

Flowers

The flowers today are given by Dr. John Crawford in honor of his daughter Sonja Parnell, volunteer choir and youth director of Faith UMC, Hot Springs. Sonja had 16 youth at Veritas this weekend. Faith is a small congregation with few young couples. She has served 7 years there.

Announcements

Youth Events: Youth are returning today from Veritas. They had a wonderful time. Please check out our social media to see pictures. We look forward to sharing our growth that we have experienced and some fun stories. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to attend the Veritas youth event.

Youth will not meet tonight. This will allow them a time to get everything together after Spring Break and get back into their school schedule. We will meet next Sunday, April 3rd.

United Methodist Committee on Relief. Today is UMCOR Sunday. Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering is the primary funding for UMCOR's costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Special envelopes are available for those wishing to contribute.

HSU Appreciation Breakfast. FUMC will be providing an appreciation continental drop-in breakfast for HSU staff on Wednesday, March 30th, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am in the HSU Student Union. If you would like to contribute, please place your check in the offering plate or take it to the church office.

Blood Drive. First United Methodist is hosting a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall Thursday, March 31st, from noon until 4:00 pm. To schedule an appointment, visit arkbi.org.

Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who made the March food distribution possible. We served 275 families for a total of 663 people in March and distributed 304 boxes (the extra 29 boxes were for our large families of 5 or more people). Our donation requests for April are peanut butter and canned soup. Both are much needed and hard to get. With your donations we will be able to distribute this staple in April.

Please Remember:

- A. You may put your offering in the plate, use Tithely by scanning the QR code under Ways to Give, go directly to Tithely at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=368022>, or drop it off at the church office during the week or by mail.
- B. Worship services are live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Watch at <https://www.facebook.com/fumcark> or <https://www.youtube.com/user/fumcark>.
- C. Face masks are optional but strongly encouraged.

Arkadelphia First United Methodist Church

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Organist Dr. Kay McAfee

Choir Director Dr. Bill Higgins

Liturgist Penny Ferguson

Acolytes Isabela Maxey

Ushers Norm Coppemoll, Bob Shehane, Eddie Graham,
Daniel Maxey, Jim Blanton, Robert McCallum

Tech Todd Corley, Lori Maxey, Sasha Maxey, Cindy Phillips,
Doug Sonheim, Colin Phillips

Nursery Workers Jewelie Mills and Erin Mecum

Custodian Sharon Murphy

Ways to give to First United Methodist Church



In Person
Offering plate



By Mail
107 N. 9th Street



Online
Scan

This is a Sanctuary, a place of peace. With the exception of municipal, county, state or federal law enforcement, carrying a gun on First United Methodist Church property is prohibited. Thank you for respecting this covenant of trust.

Adopted by First United Methodist Church Council, October 10, 2017.

Soul Care

Perfect Love: The Christian Summit

Matthew 5:48



First United Methodist Church

Worship for the Lord's Day

March 27, 2022
4th Sunday in Lent

11:00 Worship Service
Arkadelphia, AR

Welcome Penny Ferguson

Opening Voluntary Kay McAfee
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
-by Joyce Jones

Centering Prayer (Focus) Pastor Randy

***Prayer of Confession & Invitation** Congregation
Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Could this really be true? I don't have to change myself. You actually grow me up into your likeness as I give my life to you. You give me your new life in exchange for my old life. You aren't calling me to the endless striving to replace the bad with the good. You want to displace the old with the new. Holy Spirit, you are welcome here. Bring the new. Grow me up into this life of salvation. Lead me to crave the pure spiritual milk of the Word of God. Take me to this place of deep bonded beholding of one another. Praying in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** UMH No. 138
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

***Apostles' Creed** UMH No. 881

***The Gloria Patri** UMH No. 70
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Children's Moments Sabrina Mecum

Pastoral Prayer and Offering
The Lord's Prayer Congregation

The Offertory Kay McAfee
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
-by Gilbert Martin

*** The Doxology** UMH No. 95
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Reading God's Word Responsively**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, NRSV
Hear the Word of the LORD

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this."

This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem Saw Ye My Savior? Chancel Choir
-by Lee Dengler

Sermon Perfect Love: The Christian Summit Pastor Randy
Matthew 5:48

***Hymn of Response** UMH No. 384
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***Benediction/Blessing** Pastor Randy

Closing Voluntary *Fugue in G "Gigue"* Kay McAfee
-by J.S. Bach

Sermon Outline

- I. "Nobody's Perfect"
- II. Fear and a lack of understanding impedes moving into the Second Half of the Gospel
 - A. John Wesley's House of Religion
 1. Porch
 2. Door
 3. Inside house
 - B. 2 Peter 1:2
 1. *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,*
 2. Replacement or displacement?
- III. "Be Perfect" (Mt 5:48)
 - A. The pinnacle doctrine and discipline, belief and practice, of the UMC.
 - B. It is called perfection, entire sanctification, or perfect love and described in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church:

We believe sanctification is the work of God's grace through the Word and the Spirit, by which those who have been born again are cleansed from sin in their thoughts, words and acts, and are enabled to live in accordance with God's will, and to strive for holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Entire sanctification is a state of perfect love, righteousness and true holiness which every regenerate believer may obtain by being delivered from the power of sin, by loving God with all the heart, soul, mind and strength, and by loving one's neighbor as one's self. Through faith in Jesus Christ this gracious gift may be received in this life both gradually and instantaneously, and should be sought earnestly by every child of God.

We believe this experience does not deliver us from the infirmities, ignorance, and mistakes common to man, nor from the possibilities of further sin. The Christian must continue on guard against spiritual pride and seek to gain victory over every temptation to sin. He must respond wholly to the will of God so that sin will lose its power over him; and the world, the flesh, and the devil are put under his feet. Thus he rules over these enemies with watchfulness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is a powerful statement! And if you are United Methodist, it is already part of your church's formal beliefs.
 - C. It is
 1. A "heart cleansed from all sin"
 2. Wesley once defined entire sanctification as "purity of intention, dedicating all the life to God. It is giving God all our heart; it is one desire and design ruling all our tempers." David Watson. *Perfect Love, 113.*
 3. The belief in entire sanctification, or full sanctification, was *the reason for Methodism.*
 4. <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-alphabetical-order>
 5. Wesley offered a definition of sanctification in his sermon "The Scripture Way of Salvation":
 6. Wesley's most succinct definition of entire sanctification was "love excluding sin."⁴
 - a) Romans 6
 - b) 1 John 1:5-10
 - c) 1 John 5:18
 - d) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- IV. This is the Second Half of the Gospel; the Way to Heaven