

THE FLAME

Volume 53, Issue 04

APRIL 2023

*He is not here;
he has Risen!*

Luke 24:6

Please invite family and friends to join
us this season of celebration!

Palm Sunday	10:00 AM	April 2nd
Maundy Thursday	First UMC, 6:00 PM	April 6th
Good Friday	Albright UMC 7:00 PM	April 7th
Easter Worship	10:00 AM	April 9th

Wednesday Night Live

**April 5th will be the last
Wednesday Night Live event
until next fall.**

**UWF will furnish
pork roast and mashed
potatoes. Please bring a
covered dish or dessert.**

**Pastor Leon will provide the
program, *Where was Jesus on
Holy Wednesday?***



Youth Breakfast Fundraiser

Easter Sunday, April 9th

9:00 AM

Family and friends are welcome!



CAUTION: SLOW DOWN!

It's no secret that we humans live life in a hurry, always scurrying towards the next appointment, task, or event. This is why in the Genesis narrative, God created humans on the sixth day at the end of the day. You see, the first full day of human existence, in the narrative, is the Sabbath. God knows we need parameters, boundaries, margins in our lives to reflect, repent (change directions), restore, and renew. The law of the sabbath in the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus pertaining to sabbath in the New Testament are like road signs that say: "Caution: Slow Down!" With that in mind, I want to beg you to slow down this next full week and embrace the meaning of Holy Week! It's NOT Easter yet! There are Caution Signs to observe between here and there. Take time to reflect, repent, restore, and renew by observing together these important worship opportunities:

Palm Sunday	
April 2 nd	10:00 AM
Holy Wednesday	
April 5 th	5:30 PM
(Special WNL Observance)	
Maundy Thursday	
April 6 th	6:00 PM
Good Friday	
April 7 th	7:00 PM
At Albright UMC	

And then, by all means, CELEBRATE RESURRECTION with us on EASTER SUNDAY!

--Pastor Leon



This is the Wesley School Department in 1918. Wesley School, church members in middle from left are the Organists, Ladies Choir, church members, in the second row from right of the front row, the left side of the back.

History Highlight # 2 Did you know....

During the pastorate of Reverend Clarence N. Hewitt, October 1919 to April 1925, a major building program was undertaken which resulted in the brick building that now stands on the corner of Sixth and Central Streets. Previously this was also the site of the first structure that was built in 1894. The cost of the building with furniture totaled \$80,000. This included the cost of the organ which was furnished by the Ladies Aid Society at a cost of \$4,200. While there seems to be no record of the size of the operating budget of the church at this time, information contained in a report to the Quarterly Conference dated January 4, 1919, shows that the pastor's salary was to be \$2,400.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Ponca City, Oklahoma was dedicated December 4, 1921 by Bishop E. L. Waldorf. Bishop Waldorf saw no reason why the Methodists of this city, having accomplished the task of building such a magnificent church, should not set its purpose for even larger things and go forward. At the opening of the services, Rev. Hewitt announced that he wished to correct the impression that the new \$80,000 structure was entirely paid for. He said that the committee had pledged for most of the expense and that, within a

brief time, all of the money would be raised. After the sermon Bishop Waldorf read the Methodist Dedication Ritual. At the end of the services, the entire congregation knelt in the old-time Methodist style in praying to God for the consecration of the church and the congregation to His interests.

Several significant events took place during the life of the new church, one of which was the holding of the Oklahoma Annual Conference in 1922.

In 1925, a brick parsonage was built at 211 South Fifth Street at a cost of \$12,000. It replaced the first parsonage which was built in 1900 at the same site.

However, the period between October 1927 and October 1935, which included the stock market crash and the great depression, was rather uneventful from the standpoint of growth in activities and facilities at the church. Despite this stagnation, the church remained strong in spirit and dedication under the able leadership of four different pastors. In 1933, the Ladies Aid Society, originally organized in 1896, was re-organized into the Methodist Woman's Association.

Reverend V. A. Hargis served October 1935 to January 1941, which was a lengthier term than usual. At this time the operating budget included the following: pastor's salary, \$2,400; janitor, \$840; other salaries, \$1,000; World Service, \$500; conference expenses, \$1,970; and parsonage debt retirement, \$50. These amounts totaled \$7,788 representing the entire church budget.





2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

						1 Judy Wilson
2 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion Caring Fund Sunday 5:00 Confirmation Class 6:00 UMY Matt Ware 	3 9:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Handbells	4 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Lenten Bible Study Tanner Otto	5 3:30 JAM 5:30 WNL 6:00 GLOW 7:15 Choir	6 6:00 Maundy Thursday Service at FUMCPC Alex Biery Samantha Biery Carole Rodgers	7 7:00 Good Friday Service at Albright's UMC	8
9  9:00 Youth Breakfast 10:00 Worship Isaac Cervantes	10 9:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Handbells Jayne Detten Scott Layton	11 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Trustees 6:00 Lenten Bible Study	12 5:30 SPRC 6:00 GLOW 7:00 Choir	13 9:00 Stephen Ministry	14 1:30 UWF sandwiches for Mid High	15 Colton Schultz
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 UMY	17 9:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Friendship Feast 6:30 Handbells Ruby Cervantes Mary Lou Loret	18 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer Frankie White	19 6:00 GLOW 7:00 Choir	20 6:00 Knitgiving Sally Tubbs	21	22
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Great Day of Service 5:00 Confirmation Class 6:00 UMY	24 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Quilters 6:30 Handbells	25 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer Carol Bouldin	26 6:00 GLOW 7:00 Choir	27 6:00 Youth Ministry Advisory Board	28	29
30 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 UMY Jim Hughes Shelby Swanson						Birthdays listed in red.

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PRAYER CORNER

Father, We are living in a day unlike anything we have ever seen before. Chaos, confusion, and turmoil has been stirring in the hearts of so many people.

We trust that justice belongs in Your hand, but we also trust that You have a great plan for us to see hearts transformed and lives changed.

Jesus, thank You for Your mercy that was displayed upon the cross that has given those who call upon Your name and trust in your forgiveness and new life. We want to be a part of Your great redemptive plan in the earth.

Help us fix our eyes on Christ when we are tempted to only look at the problems around us. We are asking that You would give us the boldness to proclaim the only solution to what our world is experiencing and that is Your glorious Gospel! In Jesus' name, Amen. - Emily Massey



Celebrating 100 years!

On April 21st, Frieda McGee, Betsy Carter's mother, will celebrate her one hundredth birthday. Over the years, this congregation has grown to love Frieda, just as she loves our congregation. If you would like to send her a birthday card, please send it to:

Frieda McGee
 Village Crossings, Apt. 311
 2400 Arnold Palmer Blvd.
 Louisville, KY 40245



You are invited to a come & go birthday party for

**Carole Rodgers,
 on April 8th.**

**1:00 – 3:00 PM,
 301 Lonnie.**



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry offers high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

If you or someone you know has experienced loss, or is going through a difficult time in their life and could benefit from this ministry, contact Pastor Leon or Bill Elliott

*Bear one another's burdens,
 and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ .
 (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).*



April Spring Haiku

Marching to Zion.

Spring-ing forward to our God's
 Beautify City.

~Wayne Moore

OUR STAFF

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April 2023
Daily



Prayers for YOUTH

- Our Sons/Daughters, Grandsons/Granddaughters
& all the ones we love.

1

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority... Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden. ~ Hebrew 13:17

Almighty Lord, please give (name) a heart that respects and submits to those in authority. May she listen to their counsel and obey them. May she be a pleasure to care for, contributing to the joy of their leadership. Amen!

2

Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! ~ Psalm 34:13

Adonai, please keep (name)'s tongue from speaking evil and his lips from telling lies. Amen!

3

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. ~ Psalm 139:14
My God, my Lord, please imprint the knowledge on (name)'s heart that You lovingly and wonderfully created her with talents to accomplish great things. She is therefore not to compare herself unfavorably to others. Amen!

4

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ~ John 3:16
Lord of Peace, please cleanse (name) of destructive self-talk. Teach him Your powerful, life-edifying truth so he believes Jesus loves him and died for his sins so he can have a personal relationship with You and enjoy eternal life. Amen!

5

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

All Powerful God, may (name) cultivate an edifying tongue. May she learn to be deliberate in her speech, choosing to encourage and build others up. Amen!

6

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, no resentful. ~ 2 Timothy 2:24

Blessed Father, please give (name) an understanding that You have chosen him to serve on Your behalf. May he not be quarrelsome, be kind to everyone, be patient even when wronged, and correct others with loving gentleness. Amen!

7

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness ~ 1 Timothy 6:11

Glorious Lord, please give (name) a heightened awareness of Your presence in all aspects of her life. May she pursue a righteous life, filled with godliness, joyful expectation, faith, love, steadfastness, endurance, and gentleness. Amen!

8

But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. ~ 1 Samuel 12:24
Merciful Father, may (name) be like Samuel. May he fear You Lord, and serve You faithfully with all his heart and soul. When doubts arise, bring to his memory the great and wonderful blessings you have bestowed on him. Amen!

9

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ~ 1 Peter 5:8

Almighty King, please help (name) stay alert at all times, as Satan never takes a break and like a roaring lion, he is on a 24/7 prowl, seeking someone to devour. Please strengthen her to resist temptations placed before her. Amen!

10

...be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the LORD your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go. ~ Joshua 1:9

Omniscient God, may (name) have the full confidence that he is never alone, that You know him and hear him, and You care about all that concerns him. Amen!

11

For we are each responsible for our own conduct. ~ Galatians 6:5

Eternal Father, may (name) learn to take responsibility for her own work and conduct. May she always seek to glorify You in all her activities. Amen!

12

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. ~ Proverbs 13:20

Savior Father, may (name) choose his friends carefully. May he make friends only with wise people who are good influences. When he is lonely, may he know that You are with him, and not keep company with foolish, ill-mannered children who get into trouble. Amen!

13

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ~ Matthew 13:16

Gracious God, please open (name)'s eyes to see the path You illuminate for her. Turn her eyes from anyone or anything that will divert her attention from where You want her to go. Amen!

14

... and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. ~ Ecclesiastes 7:8

Awesome Lord, please gift (name) with patience and tolerance. May he be long-suffering; for the patient in spirit is better than the proud. Amen!

15

Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ~ 1 Timothy 6:18

God of All Hope, may (name) be generous with her resources and willing to share with others. Amen!

16

... to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ~ Titus 3:2

Blessed God, please give (name) the courage to obey Your commands; may he speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, be gentle, and show perfect courtesy toward all people. Amen!

17

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." ~ Luke 19:10

Omnipotent Lord, may (name) never believe she is beyond redemption as the Son of Man came to seek and to save her. Amen!

18

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ~ Philippians 4:6

Dear God, may (name) trust You enough not to be anxious about anything, but live every situation up to You. By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, stir him to present his requests to You, God. Amen

19

God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' ~ Acts 13:22

Glorious Father, please prune and shape (name) and the spouse You intend for her into a couple after Your own heart. In their union, may the wife submit to the Kingdom's man, while the husband loves and cherish his virtuous wife. Amen!

20

I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. ~ Ezekiel 36:26
Heavenly Father, for thoughts & actions to be pleasing to You, the heart must yield. Please break apart (name)'s stubborn heart of stone. Give him a new heart and mind that is obedient & receptive to Your will. Amen!

21

Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath! ~ Psalm 116:2
Lord God, please give (name) the assurance that You know and love her. May she understand that You bend down to listen when You hear her voice, with Your arms wide open, waiting to embrace her when she calls on You in prayer. Amen!

22

Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. ~ 2 Timothy 2:5
All-Powerful God, I pray (name) will learn to work, play and compete with grace, honor and integrity. May he learn the value of training and persevering as he follows the rules. May he not cheat in an attempt to win. Amen!

23

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ~ Matthew 14:27
Righteous Father, please help (name) control her mind so he does not build up obstacles to her success in her imagination. Bless her with freedom from self-doubt and fear of failure. Amen!

24

Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. ~ 2 Timothy 2:16
Holy Lord, please give (name) a distaste for gossip. Help him avoid speaking or even listening to worthless, foolish chatter. Give him the courage to redirect the conversation or move away. Amen!

25

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ~ Matthew 5: 6

With each passing day Lord Jesus, may (name) develop an unquenchable yearning for You. May she be blessed with a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Amen!

26

I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but that you keep them safe from the evil one. ~ John 17:15

Eternal King, please protect (name) from the evil one. Tune his ears only to the timber of Your voice. Deafen him to the voice of the enemy. Amen!

27

Ears to hear and eyes to see—both are gifts from the LORD. ~ Proverbs 20:12

Lord All-Powerful, please tune (name)'s ears to Your voice and open her eyes to see Your hand at work in her life. May she always be prepared and willing to obey Your instructions. Amen!

28

And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." ~ 1 Samuel 3:10

Thank You Holy Lord for pursuing (name). May he hear and eagerly respond to Your voice and instructions. Amen!

29

Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. ~ Ephesians 5:4

Lord Jesus, please stir (name) away from instigating or participating in gossip, obscene & foolish talk or coarse jokes as this poisons and pollutes the heart. Amen!

30

The LORD is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant. ~ Psalm 25:14

Eternal King, You are Almighty yet You promise to confide in (name), a mere man. Please tune his ears to hear You as You confide Your desires to him. Convict him not to rationalize but to obey promptly. Amen!

