



# MONTHLY

April 2024

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## From the Pastor

Dear ones,

You may have noticed that when we baptize or receive someone into membership in this local congregation, and into The United Methodist Church, the words that I say do not completely match the words in your hymnals.

In 2008 the General Conference made changes to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* in order to align our ecclesial (church) practice with our actual theology of baptism and membership. For instance, we no longer have preparatory members. Preparatory members were children who had been baptized but were not yet old enough to participate in the confirmation process. Given that we believe that every person who has been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is a member of the universal (the meaning of the word “catholic” in *The Apostles’ Creed*) Church of Christ, we began referring to persons who have been baptized (but not confirmed) as “Baptized Members” since it makes little sense to tell someone that through their baptism they are a member of the whole Church of Christ but not Manning United Methodist Church. Now, children who have undergone baptism but are unable to profess faith on their own are received into the local church as “baptized members.”

We also changed the old language of “full member” to “professing member.” Adults who come for baptism make a profession of faith as part of the “Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith” in the Baptismal Covenant and they are received as professing members. Children who were received as baptized members usually go through confirmation after age 12 and are then received through profession of faith as professing members. The questions that we ask when we receive a person into professing membership in the The United Methodist Church and Manning UMC were changed to reflect a more proper object of our loyalty—the actual object of our professed faith, who is Jesus Christ. We previously asked persons if they would be loyal to The United Methodist Church. We now ask if they will be loyal to **Christ** through The United Methodist Church. Much more appropriate. As his church, our first loyalty is always to Jesus Christ.

When we receive someone into the local church (MUMC) we used to ask them: “As members of this congregation will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?” The 2008 General Conference added the phrase “and your witness?” In Acts 1:8, Jesus said to his original disciples, “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” I believe this command of the Risen Christ holds true for every baptized believer in Christ. So, it makes sense that we should ask persons coming to join with us in serving Christ if they will in fact serve Christ by bearing witness to him in this community.

In my last appointment (and maybe in the other two churches as well, I can’t remember), I pasted corrections to the membership vows into the hymnal. I hope to eventually get around to doing the same here. Perhaps this newsletter article will serve as a good catalyst toward getting it done.

Now you know why I keep saying the wrong words... that are actually the right words.

One other thought: we are entering into the season of Easter as I write this. We will celebrate Christ risen from the dead. One of the promises of baptism is that we are joined to Christ in his death and in his resurrection. This means that when we are baptized we die to self and are raised to new life in Jesus Christ. This season reminds us of exactly why the words we speak during the *Sacrament of Holy Baptism* are so important. Words such as these:

Pour our your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

May we be loyal to Christ, to one another, and live as inheritors of the promises of baptism.

May the Risen Christ be praised.

Pastor David

**Our Prayer List** Please remember the people below in your prayers.

This list is in continuous rotation, if you do not see your loved one on this list please call the church office and update us on their health.

Milton Ackerman  
Family of Mary Elizabeth Allen  
Betty Black  
Joe Brewer  
Sandra Brewer  
Hope Briley  
Harvin Brock  
Chuck Buddin  
Jake Buddin  
Ann Cutter  
June Davis  
Elisa Furse

Lisa Gibbons  
Jerry Ham  
Kristen Helms  
Molly Hill  
Family of Mike Johnson  
Howard King  
Michael Kinsey  
Tom Lahmon  
Jackie Lamb  
Janice Lamb  
Don Lee

John Lesemann  
Ken Lovorn  
Hunter Morris  
Clint Michaelson  
John Mathis  
Karen & Ronnie Myers  
Neal Onderlinde  
Family of Frank Parker  
Tim Richburg  
Linda Rogers  
Jan Toner  
Bill Vanscoy

Please remember to Pray for our members who are living away from home, in the **military**, or who have limited mobility:

Joyce Bowers  
Isabelle Brown  
Dedee Clark  
Rosella Daniels  
Liz Denny  
Jared Dube

William (Artie) Gamble  
Woody Haynes  
Bettye Johnson  
Margaret Lee  
Wilson Lepp

Neal Mahoney  
Joan Odom  
Willie Sabb  
Jean Schmelzle  
Cliff Toner



**CIA took a trip to the Sweet Shop**





**April Anniversary's**  
 4/3 Cag & Kelley Brunson  
 4/3 Gene & Joan Barber  
 4/9 Mickey & Debra Sexton

4/10 Woody & Carolyn Haynes  
 4/12 G.G. & Ann Cutter  
 4/20 Steve & Cindy Brunson  
 4/19 Eddie & Frances Barrett  
 4/24 Mitch & Cathy Gardner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed	2	3 7:00 pm No Choir	4	5	6
Spring Break for MUMC Day School & Others						
7 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm UMYF	8 8-12 MUMC Day School 6:30 pm United Methodist Men's Supper	9 8-12 MUMC Day School	10 8-12 MUMC Day School 6:00 pm Trustee 4:30 CIA 7:00 Choir	11 8-12 MUMC Day School	12 8-12 MUMC Day School	13
14 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm UMYF	15 8-12 MUMC Day School	16 8-12 MUMC Day School 9:15 am Charleston Tea Trip Seniors	17 8-12 MUMC Day School 6:00 pm Finance 4:30 CIA 7:00 Choir	18 8-12 MUMC Day School	19 8-12 MUMC Day School	20 Elmore & Duke Wedding
21 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm UMYF	22 8-12 MUMC Day School	23 8-12 MUMC Day School	24 8-12 MUMC Day School 4:30 CIA 7:00 Choir	25 8-12 MUMC Day School	26 8-12 MUMC Day School	27
28 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm UMYF	29 8-12 MUMC Day School	30 8-12 MUMC Day School	<div data-bbox="1153 157 1534 1050" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>4/1 Kate Martin            4/3 Anne Wannamaker            4/8 Mary (Garson) Taylor            4/10 Carolyn Chilton            4/11 Cora Norris            4/14 Robert Kolb            4/16 Mitch Gardner, Camille Daniel            4/17 John Lesemann            4/18 Kelly Gottheiner, Allyson Sprott            4/20 Meg Lee            4/21 Billy Downer            4/25 Bud Johnson</p> </div>			



## New Piano in the choir room!!

### Memorial Gifts:

#### Ernestine Powell

Given by:  
Buck & Dianne Sprott

#### Nita Denny

Given by:  
Cindy McInnis

#### Jennie DuRant

Given by:  
Cindy McInnis  
Sharon Cramer

#### Rusty Odom

Given by:  
Cindy McInnis  
Nell Sprott  
Ernie & Brenda Mathis

#### Lamar Kennedy

Given by:  
Cindy McInnis  
Nell Sprott  
Terry & Becky Richburg  
St. Peter's Lodge

#### Spencer Jordan

Given by:  
Cindy McInnis  
Nell Sprott  
Jim Black

#### Paula Betsill Amanbu

Given by:  
Margaret Gamble

#### Larry Williamson

Given by:  
Artie & Beverly Felder

#### Glenn Varn

Given by:  
Stan & Lu Nickell

#### Irene Kisner

Given by:  
Michael & Lisa Burns  
Jim Black

#### Anne Haley

Given by:  
Nell Sprott  
Terry & Becky  
Richburg

2024 Tithes & Offering		
Needed Each Week	\$ 9,794.00	
	Received Weekly	
Mar. 3	\$ 14,236.43	
Mar. 10	\$ 6,766.37	
Mar. 17	\$ 5,841.38	
Mar. 24	\$ 5,285.85	
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$ 32,130.03</b>	
Needed Year to Date		<b>\$ 117,528.00</b>
<b>Total Received YTD</b>		<b>\$ 104,251.01</b>
Overage or (Deficit)		<b>\$ (13,276.99)</b>

Date	Worship Attendance
<b>Mar. 3</b>	<b>9:30 am Sunday School—59 Worship 10:30 am — 98</b>
<b>Mar. 10</b>	<b>9:30 am Sunday School—64 Worship 10:30 am — 117</b>
<b>Mar. 17</b>	<b>9:30 am Sunday School— 68 Worship 10:30 am — 138</b>
<b>Mar. 24</b>	<b>9:30 am Sunday School— 53 Worship 10:30 am — 109</b>

All the yellow highlighted days are open for arrangements. If you wish to have flowers on any of these Sunday's please call or email the church office.

### 2024 Flower Calendar

April	7	14	21	28	
May	5	12	19	26	
June	2	9	16	23	30
July	7	14	21	28	
August	4	11	18	25	
September	1	8	15	22	29
October	6	13	20	27	
November	3	10	17	24	
December	1	8	15	22	29

### EPWORTH MOMENT:

“WE ARE NOT GIVEN A GOOD LIFE OR A BAD LIFE. WE ARE GIVEN A LIFE. IT IS UP TO US TO MAKE IT GOOD OR BAD.”

EPWORTH is giving children, teenagers and young people a chance at a GOOD LIFE!

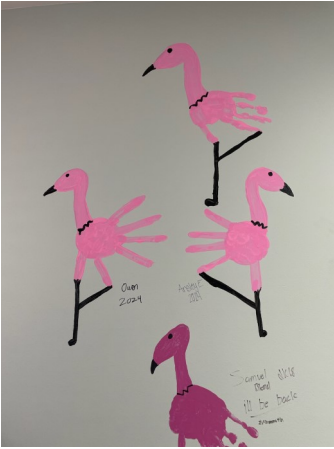
Beth Williams, President and CEO of Epworth Children's Home, says “We have to remember that although most of Epworth's children have come from families that are dysfunctional, and where abuse and neglect have been constant factors, they still love their parents and other family members and miss them when they are away from home. Family ties are strong, and our aim at Epworth over time is to reunite as many of our children as possible with their birth families, when the situation is healthy, safe, and sustainable enough to do so.”

The Epworth's MOTHERS DAY OFFERING IS SUNDAY MAY 12, 2024. This day is a time for Manning UMC to give financially to Epworth so the many programs Epworth has which GIVE CHILDREN A GOOD LIFE and our church can be a big part of helping these children.

# The Back Page April 2024

## Our tradition Continues:

Every Year since 2017 our High School Seniors put their handprint on Kelly's office wall. The handprints are turned into flamingos. This year Ansley, Owen and Hunter joined the flock on Kelly's wall.



## Graduates Worship Service

May 28, 2024 10:30 am

Join us for this Youth led Worship Service

## Our High School Seniors

