

One of the highlights this past month for me was seeing Taylor Wood escaping from his father's grasp during worship and almost making it to the chancel while his grandfather was reading Scripture during the service. Oh, that we were all that comfortable in the Lord's house!! It reminds me of the time when my daughter Melisa slipped out of the pew and came to sit on my lap during a pastoral prayer. It will be a memory that I'll cherish forever.

"Let the children come to me for the kingdom of God belongs to these" is what Jesus told us. And so we do that every week. You may notice a growing number of children around the building on Sunday mornings. Did

you know that during the 11:00 service we have 20-30 in the nursery and pre-K area? That is something to celebrate! And it is also something we need to begin planning for as these kids move forward through our children's ministry and on to youth. I'm grateful for Cameron Bibb and Cassidy Hasty as they provide leadership in these areas.

As we continue to move through Lent, let me encourage you to put our leaders, teachers, and our children in your prayers. Thank you for faithfully supporting these ministries as we experience our role of a disciple-making church as more than words on a page but rather laughter in the hallways



Worship

The Apostles' Creed

Christian, What do you Believe?

These words probably sound very familiar to you, as we ask them nearly every week...

We have two Creeds in our hymnal and while we only use The Nicene Creed occasionally, we say The Traditional Version of the Apostles' Creed often. The Apostles' Creed is not written word for word in the Bible...but the truths are found there. The Apostles' Creed was not written word for word from the 12 Apostles who walked with Jesus, but they taught these truths and began a movement we cling to today. As Christianity was at first questioned and debated, the early church fathers and mothers sat together and did all they could to come up with a way they could share with the world what they believed. Before it was the creed we know today, it was called the Old Roman Creed. It was not actually even called the Apostles' Creed until around 390. So each time we say these words together, we are reciting a piece of history—one that has been affirmed by Christians from around the world for over 1600 years.

Jaroslav Pelikan was once asked in an interview about his faith... He said:

My faith life, like that of everyone else, fluctuates. There are ups and downs and hot spots and cold spots and boredom and ennui and all the rest can be there. And so I'm not asked on a Sunday morning, 'As of 9:20, what do you believe?' And then you sit down with a three-by-five index card saying, 'Now let's see. What do I believe today?' No, that's not what they're asking me. They're asking me, 'Are you a member of a community which now, for a millennium and a half, has said, we believe in one God?'

This is why we say the creeds each week. We are joining together with the cloud of witnesses and with the voices around the world claiming we believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For this Lenten Season we have been focusing on the cross and crucifixion. In our United Methodist Hymnals, there are two versions of the Apostles' Creed—The Traditional Version (881) and the Ecumenical Version (882). The reason there are two versions is primarily because of the line "He descended to the dead." Wesley dropped this line, although it was not a part of the original Roman Creed, and it wasn't until the 20th century that it was re-added to our liturgy. Beginning March 31st, though, we will be saying the Ecumenical Version in our worship services for the remainder of Lent. We do this with the understanding that Jesus will meet us wherever we are, meeting us in our deepest and darkest moments and trials to bring hope and life. For those who are struggling and are feeling as if they are living in hell, Jesus is here for you. Jesus will travel to the depths of the earth, to the farthest spaces in our minds and hearts to bring grace and hope. This Lent, as we travel not only to the cross, but through it, I pray we all know how great, how awesome, how magnificent is the love of Jesus.

Worshipping with you, *Carol*

The church will be alive with music during the month of April. On Good Friday, **April 19 at 7:00 PM**, we will have our **Tenebrae Service of Shadows**. If you have never experienced this most special service led by our Chancel Choir, you will want to make plans to attend. Of course, we are looking forward to Easter Sunday morning where our Choir and our Brass Ensemble will be leading the music at our 8:30 and 11:00 AM services. Finally, on Sunday evening, April 28 at

6:00 PM, we will be "pulling out all the stops" for our presentation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "**Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.**" You don't want to miss this free concert accompanied by a full orchestra. Make plans to attend with your family and friends! Looking forward to seeing you in the sanctuary very soon! –*Brock*

Grow

Membership Sunday—April 28, 2019

Would you like more information about First Church or what it means to be a member? Todd and Carol will be in the Library during the Sunday School hour (9:50-10:45) on March 31, April 7 and April 14 if you would like to stop by and talk. We are also happy to set personal times of conversations if these dates do not work for you. Membership Sunday will be Sunday, April 28. Contact Carol Cooper (carol@1stumc.org or 859.233.0545 x227) for more information.

Family Ministries

Holy Week is such a special and important time. For us, as Christians, the things that took place during holy week are the most important events in history. We want to offer your family an opportunity to walk through Holy Week together by giving you experiences to facilitate reflection and celebration with your children and youth. Waving palms, walking with Jesus, and hunting for Easter eggs are all ways we can do this together. Please look below for more information on these events.

April 14 - Palm Sunday Procession

Kids and youth of all ages are invited and encouraged to be a part of our palm-waving train as we make our way through the Sanctuary during the hymn of praise. Parents are encouraged to accompany children 3 and under. Everyone participating will gather in Slaton Chapel 15 minutes prior to the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM services.

April 14 - Walk with Jesus - An Easter Event for Families

Sunday, April 14th from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

At Walk with Jesus you'll step back in time and follow Jesus' footsteps through the week leading up to his death and resurrection. This is a walk-through experience that you will take with your whole family. It opens at 6:00 PM with tours beginning every 20 minutes. Draw closer to Jesus at this memorable event!

April 21 - Easter Egg Hunt

Downtown Kids will be hunting for Easter eggs starting at 10:00 AM on Sunday, April 21. Weather permitting, we will gather on the front steps of the church at that time, snap a quick picture together, and then hunt for eggs on the front lawn. Teal, allergy-free eggs will be available. Bring some friends and bring a basket! Rain location: Fellowship Hall.

We are now collecting candy and other items for our Easter egg hunt! Donations of candy and stickers or other non-food items (for allergy-free eggs) are now being accepted. Please deposit donations in the yellow box by the Welcome Center tables in the Gathering Hall. Thank you!

Serve

Room In the Inn's Winter Season is Completed!!

Spring is here and we are catching our breath, from our busy 15th season of Room In the Inn!

Words cannot express our gratitude for those of you who stepped up and so unselfishly gave your time and your money. We cultivated very meaningful relationships, with the homeless men that we served, and their stories of "hope" reminded us why we do this, over and over again. Now, we ask you to pray for our friends, that they will have a shield of safety, health and the strength to stay away from the temptations of drugs and alcohol that surround them, out on the streets of Lexington. Blessings, *Hunt and Peggy Ray*

Altar Flowers – We have one date available in the months of May, June and September and two dates available in the months of July, October, November and December for the purchase of altar flowers. If interested in purchasing altar flowers, please contact Mike and Sheila Green at 859-271-4789 (Home), 859-533-5282 (Cell) or greenlex1961@yahoo.com. God bless.

Epicurean Experience at the Methodist Children's Home

April 27, 2019 5-8 PM

This special event will have some of the region's most talented and innovative chefs bring their best to the table for an Epicurean Experience—a culinary extravaganza to benefit the children and families served by Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes. Enjoy the food of select chefs in a laid back yet elegant atmosphere. In addition to food and

mocktails, the evening will include a live and silent auction hosted by Lexington FOX 56 anchor Marvin Bartlett and an inspirational testimony from a former resident. Tickets are \$75. For more details, go to kyumh.org or call 859-523-3001.

Our next God's Table meal will be on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Please bring a dish and a friend to our Fellowship Hall around 5:30 pm. This monthly meal is open to anyone who is hungry. Plan to stay and help prepare and serve the meal, if you are able. For more information, contact Melinda Kemp, 859-333-8095 or melindakemp@twc.com.

The Belle Bennett Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 10 in the Parlor at 10:00 AM. Georgia Stamper, one of our own and a wonderful story teller, will present our program. She will do a reading from one of her books along with some story telling. It will be a delightful time together. Come join us. For more information or if you need a ride call Joyce McKinney at 224-4609.

The HSNC Golf Scramble, held to raise money only for student scholarships, will be Friday, June 7, at the University Club Big Blue course. Information packets are at the Welcome Center or contact Laura Ferrell (lferrell52@gmail.com) to have one sent by email.

Health Ministry:

Matthew 6:22 (NIV) states, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light..."

Healthy vision, both physical and Spiritual, is an important part of our Christian life. Downtown and Andover Health Ministry teams and United Methodist women invite you to the first in a series of "Vision Events." Melissa Smith, Registered Dietitian from our Lexington Health Department, will present information on "Pre-diabetes." Pre-diabetes occurs when our blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. Pre-diabetes and diabetes are leading causes of vision blurriness, cataracts, and glaucoma. One out of three people have pre-diabetes. Please join us for this whole church and community event: **Wednesday, May 1, 9:30 AM -11:30 AM**, Andover Campus. Refreshments served, Education handouts, and door prizes.

Church Family

In our recent loss of Dad/Papa, we would like to thank our First Church Family. Your concern, thoughts, cards, prayers and presence have witnessed to us and touched us deeply. We truly love our church family. *Hope Harvener and Family*

Join us for the 5th season of the **First Methodist Church Golf League**. League to begin on Thursday May 2 – September 12. First tee time is 5:18 at Picadome Golf Course just off Harrodsburg Road. All skill levels welcome as well as males, females and youth. All members and friends of 1st Church are welcome. This is a great time of fun and fellowship through the summer! Contact Dulaney Wood at dwood007@aol.com for information or to sign up.

Downtown Property Committee

We have formed a Downtown Property Committee to better serve our campus. We want to take good care of our existing facilities and dream for the future. Following are the people who will be serving. They will not be replacing our existing management company or trustees, just supplementing our needs. You are welcome to share with them if you have ideas or concerns for a particular area. We want to maintain and honor our historic property. Many thanks to the gracious folks who have volunteered to serve. *Brenda Nally, Downtown Property Chairperson*

1. Church Grounds- Wayne Oates
2. Sound System- Jeff Minor
3. Maintenance Reminders- Jim Calvert
4. Ladies Parlor- Judy Calvert
5. Nursery Area- Kristin Weatherford
6. Children's Classrooms- Jeanne Badgett
7. Youth Area- Elizabeth Moore
8. Kitchen- Melinda Kemp
9. Offices, Adult Classrooms, Gathering Areas, Sanctuary- Brenda Nally
10. Mechanical and Electrical- Jonathan Moore

Lost and Found: If you lost it, we found it....There are many items in the closet next to the Ladies Restroom off the Gathering Hall. Please check for your belongings soon. Any items still in the closet on April 30 will be donated or thrown away.

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April 2019

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April Calendar Highlights

- 14: **Palm Sunday** – Children and Youth of all ages are invited to be a part of the palm-waving processions at 8:30 and 11:00
Walk with Jesus, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM: Step back in time and follow Jesus' footsteps through the week leading up to his death and resurrection.
- 21: **Easter Sunday Services**, 8:30 and 11:00
Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 AM
- 28: **Voices Concert: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, 6:00 PM (Admission with ticket from 4:45-5:30, seating opens for everyone at 5:30)