

APRIL 2024

# THE SPIRIT CONNECTION

Easter Edition



## A Note From Pastor Sara

**All the Alleluias! (because Easter is not over)**

**During the season of Lent, the universal church, ourselves included, bury and banish the use of the word “Alleluia,” but now that we’ve journeyed through Holy Week and celebrated Easter, we are glad to use the word Alleluia all the time!**

**But we must remember, Easter is not just the one day of dressing in our “Easter Best” with excellent worship and decorating our church’s flower cross. Indeed, Easter is a season.**

**Liturgically, Easter is a season that is 50 days long, concluding with Pentecost (which this year is May 19). Granted, we practice a bit of Easter every Sunday in worship.**

**Practicing Easter means living into the joy of resurrection found in Christ and choosing the hope, grace, and resiliency offered to us through the Risen Lord. We can shout and sing and live out our Alleluias in all that we do!**

**There is much to be thrilled about in this season of our ministry together— a fulfilling Holy Week & Easter Sunday; Wednesday Night Meals together; our youth hosting a mission event for youth throughout the Central District; the upcoming Women’s Retreat; the sale of the church’s three residential properties; our church leadership’s courageous decision to be debt free; our thriving CEC ministry; fruitful missions helping to feed the hungry and continued tornado recovery throughout our community—and so much more! And let’s not forget the beauty of spring bursting forth all around us in the bright blooms and cool breezes.**

**We have many Alleluias to celebrate. Won’t you join me in these praises of grateful joy?**

**See you Sunday,  
Pastor Sara**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**PASTOR SARA’S NOTE**

**A HOLY WEEK IN PHOTOS**

**CHURCH NEWS**

**C.E.C. UPDATES**

# A Look Back at Holy Week



**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024  
9 A.M. AND 11 A.M. WORSHIP  
UWFAITH SPRING BAKE SALE**



**TUESDAY, MAR. 26  
WALKING THE LABYRINTH AND  
GENTLE YOGA**



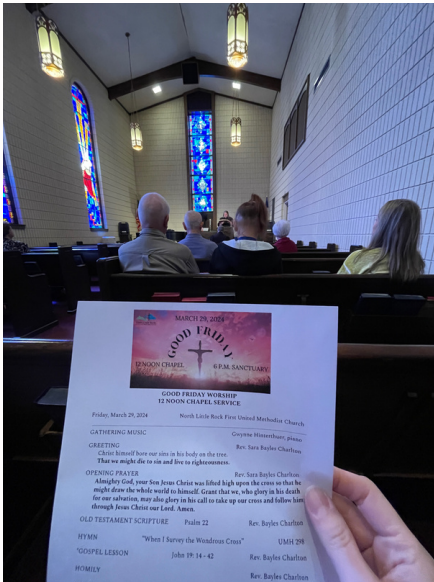
**WEDNESDAY, MAR. 27  
NOON TAIZE SERVICE IN THE  
CHAPEL**



# Holy Week Recap:

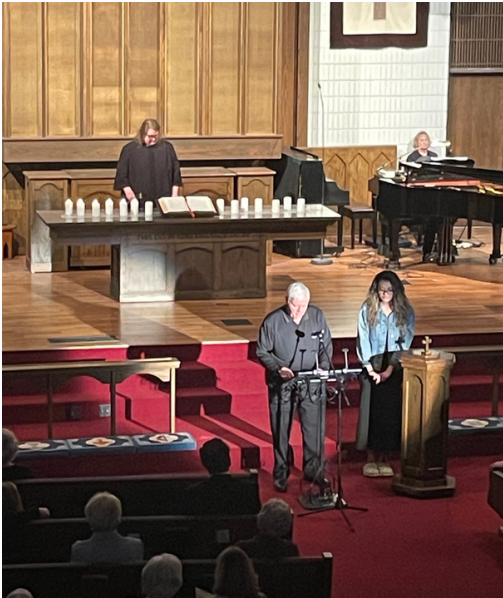


**THURSDAY, MAR. 28, 2024  
MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP  
6 P.M. SANCTUARY  
YOUTH ASSISTED IN THE TELLING  
OF THE LAST SUPPER.**



**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29  
NOON SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL  
LION'S CLUB FISH FRY FUNDRAISER**

# Holy Week Recap Cont:



**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29  
6 P.M. TENEBRAE SERVICE  
IN THE SANCTUARY**



# Holy Week Recap:



## HOLY SATURDAY, MAR. 30 FIRST KIDS' EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



# Holy Week: Easter Sunday



## MARCH 31, 2024 EASTER SUNDAY 9 A.M. WAYPOINT WORSHIP SERVICE



## MARCH 31, 2024 EASTER SUNDAY 11 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE



# Church News: What's Happening This Month



## FIRST KIDS ON THE 1ST!

LET'S HELP OUR FRIENDS CELEBRATE!

Join us this Sunday!  
April 7, 5:30-7:15 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall & First Kids' Pod  
**WE'RE MAKING 'BEST DAY' BOXES!**  
Dinner, Devotional,  
Mission Project & Fun!

\*If you'd like to help, contact Megan Hairston,  
Minister to Children and Families:  
mhairston@nlrfumc.org



## MOVE

ACTIVE GAMES FOR ACTIVE FAITH

JOIN OUR FIRST KIDS SPRING SERIES....

**SUNDAY MORNINGS:**  
April 7: The Call of Abram  
April 14: Sodom and Gomorrah  
April 21: The Exodus  
April 28: Crossing the Red Sea  
May 5: Jonah Flees from God  
May 12: The Great Commission  
May 19: Philip and the Ethiopian  
May 26: Saul's Conversion

North Little Rock  
First United Methodist Church



## Youth Led Worship

Sunday, April 14 / 9 am & 11 am



### JOIN US FOR IMPRINT

#### Event Alert!

**When?** April 12-13, 2024  
**Where?** North Little Rock FUMC  
**Cost?** ~~\$30~~ per person  
**\$25**  
This year's focus is on fighting food insecurity and promoting childhood literacy.

#### What is happening?

**Literacy**  
With this focus, we are asking for each church to donate books for students in grades K-12. These will be donated to NLR First's free, public library.

**Food Insecurity**  
We are asking churches to bring non-perishable food items. These will be donated to Gardner Memorial United Methodist Churches food pantry.

**More...**  
During our event, one of our mission projects will be to help NLR First's Indian Hills Food Ministry Team put together backpacks for students at Indian Hills Elementary.  
**WORSHIP WILL BE YOUTH LED!!!**

Email centraldcym@zrunc.org for any questions!  
If you or your youth would like to participate in leading worship, please let us know!

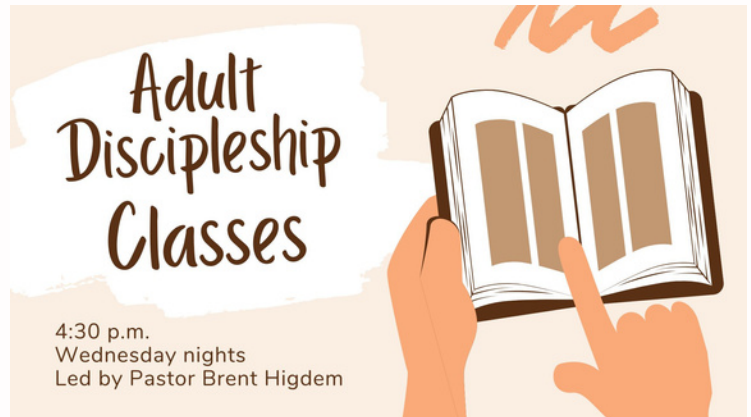


## UNITED METHODISM 101

*Heritage, Doctrine, & Polity of the United Methodist Church*

Wednesdays nights:  
April 17  
April 24  
May 1

Led by Rev. Sara Bayles Charlton



## Adult Discipleship Classes

4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday nights  
Led by Pastor Brent Higdem



## Senior Sunday

Sunday, April 28  
9 am & 11 am  
Tables, brunch, scholarships & more!



## Unite

Jacksonville FUMC  
April 28 / 3:30-6:30 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.NLRFUMC.ORG](http://WWW.NLRFUMC.ORG)

# Church News: What's Happening This Month

Blue Sunday is a day of prayer for abused children. We will join millions of others in prayer for the 30th year of Blue Sunday. Last year, our church recognized Blue Sunday by donating stuffed toys to local law enforcement and emergency service departments to distribute to children involved in emergency situations.

This year, **we will be selling blue pinwheels at \$5 a piece to be placed in our front lawn area. The proceeds of this purchase will go toward an organization in Jacksonville, AR called**

**"Children's protection center"** run by AR Children's Hospital. They coordinate child abuse protection services, abuse examinations, education about abuse and its effects, and abuse counseling services.

There will be a representative from the facility to visit our church and speak to the congregation.



North Little Rock  
First United Methodist Church

APRIL 21, 2024

# BLUE SUNDAY

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

WATCH OUR COMMUNICATIONS FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Donors who purchase a pinwheel will have their names printed in an insert in the bulletins on Sunday, April 21st.**

Let's fill our front lawn with a sign of beautiful hope for all children who need our help and our prayers.

Volunteers  
needed

We are looking for individuals who would like to work in our **nursery on Sunday Mornings and Wednesday evenings, as well as a few special occasions. This is a paid position, but we are also looking for volunteers.**

Anyone interested in applying or wanting more information should contact David Martin at the church office: [dmartin@nlrfumc.org](mailto:dmartin@nlrfumc.org).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**If you are looking for ways to get plugged into the church, here are a few ideas from David:**

- Tech Support for Worship
- Yard Team & Light Maintenance work
- Parking lot attendants
- children's & Youth department helpers



North Little Rock  
First United Methodist Church

## Missions' Donations for April

**Canvas Community:**  
-Plastic Rain Ponchos

**Gardner Food Pantry:**  
-Canned Soup  
-Crackers

*\*All Communion Rail offerings this month will go toward Seis Puentes*



north little rock  
first united methodist church

## Confirmation Service at Canvas

4:00 pm Leave NLFUMC  
4:30 pm Arrive at Canvas & serve supper  
\*\*We plan to eat at Canvas. However, if we are running low on food, we will take them out to eat afterwards.\*\*  
6:30 pm Leave Canvas  
7:00 pm Arrive back at NLFUMC (Subject to change depending on food plans.)

Monday, April 15, 2024  
4:00 p.m.



# CEC: Children's Enrichment Center



**April 6-12th is Arkansas Children's Week (ACW)** and has been a statewide tradition for more than 30 years! ACW is a celebration of children of all ages and their educators and families. Through ACW, early educators and youth development professionals highlight the needs of children and families and the accomplishments of the adults who work with them.

To celebrate this, we will have many activities planned that week including on Wed. night (April 10) we will have pizza, salad, and fruit. The classrooms will set up experiences in the Fellowship Hall for our families to come and engage with the activities, your child, and friends. All are welcome!

**Their theme This Year: The everyday experiences we share with children matter.** This year, we're focusing on five key experiences that educators and families share with children.

- **Constructive experiences**, when children design and build.
- **Imaginative play**, when children pretend.
- **Creative expression**, when children communicate through art, music, and more.
- **Exploratory and investigative experiences**, when children discover the world around them.
- **Active, physical play**, when children experience movement and motion through vigorous play.

# April Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>APRIL</b> <b>2024</b>	1 Easter Monday	2 Weekly Repeated Events (see below) 10 a.m. Craft Group	3 Weekly Repeated Events	4 1-3 p.m. A State Training CEC 1 p.m. Fellowship Class Social 7 p.m. I.H. Community Meeting	5 4 p.m. Confirmands to B'Nai Israel	6
7 Weekly Repeated Sunday Events 5:30 p.m. First Kids, First Sunday Event	8 CHURCH AND CEC CLOSED FOR ECLIPSE	9 Weekly Repeated Events 11:30 a.m. Pastoral Care Team Meeting	10 Weekly Repeated Events AR Children's Week	11 Weekly Repeated Events	12 Weekly Repeated Events Central District Youth "Imprint" event	13 Weekly Repeated Events Central District Youth "Imprint" event
14 <b>YOUTH LED WORSHIP</b> Weekly Repeated Events 2 p.m. Baby Shower 2 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting	15 Weekly Repeated Events 10 a.m. Jo Cruse Circle 1:30 p.m. Nell Dyer Circle Meeting 4:00 p.m. Canvas (Youth serving) 6:30 p.m. Blue Star Mothers of AR Meeting	16 Weekly Repeated Events	17 Weekly Repeated Events 6:30 p.m. United Methodism 101 Class Begins	18 Weekly Repeated Events 5:30 p.m. Faith Sisters Meeting (off campus)	19 Weekly Repeated Events	20 Weekly Repeated Events 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Toland Baby Shower (off campus, drop in)
21 <b>BLUE SUNDAY</b> Weekly Repeated Events 12 p.m. Admin Committee Meeting	22 Weekly Repeated Events	23 Weekly Repeated Events	24 Weekly Repeated Events	25 Weekly Repeated Events 7 p.m. I.H. Community Meeting	26 Weekly Repeated Events	27 Weekly Repeated Events
28 <b>SENIOR SUNDAY</b> Weekly Repeated Events 3:30 p.m. Unite (Youth)	29 Weekly Repeated Events	30 4:30 p.m. UWF Leadership				

## WEEKLY REPEATED EVENTS:

**Mondays** - 10:30 a.m. CEC Chapel Time

**Tuesdays** - 6:30 a.m. Morning Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

5:00 p.m. Body and Soul Workout

**Wednesdays** - 4:30 p.m. Bible Study & JuBELLation Practice

5:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal

6:15 p.m. Holy Communion

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Youth and First Kids Meet, Bible Study

**Thursdays** - 5 p.m. Body and Soul

6:30 p.m. Faith Ringers Practice

**Sundays** - 9 a.m. Waypoint Worship

10 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

1:30 Ukulele Practice

5:30 p.m. Youth and Confirmation