



MONTHLY

March 2024

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From the Pastor

Dear ones,

I saw two memes on Facebook this week that I found disturbing. Lately, as I see horrifying images and reports in the news, my mind is regularly occupied with just how terrible human beings can be to one-another. I am heartbroken by images of children suffering as supposedly manageable side-effects of war. I tire of seeing images of children starving as a result of the ambitions of adults. I am sick of empty political rhetoric and promises that I know will likely not produce fruit because they have rarely produced fruit in the past. I am tired of listening to people who think that they are the only solution to the world's problems. All of our favorite politicians are guilty of just that.

I imagine that some of you may feel the same. I feel pressed by the horror of families being ripped apart, children suffering, children being sex-trafficked, a constant influx of new threats, and a deep uncertainty that the future will be even remotely as comfortable or safe as the past; and the past was never really all that comfortable or safe.

Aggression and war, it seems to me, are the default human reactions to anything that offends us, whether physical or emotional offense. We are being trained to make decisions out of outrage which always results in more collateral damage. It is disheartening. The powers that be proclaim that any response to any offense must be defining, deliberate, and devastating. Give us our way or: no peace; or, no immigration bill. Take your pick. This is the heart of sin on gaudy display. It is contrary to God's intent for humanity. Humanity is created to share in the life of God, together.

The so-called art of war is no art at all. It does not create. It destroys. War is the act of dehumanizing another human being. In the midst of what appears to be growing global conflict, our political representatives continue to obfuscate, recklessly debate, and leverage outcomes that preserve their power and purposes. It is as if a group of townspeople were all trying to preserve their own water while watching their neighbor's house burn to the ground. The problem is that it is **our own house** that is on fire. **There is no real "us vs. them."** What happens in one corner of Earth eventually impacts all of us. The human toll of suffering is not limited upon the single person who suffers. When a volcano erupts in another part of the world, the ashes eventually fall on our cars as well.

All of our sin, mistakes, and misguided, broken desires affect other people. This is what I thought of when I saw the two Facebook memes shown at the top of this page. One assumes that there is nothing we can do but go fishing and let the world burn, which is not true. The other assumes that we the people are off the hook because it is the government's job to improve the world. This also is not true. I think that we inherently know that what is expressed in the hymn which begins: "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me" contains a modicum of truth— even for those who are not believers in Christ. I think all peace begins with peace between two individuals and then becomes a collective peace as people live in unity and harmony with one another. This is the goal of Christian perfection which is loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves as witnesses to the grace of Jesus Christ. It is the point of the First Epistle John's call for us to love because we have first been loved by God. And love is not the mindless human affection we think of first. Love is willing, and then working, for the good of the other.

But without Christ, human loves (sometimes called desires or tempers) are disordered, disfigured, and dislocated from their rightful object which is the other person who suffers or is broken in some way. Sin has caused humanity to be deformed, we are *incurvatis en se* (turned in our ourselves), navel-gazers who serve our own bellies.



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This is what the Apostle Paul describes in Philippians 3:19

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, **their god is their stomach**, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

This is the human condition without faith in Christ, without following Christ, without taking up the cross and dying to ourselves and being raised to new life in him. This is part of what Christ came to save us from, to save us from our hearts bent to sinning, as the Wesley hymn says. The prophet Isaiah gives us a glimpse of eventual human life in the Kingdom of the God of Jacob, what Christians have interpreted as life under the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ. He says:

⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Some say it is reckless to hope for such a time. Some say that we will always have to prepare for war and that the only time humans will know peace is when we die and go to heaven. Well, to me, that underestimates the power of God to bring salvation. It underestimates the power of Christ's death and resurrection. It underestimates the power of God to heal the human heart and transform us, to conform us to the image of Christ. It begs the question, do we believe in salvation or escapism. Jesus didn't call us to huddle in escape pods and wait to be teleported out of the earth's suffering. Give your ear to what is said in Acts 1:4-8:

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, [Jesus] gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**"

It may be that, in this time, the State must prepare for conflict. Some point to Romans 13:4 for support here. But is it the role of the Church of Jesus Christ to seek after war? It seems the question boils down to whether we believe that Jesus has truly invested his Church with the power to be witness to his way; to the way of hope, love, and joy; the way of peace and life. Perhaps the hymn is right. Perhaps if we believe that Jesus truly can change our heart and enable us to witness to him, then peace can truly begin with us as Christ works salvation in us and the Holy Spirit conforms us to his likeness. But if we sit back thinking that the Church is powerless and has no witness to offer and no word to speak to government, then the world will continue burning— and I guess we can just go fishing. Because, if the Church is powerless to make a witness that can transform the world by pointing to the Crucified and Risen Christ, the federal government is certainly powerless to do so. All it has to point to is threat and force which seems to always bring more threat and force.

Some may think I am being too political here. That is ok... I am. Just know that we are dealing with two kingdoms here; which makes following Jesus a political decision and a political act. We only have two choices. One, we choose to serve the kingdoms of this world— the powers and principalities— or the god of this world, as Jesus called Satan. Two, we choose to enter and serve the Kingdom of our Christ.

As the old knight at the end of the movie *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* might say, choose wisely.

FRANK DAVID

If you are unfamiliar with the movie reference, you can watch a clip of when the main character chooses the holy grail of Christ at this link: <http://tiny.cc/ac84xz>

The Flower Calendar for the 2024 year is in a note book in the church office. 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

March	3	10	17	24	31
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

THE BLOOD CONNECTION

BloodDrive



3/11/24 Blood Drive

Sign up with Kelly or thebloodconection.org



Flyswatter Hockey



The Flamingo Youth awards 2024



LENTEN LUNCHEONS

March 4

REV. JENNIFER PRICE
PASTOR AT SUMMERTON UMC



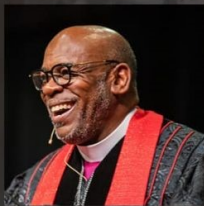
March 11

REV. THOMAS SMITH
PASTOR AT CENTRAL UMC



March 18

BISHOP L. JONATHAN HOLSTON
SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Contact the office for tickets!

Holy Week and Easter Service Information:



Palm/Passion Sunday: March 24 at 10:30 AM

We gather to hear of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and of his passion (suffering) that followed later that same week.



Holy Thursday: March 28 at 7:00 PM

We gather to remember the event referred to as the last supper where Jesus gave us the meal we call Holy Communion, the New Commandment (that we love one another as he has loved us), and his betrayal thereafter.



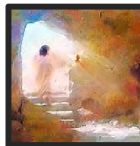
Good Friday: March 29 at 7:00 PM

We gather to remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. This service includes a "Service of Tenebrae" in which the story of Jesus' death is read and candles are extinguished as Jesus journeys toward the cross.



Easter Sunrise Worship: March 31 at 6:30 AM

As the sun rises, we gather beside the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and Holy Communion.



Easter Morning Worship: March 31 at 10:30 AM

We gather in the Sanctuary and via Facebook Live to continue our celebration of the Risen Christ's victory over Sin and Death.

Easter Lilies Order Form



\$15 dollars each
In Memory or Honor of loved ones
Turn Forms into church office.
(Call, drop off, Mail, Email, Offering plate)
Last day to order is Friday March 22nd.

In Memory of:

1. _____ Given By: _____
 2. _____ Given by: _____
 3. _____ Given by: _____
 4. _____ Given by: _____

In Honor of:

1. _____ Given by: _____
 2. _____ Given by: _____
 3. _____ Given by: _____
 4. _____ Given by: _____



**3/12/24 Operation
Christmas Child Activity Day**

10am Fellowship Hall

We will be making bead dolls, tick-tac-toe kits and other fun projects

Sign up with Kelly or Carolyn

2024		Tithes & Offering	
Needed Each Week	\$ 9,794.00		
	Received Weekly		
Feb. 4	\$ 9,144.38		
Feb. 11	\$ 7,789.24		
Feb. 18	\$ 4,075.38		
Feb. 25	\$ 5,099.86		
Total Received	\$ 26,108.86		
Needed Year to Date			\$ 78,352.00
Total Received YTD			\$ 72,120.98
Overage or (Deficit)			\$ (6,231.02)

Date	Worship Attendance
Feb 4	9:30 am Sunday School—65 Worship 10:30 am — 97
Feb 11	9:30 am Sunday School—58 Worship 10:30 am — 105
Feb 18	9:30 am Sunday School— 58 Worship 10:30 am — 123
Feb 25	9:30 am Sunday School— 62 Worship 10:30 am — 99

Butter Braid Pastry Sale

Ends March 6th

Pick up 3/19/24 at 10 am

Name: _____

Phone : _____

Options: # wanted @\$16

Apple _____

Cinnamon _____

Cream Cheese _____

Four Cheese and Herb _____

Strawberry Cream Cheese _____

Blueberry & Cream Cheese _____

Bavarian Crème _____

Raspberry _____



Notes:

NO tax

These pastries are frozen so they stay fresh!

Checks can be made out to MUMC

We make \$6.50 for every pastry sold

Payment due when order is placed

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
Betty Black
Sandra Brewer
Hope Briley
Chuck Buddin
Jake Buddin
Sylvia Clark
Ann Cutter
June Davis

Family of Jennie Durant
Elisa Furse
Lisa Gibbons
Jerry Ham
Kristen Helms
Michael Kinsey
Tom Lahmon
Jackie Lamb

Don Lee
John Lesemann
Ken Lovorn
John Mathis
Clint Michaelson
Karen & Ronnie Myers
Tim Richburg
Linda Rogers
Larry & Patsy Williamson

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

Charleston Tea Garden Tour

April 16, 2024

9:15 am-3:30 pm

Tour includes walking tour of air-conditioned plant & 40 minute trolley tour

Cost: \$13 per person

Lunch is Dutch treat

We will be eating at the Tattooed Moose in Johns Island

Menu includes salads, burgers, Sandwiches, etc

Most menu items under \$15

Space limited to 15 people

Must signup by 4/2/24

Timeline:

9:15 Board Bus

11am arrive/gift shop

11:15-11:30 Factory Tour

11:30-12:15 Trolley Tour

12:15-12:45 travel to restaurant

12:45-1:45 lunch at the Tattooed Moose

1:45-3:30 Travel to church



Memorial Gifts:

Spencer Jordan

given by:

Ann & Sonny Sanders

Nell Sprott

Charlie & Carol Gavin

Jim Black

Anne Haley

given by:

Bruce & Mary Ann Fields

Nell Sprott

Rusty Odom

given by:

Nell Sprott

Charlie & Carol Gavin

Pam McCabe

Given by:

Stan & Lu Nickell

Lamar Kennedy

given by:

Ann & Sonny Sanders

Craig & Mary Perry

Kimberly & Cal Land

Gloria & Ken Holladay

Nell Sprott

Charlie & Carol Gavin


Stan & Lu Nickell


March



Mar. 2 Bud & Bettye Johnson
 Mar. 3 Will & Rachel Gainey
 Mar. 5 Mike & Lisa Burns
 Mar. 13 Rob & Anne Little

Mar. 18 Louis & Dawn Griffith
 Mar. 19 Johnny & Ruthie Odum
 Mar. 25 Bruce & Jane Powell
 Mar. 26 Dave & Tami Harrison

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	4 8-12 pm MUMC Day School 12:00- 1:00 Myrtle Strange Lenten Luncheon	5 8-12 MUMC Day School	6 8-12 MUMC Day School 4:30 pm CIA 7:00 pm Choir	7 8-12 MUMC Day School	8 8-12 MUMC Day School	9  Spring forward Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.
10 4th Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm UMYF	11 8-12 pm MUMC Day School 10am-3pm Blood Drive 12:00- 1:00 Nelle Wells Lenten Luncheon 6:30 pm UMM Supper	12 8-12 MUMC Day School 10:00 am OCC Activity Day	13 8-12 MUMC Day School 4:30 pm CIA 6 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Choir	14 8-12 MUMC Day School	15 8-12 MUMC Day School	16
17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY! 5th Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm UMYF	18 8-12 pm MUMC Day School 12:00-1:00 United Methodist Men Lenten Luncheon	19 8-12 MUMC Day School 6:00 pm Stephen Ministries	20 8-12 MUMC Day School 6 pm Finance 4:30 pm CIA 7:00 pm Choir	21 8-12 MUMC Day School	22 8-12 MUMC Day School Last Day to Order Lilies	23
24 Passion/Palm Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm UMYF	25 8-12 MUMC Day School	26 8-12 MUMC Day School	27 8-12 MUMC Day School 4:30 pm CIA (Easter Egg Hunt)	28 8-12 MUMC Day School 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Worship	29 8-12 MUMC Day School 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship 8:30 pm Prayer Vigil Begins	30 Prayer Vigil Continues



Mar. 1 Alice Jordan
 Mar. 3 Mary Brock, Dianne Sprott
 Mar. 4 Mary Jo Gamble, Stan Nickell
 Mar. 5 Sherrille Ward, Ben Herod, J.J. Still
 Mar. 6 Carol Gavin, Frankie Anderson
 Mar. 9 Rhett Still
 Mar. 11 Beverly Felder

Mar. 12 Billy Coffey, Traci Brunson
 Mar. 18 Gene Barber, Nicole Kosinski
 Mar. 19 Eddie Barrett, Vann Page, Caroline Buddin
 Mar. 22 John Cutter
 Mar. 24 Mark Lee
 Mar. 28 Pat Terry
 Mar. 29 Fuzzy Furse

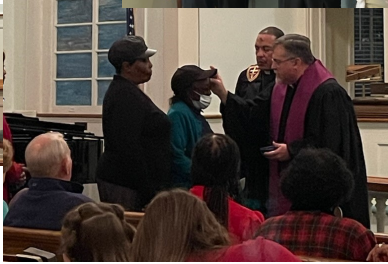


Burning of the palms with CIA!





February 26th
Lenten Luncheon
Photos



Play ground clean
up and new mulch



Joint Ash Wednesday Soup &
Cornbread Meal followed by
the Worship Service.



We raised \$16,000 and collected
70 pounds of food during the
Souperbowl of Caring. This
money will be doubled through
grant money and donated to
United Ministries



Members of the Myrtle
Strange Circle held a
Valentines Day Party for the
residents of Mannington
Place



THANK YOU!

Manning United Methodist Church's 2024 Collection
raised:
\$16,000, 79 food items and 70 lbs. of food

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 11, 2024

Alison Reese
Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger; Home of the
Souper Bowl of Caring

The Back page March 2023

