING



March 21-22, 2025 | Little Rock

St. James UMC, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive

Rev. Dr. Michael Beck
Global leader in the
Fresh Expressions movement

Teaching by faculty from SMU's Perkins School of Theology:



Dr. Fred Aquino
Professor of
Systematic Theology



Dr. Michael Greene
Director of the
Black/Africana Church
Studies Program



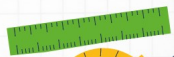
Dr. Sze-kar Wan
Professor of
New Testament



Dr. Rebekah Miles
Susanna Wesley Centennial
Professor of Practical
Theology and Ethics; Altshuler
Distinguished Teaching
Professor

The annual Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning offers a wide range of theological mini-courses for laypersons, community leaders, and clergy. Somewhere between seminary and Sunday School, Summit leverages the rich learning community of Perkins School of Theology to provide a unique, self-paced experience in theological education for the church and world. Come for a half-day or spend the whole two days with us. Participants are free to design a customized Summit plan! Deadline to register is March 7!

FUMK WILL BEGIN
ENROLLMENT FOR THE
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR
IN JANUARY 2025!



ANY CHURCH MEMBER INTERESTED IN ENROLLING
THEIR CHILD AND WISHING TO BE ADDED TO THE
WAITLIST CAN CALL 870-862-2570 OR EMAIL
ASHLEYNASHFUMK@GMAIL.COM

TAIZÉ SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 30
5:00 PM | FUMC CHAPEL



memorials & gifts

IN HONOR OF:

Judge & Mrs. David Guthrie 50th Anniversary

Van Gladney

IN MEMORY OF:

Bill Turnage

Susan Burge

Charles Cameron

Billie Cameron

Denver Thornton

Randy & Nancy Whitmore

Truman Channell

Judge & Mrs. David Guthrie

Linda Garner

Julie Cabe

Kenneth & Mary Jo Oliver

Randy & Sylvia Thompson

Brian & Karen Ratcliff

Wallace & Linda Moody

Vicky Delone

Johnny & Patricia Fallin

Winnie Hood

Morgan & Paula Huffman

Mary Thomason

Gary Oden

Randall & Nancy Whitmore

Truman Channell

Vicky Delone

Winnie Hood

Mary Thomason

Jane Dudley

Susan Burge

Richard & Carol Clark

Jay & Andrea Brooks

Eileen & Paul Boslaugh

James Sewell

Susan Burge

Martha Sue Raphiel

Billie Cameron

Myra Turnage

Susan Burge

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Terry Collings | March 4 |
| Vicky DeLone | March 5 |
| Gwyn Stuart | March 10 |
| Lily Langston | March 10 |
| James Gathright | March 11 |
| Melissa Rainwater | March 13 |
| Lisa Oden | March 19 |
| Linda Hall | March 23 |
| Rosemary Short | March 26 |
| Gary Bevill | March 27 |
| Gracelin Chavers | March 29 |



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), at our Maundy Thursday Service, or in the church office during office hours.

Thank you for your generosity!



MARCH



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 2 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Combined Sanctuary Ser. Noon Catered Lunch | 3 10:00a Women's Exercise Noon Prayer Min. 3:45p Staff Meeting | 4 8:30a Men's Frat 5:00p Mardi Gras Gumbo Bash | 5 5:30p Ash Wednesday Service 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir | 6 | 7 | 1 <hr/> 8 Lay Servant Ministry Smackover FUMC |
| 9 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser. 2:00p Women in Faith | 10 10:00a Women's Exercise Noon Prayer Min. | 11 8:30a Men's Frat | 12 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser. | 17 10:00a Women's Exercise 11:00a Book Study Noon Prayer Min. 3:45p Staff Meeting  | 18 8:30a Men's Frat 11:15a Fellowship of the Sent 7:00p Acoustic Café | 19 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir | 20 <i>First day of Spring</i> | 21 | 22 |
| 23 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser. | 24 10:00a Women's Exercise 11:00a Book Study Noon Prayer Min. | 25 8:30a Men's Frat | 26 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser. 5:00p Taizé Service | 31 10:00a Women's Exercise 11:00a Book Study Noon Prayer Min. 3:45p Staff Meeting | | | | | |



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

OF EL DORADO

201 South Hill Ave.

El Dorado, AR 71730

www.eldoradofirstchurch.com

(870) 862-1342

Church Staff

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Rev. Allen Crum | Senior Pastor | allen.crum@arumc.org |
| Greg Oden | Director of Music | greg.oden@esd-15.org |
| Kevin Keele | Organist | |
| Andrea Hale | Church Administrator | fumcedfs@suddenlinkmail.com |
| Emilia Gathright | Administrative Assistant | fumcedcs@suddenlinkmail.com |
| Lisa Oden | Director of Children's Ministries | lisa.oden@gmail.com |
| Thomas Brewster | Sound Technician | tbrewster1979@gmail.com |
| Hunter Bates | Video Technician | hunterbates08@outlook.com |
| Ashley Nash | Director of Kindergarten | ashleynash01@gmail.com |