



Late for Easter

One of my favorite theologians and preachers is Ellsworth Kalas. I had the blessing of not only have him as a professor in different events, but also had the chance to get to know him on a more personal level as we worked together at the Georgia Pastor's School. Having lunch with this world-renowned scholar and celebrated preacher was more like having lunch with a close friend. We talked about family and ministry, shared stories of failures and successes, and parted as friends after that weeklong event.

In his stories and sermons "From the Backside" he always offers a different perspective on the scriptures. For me, his books give a life to the texts in the bible that we often read past in our studies.

In his story, "Late for Easter" Kalas talks about the conversion of Saul to Paul and states, that like us Paul was late for Easter. "After all, everyone couldn't live in the first century. But [Paul] came to know Christ through the power that was let loose in our world by the Resurrection. And by the fruits of his life, Paul proved that meeting the Christ of Easter by faith can be just as life-transforming and life-giving as meeting him in an upper room or on the road to Emmaus...Jesus is so alive, so real, and so present that we can know him today as certainly as John and Mary Magdalene knew him on the first of all Easters."

Do you know the life-transforming, life-giving power of the Risen Christ? Being in relationship with Him makes all the difference in how we approach each day. Thanks be to God that the transforming power of Christ continues to be present over 2000 years after the Resurrection...and just as Jesus called Mary's name at the tomb on the third day and Paul's name some time later, he stands calling yours today.

Blessings,
Pastor Kathy

- ◆ **April 1st— Easter Sunday**
@7:00a— Sunrise Service
@8:00a-- Breakfast
@11:00a-- Easter Service
- ◆ **April 4th—**
No Wonderful Wednesday/Youth
- ◆ **April 10th—**
6:00p— Finance Team Meeting
6:30p— Church Council Meeting
- ◆ **April 11th@ 6:00p—**
Family Night Supper
- ◆ **April 12-15th**
Kairos Weekend
- ◆ **April 16th@ 7:00 p—**
Circle 3
- ◆ **April 17th**
@ 2:00p— Hannah Circle
@7:00p— Circle 5
- ◆ **April 22nd—**
Connectional Group 5 Event
- ◆ **April 23rd @ 6:00p—**
Stephen Ministry Meeting
- ◆ **April 19-28th**
Guatemala Mission Trip
- ◆ **April 29th @ 8:00a—**
Men's Breakfast @ FUMC
- ◆ **April 30th @5:00-7:00p—**
Lion's Club Pancake Supper



THE ROMANS ARE COMING!

Don't miss an amazing opportunity to go back 2,000 years in time to experience life in Israel under Roman rule. You will see Roman soldiers, a Roman marketplace, catacombs and various artifacts of the times. Kathy Lamon will lead a group of CFUMC members on our drive to LaGrange Georgia to the Biblical History Center. The Bus and carpools leave at 8:00AM on Saturday May 5, 2018. Admission is \$20 per adult and \$15 per child (6 - 12). We'll have lunch at one of the local restaurants (Kathy has a couple of favorites). Email Craig Gieler at craig.gieler@gmail.com for further details and to share your interest in participating.



Connection Group #5 Worship Event – Sunday April 22
All churches in our Connection Group are invited to Warren Chapel for a
Sunday evening Revival service. More details to follow



Stephen Ministry is a lay caregiving program designed to provide meaningful and confidential support for those going through difficult times. Stephen Ministers undergo extensive training with pastors and other trained leaders. They typically meet with a care receiver for about an hour a week. We are blessed to have a wonderful Stephen Ministry here at CFUMC. If you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry or having a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Kathy or Joyce and Kinsey Phillips for more information.

Circle 3 will meet on **April 16th at 7:00p**

Hannah Circle will meet on **April 17th at 2:00p**

Circle 5 will meet on **April 17th at 7:00p**



Kairos Prison Ministry: Kairos Weekend – April 12-15

The mission of Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women, youth, and their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.



Maybe you have thought, "I could never serve in Kairos Ministry," but the good news is, yes you can! Kairos does involve individuals going into prisons to share God's love with the residents, however there are other ways to serve too:

- 1) Pray for the Residents and our Team (about 32 women volunteers) who will be going into the prison for 72 hours.
- 2) Buy meal and supply tickets for \$10 each. These provide meals for a resident for the weekend and helps with Team expenses.
- 3) Be part of our prayer chain. Ask me for a strip of colored construction paper and write your first name (only) on it. Your name will be added to others to make a paper prayer chain which will surround the gym during the weekend. The residents are very moved when they see the number of people praying for them.
- 4) Volunteers are needed to bake cookies for the Kairos weekend. They will need 3 dozen home made cookies (no peanut products please) for participants. The cookies will need to be dropped off by April 11th.

Bless you and thank you for your support.

Debbie Manus

BE A SPARKLER!

Do you like fireworks? I do. I especially like sparklers. Sometimes they are a little hard to light and get started burning. But, once you get them started they burn with a spectacular light.

The light is bright and hot and the sparkles reach out and tickle your fingers. You can swirl the sparkler around in the night sky and draw a word or a picture or your name.

The only disappointment with sparklers is that they don't burn very long, maybe a minute. Then they fade and die out.

In Exodus 3, Moses saw a sort of sparkler. Actually it was a burning bush and an angel of the Lord appeared to him within the flame.

He became the sparkler for the Lord. The Lord spread the sparkle through Moses for many years. The Flame did not die. Moses passed it on to others.

Jesus was also a sparkler, a burning bush that others thought they could extinguish. But, they were wrong. As Jesus said to Martha in John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Sometimes I get excited about something then let the world press me back into its mold, the passion dies, the light goes out.

If you are excited about an idea, a ministry, a mission, something incredibly generous that will take your time, your talents (everyone has a talent), and your financial resources, don't be a sparkler that dies in a short time. Be a burning bush and keep your Flame alive, wherever it might be.

Your servant,
Tom Murphy



Financial Update:

Amount Needed through March:	\$109,626
Received through 3/26/18	\$116,983
Expenditures through 3/26/18	\$110,476



If you would like a copy of your first quarter giving statement, please call or email the church office.

Worship Texts

for April

April 1st
John 20:1-15

April 8th
John 20:19-31

April 15th
Luke 24:36b-48

April 22nd
1 John 3:16-24

April 29th
John 15:1-8

Acolyte:

Brayden Harbin

Altar Guild:

Linda Exley, Stacy Oxley-Sales,
K. Ellen Hagan

Trustee:

Becky Huss

Children's Church:

Week 1	Easter Service
Week 2	Gina Hagan
Week 3	Gina Hagan
Week 4	Gina Hagan
Week 5	Gina Hagan

Counters:

Week 1-	Dave Moon, Lee Hagan
Week 2-	Tom Murphy, Al Fleming
Week 3-	Jack Legg, Bill Davis
Week 4-	Jimmy Bolton, Att Stephenson
Week 5-	Tom Murphy, Al Fleming

Birthdays

4/1 Brian Anderson
4/2 Mandy Lund
4/6 Renee Moon
4/7 Michael Sales, Brayden Harbin
4/8 Beth Pierce
4/11 Craig Gieler
4/13 Kelsey Harbin
4/15 Britton Jones-Leggett
4/17 Robbie Griffith
4/19 Linda Exley
4/20 Sam Suarez
4/21 Shelley Crow
4/26 Seth Cassidy
4/29 Reece Morris
4/30 Betty Hoyt



Anniversaries

4/4 Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Outz
4/15 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Gaines

Spring into Recycling Event:

Saturday, April 21, 2018

8:00am- Noon

- ⇒ Document Shredding
- ⇒ Electronics Waste
- ⇒ Drug take back
- ⇒ Paint
- ⇒ Florescent Lightbulbs

Next to the Jackson County
Transfer station/Landfill

12 Hendrix Drive

Jefferson, GA

For more

information contact:

(706)708-7198



April 2018 Youth Ministry

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”- Colossians 3:16 NIV

April 1- Easter Sunrise Service 7am; Breakfast 8am

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Sunday School 10:00-11:00 AM

April 11, 18, 25 Wonderful Wednesday 5:15-6:15 PM

**** No Wonderful Wednesday April 4th due to Spring Break**

April 21 8am-12pm- Join together at Commerce Main Street for Commerce Beautification day! All youth who serve will be treated to lunch afterwards!

Upcoming Events!

Our fundraising for our Lake Junaleska Trip has begun! Pizza Hut cards are being sold for \$10 each. If you are interested in purchasing a card, contact myself, or one of our youth.

Our Lake Junaleska trip is scheduled for June 24-27.

Call, text, or email if you have any questions or concerns!

678-770-8386 cclinn@me.com



Be a blessing!

Leigh

Preschool will be hiring teaching positions for the next school year.
Applications will be available at the preschool office April 9-April 20.
If anyone has any questions, please call preschool office at 706-335-9589.



Children's Ministry



A Note From Our
Children's Director

Wonderful Wednesday for April

April 4 NO meeting since everyone is on spring break!
April 11, 18, 25 Meet in the gym at 5:15, Pickup at the sanctuary ramp at 6:15!

Easter Sunday April 1

Join us at 10:00 am for Sunday school and at 11:00 am for worship in the sanctuary as we celebrate our Resurrected Savior! Don't forget to bring flowers for the cross and take a family photo while you are there. Kids Sunday school classes will be placing flowers and taking our annual class photos too! Stop by the children's ministry hallway to see our He is Risen empty tomb!

VBS Planning Meeting Tuesday, April 17 6:00pm in Church office

It's time to start putting nuts and bolts together for this year's Rolling River Rampage VBS! Schedules, leader guides, decorating ideas will all be available for pick up.



Parents Night Out Friday, April 20 at 6:30pm in the Family Life Center

Get ready for a Spring Fling Slime Palooza. We've got all kinds of cool things planned. Messy stuff for the kids who want to participate, games and crafts for those who don't. Pizza dinner provided. Pick up will be at 9:30pm!

As always, we love your feedback, comments, ideas and concerns. Contact me at (706) 654-6489 or at gmhagan@windstream.net.

In His Love,

Gina Hagan



Upcoming Dates:

June 3-7
Rolling River
Rampage VBS

June 25-29
GROW Glisson
Day Camp



SHHHHHH—WE'RE PLANNING A SURPRISE!!!!

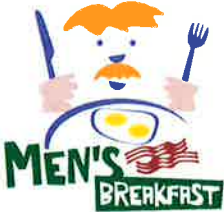
As you may have heard, Richard Chewning, our District Superintendent will be leaving the district after Annual Conference. Upon that announcement, we immediately began reflecting on the many ways that he has touched all of our lives and ministries with encouragement, leadership, insight and a strong sense of the Holy Spirit's guidance. Over the past seven years, he has shared his heart for growing the Kingdom and often his conversations entailed the importance of sharing Jesus with our youth. Borrowing Richard's words, the formable years of youth are the most receptive time for youth to hear the Word and accept Jesus.

As we plan for Richard's departure, we need to find a way to honor his awesome leadership as our District Superintendent; AND to keep his dream alive for youth. After much thought and prayer about an appropriate way to honor Richard, the district leadership team has decided to provide a way that clergy and laity wishing to express appreciation to Richard be given the opportunity to contribute to The Richard Chewning Youth Rally Fund. Gifts made to this fund would become a part of the Gainesville District Youth financial line item with the understanding that all contributions would be earmarked for the next District Youth Rally. This would provide a tremendous financial boost encouraging the district to have an ongoing youth rally funded in part by our generous contributions. This would also address those youth who were on the "wait list" to experience a day of fun in the north Georgia mountains and be a part of a youth worship service at the best camp in Methodism.

Obviously, we want this to be a surprise for Richard and Susan. The gift would be presented to them at our farewell celebration in their honor, which is planned immediately following our Pre-Conference Briefing on May 20th— SAVE THE DATE!

Make your check payable to the CFUMC, noting Chewning Youth Rally Fund on the memo line.

Men's Breakfast – April 29 at CFUMC



Missionary Mike Madsen will share about his work to help provide vocational education and skills to children at Orphanage Emmanuel in Honduras.

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER!

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018 AT 6:00P FOR FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER!

Menu: *Country Fried steak, Mashed Potatoes, Pinto Beans, Salad, Corn Bread, Chocolate Cake

NAME: _____

***PLEASE INDICATE THE QUANTITY DESIRED SO WE CAN HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT.**

_____ # ADULTS: \$7.00

_____ # JUNIOR: \$5.00

KIDS: _____ \$4.00 (MEAL INCLUDES CHICKEN STRIPS, FRIES, SALAD, & DESSERT)

*****PLEASE SIGN UP BY NOON ON 4/9**

*****MAXIMUM COST PER FAMILY WILL BE \$20.00**

April 30th @5:00-7:00p

Lion's Club Pancake Supper!

See Jack Legg or Hailey Fleming for Tickets!





"A Place to Know, Grow, and Show God's Love"

Commerce First United Methodist Church

Visit us online at: WWW.COMMERCEFUMC.ORG

16 Cherry St.

Commerce, GA 30529

706-335-4018 (Office)

Email us at: cmcoffice@windstream.net

Like us on FACEBOOK!

facebook

Jackson Bank County Food Bank

Second Sunday Collection Report

The Results:

Our Congregation brought 6 bags of food items and donated \$250 in March

Our Next Challenge:

April 8th—

Mac & Cheese and Cans of Soup

Please remember, if for some reason you cannot attend church on the second Sunday, you can always drop items off at the church office. Cash contributions are also accepted and appreciated.