

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

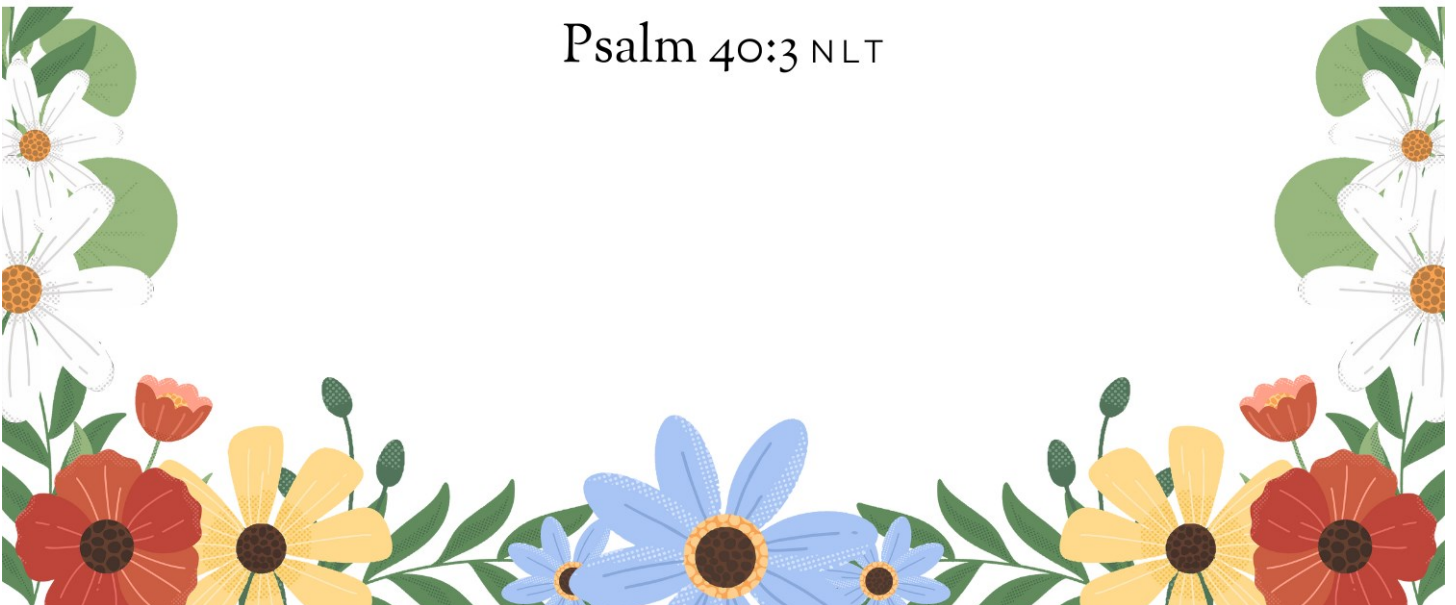
# *The Messenger*

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



*He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see what He has done and be amazed. They will put their  
trust in the Lord.*

Psalm 40:3 NLT



# The Pastor's Pen

May 2025 EL FUMC Newsletter

As this season of ministry draws to a close, I find myself reflecting deeply on what it means to *finish well*. Not just to wrap things up or to move on, but to truly finish with intention, grace, and faithfulness. Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7). That verse has lived in my spirit during these final weeks—not as a claim of having done everything perfectly, but as a reminder that finishing well is about remaining rooted in the calling God placed before us.

Throughout life—and especially in ministry—there are moments when we pray fervently for what we want, only to find that God has something else in store. Something quieter. Something deeper. Something we did not ask for, but precisely what we needed. I have learned again and again that God's provision doesn't always align with our plans, but it is always enough. In fact, it's more than enough. As I prepare to take this next step in my journey, I can say with honesty that this chapter has not always been what I expected—but it has been exactly what I needed. It has shaped me, stretched me, and revealed the goodness of God in ways I couldn't have anticipated.

And so, I want to say thank you—from the depths of my heart. These past two years with the people of El Dorado First United Methodist Church have been a gift. You have shown me love and grace in abundance. You've welcomed me into your lives, your joys, and your struggles. You've allowed me to stand with you in sacred moments, and I have seen the Spirit of God at work through your compassion, your resilience, and your faith. I will carry that with me always.

While the path ahead may bring new people, places, and possibilities, I believe with all my heart that the same Spirit who guided us through this season will continue to walk with each of us. We may not know exactly what comes next—but we can trust the One who does. As I prepare to hand over the baton to Rev. Amanda Smith, my prayer for you is that you continue to walk boldly in love, to serve generously, and to remain anchored in the hope that Christ offers.

Thank you for being part of this chapter in my calling. You have given me far more than you know.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Allen



## ACOUSTIC CAFÉ

Join us for *Acoustic Café* on May 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

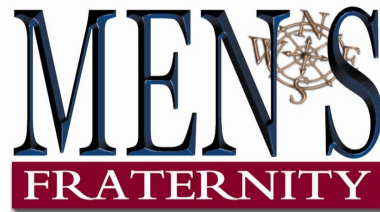
Bring a friend and enjoy music, fellowship, and snacks!



## 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

Last day is May 28!

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

May 18: Jerry Huffman & Dwayne Long

May 25: Jerry Huffman & Floyd Thomas

June 1: Jerry Huffman & Nate Evers

June 8: Jerry Huffman & Greg Thomas

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.



# MAY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Young	5/2	Gabriel Pinkerton	5/17
Sylvia Thompson	5/5	James Thomas	5/20
Anne Evers	5/5	Anne James	5/22
Matt Johnson	5/7	David Ainsworth	5/25
Andrea Brooks	5/9	Greg Oden	5/31
Gary Hall	5/16		

EASTER JOY WAS IN FULL SWING LAST MONTH AS OUR KINDERGARTENERS CELEBRATED WITH FUN-FILLED PARTIES, SWEET TREATS, AND A SURPRISE VISIT FROM THE EASTER BUNNY!



Join Us!  
SUNDAY, MAY 18



## REV. WAYNE CLARK

On Sunday, May 18, we welcome Rev. Wayne Clark, President and CEO of The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, to our pulpit.

Stay after worship for a catered lunch by Woods Place in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a time of good food and warm fellowship.

During lunch, Rev. Clark will share about legacy planning and a new opportunity here at El Dorado First.

All are welcome!



## Memorial Day

REMEMBER AND HONOR

*the church office will be closed  
Monday, May 26*

SAVE THE DATE

*for a reception celebrating  
the retirement of*

REV. JIM POLK

SATURDAY, MAY 24


2 TO 4 P.M.

Sardis UMC

10715 W Sardis Rd

Bauxite, AR 72011

# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser. 2:00p United Women in Faith	<b>5</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise 11:00a Book Study Noon Prayer Min. 5:00p Cinco de Mayo Taco Party	<b>6</b> 8:30a Men's Frat	<b>7</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser.  	<b>12</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise Noon Prayer Min.	<b>13</b> 8:30a Men's Frat	<b>14</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>15</b> 11:00a BINGO	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Combined Sanctuary Ser. Noon Lunch (FSH)	<b>19</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise Noon Prayer Min. 3:45p Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 8:30a Men's Frat 11:15a Fellowship of the Sent 7:00p Acoustic Café	<b>21</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser.	<b>26</b>   Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> 8:30a Men's Frat 5:30p Leadership Board Mtg.	<b>28</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>



**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
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**Church Staff**

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