

FOREST FIRE

The Monthly Newsletter of Forest Heights United Methodist Church
863 West Forest Ave., Jackson, TN 38301

April 2025

A Word from Pastor Drew

The Gospel of John, Chapter 20

I will be the first to admit that the details of the post-Resurrection appearances are both sketchy and contradictory. Read together, they raise as many questions as they answer. Jesus seemed to appear differently to different people. In one Gospel, he came through a door with no suggestion that anybody opened it first. The implication being that his body was ethereal and ghost-like. Yet in another Gospel, it is suggested that he swallowed a piece of fish and ate it whole...which would require a body that was anything but ethereal and ghost-like. In more than one appearance, people who had every reason to, didn't recognize him. And Matthew even had the honesty to admit that when the eleven remaining disciples rendezvoused with him in Galilee, some (not one, but "some") doubted. Still, there can be little doubt that the earliest Christian preaching was grounded in the testimony of those claiming to have seen him for themselves, more than in a story about some women who went to a tomb, looking for a body that wasn't there.

The Resurrection comes (to all who experience it) as the ultimate endorsement that we are going to be okay. It is a word that says: "The worst thing that can happen is small potatoes compared to the best thing that has already happened." The Resurrection is God's "yes" to life, and God's "yes" to us. You cannot be held down forever. You cannot be held back forever. You cannot be held against your will forever. Which means that Jesus doesn't have to stick around, once he certifies the promise. Which leaves you wanting more of him. It also leads you to want (and ask) more of yourself. **That's why the ultimate argument for the Resurrection has always consisted in the change that the Resurrection produced in the lives of those who believed it. Not because life suddenly brought more to them, but that they suddenly brought more to life.**

The post-Easter world will still look pretty much like the pre-Easter world. The poor will still be poor. The homeless will still be homeless. The jobless will still be looking for work. Weapons will still be available for purchase and use. People will still shove funny stuff up their noses or shoot it into their arms. Some kid will break his parent's heart. Some parent will abuse or ignore his child. But the Resurrection says: "No matter how much is piled on top of us...or in front of us... it shall not be sufficient to defeat us."

It's an old, old story: car turns over; child is pinned beneath its weight. And some 105-pound woman, who can't ordinarily bench press a rolling pin, lifts 3600 pounds of metal off the legs of the little kid. Later on, even under hypnosis, she can't duplicate the feat. Was it fear? Hardly! Fear paralyzes ... immobilizes ... stops you in your tracks. It wasn't fear that enabled her to lift the car. Rather, it was the incredible focusing of energy, blocking out everything that would drain or divert it, zeroed in upon an objective that was deemed (at that very moment) to be the single most important thing in the world. Let me tell you this. At the height of disillusionment .. and in depth of despair .. Jesus greeted a small cadre of friends who had every reason to believe him dead and provided a focus that enabled them to lift the world and turn it upside down. Which he is still doing today ... for and with those who choose to see him.

Drew

Friendship



Hello friends at Forest Heights UMC. My name is Diane Seecat Sanford, and I recently moved my membership here from First UMC in downtown Jackson. One day Kitty Hawkins, my neighbor and Lambuth College friend and sorority sister, called me and we were talking about Forest Heights. She invited me to come to church with her the following Sunday. This is one of the best decisions I have made since being back in Jackson.

I was born and raised in Memphis, TN. Until I was nine years old, 1950, I lived on Nelson Ave. with my Grandmother Pankey, two aunts, my dad, and two sisters on one side of the house. My mother had passed away in 1947 and we moved into their house. Galloway Methodist Church was my Seecat/Pankey family church and where my mother and daddy met, grew up, and married about 1937 or 1938. This was at the time when families shared space, food, and daily life. Do you know what? Nobody told me it was strange or "hard times" or unfair. It just was what it was. My daddy, Bill Seecat, worked at Pierce Hardware store for fifty-two years, starting as a stock boy and retired with a degree in Architectural Engineering. I was always so proud of him

My daddy worked with a lady in the office named Miss Billie Ware. One night, Daddy asked us girls if it would be OK with us if he invited Miss Billie out on a date. He said she lived alone and he thought it would be nice. Of course, if Daddy thought something was a good idea, we did, too. So began the dating of Daddy and Miss Billie in the front seat and us three girls in the back seat going to the drive-in movies. Miss Billie was born and raised in Stanton, TN. When we all showed up there, her family welcomed us with open arms and moved us right into learning what it meant to live on a large working farm. These wonderful folks became our new grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends in 1950, when a wedding took place in Stanton with someone playing the Wedding March on an out of tune piano with Daddy and Billie becoming husband and wife. We moved into a big old house on Hwy. 51 south, right next door to Whitehaven Methodist Church.

I came to Lambuth in 1959. Four wonderful years. I became interested in joining the Lambuth college choir when I was a freshman in 1959. Uncle Barney Thompson was our choir director and included me in his chapel choir as well as the traveling choir for the next four years. To this day, I can hear and see our group of friends who sang on the bus as we traveled to high schools and churches to present our programs for the students and congregations (Kitty was part of the choir.) I lived on campus and I still talk to several fellow students here at Forest Heights, on my neighborhood street, and in Jackson.

After college I married and taught school for two years before moving to Nashville when my husband's work transferred him. We moved to Brentwood, TN in 1972. My second marriage took place in 2007 until September 2014. At that time my children and I decided it was best if I moved back to Jackson and live near my daughter and her family. She found me a beautiful home at 6 Emerald Ridge Cove. These ten, nearly eleven years in Jackson, have been easy and as normal as can be.

New friends have entered my life through church, Bible Study classes at Skyline Church of Christ, Forest Heights, ladies' lunch groups with fierce games of dominoes and lots of laughter. I learned to sew on a treadle machine when I was eleven years old, making most of my clothes and today I create beautiful quilts, drapes, curtains, and household décor. My art talent showed up when I was about 13 when I was drawn to portrait art of Breck shampoo girls. Now I can add Circle at Forest Heights, Bible study on Wednesdays, and get together for lots of fun to my list of what makes me happy.

Thank you to all of my Forest Heights family for making the "new kid on the block" feel so welcome.

Friendship, from one to the other Be blessed

Nurture Area News

Holy Week: April 13 – April 20

Join us as we observe the events of the last week of Jesus' life through gatherings and worship.

April 13 Palm Sunday 11:00 a.m. worship

April 17 Maundy Thursday 5:00 p.m. supper

6:00 p.m. worship

(Rev. Larry Daniel will be sharing the message during this service.)

April 18 Good Friday 3:00 p.m. worship

April 20 Easter Sunday 11:00 a.m. worship

This service will celebrate our Risen Lord with Scripture, Word, and special music by our Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and a Brass Ensemble.

Bring fresh flowers to fill our Easter cross with you on Easter Sunday Morning.

Maundy Thursday Menu Meal Catered by Rachel Cathey

Tossed garden salad with assorted dressings, Seasoned green beans, Poppyseed chicken, Homemade rolls, and Dessert. Cost: \$15.00 per person, payable at the dinner. Reservations must be made by Monday, April 14.

Reservation Form

Name(s): _____

of reservations _____

You may call the church office or fill out this form and give it to Sue Bryant in the church office.

April Birthdays

3	Susan Wheatley
4	Sandy Thomas
8	Linda Wilson
19	Tommy Russell
24	Marcia Tate
27	Margaret Harrison

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will not meet in April since our regularly scheduled meeting date for April falls on Maundy Thursday. Instead, we want to encourage everyone to support and attend the Maundy Thursday meal and communion service.

In May we will meet on Thursday, May 15th at 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Gayle Crocker will have the program and Kitty Hawkins and Marily Kemp will provide refreshments.

UWF has several ongoing projects. We are donating items and/or cash at each meeting to support the Reelfoot Teen Room at Christmas. We have applications for anyone interested in reading to the daycare children. And in May we will have a candle-burning ceremony during a Sunday morning worship service where the congregation can donate to global missions of UWF by honoring or memorializing a special person in their life. If you would like to participate in any of these projects, please see any UWF member.

Outreach Area News

Good Bye and Hello: Once again it is time to say Good Bye to Room in the Inn. We will be serving our last meal of the season on Tuesday, April 8th. Plan on joining us at the First United Methodist Church at 5:30. You will be blessed. We will have some needs on our sign-up list. If you can't help serve, perhaps you can provide one of the needed items. Please check the list on the Communication Table by the church office.

...**and now we say Hello to Room at the Table** as we begin our summer of service at Studio 45 Suites. We will be having a worship time and dinner on Thursday May 15th. Watch for more information in the May edition of The Forest Fire.

Christmas Shoebox Project: Our big summer mission project will be coming up in June and July. Several people have asked what items they can be looking for as they shop. Here are a few ideas: small flashlights with batteries (Dollar Tree has flat flashlights near the check out), nail care kits, sharpened pencils, small notebooks, wash cloths, wide tooth combs, ponytail bands and hair clips.



Thank You:

Forest Heights Family!

Thanks so much for the abundance of supplies needed for my classroom. I appreciate it, and I know my students do too!

Amy Tate

Thank you from Area Relief Ministries

Dear Forest Heights United Methodist Church,

Thanks to your support, Area Relief Ministries was able to provide life-saving housing at the Room in the Inn with hot food, warm beds and loving fellowship. You are sowing seeds of hope in people who many deem beyond hope. We are blessed to have 25 participating churches and three family and one ministry group sharing the joy of serving “the least of these.” “I was hungry, and you fed me, I was naked, and you clothed me.” You have done all of this, and I pray God’s richest blessings on you.

Please visit when you can, and we covet your prayers for those we serve. We are in the middle of Winter and the Room in the Inn is life-saving shelter for many. Our day shelter “Open Arm” provides a warm place with showers, washer/dryers, computer lab and job training opportunities with our partnership with Goodwill Career Solutions. There are many heartbreaking stories but there are more stories of life-change and victory.

I pray God’s richest blessing on you for remembering the poor.

Blessings,
Fredrick D. McKinnie
Area Relief Ministries
www.areareliefministries.org

Forest Heights will host **Room in the Inn, on Tuesday, April 8th**. Join us by providing needed items or by helping serve a hot meal. The sign-up list is on the communication desk by the office.

Holocaust Event: On April 24th, at 6:00 p.m., there will be a Holocaust Event held in the Forest Heights' Sanctuary. The organizers of the event will have a guest speaker on the Holocaust. You are welcome to attend.

Calendar for April 2025 - find the **Weekly Calendar** under the “**Events**” tab on fhumc.com

April 1	April Fool's Day – Nothing Scheduled (whoever shows up first gets first choice)		
April 3	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	District Clergy Meeting.
April 7	6:00 p.m.	F.H. Foyer	Women's Devotional Study
April 8	5:00 p.m.	FUMC	Room in the Inn
April 9	9:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
April 9	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study – Book of Luke
April 9	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
April 9	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Bell Choir Practice
April 9	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice
April 14	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
April 14	6:00 p.m.	F.H. Foyer	Women's Devotional Study
April 16	9:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
April 16	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study – Book of Luke
April 16	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
April 16	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Bell Choir Practice
April 16	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice
April 17	5:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Maundy Thursday Supper
April 17	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Maundy Thursday Service
April 18	3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Good Friday Service
April 20	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
April 23	9:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
April 23	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study – Book of Luke
April 23	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
April 23	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Bell Choir Practice
April 23	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice
April 24	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Holocaust Event
April 27	12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Church Council Meeting
April 28	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
April 29	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Preschool Steering Committee
April 30	9:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
April 30	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
April 30	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Bell Choir Practice
April 30	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice