



Meriden Messenger

Meriden United Methodist Church

April 2011



Victory in Jesus! Easter Worship Activities

- April 17th Palm Sunday (Choir Cantata)
- April 22nd Good Friday "The Crucifixion"
- April 24th Easter
 - 8:30-9:30am Worship with Confirmation
"Christ the Victor"
 - 8:30-11:00am Available Nursery
 - 9:00-9:45am Sunday School (Children & Adults)
 - 10:00am Worship "Christ the Victor"
 - 11:00am Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Free Bibles to all who attend worship on Easter morning!



Christians all over the world will soon be celebrating Holy Week and the triumph on Easter morning of Jesus Christ over sin and death...

At Meriden United Methodist Church this is no exception. Our Lenten sermons are based on Rev. Adam Hamilton's work "24 Hours That Changed the World." We are taking an in-depth look at what transpired by placing ourselves in scripture and through viewing several video segments of today's Holy Land where tradition places the actual events. We are looking into Jesus' 1st Century world and in the process we hope to discover new meaning for our lives in the 21st Century. Especially in our Holy Week worshipping (see cover), we will experience:

- The thrill of the coming Messiah with Palm Sunday's triumphant processional entry into Jerusalem - as our choir celebrates in song;
- Holy Communion initiated by Jesus in his last Passover meal;
- The depths of God's love, mercy, and patience with and for human beings as we put ourselves at Jesus' crucifixion in our Good Friday service;
- Our share and claim in the victory won for all eternity on that first Easter morning - which includes celebrating the Confirmation of two of our youth in the 8:30am Easter Service.

It has often been said that United Methodists and all Christians are an Easter people. That means that 365 days a

How to Have a Christian Easter With Your Family

1. **Read the Bible & Inspiring Books Together.** Lent is a perfect time to introduce this simple family tradition. Read a story or two from a Children's Bible at bedtime each night. It is a great way to reinforce the meaning of Easter, and helps children prepare for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.
2. **Select Christian Gifts as Easter Basket Fillers.** Incorporate religious gifts into their Easter baskets along with the traditional Easter candies and treats.
3. **Family Prayer.** Lent is a time of increased prayer. If you haven't already done so, set aside a time for family prayer each day. Start by saying grace together at meals. During Lent, you may wish to extend your grace to include a brief scripture reading or prayers of petition, praise and/or thanksgiving. Nighttime family prayers are also a beautiful way to end the day. Prayers can be said as part of your nighttime family routine. Try to encourage petitions from each family member so everyone has an opportunity to participate.
4. **Encourage Good Deeds.** Encourage good deeds throughout the season of Lent as a preparation for Easter. Use an empty Valentine's Day heart-shaped candy box. Have family members write down any good deeds they have done during the day on small pieces of paper and place them into the empty heart box. Let your family's "heart" fill up with good deeds during the 40 days of Lent.
5. **Lenten Sacrifice.** Plan small family Lenten sacrifices. They can be as simple as setting up a family money jar to collect spare change that can be donated to a charity of your choice at the end of Lent. You can also volunteer your time as a family at a Lenten church activity, or even at a soup kitchen. Whatever you choose, try to work together as a family.
6. **Display Religious Decorations.** When decorating your home, don't forget to display religious decorations along with your Springtime Easter decorations. These serve as visual reminders of the true meaning of Easter.
7. **Plan Family Easter Activities Together.** Plan some family activities during the season of Lent. Suggestions include watching religious Easter movies; baking extra-special Easter cookies by using religious cookie cutters; and dying Easter Eggs. When dying Easter eggs, take the opportunity to talk to children about eggs as a symbol of "new life," the foundation of our Easter faith.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Meriden United Methodist Church Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at 11:00am on Sunday, April 24th right after the 10:00am worship service.



All children are invited to attend! Please bring a basket or sack for each child to collect eggs.



Open Prayer Time in Sanctuary Fridays Noon-1:00 pm

Any and all are welcome to join Pastor Bruce in praying for the physical and spiritual health of the congregation, for the direction of the congregation, and for anything else on your hearts.

Body and Soul Fitness

Body and Soul Cardio with Strength and Flexibility Classes are coming to MUMC! There will be a demo night on April 7th at 5:30pm.



If we like it, classes will begin on April 12th at 5:30pm. We will run a 6-week session using the spring theme of "Live Life: Right Here, Right Now."

year Christians live in that joy and confident peace Jesus won on that first Easter. At Meriden United Methodist Church we do that through living out our Mission Statement: "Sharing God's love in our community and into the world community." To that end...

Since writing last month's article, the joint MUMC and Jeff West community celebrated our first annual Basketball Sunday's worship and meal event. This was the conclusion of months of clinics and games which always included a spiritual moment. Nearly 180 folks came together in worship and for the following hot dog and desert bar wrap-up meal. (Celebration videos on our Facebook page.)

Look for our next special events open to all in the greater Meriden/Ozawkie area: **"Body and Soul" Spiritual Workout/Fitness Program**; and coming this may through MUMC, **Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University"**.

Together we pray as the Apostle Paul did [Eph 3:14-20 NRSV], "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine," all God's people say, AMEN!

FYI: www.meridenumc.org was viewed 661 times in February and 626 times to-date in March. We now have 79 who "Like" our MUMC Facebook page! (How about you?)

April News

"JESUS The One and Only" will be performed on Palm Sunday, April 17th. You will hear songs like, Blessed Is He, Remember, and The Debt, just to name a few. This Cantata tells the story of Christ's tragedy, the sorrow, suffering death and burial. Then, Christ's triumphant rise from the grave.



Our goal is that one or more of our songs will touch your heart and you will hum along after hearing it and join us!

**Keep Singing,
Claudia**

UMW Meeting

Wednesday, April 6th at 9:30am

The United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, April 6th at 9:30am. Sharon Monhollon is the hostess and in charge of the program. All the women in the church are invited!



Mission Statement

"We share God's love through: committed worship and open fellowship; nurturing all to be ever better disciples of Jesus Christ; serving others from what God has given us."



Need a Lawnmower



The old church lawnmower is being retired. Before we have to start using the one pictured here, please contact the Trustees with leads on donating, and/or getting a good deal on a used riding lawnmower before Spring is in full swing!

Liturgists and Greeters Needed *Training Provided!*

We are in need of more liturgists and greeters for Sunday Services. Training is provided and your name is added to the schedule. We schedule alphabetically and rotate through all the names on the list. If you would like to help out, please contact the church secretary!



Candy Needed!



It's time to start planning our Easter Egg Hunt again. If you have any excess plastic eggs you would like to donate we would greatly appreciate it. We also need candy to fill those eggs! Just drop off your candy and eggs on the landing.

Vision Statement

"Sharing God's love within our community and into the world community."



Looking Ahead to May...



Here are some upcoming events in May you might want to remember...

- Tuesday, May 10th and 24th, the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging will meet at 10:00am.
- On Sunday, May 8th, MUMC will offer a free preview of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. (See Page 7 for more information)
- On Sunday, May 8th, the Outreach and Trustee Committees will meet after worship services.
- On Sunday, May 15th, the Administrative Council will meet at noon, after the potluck.
- On Monday, May 16th, the Men's Breakfast will be served at 8:30am.
- On Sunday, May 22nd, Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" will begin. It will be a 13 week course each Sunday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. (See Page 7)

The Women's Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am to 10:00am.

Youth Groups meet every Wednesday at 6:00pm and Choir has practice every Wednesday at 7:00pm.

Please check out our online calendar at www.meridenumc.org to see all of the activities going on at our church in May and beyond!

April Birthdays

4/01	Sarah White	4/15	Tammy Scott
4/01	Mark Hunt	4/18	Bob Ketchem
4/03	Helen Atherton	4/18	Sean Eichinger
4/07	Cleo Starr	4/20	Kelly Kuhn
4/07	Pat Welborn	4/21	Melba Yingling
4/10	Mike McClurg	4/22	Joyce Hazelton
4/13	Halle Tuck	4/24	Betty Anderson
4/14	Matthew Shenk	4/24	Ron Ballenger
4/14	Jacob Lawhorn	4/28	Blanche Wulfekoetter
4/14	Glenn Swank	4/29	MacKenzie Greene
4/15	Gabrielle Overstreet		

April Anniversaries

4/07	Mark & Christy Ketchem
4/07	James & Cleo Starr
4/10	Theron & Betty Anderson
4/25	Lloyd & Anita Grahem



To add birthdays and anniversaries please notify the church office.

Coffee with the Pastor



Every 4th Sunday after church, please join the Pastor for coffee and chat with him if you are interested in joining the Meriden UMC or have questions about baptism. If you know of anyone who is thinking about baptism or becoming a member of our congregation, please encourage them to attend "Coffee with the Pastor."

Sunday School

We have classes for 3-4 year olds, Kindergarten-1st grades, 2nd-3rd grades, 4th-5th grades, 6th-8th grades, and high school. Our classrooms have been renovated with lots of color! Sunday School is from 9:00 to 9:45. Come join us and bring a friend!



Children's classes:

- Pre-K – 6th grade meet in the basement of the church
- High School meets in the conference room
- Middle School meets in the SW Sunday School area


Adult classes:

- “First Place 4 Health” meets in the parsonage.
- “Growing in Faith” meets in the gym.

Nursery is available during worship for 0–5 years of age.

Date	Greeters	Liturgist
April 3rd	Les Grose Katie Grose	Nicole Welborn
April 10th	Scott Davids Jennifer Davids	Betty Stiles
April 17th	Philip Duniven Lisa Duniven	Janice Schaeffer
April 24th	8:30am Confirmation Families 10:00am Joe & Pam Farrant	8:30am Confirmation Families 10:00am Bob Overstreet



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>For including what parts of the calendar, please visit us at link on Church Calendar. Then check locations and times.</p>		<p>April Fools Day 1 12:00pm Open Prayer Time 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>6 UMW Mtg Confirmation 1 Y Groups 10pm Choir</p>	<p>7 9:00am Women's Exercise Group</p>	<p>8 12:00pm Open Prayer Time</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>13 10pm Senior Luncheon Confirmation 1 Y Groups 10pm Choir</p>	<p>14 9:00am Women's Exercise Group</p>	<p>15 8:00am Count Your Kid In 12:00pm Open Prayer Time 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16 Quilter's Group 9:30am Choir</p>
<p>20 Confirmation 1 Y Groups 10pm Choir</p>	<p>21 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 12:00pm Chamber Luncheon</p>	<p>Good Friday 22 7:00pm Service Newsletter Deadline</p> 	<p>23</p>
<p>27 Confirmation 1 Y Groups 10pm Choir</p>	<p>28 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 3:00pm Beta Sigma Phi Sorority</p> <p>Fold/Mail Newsletter</p>	<p>29 12:00pm Open Prayer Time 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30</p>



April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
9:00am: Sunday School 9:45am: Welcoming Time 10:00am: Worship Service 11:00am: Fellowship Time		For a full view of the calendar church are being utilized visit www.meridenumc.org and click on the event for	
Communion 3 1:30pm Disciple I	4 5:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Volleyball	5 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 5:00pm Boy Scouts	9:30am 4:00pm Cr 6:00pm 7:C
10 11:15am Outreach 11:15am Trustees 1:30pm Disciple I	11 5:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Volleyball	12 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency 5:00pm Boy Scouts	12:0C 4:00pm Cr 6:00pm 7:C
Palm Sunday 17 Easter Cantata Potluck 12:00pm Ad Council 1:30pm Disciple I	18 8:30am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Volleyball	19 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 5:00pm Boy Scouts	4:00pm Cr 6:00pm 7:C
Easter 24 8:30am Worship w/Confirmation 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Easter Egg Hunt	25 5:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Volleyball	26 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency 5:00pm Boy Scouts	4:00pm Cr 6:00pm 7:C



IMAGINE YOURSELF DEBT FREE

Dave Ramsey's

Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

Financial Peace University is a biblically-based, video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth and give like never before!



THIS PROGRAM IS FOR YOU IF ...

- Your credit cards ARE your emergency fund.
- Your dog responds to the name "Ebay".
- You're intrigued by the word "plasectomy."
- You want to know what God says about money.
- You have to sell your house to put your kids through college.
- Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds are friends you haven't met yet.

Meriden United Methodist Church will be hosting this biblically-based, 13-week course starting May 22nd. It will be each Sunday (excluding May 29th) from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Childcare will be provided.

Join us Sunday, May 8th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for a free preview of the course. After the free preview, there will be time provided to commit to the course. Childcare will be provided as well.

For more information or to sign up today, please contact the church at (785) 484-2224 or Chris Starr at (785) 817-4766.