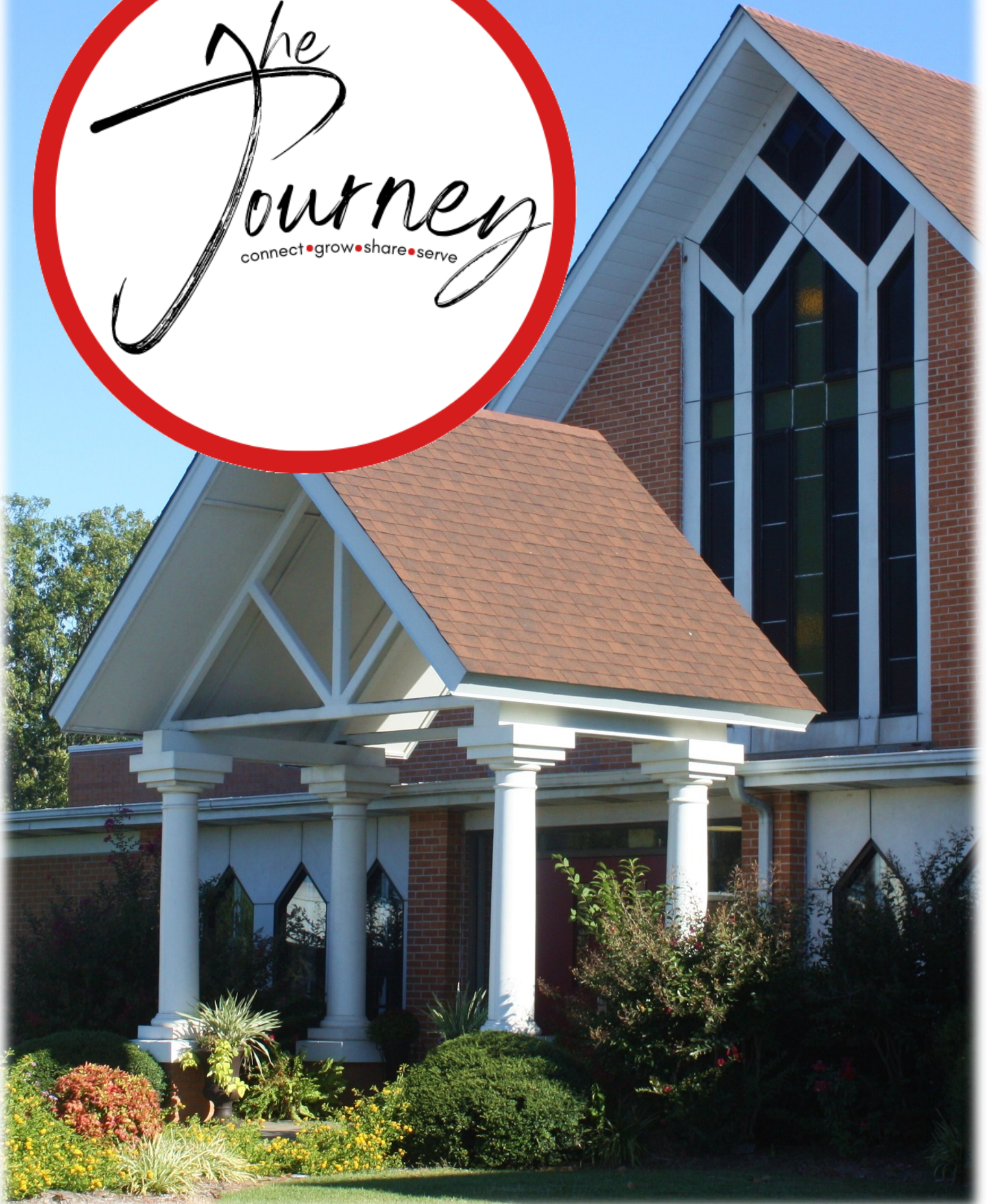
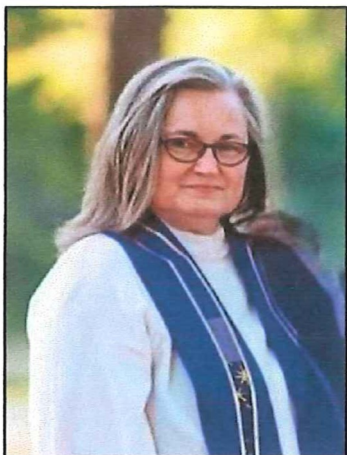


March 2024 Edition





Special Sundays are designated Sundays each year that deepen the connection between the local church and ministries on a global scale. There are six: Human Relations Day Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, World Communion Sunday, UMCOR Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day Sunday. On these Sundays, we empower our congregations to give toward causes and organizations that promote sustainable life change. These offerings help offer refuge in times of disaster, promote peace and justice, provide scholarships, reach out to the community, teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency and share the love of Jesus Christ with God's people everywhere.

As United Methodists, we follow a set of Social Principles which are a prayerful and thoughtful effort of the General Conference to speak to the issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation. Special Sundays help us to be involved in these important ministries which reach out-

side of our own community and into the broader world.

This Sunday, March 10, 2024, is UMCOR SUNDAY, The offering from this Sunday underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

What a blessing to be a part of the connection in the United Methodist Church which gives us ways to pool our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in such a way to bring the grace of God and love of Jesus Christ to the world.

Blessings, Rev Melanie



Please bring your donations of candy or other small fillers to church on Sunday or drop off at the church office by **Monday March 25**



TIME TO FILL EASTER EGGS

INSIDE THIS EDITION...

3 Discipleship

4 Stewardship

5 Youth News

6 Kids @ First News

7 Music Notes

8 Highlights

9 Calendar

10 Follow Us

The following LIFE Groups meet on
 Sundays mornings at 10am

All Adult Classes except the Prime Time Christians meet in our Connection Center. The Connection Center is the detached building with a flat roof.

Prime Time Christians-
 Choir Room

The Choir Room is located off
 of our Narthex (Lobby)

New Horizons-Pathway Room

B.A.S.I.C.-Disciple Room

Pairs and Spares-Genesis Room

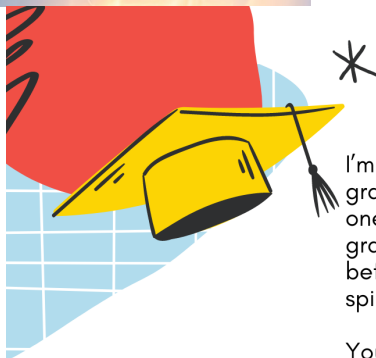
Scriptures-Good Shepherd Room

Outreach Ministry Meeting

Tuesday March 12 6 pm
 Jacksonville FUMC
 Connection Center

All are welcome to
 attend this
 organizational meeting

Do you have a heart for the less fortunate in our community? Want to make a difference in the lives of the transient community in Jacksonville. Then join us as we work to partner with others in our community to find new ways to be the church.

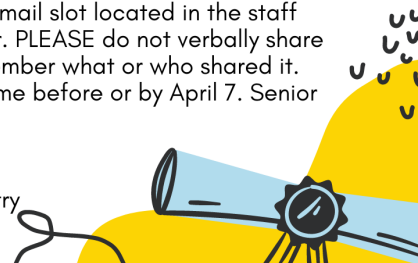


Advice Needed!

I'm compiling a booklet of "advice" to give to each of our graduating high school seniors. I'm asking each adult to share one thing they wish someone had shared with them before they graduated or something you wish you had learned or known before you graduated and got out in the real world. This can be spiritual discipline, financial or practical advice.

You can email it to me or write it down and hand it to me at church on Sundays or put it in my mail slot located in the staff hallway of the Connection Center. PLEASE do not verbally share it with me and expect me to remember what or who shared it. Statements of advice are due to me before or by April 7. Senior Sunday is May 5!

Thank you,
 Be Guinn, Director of Youth Ministry
 begunnym@gmail.com





Dear Friends,

The Lenten season is a special time in our church. The hymns have special meaning. The themes that lead up to Easter remind me of the most important beliefs of our faith.

Several years ago when I was attending college I was part of a Campus Ministry. The church associated with this ministry had families adopt each of us college students. There was a bus that picked us up on Campus on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings and would take us to church. After church on Sunday morning our adopted families would spend time with us. Sometimes they would take us out to lunch and other times the entire church

had a lunch and we were invited to attend.

The people were so kind. They wanted to be an extension of our family. It took time to get used to because I was not accustomed to people feeding me and taking me places without there being something in it for them (repayment, babysitting, etc.) I didn't feel like I had earned their kindness.

Then one day the whole idea of the Lenten and Easter message dawned on me. None of us have earned what God did for us in Jesus Christ. It was a gift. We are asked to honor the giver by accepting the gift we did not merit.

I never have earned God's love, but I can respond to it. That is what we do in the community every time we perform an act of kindness in the name of Christ. That is what we do in church when we give our time and our money.

The Lenten and Easter seasons are traditionally times when giving is at a high level in our church. I think I understand why. When you make your Lenten and Easter offerings this year. I hope you will do so in thankfulness for the gift God has given us in Jesus.

Grace,
Stephanie Dunn

When a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey in February of 2023, UMCOR worked with a partner in Turkey to provide safe solar lanterns to the displaced people who were relying on volatile open flames, candles, or kerosene lanterns.

You can be God's light with UMCOR by giving to the UMCOR Sunday offering.

Our donations on UMCOR Sunday, March 10, help support the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God's love with communities around the globe in crisis.

SPECIAL SUNDAY

UMCOR SUNDAY

"Indeed, God is transforming the world now—through us—because God loves us."

—BISHOP DESMOND TUTU, *GOD HAS A DREAM: A VISION OF HOPE FOR OUR TIME*

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

You can give to JFUMC in many ways:

Text "GIVE" to (833)902-3752



Online at jacksonvilleumc.org



MARCH 2024

HEY WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Jacksonville FUMC Youth



Mar. 2-3 - LR Marathon Youth Fundraiser

Youth and Parents are imbursed as the Cleaning Crew



Mar. 9 - Day with the Bishop
For Confirmation Youth only



Mar. 10 - Methodist Family Health
Youth will lead games, craft and devotional with 6-10 year girls.



A day for all ages to come together & care for our church!



Mar. 21-24 - Chrysalis
Boy's Flight Only.



This Month in Youth

March 2-3

LR MARATHON FUNDRAISER

March 9

DAY WITH THE BISHOP

March 10

METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH

March 13

MISSION 5000

March 16

CHURCH WIDE WORK DAY

March 21-24

CHRYSALIS

March 27-31

HOLY WEEK

Check monthly Youth mail out calendar for more details.

BE GUINN, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
CONTACT INFORMATION: BEGUINNYM@GMAIL.COM OR (501) 944-3294



GLOW IN THE DARK: A 5-Week Series from the Gospels on **Easter**.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

In the dark, a world of neon colors comes to life. Whether it's the soft green of glow-in-the-dark stars or the bright colors of bioluminescent creatures, light can break through the darkness. When the world needed some light, God sent Jesus because he glows in the dark, and he can teach us how to shine with God's light, too! In this five-week series through the Gospels, we'll follow Jesus' life leading up to Easter to see some of the ways he can shine bright in our lives. As we explore, we'll see Jesus is the light in the darkness. We'll also learn how we can choose Jesus and know God hears our cries while celebrating how Jesus died and rose again!



VBS Planning Team
Sunday, March 24
12:30 pm

We will be finalizing curriculum, decorating ideas, and rotations.



Dear Beloved Community of Faith,

As the whispers of winter gradually fade into the melodies of spring, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the gift of music that continues to unite us in faith and harmony. March brings with it a symphony of new beginnings, and our music department stands ready to embark on a journey of inspiration and devotion.

Throughout March, our worship services will resonate with the soul-stirring sounds of hymns and anthems that uplift and inspire. Our talented Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Praise Band, and Ladies Ensemble will lead us in musical expressions of praise and reverence. Join us as we come together in song, celebrating the beauty of our shared faith journey.

As we approach Holy Week and the celebration of Easter, our music department is preparing to accompany our congregation through this sacred journey. From the reflective melodies of Maundy Thursday to one of the most poignant moments of our Holy Week observance, the Tenebrae: A Good Friday tradition, to the triumphant hymns of Easter Sunday, our music will serve as a powerful backdrop to the liturgical events that mark the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us for these special services as we unite our voices in prayer and praise during this holiest of seasons.

As we look ahead to the Easter season, our music department is busy preparing for a series of special performances to commemorate the resurrection of our Lord. From solemn reflections to triumphant alleluias, our Easter music will echo the journey of Christ from the cross to the empty tomb. We invite you to join us as we lift our voices in praise and proclaim the good news of salvation through music.

In closing, let us remember that music has the power to transcend barriers and unite us in love and fellowship. May the melodies of March fill our hearts with joy, hope, and the promise of renewal.

In Harmony,

Doug



HISTORY CORNER

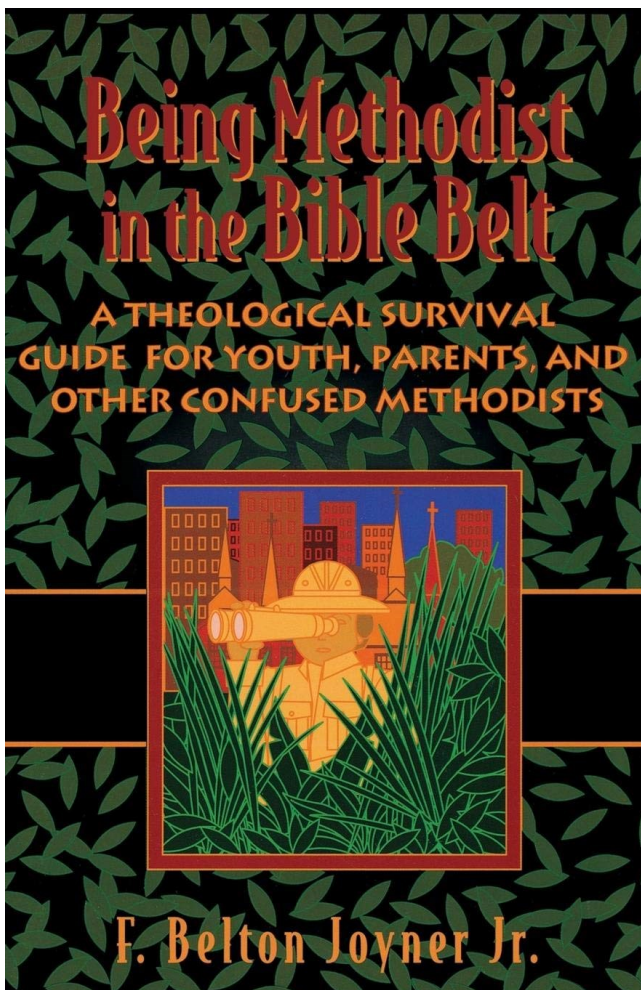
With March being Women's History Month, I felt it appropriate to tell you about United Methodist Women or now United Women in Faith.

For 155 years Women from the Methodist faith have been making an impact on lives across the World.

Women's Homes have been organized, a liberal arts college for women opened, women have rallied against internment of Japanese Americans, marched for voting rights, and standing up to people and families being deported.

Come join the United Methodist Women in transforming the lives of women, youth, and children.

Next meeting is Sunday, March 10 at 2pm in the UMCOR Room of the Connection Center. You too can make impact in social transformation.



Book of the Month Recommended by Rev. Melanie Tubbs

With so much going on in the UMC, this is a great resource for reminding yourself what it means to be Methodist!

From Amazon:

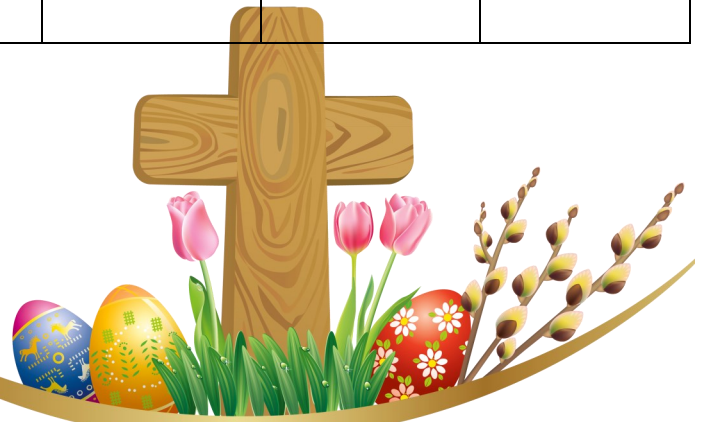
"Written in a humorous, accessible style, this book is an easy-to-understand guide to the kinds of theological questions that many Methodist youth and others are asking today.

"Being Methodist in the Bible Belt" will help any Methodist youth, parent, or educator better understand their unique brand of Christianity in light of the understandings of those from the evangelical tradition. With helpful sidebars explaining Methodist history and polity and questions after each chapter for reflection and action, this book is ideal for Christian education courses for youth and adults, new member classes in Methodist churches, as well as personal reading."

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
8:45 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Modern Worship		9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm SPRC Meeting	5:30 pm Mission 5000 5:30 pm Handbell Choir 6:15 pm Chancel Choir 7:20 pm Praise Team	9:00 am Sew –n– Sew 5:30 pm Care/ Prayer Team Mtg	9:00 am Sew –n– Sew	Day with the Bishop
<u>10</u> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
8:45 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Modern Worship Noon Church Council 2:00 pm United Methodist Women 3:00 pm Youth @ Methodist Family Health	5:30 pm Vision Team Meeting	9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	5:30 pm Mission 5000 (Youth Helping) 5:30 pm Handbell Choir 6:15 pm Chancel Choir 7:20 pm Praise Team	9:00 am Sew –n– Sew	9:00 am Sew –n– Sew	WORKDAY 11:00 am Acolyte Training
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> <i>Chrysalis</i>	<u>22</u> <i>Chrysalis</i>	<u>23</u> <i>Chrysalis</i>
8:45 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Modern Worship		9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Finance Meeting	5:30 pm Mission 5000 5:30 pm Handbell Choir 6:15 pm Chancel Choir 7:20 pm Praise Team	9:00 am Sew –n– Sew	9:00 am Sew –n– Sew	
<u>24</u> PALM SUNDAY <i>Chrysalis</i>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> MAUNDY THURSDAY	<u>29</u> GOOD FRIDAY	<u>30</u>
8:45 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Modern Worship 5:30 pm Youth		9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm JFUMC CCC Board Meeting		9:00 am Sew –n– Sew 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	9:00 am Sew –n– Sew 6:30 pm Good Friday Service	

<u>31</u> EASTER
7:00 am Sunrise Service
8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 am Breakfast
11:00 am Worship





To receive Church Text Messages

Text @ckdbe to 81010



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