

First Church News

March 2024

Holy Week events set this month

Sunday, March 24 - 11 a.m.
Choir Cantata - no 9 a.m.
service

Sunday, March 24 - 6 p.m.
Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 28 - 6:30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday service

Friday, March 29 - Noon
Good Friday Ecumenical
Service

Saturday, March 30 - 10 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn

Sunday, March 31 - 9 & 11am
Easter Worship



Stations of the Cross



Please join our children and youth on the evening of March 24 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary for their Stations of the Cross presentation. This moving depiction of the last hours of Jesus' life as seen through the eyes of a child is a wonderful way to start your Holy Week experience.

Parent's Night Out scheduled

Parent's Night Out is set for March 8, from 5-8 p.m.

For ages three through fourth grade.

Must RSVP to 580-747-3206 with the name and age of each participant by March 3 to reserve spot.

DEVOS W/DEVON

Fortunately Dosing off



Pastor
Devon Krause
[seniorpastor@
firstchurchenid.com](mailto:seniorpastor@firstchurchenid.com)

If you've ever struggled to stay awake in church you're not alone. In fact, there's a story of a guy in scripture who fell asleep while Paul was preaching "*on and on*." (Acts 20:9). The only problem is this guy, Eutychus, was sitting on a window ledge three stories up and he didn't just fall asleep, he fell out the window to his death. Not the best place to take a rest.

Fortunately, Paul and his companions rushed down and brought him back. Ironically, Eutychus' name means fortunate and *that* he was. He was fortunate to be surrounded by people who believed in something bigger than themselves. He was fortunate to be in community with people who looked out for one another. When we fall asleep in life, are we surrounded by people who are going to help wake us up?

In our culture we're taught

"Oftentimes we're too busy for deep community and the sad reality is that we're the one's who miss out because of it."



intentionally or unintentionally to

- 1) look out for number one, me.
- 2) Vulnerability is weakness.
- 3) Be your own person.

Unfortunately, it isn't difficult to see how these cultural values can have an effect on our faith. Our faith, on the other hand, teaches that we are to 1) care for our brothers and sisters. 2) Be open and honest. 3) Find deep meaningful relationships where keeping promises to others is more important than our individuality. Sometimes we need to take an honest assessment of the way we practice our faith: does our faith look more like the values of our culture or vice versa?

When we consider how the values of our culture affect our faith, it is helpful to consider the current loneliness epidemic that is having long term health consequences including mental health challenges and premature death. Evidence suggests that connection and community improves the health of individuals

and the resilience of communities.

One of the most important takeaways from Eutychus' story is location. When he fell out of that window to his death he was surrounded by people who would jump into action when this sort of thing happened. Are we? An important part of this discussion revolves around evaluating our priorities and taking positive initiative. Oftentimes we're too busy to make time for deep community and the sad reality is that we're the ones who miss out because of it.

At First Church, we have lots of places to find community. Will we take the initiative to find a place to plug in? I'm happy to help! Eutychus might get criticized for falling asleep but he was exactly where he needed to be. My hope and prayer is that we will all find community for the ups and downs.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Devon

Five years of serving at Enid Welcome Table

By Melissa Tesson

This March will mark five years that our church has been serving monthly at the Enid Welcome Table. I am a bit of a numbers gal, so just using round numbers we have served over 6,000 plates of food in that timeframe.

How our church got started supporting this ministry is one of my favorite stories. The mission team was bouncing around ideas of service projects to do and several of the mission team members had volunteered a time or two at the Enid

TABLE cont'd on back page



ABOVE and BELOW: Welcome Table in 2024.



Welcome Table in 2019.



MISSION MOMENT

Church helps with outreach opportunities

By Heather Reames

First United Methodist Church, you rock! At the last mission committee meeting, we heard that you cooked and served 280 plates at Central Christian Church's Welcome Table in January. You provided gift cards for 32 members of our pilot class. You donated items and money to New Day Camp for children with incarcerated parents. You provided items for

foster children at Holsinger Home. Some of our members are volunteering at the Presbyterian church for the tutoring program. Your donations purchase items each month to keep the Blessing Box stocked. All that is above and beyond the donations you make that keep the lights on and the salaries paid. What blessings you provide for people you have not even met.

MISSION continued on next page

MISSION:



Thank you to the church for providing encouragement to Vance Air Force Class 24-11.

In mission meetings, Melissa always says, "Our church will show up when there is a need." Thank you, so much for all you do. It makes a difference.

What better time to make a difference, than during Lent. Please continue to support the ministries mentioned above. The Blessing Box needs to be stocked on days that the church is closed. We always appreciate all of you that bring items for the box. If you sign up to stock the Blessing Box, you do not have to purchase the items. You can simply stop by the church when it is open and pick up a bag at the Welcome Desk and use it to fill the box. Please consider signing up at the Information Table to do this. There are instruction sheets there that you can pick up.

Our Open Your Heart collection in March is collecting sneakers for Foster Feet. This is a wonderful ministry. A school can contact the organization with a need and they will bring what is needed. You can request shoes online, also.

Communion Rail this month goes to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). If you do not know about this ministry, please check it out online or ask around at church. A group from our church goes to Louisiana every year to be involved in this important service. Melissa Tesson can tell you more about that trip if you are interested.

A gift card, a diaper, a pair of shoes freely given, are blessings that can touch a heart and lighten a load. Thank you for "showing up!"

March UWF Meetings

Wednesday, March 6: Unit Meeting, 10 a.m. Prayer and Self-Denial Program with Pastor Nathan Oney in the Parlor. All women invited.

Wednesday, March 6: Rahab Circle, 6:30 p.m. Meeting at the home of Amber Gill, 912 Brookside.

Wednesday, March 13: Esther Circle, 9:30 a.m. Meeting at the home of Brenda Watson, 1511 N. Oakwood.

Wednesday, March 13: Lydia Circle, 7 p.m., meeting at the home of Janice Cottle, 3215 N. Lincoln.

Tuesday, March 19: Anna Circle, 1:30 p.m. Meeting in the Church Parlor.

Girls night April 3

The United Women in Faith will sponsor the annual Mother, Daughter, Friend Bingo for Babies night beginning at 5:30 p.m. April 3. Event is for women and girls of ALL ages. There is no cost for dinner or bingo - just bring a package of diapers for the CDSA diaper bank. Be watching for a signup sheet on the Info Table. Deadline

CARE NOTES:

Remember who you serve this Easter



**Deborah
Reeves**

Director of Care
Ministries

Last month I traveled back home to visit and care for my parents. While there it was very clear to me that though aging has been hard on their bodies and time has taken some of their memories, one thing that

was still strong as ever was their love for Jesus. Aging has not stolen their love and commitment to the Lord. Time will not be the thief of their faith and devotion to their Savior.

I remember growing up we moved so many times and lived in so many different places BUT every Easter my dad faithfully would get up Easter morning and blast Dallas Holm's "Rise Again" and its beautiful piano piece and end

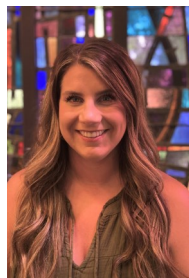
with Don Francisco "He's Alive." So loud the walls would shake! So loud me, my sisters and most of our neighbors had no doubt He was alive!

My parents taught me to live each day knowing I serve a risen Savior and that he is alive and I am forgiven. My parents are still teaching me that, still showing me what it's like to have a relationship with Jesus, no matter the circumstances.

CARE continued on back

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Many help with Diamonds & Dudes



Ashley Black

Director of
Children's & Youth
Ministry

Diamonds & Dudes, our Daddy daughter dance for 2024, hosted 100 girls and dads for an evening of fun! Snacks, music, light sticks, crafts, their fun was in every corner of Fellowship Hall.

I love this evening, but most of all, I adore the people who come out of the woodwork to make it possible. Calls from generations of the church saying "can I pick you up



anything?" The Sunday school classes, with no kids left to go to this event, that graciously said "we will grab fruit trays, veggie trays, chips." The dads who stayed in the end to help

clean and talk about the many years they'd enjoyed coming to this dance with their girls. Not a single detail of this evening

DANCE continued on back

TABLE:

Welcome Table with some other groups. Somewhat jokingly, a member of the team said, we should sign up and serve every Sunday in the month of March. Well, the idea stuck and quickly the plan on how we could support planning, preparing and serving 50-60 people each week for an entire month came together. Our congregation knocked it out of the park! We had volunteers sign up to bring parts of the entrée, the sides, the desserts. Sunday School classes signed up to come and serve. It was a fantastic experience!

After that first month, the mission team decided the support was so wonderful we would continue to host and serve a meal there once a month.

Fast forward 5 years, and a lot has grown and changed in this ministry. We made it through

the COVID years where we weren't able to share the meal in person so we served to-go meals.

The number of guests who come to share a meal on Sunday evenings has steadily grown from 50 to close to a 100. The only requirement for the guests is to come and enjoy a delicious meal, no strings attached! Serving each month has allowed us to create friendships with the guests. We look forward to seeing them each month and catching up on their week.

If you haven't had an opportunity to participate with this ministry yet, we would love to have you help in preparing and bringing some of the food, or sign up to come and help us serve our dinner guests. I can promise you that you will walk away having been doubly blessed.

CARE:

I asked you all this Easter to remember who you serve and live each day with the grace God affords us by giving us a risen Jesus. If your love for Jesus is tattooed to your heart, time nor failing health will steal that from you.

So, rejoice in Easter, it's the best gift this world has been given, it's the best lesson my parents taught me.

John 3: 16-17 "God so loved the world he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

DANCE:

was possible alone.

But together hand in hand, the community that is First United Methodist Church Enid made 55 little girls' night a dream come true!

It amazes me, every event this

church hosts warms my heart and leaves me counting the hundreds of blessings that are you all, the members and mosaic that is First United Methodist Church Enid. Our Home.



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