



Heritage United Methodist Church

4322 Popps Ferry Road
D'Iberville, MS 39540
(www.heritageumc2.org)

May 2017 Newsletter

PASTOR PONDERINGS



Some Thoughts...

As I write this today, our UM church is facing an irreversible moment of decision and quite probably the beginnings of division. A bishop was appointed who is openly gay to the Western Jurisdiction last year and a complaint was filed immediately which the Judicial Council is considering beginning April 25. This will cause ripples throughout our church, no matter which way the ruling is made.

As a believer who holds a very orthodox theology, I myself struggle. The thorn in my flesh, the wound that I carry, pains me daily. I am divorced and remarried more than once, and I know this wasn't God's desire for my life. I can give many reasons, both self-inflicted and out of my control, but the reality remains for me that this is short of the holy life I wish I had lived. As a Christian, I count on His forgiveness daily and rejoice in His mercy. But my children and I struggle with the after effects as we are also keenly aware of God's tender love for us all. It is this supporting love we all depend on as we live out our lives here, struggling with sin and our own inadequacies.

I shudder as I hear the angry speeches and scripture thrown around this debate. Personally, I am close to several people who constantly challenge my beliefs. One person supports my strong belief in God but cannot understand why I believe that Jesus of Nazareth was actually divine and is resurrected today. Another HATES all Christians but likes me – and my faith. Other close friends are strongly progressive and politically minded, which is diametrically different from my laid back apolitical views. Then there are my dear conservative, fundamentalist friends who shake their heads at my orthodoxy. But all the relationships stay secure in our love for one another, not our dissimilar views.

So, as our beloved UM church shakes and shudders, let us not forget our foundations. It's not about the church, it's about the Savior. It's never about how good we are but our lives must be lived in a holy manner if we claim the name of Christian, which means "Little Christ."

As Methodists, we have a rich heritage of both personal holiness and an emphasis of His grace. We hold the tension of a sinful people living out our days in a strict manner – a methodical holy life. But we as a church will have decisions to make in the next few years because we are a part of a large institution, closely connected by mission outreach, ministers' pensions, health care, and building ownership.

I grieve as I watch the angry political moves of both our society and our church. This is not God's way. But I also grieve as I struggle with my own sins, and often watch dear people who believe and love God deeply but do not live in holiness. In so many ways we are a mess down here! But I am constantly reminded that all of this is temporary and our God is greater than all of the things that seem so overwhelming to us.

(Continued)

So dear friends, keep your eyes on God, attempt to live every day like Jesus of Nazareth did: love, love, love! Listen but don't judge and we will all "make it" through this crazy life.

Our God indeed reigns and this is just another part of history – our personal and collective history. However, I do warn you to not become complacent. Push yourself to live in a holy manner and draw as close to God as you can. Let's do this together for two reasons; As an individual, I need your support, and there are so many hurting people both within our church and outside who need our precious God. We desperately need each other as we all seek God. Our church father, Mr. Wesley, hit the solution in the head – Do all the good you can, do NO harm, and don't forsake the sacraments.

Living in His Love, Rev. Diane



May Birthdays



- 5 Sara Lerch
- 6 Dot Ellis
- 10 Rocky Damrill
- 12 Lori Loeding
Tara Smith
Karly Wells
- 14 Devin Moran
- 16 Jeremias Torres Gonzalez
- 17 Robby Ellis
Valerie Jalkanivich
Jeremiah Savarese-Clark
- 18 Rachel Reel
- 19 Jackie Richards



- 20 Ray Roberts
- 23 Shirley McGonagle
- 24 Kevin Mullen
Cherie Ruff
Danny Townsend
- 26 Andy Lemmon
JoAnn Tarrant
- 27 Conlan Ashton
Corey Sims
- 28 Ron Ellis
Doris Feters
Eric Mullen
Mac Weaver
- 29 Deanna Cossey

MAY 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)

- May 4 National Day of Prayer
- May 5 Car Seat Inspections, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- May 7 Holy Communion, both services
- May 8 Shalom Circle meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- May 9 Nurture Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- May 11 Finance Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- May 13 Noah's Ark Spring Program, 11:00 a.m.
- May 14 Mother's Day & Graduate Recognition
- May 15 Administrative Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- May 20 UMM Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.
Morning Glories Circle meeting 9:00 a.m.
- May 25 Ascension Day
- May 28 Fellowship Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- May 29 Memorial Day – Office Closed



Thoughts from Jack's Computer:



“That’s not my job”

This is a story about four people named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY and NOBODY. There was an important job that needed to be done and EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about it because it was EVERYBODY’S job. EVERYBODY though ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn’t do it. So, it ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done.

Credited to: Charles Osgood, News reporter
Also known as the “Responsibility Poem”

Which “BODY” are you? Be the SOMEBODY that makes a difference. As has been mentioned in this column many times before, it takes a large amount of people as leaders to insure that the ministry of Heritage United Methodist Church is accomplished. If you are currently a team member of a particular ministry or administrative committee, be sure that you are actively involved instead of just sitting on the sideline and letting the chairperson handle everything. It’s time to get in the game. Speaking of being involved, we are currently in need of additional volunteers in the following areas: Sunday School department is in need of teachers, especially in the first thru sixth grade area; the Trustee Committee (which is responsible for the upkeep of the facilities, equipment, and grounds) needs workers, as does our Community Orchard crew. To volunteer, contact Maryann Graczyk or Tom Butler for Sunday School, Matthew Butler for Trustee’s and George Trent or Sheila Gillies for the Orchard. All areas of leadership needs additional help and are always looking for assistance. In my book, doing nothing is not an option. Diana Ross one said : “Instead of looking at the past, I put myself ahead twenty years and try to look at what I need to do today in order to get there then”. Where do you see Heritage twenty years from now? Today is the time to start to insure that it happens.

Matthew 21: 28-31

“Now, what do you think? There was once a man who had two sons.

He went to the older son and said, ‘Son, go and work in the garden today’. ‘I don’t want to’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. ‘Yes sir’, he answered, but he did not go. Which one of the two did what his father wanted? (Good News Bible)

Jack Anderson, Chairperson
Administrative Council

UMW NEWS:

May 8, 6:30 p.m.

Shalom Circle meeting

May 20, 9:00 a.m.

Morning Glories Circle meeting

On Apr 20th, UMW members gathered to assemble health kits to be given to local agencies to assist those in need. These agencies include, Seashore Mission, Bethesda Free clinic, local fire departments and other similar groups. Thanks to the generosity of the members of Heritage, we were able to assemble 95 kits.

On Apr 22nd, we held our annual yard and bake sale. Again, thanks to many volunteers and donations, we raised \$629.15. This money will be placed in the UMW General budget and will be used in the ministry and mission work of the UMW.

We are still looking for someone to step forward as our Unit President. Once again, we will be collecting donations through our annual “in honor of/memory of” Mother’s Day slips. Watch the Church bulletin for more information. Proceeds will go to Bethesda Free Clinic.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES: Are needing volunteers for the 2017 Coasting to Gold games being held in Biloxi May 7 – 11, 2017. For more information, contact Bob Davis at 228-523-5762 or to register go to www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov. See flyer on general bulletin board.



CARSEAT SAFETY: On Friday, May 5th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. the D'Iberville police will be conducting car seat inspections. They will look to see if you have your seat installed correctly and if it's the correct size for your child. So, if you are out on Friday, come on by and make sure your car seat is correctly installed.

WORK NIGHT AT THE CHURCH: The Trustee's are having a work night at the church on Friday, May 5th from 5:30 p.m. until. Contact Matthew Butler for questions.

SPRING PROGRAM AND GRADUATION: Noah's Ark will hold its annual Spring Program and graduation on May 13th at 11:00 a.m. After the program, there will be a light lunch for the students and their families in the Fellowship Hall. Noah's Ark is a very important ministry of our church, so we encourage you all to attend!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Were getting ready for this year's Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars for June 11th – 16th, from 6:00 pm - 8:30pm with our kick off starting at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday the 12th with hot dogs and chips. If you would like to help with this wonderful program or have any questions call Caryle Lena at (228) 596-4194.

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 24th at 5:00 p.m. at Safe Harbor UMC. If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to safeharborumc@cablone.net.

MEMORIAL ORCHARD: Volunteers meet on Thursdays at 8 am to select a work detail from the list of needs. It may be weeding, painting, cutting grass, spreading leaves, or whatever needs to be done. Tools, fun and fellowship are provided. Can't make it on Thursdays? Contact George, Sheila or Maryann and we may be able to accommodate your time. Thanks to Steve, Jack, Michael, all the youth and everyone who brought bags of leaves in April. **We always need more leaves.** Bag them up and put them in the back of the garden at the compost bins. Special thanks to the youth group for volunteering in the garden on the first Saturday of each month.



WE NEED CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS: Some of the things you may regularly throw away may have a useful purpose. That's the case with cancelled postage stamps. HUMC is participating in the Coalition for Cancelled Stamps Projects. Watch for information in the church bulletin.

Spiritual Growth Activities for children 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; Christmas and New Year's Eve (Dec. 24 and 31)

Sunday Home School Program

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. No special talents needed – just bring a joyful heart.

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

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

NURTURE SPOTLIGHT.....Come join our Tuesday night programs

6:30 pm Dual Dependency Recovery. (Prayer Room Two) This group, dedicated to helping adults with multiple problems associated with addictions, meets somewhere on the coast every day. HUMC welcomes the group of anonymous members each Tuesday. Everyone is invited to share coffee, help and fellowship. (Contact Jeff ...228-235-0426)

6:30 pm Team Madonnas. (Prayer Room One) Caretakers of small children need a break for at least one hour a week to mingle with other adults for fun and fellowship. At the TM meetings, some time is spent to share ideas, coupon savings, hints on child care. But the greatest part of the hour is dedicated to activities and plenty of laughter. Leave the kids at home. But, if necessary, bring them along to our free baby-sitter service. You need to call at least one day ahead for this option. (Contact Maryann ..228-235-7814)

Nurture ministries include education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship, focusing on the needs of individuals and families of all ages. Our very active Heritage United Methodist Church Family invites you to join our nurture ministries or to share and help start new ones. Here are a few of our groups.

Contact: Maryann Graczyk 228-235-7814 or graczykmaryann@yahoo.com

Breakfast Club

Activities: Sunday 9:30 – 10:00 am;
assist other meal events.

Meetings: as called by contact coordinator
Contact: Brenda Tucker –Cassity 228-697-4574

Children Ministries

Activities: Special activities for children
Contact: Angel Barnes.....228-875-1872

Shepherding

Activities: Attends to the needs of families
or individuals in the congregation.

Meetings: As called by contact coordinator
Contact: Penny Chamberlain....228-249-9473
JoAnn Tarrant.....228-669-1671

Higher Education

Activities: Maintains contact with adults of
approximate college level ages

Meetings: as called by contact coordinator
Contact: Susan Butler.....228-257-9880

Journeyers

Activities: Group focus on needs and
interests of adults

Meetings: Monthly Sundays, Mondays
Contact: Kayla Bell.....228-697-8425

Bereavement

Activities: Care as requested.

Meetings: as called by contact coordinator
Contact: Linda Seymour.....228-392-3199
Cathie Ownbey.....228-388-3393
Linda McGinnis.....228-219-7905

Congregational Care

Activities: Shalom Circle

Meetings: Second Monday of each month
Contact: Shiela Gillies.....228-392-1688

Halos

Activities: Fisher House dinner once a month;
special recognitions and social events.

Meetings: as called by contact coordinator
Contact: Jamie Sanders.....228-326-6503

Knitty Bitties

Activities: Knitting and crocheting
hats for babies and shawls for military

Meetings: Wednesdays ,4:00pm
Contact: Shiela Cruso.....228-324-6425.

Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA)

Meetings: Every Tuesday 6:30 pm
Contact: Jeff S.....228-235-5160
Josh B.....228-217-0426
Monica B 228-243-9387
Randall L.... ..228-209-3363

Team Madonnas

Activities: Support group for women with
child-care responsibilities.

Meetings: Every Tuesday 6:30pm
Contact: Maryann Graczyk ..228-234-7814

Treasurer Hunters

Activities: Yard sale sailing with experts.

Meetings: 1st Saturdays, weather permitting
Meet at church 7:00 am
Contact: Linda Trent.....228-396-1958





YOUTH NEWS:



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

- May 6, 8:00 a.m. **Service Project** – We will be working in the orchard from 8-10 a.m.
 May 14 Graduate Recognition Service. **No Youth Meeting** *Spend the day with your Mom*
 May 20, 8:30 a.m. **Service Project** – Yard work from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 May 21, 12:45 p.m. **Graduation day for Nicole!** – We will meet at the church at 12:45 p.m. for all the youth that want to come watch her walk across the stage. There will be **no Youth Meeting** today. Please bring money for drinks and snacks.
 May 26, 6:00 p.m. **Service Project** – Decorating the fellowship hall for graduation dinner. We will meet from 6 – 9 p.m.
 May 27, 8:30 a.m. **Service Project** – Yard Work from 8:30 – 12:30 p.m.
 May 28, 6:00 p.m. Graduation Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The tassel was worth the hassle!!!

As graduation season approaches, we need to intensify our prayers for graduating students. Consider the following prayer suggestions:

- Pray for clear direction and wisdom regarding the future.
- Most students will be experiencing adult freedoms for the first time, which create new challenges. The world will bombard them with liberties that may have been taboo for them a short time ago. Pray for them to handle temptations.
- The students who go directly into the job market will have to assimilate into workplace environments that will include people of all ages and backgrounds. They may come in contact with unethical business practices, crude and vulgar language, or other less obvious behaviors. Pray for them to stand firm in their beliefs.
- New responsibilities will create new burdens for them financially and socially. They may have to pay for insurance, travel, continuing education expenses, clothing, etc. Pray for God to meet their financial needs.
- Pray for those who will be continuing their education. Pray they will take their education seriously and learn skills that will be helpful later in life.

God,

We ask for Your almighty hand to be upon all those who graduate this year. Continue to bless them with goodness and love. Help them to stay true to their dreams, to use their gifts wisely, and to walk into the future with faith, hope, and great love.

Amen.



Ask SAM:



Dear SAM,
Who was God's parents?
Dear Human Friend,



I had to ask my master the answer to this question. Sometimes she is very smart - even though I don't understand why she continues to walk on just two legs. She said that God was never born. I do not understand this but she said that God always has been, and always will be just what He is. He never started and He never ends. I do not understand this, but I think it is a good thing.

Dear SAM,

Why do you bark so much? I can hear you when I am at the church.

Dear Human Friend,

My master asks me the same question. It seems that you people do not understand how many important things happen that I need to bark about. There are squirrels who live in the trees and often jump on my master's roof. This is important for you to know. There are birds who fly over our house and you must be alerted when that happens. I hear many loud creatures run up and down the road and I bark very loud so you will know about the danger. We all sing with the loud sirens the song of our people.

But most dangerous of all are the loud metal birds who fly over my master's house. They are very scary but we all bark loudly to warn you of this great danger.

My question is, why do you not bark also?

Pastor Diane will be out of the office from May 2nd – May 13th. Please be in prayer for her and Gracie, while they are traveling to Memphis and back for Gracie's surgery.