

FOREST FIRE

March 2024

“Choices”

Genesis 12:1 – *The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*

Choices, decisions.... We all have to make them. We make hundreds of choices every single day. Do I hit the snooze button and sleep 10 more minutes, or do I get up? Will it be eggs, oatmeal or cereal for breakfast, or should I stop and get a donut or sausage and biscuit? Decisions; Choices. We all have to make them.

But there are some choices which leave us torn ... torn between two or more serious choices. Torn... because we know that whichever choice we make will have lifelong consequences. C. S. Lewis once said, “Every time you make a choice you are turning that central part of you that chooses into something a little different from what it was before.” So, just for a moment, imagine the risk involved when God said to Abram, “I want you to go from your country and your kindred, and your father’s house to the place that I will show you ... In other words, “Abraham, everything that gives you orientation and connection and rootedness and history, everything that defines and shapes your story, I want you to leave it all behind, and follow me to a place you know not where.” And Abraham was faced with a choice. His choice affected not only his wife, Sarah’s life, too, but the lives of generations yet to come.

God’s plan for Abraham could not have been more disruptive. And I don’t know exactly why Abraham did it, except that it was God who was asking and God said that leaving house, family, and history in this case was worth it. Eventually Abraham would be a blessing to his people; from him a great nation would arise, who would remember his name and bless him for his faithfulness. And so, Abraham decided to trust God.

One of the prayers of the Book of Common Prayer, which I so love, speaks to this. It goes, “*Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us such faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Drew

A Card of Thanks

Dear Forest Heights United Methodist Church. My husband and I would like to thank you for providing us with your weekly video worship service. Watching has been such a blessing to us. Rev. Russell Gallimore is a dear friend of ours. He married us in 1986 at Aldersgate UMC – Memphis . We reconnected with him and Carol a few months ago. Through that connection we found your loving church. Thank you for showing us your many loving and spiritual ways through Pastor Drew, the amazing traditional music and praise. Your love and faith in the Lord show on every face we see in your church. Please accept our donation towards your video worship.

Warm Regards – Pam & Emmett Parrish

Outreach News -Serving Our Community

Room in the Inn: Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful ministry. We will be hosting the men again on Tuesday, March 12th. Our menu will include smoked cocktail sausages, macaroni and cheese, a vegetable, and a salad. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the church office.

From our Youth: Grab-N-Go Lunches

For the past couple of years, the youth have been packing these lunches for the homeless. We usually pack bologna and cheese sandwiches along with some chips and a sweet treat. If we don't pack bologna and cheese, we pack peanut butter and jelly sandwiches along with some other snacks.

2024 Outreach Plan: Even though it is still early in 2024, Forest Heights has been very busy with our mission outreach. The extreme cold weather in January opened an opportunity to serve at the emergency shelter at First United Methodist Church. February saw both Souper Bowl and Room in the Inn. To help you plan your mission giving, here is a glimpse of our outreach plan:

We will continue to host our monthly meals for **Room in the Inn** through April, and then pick up again in the fall. During the summer break, the Outreach committee is exploring the possibility of serving a similar meal at one of the local hotels that house many of Jackson's homeless families. Since we would be serving a larger number of people, our meals would be simpler – possibly soup and sandwiches or a simple one-pot meal. The Outreach committee is continuing to work out the details and welcome your suggestions and participation.

June & July – Christmas Shoebox Project

August – U.M.C.O.R. emphasis – Would anyone be interested in a trip to the Sagar Brown UMCOR Warehouse in Baldwin, LA?

Sept- Oct: Collecting coats and hats for area school children.

Nov: Reelfoot Toy Store

Nurture News -Serving Our Church

Shrove Tuesday Update



A big thank you to all who participated in our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper with Mission St. James Church congregation. One hundred people enjoyed fellowship and a delicious meal of pancakes and all the sides. A special thanks to Beverlyann Jetton and the crew who provided the meal and to those who helped set-up and clean-up. Your willing service is a blessing.

United Women in Faith The first meeting of Forest Heights UMC **United Women in Faith** will be held Thursday, April 18 that 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A snack supper will be provided followed by a time of fellowship, a short devotion, and an informal business meeting. I encourage every woman to come and bring a friend. You do not have to be a church member to be a part of this group. It will be a wonderful stress-free time together and I hope everyone plans to attend. This is early notice and you will be reminded again but go ahead and mark your calendar now...Susan Montgomery

It's a Boy! The Preschool Steering Committee is hosting a Baby Shower for Julie Hall, our Preschool Director, on Tuesday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Julie is registered on Amazon and at Walmart.

From our Youth- Youth Sunday School

For the last several months we have been studying the books of 1st and 2nd Kings. We have studied the Israelites and the kings, seeing how they were unfaithful to God. God continued to call them and remained faithful to them. When we confess our sins, God is faithful and He will forgive us always.

Ready to Learn? Do you know what is meant by “**The General Conference**” of the United Methodist Church? If you would like to learn more about the structure and history of the UMC there is a free training course available at umctraining.org. There are no tests or meetings of any type, just information in text form as well as videos to watch. It is self-guided, and you can set your own pace. I have completed the first two lessons: “Overview of General Conference” and “History of General Conference”. Although I thought I was fairly knowledgeable about both, I did find new information and interesting stories. Simply go to umctraining.org and set up a free account using your email address. Click on All Courses and scroll to find “Exploring General Conference.” The next General Conference is April 23-May 3 this year. Start learning now so you will be up to date and understand the importance of General Conference!

Walk to Emmaus: The Upper Room sponsors a 3-day spiritual growth retreat to inspire, challenge, and equip Christians in their walk with Christ. West Tennessee has an active Emmaus program with retreats planned in March and October. For many, this event has been a life-changing moment in their Christian walk. The Men's Walk to Emmaus will be held at Lakeshore on March 7 – 10. The Ladies' walk will be March 21 – 24th. For more information: <https://www.emmaus.tn.org/emmaus> or talk with Bro Drew.



FRIENDSHIP



On a Sunday morning Linda and Ernie Wilson's granddaughter, Edy, age four, rang the tower bell at Forest Heights United Methodist Church. The joy of the beautiful sound carried and caught the attention of Lynn and Tim Burgher, a street away. Being home, they were entranced with the joy of the bell sound. They decided to visit Forest Heights the next Sunday. They received a warm welcome and decided to make Forest Heights their home church. What a blessing!

Sara Lynn Langford was born on June 18, 1958, in Jackson, Tennessee. Lynn went to Alexander Elementary where she met Tim for the first time. As school buddies, they continued to both Tigrett Middle School and Jackson Central Merry High School. Lynn went to Jackson State Community College earning an associate degree in secretarial science. She has been a teacher's aide at Forest Heights for twenty-three years. Her passion is helping children. Lynn says that as a teacher, she would be limited to seeing only children in her class while as an aide, she can see all the children all day long and can share her love with all.

Timothy Charles Burgher was born on November 19, 1957, in Columbus Ohio. In 1960, at the age of three, his family moved to Jackson, Tennessee. Tim and his parents attended Forest Heights. His mother taught Sunday School classes. Tim graduated from high school in 1975 and went to the University of Memphis, graduating with a psychology degree. Tim has been employed with Serra Chevrolet in the parts department.

Lynn's sister-in-law asked Lynn to go out with her for supper at Rafferty's. Arriving at the restaurant Lynn noticed Tim eating a cheeseburger with fries. Lynn asked her old school friend if she could have a French fry. Two years later, Lynn and Tim exchanged wedding vows at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church on November 18, 1996. They had their honeymoon at the Garden Plaza. The Burghers have a boy and a girl, as well as three grandchildren.

Tim loves music, family, and friends. He often taught the smaller children during the worship hour, sharing bible stories to show God's love. Tim loves yard work, fishing, and reading. Lynn enjoys playing the piano, word search, and reading. As a couple, they love greeting on Sundays, ushering, and serving communion. What they like the most at Forest Heights is the music and spirit of the service with our church family.

Friendship.....Be blessed.

Happy Birthday to all of our March friends

Dan Montgomery - March 10
Cheryl Thomas - March 13
Janette Chaplin - March 13
Jerry Ervin - March 13
Ruth Shelton - March 14
Peggy Sheffield - March 15
Luke Finney - March 20
Don Senter - March 25

Important Dates to Remember

Saturday, March 9- 9:00 a.m. Church Grounds Clean Up sponsored by the Trustees. All are welcome to help. Bring your gloves and energy.

All Wednesdays during Lent- Bible Study with Drew at 10:00 a.m. upstairs

Sunday, March 10 - 12:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 24- Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 28 Holy Thursday & Supper 5pm. Service 6 p.m. - Rev. Steve Shapard

Good Friday, March 29 - Service 3 p.m. - Rev. David Comperry, preaching

Sunday, March 31- Easter Sunday Bring fresh flowers to fill our Easter Cross for worship Easter Sunday Morning. The beauty of this cross reflects the glory of the Resurrection!

Tuesday, April 2- 5:30 p.m. Baby Shower for Julie Hall in Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, April 18- 5:30 p.m. FHUMC United Women in Faith first meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Forest Fire Newsletter

We are looking for a new logo for our newsletter. If you are interested in creating one, please contact Kathleen. We would love to have your suggestions. There is no age limit on who can submit a logo- youth, adult, senior, etc. We also want everyone to feel comfortable submitting articles for our newsletter. Items are due by the 3rd Wednesday of the month. They can be given to Kathleen in person or by email to Kathleeninmilan@gmail.com. You may also drop articles off to Betty in the office.

Holy Thursday Meal Menu

Tossed Salad with assorted dressings

Seasoned Green Beans

St. Paul's Heaven (a delicious rice & sausage casserole)

Desserts & Beverages

Cost" \$10 per person – Reservations must be made by March 25th

Reservation form

Name _____

Number of reservations _____

Submit to church office by Monday, March 25th. Please pay on day of meal.
