

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

...helping you take the next step on your spiritual journey

March 2011

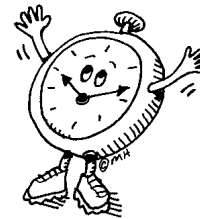
Volume 42, Number 3

WHO IS JESUS?... A LENTEN STUDY SUNDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT MARCH 13TH – APRIL 10TH 6 – 7:30 P.M.

Lent is the 40 days of sojourning before the celebration of Easter. This year, on Sunday evening beginning on March 13 and ending on April 10th from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Pastor Jean will be teaching a Lenten Study class in room 8. Each class will be individualized, so if you can come for only one Sunday, you are welcome. The class will study the different ways that Jesus is foretold or experienced in the Bible.

Bring your Bible and ideas to share, and join in the fellowship and study. Child care can be available if you make your need know in advance – by calling the church office by Wednesday of that week. Lenten booklets will be available for you to pick up on March 6th.

GOD'S TIME



A young man once asked God how long a million years was to him. God replied, “A million years to me is just like a single second in your time.” Then the young man asked God what a million dollars was to him. God replied, “A million dollars to me is like a single penny to you.” Then the young man got up the courage and asked, “God could I have one of your pennies?” God smiled and replied, “Certainly, just a second.”



NEWS FROM THE PASTOR

I think I have spring fever. On Saturday afternoon, I put on a heavy sweat shirt and went out into my yard to pick up sticks. I didn't stay too long, my gloves were getting wet and dirty as the freezing rain began, but it felt good to think it was spring, even if I did have to wash my gardening gloves. I really love spring, a time of new birth, budding and the hope of an abundant summer. It is the opportunity to get out – clean my yard, do spring house cleaning, pay my taxes - wait, am I nuts – spring is awful!! It is full of really hard work, time and taxes.

Man, isn't that the way it always is. There is something great like beautiful flowers and fresh plowed fields, and behind it is just a ton of work, demands on my time and taxes; all of which I did last year and have to do again this year. It's just the same thing year after year. . . (Okay, you know I'm kidding – sort of) – But the reality is that everything about growth and being part of God's plan is on going: work, time and money.

Spring is coming to Alexandria First UMC. In just a few short weeks, we will be doing an annual fund drive to ask folks to pledge or give money for the ministry of the church for 2011. It's fun to think about the new spring that is coming to our church. We are receiving new members, a youth confirmation class, a great music ministry, and lots of great things happening in the life of our church family. We are being blessed.

Alexandria First's spring means that we have to put on our gloves and get our hands wet and dirty to make this wonderful church home happy and budding. Yes, it is hard work, lots to be done. Yes, it will take our time – lots to be accomplished. And, yes, it will take money, ministry is not free. But we are excited to see the birth of faith, the budding of knowledge of God's love and the hope of living each day in Jesus Christ.

It is spring in Alexandria; at least it is on the way. It is time to put our work gloves, give our time and use our money that an abundance of God's blessings will blossom at our church. Spring, a time to put on our gloves and anticipate the abundance of God's blessings.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE MARCH 9TH AT 7:00

Ash Wednesday, the first day of lent, is the day that marks the beginning of the journey to the cross. The tradition is that on that day, folks come to the church to be marked with ashes and spend time in prayer knowing that they are moving toward the cross. This year at Alexandria First UMC, we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday by being marked with ashes and receiving a nail.

Each will be asked to carry the nail in their pocket or purse, or place it in a spot in their home or car where they will see it several times during the day. As each sees the nail, we will remember our humanness and the need we have for forgiveness. On Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday, we will bring the nail back to the church and receive communion.

Come and join in this important service that begins our journey toward the cross, and most importantly - EASTER SUNDAY!!!

WHAT ABOUT ASH WEDNESDAY?

Ash Wednesday will be on March 9th this year. Do you know the symbolism of the day?

1. From ancient times, ashes have been used as a symbol of mourning, penitence, grief and humiliation. In his pain and sorrow, Job "sat among the ashes" (Job 2:;8). The Old Testament book of Numbers and the New Testament book of Hebrews indicate that ashes were also used for purification (see Numbers 19:17 and Hebrews 9:13).
2. Christians have had an old tradition of using ashes made from the palm branches used on the last Palm Sunday. Priests and ministers have often used the ashes to make the sign of the cross on a believer's forehead as part of the Ash Wednesday ceremony.
3. The ashes symbolize the Christian's intent to repent of sins, to accept purification from the Lord, and to make a public witness of one's faith in Christ as Lord and savior.
4. Since Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the ashes symbolize one's intention to deepen his or her spiritual life. Lent is a time for spiritual renewal and growth in dedication and service.



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.

Condolences: to Diana Cooper upon the recent death of her father; to Kim Terry upon the recent death of her father, Gib Bridwell

Current Requests: Ray Kendal (surgery)

Ongoing Requests: Emily Owens, Dan Campbell (brother of Irene Campbell), Brent Bridwell

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

Shut-ins: Irene Campbell (Summitville Convalescent Center); Hazel (Hanlin) Glentzer (Alexandria Care Center – Room 204)

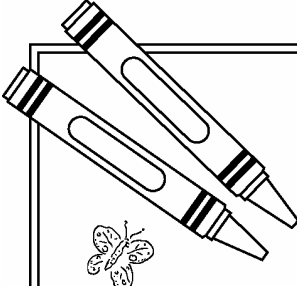
Service Personnel: Pray for peace, pray for military personnel

UNITED METHODIS MEN MEET

The Methodist Men of Alexandria First Church will host their monthly meeting/breakfast on Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the church basement fellowship hall. A full breakfast will be served by Shawn and Anna McGuire, (yum - yum). Vice-president George Smith announced that Pastor Jean Brindel will be our guest speaker. This is a great opportunity, in a smaller environment, for our men and guests to get more acquainted with our new pastor. The Men's meeting is open to members and non-members seeking the fellowship of men of faith. Ladies are welcome also. There's always room for one more. MOTTO: "Each one - Reach One".

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS COMING

It's coming soon! We wouldn't want to miss church on Sunday so don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night, March 12th.




Just for KIDS

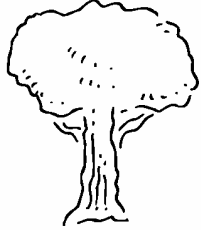
Changes

Everyone experiences changes in life. Sometimes they make us happy – sometimes not! What does the Bible say about this?

Find Ecclesiastes 3:1 below. Change some letters – then read the verse.



Change:	W's to N's
L's to T's	Z's to O's
J's to E's	P's to H's
Q's to I's	X's to R's
K's to S's	B's to A's



“

L P J X J Q S B
 L Q M J F Z X
 J V J X Y L P Q W G' B W D
 B K J B K Z W F Z X
 J V J X Y B C L Q V Q L Y
 U W D J X P J B V J W”

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”

March 2011

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m.

Birthdays!!

- 4 Marilyn Savage
- 5 Pauline Marrs
- 6 Todd Guthrie
- 6 Gail Schmidt
- 9 Amy Thomas
- 13 Abigail Ellis
- 14 Misty Jackson
- 15 Colleen Terry
- 16 Jessie Denniston
- 27 Donna Townsend
- 28 Mary Jane Kay
- 30 Shorty Burdsall

Anniversaries!!

- 8 Martin & Donna Koob
- 13 Bill & Donna Townsend

Plan ahead:

For your calendar events to be included in the next newsletter, turn them in by the 15th of each month.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 Band Practice 5:00 pm	2 Congregational Care 9:00 am	3 Choir Practice 6:00 pm	4 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	5
6 - Methodist Men's Breakfast 8:00 am - Youth Confirmation Class 9:30 am - Administrative Council meets after church	7	8 Band Practice 5:00 pm	9 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	10 Choir Practice 6:00 pm	11 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Turn your clocks forward 1 hour before you go to bed</div>
13 - Daylight Savings Time begins - Youth Confirmation Class 9:30 am - "Who Is Jesus?" Lenten Study begins 6-7:30 pm	14	15 Band Practice 5:00 pm	16	17 Choir Practice 6:00 pm	18 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	19
20 - Youth Confirmation Class 9:30 am - After Worship Fellowship - Lenten Study 6-7:30 pm	21	22 Band Practice 5:00 pm	23	24 Choir Practice 6:00 pm	25 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	26
27 - Youth Confirmation Class 9:30 am - Lenten Study 6-7:30 pm	28 School Spring Break begins	29 Band Practice 5:00 pm	30	31 Choir Practice 6:00 pm		

