

MARCH 2024

THE SPIRIT CONNECTION

Lent & Easter Edition



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A Note From Pastor Sara

Each December, I like to ask folks what makes Christmas feel like Christmas. Responses often include moments of worship like, the singing of "Silent Night" or "Joy to the World," or even moments of candlelight and Holy Communion. Often, responses also include missional activities such as participating in the angel tree or serving the unhoused community, or even things outside of the church life, like baking cookies with loved ones and special family traditions.

Now that spring is upon us, I'm curious to know, what makes Easter feel like Easter? When and what are the moment(s) that you are overcome with the beauty of the celebration? The activities of Holy Week are many, especially in the life of our church, as you'll see included in this newsletter. Perhaps this Easter season, you will discover new moments in worship or at home that inspire hope and stir the soul.

I encourage you to take a few moments to review these pages and make your plans to engage in our ministry in the coming weeks. So too, I hope you'll take time to prayerfully consider, what makes it feel like Easter to you? If you want to share, let me know!

As we are halfway through our Lenten journey, may these last few days be spiritually meaningful and enriching. Please consider inviting someone to our Holy Week happenings and Easter celebration, you never know who is looking for a new church home!

Lenten blessings,
Pastor Sara

Church News: Ministries and Missions



Don't forget to **Spring forward** this weekend and turn your clocks one hour ahead before you turn in on Saturday night. We don't want you to miss out on any Sunday worship opportunities!



During the month of March, we will continue with our **Wednesday night activities.**

4:30 p.m. Seven Words Study (Parlor)
5:30 p.m. Fellowship meal
6:15 p.m. Holy Communion
6:30 p.m. The Shema Series (Parlor)
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
6:30 p.m. Youth and First Kids groups



The annual **UW Faith Bake Sale** will take place on **Palm Sunday, Mar. 24.**

If you'd like to bake some goodies for the sale, **please bring those by the church from 1-3 on Sat., Mar., 23rd.** If aren't a baker, come and buy some desserts for your Holy Week. Come by the sale from **9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Mar. 24th!**



Donations are requested for Canvas Community and the Gardner Food Pantry. Remember, all items can be dropped off in the donations boxes across from the Fellowship Hall.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor is ready to help you this Spring and Summer! Just call the church office or email: **neighbor2neighbor@nlrfumc.org**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH NLRFCMC

Lent 2024

	February	March
6:15 p.m. Holy Communion	21st	6th
6:30 p.m. Youth and Kids	28th	13th
5:30-6:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal		20th
4:30 & 6:30 p.m. Adult Discipleship Classes		27th
		4:30 p.m. Handbell Practice
		6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

FELLOWSHIP HALL



United Women in Faith

MARCH 24
9-12:30 P.M.

Spring Bake SALE!

Drop off baked goods on:
March 23
1-3 p.m.

Please mark any allergens on the labels. Thank you!

North Little Rock First United Methodist Church

Missions' Donations for March

Canvas Community:
 -Rain Ponchos

Gardner Food Pantry:
 -Cookies
 -Canned Vegetables

**All Communion Rail offerings this month will go toward the Gardner Food Pantry*

North Little Rock First United Methodist Church



Holy Week Happenings:

PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 24

Please join us for our Palm Sunday Worship Services. Our 9 a.m. Worship service will be in the Fellowship Hall and our 11 a.m. service will be in the Sanctuary and online. In both services, we will have a palm procession. Also, on this day, the UWFaith will have their annual bake sale beginning at 9:30 a.m.!

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Join us for the Burning of the Prayer Requests in the Rose Garden at 12 noon.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Walk the **Labyrinth with Jodie Goens**, our Spiritual Director in Residence. In the Fellowship Hall. 12-6 p.m. (12 and 5 p.m. will be an presentation of explanation).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Join us at 12 noon in the Chapel for a Taizé service, led by Timothy Tucker.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP, MARCH 28

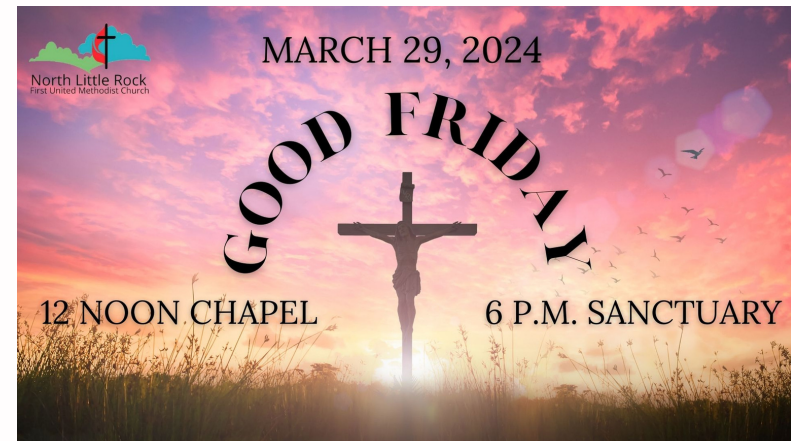
Our Maundy Thursday worship service will be on Thurs. Mar. 28th at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online. Here we will partake in Holy Communion and remember the Last Supper. All are welcome to attend this special service.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: MARCH 29

NLRFUMC is offering two opportunities to worship on Good Friday. The first is a noon service in the Chapel and the second service is in the Sanctuary and online at 6 p.m. This service will be a Tenebrae service.

EASTER SUNDAY: MARCH 31

Christ is Risen will be shouted out loud at these wonderful and celebratory services on Easter Sunday! Join us at either 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall or 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary or Online to worship and lean into the hope that Jesus gives us on this day!





MARCH 2024

First Kids: March News



FIRST KIDS' EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

To all you kiddos and kiddos at heart, we would love to invite you to our annual Easter Eggstravaganza! From 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 30 on the grounds of NLFUMC, we will hunt for eggs, play games, enjoy some Easter themed crafts and some treats!

Bring a friend and let's celebrate Easter together!

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS IN MARCH: BAD NEWS BLUES

Megan Hairston has a great lesson plan for the month of March. We hope you will join us in the children's department on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. or Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

During Sunday School, they will focus on banishing the "Bad News Blues" at 10 a.m. in the Children's department. They will learn about living with the joy that Jesus brings to our lives.

On Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m., the First Kids will be exploring the amazing miracles of Jesus in the "Science of Jesus".

Don't forget to join us for a meal each Wednesday starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have some kid friendly options as well!

Please invite your friends and family to our Holy Week and Easter services! Each day will be special and full of the love of Christ.



If you love working with children, we could always use an extra volunteer to help in the children's department during Sunday School. Just contact Megan at mhairston@nlfumc.org



March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

9 a.m. Waypoint Contemporary Worship
11 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!



HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH:
MEGAN HAIRSTON
MHAIRSTON@NLFUMC.ORG
GROUPME: NLFUMC 1ST KIDS
FACEBOOK GROUP: NLFUMC FIRST KIDS
INSTAGRAM: @NLFUMC
WEEKLY CHURCH NEWSLETTERS:
SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE:
NLFUMC.ORG



Youth March News

SUNDAY NIGHTS IN MARCH

Sunday Nights

March 3, 10, & 24 (We are not meeting on Spring Break and Easter)

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Youth Pod

We have a snack supper followed by Confirmation Class and Youth Bible Study time.

CONFIRMATION DAY WITH THE BISHOP

March 9

9:00 am - 4:00 pm (This is the event time.)

Dropoff/Pick up will be from NLRFUMC and will depend on our starting circuit.)

Confirmation Day with the Bishop will provide confirmands the opportunity to be circuit riders for the day, visiting 3 different United Methodist churches in the Little Rock area throughout the day allowing them to experience a total of 5 stops along their circuit

YOUTH WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday Nights

March 6, 13, 20, & 27

5:30 pm Supper (Fellowship Hall)

6:15 pm Communion (Chapel)

6:30 pm Youth Study (Youth Pod)

7:30 pm Guardian Pickup (Parking Lot or around the Welcome Desk)

That's right- we've added 2 additional dates for our Wednesday night activities! For the month of March, we will be closing the Lord's Prayer study with a prayer experience. Then we will begin working on Youth Led Worship Prep. Youth Led will be Sunday, April 14 to avoid conflict with eclipse travel plans. We'll also have some Easter fun!

HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH:

REV. KATHY BUTLER

KBUTLER@NLRFUMC.ORG

GROUPME: NLRFUMC YOUTH

FACEBOOK: NLRFUMC YOUTH

INSTAGRAM: NLRFUMCYOUTH

WEEKLY YOUTH NEWSLETTERS VIA CONSTANT CONTACT

MARCH 2024



CEC: Children's Enrichment Center



DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 7 - PTO Meeting 5:30 p.m.

March 9 - Chili Cook Off Fundraiser and art show.

March 13 - Spring Pictures

March 15 - Leprechaun Visit

March 18-22 - Spring Break

Full Day Elementary Care

March 28 - Easter Egg Hunt 2 p.m.

March 29 - CEC Closed for Good Friday

Dr. Seuss Week is March 4-9th!

Monday - Wear A Hat

Tuesday - Dress for what you want to be when you grow up

Wednesday - Wear mismatched clothes

Thursday - Wear Green and we will eat green eggs and ham

Friday - Wear Pajamas



C.E.C.'s Annual Chili Cookoff!

**When: March 9
4 - 6 p.m.**

All are welcome!
Eat, vote, and support the C.E.C.
The C.E.C. children will also have their artwork on display and for purchase!
All proceeds go to help support the C.E.C.!

**Come out
and support
the C.E.C.!**

MARCH 2024

March Music Notes

BY TIMOTHY TUCKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

March will be an exciting time in the musical life of the church as we wrap up Lent and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, March 31. Coming up on March 17, Kiril Laskarov, the Principal Violinist and Concertmaster of the Arkansas Symphony, along with ASO cellist, Daniel Kline will be playing in worship. They will be accompanying the Chancel Choir on a beautiful arrangement of Charles Wesley's Lenten hymn "Jesus Lover of My Soul", along with Linda Kennedy on piano. Linda and Kiril will be playing "Meditation on Thais" for the prelude that day, and Kiril and Daniel will be playing a duet for the musical meditation. Please plan to attend traditional worship that day, either in person or online. During Holy Week, there will be beautiful anthems on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday that the choir has been preparing.

On Maundy Thursday, the Wesley Ukestra will also be playing. And then, on Easter Sunday, March 31, all of the musical stops will be pulled out (that's an organ term, in case you were wondering). In the Waypoint, the band will all be there raising the roof in praise of Christ's Resurrection, and in Traditional Worship, we will be joined again this year by the Quapaw Brass! The service will be filled with glorious music including the Faith Ringers and the Chancel Choir and it will all conclude with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus"! I hope that you all will be able to attend and if attending in person, please bring family and friends to this very special service.

Peace and Grace,
Timothy Tucker

Community News:

NORTH LITTLE ROCK
COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND
PRESENTS



Sunday, March 10
3:00
Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center
401 West Pershing
North Little Rock



North Little Rock Lions Club

Annual
Bob Moore Memorial
Catfish & Chicken Plate Dinner

March 29, 2024
Good Friday



Serving 4:30PM Until 6:30PM
Dine-In or Carryout

NLR First United Methodist Church
6701 JFK Blvd., NLR, AR

Price \$15.00

For Tickets, please contact Lions:

Jim Barnett 501-993-6298 Bob Willson 501-231-9990
Larry Tadlock 501-487-8506 Tom Cunningham 501-353-1874
John Hawkins 501-773-9398



Since 1917, Lions clubs have offered people the opportunity to give something back to their communities. From involving members in projects as local as cleaning up an area park or as far reaching as bringing sight to the world's blind, Lions clubs have always embraced those committed to building a brighter future for their community.