



Kosciusko First United Methodist Church  
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Kosciusko, MS 39090

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## ACCESS TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10am

Follow on FB or YouTube.

Breezy 101 Radio station.

### Message from your Leadership Team

You may have noticed a lot of news regarding disaffiliation lately. The General Conference in 2019 approved a procedure for churches to disaffiliate. These procedures were adopted to provide guidance for progressive churches to disaffiliate; however, the opposite has occurred. The conservative churches are disaffiliating and the progressives are remaining.

If our count is correct, there are 129 churches in Mississippi that have moved toward disaffiliation. Currently, the churches voting to disaffiliate have completed their discernment process and voted before March 31, 2023. The Mississippi Annual Conference, this year, will need to officially approve the disaffiliation then the transfer of physical assets and other requirements should be completed by December 31, 2023. There is a new plan for churches to depart after December 31, 2023, beginning January 1, 2024 and continuing to the last day of the 2025 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference.

You have heard and will continue to hear disaffiliation is because of human sexuality. In a sense that is true; however, the root cause for the disaffiliation within the Methodist Church is the lack of governability—that is the church’s failure to enforce its own Book of Discipline.

If you are familiar with the cocoon of the emperor moth is pear shaped. To develop into a perfect insect, the moth must force its way through the neck of the cocoon with bouts of intense struggle.

Wanting to lessen, the seemingly needless trials and struggles of the moth, an observer, said, “I’ll lessen the pain and struggles of this helpless creature.” He snipped the restraining threads to make the moth’s emergence painless and effortless.

But the creature never developed wings. For a brief moment, before death, it simply crawled. If only the moth had been allowed to finish struggling, its life would have been transformed into beauty. The moral of the story is doing something too early does not result in the best outcome. Similarly, we have another struggle before us.

We are a church with aging membership. What will our membership look like in 10 years? Will we have sufficient membership to support the financial needs of the church? At what level of diminished membership does the church close?

We only have a handful of youth. There are Sundays when there is only two youth in Sunday school. When was our last baptism?

It is known parents attend the church their children do. What happens in 7 years when we have no youth? Looking back over time, there was always another generation with children to perpetuate the church. If we look at the membership today, we do not see a sufficient next generation.

If in the future we elect to disaffiliate. We may lose some members. If we decide not disaffiliate, we may lose some members. To disaffiliate or not to disaffiliate are not the questions. The most pressing question is—what is our future disregarding the question of disaffiliation? There is a strong probability the church will not survive anyway—unless we refocus on spiritual health—spiritual health of the church and spiritual health of members and potential members. Servantship to the church is equally important as servantship to others.


More questions:

Who are we reaching? How are we reaching them? Who do we want to reach? What do we need to change? Do we adjust the budget and hire a youth minister?

Disaffiliation or no disaffiliation is not our current problem. Our current prognosis is our church dying. Unless we do something different someone one day will write a eulogy for the First United Methodist Church in Kosciusko.

These are hard words and difficult questions, however; it is a matter we need to address. Perhaps our fault is we have become complacent. We are comfortable with the church fulfilling our own selfish needs and desires when we should be thinking and planning for the next generation that will follow us as members of this church regardless if it is an affiliated or disaffiliated church.

Kosciusko First United Methodist Church		<u><b>FUMC Financials</b></u>	
April 2023	Volume 4	Issue 4	Tithes and Offerings
<u><b>Weekly Opportunities</b></u>			January: \$27,276.00
<b>Sunday</b>			February: \$19,660.00
9:00am	Sunday School		March: \$18,957.00
10:00am	Worship		Giving online is a convenient, safe way to send your tithes and offerings to the church.
<b>Monday</b>			GIVE ONLINE: go to our website,
9:30am	Tai Chi/fellowship hall		<b>fumckosciusko.com</b> and click on the word give and follow
11:00am	Book Club first Monday of each month		the link. You may text the word “give” to <b>662-262-8046</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>			from your cell phone.
1:15pm	Computer class first Tuesday of each month		
<b>Wednesday</b>			
12:00pm	Bible Study		
4:30pm	Homebound meals		
6:00pm	Children and Youth Activities		
<b>Thursday</b>			
9:30am	Tai Chi		
10:00am	Ladies Bible Study in the chapel		



APRIL 2023 PRAYER LIST

Church members who are at Atwood: Dr. Bob Gilliland, Vic Gressett, Bill and Carolyn Mitchell, June Stokes.  
Kosciusko VA Home: Joe Doty  
Attala County Nursing Center: Tex Ritter

Church Family

Ginger Alexander	Ernestine Dees
Frank and Sissy Bailey	Walker Hill
Doris Blaylock	Leesa Grey McBride
Catherine Crout	Jeanette Oakes
Charlie Davis	Ann Windham

Family & Friends

Larry Ambrose	Bud McCrory
Ashley Autry	James Nunn
Alexander/Brantley Family	Jimmy Nunn
Gloria Carden	Laura Patterson
Joe Carden	Angel Pickett
Skipper Davidson	Al Ray
Jeanette Dodd(Pauline Brunt)	CB Ray “Buck”
Becky Lawrence Doty	Larry Rea
Debra Edwards(Harper McBride)	Linda Reynolds
Nancy Falvey(Faye Culpepper)	Carolyn Richardson
Greg Flint	Barbara Rose
Sandra George	Dan Ryder
Lynn Goza	Dorothy Sides
Barbara Hanson	Barry Simmons
Cynde Tyler Jones	Ben Terry
Alice Jordan	People of Rolling Fork
Bill Lacey	People of Ukraine
Quejette Lawrence	Ron West
Pam Lindsey	Jim Wilkerson
Gary Lyford	Wanda Witzel

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Rebecca Patterson	04/08	Wes Nelson	04/16
Roy E. Oliver	04/09	Faye Culpepper	04/25
April Benham	04/12	William Fiedler	04/25
Whitney Pettit	04/13	Ernestine Dees	04/26
Deidre Nelson	04/13	Carol Thomas	04/30
Betsy Hutchison	04/15		



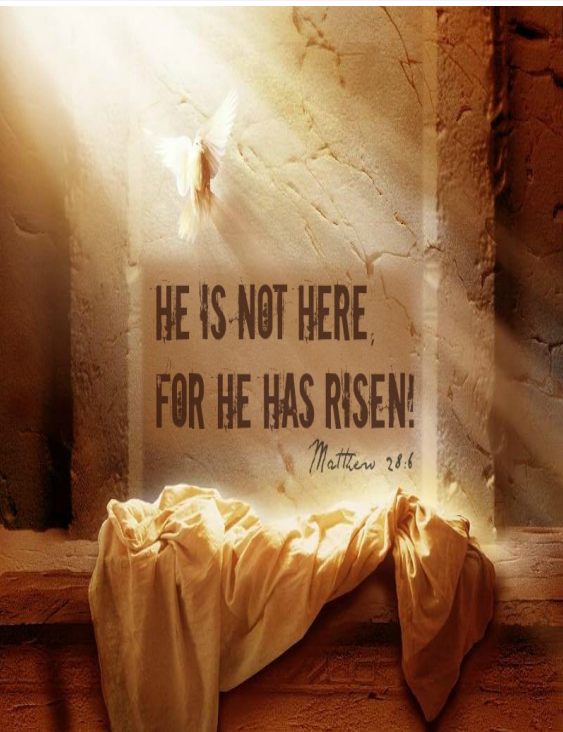
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Terry and Faye Culpepper	04/02/22
Taylor and Hollee Casey	04/14/22
Louis and Kim Crowe	04/16/22

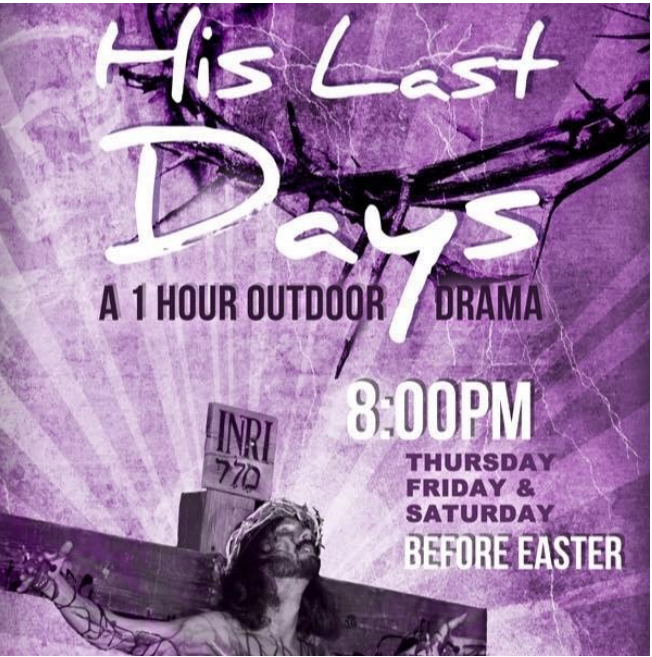
The 3rd annual Clash of the Clergy will be held at Camp Wesley Pines on April 29th. Brother Gary participated in this event last year and was crowned Dodge Ball Champion. He is eager to return to defend his championship. The registration fee is \$1,000 with all proceeds going to camper scholarships. If you would like to help sponsor him, you may make your check payable to Camp Wesley Pines and hand deliver to Jean Fenwick or mail to 208 South Madison Dr. or place your check payable to FUMC in the offering plate designating it for Clash of the Clergy. If you have any questions call Jean at 601-650-6496. Deadline for registration is April 15th.

April Menu

4/5   Easter Week- No Meal  
4/12   Pork chop, potatoes, peas  
4/19   Vegetable beef soup, crackers  
4/26   Hamburgers and fixins



The Passion Play



His Last Days

1 Hour Drama

8:00 PM

April 6, April 7, and April 8