Vision Statement:
First United Methodist Church is a loving, supportive family of faith working together to share God’s love.

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2 Easter Sunday Information – April 16
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5 Reception for Carol Craddock – April 30
6 Puppets for Jesus “Countdown To Easter” – April 16

Over the last few Sundays our evening study time has focused upon Adam Hamilton’s remarkable study, 24 Hours that Changed the World. In the unit concerning Jesus before Pilate, we were led through the details (while all along remembering that Jesus could have backed away at every step in the process). Ultimately Jesus took upon himself what God desired and as our scriptures declare he became the sacrifice for us human beings.

Now when I was at another church I had a gentleman there who was married to a longtime church member and who also happened to be Jewish. During those years he became my resource for things Hebrew in nature. At one time he asked me about the crucifixion of Jesus. He wanted to know this: “If Jesus is God, to whom does Jesus sacrifice himself?”

The best answer I could come up with, the one I stand by today, and one which can be read in scripture is that Jesus didn’t sacrifice himself to anything or anyone, but chose instead to sacrifice himself “for” us, for our freedom, in love and forgiveness.

Such an idea assists me in understanding the purpose of Good Friday and Maundy Thursday. The message of the cross is a message of love, the depth of God’s love for God’s creation. Jesus sacrificing himself for us means that the doors which have kept us separated from God, because of our own practices, and feelings of guilt, are formally and completely open.

What I mean here is this: we human beings worry about the judgment of God, and divine punishment. In making the sacrifice for us, Jesus is therefore freeing us from that fear and thereby revealing the sacrificial, no holds barred, love of God, which draws us closer to God’s heart, and fits us for God’s Kingdom.

Of course there is much more to the crucifixion than what I share here, but for now, I offer a few thoughts in order to give us a touch upon which to focus as we move through the days of sadness, into the greatest joy imaginable, resurrection at Easter.

So I say here . . . heartfelt Easter to all. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, for us and for our salvation, to bring to us the heart of God.

Regards and God Bless . . . See you Sunday, if not before . . .

Richard

Contact Us
105 N. Montgomery St
Gilmer, TX 75644
903-843-2610
www.gilmer-fumc.com

Pastor, Richard Laster
pastorlaster@etex.net

Secretary, Esther Faggione
gilmerchurch@gmail.com

Financial Secretary, Lamon Geddie
fumcacct@etex.net
WE SHOW OUR LOVE

By Our Prayers . . .

Annette Breazeale, Wonna Finch, Lamon Geddie, Charles Holmes, Patsy Jean Horton, the family of Tony Kuza, the People of Mozambique, family of Bubba Parish, Kaytlin Poe, Alton Steelman, Billie Stevenson, family of Donna Jean Thomas, family of Jean Welch.

Remember ongoing prayers for loved ones with serious illnesses, our shut-ins, family and friends in the military service and the leaders and staff of our church and our country.

Remember to check our Web Site for up-to-the-minute prayer requests.

Prayer Ministry

Don’t worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don’t forget to thank Him for His answers. -- Philippians 4:6

Submit requests to Church’s web page:
www.gilmer-fumc.com
Or Call: Church Office – 903-843-2610
Betty Parish – 903-843-3865
Annette Breazeale – 903-790-1131

Statistically Speaking

Our Presence

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Income Over/ (Under)

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Our Deepest Sympathy to…

the family of Tony Kuza
GOOD FRIDAY
“WAY OF THE CROSS”
Friday, April 14
Sanctuary, Noon to 1

As we follow the path Jesus took for us on Good Friday, we remember how Jesus willingly died for our salvation. Through art and Scripture we will be helped to reflect more deeply on Christ’s passion. There will also be readings for personal devotions and meditation. The artwork is from the Brooklyn Museum by 19th century French artist, James Tissot.

Rev. and Mrs. Laster are hosting an Easter Egg hunt at their home at 11:00 a.m. on April the 15th, the Saturday before Easter. Wrapped candy and such to fill the eggs would be greatly appreciated. We have plenty of plastic eggs.

Easter Sunday, the Puppet Team has prepared a special show for the children during worship. We invite all children to go to the gym after children’s moment to enjoy this great show.

Mrs. Chandra

Tri-County Community Action

A point of information... we have in Gilmer an organization called “Tri – County Community Action.” Through the Gilmer Ministerial Fellowship, First UMC supports their ministry. Tri – County’s purpose is to assist people at their point of need. Funds generated from our church, and other local sources, are used by Tri – County in order to help people in a variety of ways. Such community outreach programs are available for the purpose of using resources in the most loving and effective way possible and serve as a resource to coordinate response in a structured and timely fashion. You can donate to Tri – County through the church.

Youth News
by Matthew Potter

Hello everyone! Our youth Sunday school group will be hosting a garage sale at the church on Saturday, April 22nd. Weather permitting we will be in the parking lot in front of the CLC. If we have rain then it will be held inside the CLC. The sale will begin at 8 a.m. If you have any items you would like to donate to the youth to sell in the garage sale you can drop these items off at the church. We will be storing and pricing the items in the youth room. If you have any questions please let me know.

Matthew

Children’s Corner
by Chandra Sorrells

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Happy Easter! Our traditional Easter service in the Sanctuary will begin with the flowering of the Cross during the Sunday School hour and continuing until the chiming of the hour at 10:00 a.m. and during the singing of the first hymn. The scripture for this day of celebration is from John 20:1-18. Reverend Laster’s sermon topic is “Good Morning, Mary.” The first hymn of the day, “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” will be preceded with an Easter Fanfare sung by the Chancel Choir. The second hymn is the favorite “In the Garden” and the closing hymn is “Thine Be the Glory.” Jubilation Bells will be ringing “Lift High the Cross” arranged by Tucker for the offertory. The anthem sung by the Chancel Choir will be “Resurrection Alleluias” with “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” by Benjamin Harlan.

The April 23, service includes scripture from 1 Peter 1:3-9 and sermon entitled “Assessing Our Legacy.” The hymns include “Easter People, Raise Your Voices” and a Congregation’s Choice from The United Methodist Hymnal. The closing hymn will be “He Lives.” The anthem will be “Blessed Be” by Beebe sung by the Chancel Choir.

Worship for April 30, includes scripture from 1 Peter 1:17-23. Hymns for the day are “Victory in Jesus,” “Just As I Am,” and “Blessed Assurance.” The anthem, sung by the Chancel Choir, is “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus” arranged by Courtney and will feature violinist, Russell Lewis.

I am so grateful for all of those in Music Ministries who rehearsed longer-than-usual hours to provide beautiful music for all of our services during this season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter! A special thanks to our wonderful accompanist, Bill Marshall! What a joy his music is! Every note is played to glorify God. Thanks, Bill!

In Christ’s love,

Lora

NOW!
Schedule your Portrait Appointment for the Church Pictorial Directory
May 2 - May 5, 2:00 - 8:40 P.M.
May 6, 10:00 A.M. - 4:40 P.M.
Please sign up today!

Photography week for our new directory is fast approaching. With a goal of 100%, we need all families to sign up. The directory program is free to the church and provides a complimentary directory and 8x10 portrait to each participating family.

If you have computer access, sign up online through the church website www.gilmer-fumc.com. Click on the “Portrait Sign-Up” button and follow the instructions.

If you don’t have computer access, see Sue Green at church on Sunday morning to schedule your appointment. Or, call Sue at 903-725-3304 to schedule.

If you can’t be photographed on the days scheduled at our church, there are two options: submit a photo before May 2 or schedule your portrait session with Lifetouch at a nearby location. Contact Sue at 903-725-3304 or ourgreenhouse@juno.com for specific instructions.

Please check our current directory to see if your information is still accurate. If corrections need to be made, please e-mail Esther at gilmerchurch@gmail.com.

You Can Invite Family & Friends to be Photographed

Lifetouch, the directory company, has given us the opportunity to invite people who aren’t members of our church to schedule photo appointments. They won’t be included in the directory, but they will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait. If you know someone who might like to schedule a photography appointment, tell them how to schedule or give them a “Family & Friends” card, found at the Welcome Center beside the Fellowship Hall.

www.gilmer-fumc.com
**Relay For Life Update**

Last year, we had over 30 church members join our team. So far this year, we only have 6 who have signed up. Please pick up a registration form and return it to the church office. Forms are available in our Welcome Center. The Event will be held on Friday, April 28th at the Gilmer High School stadium.

Remember to purchase your Luminarias. Luminarias are now on sale to honor those who are fighting cancer, to recognize someone who has beaten cancer, or to remember someone who has lost their battle with cancer. Forms are available in the church’s Welcome Center. We would like the forms turned in by April 21st, however sales of Luminarias will be made the night of the Relay.

Our Bake Sale will be Sunday, April 23rd. This is one of our major fundraisers. Any church member who is willing to donate a baked item for the sale, please bring it to the church Welcome Center by 8:45 on the 23rd. The silent auction will begin at 8:45 and continue until 10:00.

Our goal is to raise $8,000. So far, we have collected $2,000. If you are willing to help us reach our goal, any donation is appreciated. Make checks payable to the American Cancer Society.

Steve Nye

**Important News**

According to the structure of the United Methodist Church, the Book of Doctrine and Discipline, each “charge” is to create what is known as a Staff Parish Relations Committee which is also known as the SPRC. The SPRC is tasked with a variety of issues in the life of the church related to those who serve the church as staff and as pastor, including being the liaison between church members and those who are called to serve the Lord as employees and as pastors of our United Methodist charges and congregations.

One of the important tasks of the SPRC is to hire individuals for the work of the church and work in the church when the occasion presents itself. In our case the SPRC met in order to perform such a duty.

After twelve years of faithfulness to the task of Administrative Assistant Carol Craddock has decided it is time to retire. Even though she will not be away from First UMC, Gilmer, she is moving on from her position of service in the church office. Carol will certainly be missed in this capacity. She was the right person, with the right personality, in the right place, at the right time and blessed us all for a dozen years. Please note that there will be a reception in Carol’s honor following our worship service on Sunday, April 30.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee met last Sunday, April 9, in order to proceed with selecting a new Administrative Assistant. They didn’t have to travel very far. It is our privilege to welcome to the office experience one of our own. Esther Faggione, who has served the church well as a member and as the one tasked with keeping our structure comfortable and clean accepted the call of the SPRC to enter into such relationship. She comes with a strong resume and a welcoming, caring spirit. We are blessed because Esther decided to accept the offer to make the change in her relationship with First UMC.

We send Carol forward with respect and Christian love and with thanks for twelve years of offering herself for the Lord. We also have the joy of receiving Esther with an awareness of the call that she has received to serve the Lord.

**Thank You** to the two Sunday School Classes and 3 individuals who are sponsoring children in the Orphanage in Cambine, Mozambique. Through your generosity, Dercio, Julia, Oswaldo and Patricio will be provided school uniforms and school supplies, as well as a supplement to their food allowance for the year. Jaoa, a toddler, will be provided a supplement toward his clothing and food allowance for a year.

I also ask that you keep the people of Mozambique in your prayers. On February 15th, a tropical cyclone hit the Inhambane Province of southern Mozambique which affected the Cambine orphanage, schools and church. Our missionary, Dieudonne Kariharo, reported that “all the beauty of Cambine is gone.” Two dormitories, the dining room and the bread oven at the orphanage lost their roofs. The following buildings also lost their roofs: The Secondary, Vocational and Seminary schools, the Seminary and Secondary school girls’ dorm and the Secondary boys’ dorms. “The good news is that there were no injury and no deaths.”

Please keep the people of Mozambique, and especially these 5 children, in your prayers and if you are interested in sponsoring a child in Mozambique for $100/year, please contact me at 903-762-1002.

Barbara Smith
Flowers for ...

April 2    Mr. Vance Arnold
April 9    The Hudgins Family
April 16   Gary and Barbara Smith
April 23   Dr. and Mrs. Richard Reed
April 30   Babs and Ceci Crombie

Lay Reader...  Frank Breazeale

Ushers...    Jerry Bobo, Keith and Karen Bonds
             Bob Lansdale

Puppets for Jesus
by Babs Crombie

The puppet team is getting all the details perfected for their Children's church performance on Sunday, April 16th. "Countdown To Easter" is a wonderful musical that explains the story of Jesus' life in a child-friendly fashion that is easily understood and the music is awesome, too! Special Easter gifts will be given to the attending audience after the show. The team has worked hard and are excited about their performance. I want to say a special "Thank You" to the following puppeteers: Tessa Betterton, Ceci Crombie, Ben Fenlaw, Adam Fenlaw, Nick Sorrells, and Jeff Sorrells. Our performances are always a TEAM effort and we all support one another to do our very best to give our audiences an 'EGG-stra-ordinary' performance!

The team is scheduled to give an outreach mission performance to Perryville Methodist Church on April 30th. They will perform in "You're in God's Army." Major Buzz and his recruits are ready to give the reasons why they fight for the good and battle the evil ways of the world, and why GOD WANTS YOU!! Marching to Christian music will complete the show.

We want to wish EVERYONE a very Happy and Blessed Easter and to remember why God sent His son JESUS to come to Earth to save us. Be kind to each other!

Blessings,
Babs

Linda Vick
Date joined: March 30, 2017
(Photo not available)