

GIRDCUEIR

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
WWW.1STUMC.ORG • PHONE: (859) 233-0545

ONLINE EDITION

Volume 40

Number 3

March 10, 2010

Holy Week and

Easter Sunday

Palm Sunday, March 28

8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary, downtown
9:40 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Andover
11:00 a.m. Offerings service, West Chapel, downtown

Holy Week Services

11:30 a.m. Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, downtown
12:15 p.m. Worship at First United Methodist with
Calvary Baptist Pastoral staff preaching.
Sanctuary, downtown

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m., Last Supper Drama, Sanctuary, Andover

Good Friday, April 2

7:00 p.m., Tenebrae Service, Sanctuary, downtown

Easter Sunday, April 4

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service, Prayer Garden, downtown
Breakfast immediately following Sunrise Service
8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary, downtown
9:40 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Andover
11:00 a.m. Offerings service, West Chapel, downtown



First Family Celebration!

On April 11th, the Sunday after Easter, we at First United Methodist will be worshipping together in one service at the Fayette County School System Board Norsworthy Auditorium (the former Henry Clay High School) at 701 E. Main St. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. A great luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall at the downtown campus. Although there is adequate parking within a very short walk, we will be providing a shuttle service from the downtown campus. There will be reserved parking for handicapped, seniors, and families with small children. A nursery will be provided on site. While I understand the inconvenience, I hope you will make a special effort to join us, as we will have a great time together.

The purpose of this worship experience is two-fold:

A) *We want to celebrate our unity as a church.*

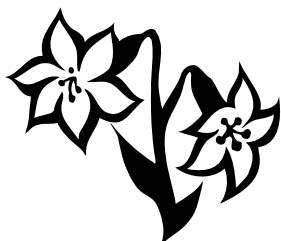
Many people do not understand how we are organized as a church with an alternative service and satellite campus. The multi-site concept is rather new, and we in some sense have been "organizing" as we go. While we have one unified administrative structure, we have tried to give some "autonomy" to each campus as to how they do ministry; however, we are trying to be very intentional in doing some important things together. With Offerings, two services at Andover, and two services downtown, many do not get to know others within the church. This Family Celebration will be a rare opportunity for us to worship together as one church, and will help all of us to experience our "oneness in Jesus Christ". All of our ministers, worship leaders, and choirs will be working together for what I think will be an exciting time of worship; and,

B) *We will use this opportunity to kick-off a series of sermons and small groups surrounding four emphases we will embrace as a church over the next four years.* These emphases, having been named by our General Conference as foci across the United Methodist Church, have "captured" our leadership here at First Church because we not only feel they provide a God-given direction, but embrace areas we see our church giving strong leadership to our Kentucky Conference. These "emphases" include:

1. **Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.**
 2. **Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.**
 3. **Engaging in ministry with the poor.**
- Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.**

Teddy, Todd, Jason, and I will be developing a small group study around these goals, and we will be inviting you to participate in a 5 week study. We truly believe these goals will identify a way for First Church to live out our witness for Jesus Christ, and through these small group studies you will have opportunity to help us define exactly how we will live these out.

This is truly an exciting time to be a part of First Church, a time when our leadership in the Conference and voice within the community will take bold new steps. I trust you will keep this time in prayer and make plans to be engaged in a way as never before.

Easter Flowers

This Easter, you can purchase an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of a loved one. These flowers will decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. After the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter, you may take your Lilies home to enjoy with your family. Look for the envelopes at the end of each pew and in the Gathering Hall. The envelopes will be available March 14-21. Flowers will be \$10 each. Orders are due by Monday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. Contact the church office with any further questions, 233-0545.

Worship...

Live! at First—Upcoming Events

Choral Service of Tenebrae

Friday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Choral Scholars Recital

Sunday, April 11, 4:00 p.m.

An afternoon of vocal and instrumental music featuring
Lisa Hall—organist; Brittany Benningfield, Taylor Eldred, Lauren Collins,
Antonio Castillo-Ibarra and Enoch Jacobus—soloists

Choral Masterworks Concert

Sunday, May 2, 4:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir and professional orchestra
Laudate Dominum (Solemn Vespers) - Mozart
Missa in Angustiis (Nelson Mass) - Haydn
Taylor Eldred, Brittany Benningfield, Lauren Collins,
Antonio Castillo-Ibarra and Enoch Jacobus—soloists

Grow...

September Club News

Our Senior adults ministry, the September Club, will have a kick off luncheon on Thursday, March 18, at noon in Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to getting this ministry back in full swing. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We will do what all good Methodists do, share a meal together and fellowship! We have sign-up sheets in the Gathering Hall for downtown and also at the Andover campus. Come join us!

Join us for Sunday School

We meet at 9:50 a.m. downtown and 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at Andover. There's a class waiting for you!

Baby Shower!

The Rock/La Roca is hosting a baby shower for Jessica Mansfield on Saturday April 10 at 10:30 am. Please RSVP to Cindy Crissman, 859-245-9312.

Planning a 2010 Wedding?

Non-members have requested the following dates:
July 31, 2010.

Spring Ahead!

Don't forget to SPRING ahead on March 14! Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on March 13.



Circuit Rider: Online Edition

Would you like to receive the Circuit Rider by email? It helps save paper, postage, AND gets to you faster! To start receiving our newly re-designed Online Edition of the Circuit Rider, please sign up on the front page of our website www.1stumc.org. There you can sign up for different communications from First Church.

Circuit Rider deadlines...

- March 25, 2010
- April 28, 2010
- May 26, 2010

Please contact the head of your ministry area to submit an article for the Circuit Rider to be considered for publication by these dates.

Would you like to go on a short-term, overseas mission trip?

First UMC has been a long-standing partner with people in ministry on almost every continent. This summer we will send small, short-term missions teams to be with two of these partners.

Please pray about joining a team for one of these trips. We are intentionally keeping both teams small and already have interested team members. Neither trip necessarily entails manual labor; please do not presume you are not physically qualified. If you have a willingness to come alongside brothers and sisters in Christ, encourage them, pray for them, and have a discerning spirit about how we can best partner with them moving forward, this mission is for you. More details are listed below, including estimated costs. We will have fundraising and scholarship plans, so please don't let cost be a deterrent.

India – July 26 – August 4. Lisa Michelle Wilson will be leading a small team of women to Mercy & Grace Orphanage in Southern India. The team will spend the majority of its time working with the girls in the orphanage, helping with education and generally caring for them. This team still has three spots open. Estimated cost per person: \$1,600.

Brazil – July 21 – August 2. Mel and Fran Noah lead a seminary in Londrina, Brazil, and have been supported by First UMC for over two decades, yet we have never been to visit with them or see their mission field. A team will be able to work on physical repair jobs needed at surrounding churches, work with the children in a church's childcare program, and serve in other ways as the team is able and willing. This team still has two spots open. Estimated cost: \$1,700.

If you are interested or desire more information for any of these trips, please contact Teddy Ray at the church office, (859) 233-0545 or teddy.ray@gmail.com.

One Great Hour of Sharing : March 21

Every March we take a special collection for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and its ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps the mission keep its promise that 100 percent of every other gift throughout the year can be spent on direct relief, not on administrative costs. First Church will take the special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 21. Please look for special envelopes that Sunday.

Change the World Weekend: April 24

First Church will be participating with United Methodists all around the world, coming together to serve our local community on Saturday, April 24. On that day, we will send a multitude of volunteers into our community, working at nearly every local missions partner of the church. This weekend will be a great opportunity for anyone to have a first experience with many of our local partners and for our congregation to join Methodists around the world in making a significant one-day impact across our cities. If you would like to lead a work-site, please contact Teddy Ray in the church office. (859) 233-0545 or teddy.ray@gmail.com.

Watch for more information about how to volunteer beginning at the church's First Family Celebration on April 11.

Children & Youth Updates

Confirmation

All 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students who haven't gone through confirmation are invited and encouraged to participate in this year's class. This is an exciting time of growing closer together and learning more about the church. If you have any questions about confirmation or would like to participate, please contact Jim Nally (jim@1stumc.org), Eric Douglas (eric@1stumc.org), or the church office, 233-0545. The first meeting will be on March 17 for both parents and students.

Summer Camp

Registration and information for all Kentucky Conference Summer camps are available in the Gathering Hall and online. Youth of all ages should find the camp that is right for them and not miss out on these lasting experiences. For more information contact Jim Nally, jim@1stumc.org or 553-0300. Also check out the following websites for online registration and more information: www.aldersgatecamp.org, www.loucon.org, and www.kyumc.org.

It's time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

This year it will be held at the Andover campus on Saturday March 27. We will start out our morning with a Pancake breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny at 9:00 a.m. At 9:45 a.m., we will have an Easter Lesson with Pastor Todd Nelson. Then we will start hunting for eggs around 10:00 a.m.

We are in need of a few items to make this day possible. We need: empty plastic Easter Eggs or trinket-filled eggs, small toys or trinkets to go into the eggs, and individually wrapped candy (please no chocolate or nuts). Please drop these items off at either at Andover in the Children's Ministry Hallway or at the Downtown Campus in Room 208 by March 21st.

Please contact Lisa Michelle to RSVP for the Pancake breakfast by March 21st.

If you have any questions please contact Lisa Michelle Wilson, lisa@1stumc.org.

Vacation Bible School

It is almost Vacation Bible School time! We are going to be taking a road trip and would like to invite you to come along with us! We are looking for some people who wouldn't mind helping guide the children on this journey. This is a great opportunity to help the children's ministry out in anyway that you can. We are in need of people to pray for the children, help in setting up and tearing down, leading children from one station to the next, playing games or making crafts. We need all who are able to come on this road trip with us on June 13 - 17. If you are interested in helping out please email Bekah, bekah@1stumc.org, or Lisa, lisa@1stumc.org.

