



LEBANON
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

April 10, 2020 (Next issue: , April 29, 2020)

415 West Main St. Lebanon, TN 37087 | 615-444-3315 | www.lebanonfumc.com

Dear Friends,

When we gathered on Ash Wednesday to begin this season of Lent, and when had the ashes of last year's palm branches imposed on our foreheads, we had no idea of the Lent we were about to experience. Yes, we knew that Lent is a season of self-denial and sacrifice, of confession and repentance, but we had no way of anticipating the degree of sacrifice we would face this year!

The early church often practiced fasting during Lent as a means to turn their focus back to God and to God's gift of Jesus. Some folks continue to practice fasting, but most of us only give up something symbolic: chocolate, watching TV, alcohol. Some of us succeed for the entire 40 days; many of us do not.

This year it's different. Many of us have been forced to fast like we never thought possible; we have had to give up going out to dinner at all, gathering with family and friends, going to work, going to school, going to the gym, going to the movies, going to sporting events, even going to worship at our church. More seriously, others have had to give up their income; going to visit parents, siblings, and spouses who are in health care facilities; their daily meals that they received at school; their sense of safety and security.

Still others have given up their health and even their lives. **In my 68 years of life, I have never experienced a Lent that was anything like this one.**

Often, when I officiate at a church member's funeral during Lent, I will say something like "Easter came early for (*name of the deceased*) this year." I talk about how their suffering and dying has been their "Lent" and how the release from their broken bodies is their Easter as they have now experience resurrection into the glorious kingdom of God.

This year, it looks like for most of us, Easter will come *late*. Yes, we will purpose to celebrate Easter this year in spite of social distancing and staying at home, and to be sure, even during Lent, we never lose sight of Easter. **But however we celebrate on April 12, I suspect that for many of us, we will still be in Lent. This year, Lent looks to continue for more than 40 days.**

Yet my hope, my confidence, that Easter is absolutely coming—whether in May, or June, or July—is firm; it is sure! Because the real victory of Easter, Jesus's death on the cross and his resurrection three days later, is already a reality! It is finished! It is done! The victory is won!

True, we are living in between the victory of Easter and the physical reality of that victory for our world. Evil is still alive and well on planet earth. **We have not yet come to the fateful day when "at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,"** but I believe in God's promise that day is coming!

GOD'S PROMISE IS GOOD NEWS!

When everyone bows to Jesus and makes Jesus Lord of their lives, then the victory over evil is *forever* a reality!!! It will be that day when every one of us will say and really mean it: *I want to let go of all that holds me back, I want to live as a child of God!*

Our perfect relationship with God and with each other will be restored. **God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain or coronavirus!!!** Everyone can truly LOVE God and each other, and there is no fear in LOVE! It is not a day of punishment or judgment to be feared, as some seem to think of it, but a day of victory; a day of release from the chains that bind us! It is the day when we will be set free from the fear that evil creates, set free to LOVE.

I have absolute faith that day is coming!!!! **IT'S FRIDAY.....BUT SUNDAY'S COMING!**

Thanks be to God. —Pastor Bucky

JOIN US AS WE PRAY TOGETHER BEGINNING THE DAY AFTER EASTER!

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

For Our World

- 4/13 the Sick
- 4/14 the Healers
- 4/15 the Grieving
- 4/16 Emergency Workers
- 4/17 Leaders
- 4/18 the Oppressed / Marginalized
- 4/19 Disaster Victims
- 4/20 Racial Reconciliation
- 4/21 the Persecuted Church
- 4/22 Creation

For Our Community

- 4/23 the Under-/Unemployed
- 4/24 the Essentials
- 4/25 Students
- 4/26 Teachers/School Administrators
- 4/27 Our Food Pantry Visitors
- 4/28 Local Businesses/Owners
- 4/29 Assisted Living/Nursing Homes
- 4/30 Caregivers
- 5/1 Animals and Their Caregivers
- 5/2 Social Workers/Organizations

For Our Church

- 5/3 Eradicate Hunger in Wilson County
- 5/4 Visitors/New Connections
- 5/5 Children/Tweens
- 5/6 Teens
- 5/7 Young Adults/College Students
- 5/8 Small Groups & Adult Ministries
- 5/9 Adults 55+
- 5/10 Pastors and Church Staff
- 5/11 Financial Health
- 5/12 Unity

For Our Personal Lives

- 5/13 Employers/Coworkers
- 5/14 Employees/Clients/Customers
- 5/15 Friendships
- 5/16 Family Relationships
- 5/17 Physical Needs
- 5/18 Mental Health
- 5/19 Fruit of the Spirit
- 5/20 Spiritual Gifts/Calling
- 5/21 Identity in Christ
- 5/22 Love



Lebanon FUMC
415 W. Main St.
Lebanon, TN 37087

THANK YOU NOTE:

Dear Church Members, What a thoughtful gift you made for our mother. The handmade prayer shawl is beautiful and very warm. Our mother really enjoys it. She will be 89 in August. Thank you for your warm thoughts and prayers. - The Family of Phyllis Bowes

LOVE AND SUPPORT TO:

To Joey Jane Bradshaw and family and Judd Nave on the passing of Joe Nave
Covid-19 patients
People who have lost jobs

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

6) Martha Sapp
10) Jean Ayers
30) Jane Overall



MEMORIALS:

Bryan Green, Dr. Thomas Gallaher,
Luana Stephens, Bill Mason, Brian
Holtgraeve, Lenore Davis

WORSHIP NOTES

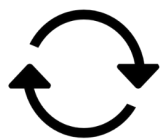
Worship services in our normal formats will be available online only through at least 4/30. These stream live on our [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#), and [website home page](#). We also have [sermon podcasts](#) on our website. If you need help signing on to these services, please call the Church Office.

You may submit prayer requests during the online worship service in the comments section. You may also call the Church Office from 8:30-11:30 AM on Sundays to receive prayer or just to talk, if needed.

Weekly orders of worship and children's activities are available on our website.

4 Ways to Give

Please continue to support our ongoing growing ministries by submitting your tithes and offerings via one of these easy options. Contact Cori in the church office for assistance as needed.



Auto Draft
lebanonfumc.com/GIVE

Set up a secure, recurring bank draft from the account/card of your choice on a schedule that works for you.



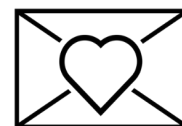
Text to Give
615-933-2267

Text the amount you want to give to this number and follow the instructions you receive from there.



Online
lebanonfumc.com/GIVE

Make a secure one-time gift anytime from the account or card of your choice.



Mail
local USPS office

Place your check (NO CASH) in an envelope and mail it to 415 W. Main St. Lebanon, TN 37087.



415 West Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

LEBANON
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Sunday Services at 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Coffee & Doughnuts at 9:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:45 AM

ALL Are
Welcome
Here!

#blessed

learning & living the Beatitudes

Sunday mornings beginning April 19th

Sunday Services take place at 8:30 and 11:00 AM on Facebook, YouTube, and lebanonfumc.com.

LEBANON FUMC STAFF

Clergy: Rev. Ryan Bennett, Lead Pastor

Rev. David (Bucky) Hesson, Minister of Discipleship

Age Level Ministries: Cori Brantley, Adults 55+

Rebecca Dixon, Children | Mandy Rogers, Youth & Young Adults

Music & Worship Ministry: Windell Little, Director

Joseph Walker, Accompanist | Marcus Wanner, Sound & Media

Administrative Ministries: Cori Brantley, Business

Lucinda S. Sutton, Communications & Operations

Pam Vandever, Congregational Care & Membership

Weekday Children's Programs

Erin Stone: Director, Preschool 4 | Tanja Manus, Preschool 3

Jennie Howell, Parents' Day Out

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING REPORT

March 22

Worship: 523 Virtual households
(8:30 – 306 Viewers; 11 – 217 Viewers) NO SS:

Budget \$ 5,636 | Building \$0

Mission Fund \$0 | Memorials \$100

March 29

Worship: (8:30 – ; 11 –) NO SS

Budget \$9,025 ; Building \$0

Mission Fund \$610; Memorials \$50