



# Heritage United Methodist Church

4322 Popps Ferry Road

D'Iberville, MS 39540

([www.heritageumc2.org](http://www.heritageumc2.org))

*April 2017 Newsletter*

## PASTOR PONDERINGS

### *Endurance*

Lent is a time that we give up something to improve our discipline so we can come closer to God. Although as Americans we like to think that our relationship with God can be judged by our feelings, it is quite the opposite. Our feelings are deceptive and illusive. It is by discipline, an open heart, and repentance that we can draw closer to Him.

At this time in Lent, you might find your Lenten discipline becoming a bit tedious or downright difficult. You may find yourself making excuses and breaking your fast more frequently. Although this may be normal, I encourage you to hang in there! Discipline cannot have its good result unless you stick it out. Defeat and discouragement may set in as you find yourself struggling to remain faithful. After all, this is something you promised God.

If you try to imagine staying faithful until Easter, you will be making it that much harder. Jesus made the comment that we are to worry only about today. He said that these 24 hours were enough for us to handle. In fact, they may often feel like too much, especially on those bad days.

Much of life, especially our faith journey, is a matter of focus. We try to solve problems too big for us, we make long range plans, and we become upset when life changes or eliminates them. Jesus has given us a secret to living, and living in peace.

Only focus on today.

When we do this, we are telling God we trust Him to take care of our tomorrows. We are opening ourselves to new possibilities. We are rejoicing in the current moment and able to see and feel all that this one day has for us. We are allowing God to be in control; perhaps the biggest and most difficult task.

All of this takes discipline. We must discipline our minds to focus in the right place. We have to keep our imaginations from straying into possibilities of trouble and disappointment. We have to learn obedience and as we accept whatever the day brings us, knowing our good Father has never missed a moment of caring for us.

A simple discipline of fasting can teach you many of these attitudes. Fasting is not just an exercise – it can actually be a lifestyle. (No, I don't mean giving up chocolate for the rest of your life – let's not be unreasonable!) Fasting from your own desire to control and manipulate your days is the only way to peace in any life and certainly as we profess to live for Christ.

I do pray your Lenten fast has brought you strength. And if you have broken, given up, or never started one, it's still not too late!

*Have a Blessed Lent!*

*Living in His Love, Rev. Diane*





## April Birthdays



|   |                          |    |                        |
|---|--------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Matthew Butler           | 11 | Ron Barnes             |
|   | Angelia Catalanatto      | 12 | Debi Garner            |
|   | Penny Chamberlain        | 14 | Sam Shorey             |
|   | Addison Jalańivich       | 16 | Emily Barnes           |
|   | Joan Ketzal              | 17 | Shelly Bosarge Rushing |
| 2 | Jack Anderson            | 19 | Bailey Sanders         |
|   | Lucas J. Torres-Gonzalez | 20 | Virgil Yeager          |
| 4 | Dave Perry               | 22 | Olivia Lipscomb        |
|   | Linda Richmond           | 23 | Mark Bosarge           |
|   | Steve Tolodxi            |    | Janyce Layman          |
| 9 | Tyler Sanders            | 24 | Kevin Weaver           |
|   | Nicole Smith             | 26 | Mary Scott             |
|   |                          | 28 | Roy Lipscomb           |



## April 2017 Calendar

(Every Wednesday: 5:00 p.m. Exercise with Juli & 6:00 p.m. Meet & Eat and Bible study)  
(Every Monday from 7-7:30 a.m. we have meditation in the Sanctuary)

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| April 2         | Holy Communion, Both services   |
| April 5         | Lenten Lunch, 12 p.m. Speaker: Rev. Raymond Grabert   |
| April 8         | Easter Festival, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.   |
| <b>April 9</b>  | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>Wedding Shower for Andrew & Kayla, 2 p.m.<br><b>Passion of the Christ movie, 5 p.m.</b> |
| April 10        | Shalom Circle meeting, 6:30 p.m.  |
| <b>April 12</b> | <b>Seder Meal, 6 p.m.</b>   |
| <b>April 13</b> | Making and distributing Easter Baskets of Grace, 9 a.m.<br><b>Maundy Thursday service 6:30 p.m.</b>           |
| April 14        | Good Friday<br><b>Service of the Shadows, 6:30 p.m.</b>   |
| April 15        | UMM Breakfast meeting, 8:00 a.m.<br>Morning Glories Circle meeting, 9:00 a.m.                                 |
| <b>April 16</b> | Easter Sunday<br><b>SonRise service, 6:30 a.m.</b><br><b>Worship services, 8:30 a.m. &amp; 11:00 a.m.</b>     |
| April 17        | Administrative Council, 6:30 p.m.   |
| April 20        | Finance Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.  |
| April 22        | UMW Yard Sale, 8 a.m.<br>CPR Training, 9 a.m.   |
| April 24        | UMW Unit meeting, 6:00 p.m.   |
| April 30        | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Meet & Sing between services, No Sunday school<br>Fish Fry right after services        |



## Thoughts from Jack's Computer:



As we look at the calendar, we see that Spring has arrived, but I would like to “spring” forward for a few minutes to the season of thanksgiving. Actually, we should be in that season every day of the year. Things that I’m about to say have been said many times by many people, but I feel they need to be said again.

Heritage UMC is blessed with a great leadership team, starting with our pastor and including all our ministry and administrative committee chairs. We may not always agree, but we work out a solution to any problems that arise. I would like to high light several people, but if I did I know I would leave someone out, so I will just say, once again, a big THANK YOU to everybody who has taken on a leadership role at Heritage. It was said a few years ago, that it takes a village to raise a child. I would like to amend that by saying it takes a dedicated leadership team to organize and run the ministry of a church. Heritage is indeed fortunate to have such a team in place. With that said, there is always room for more team members.

Some ongoing and/or upcoming activities that you need to be aware of include the following. We are still in the process of updating the “members and friends” photo board. If you have not been contacted, see me on Sunday morning (before service starts) to have your picture taken. The April fellowship dinner will be moved to the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday immediately following the 11 am service. This will be a fish fry sponsored by Mac Weaver & family. Bring side dishes to share. Children’s Easter celebration is almost here. Holy week services have been scheduled (more details elsewhere in this newsletter). Annual Conference and Vacation Bible School will be in June. UMW yard and bake sale is near. The time change for UMW Morning Glories and UMM meeting has been well received. These are just a few of the many activities happening at Heritage. Again, thank you for being a part of Heritage United Methodist Church. In closing:

**Be tolerant, be considerate, be compassionate, and show love and understanding.  
All may not be as it appears.**

Jack Anderson, Chairperson  
Administrative Council

### UMW NEWS:



April 10, 6:30 p.m.  
April 15, 9:00 a.m.  
April 22, 8:00 a.m.  
April 24, 6:00 p.m.

Shalom Circle meeting  
Morning Glories Circle meeting  
UMW’s annual Yard Sale  
UMW Unit Meeting

**HEALTH KIT PROJECT:** The UMW is collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, hand towels, travel soaps, travel shampoo and conditioner, small fingernail clippers, band aids, socks and small sunscreens. All of this is required to fill the need on our Gulf Coast. This is an essential and worthwhile ministry of the UMW.

**UMW YARSALE:** The UMW Yard and Bake sale will be on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. You need to be on site at 6 a.m. to help set up and after 1 p.m. for cleanup. Julene has a sign-up sheet for you to pick the times you can be available. You may drop off yard sale items on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please price these items before drop-off.

## **JUBILEE NEWS:**

**REFLECTIONS ON THE CROSS:** Our Lenten Lunch series continues each Wednesday at noon through April 5 with Rev. Raymond Grabert, pastor of Big Ridge Baptist Church present the final reflection. The series has been quite successful and we look forward to planning more lunch series throughout the year. (*A donation of \$5 is requested to cover the cost of lunch. Reservation requested but not required.*)

### **April Calendar:**

April 5, 12 p.m. Reflections on the Cross – Lenten Lunch  
April 9, 2 p.m. Shower hosted by Halo's  
April 22 9 a.m. Noah's Ark CPR Training



## **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**HERITAGE EASTER CELEBRATION:** FUN – FUN – FUN!!! On Saturday, April 8th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. we will be hosting our yearly Easter Celebration. Come join the celebration and bring the entire family! We need donations of hot dogs & buns (about 100), individual kid drinks (like Hugs, Capri Sun, etc.), and individual bags of chips. Candy or small toys to fill eggs, filled eggs, and volunteers are always needed! Contact Holly Mott at 228-383-1677 or [hollymott.cpo@gmail.com](mailto:hollymott.cpo@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you!



**WEDDING SHOWER:** A wedding shower will be held in the Jubilee Center on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Kayla Bell and Andrew Gurley will be celebrated and all are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Butler.

**CHICK-FIL-A:** Noah's Ark will be having a Chick-Fil-A fundraiser on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8 p.m. Please come by and let Chick-fil-a fix your dinner. Thank you for your support!

**EASTER BASKETS OF GRACE:** Heritage UMC will again be providing Easter dinner baskets to 12 families. If they have children, the children will receive an Easter basket filled with goodies. The insert provided is for you to submit names of families who could be helped with God's Grace. ***Names and money donations will need to be turned in by today.*** We are in need of volunteers to help make the baskets and distribute the baskets on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m.



**LIVING CROSS:** This year we will celebrate Easter with a Living Cross. Pick a flower from your yard and bring it to the church to attach to the cross which will be located at the front door. This is another beautiful way to show our love at Easter.

**CPR TRAINING:** A CPR class will be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Cost is \$40 to participate. If you want to attend this training, please contact Sheila Cruso to get registered.



**TRIKE-A-THON:** Noah's Ark will be participating again this year in the St. Jude Trike-a-thon on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Over the years, NACCC has raised \$28,761.24. Please come out to the church and cheer on the little ones as they ride for St. Jude.

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION:** Safe Harbor UMC has invited us to a retirement celebration in honor of Rev. David & Mrs. Pattie Cumbest. It will be held on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Safe Harbor UMC. If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to [safeharborumc@cablone.net](mailto:safeharborumc@cablone.net).

## Spiritual Growth Activities are abundant at HUMC

**Sunday School Classes** are held each week for adults and children of all ages right after the scrumptious breakfast fellowship time. Sunday School Classes are not held on fifth Sundays and Easter (April 16); Christmas and New Year's Eve (Dec. 24 and 31)

**Sunday Home School Program:** Ideally, children should be attending classes each Sunday, enjoying fellowship, fun and study while learning to become young disciples of Jesus Christ. The **Sunday Home School Program** is not intended to remove the responsibility of families to assure children attend **Sunday School**. It is intended to help those families who cannot for some reason send their children to our classes held every Sunday. Home schoolers accept the responsibility to nurture the spiritual development of their children with at home activities. Families who need the **Sunday Home School Program** are provided packets of lesson plans, activities and some supplies which have been used the previous months in our **Sunday School Classes**. Weekly text messages are also available to support the program. Children in **Sunday School Classes** and the **Sunday Home School Program** will be invited to celebration parties during the year. Watch for information in the church bulletin and newsletter on plans and dates. **Sunday Home School Program packets may be picked up in the fellowship hall before each of the Sunday services or before the Wednesday night fellowship dinners.**

**Wednesday's Children's choir and activities.** 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. after family dinner; for kids through age 12

**Special projects** throughout the year are announced in church bulletins and newsletters.

Contacts: Maryann Graczyk...288-235-7814 Tom Butler.....228-424-1325

**fellowship - fun - service - study**

Nurture ministries give attention to education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship, focusing on the needs of individuals and families of all ages. Our Heritage United Methodist Church Family is actively involved in many nurture ministries each with its own dedicated purpose. The various groups support each other often in coordinating efforts and plans. New groups are added as need and interest arises. Our shared mission - to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – is the focus of each group. **There's a place for everyone in nurture.** If you are already a member of a NURTURE ministry, thank you. If not, please join. A list of all the NURTURE groups, the purpose and contact for each, is located on the NUTURE bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Each month, the newsletter will shine the NURTURE SPOTLIGHT on one or more of our groups.

This month the NURTURE SPOTLIGHT shines on the two largest groups: The **United Methodist Men** and the **United Methodist Women**. Each is dedicated to spiritual and leadership growth through involvement in the total church ministry. Individual and group strategies form the Christ centered foundation in their many numerous programs including: Handy men helpers, Disaster relief, Health kits, Scholarships, Pledge dollars for local and world missions, and much, much more. Back Bay Mission, Fisher House, Ronald McDonald House, Methodist Children's Home, Seashore Mission, Rebecca House, Navigators, Legacy, World Thank, and the Revival UMC in Russia are all supported through the efforts of these two groups. Church members are encouraged to join and welcomed at the regular meetings and activities. UMM meet on the third Saturday of each month at 8 am which includes a breakfast. UMW Morning Glories meet at 9 am following the breakfast. UMW Shalom meets at 6:30 pm the second Monday of each month.

For more information contact UMM Tom Butler (228-424-1325) and UMW Julene Anderson (228-872-3471).



### YOUTH NEWS:



(Every Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School, 3:30 p.m. Youth Meeting unless otherwise noted)

April 1, 8:45 a.m. **Service Project** – Meet at the church at 8:45 a.m. to go to Mrs. Dottie's and rake and mulch. We should return by 1:30 p.m.

April 2, both services *Children's Church* – The Youth will have both services, please sign up and lead the future.

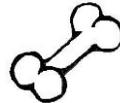
*Continued:*

- April 8, 10:30 a.m. **Service Project** - We will be helping with the Easter Festival. 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Our Redeemer Lives! What a sweet celebration! We are running the games for the festival. This counts as 2 service projects, if you stay the entire time. Come, bring a friend and let's celebrate the grace so freely given to us!
- April 9, 3:30 p.m. *Youth Meeting* – In this version of Christ's crucifixion, Judas expedites the downfall of Jesus by handing Him over to the Roman Empire's handpicked officials. He is condemned to death. He is tortured as he drags a cross to nearby Calvary, where he is nailed to the cross. He dies, but not before a last act of grace.
- April 11, 5:00 p.m. **Service Project** – Noah's Ark Chick-fil-a dinner from 5 – 8 p.m. We will help them serve behind the counter, deliver meals to customers and welcome guests as they arrive. This will count as 2 service projects. Meet at Chick-fil-a by 4:30 p.m.
- April 14, 12:00 p.m. **Service Project** – Noah's Ark Easter Egg Hunt – 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. We get the awesome opportunity to hide the eggs for the wee ones in the Noah's Ark Child Care Center.
- April 15, 8:45 a.m. **Service Project** – Meet at the church at 8:45 a.m. to work in Mr. Steve's yard. We should return by 1:30 p.m.
- April 16  
NO Youth
- April 22, 6:30 a.m. **Service Project** – Heritage Yard Sale – The church needs our help setting up in the morning. Please be there by 6:30 a.m. We should be done by 7:30 a.m.
- April 30  
NO Sunday School – Fellowship between both services over breakfast

## Ask SAM:



Dear SAM,  
Why do I have to go to church?  
Dear Human Friend,



All day long, my master tells me where to go. She tells me to come in and to go out. Sometimes I find a treat. My master seems to know when the treats will be there because she smiles and asks me if I like it. I tell her I liked it with my eyes. Mollie barks when she is asked but that is against the rules in my house so I don't bark. I never know why my master tells me I must go back outside but then I find wonderful smells and I hear car noises that I need to bark at. Since I am outside I can bark and I look at Mollie hoping she will learn outside is the place to bark. But then after I have three or seven naps, my master opens the door and I come back inside. Maybe there are good things to do at the church and that is why you have to go. Maybe you can learn to be obedient at the church. My master goes to church very many times and she says it is a good place. Maybe Mollie should go to the church so she can learn to be obedient. That would be very good.

Dear SAM,  
How do I know that God is real?  
Dear Human Friend,

How do I know you are real? I cannot see you but my Master tells me that I have many human friends at the big church house. I believe her because she is nice and gives me food every day. I believe you are real when you talk to me in the questions. I believe my food is real even though I don't see it until it is time to eat again. (I think my Master knows magic.) You do not have to see someone to know they are real. But you do have to trust they will be there when you need them.

Dear SAM,  
I love you SAM  
Dear Human Friend,  
I want to lick your ears. (That means he loves you too, in dog world.)