

"Without a vision, the people will perish"

Proverbs

Vision...



Safford First United Methodist Church Newsletter ◇ May 2011

View From The Pulpit

In a world of Good Friday nightmares, it's time for Easter Dreams. Easter truly is a NEW beginning because Christ has risen!!

I remember talking to a good friend in Tucson who is a graduate of the Disney Leadership Institute who told me about someone who had gone to visit Disney World not long after it had opened. This visitor was really astonished at the magnitude of Disney World and said "Isn't it too bad that Walt Disney didn't live to see it!" It just so happened the creative director of Disney Studios was there and told the visitor, "He did see it – that's why it's here!"

It seems to me, everything in life that we use or hold, eat or watch, wear, sit in or listen to... in others words, just about everything that is a creation of human ingenuity --- started out as a dream. Before anything can become tangible, it must first become a reality in the mind of its dreamer. Only when the dream is real for one person, can it become real for others.

Zipper, Christmas tree lights, quadruple bypass heart surgery, combustion engines, cotton candy, x-rays, air conditioning (I'm really glad for that dream), flush toilets and the list goes on and on --- all these things were once just a dream in some person's mind.

Have you ever thought why it is we live in a world furnished with the dreams of others, yet there are so many nightmares all around us?

Why can we nightmare up enough weapons to destroy the world but we can't dream up world peace?

Why did we nightmare up all the high-tech security systems and gated communities to keep people out instead of dreaming up how to develop communities of trust?

Because the Good Friday nightmare was transformed into the Easter Dream, the way has been opened for ending all our nightmares and incarnating all our dreams. Jesus' Resurrection means that Christians can expectantly:

Dream of plenty in the midst of hunger
Dream of compassion in the midst of poverty
Dream of justice in the midst of inequity
Dream of holiness in the midst of hell
Dream of love in the midst of hate

People all over the world are miserable because they have not yet learned to distinguish between dreams of happiness and dreaming dreams of joy.

Easter dreaming isn't about "happiness." Christians have no "right to happiness." We may or may not be happier than non-Christians.

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Joy on the other hand, is a condition of “gladness,” “delight,” “exultation of spirit” or “the beatitude of heaven.” Happiness is not a fundamental category for the Christian. Joy is! Joy is the stuff Easter dreams are made of. That “O Happy Day” we sing about teaches us how to “live rejoicing every day,” not how to live happily. God did not put us on earth to be happy. God put us on earth to enjoy God and glorify God! To experience a joy unspeakable and full of glory, the joy that comes from Easter Dreams

It was with renewed dreams of Easter joy that the women raced back to tell the other disciples what they knew. Christ is risen! The Easter Dream that makes all other dreams possible lives on.

Do you know why the Berlin Wall came crashing down? Because one church in Leipzig, Germany, the Kikolai Protestant Church, began dreaming the Easter Dream. Its pastor, Kristian Fuehrer believed that it was time the Christian Church stopped “diluting the message” of the gospel. So his church started some prayer meetings on Monday evenings, prayer meetings that began with the Easter Dream that “all things are possible.”

Within a short time, in his words, the people praying encountered “in our services and meetings... the miraculous experience of feeling the effect of the Word. God’s presence “was with us. It was with us, all of us,” and soon the number of prayers swelled to over 200,000 people, 90% of whom were non-Christians but were drawn by this Easter energy. It was these pray – ers who poured from the meeting on that Monday evening to protest in the streets. Wir sind das Volk (“We are the people”), and created the movement that toppled the Berlin Wall.

Why they hadn’t felt it before, Pastor Fuehrer theorizes, was because the church had been seduced by the “bourgeois image of Jesus as one who doesn’t disturb, who is only passive,” who is there only to make people happy. Through prayer and Bible study, they found a “Jesus that spoke directly to the people the truth” rather than a Jesus that diluted the truth. They found in a resurrected Jesus the power to dream again good dreams for their city and their nation. Pastor Fuehrer makes an interesting observation that it may be more difficult

to keep the Easter Dream alive in freedom than in oppression because in freedom, people are tempted to dream materialistic dreams instead of spiritual dreams.

This is a time for us all to dream. Not day dreams or nightmares, but dreams that only resurrection can bring. Imagine what we could accomplish if we all dreamed the Easter Dream together. When we dream and trust the spirit of Christ to come alive in us. He is risen – and He really is alive!

See ya in church!

Honoring Mom...

Again in 2011, as Mother’s Day approaches, the Mission Committee of FUMC is encouraging you to honor your mother, grandmother, godmother or other cherished friend with a donation in their honor to HEIFER INTERNATIONAL. This organization is dedicated to ending hunger permanently by providing families with livestock and training so they can feed themselves. When the flock or herd increases in size, the family is asked to donate an animal to another family so they also can feed themselves....paying it forward! HEIFER INTERNATIONAL has a 67 year history of the spirit and desire to end world hunger.

Please make checks payable to HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, place in the offering plate, send to FUMC or give to Sue Bonefas, Barbara Haralson or any member of the Mission Committee. If you wish an acknowledgement sent to the honoree, please include that information and mailing address with your donation.



Camping information

It's time to start thinking of summer camp. Again, South District camps will take place at Triangle Y Ranch in Oracle, Arizona. Senior High Camp will be held at Mingus Mt. near Prescott. The deadline for early registration discounts is May 13th, 2011. All fees increase by \$25 after that date. Online registration forms are available at www.desertsw.org then click on camping ministries. Dates of all conference camps are listed. Camp scholarships are available. See Sherry for more details.

Elementary Camp

June 6-11 Deaned by Rev. Don Benton
(held concurrently with Jr. High Camp at Triangle Y)

This is for campers entering grades 3-5.

Jr. High Camp - **Camp Gone Real**

June 6-11 Deaned by Peggy Jo Harwich.

This is for campers entering grades 6-9.

Sr. High Camp

Mingus Mt. UMC camp

July 4-9 Deaned by Rev. Stephen Govett

This is for campers entering 9-12 and graduated seniors.

LOOK WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE...

Nineteen years ago in the spring of 1992, Joe and Judy Fisher were sponsored by Judy's sister to attend the Walk to Emmaus in Tucson. This was the beginning of the Emmaus community at First United Methodist Church in Safford. The next year Donna Wright took the big step, from then on, this ministry swarmed with enthusiasm. Many thanks to Joe, Judy and Donna. In nineteen (19) years we have sponsored seventy-two people and thirty others have joined this community from other churches.

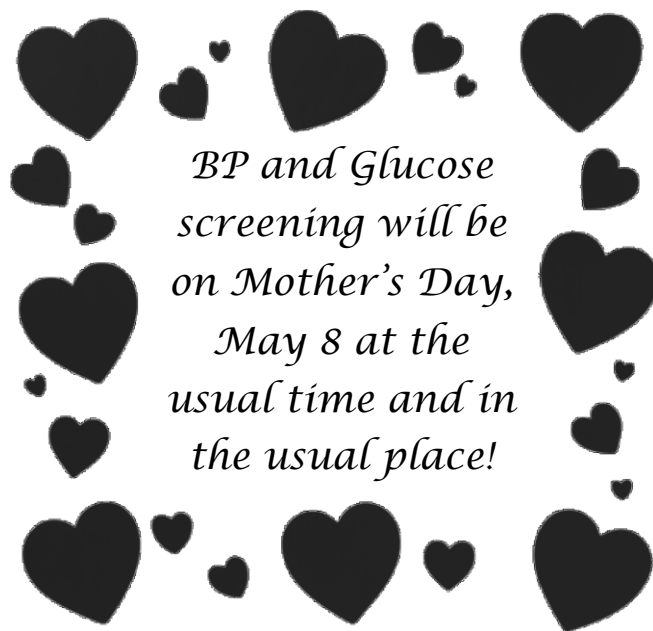
In 1995, Mt. Graham Emmaus Community was organized under the leadership of Pastors Bob and Randa Ray. Nineteen years have passed and Mt. Graham Emmaus Community has 102 members from Graham, Greenlee and part of Cochise Counties. Emmaus Community members are encouraged to attend Gatherings (both locally and in the district) and participate in a weekly reunion group. Men and Women reunion groups that are active are Sisters by Heart, Sunday Servants, Fishers of Men and Spirit Sisters. Check the church bulletin for times and places.

In the summer of 2000 Mt. Graham Emmaus Community hosted the Southern Arizona District in Safford. The Discovery Barn was rented and much to our surprise it was the biggest Gathering that the District has had with 160 people in attendance.

Arizona Walk to Emmaus also encourages members to participate in Chrysalis (for teens and young adults), Chayah Ministries (for incarcerated youth) Kairos Outside (for people that have loved ones or were incarcerated) and Kairos Inside (for people that are incarcerated).

Look for time and place for the next Mt. Graham Emmaus Community Gathering.

Peggy J. Hunter,
Church Historian & Emmaus Rep.



*BP and Glucose
screening will be
on Mother's Day,
May 8 at the
usual time and in
the usual place!*

Salad Luncheon—49th Annual!

Please join us for the 49th Annual UMW Salad Luncheon

**The date is May 5, 2011; the theme is
*Cinco de Mayo***

The place is Safford 1st UMC Fellowship Hall

The time is 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**The cost is \$6.00 – tickets available from UMW
Members**

Or the church office

Funds benefits UMW Missions

Here & Abroad

Cookie Sale to benefit Methodist Daycare



Safford United Methodist Women On the Move!

It has been a busy time for Safford United Methodist Women. With a focus on domestic violence, Safford United Methodist Women obtained a wish list from the local shelter, Mount Graham Safe House. Many household products, underwear, and toiletries were collected for the shelter by members in March. Members of the Thursday Quilting Circle made and donated eight quilts to the Safe House.

Safford members, Sherry Brady, Barbie Spining, and Barbara Haralson attended the Conference UMW Retreat at Redemptorist Center. They came back excited about UMW and its missions.

Plans are under way for the 49th Annual Safford United Methodist Women's Salad Luncheon. The event scheduled for May 5, 2011, will follow a *Cinco de Mayo* theme and usually attracts many people throughout the community. Funds from the luncheon benefit United Methodist Women's mission projects. Tickets are available from members or in the church office.

Mother's Day UMW Members will lead the Sunday Worship speaking about UMW and its missions.

This fall the local unit will assist in hosting the Conference Rural Church conference here in Safford.

Mission Moment...

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The Safford FUMC Mission Committee invites you to be part of a one hour long mission project that will benefit the lives of those who receive it. Your travel time is the time it takes you to get to church. On Tuesday evening, May 10th, join us at 6:15 p.m. for dinner (\$5.00) and afterward the project begins.

Most of us who have experienced the birth of a child were able to experience that birth in a clean, well-staffed hospital. Baby was born under the care of a doctor or obstetrician with a pediatrician ready to make sure that baby was completely healthy.

In many third world countries, baby is born in a hut with a dirt floor and no electricity. Others are born in even less desirable surroundings, and most often without the assistance of any medical staff.

The UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), Annual Conference mission project this year is the purchase and assembling of Birthing Kits

to assist births in third world countries. The Mission Committee has made a goal of 50 kits. The United Methodist Women have donated \$300.00 for the project.



Now—all we need is YOU to help us assemble the kits! Please join us at 6:15 on May 10th for dinner and birthing kit assembly. Please call me to let me know if you can assist us. (Barbara Haralson 428-5466). If you are unable to attend and would like to help financially, each kit costs \$9.00 including materials and shipping. I hope we see you on the 10th.

In Him,
Barbara Haralson
Mission Chair

Please remember that OUR NEIGHBOR'S PANTRY continues to need personal hygiene items including the travel size/hotel size soaps, shampoos, lotions, etc. If the containers are empty or partially full, Sue Bonefas will refill. So while you're taking your family vacations this summer, please remember us.

"Bad Girls of the Bible"

*5-week Women's Bible Study
Starting June Thursday, May 12th
6:30 p.m. in the Vision Room*

*Please contact Donna Wright or
Barbie Spining for more information
or to order a book.*

THANK YOU...

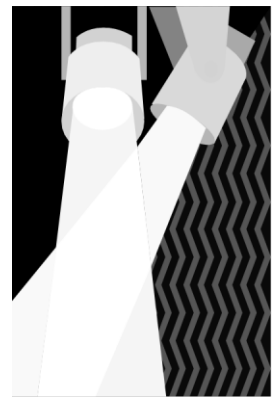
Judy and Kim Riddlesworth are bursting to proudly announce: Sarai Riddlesworth Case will be commissioned as an Elder in the United Methodist Church at Conference this June. On July 1, Pastor Sarai will be the new Associate Pastor of Tempe First United Methodist Church. Sarai, Paul, and their daughter Margaret will be moving back to Arizona in mid-June. Judy and Kim Riddlesworth, along with Sarai and Paul, want to thank all of you for your support of them over all of these years as Sarai prepared for the ministry. That kind of caring and support will never be forgotten.

New Member Spotlight...

John and Jennifer Manning with their children Christopher and Elizabeth joined FUMC on December 26, 2010, and have become a valued part of our church family. Although they arrived here from employment in Baghdad, Arizona, their roots are in New Mexico. Jennifer is from Silver City where she still has family, as well as family in Surprise and Kingman. John is from Animas but also has family in Silver City. They were high school sweethearts at Silver High School and have been together since, soon to celebrate their 14th anniversary.

John's job as Supervisor of Mine Operations at Freeport in Safford brought them to the Gila Valley, where Jennifer says they feel right at home. She works part time for the Allstate Insurance Company, and their children attend Safford schools.

Their family is the focus of their lives, and they are busy keeping up with Christopher, 10, and Elizabeth, 6. Christopher participates in outdoor sports, camps and hunts, and is presently catcher on his minor league team. Elizabeth attends Ruth Powell School where she loves her teacher, enjoys all things feminine, and claims pink as her favorite color. Both are good students and excel in school. John and Jennifer participate in all their children's activities and attend Christopher's baseball games



as well as spring training and other sporting events. As a family they enjoy playing board games, bowling, and watching movies. In fact, they have named Friday as their Family Fun Night. They are also Disney fans, having an interest in not only collecting Disney items but also visiting Disneyland as often as possible. Jennifer says she has been to Disneyland at least seven times, Christopher four times, and Elizabeth twice, a record most families could not match

The Manning family got acquainted with FUMC when Jennifer enrolled Elizabeth in our Methodist Pre-School program, and Jennifer immediately felt a sense of belonging. They like the friendliness of the congregation, the opportunities to get involved in Christian witnessing, and the feeling of being a part of something important. At present, Jennifer is in charge of the altar and floral arrangements, a service opportunity close to her heart, and she looks forward to the days when she and John can be more involved as their work schedules permit. She especially would like to be a part of Vacation Bible School sometime in the future.

It is a pleasure to welcome John, Jennifer, Christopher, and Elizabeth into our congregation, and we look forward to becoming better acquainted as we witness together as servants of Christ.

May JJR News

The newest member in training of John's Joyful Ringers – Jason - was born on Tuesday, April 12, to Jenna Caylor, according to announcement made by Grandmother Karen Caylor.

John's Junior Ringers (JjrR) continue to show progress. They are preparing "Jesus Loves Me" to play for church on May 8.

As I have mentioned previously, the majority of JJR choir members have not had a lot of music experience before joining the choir. It has been necessary over the years to come up with short cuts to allow them to play ***REAL MUSIC*** without spending a lot of time on ***DETAILS***, teaching music theory and symbols as they went along.

One of the first short cuts was to use a highlighter to mark their notes on the sheet music and to place a matching colored sticker on the corresponding chime. Ringers are beginning to recognize "their" notes and even catch mistakes in the marking of the music by the director.

To help with counting and playing together, the short cut was to put the words under the notes. This helped them know when to play their chime or to know where we were in case they had gotten lost. Emphasis has been placed on learning note value. Again, ringers are learning how many counts each note gets and mark their music accordingly.

Over the past year we have stepped down from me "singing" the words, to me counting to keep the choir together, that is until Paul O'Dell conducted chime choir rehearsal on March 16. He challenged the choir to play by watching the director beat the rhythm and/or counting to themselves. We have continued to follow this challenge, as was obvious to those of you who heard the choir play "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" on April 10.




Thanks to Paul O'Dell, Sherry Brady and Mike Capps who filled in that day due to illnesses, work and school schedules, and other commitments.

Women of Faith tickets are now on sale. The conference is in Phoenix on September 23-24. Tickets are \$89.00. Call Carrie Glaspie for tickets. We have limited tickets so they will go fast.


SHORT & SWEET...



The Month in Scripture

 Men's fellowship breakfast on May 15th would like to see a big turnout.

 Brownies and Daisys are looking for a Leader for next fall for kids who will meet at church.

 **Kairos Cookies** Please come help us bake cookies! Monday & Tuesday, May 2nd & 3rd, at 1 p.m. in the kitchen. We need 500 dozen cookies and the more hands, the easier the work!

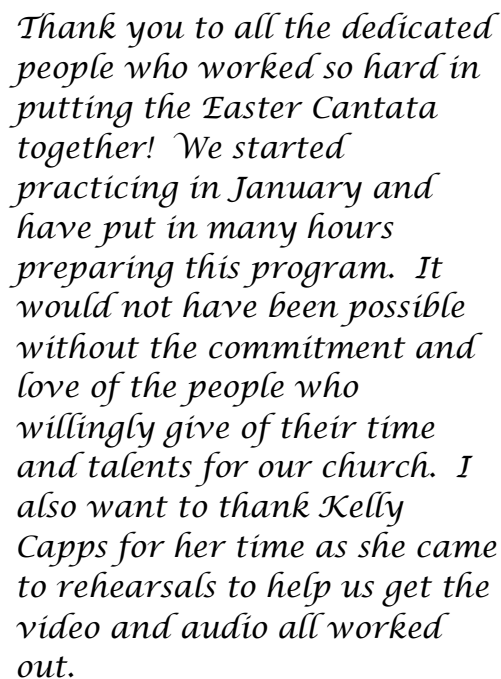
May 1: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1: 3-9
John 20: 19-31

May 8: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1: 17-23
Luke 24: 13-35

May 15: Acts 2: 42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2: 19-25
John 10: 1-10

May 22: Acts 7: 55-60
Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-14

May 29: Acts 17: 22-31
Psalm 66: 8-20
1 Peter 3: 13-22
John 14: 15-21



Thank you to all the dedicated people who worked so hard in putting the Easter Cantata together! We started practicing in January and have put in many hours preparing this program. It would not have been possible without the commitment and love of the people who willingly give of their time and talents for our church. I also want to thank Kelly Capps for her time as she came to rehearsals to help us get the video and audio all worked out.

Paul O'Dell

•••••
• **May 29th is the "Fifth" Sunday in**
• **May. This means we will be**
• **having a combined service**
• **instead of 8:15 and 10:30**
• **services. Watch your bulletins**
• **for further details. Mark your**
• **calendars so you don't forget!**
•••••

DID YOU KNOW?

✓ **IT TAKES VOLUNTEERS BETWEEN 1-1 HOURS TO COLLATE THE VISION**

✓ **IT TAKES 1 HOURS FOR THE OFFICE COMPUTER JUST TO SEND THE VISION TO THE COPY MACHINE**

✓ **IT TAKES HOUR JUST TO CREATE THE MAILING LABELS**

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE REASONS THAT THERE IS AN EARLY DEADLINE FOR VISION ARTICLES!

EVEN AFTER I WORKED ON IT FOR 6 HOURS TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING WAS AS GOOD AS I COULD GET IT, IT TOOK PAUL AND OTHERS ANOTHER 9 HOURS TO GET THE APRIL VISION IN THE MAIL TO YOU.

RECALL NOTICE...

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality," or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect.

The Repair Technician, **JESUS**, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is: **P-R-A-Y-E-R**.

Once connected, please upload your burden of **SIN** through the **REPENTANCE** procedure. Next, download **ATONEMENT** from the Repair Technician, **Jesus**, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, **Jesus** will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the **B.I.B.L.E.** (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes. **WARNING:** Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on **Jesus**.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your attention!

- GOD

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by 'Knee mail'!

Because He Lives!

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 •10:30 am - Acolyte Recognition (S)	2	3	4	5 •11 am - 49th Annual Salad Luncheon (FH)	6	7
8 Mother's Day •10:30 am - UMW Hosting worship service (S)	9	10 •5:30 pm - Pastor's Roundtable (FC) •6:15 pm - Church Meal (FH) •6:45 pm - Church Meetings (Various)	11	12 •11 am - UMW Luncheon (FH)	13	14
15 Graduate Recognition Sunday •7 am - Men's Discipleship Breakfast (FH)	16	17 •7 pm - Ad Council (FC)	18	19	20 •6 pm -Preschool Graduation (S & FH)	21
22 Confirmation Sunday	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 5th Sunday Combined Worship Service	30 Memorial Day	31				

Weekly Church Events

Sundays	8:15 am - Essentials Worship Service (S) 9:15 am - Sunday School (Various) 10:30 am - Liturgical Worship Service (S) 6 pm - Youth Group (YR)
Mondays	5:30 pm - Life After Loss (FR)
Wednesdays	5 pm - John's Joyful Ringers (S) 5 pm - Prayer Meeting (VR) 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)
Thursdays	9 am - Quilting Circle (FH)

Weekly Community Events

Mondays	6 pm - Cub Scouts (FH) 6 pm - NA (L) 7 pm - Boy Scouts (FH) 7 pm - Webelos (FC)
Tuesdays	6 pm - CMA (L) 6 pm - NA (L)
Wednesdays	2:30 pm - Sidewalk Sunday School (Pecan Grove) 6 pm - CMA (L) 6 pm - NA (L) 6:30 pm - Cadets (FC) - 1st & 3rd Wed's 7:30 pm - AA (L)
Thursdays	5 pm - Brownies (FC) 6 pm - CMA (L)
Fridays	6 pm - CMA (L)
Saturdays	12 pm - CMA (L)

May Birthdays

1- Hector Benton
4- Nathaniel O'Dell
8- Jennifer O'Dell Dona Schreur
10- Anne Borland Clayton James
11- Justin Foote Victor Moya Jordan Nichols
12- James Girardot Kim Mariani Valerie Moya
14- Jeff Hawthorne
18- Troy Lund
19- Cameron Coppola
24- Gail Damron
25- Goldie O'Dell
26- Melody Jordahl Xander Mariani
29- Walker Lewis Stephanie McCamy
30- Toni Aguilar

May Anniversaries

3- Bob & Anne Borland
5- Troy Walker & Ruth Nations
6- Gene & Donna Etter
20- Jeff & Lisa James
23- Carlos & Toni Aguilar Chad & Teresa Bailey

(S) Sanctuary, (FH) Fellowship Hall, (L) Library, (FC) Friendship Classroom,
(V) Vision Room, (W) Wesley Room

* Please let the church office know if a birthday or anniversary was missed

We support the church through our:

PRAYERS: Activate the prayer chain by phoning Judy Fisher at 428-6485, or the church office at 428-4211. You can also write special prayer requests on cards in the pew racks, and turn them in Sunday during worship. We also invite you to take time each Wednesday to pray for the ministry of the First United Methodist Church.

ATTENDANCE:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
March 27	117
April 3	125
April 10	133
April 17	153

SERVICE: Thank you to all the people involved in making Holy Week a memorable, spiritual experience.

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Happy Mother's Day