

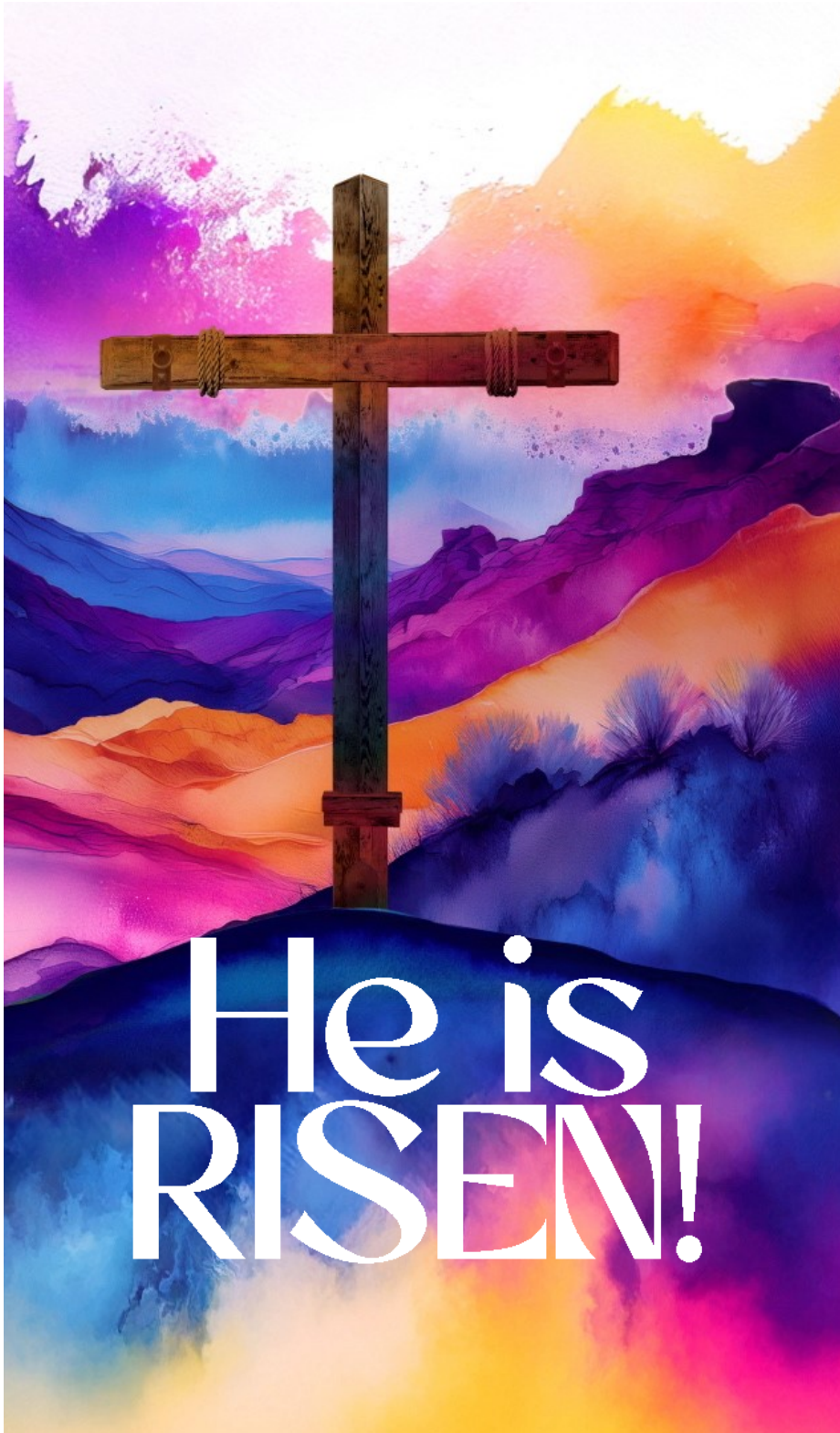


The **VISITOR**

A monthly publication of St. Luke's Methodist Church - Kilgore, Texas

April 2025

Issue 4



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Welcome

Join us in welcoming our new Sr. Pastor,

Rev. Kelly Inman.

Pastor Kelly will begin leading worship with us,

Sunday, April 13.

Stick around after 10:30am worship for the Chicken Spaghetti Lunch, to raise funds for Church Camp.

This will be your first chance to welcome Pastor Kelly and his wife to St. Luke's

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair

Amanda Gillen-Hall

Staff Parish Relations

Carol Grimes

Endowments

Celia Mooney

Lay Leader

Anna Rohde

Trustees

Bill Bryant

Class of 2024

Bill Bryant

Paula Hooks

Jim McCann

Cody Sprayberry

Class of 2025

Kathy Brown

Alan Clark

Carol Grimes

Dean Miller

Class of 2026

Danny Harrison

Janet Craver

Joe Wallace

Annette Morgan

The current board members will stay in place for a few extra months to help with the process of finding a new senior pastor.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

office@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 984-3576

Rev. Glen Blackmon

Interim Sr. Pastor
pastor@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 521-3810

Lindsey Exline

Dir. of Nursery Care
children@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 985-1341

Courtney Loper

Business Manager
finance@stlukeskilgore.org

Jennifer Powell

Dir. of Communications
office@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 984-3576

Richelle Rathbun

Hospitality Coordinator
(903) 371-3499

James Vermillion

Music Dir.
music@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 241-1447

1

Peace and Grace to you all

It in Christ's peace and of his Grace that I write to you. It was in God's Grace that I was asked to serve as interim at St. Luke's in Kilgore. The time of service was supposed to be brief; just until the first of 2025. Here we are in March of 2025. In this time I have learned and grown to love you and the glorious church of St. Luke's. Relationships have been established and emotions attached. Now, after almost six months, I will be leaving. My last Sunday with you will be April 6. A new permanent pastor has been selected and appointed. I am confident that he will serve you well and together you will accomplish much.

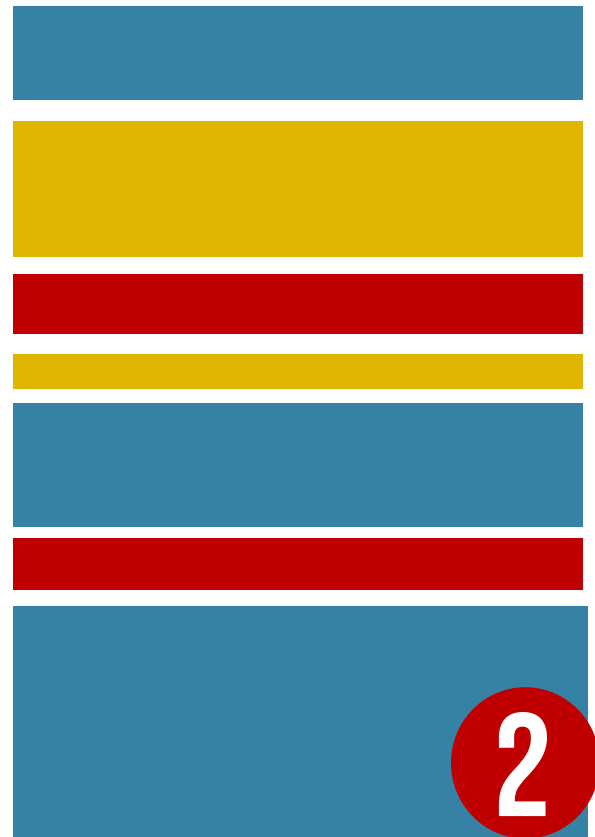
My wish for you is that you would continue in the glorious grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My wish is that you would continue to find new ways to proclaim the Grace of God in Jesus Christ. Because of the obvious presence of the Holy Spirit I know that you will continue in inspirational worship and warm loving hospitality. I have enjoyed being your interim pastor and have learned much from you. May God's peace and Grace be upon you.

In Christ,

Rev. Glen Blackmon



**REV. GLEN BLACKMON
INTERIM PASTOR**



MARK YOUR Calendar

Upcoming Children's
Ministry Events

APRIL

4 **Parents Night Out**
6:00pm-9:00pm

12 **Easter Egg-stravaganza**
10:00am-2:00pm

13 **Palm Parade**
8:30am & 10:30am
Chicken Spaghetti Lunch
11:30am

17 **Maundy Thursday Worship**
6:00pm

18 **Good Friday
Stations of the Cross**
11:00am-1:00pm

20 **Community Easter Worship**
8:30am
Breakfast & Butterfly Release
9:30am
Traditional Easter Worship
10:30am

SUMMER

Vacation Bible School
June 23-27

Church Camp
June 30-July 4

Summer Slam
July 15-18

Please see the calendar on page 14
for a complete list of this month's
events and meetings.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

April 4 | 6:00pm-9:00pm

\$15 per child

Calling All Kids! Join us for our Easter Parents night Out! We will watch "Hop" and enjoy crafts, snacks, and dinner.

Registration is required. Deadline is Thursday, April 3, at 5:00pm.



EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

April 12 | 10:00am-2:00pm

Who's ready to see the Easter bunny? Make plans to join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and festival. We will have games, prizes, and concessions on the Activity Lot. The Easter Bunny will be available for pictures. And we will have 2 Easter egg hunts! You're not going to want to miss this.

Parents, we will also be hosting a Spring Market with vendors selling arts, crafts, and home goods.

PALM PARADE

April 13 | 8:30am & 10:30am

Help us celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. On April 13, we will celebrate Palm Sunday with a Palm Parade during worship. Kids are invited to gather in the Sanctuary Narthex (lobby) prior to the beginning of worship and will return to parents after they parade into worship.

The children's choir will be singing during the 10:30am worship service

CHURCH CAMP FUNDRAISERS

The following opportunities are available for students needing extra financial support for church camp. Students and parents are required to participate in fundraisers in order to benefit from the funds raised.

Chicken Spaghetti Making | April 17 | TIME TBA

Come help us make chicken spaghetti for the chicken spaghetti lunch. We need lots of helping hands to cook spaghetti and put pans of ingredients together. Adults available to help should contact Richelle Rathbun.

Easter Egg-stravaganza | April 12 | 10:00am-2:00pm

Help! We need volunteers to help man game booths and sell refreshments at the Easter Egg-stravaganza. If you are available to volunteer please contact Jennifer Powell.

Chicken Spaghetti Lunch | April 13 | 9:30am-12:30pm

We need students to help us serve lunch and clean up at the chicken spaghetti fundraiser on April 13. If your student is available to help please contact Jennifer Powell.

GOOD FRIDAY: STATIONS OF THE CROSS

April 18 | 11:00am-1:00pm

School's out on April 18 to celebrate Good Friday. Use your students day off to help them prepare for the Easter Celebration by experiencing the stations of the cross. This come & go experience explores the days leading up to the crucifixion.

RISE UP CHURCH CAMP

(Session 2) June 30-July 4

3rd-12th grade

Registration \$425

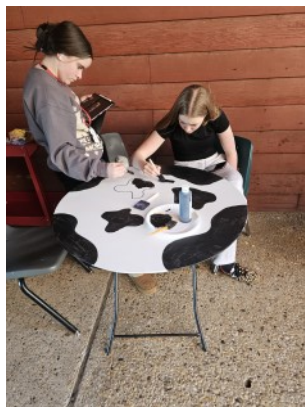
This Summer we will be headed back to Lakeview for a week of fun, fellowship, and growing closer to God. This will be our first summer participating in camp led by the Global Methodist Church. Since there will only be two sessions of camp this summer, you will need to register quickly. Even if you are unsure that your child will be attending camp, go ahead and register to save your place. Scholarship funds are available through participation in fundraiser events. Any student wishing to receive scholarship funds should contact Jennifer Powell or Lindsey Exline for more information.



BOOTS & Bows

The girls and their dads had a great time at the Boot's and Bows dance in February. Big thank you to Mrs. Richelle for the great food and Mr. James for being our awesome DJ.





Big thank you to Dan Cross who made two wooden tabletops for our outdoor tables. The youth had a great time designing and painting the tops. Make sure to check them out next time you're on the porch between the gym & the Family Center.

The youth painted memory rocks in honor of loved ones they have lost. These rocks will receive a coat of sealer and be placed in the Sanctuary Courtyard for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to create a memory rock of your own please contact Jennifer Powell in the church office.



ASHES AT WHATABURGER

Thank you to everyone who came out to start Lent with breakfast and the imposition of ashes. We had 20 kids, youth, and adults join us for this yearly tradition.



MARK YOUR Calendar

Upcoming Youth
Ministry Events

APRIL

- 12** **Easter Egg-stravaganza**
10:00am-2:00pm
- 13** **Chicken Spaghetti Lunch**
11:30am
- 17** **Maundy Thursday Worship**
6:00pm
- 18** **Good Friday Stations of the Cross**
11:00am-1:00pm
- 20** **Community Easter Worship**
8:30am
Breakfast & Butterfly Release
9:30am
Traditional Easter Worship
10:30am
- 25** **Lock-in**
4:00pm
Pick-up at 7:00am Saturday

SUMMER

Big House Mission Camp
June 11-15

Vacation Bible School
June 23-27

Church Camp
June 30-July 4

Please see the calendar on page 14 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.

YOUTH ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Sundays, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Every Sunday we host a youth gathering with a snack supper, games, and other activities in the Activity Center/Gym.

If your family is interested in providing supper, please contact Jennifer Powell in the church office. (903) 984-3576 or office@stlukeskilgore.org

April Schedule

April 6	the art of worship
April 13	Group Games
April 20	NO gathering
April 27	Movie Night

GLOW IN THE DARK LOCK-IN

April 25, 4:00pm-April 26, 7:00am

It's time for a lock-in! We will host a lock-in in the gym on Friday, April 25. Students will be picked up from school on Friday on the church vans, like we do for Wednesday afternoon activities, Students that do not wish to be picked up may be dropped off by their parents by 6:00pm. We will have glow-in-the-dark activities and games to fill our time. Come dressed in something fluorescent and be ready to have some fun.

CHURCH CAMP FUNDRAISERS

Opportunities are available for students needing extra financial support for church camp. Students and parents are required to participate in fundraisers in order to benefit from the funds raised.

Checkout the list of events on page 3 for our upcoming opportunities.

BIG HOUSE MISSION CAMP

June 11-15

\$100 Registration Fee

Registration deadline is May 1

This summer we will be headed to Big House, a four day Mission Camp for youth who completed 6th-12th Grades. This is a great opportunity for our youth to serve others, build relationships with other students, and grow closer as a group. If your student is interested in participating please contact Jennifer Powell in the church office or use the QR code to register. (903-984-3576 or office@stlukeskilgore.org)



RISE UP CHURCH CAMP

(Session 2) June 30-July 4

This Summer we will be headed back to Lakeview for a week of fun, fellowship, and growing closer to God. This will be our first summer participating in camp led by the Global Methodist Church. Since there will only be two sessions of camp this summer, you will need to register quickly. Even if you are unsure that your child will be attending camp, go ahead and register to save your place. Scholarship funds are available through participation in fundraiser events. Any student wishing to receive scholarship funds should contact Jennifer Powell or Lindsey Exline for more information.





Easter Lilies & Butterflies

Now is the time to order and pay for memorial or honorary flowers for our Easter worship services.

Easter Lilies can be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one for \$15 each. These will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and you will be able to take them following the worship service.

Butterflies can be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one for \$5 each. Butterflies will be released at 10:15am on Easter Sunday on the Family Center Lawn. We will have plenty of extra Butterflies, purchasing a butterfly ensures that you have one at the Butterfly Release and that your loved one will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

Please fill out the form below, make your check payable to St. Luke's MC, drop off your order to the church office, or mail to St. Luke's, 401 E. Main St., Kilgore, TX 75662.

The deadline to order is April 14, 2025

Given for

Name: _____

Honor Memory Lily Butterfly

Name: _____

Honor Memory Lily Butterfly

Name: _____

Honor Memory Lily Butterfly

Name: _____

Honor Memory Lily Butterfly

Given By

Name on Order : _____

Phone Number/email address

Payment information

Number of lilies _____ @15.00 ea. = _____

Number of butterflies _____ @ \$5.00 ec. = _____

Make payments to St. Luke's MC and mark "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.

Try a new way to pray

Mandalas can be used as a visual aid for prayer and meditation, with the creation or contemplation of them serving as a way to focus the mind and connect with something greater.

Use the bookmark below during your next prayer time as a creative outlet for your spiritual growth.



EASTER

at St. Luke's Methodist Church



Easter Egg-Stravaganza & Spring Market

Saturday, April 12 | 10:00am-2:00pm

Join us for a day of fun for the whole family. We will have outdoor spring games, prizes, and crafts for the kids, including two egg hunts, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. For the adults we will have a spring market with vendors selling baked goods, crafts, art, & home goods.



Palm Sunday Parade & Luncheon

Sunday, April 13 | Worship 8:30am & 10:30am | Lunch 11:30am

Help us celebrate the welcome of Christ into Jerusalem. All children are invited to parade in during worship and our children's Choir will sing in the 10:30am service. Following worship, join us for a Chicken Spaghetti Lunch in the Family Center to raise money for Church Camp. (\$8 per plate, to-go orders available)



Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 17 | 6:00pm

Invite a friend and join us as our Music Department guides us in a special Worship and Communion service to commemorate Jesus' last day's on earth.



Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 18 | 11:00am-1:00pm

Bring the whole family and spend time at the stations of the cross. This is an interactive prayer experience to pause, reflect, and prepare your heart for the pain of the crucifixion. All are welcome at this come and go experience.



Holy Saturday Reflection

Saturday, April 19

Make time to stop by the sanctuary courtyard on Holy Saturday to reflect on the loss of Good Friday and prepare for the Joy of Easter Sunday. You are invited to bring flowers to add to the flower cross and spend time in prayer.



Easter Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 20

8:30am | **Community Worship** in the Kilgore City Park
Breakfast provided by Whataburger

9:30am | **Breakfast & Butterfly Release**

10:30am | **Traditional Worship** in the Sanctuary

HOLY Huddlers

We would like to invite and welcome everyone to eat and fellowship with the Holy Huddlers. We meet twice a month (not always the same week of the month due to holidays). Supper will be on you, but the fellowship will be shared by all.

All gatherings begin at 6:00pm

April 4

Denny's, Kilgore

April 18

The Catch, Longview

If you have any questions, please call
Barbara Francisco, 903-918-6797

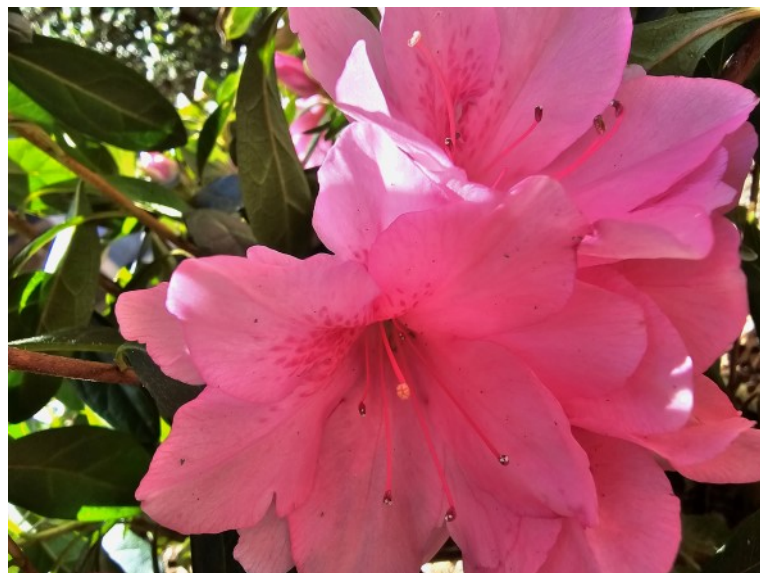
METHODIST Women

Tuesday, April 1

6:00pm

The first Tuesday of each month the Methodist Women's group gathers for fellowship and devotion. If you are a woman looking for a place to learn and grow, we have just the place for you.

We hope to see you at our next meeting.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

April 2

Baked Potato, Salad,
Dessert, & a Drink

April 9

Chicken Nuggets, Waffle Fries,
Veggies with Ranch, Dessert, & Drink

April 16

Teriyaki Chicken with Rice & Stir-fry Veggies,
Dessert, & Drink

April 23

Taco Salad, Nachos, Chips & Salsa,
Dessert, & Drink

9

\$3 for kids under 12
\$6 adults over 12

WE'RE Blooming

Make sure to take some time to visit the Sanctuary Courtyard at check out the new azalea blooms. Azaleas were purchased last Easter in memory or in honor of loved ones and planted in the fall. We are excited to announce that all 31 bushes have survived the winter, so far, and are bursting with beautiful pink blooms.

WE ARE *Collecting* ALUMINUM CANS FOR SCRAP METAL

In the past we have collected aluminum cans to be sold for scrap as a way to make a little extra money for different projects around the church. We are excited to see the can trailer return to its home in the alleyway behind the sanctuary. Donations can be dropped off anytime.

Join us in saying

THANK YOU *& Farewell*

to Pastor Glen Blackmon.

We will host a reception following the 10:30am worship service on Sunday April 6.

WYAS TO GIVE AT *St. Luke's*



IN PERSON

Drop your gift in one of the boxes at worship or in the offering plate.



ONLINE

At
stlukeskilgore.org



BY MAIL

St. Luke's MC
401 E. Main
Kilgore, TX 75662



QR CODE

10

FAT TUESDAY GUMBO COOK-OFF

Congratulations to our big winners. 1st place went to Jimmy McGrew and 2nd place went to Matt Mooney.

Food was great, fellowship was fun, and we even raised over \$400 for Backpack Ministry.

We can't wait to see you at next years cook-off.



MARK YOUR *Calendar*

Upcoming events
at St. Luke's

Children's Choir Spring Musical
May 4

Church-Wide Garage Sale
May 16 & 17

Senior Sunday
Recognizing our 2025
High School Graduates
May 18

Big House Youth Mission Trip
June 11-15

Vacation Bible School
June 23-27

Red, White, & Blue Sunday
June 29

Church Camp
June 30-July 4

Summer Slam
July 16-18



St. Luke's is proud to be able to support our young people as they further their educational future.

If you have a student that will be graduating from high school this spring they are invited to complete the St. Luke's Scholarship Application using the QR code.



To be eligible, the student must...

- be an active member of St. Luke's or of the St. Luke's youth organization, and/or the student's immediate family must be active supporting members of the St. Luke's church family.
- be registered for at least 12 hours of coursework. (proof of registration is not required at the time of submission, but will be required prior to the release of any funds)
- maintain at least a 2.5 GPA

If you would like your scholarship to be announced at your high school's awards assembly, the deadline for submitting the application is **April 15, 2025**.

Otherwise, please submit by **July 1, 2025**.

If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Powell in the church office. (903-984-3576 or office@stlukeskilgore.org)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Please say a prayer for our church family on their special day.

If we missed your date, please call the church office (903-984-3576).

April 2

Roberta Boggs

April 16

Laura Johnston

April 4

Sarah Fabritz

April 17

Sara-Catherine Patton

April 5

Cindy Lindley

April 18

Josie Johnston

April 7

Ally Venable

April 20

Bobby Wheeley

April 8

Millie Johnston

April 21

Pat Haynes

April 9

JoAnn Samford

April 23

Carol Hinton

April 10

Richard Greene
Carolyn Holcombe
James McCann

April 27

Brantley Slayton

April 11

Cynthia Mathis

April 29

Anthony Boone

April 15

Freddie Lollie

JOYS & CONCERNS

Please use the "Prayer" cards in the pews to keep us updated on your loved ones.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Michael Barnard

Jack & Sharry Christopher

Pat Haynes

Roberta Boggs

Tommy Freeman

Carolyn Holcombe

Gregg Caraway

Jo Hancock

Sam Holley

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

The families displaced by the wildfires in California

Robert Adams.....friend to many
Melody Bagwell.....wife of Mark Bagwell
Ricky Beets.....friend of Jack & Susan Moore
Sherri Bennett & Family.....friend of Karen L. Wilson
Linda Brooks.....mother of Donna Barnard
Lindsey McClain Castro.....former member and friend to many
Lizz Collins.....wife of Mike Kerr
Richard & Holly Davis.....Jim & Alana Williams
Sandra Dinger.....family member of Laura Farnham
Brandy Holman.....daughter of Tommy & Laura Farnham
Humberto & Norma Isassi.....sister & brother-in-law of Bob & Hope Cantu
Diana Johnston.....sister of James Hanshaw
John Paul Kulak.....friend of Bob & Hope Cantu
Sandra Melville.....sister-in-law of Jan Hattaway
Kay Montelbano.....co-worker of Lindsey Exline
Sherri Pilcher & Family.....
Jessica Salinas.....friend of Toby Monday
Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway
Vivian Sharp.....friend of Art & Pat Morchat
Kathy Spencer.....cousin of Sheryl Caraway & Susan Moore
Bob Sullivan.....friend of Art & Pat Morchat
Kay-Lee Tarbutton.....family of Bob & Hope Cantu
Amber Watson.....friend of Glenda Cochran
Sue West.....sister of Bill Bryant
Julie Brogoitti Woods & Randy Brogoitti.....friends of Bill & Carolina Bryant

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Billy & Billie Sue Mims	4/3/1982
Wade & Cindy Silvey	4/4/1998
Steffen & Collette Jones	4/5/1997
Dennis & Mikiki Ellis	4/8/1989
Bobby & Debra Wheeley	4/16/1977
David & Emily Mason	4/28/2001

WE SHARE IN JOY WITH...

Rhett & Nicole Pilcher on the birth of their son, Luke Hayes Pilcher. Luke was born on Thursday, March 6, 2025.

PRAYER GROUP

Tuesdays | 8:00am
Knowles Chapel

The door is always open
for you to join us.



13

April 2025

* Nursery provided for this event.
 ** Nursery can be arranged for this event.
 Call the church office, 903-984-3576

		1 Methodist Women 6:00pm	2 Soup & Sermon Week 4 11:45am	3	4 Parents Night Out 6:00pm-9:00pm Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	5
6 Reception for Rev. Glenn Blackmon 11:30am	7	8	9 Soup & Sermon Week 5 11:45am	10	11	12 Easter Egg-stravaganza 10:00am-2:00pm
13 Palm Sunday Palm Parade 8:30am & 10:30am Chicken Spaghetti Lunch 11:30am	14	15 2025 St. Luke's Scholarship Deadline	16	17 Maundy Thursday Worship 6:00pm	18 Good Friday Station's of the Cross 11:00am-1:00pm Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	19 Holy Saturday Reflections All Day
20 Easter Sunday Community Worship 8:30am Breakfast 9:30am Traditional worship 10:30am	21 Board of Stewards 6:00pm	22 Worship Team 1:30pm	23	24	25 Youth Lock-in 4:00pm	26
27 MDO Sunday	28	29	30			

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

- 8:30am | Arise Worship* (Sanctuary)
- 9:30am | Sunday School*
- 10:30am | Traditional Worship * (Sanctuary)
- 11:30am | Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)
- 4:00pm-6:00pm | Youth on Sundays (Gym)

Monday

- 9:00am-2:30pm | Mother's Day Out
- 6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)

Tuesday

- 8:00am | Prayer Group** (Knowles Chapel)
- 11:45am | Tuesday Lunch Bunch (Family Center)

Wednesday

- 9:00am-2:30pm | Mother's Day Out
- 3:15pm-5:30pm | Children's Choir & Youth
- 5:15pm-6:00pm | Wednesday Dinner (Family Center)
- 6:00pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday Bible Study (see list)

The
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE



**WE NEED
CANDY!**

**Help us get ready for the
Easter Egg Hunt**

Unopened bags of individually wrapped candy or pre-filled eggs can be dropped off in the collection buckets on Sunday or in the church office during the week.