After only a few months of arriving as your pastors, our church presented Bibles to our 3rd graders. As “new pastors” we did not know the children. Our children’s director, Niki Hoyt, was also “new” and even though she knew faces and a few names, she didn’t know all of the names of the children who received Bibles that Sunday.

A few days ago we ran across this picture of this 2015 Bible Presentation. Oh my goodness! These students are in the 2019 Confirmation Class. We not only know their names, we are able to see their desire to grow in their faith and in relationship with one another! Mrs. Niki, not only knows their names and their faces, she has been able to walk along side them, week after week, in their faith journey! And now, as they enter the youth ministry, Mrs. Julie and other great supports will also join them on this amazing journey called life!

What about our journey? Who are those “constant supports” that continue to walk with us - through the good times and the bad times? Each time we walk into the doors of the church there is an opportunity to learn a new name, reconnect with a dear friend, hear a new story, enter into a friendship that could possibly stay with us a lifetime.

This Lenten/Easter season provides many opportunities for reflection and intentionality. Let’s make it count - for we never know where the journey will take us.

Your pastors,
Ed & Jo Ann

Welcome New Member!
UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

**Mission Team Trip**
Where: May 2nd, 3rd & 4th
West: Recreational Center, Louisville, Kentucky
West: Modeled after an ancient event, this will be an event of fun and food.与
Unlimited is all included, some open to the public. Please be a part of this special day.
Tips: Bus will meet the group on Friday, hours to be informed.
Food and lodging will be provided.与
Deadline to register April 12th.
For more information, contact Bob Butterfield Jr., st. @419-309-1000.

**Red River Dulcimer Ensemble**
DMA (Don’t Mention Age) Luncheon
Tuesday, April 2nd at Noon.
The Red River Dulcimer Ensemble will be playing music and telling about their history.
Bring a covered dish.与
Hope you’ll join us!

**United Methodist Men Monday Night Matters**
Monday, April 8th & 22nd 6:00 PM.
Good News Classroom

**OWL Salsa & Jelly Sale**
The United Methodist Men Ministries will sell OWL Salsa, Pepper Jelly, and Fruit Jelly on Sunday, April 14th from 9:30 AM—12:00 PM in the Narthex.

Focus on Caring

**Assisted Living Friends**
Brookdale, Shreveport, LA—Marcy Rowen
Christus St. Joseph Home, Monroe, LA—Joyce Leefoon
Homestead Assisted Living, Houma, LA—Elaine Conerly
Marigold Place, Alexandria, LA—Mary Maddox
Montclair Park Assisted Living, Shreveport, LA—Patti Wisenbaker
Savannah Grand, West Monroe, LA—George & Elaine Tellifero

**Nursing Home Friends**
Hilltop, Pineville, LA—Richard O’Neal
Matthews Memorial, Alexandria, LA—Belinda Carner
The Oaks, Pineville, LA—Cecil Hammond
Out of State—Willa Vee Messer, TX

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**
3 – Chip White
6 – Ashlee Glass
8 – Kevin Price
9 – Johnny Phillippi
10 – Mary Carroll
11 – David Nagy, Tate Bratcher
12 – Katie Hood, Liz Ford, Jayne Rhodes
13 – Bob Butterfield Jr., Michael Martin
14 – Debbie Triche, Amy Thomson, Marie Reech, Annie Hutchinson
18 – Brian Naquin, Arlene Gooden
20 – Carmen Lacour, Ella Kate Locke, Bart Cardwell
21 – Zachary Clear, Bernice Griffin, Ayme Beeson
22 – Cheryl Wilson, Curtis Malone
24 – Clayton McWaters
25 – Reggie French, Emily Vaillee
27 – Hannah Barrios, Odapho Folarin
28 – Irma Cox
29 – Joel Drinnat
29 – Fred Hagaman

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**
1 – Quincy & Deanna Hodges
3 – Joe & Linda Hoover, Fred & Lynn Jordan
4 – Michael & Laura Lott
7 – Billy & Amy Porche
8 – Richard & Julie Kretzinger
11 – Neil & Denise Crick
15 – Flash & Martha Gordon
17 – Danny & Loretta Magee
19 – Ben & Ashley Stewart
21 – Jeff & Martha McMillan
24 – Lamell & Jana Holmes
24 – Michael & Debbie Triche
26 – Tom & Candace Russell

**Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet**
April 23rd - 6:00 P.M.
Family Life Center

**May Newsletter Deadline is Friday, April 12th**
If your ministry or small group has something upcoming or has done something you would like to share, the newsletter article deadline is April 12th. Anyone can submit a 250 word or less article by the deadline each month. If you have questions, please contact the church office.
Musically Speaking...
George Gross
Director of Music

Nothing but invites in this article. Let me strongly encourage you to attend the all the services during Holy Week – from Palm Sunday through Easter. I especially would like to take a moment to invite you to attend, and participate, in the service on Maundy Thursday. Over the years we have offered different settings during this service. Last year, the service was drama based and included Foot Washing and Holy Communion. When we are planning something new and different, you never know how it will come out. Please come, and invite a friend to come with you, on Thursday, April 11 at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

The choir will once again travel to Oakdale on Sunday, April 7th to sing the Easter Musical, “The King Is Coming!” We will also sing the musical on Palm Sunday, April 14th for the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services.

You are always invited to join the choir. Come and talk with us, or just show up on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. and try us out. We need YOU.

Thank you for all your kind words each week. I always share them with the choir.

Love, George

Thank You

I sincerely thank you for the heartfelt sympathy expressed through the beautiful cards, words of comfort, and the caring prayers during the loss of my brother, Raymond Hamiter.

Judie Barnette and family

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

PFUMC’s Choir Easter Musical
April 14th @ 8:30 and 11:00AM services
The King Is Coming
Created by Russell Mauld & Sue C. Smith
Join us as the PFUMC choir ushers in Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday Service
April 18th @ 6:00PM
Family Life Center
A Reenactment Of The Last Supper

Easter Sunday Services
April 21st
7:00am (Sunrise), 8:30, 8:45, and 11:00AM
Youth Focus

Julie Lafosse
Director of Student Ministries

Senior High Retreat was March 15-17 at the Wesley Center in Woodworth. We had a wonderful time learning more about our relationship with Christ and connecting with other United Methodist from around Louisiana. Oren Lutz & Evan O’Brien are our new District Council & Conference Council on Youth Ministries representatives from our church. Oren & Evan were small group leaders during the retreat.

I loved seeing our youth kneeling at the altar rail after receiving ashes during the Ash Wednesday service. Such a meaningful tradition of our faith. These traditions are so much more than just traditions but ways that we connect to the heart of God.

During Holy Week, there will be three opportunities to Worship in a special way. Wednesday, April 17th will be the Taize Service. Thursday, April 18th will be our reenactment of the Last Supper and Friday, April 19th is Good Friday, Journey to the Cross service. We will not have youth on Wednesday, April 17th, but encourage our students and parents to be part of this meaningful week, where we get the opportunity to remember Christ’s suffering on our behalf. Remember our kids will follow in our footsteps. Let’s make sure that those steps lead them to Christ.

Upcoming Events:

April 14 – Disc Golf & Sweet Frog
April 28 – Senior Sunday
May 12 – Mother’s Day – NO YOUTH
June 24-29 – Mission Trip to Delta Grace in Mississippi (More information to come)
July 25-28 Weekend of the CROSS mission in Shreveport. Sign up sheets are in the Youth Room.

Kids’ Focus

Niki Hoyt
Director of Children’s Ministries

The day after Ash Wednesday, I was chatting with a sweet, two year old girl. I asked if she went to church the night before, and she excitedly shared about getting pixie dust in the shape of a cross! Amazing! She may not have truly understood what was happening or why it happened, but when she heard the pastors talking about dust, she linked it to her recent trip to see Tinker Bell. She was listening and watching! She watched her family participate in an important faith tradition.

By participating in these traditions, our children connect with our rich history of our past, and will develop lasting memories and Biblical truths that will draw them to the church long after we are the ones driving them to church each week.

Whether it is an annual tradition like lighting Advent candles or the Christmas Eve candlelight services, or a monthly tradition like taking communion with our church family, or even the weekly tradition of saying the Lord’s Prayer or reciting the Apostle’s Creed. These acts worship create a foundation of truth and hope and love in our children’s hearts.

It was beautiful to see so many families worship and receive ashes together on Ash Wednesday. As we journey through Lent toward Holy Week, I pray that your family makes the beautiful traditions of Holy Week a priority. They will see these traditions are important not only to you but to their church family.