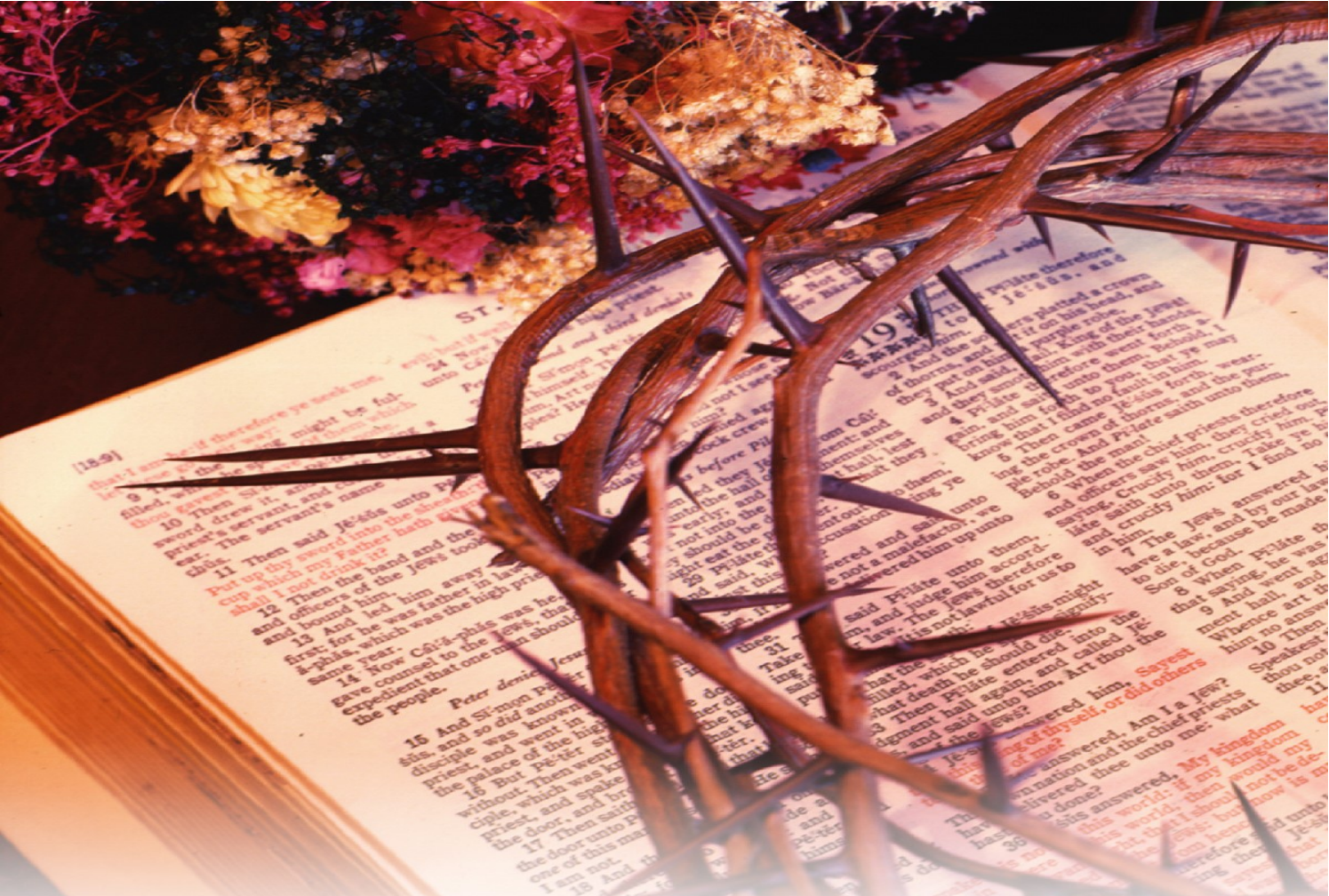


First United Methodist Church  
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Circle D

Sharon Eikel

March 2024

All ladies of the church are invited to our March 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting at 6:30pm. We will be having a guest speaker, Heather Mellon. Heather is the Lead Director and Abuse Counselor for “I AM...Abuse Therapy” We will also have fellowship, a devotional and dessert. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sharon Eikel at 816-225-6327. ☐

Easter Candy

Easter morning we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt for children through 5th grade. If you would like to donate plastic eggs or wrapped candy (make sure it can fit in an Easter Egg), please bring your donations to the church on or before March 25th so the eggs can be filled in time. ☐

Ladies' Coffee

It's hard to believe, but we have been meeting for over a year now. Friday, February 22, 2023 was our first time to enjoy a weekly ladies’ friendship gathering at RedWing Coffee. As many as 13 women and as few as 5 have met to enjoy conversation and a laugh. Because of these times together, we now have closer church friends to enjoy and to share the ups and downs of life. After coffee, we’ve taken part in craft sessions. Jody Hyink taught us to make greeting cards and festive candy boxes for residents of the nursing homes and Janie Bownds introduced us to the art of making ribbon roses. We have shared news of persons in need of prayer. Oh yes, and we’ve had lots of coffee and other amazing drink treats from the very caring staff led by Terri Young.

There is a lot going on at Redwing Coffee! Many Christian groups meet there regularly, and they offer a community Bible study at 6pm on Thursdays. What a comfy way to hear the “word”. We’ve been made to feel very welcome there and we hope you’ll join us sometime. All women of the church are welcome and guests too! You might even decide to start another coffee group. And why shouldn’t the men have a group too?!

Gals, I hope you will encourage the men of the church to get together and keep reminding them that the United Methodist Men meet for breakfast the first Saturday of each month at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall. As they enjoy each other’s company, maybe instead of only meeting monthly, the guys might want to start their own weekly coffeetime or lunch group to share stories, fellowship together and support one another in their spiritual journeys. ☐

OFFICE HOURS  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY  
8:15AM—1:00 PM  
TUESDAY, THURSDAY  
8:15AM-12:15PM

DEADLINES  
NEWSLETTER:  
3RD FRIDAY EACH MONTH

BULLETIN:  
NOON ON WEDNESDAY

SEND ALL INFORMATION TO:  
UMC@FIRSTCHURCHWARSAW.ORG

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS @  
8:15AM, 10:30AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:25AM

ADDITIONAL NEWSLETTERS ARE  
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:  
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHWARSAW.ORG

OR

YOU CAN PICK ONE UP IN THE  
CHURCH OFFICE OR IN THE  
CHURCH NARTHEX

PASTOR:  
LOREN WHETSELL  
LOREN.WHETSELL@FIRSTCHURCHWARSAW.ORG

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.:  
SARAH WYNN  
SARAH@FIRSTCHURCHWARSAW.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES  
MADELINE SCHOCKMANN  
FIRSTUMCYOUTH@FIRSTCHURCHWARSAW.ORG

CUSTODIAN:  
SHELIA COATS



Embracing The Promise of Easter

**Friends,** as we continue on our Lenten journey, we are reminded that this is a journey toward that will lead us to the celebration of Easter, the cornerstone of our faith. With each passing day, we draw closer to the celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Jesus. But we’re not there yet. We still have more time to reflect on our faith, renew our minds and our spirits, and give thanks for God’s faithfulness and God’s provision.

Easter is not merely a date on the calendar; it is a profound symbol of hope and redemption. It is a reminder that even in our darkest moments, the light of Christ shines brightly, offering us forgiveness, grace, and eternal life. As we prepare our hearts and minds for this sacred season, let us embrace the transformative power of Easter and allow it to enliven our spirits.

In addition to our Easter Sunday services, we will also be hosting a series of special events and activities throughout the Lenten season. Join us for Soup and Scripture on Wednesday Evenings at 5:30pm. This year we are exploring the Church’s Membership vows as we learn to be better Disciples. We will also be meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for a Good Friday remembrance service. There will be ample opportunities for us to deepen our faith and grow closer to God as we journey together toward Easter.

I personal invite each, and every one of you, to join us in our Easter worship celebrations. Together, as a community of believers, we will come together to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection. Our services will be filled with music, prayer, and reflection as we honor the sacrifice of our Lord and rejoice in his triumph over sin and death.

We will return to the Visitor’s Center this year for our Sunrise service at 6:30am followed by a 7:15am breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at the Church. We will continue the celebration with worship at 8:15am and 10:30am. Finally, we will celebrate end that special day with a Children’s Easter Egg Hunt on the Courthouse Lawn.

I encourage you to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us on this special day. Let us extend the love and grace of Christ to all who are seeking hope and meaning in their lives. Together, we can share the joy of Easter and spread the message of God's love to all corners of our community.

Friends, as we embark on this journey toward Easter, may we open our hearts to the transformative power of Christ's love. May we be filled with gratitude for the gift of salvation and may we carry the light of Easter with us each and every day.

In Christ,  
Pastor Loren



<i>Easter</i>
6:30 pm - Good Friday Service
6:30 am - Sunrise Service (Overlook)
7:15 am - Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
8:15 am - Traditional Service
9:25 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Contemporary Service
11:30 am - Kids Easter Egg Hunt

The Books of the Bible: Philippians

David Price

Each one of Paul's letters provides us new insights into living in the light and truth of God's grace. As we prayerfully read and/or study them we find more and more guidance, whether it be with respect to our relationship to God or to our fellow man. We may find a passage that more deeply expresses some aspect of the gospel helping us to see it more clearly. Or we may find one that corrects some direction we might be heading in our own lives. Either way, if we let it into our heart, we will grow closer into living the life that God desires us to live. James tells us in his letter (James 4:8 – NASV) *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

Philippi is in Greece. At the time that Paul wrote however, it was a Roman colony, governed by the laws of Rome rather than the surrounding province. It was overwhelmingly gentile. At the time Paul wrote this letter, he was a prisoner in Rome, however in no way did that dampen his faith and joy in the gospel message. Here are just a few highlights. Unless otherwise noted all are from the New American Standard Version.

(Philippians 1:9-11) *⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

(Philippians 2:5-11) *⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and un-*

*der the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

(Philippians 2:14-15) *¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,*

(Philippians 3:7-9) *⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, (Philippians 3:13-14) ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians 4:6-8) *⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians 4:8) *⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. (Philippians 4:13 – MKJV) ¹³I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. □*

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Cynthia Bolinger

Warsaw Community Easter Egg Hunt is sponsored by Benton County Youth Coalition (BCYC). It will be held Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the West Bledsoe Ferry Sports Complex (16609 Bledsoe Ferry Road). Age groups are 1-3 years, 4-6 years

and 7 years thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Come have fun and celebrate Easter!!

In addition to lots of candy, some of the kids will have a chance to win Trikes, Bikes, Scooters, Balls and other prizes. You can make a difference in children's lives by supporting this effort. Your monetary donations will help BCYC to purchase grand prizes and toys for the event. Will you donate? Make your check to BCYC and write for prizes in the memo line. Cynthia Bolinger, fundraiser 660-723-3204, cyndave@iland.net, BCYC, PO Box 1302, Warsaw, MO 65355. □

Suggested Readings as We Approach Easter

Pastor Loren

Temptation and Spiritual Discipline

- Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus' temptation in the wilderness)
- Reflection: Reflect on the significance of Jesus' resistance to temptation and the importance of spiritual discipline in our own lives.

Sacrifice and Surrender

- Scripture: Mark 8:34-38 (Take up your cross and follow Jesus)
- Reflection: Reflect on the call to sacrificial living and surrendering our will to God's will.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35 (Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)
- Reflection: Examine the power of forgiveness and the importance of reconciliation in our relationships.

Mercy and Compassion

- Scripture: Luke 15:11-32 (Parable of the Prodigal Son)
- Reflection: Contemplate God's mercy and compassion towards us and what it might look like if we did the same for others.

Death and Resurrection

- Scripture: John 11:1-44 (Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead)
- Reflection: Meditate on the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ. □



MARCH 2024 - Celebrations






Sunday schedule: Worship Services: 8:15 AM and 10:30 AM

Sunday School: 9:25 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Matthew Smith (B) Parker Smith (B)	Terry Close (B) June Sterling (B)	Steve Barb (B) Joe & Dianne Bockelman(A)		Steve Bryant (B)	Bill Bunch (B) Mary Norton (B)	Ron Moore (B) Warren & Vicki Schroder(A)
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
		Steve & Kelli Daleske(A)	Nancy Buton (B)	Paul Estes (B) Mara Lee (B) Steve & Sue McCarty (A)	Gage Whitaker (B) Ron & Pete Hallack(A) Mike & Ellie Roach (A)	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
Marlene Bowman (B) Lisa Johnson (B)	Melinda Berryman (B) Randy & Melinda Berryman(A) Leonard & Diane Summers(A)			Amy Wills (B)	Cindy Kreisel (B)	
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Darlene Bailey (B)	Dana Brockman (B) Cleo Hunter (B) Sarah Wynn (B) Russ & Dana Brockman (A)	Randy Eaton (B)	Riley Karr (B) Sterling Karr (B)	Kathy Ansteeit (B) Beverly Spatz (B) Bentley Steenburg (B) LeRoy & Vickie Whitaker(A)	DeAnna Spencer (B)	Monty Maples (B) Cherie Pierre (B) Arley & Debbie Brockman(A)
<b>31</b>	Depend on the LORD; Trust him, and he will take care of you... psalm 37:5					
Holly Eiemann(B) Kerry Murray (B)						



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Even when you are old, I will be the same. Even when your hair has turned gray, I will take care of you.... Isaiah 46:4</div> <div></div>						
<b>3</b> 5:00 pm - IGNITE	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 5:30 pm - Soup & Scripture	<b>7</b> 4:30 pm - Soup & More Community Kitchen 6:30 pm - Circle D	<b>8</b> 10:00 am - Ladies Coffee	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 5:00 pm - IGNITE 	<b>11</b> 12:00 pm - American Red Cross Blood Drive	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:30 pm - Soup & Scripture	<b>14</b> 4:30 pm - Soup & More Community Kitchen	<b>15</b> 10:00 am - Ladies Coffee April Newsletter Articles Due	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 5:00 pm - IGNITE	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5:30 pm - Soup & Scripture	<b>21</b> 4:30 pm - Soup & More Community Kitchen	<b>22</b> 10:00 am - Ladies Coffee	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> 5:00 pm - IGNITE	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30 pm - Soup & Scripture	<b>28</b> 4:30 pm - Soup & More Community Kitchen	<b>29 Good Friday</b> 10:00 am - Ladies Coffee 6:30 pm - Good Friday Service	<b>30</b>
<div><b>31 Easter Sunday</b> 6:30 am - Sunrise Service 7:15 am - Breakfast 8:15 am - Traditional Service 9:25 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Contemporary Service 11:30 am - Kids Easter Egg Hunt</div> <div></div>						