



(Photo: Joseph Meadows at Run the Line Half Marathon)

Dear FUMC Family,

I want to thank everyone who hosted the FUMC Water Station last Sunday for the "Run the Line" half marathon. This was the 8th year that FUMC has been present to show support to the participants. It was a very cold morning, but everyone managed the cold like a good sport. I am so grateful to Scooter Wilder and the FUMC Crew for willing to "Be the Church"

I also want to encourage you to attend the Lenten Music Series of Services over the next four Wednesdays at 12:15 in the Sanctuary followed by lunch in the Cafe. I will be fixing lunch next Wednesday and Janis Stringfellow is coordinating the other lunches. Currently I am planning on preparing homemade chicken and dumplings, mandarin orange tossed salad, hot french bread, and a selection of desserts if time allows for me to do this next week. The menu might change based on what demands next week.

Wednesday, February 28

12:15 p.m. - **Lenten Musical Meditations begin**

February 28

Paul Christopher, Cellist
Dr. Chialing Hsieh, Pianist
Northwest State University, Faculty

March 6

Robin Thomas, Pianist
Worship Associate
First Baptist Church, Texarkana, TX

March 13

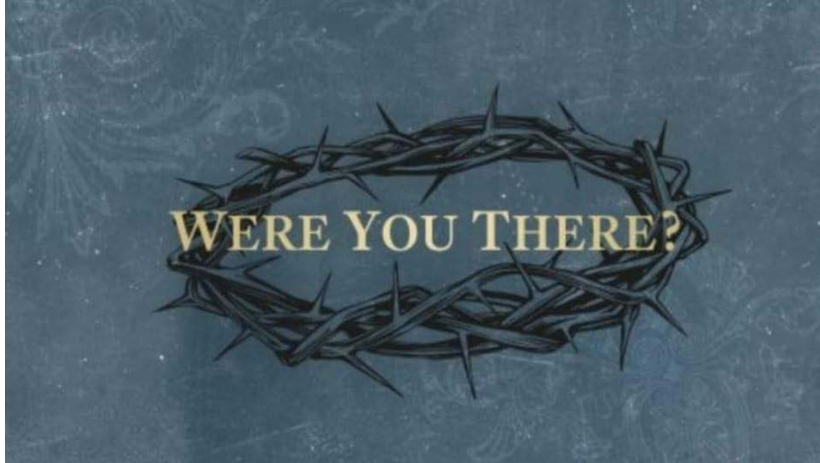
"At the Feet of Jesus"
Candace Taylor, Soprano
Soprano Soloist, Texarkana Regional Chorale
Marc-André Bougie, Pianist
Associate Professor of Music, Texarkana College

March 20

Ethan Miller, Violinist, Studio 57
Annika Johnson, Piano and Guitar
Beech Street First Baptist Church, Worship Minister

This week, several people from the church family have been in area hospitals. Please pray a blanket prayer of healing for each of these persons.

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Sunday is the second Sunday of Lent. We will focus on the sermon series. Were You There. together we will read Luke 4:1-13 and ask the question, Were You there in the Desert?

I hope that you are reading the "Were You There" Lenten devotionals on the Church Facebook page or receiving them by email daily. Each daily devotion is written by a member of FUMC.

On Tuesday of this week, 8th grade Student Ivy Meadows shared the poem that she had written based on Matthew 22:1-14. In case you missed reading Ivy's poem I want to share it with you.

A poem by Ivy Meadows based on Matthew 22: 1-14 which is the Parable of the Wedding Banquet:

Many are called by Jesus

but few are chosen.

By our faith alone

can we be messengers

of the Lord. He is our God,

Savior of the universe

in which all the impossible is made possible.

By our faith alone
can we bestow
our praise,
singing with our voices,
dancing with our feet.

As the men who
are called by Jesus
in the parable
of a wedding feast,
if our Lord and Savior
has tables of food
prepared for us,
and we are ungrateful
for the honor,

Are we not as
poor as a man with nothing
or as weak and thirsty as a traveler
in the desert?

The Kingdom of Heaven
is prepared for us.

All of us.

Yet if we do not repent of our sins

and put on the clothes to wear

to a feast,

then our uncleanness

will consume our lives.

The Lord has a seat ready for you

at his table.

Inviting us all to his feast.

By our faith alone

we are called by him.

Dressed in garments of forgiveness.

And placed in shoes of repentance.

Good and bad alike,

we are called,

loved,

treasured

by the Lord, Jesus.

By our faith alone

shall we be glad in our calling from God.

He has slaughtered the fattened cattle

For us.

All of us.

Jesus has called us,

even if few are chosen.

Answer His call–

His outreach–

By your faith to be fully His.

For Many are called,

but few are chosen.

We hear the blasting trumpets call,

we profess our faith in Jesus Christ

to our neighbor,

but do not live the life

cleansed by the blood of Christ.

Are we not, then,

as poor as a man with nothing,

or as weak and thirsty as a traveler in the desert?

To be saved,

to be washed clean,

To be promised a life forever with God

is no simple task.

Life will throw boulders,

but the followers of Jesus

will grind them down to sand

with the Lord's aid.

Many are called,
but few are chosen.

The FUMC Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday afternoon March 24th at the home of Hart and Dian LaVoice Jeanis. It is going to be a fun event as always for children and families. One of the ways that everyone can support this event is by donating pre-filled easter eggs for the hunt. Eggs may be put in the green bin in the Narthex, dropped off in the office or placed in Rochelle Gray's office in the Family Life center.

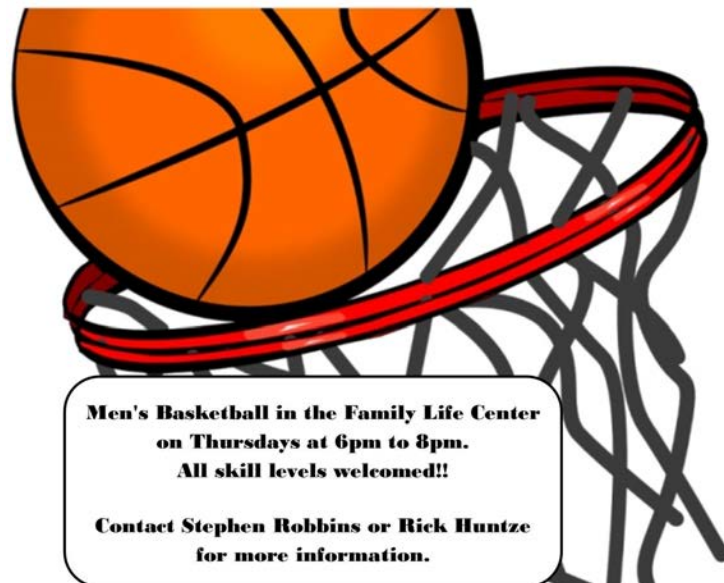


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You are invited to play basketball on Thursday nights in the FLC gym



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Photo: VBS Planning Meeting last Sunday after worship.

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Scuba Vacation bible School planning is underway. Scuba VBS will be June 24-26.

God is Faithful!

Bro. Jaimie J. Alexander

First United Methodist Church

400 East 6th Street

Texarkana, Arkansas 71854

(870) 772-6931

Photo: Forever Young Bible Study which meets on Wednesday Nights

