



First United
Methodist Church
116 W. Broadway
Alexandria, IN 46001

Address Service Requested

Rev. Jean Brindel, Pastor
Worship Services – 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Our church website: <http://www.alexfirstumc.org>

Church email: alexfirst@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.;

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Office phone: 765-724-3411; FAX 765-724-9592

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Alexandria First United Methodist Church

REFLECTOR

...Open Minds...Open Hearts...Open Doors

April 2011

Volume 42, Number 4

THE HOLY WEEK EVENTS

† Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday, when we remember the last supper and arrest of Jesus, each will be invited to place a nail in the cross. If you attended the Ash Wednesday service, bring that nail along. Additional nails will be available at the service on April 21st at 7:00 p.m. This will be at time of reflection and sharing in Holy Communion

† Good Friday, April 22nd at 6:00 p.m., a community Good Friday service will be held at the Cornerstone Community Church.

† Easter Sunday morning at 11 a.m. we all will gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Part of the celebration will be wonderful music and sharing in the joy of the morning. This is a great time to invite family and friends to join you in worship.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER



Easter is a great morning to celebrate life through flowers. This year, we are asking each person in the congregation to bring a stemmed flower with them to worship on Easter Sunday. During the singing of the first hymn, each will come forward to the cross and place their flower in the cross. (It will make sense when you see it.) Bring a single stemmed flower – from your yard would be great!! A tulip, daffodil, rose, whatever makes you happy. This will be a wonder way for all of us to participate in the living cross.

Please note the order forms for those who also want to donate an Easter Lilly in honor or memory of a loved one.

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR

Easter is the most important Christian celebration of the year. Christmas has better public relations with the Santa thing going on, but Easter is actually a bigger deal – at least in the church. But let's face it, Christmas gets all of the good Stuff:

Christmas: Sugar cookies – with icing and sprinkles!

Easter: peeps

Christmas: lots of presents and toys, toys, toys!

Easter: peeps

Christmas: Turkey and dressing and Prime Rib, sweet potatoes, fancy breads great deserts and...

Easter: Ham

Christmas: Children's pageants with shepherds, wise men, angels, little lambs and . . .

Easter: tomb

Christmas: fun songs like "Jingle Bells"

Easter: "Low In the Grave He Lay"

Christmas: late night services, candle light and snow glistening

Easter – get up for church before Breakfast

Yeah, Christmas gets all of the good stuff, except for the actual point of the entire Jesus thing. Yes, it is true that Jesus was born into the world to bring peace on earth, but the peace didn't come because of the birth – it came because he died on a cross and came back to life on Easter morning. The manger is full of meaning only because the tomb is empty.

So, get up early on Easter, eat a couple of peeps on your way to church, and open your eyes to the empty tomb. Jesus has given us eternal life and that is a lot to celebrate. - Personally, I really like...



THE ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The annual fund drive or pledge drive usually happens in the fall, and this fall we will have one for the financial year of 2012, but just now, we are working on the financial year of 2011.

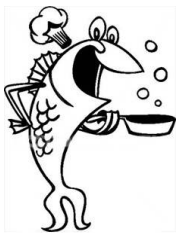
Why a pledge drive? Easy. To be good stewards of the titles and offerings of the folks of Alexandria First UMC we have to know how much money we will receive in the year. We'll talk about how it is that we need to give to the church because the church is really a blessing to us – but just now we are focusing on getting back on track. In order to reach new folks for Jesus Christ we need to provide a solid ministry with a great staff, and for now we need to get them paid. At the end of the day, we will celebrate the amazing blessing of knowing Jesus Christ and being honored to serve him with our time, talent and monies.

Pledging is not so much about what the church needs from you as it is about how it is that in the church is a gift to you. Christ has gifted you with the joy of living in His grace and love. He has gifted you with the opportunity to share that love with your neighbors, family and friends. Christ has gifted you with honor of being blessed to be a blessing.

On April 10th, during the 11 a.m. worship service, you will be invited to bring your pledge card forward. In the next few days, you will receive in the mail a chart of gifts paper and a pledge card. Prayerfully consider your gifts to the church for the year 2011. Then complete the card and bring it with you to worship on April 10th.

As you give, so the church is able to be faithful to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. We are truly blessed to be a blessing.

ANNUAL FISH/CHICKEN FRY FRIDAY, APRIL 29 4-7:00 P.M.



The Methodist Women are bustling with activity in preparation for the annual all-you-can-eat fish and chicken fry. Potatoes, slaw, dessert & drink will also be served. Several volunteers are needed for various tasks. If you are willing to help with the fish fry contact Kandi Alexander. Baked goods are needed for the fish fry and the women will be making phone calls for donations. Tickets are ready for sale and distribution through church members. Tickets may also be obtained from the church office. Purchase prices are as follows:

Adult tickets are \$9.00. Children under 12 years are \$5.00

Carry outs are available.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please help us keep our prayer list updated of any changes, additions or names that might need to be removed. Contact the Pastor or church office.

Current Requests: Delores Swaim, Mike Robbins, Kaumars Adieh

Ongoing Requests: Carolyn Bogue (recovering from surgery – sister of Joan Howard), Ray Kendal (surgery), Rose Loy (mother of Leslie Richardson), Kaye Cox, Emily Owens, Dan Campbell (brother of Irene Campbell), Brent Bridwell

Battling Cancer: Dr. Fred Owen, Heather Beardsley (friend of Vickie Griffin), Marvin Davis, JoAnne Thomas

Shut-ins: Irene Campbell (Summitville Convalescent Center); Hazel (Hanlin) Glentzer (Alexandria Care Center)

Service Personnel: Pray for peace, pray for military personnel

UNITED METHODIST MEN MEET

The Methodist Men of Alexandria First Church will host their monthly breakfast/meeting on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the church basement fellowship hall. A full breakfast will be served by Ray Grimball assisted by Norma Smith. Vice-president George Smith announced that John Dockery, Sr., Vice President of the Indiana Commission United Methodist Men will be our speaker. His topic will be "One man can make a difference" and how several projects that have had far reaching results and how we can help millions by extending our helping hands with the PET project. He is presently in Florida completing training for the PET project and is excited about sharing with us.



This is a golden opportunity for us to build on the excitement of our church and show our concerns to the community of Alexandria. The Men's meeting is open to members and non-members seeking the fellowship of men of faith. LADIES ARE WELCOME ALSO. Think of someone you would like to invite - and then do it. Young men and women are also invited to attend. THE BREAKFAST IS ALWAYS FREE, but we do give you the opportunity to give a free-will donation. Please plan to attend. You'll be glad you did. It is fun to be a part of Alexandria First United Methodist Church. We do follow our MOTTO: "Each One - Reach One" N-o-w, say it again. "Each One - Reach One"

CHILDREN'S CHOIR BEING FORMED

Beginning in May during the Children's church time, Adam Fraley, the music director, will begin directing a children's choir. The children will perform several times a year. The choir will practice during the during the children's church time. All children of the community are welcome to be part of this exciting children's ministry.

Sunday School for children will continue to be from 9:30 to 10:30 with worship following at 11:00.

April 2011

<p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Birthdays!!</p> <p>8 Marlene Merrell 9 Neal Johnson 14 Bob Lenhart 15 Jack Follis 18 Cliff Terry 23 Drake Sayre 23 Ginni Zink</p> <p><u>Plan ahead:</u> For your calendar events to be included in the next newsletter, turn them in by the 15th of each month.</p>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
							<p>1 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm</p>	
	<p>3 Confirmation Class 9:30 am</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Trustees 3:00 pm</p>	<p>6 Congregational Care Committee 9:00 am</p> <p>Band – 6:00 pm</p>	<p>7 Choir Practice 6:00 pm</p>	<p>8 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm</p>	<p>9</p>	
	<p>10 Confirmation Class 9:30 am</p> <p>After Worship Fellowship</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Band – 6:00 pm</p>	<p>14 Choir Practice 6:00 pm</p>	<p>15 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm</p>	<p>16</p>	
	<p>17 Confirmation Class 9:30 am</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Band – 6:00 pm</p>	<p>21 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM Lunch Bunch meet at Gaither Family Resource 12:30 p.m. Choir - 6:00 pm</p>	<p>22 GOOD FRIDAY (at Cornerstone Church) 6:00 pm</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	
	<p>24 EASTER SUNDAY</p> 	<p>25</p>	<p>26 VBS meeting 6:30 pm (at Lutheran Church)</p>	<p>27 Band – 6:00 pm</p>	<p>28 Choir Practice 6:00 pm</p>	<p>29 Fish & Chicken Fry 4-7:00 pm</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm</p>	<p>30</p>	

