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***T H E G O O D N E W S L E T T E R***

**First United Methodist Church**

110-114 E. Washington, P. O. Box 1293, Kosciusko, MS 39090

(662) 289-1412 FAX (662) 289-1418 e-mail chur623@bellsouth

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**Learn** the story. **Live** the story. **Tell** the story.


 April 2016 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 “One day, Francis of Assisi once invited an apprentice to go with him to a nearby village to preach. The young monk quickly agreed, seizing an opportunity to hear his teacher speak. When they arrived in the village, St. Francis began to visit with the people.

 First, he stopped in on the butcher. Next was a visit with the cobbler. Then a short walk to the home of a woman who’d recently buried her husband. The next stop was at the school to chat with the teacher. This continued throughout the morning. After some time, St. Francis told his disciple that it was time to return to the abbey.

 The student didn’t understand his words. “But we came to preach,” he reminded. “We haven’t preached a sermon.”

 “Haven’t we?” questioned the elder. “People have watched us, listened to us, and responded to us. Every word we have spoken, every deed we have done has been a sermon. We have preached all morning.”

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|  I'd Rather See A Sermon  Edgar A. Guest   |   |   |

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|  |  I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way. |  |
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A View from the Pew by Peggy Keady April 2016

 Invitation to Reflect

I share with you the following statements for you to ponder.

“There are no ordinary people. You have never met a mere mortal.”

(C. S. Lewis)

“I grew up in the church but later when I was down and out, no person from the church helped me.” (Anonymous)

**Youth News:** April 3 at 1:00 pm is the Youth council meeting. All members need to be present to help with plans for the summer events. Also, $75.00 payment towards Big Stuff balance is due by April 6th.

 Children News

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The children under the direction of Christy Cheek and Whitney Pettit have plans for an

exciting summer for children of all ages. Watch the newsletters and bulletins for details.

“I have changed my will to leave money to the Endowment fund. Have you?”

Thank you

 Thank you so much for the food, the memorials, and the love you have shown our family during our recent loss of our father, Pop Lawrence. This church has always been very important in the Lawrence family.

 Mic and Kevin Lawrence.

Dear First United Methodist Church,

 Bless all of you for all your kindness shown our family during the death of our sweet mother Mary Frances McDonald. The food served to our family and the use of the beautiful Sanctuary helped us to get through what was a very trying and sad time in our lives.

 In God’s love,

 Jan, Becky, and Tony

The 31st year of the Passion Play, “His Last Days” was another successful year. This year there was an abundance of excitement with the many new members of the cast. Please share some of the many pictures of cast and performances that were taken through printing them out, or email to Terry. (htjones143@gmail.com) This is just another way we can publicize our ministry. Thank you to everyone who participated in any manner.

John Robert Hillman decided to spend the time prior to performance to interview some members of the cast for their reactions of this play. These are their words of wisdom.

Stephanie Holmes: Jesus is my friend and Savior.

Betsy Greene: “This play shows how Peter knows Jesus.”

Richard Greene: “Enjoy bringing the story to life.”

Jennie Cook: “I enjoy the excitement seeing the children in the play and their enthusiasm.”

Eddie Fenwick: “I was a secret follower of Jesus.”

Kelly Fenwick: “My part helps me to understand the story and again see people from last year.”

Chap Fenwick: “I felt wrong being the character that accused Jesus of wrong doings.”

Whitney Pettit: “I enjoy seeing this story witness to many people.”

Deidra Nelson: “I had no clue the amount of involvement it takes before and after the play.”

Jenna and Jayme Pinkard: “We seriously miss this and are very glad to be a part of something that has such an impact on the community.”

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|  |  ***MUSIC NOTES FROM PAT******"Crazy Requests"*** *"Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ' Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.  (This is a wilderness road.)" (Acts 8:26, NRSV)**Dare I ask: Has the Holy Spirit asked you to do crazy things?It seems to me that Philip would have thought that the Spirit was asking him to do something crazy:* *go on a wilderness road, a place of danger from animals and thieves. For what purpose* *would the Holy Spirit want Philip to be on that road? But, Philip responded to that crazy request, and before he knew it, he was sharing the Gospel* *with someone eager to hear it — someone who might never have dreamed that God had a* *message of Good News for him that actually included him!What crazy thing is the Spirit asking you to do? Are you willing to respond and see what the Spirit* *is up to? On behalf of the music ministry of this church,  I ask  you as you read this,  would you**be willing to enhance our time of corporate worship together by singing in the choir, leading a* *musical group, or using your musical talents??? Pray about it.... If God leads you, He will bless* *you through it and bless our ministry together for His glory and His honor.**~ Psalm 40:3   He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.* *Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.*  *A SPECIAL THANKS .......**To our children for singing and walking in the palm procession.**To the Chancel Choir, Instrumentalists, Ann's beautiful organ renditions and soloist,* *Lailon Dorsey for the musical offerings Palm Sunday and Easter.**To Ben Brunt, Clayton Brunt, Thomas Brunt and Wade Fiedler for your hard work* *in preparing the music for the brass quartet for the Easter Service!**To Kevin for sharing his time to assisting in Instrumental practice.**For All of These Gifts of Musical Offering..... To God Be The Glory!*

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The Attala UM Cluster had 15 individuals attend the March meeting hosted by Wesley UMC. A delicious covered dish meal was enjoyed by those present.  Members continued with their chosen three month project of contributing money to the American Bible Society to provide Bibles for Military personnel. Confirmation  Several have completed the requirements for Confirmation class and will join the church on April 17. This is a very special event in the lives of Ansley Gordon, Betsy Greene, Dorwin Jenkins and Lizzie Kate Jones. We welcome them as new members. *Details* |  |

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say I used everything you gave me. Erma Bombeck.

 How are you using your talents?



 “Stitch in Time” is the name of the group that meets at 10:30 every Tuesday. If you would like to join these ladies, come and bring any project you are working on.

 **Small Group studies April 6 through May 25.**

**“The Call”** led by Kevin and Juli Bishop is a story of the Apostle Paul, whose writings continue to shape the lives of one-third of the world’s populations. He is second only to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith.

**“I am a Church Member”** led by Hollis and Sarah Cheek focuses on the priority that all followers of Jesus Christ should emphasize serving Him by serving others as based on the Biblical instruction set forth in Scripture.

**“Ask: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age”** led by Ben Cayson and Hart Pettit is a study about difficult questions and our search for faithful answers.

 The “Wild Bunch” has just completed a wheel chair ramp for Mrs. Virginia Box. What a great ministry.