

*Lonoke First United Methodist Church***Open For Worship!**

I am writing today in anticipation for Palm Sunday, which is coming this Sunday. I can't help but think about this time last year. Two weeks into Lent everything shut down. We were hoping to be open by Palm Sunday or at least Easter, but as we all know that was not going to happen. Instead of a few Sundays we looked at almost a year. So as we are able to open up more and more I am hoping we will be able to enjoy these next two Sundays in a whole new way. Because I am not sure about you but I felt missing Palm Sunday and Easter was almost the hardest of all the time we were closed.

So, let's walk into these next days of the church year with anticipation and excitement to experience the power of the roller coaster ride of Holy Week. We start up this Sunday with remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with shouts of Hosanna! Joy was on the faces of his followers and those who joined with them as Jesus rode in like a king. The week would be challenging and it would end with Jesus being taken in the garden of Gethsemane and his disciples fleeing for their lives. But three days later the event that is the reason for our faith takes place.

Whether you will attend in person or

Prayer Vigil

After we conclude our Maundy Thursday Communion Service we will begin a 24 hour prayer vigil. This will be a time to be in the presence of the Lord for 30 minutes to an hour to seek the Lord to move in your life. That will be our main focus. At this time we will also pray for our church, community and our world. Holy Week is a time for spiritual renewal and there is no better way than to spend time in prayer. We need to fill 24 hour slots. You can sign up for an hour or a 30 minute slot. The church will be open if you would like to pray at the altar. I will actually be spending the night at the church to make sure the door is open and be there so you can feel safe. If you would like to pray at home just list that when you sign up. To sign up send your name and time you would like to GrowingLFUMC@gmail.com

Also, I will be fasting from the end of Maundy Thursday to 7:30pm on Friday. If you would like to join me in this exercise please contact me on email or cell phone. This is a powerful spiritual exercise that I have learned to deeply experience God through. If you have never done it I encourage you to try it either for this time period or for even half of the day

Holy Week Schedule

Friday, March 26, 11am-3pm-Palms available to pick up in the church office.

Palm Sunday, March 28, 9am-All kids (big and small) are encouraged to participate. Please gather in the narthex 10 minutes before worship.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 5pm- drive through communion, **6:30pm**-Maundy Thursday Communion Service, **7pm-April 2, 7pm**-Holy Week Prayer Vigil.

Good Friday, April 2, 6:30pm-Community Good Friday Service in the Gina Cox Arena.

Easter Sunday, April 4, 9 and 11am-Easter worship services. **10am**-Sunday School and Egg Hunt.

online let's fully walk through these days together. The kids will be marching down the aisle with palm branches in their hands. Communion and prayer will take place on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday will be remembered with a community service with more churches participating than in remembered past. And then on Sunday - we will celebrate with as many worship services as we need to allow those who want to worship in person to do so.

But if you are online there will be opportunities for you to participate. Palms will be available to be picked up this Friday to wave in your house on Sunday morning. We will offer a drive through communion on Maundy Thursday before the service at 6pm. All services will be live streamed and we are thinking through ways for you to interact more than usual. Even though there is energy about reopening we want to make sure there are meaningful ways to interact if you are still worshipping online. Our Holy Week Schedule is below and I have written some explanations for some of the events in this edition of the Oakleaf.

Easter is Coming! Are you ready!

Last Leg in Lenten Journey

During Lent we have been looking at the greatest sermon ever preached, which is the Sermon on the Mount. This is the section in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus teaches on the law. This section of scripture confronts us in powerful and tough ways. I picked this section for that very purpose because that is what is supposed to happen during the season of Lent. We are confronted with our sin and what we need God to do in our lives. It is also a time to evaluate our walk with God and make those key moves God leads us to do.

Throughout Lent I have been emphasizing the importance of organizing our lives around the means of Grace. John Wesley's three means of grace are prayer, scripture and Holy Communion. At the end of the week I will make available a reading and prayer plan that will take us through Holy week and the season of Eastertide. I want to encourage you to do this plan with me and see how organizing your life around them will allow the Holy Spirit to work in you. I believe that if you try this you will want to continue these practices because of what God will have done in your life.

email Pastor Rob at Rob08071222@gmail.com

Reservations for Easter

We are gearing up for Easter Sunday! But because we are still following COVID guidelines at this time we will have limited seating. We are taking reservations so we can plan seating out to accommodate as many people as possible. We also need to know how many services we need to have. We are planning to offer a blended worship service this year. Each service will be identical so you will not need to choose the time you attend based on the service style. If you plan to attend please contact the church office or email Pastor Rob.

Community Good Friday Service

On Good Friday many of the pastors of Lonoke will be holding a service for the community. It will take place in the Gina Cox Arena at 6:30pm on Good Friday. I would love to have our church turn out to support this service. Hopefully this will be the beginning of many more community worship services. We are making buttons available for us to show we are a part of Lonoke FUMC. If you plan to go and would like a button please contact the church office or email Pastor Rob at Rob08071222@gmail.com

Confirmands

We have eight students who are working with me to learn about the church and examine the faith. Please pray for these students during this very important time in their faith journey. If you would like to be a prayer partner for one of our confirmands please let me know. Confirmation Sunday will be Mother's Day this year.

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>In Person or Virtual Service 9am</i>						
4 <i>In Person or Virtual Service 9 and 11am, Egg Hunt-10am</i>	5	6 <i>Bible Study 6-7</i>	7 <i>Youth Group 7-8pm</i>	8	9 <i>Community Good Friday Service, 6:30pm (Gina Cox)</i>	10
11 <i>In Person or Virtual Service 9am</i>	12	13 <i>Bible Study 6-7</i>	14 <i>Youth Group 7-8pm</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>In Person or Virtual Service 9am</i>	19	20 <i>Bible Study 6-7</i>	21 <i>Youth Group 7-8pm</i>	22	23	24
25 <i>In Person or Virtual Service 9am</i>	26	27 <i>Bible Study 6-7</i>	28 <i>Youth Group 7-8pm</i>	29	30	

Prayer List

Our prayers are with:

Patsy Goode, Olivia Chambers, Rev. Jim Linderman, Jane Lipton, Peggy Anderson, Debbie Depriest, Emily Clark and Steven Lilly. Christian sympathy to the Glover family on the death of Willie Glover, to the Anderson family on the death of Joseph Neal Anderson and to the Harris family on the death of John Harris.

If you have any changes or additions to the prayer list, please call or email the

Church Office Info:

Monday-Friday, 9am-2:30pm
(501)676-6767

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