

## FROM THE PASTOR

Can you believe Easter is only days away! I'm looking forward to the Resurrection Celebration we have planned for you and the friends you'll bring with you this year. It will be glorious. Whether it's a small group of people gathered to sing a *cappella* outdoors or a feast of music and prayer indoors – the Resurrection of Christ is always magnificent to behold. The promise of eternity with Christ is always before us. The message Jesus Christ offers is hope that we were made for more than “the good life.” God created us for the BETTER life! A life that begins now and extends to the end of time. Will you help us prepare for Easter?

### 1. Invite your friends! Invite strangers!

The time has come for us to be the Body of Christ, inviting others into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. That begins with you, that begins with me. Now is the time to call in the harvest of life and throw open the doors. Invite those who have been staying away, but maybe more importantly, **invite those who have never come**. Life begins with Christ Jesus! Let's share that life generously.

### 2. Come to ANY service on Easter!

We offer a variety of worship-filled events during Holy Week, each with a slightly different focus on the theme of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.

- **Thursday, March 24** is a ***Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service*** at **6:30 pm**.
- **Good Friday, March 25** is a ***Cantata*** for the Easter season. *No Greater Love* by Lloyd Larson. This musical presentation portrays the love of Jesus through His death, burial, and resurrection. It is written through the lens of John 15:13. With 7 songs of varying styles, this cantata presents the Easter story with songs that lead us through the events of Holy Week to the triumphant resurrection.

### • Easter Sunday, March 31:

- **“Sonrise” Service** will be held at **7:00 am** in the South Parking lot.
- **Easter Services** will be held at **8:30 & 10:45 am** in the Sanctuary and HUB.
- **Sunday School** will be available at **9:45 am**.

### 3. Help out in any way that you can.

If you see ANYTHING that needs to be done - a piece of paper that needs to be picked up, a person who needs a question answered - I encourage you to “just do it.” Most importantly, if you see someone ‘new’ in the crowd offer them a smile, a kind word, a seat near you. You could be the reason a guest returns next week.

### 4. Personally celebrate the good news of Easter starting today.

Just think of it: because of Easter our past is forgiven, our life is worth living and we have a future in heaven! [Romans 3:22](#) says, “We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done (NLT).”

### 5. Give Generously.

In all things, I remind you of the continuing needs faced by our church. Let your blessings overflow from your life to those around you. I encourage you to make an additional offering to the church – above and beyond your weekly contribution. Easter is a time of exceptional remembrance – for moving beyond the tithe and offering your love to the church of our Lord and Savior. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Let us come together and give witness to the Lord who has given us everything. May the glory of Christ's resurrection be yours!



The Reverend Raymond C. Gilman



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

### Chair Exercise (Chairercise!)

Meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 11:00 am in the FLC.

Chair Yoga meets Tuesdays at 11:00 am in the FLC.



Everyone is welcome!!



**JOIN US!** EACH WEEK

**Pastor's Bible Study**  
Tuesdays 9:30 am  
Wednesdays 6:30 pm

Pastor Ray teaches a Bible Study open to all each week. There are two identical sessions to choose from:

- Tuesday mornings 9:30 am – 10:30 am in Room 113
- Wednesday evenings 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm in the FLC



**ATTENTION MEN!!**

**Save the Date:**

**April 20-21**

**Men's Retreat**

**Lake Bridgeport  
Conference Center**



**ONLINE Giving Tip**

**MasterCard & VISA**

have **LOWER** fees than AMEX!

**Reduces FEE\$**



## Recurring Weekly Schedule

### Sundays

8:15am - noon - Nursery (ages infant to 4 years)  
8:30am - Eclectic Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:45am - Sunday School for ALL ages:  
Children (Cornerstone); Youth (Youth Room)  
Adventurers (Room 111); Breakfast Club (FLC)  
Renegades (Room 110); Upper Room (Room 113)  
10:45am - Modern Worship (HUB)  
5:30pm - 7:30pm - Youth (HUB/Youth Room)

### Mondays

11:00am - Chairercise (FLC)

### Tuesdays

7:30am - Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (FLC)  
9:30am - Pastor's Bible Study (Room 113)  
11:00am - Chair Yoga (FLC)  
2:30pm - Grief Group w/ Janet Hargrove (Parlor)

### Wednesdays

5:30pm - Wednesday Night Dinner (HUB)  
6:15pm - Children & Youth Activities (meet in HUB)  
6:15pm - Handbell Rehearsal (Music Suite)  
6:20pm - MomStrong (Room 110)  
6:30pm - Pastor's Bible Study (FLC)  
7:00pm - Vocal Rehearsal (Music Suite)  
7:30pm - Childcare begins for Cantata rehearsal (HUB)  
7:45pm - Cantata Rehearsal (Music Suite)

### Thursdays

9:30am - Women's Bible Study (Room 113)  
11:00am - Chairercise (FLC)  
6:00pm - Thursday PM Ladies' Bible Study (Room 113)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs 8:30am - 12:00pm  
Fridays - Office Closed for Pastor/Staff Sabbath

### Pastor Ray's Office Hours

Tues - Thurs 9:30am - 12:30pm or by appointment

## Community Caring Center

**URGENT NEEDS:**

**CANNED SOUPS  
&  
CANNED VEGGIES**



**Good N.E.W.S  
Seniors at Home**



**URGENT NEEDS:**  
**deodorant**  
**dish soap**  
**white trash bags**  
**toilet paper**

## SERVING MINISTRIES

Serving Ministries is hard at work reaching out to our community in several different ways.

On February 29 our church received a request from the Azle Church of Christ for supplies for the firefighters in the Texas Panhandle. On Monday, March 4 the church office received a



call from the Church of Christ saying that the First Methodist Church of Azle provided more supplies than any other organization. Thanks to everyone who donated. During this phone call, we were provided with a list of tools that the firefighters needed. Serving Ministries purchased 5 flat shovels, 5 spade shovels, 5 rakes, 9 pairs of leather gloves, and 3 large trash bags. Thanks to Azle Ace Hardware for giving us a 20% to 50% discount on our purchases.

I spoke with the Azle Community Caring Center, and they need canned vegetables and canned soups. They are completely out of these items. They have not been able to get these items from the Tarrant Area Food Bank in a while.

The Good N.E.W.S. needs paper towels, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, and resealable bags, of any size. Items for the Caring Center and Good N.E.W.S. can be placed in the shopping cart or containers between the doors at the covered portico entrance.

The spring Good Neighbor Blitz is on April 12 and 13. The Good Neighbor Blitz is a two-day event where the City of Azle and Servolution join to organize contractors and volunteers to do repair work on homes where the owner is unable to do the repairs. The recipients of this program do have to qualify for the help. When it is closer to the date, I will post information about the home we will be working on. All Skill levels are needed.



FMC Azle makes a financial donation to each Housing Blitz.  
Please join our **Serving Ministries team** in lending a **HELPING HAND!**

**APRIL 12 & 13**

**GOOD NEIGHBORS SPRING BLITZ**

Let's join forces as we love our neighbors by revitalizing homes all weekend for our veterans, disabled, elderly, widowed, and economically disadvantaged neighbors.

REGISTER HERE

DONATE HERE

The flyer features a central image of a house being worked on by volunteers, with various tools and materials scattered around. It also includes a circular logo for the Servolution Network and Good Neighbors program.

The Community Garden has a few boxes already rented. If you are interested in renting a box, please contact the church office. We are

looking for someone to take over the position of garden coordinator and operator. Karl and Farrah Schluter have done a wonderful job, but other commitments are making it so they are unable to do it this year. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this position please call Deanna Keen or the church office.

Thank you for supporting Serving Ministries.  
Serving God by Serving Others

Deanna Keen

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP

A big thank you to the volunteers who have served in time of Lent, preparing for Holy Week and Easter. We are blessed to have a talented worship team, in such a capacity to create an accessible space of worship for all who enter Azle First Methodist Church.

An extra shout-out to the singers, musicians, narrators, and all participants of the Good Friday Cantata! It has been such a pleasure preparing The Passion Story with all involved, telling the story in song through the lens of John 15:13.

As we transition into the Sundays after Easter, we look forward to many high-praise and Hallelujah moments in celebration of The Resurrection. In fact, we celebrate the Resurrection in *Unison* as we introduce our brand-new Hymnals on Easter Morning - *Our Great Redeemer's Praise!*

*Our Great Redeemer's Praise* is a co-organized and arranged Hymnal according to the Apostle's Creed. With many of the hymns that we know and love at FMC Azle, this new hymnal presents hymns largely from the Wesleyan umbrella, but also provides a broad spectrum of musical traditions ranging from Wesleyan heritage to Pentecostalism and charismatic worship.

The short-hand abbreviation may look like this in your bulletin -

*"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" - OGRP 1.*



Looking ahead in April and onward, we have many exciting things happening in the Life of the Church Family. A customized Children's Musical "Heroes of Faith," Confirmation, New songs in worship, and much, much more!

If you are looking for more ways to plug into First Methodist of Azle in any desired way, please reach out to me, Pat Noe, or Pastor Ray at any time!

Blessings, And Praise on!

Grant [gnewman@fmcazle.org](mailto:gnewman@fmcazle.org)

## WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNERS

Wednesday evening dinners have been a huge success! Thanks for the continued great attendance! If you haven't had a chance to attend, we hope you can do so this month. A couple of reminders:

- Dinner will be served from 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm, to allow a little more time for those who are working in Fort Worth or beyond to make it.
- A peanut butter and jelly sandwich station will be set up at each dinner.
- There will be two (2) \$125 Amazon gift cards that will be given away on the last Wednesday before summer break. Each Wednesday dinner you attend gives you one entry to put in the bowl for one of the prizes.

Here is the dinner menu for April:

### April 3

Turkey Tetrazzini  
Seasoned Green Beans  
Tossed Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Dessert

### April 10

Lasagna  
Seasoned Green Beans  
Tossed Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Dessert

### April 17

Beef and Chicken Enchiladas  
Taco Salad  
Queso, Salsa, Chips  
Dessert

### April 24

Oven Baked Chicken  
Seasoned Green Beans  
Tossed Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries listed are taken from the information in Realm. If your information needs to be updated, please contact Pat Noe at [pnoe@fmcazle.org](mailto:pnoe@fmcazle.org).

Lawrence & Sally Joy Lunceford 4/4 (18 years)

Steve & Lee Ann Parker 4/20 (39 years)

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

If you know of someone not listed, please send an email to [pnoe@fmcazle.org](mailto:pnoe@fmcazle.org).

Teresa Gray 4; Kathy Brooks 8; Debbie Leatherwood 10; Suzanne Foster 16; JoAnn Brown 18; Peggy Edwards 18; Shelly Abramski 20; Cindy Wyatt 23; Joni Bettis 26; Brent Hargrove 26; Mark Havens 26; Ro Hodges 29; Irene Shank 30

## ONLINE Giving Tip

**E-Checks**  
(online BANK ACCOUNT transactions)  
Have the **LOWEST** fees...

**Reduces FEE\$**

## SENIOR ACTIVE CHRISTIANS

In March, our trip to the Botanic Gardens for Butterflies in the Garden was moved from Wednesday, March 13 to Wednesday, March



27. When we first chose the date, we failed to realize the March 13 date fell during spring break, so the tickets were sold out. By the time you read this, we will have walked among a variety of species of butterflies as they fly around us. Even though some were not able to join us due to spring break and family activities, several were excited to attend and experience God's little wonders. Lunch was at Spring Creek BBQ in Lake Worth. Pictures next month!

SAC has had 10-11 attending each gathering, and we would welcome more. The warm season of Texas is fast approaching, and trips and/or get-togethers will be made for indoor activities, but until the weather gets too hot, there are exciting outdoor trips in the works for April and May!

On April 24, SAC will visit Capernaum in Poolville, TX where we will take a self-guided tour of a first-century village and statue garden. Tickets are \$15 per person. The van will take a group, or you can always meet us there. The lunch location is yet to be decided! RSVP with DeAnne Williams, Sallie Hamilton, or Pat Noe.

Please join us!!  
Sallie Hamilton  
DeAnne Williams

## YOUTH

We regathered after Spring Break, and it was much-needed rest. So much so that I did not have a lesson planned for Sunday School! This provided a chance to catch up and see how everyone's break went. To fill in the rest of our time each youth member read out loud their favorite verse. They then had to share why it was their favorite. If you have a chance sit and talk with the youth, ask them their favorite verse. You'll be surprised how they can take the scripture and be able to apply it to their lives. Afterward, tell them yours and why it is your favorite.

Wednesday night we finished our study in the book of James. We spent four weeks in the book. We learned from James and what it means to be a real one, or a real Christian. We

learned in Chapter One that we need to spend more time in the word of God. Reading scripture. In Chapter Two we learned that we need to take what we read in chapter one and apply it to our life. Let the world see how Jesus works in our hearts. In Chapter Three we focused on controlling our words and the way we speak about ourselves and others. A tough question was asked, "If everything you said came true, would it change the way you speak?" Chapter Four was a topic of knowing the difference between right and wrong. Learning that just because we know what is right and choose to ignore when someone is doing wrong, we are no better than they are. If we know someone is not living up to expectations, then we should say something to them. Help them out in their time of need. Chapter Five was patience. We talked in depth about being patient with ourselves and others.

Upcoming news. We are still meeting as a council to plan for a better future for the youth group. We are currently gathering soda so that we can go to the community for an outreach project. The youth recently put on a little performance of The Lord's Supper for the children's group and will be taking part in the sand art next Wednesday. We are approaching Holy Week and it will be a busy time!

## Bring Canned Sodas!



FLC

for our  
Youth Mission  
Outreach  
(please!)

Have a blessed day, FMC!  
James Young, Youth Director

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

February Income \$49,468  
February Budget \$56,403

2024 Budget \$676,830



## PALM SUNDAY





## WOMEN'S HAND QUILTING

Prayer is a powerful tool that God has provided for us. But can you touch a prayer? Can you pull it close and feel its love and comfort? How many times has someone said, "I'll keep you in my prayers," and you wonder if they did? Well, you can answer these questions with a definite "Yes!" if it is part of a Prayer Quilt.

**The purpose of a Prayer Quilt Ministry is not to make and distribute quilts but to promote prayer using quilts.** It is not just the gift of a quilt – it is a gift of love and prayer; the quilt is simply the "prayer carrier." It is a statement of faith in God and His power to comfort, strengthen, and heal. As a special gift of love, quilts are made for anyone facing health problems or personal crises. Each quilt is made for someone in special need of prayer.

**The History** A few ladies started an informal quilting group in 1992 at Hope United Methodist Church in Ranch Bernardo, CA. Their only purpose was to have fun making quilts together. Then, a group member's 2-year-old grandson Kody ended up in a coma following heart surgery. His doctors were very pessimistic about his chances of recovery. The ladies decided to make a quilt in vivid primary colors. With no time to make a quilt, the layers were tied together as silent prayers were said for Kody. "There must be a prayer tied with each knot," someone remarked. The group's first prayer quilt was rushed to the hospital that night.

Even before he was fully conscious, Kody's little hands were touching the knots on his quilt. After coming out of the coma, the quilt became so important to his recovery that the doctors wrote in his medical chart that the quilt was not to leave his side! Through several subsequent surgeries, whenever he needed another needle stick or scary test, that quilt was right with him, providing comfort and strength for many years before his sudden death at the age of 14.

**The Birth of a Ministry** During Kody's long hospital stay, parents of other children were asking where they could get prayer quilts for their sick little ones. The quilting ladies realized they had more work to do! To involve as many people as possible in the prayer process, they began to bring the quilts to Sunday services and invite the entire congregation to participate in praying and tying the knots. As a result, more prayer quilt requests came in. What had begun as a small project had grown into an active Outreach Ministry at Hope UMC.

The goal is to encourage and involve as many people as possible to participate in the prayer effort, not merely to make and give away quilts. **Each knot tied on a quilt represents a prayer.** Prayer Quilts are never sold; they are a gift.

Of **utmost importance** is the prayer support of the congregation. Prayer Quilts are given to those who have physical, emotional, or spiritual prayer needs. They are available to anyone in need of prayer; God's love and grace is available to all.

**FMC Azle is home to the Women's Hands Prayer Quilt Ministry.** Prayer Quilts are made by individuals in the congregation. Upon request, prayer quilts are first prayed over by the congregation and then delivered to someone in need of prayer. Anyone can request a Prayer Quilt for a friend or loved one in need of prayer from our local Women's Hands Prayer Quilt Ministry.

**Our latest quilt ministry project at FMC Azle is to provide baby quilts to JPS here in Azle.** It is an honor to provide these quilts through the





church and we want to allow others to also make these quilts. To do that, we will be meeting at the church on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (feel free to bring a sack lunch with you). We have supplies to make a quilt and lots of space, but sewers will need to bring their sewing machine. If you are not a sewer but would like to help, we could use people to press the material and blocks as the quilt tops are made, or just come for the fellowship! If you have cotton material or thread to donate, bring that too.

This may be slow to take off, but this is going to be a great experience for some to learn to sew, some to learn to make quilts, some to provide the love each quilt will give to the small children, and for some to come to the church to have fellowship with other quilters. When school is out over the summer, I pray God will nudge the younger ones among us who want to learn to sew to come learn something new and have fun while learning!

We have ROOM TO GROW!!

NEXT JPS QUILTING SESSION:

April 17, 10 am – 2 pm



## WOMEN'S RETREAT





## ONLINE Giving Tip

Give to **MULTIPLE FUNDS**  
in **ONE** transaction  
with **drop-down box!**

**Reduces FEE\$**

## A WARM WELCOME



Please extend a warm welcome to Luisa when you spot her in the building! Each week, she and a helper clean the bathrooms, scrub the kitchen, and clean the glass entry doors. You have probably enjoyed the fruit of her labors already!



## Outdoor Spring Cleaning at the Church!



Come join us as we complete some Spring Cleaning tasks around the grounds of the Church. Tasks include:

- Weed pulling / flower bed cleaning
- Leaf blower work
- Pruning bushes
- Edging
- Trash pickup
- Fire ant treating

**When:** Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-Noon (weather permitting)

**Where:** Meet in the new parking lot

**Who can help:** Anyone! We ask that an adult be present to assist your child.

**What do you need to bring:** gloves, wheelbarrows, 5-gallon buckets, leaf blowers, pruning shears, knee pads for weeding

We'll have water available and will also have pizza for lunch after we're done at noon.

Please RSVP to the Church office (817-444-3323) or Kent Meyerhoeffer via text (817-223-6874) or e-mail [kent@whecocontrols.com](mailto:kent@whecocontrols.com)



## April 2024 Events Activities

Day	Date	Time	Event
Mon.	1-Apr	all day	Church Office Closed ( <i>Staff Easter holiday</i> )
		3:30pm	Community Blood Drive ( <i>HUB</i> )
		6:30pm	Trustee Council ( <i>113</i> )
Wed.	3-Apr	4:00pm	Prayer Shawl ( <i>Parlor</i> )
Sat.	6-Apr	10:00am	Spring Cleaning ( <i>outdoor areas</i> )
Sun.	7-Apr	noon	Children's Council ( <i>FLC</i> )
		4:00pm	Confirmation ( <i>HUB</i> )
Tue.	9-Apr	6:30pm	Council for Music/Worship ( <i>113</i> )
Fri.	12-Apr	8:00am	Servolution Housing Blitz ( <i>house tba</i> )
Sat.	13-Apr	8:00am	
Sun.	14-Apr	10:45am	Connecting Ministries ( <i>113</i> )
		4:00pm	Confirmation ( <i>HUB</i> )
Mon.	15-Apr	6:30pm	Council for SPR ( <i>113 - closed meeting</i> )
Tue.	16-Apr	6:30pm	Serving Ministries ( <i>110</i> )
		6:30pm	Finance Council ( <i>113</i> )
Wed.	17-Apr	10:00am	Quilting for JPS ( <i>FLC</i> )
Sat.	20-Apr	noon	Men's Retreat ( <i>Lake Brownwood Retreat Center</i> )
Sun.	21-Apr	noon	
Sun.	21-Apr	3:00pm	Legacy Oaks Worship ( <i>1364 SE Pkwy, Azle</i> )
		4:00pm	Confirmation ( <i>HUB</i> )
		4:00pm	Youth Council ( <i>113</i> )
Wed.	24-Apr	6:30pm	Children's Spring Musical ( <i>HUB</i> )
		tba	Safeguarding God's Children training
Sun.	28-Apr	9:45am	Safeguarding God's Children training
		noon	New Member Lunch ( <i>HUB</i> )
Tue.	30-Apr	6:30pm	Administrative Board ( <i>back of Sanctuary</i> )

