

First United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 6 - 5th Sunday of Lent
Noah's Ark Sunday
Scripture: John 12:1-8
Devotion: "We Are Fragile"

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday
Communion
Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 19:28-40
Sermon: "You Are A Group Project"

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18
Sermon: A Good Enough Faith

Sunday, April 27 - 1st Sun. after Easter
Pastor Mona on Vacation

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Mona Joslyn,
Pastor

Karin VanderMolen,
Admin. Asst. &
Bookkeeper

Jon Carroll,
Building Supervisor

James Mullins,
Music & Audio/Visual
Coordinator

Mary Jo Pouillon,
Noah's Ark Director

Leadership Team

Diane Allen
Karolyn Dawley
Fred Delcamp
James Downing,
Chair

Cindy Helmker
Jerry Hitchingham
Larry Johnson
Emma Johnson
Rev. Mona Joslyn
Karin VanderMolen

*The MISSION of
Owosso First United
Methodist Church is to live
out our faith in Jesus Christ
through acts of love with
honesty, integrity, and
respect.*

*The VISION of
Owosso First United
Methodist Church is to be
Christ-centered, a welcome
and loving environment,
service-oriented, and
respectful of ALL creation.*



Tower Tidings

First United
Methodist Church

MAR 2025

Greetings!

April has arrived! Spring is sprung! The trees are budding, and green leaves will soon be giving their shade, flowers will be bursting forth, and people are emerging from their winter covers. I don't know about you, but I am ready for Spring! Those who have been planning their gardens all winter are ready to don the garden gloves.

I enjoy having a garden...as much as I complained about it when I was a kid. It is always amazing to see the plant emerging from the soil and then blossoming and seeing the vegetable begin to form and grow. This Lent we have had our own little garden in the sanctuary. Not one that will bear any fruit or vegetables, but one that reminds us that we continue to grow. Each week we are reminded to spend time tending the things that are beautiful and growing already in our midst, rather than constantly climbing and reaching for more—for those things that we think we are “supposed” to achieve or have in our lives. Those who attended the Ash Wednesday Service received a pod and a seed to plant. I hope you did, and I hope that the plant is poking through the soil. I hope that you are being reminded that not everything grows perfectly. Leaves get broken, rain doesn't come, bugs eat the plant, and diseases rot the roots. But with tender care the plant can be nourished back to health.

We are a lot like a plant, we are not perfect, and we don't always live our faith perfectly, or at least the perfect way that the world defines perfect. We might not open our Bibles and read every day. We might rush through our prayers. We might get through the day and forget that we didn't pray at all. We may have complained about another person, we might have slept in instead of attending worship. We are not perfect...even though we are moving on to perfection, as John Wesley defines perfection...we can become perfect in love...loving God with all our hearts, minds, body, and spirits and to love our neighbor as ourselves. That is perfection! Is it easy? Nope. Is it worth it? Yes! That is when we are demonstrating that we are Easter people! People of the Risen Christ.

Easter is late this year, it is near the end of April, where Jesus shows us what perfect love is. His love for God led him to the cross and God's love for all humanity that brought him back from the dead. Christ is alive! And he walks with us each and every day, reminding us that we may not be “practicality perfect in every way” (to quote Mary Poppins), but we have the capability to show our perfect love to a world that desperately needs to know what real, perfect love is. Jesus tells us, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:17-19).

God has given us the gift of perfect love...do we have to be perfect people? No, sin is a part of being human. Perfect love is inside of us, because God lives inside of us...the ones God created in his image. Take the gift of love and know that God loves us more than we know and carry that love and share God's perfect love in the name of the Risen Jesus Christ. Proclaim the Good News! God Loves you!!

Blessings,

Pastor Mona

Special Church Conference
Sunday, April 13 at 1:00 pm

Agenda: Discuss the possibility of selling the land across from the church on Water Street next to the parsonage.
ALL church members may vote.

Tower Tidings - April 2025
First United Methodist Church
1500 North Water Street
Owosso, MI 48867
Office Hours M-F @ 8-4
Sunday Worship 10 am

989-725-2201
Church Office
Website: owossofumc.org
firstumc@owossofumc.org
drmj@owossofumc.org
Rev. Dr. Mona K. Joslyn

Men's Breakfast

Sat. APR 5,

@ 8:30 am

in the church Café.

All men are welcome.



Please RSVP to the church office. The cost is \$8. Thank you!

Singles Over 60

Tuesday Apr. 1

@ noon

Applebee's





Sue Alpert	1
Cathy Burkitt	5
DJ Graves	8
Judy Nichols	11
Tyler Drake	12
Tim Oeschger	12
Pam Vogl	12
Lindsay Baker	15
Bob Gilman	15
Tricia Alderman	16
Grant Drake	18
Sue Driskill	18
Paul Kuhlman	24
Mona Joslyn	25
Vi Olney	26
Jenna Grubb	28
Mary Ann Louks	28
Janet Drake	29
Chelsea Schoenfield	30



STEPHEN MINISTRY ANNIVERSARY

30 years ago, in April 1995, 3 people from Owosso First United Methodist Church went to St. Louis, MO to be trained as Stephen Ministry Leaders and to begin this special ministry in our church. Those people were Rev. Carol Johns, Carolyn Barnes, and Jane Hofstra. At that training session, there were people from Oklahoma City, which had just experienced the horrific bombing two weeks prior, who were being trained to lead new Stephen Ministers in walking beside those who had been affected by that tragedy. Thus began a ministry here that is still serving our congregation today.

That's what Stephen Ministers do. They are trained to walk beside a hurting friend, providing distinctively Christian care. Stephen Ministry is based on Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-on-one caring relationships, individuals who are hurting or struggling with life's transitions receive the love and care they need to support them from a caring Christian who really listens.

Over these years, approximately 60 people have been trained as Stephen Ministers at Owosso First. Now, 30 years later, we currently have 3 active Stephen Ministers who meet with their Care Receivers weekly, and who meet together with 3 Stephen Leaders bi-weekly.

Please pray for this ministry and our Stephen Ministers as they continue to show Jesus' love and care for others.

Karolyn Dawley
Stephen Leader

You're invited
to an Easter
Continental
Breakfast,
Sunday April 20
at 9am
in the Café.

Noah's Ark Children's Center & Preschool

How to Explain Easter and the Resurrection to Children

Easter is the most significant holy day celebrated by Christians each year. This special day offers Christians the opportunity to reflect on God's fulfillment of His covenant through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Churches as well as parents have the opportunity to teach foundational truths about Jesus, God, and self to children, so they can truly grasp the significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's important for children to understand certain foundational truths before they hear the Easter story. Younger and middle preschoolers have a difficult time learning about Jesus as a baby during December and then in April hearing about Jesus as an adult who rose from the dead. Parents and teachers must see the importance of communicating these truths in stages. Getting the lenses of the child's understanding in focus involves bringing things into alignment. The following life questions and age distinctions give an alignment for communicating foundational truths leading to and in telling the Easter story.

Foundational Truths to Build On:

Parents and teachers must decide whether the child has sufficient understanding to move from "Who is Jesus?" and "What did Jesus do?" to the factual story of "How did Jesus die and how was He raised from the dead?" If a child understands those truths, then he or she is ready to learn "Why did Jesus have to die and be raised from the dead?" These stages show the progression from knowledge to understanding, application, action, and attitude.

Foundational Truths for Younger and Middle Preschoolers:

In applying this to the younger and middle preschool years, parents and teachers may choose to use Bible stories such as "Jesus and the Children" or "Jesus Helps a Blind Man See" to answer the life questions "Who is Jesus?" and "What did Jesus do?"

Foundational Truths for Older Preschoolers and Younger Children:

Later in the preschool years and early childhood, parents and teachers can move to the Easter story and answer the question "How did Jesus die and how was He raised from the dead?" This factual approach attempts to give the child correct information or knowledge; it also prepares the child for more in-depth studies of the cross and resurrection. This progression begins to encourage the child to grow from his understanding of Jesus as Friend to Jesus as Savior. The telling of the Bible story of how Jesus died and how He was raised from the dead becomes a step in a process that hopefully will lead a child to the point of salvation and spiritual transformation later in life. During this stage, teachers and parents should remember to: stay with the Bible text, allow the child to visualize the story, check for clear understanding, ask follow-up questions, give short simple responses, avoid jumping to conclusions, clarify terms such as--Angel-- a messenger from God; Cross -- a wooden structure where Jesus died; Disciple -- someone who followed Jesus and learned from Jesus; Savior -- someone who saves people from danger; the name Jesus means Savior*; Tomb -- a place to bury people who are dead; usually a cave with a big stone door; Resurrection -- when God brought Jesus back to life and then Jesus went to heaven to be with God*; Crucifixion -- the way Jesus died on the cross*; * These terms are best used with middle and preteen children.

Staff Birthdays: 04.05 Ms. Cathy & 04.30 Ms. Megan

Wish List: Craft Supplies (new or left over from your projects), Facial Tissue (regular and/or travel size) Rolls of Paper Towel, Free & Clear Laundry Detergent (safe for infants)

Our classroom and center Amazon wish lists can be found on our website: www.naccpreschool.com/lists

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Mary Jo Pouillon, Director, Noah's Ark Children's Center
989-725-2202 Work ~ 989-666-1352 Cell ~ 989-729-1721 Fax
www.naccpreschool.com "Imagination is more important than knowledge." ~Albert Einstein



PRAYER list...

- Those affected by war & disasters
- Family of Terry Gulick who passed away March 4
- Ed Payne, back at home
- Carolyn Barnes, recent illness
- Connie Voight & family, Jerry passed away Feb. 21
- Deb Bendall, breast cancer
- Rick Wheeler, serious health concerns, (brother-in-law Sharon M.)
- Midge Bagwell & family Mike Bagwell passed away Feb. 22
- Betty Braschwitz, health issues, (sister of Sarah Finnen)
- Nancy Shellenbarger, cancer, husband died 1/14 (sister of Terry E.)
- Kim Wiedbusch, serious cancer issues (relative of Sharon Marsh)
- Aubriella, 10 yr old, recurring leukemia
- Sarah Finnen, kidney disease
- Faith VanderMolen, health issues
- Diane Allen, CHEMO
- Joshua Janes, hit by car fractured spine (son of Cathy Burkitt)
- Janet Sutton, health issues
- Kay Champion, health issues
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- Joann Goodson, rec. from surgery
- John Downing, poor circulation, health concerns (brother of Jim D.)
- Ken Smith, stage 4 kidney failure (friend of Frank & Diana Thaler)
- John Mullins, medical issues
- Todd Cohoon, end stage ALS, (son of Bonnie Cohoon)
- Cody Wheeler, rec. critical car accident (Bob & Sharon Marsh's nephew)

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office
989-725-2201 or email firstumc@owossofumc.org

Any updates on those on the prayer list would be
appreciated: additions, those that can be removed, etc.
Thank you.

Military

- Todd Hofacker, California
- Kory Alliton, Marine, Camp LaJone
- Yuka Peters, Washington State
- Cody Rozell
- John Schlaud, Marines, 5th
- Ryan Weaver, Army Reserve

(any updates on military members
would be appreciated: additions,
those no longer active, etc.)

Homebound

- Elaine Shepard, Oliver Woods,
1330 W. Oliver St., 3-12,
Owosso, 989-723-3074
- Gail Rheume, The Meadows,
245 Caledonia Dr., Owosso
- Judy Helmker, 1694 N M52
#221, Owosso
- Gaile Passmore, Memorial
Healthcare, LTC 826 W. King St.
5th Floor, #578-1 Owosso
- Ann Ferden, The Woodlands,
910 Woodlands Dr. DeWitt, MI
48820



SPRING IS UPON US and we need your help. Last fall over \$20,000 of Endowment Funds were used for much-needed and overdue landscaping work.

We'd like to maintain our beautiful grounds and make a good first impression for guests. This is where YOU come in--by signing up to weed and keep clean a small area this spring/summer/fall.

A map of the grounds with numbered areas is included with this newsletter. A few areas have already been claimed! Please consider getting a family or friend group to sign up for a specific area.

Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Last fall extensive landscaping work was done on the church grounds:

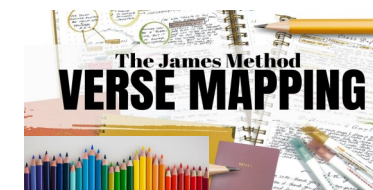
- Cut out bushes from southwest side planter
- Trim bushes on southeast side of church
- Cut down tree on north side of play area
- Remove dead grasses from east side of church and cut back overgrown grasses & haul debris
- Mulch, including installation for east side where grasses were removed
- Cold asphalt patch to fill holes in parking lot
- Red mulch with installation for east entrance area with heavy duty weed fabric and pins after removal of weeds/debris in beds by east door
- Clean out weeds and debris from all 6 parking lot islands
- Remove trees in southeast corner, haul away, spread topsoil, seed & straw
- Fee for rental chipper for trees
- Topsoil, seed, and straw where Arborvitaes were removed
- Removal of ivy (growing up and through church) down to roots at west entrance, added topsoil, weed fabric, mulch, plants

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Thank you.
Leadership Board



Yarn-spirations !
Everyone is welcome to
join us Sunday, April 13
@ 3pm in the Cafe
Bring your yarn/string
project to work on
while we fellowship
and pray with each
other.
Bring a snack/drink.
Bring a friend, or two!



Bible Study Tues. April 29,
at 6:30 pm
Everyone is welcome to meet in
the Café.

Bring: Bible (print or digital),
pens, markers, highlighters,
snack/drink, friends & family.
Additional items if you have
them: phone/tablet,
washi tape, pencils, stickers.

Mapping sheets provided.
Limited pens and markers will be
available to borrow.
Artistic talent is NOT required.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Romans 5:3-5

WANTED!

YOU! ON FRIDAY May 9

5-7 pm

Koegel's Hot Dog Dinner

Donation for (Hot Dogs, chips,
coleslaw & beverage)

At 6:00 pm

PIE / CHEESECAKE / DESSERT

AUCTION

(perfect for Mother's Day)



ANNUAL SPRING
RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday, April 24

@ 9 am – 5 pm

Friday, April 25

@ 9 am – 12 pm

General merchandise
for sale by donation.
Boutique Room items
reasonably priced.

The Owosso Musicales

Presents

The Pat Cronley Jazz Trio



Saturday, April 5

2:00 pm

Come join us for an afternoon of
great music and good vibes.

All three events at Owosso First United Methodist Church, 1500 N. Water St., Owosso ~ 989-725-2201



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12 - Singles Over 60 at Applebee's 6:30 Stephen Ministry	2 8am-Coffee Club 7pm Lent Service at First Baptist	3 11 am Older Adult Min. Team	4 7pm AA	5 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 2 pm Jazz Trio
6 5th Sunday in Lent NOAH'S ARK SUNDAY 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship 4:30 - Lent Small Group	7 11:45 TOPS	8	9 8am-Coffee Club 7 pm Lent Service at First Cong.	10 9-11 am Food Distribution	11 7pm AA	12
13 Palm Sunday Communion 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship 3:00 pm-YARNspirations 4:30 - Lent Small Group	14 11:45 TOPS	15 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	16 8am-Coffee Club 10am- Noah's Ark Chapel Time	17 7 pm Maundy Thursday worship	18 12:15 Good Fri- day service at Free Methodist 7pm AA	19
20 Easter Sunday 9:00 am Continental Breakfast 10 am - Easter Celebration Worship	21 11:45 TOPS 6:30 Noah's Ark Board	22 Noah's Ark Pic Days Tues & Wed / Narthex	23 8am-Coffee Club	24	25 7pm AA	26
Fellowship Hall Reserved - Rummage Sale: Friday 9am-5pm & Sat 9am - noon						
27 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship	28 11:45 TOPS	29 6:30 pm The James' Method Bible Study	30 6pm Leadership Board			

