

# THE MESSENGER



Winterville United Methodist Church  
[www.wintervilleumc.org](http://www.wintervilleumc.org)  
Pastor John Merk  
MARCH 2019

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

## FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



MARCH 5TH

5:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP  
HALL

WITH A  
LITTLE LOUISIANA FLAIR—  
BEADS and KING CAKE WILL

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP



Remember  
you are dust,  
and to dust  
you shall  
return

MARCH 6TH  
6:45—7:15 PM



## The Christian Calendar, Part 2

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. – Luke 9:51*

There are two cycles in the Christian Calendar; the Christmas cycle (Advent – Christmas – Epiphany), and the Easter cycle (Lent – Easter – Pentecost). Within each cycle is a season of preparation, a season of celebration, and a season of growth. Different colors are used to represent which of the three seasons are being observed. In this article, I'll take a brief look at the second cycle, the Easter Cycle, since it begins on March 6<sup>th</sup> this year.

The word *Lent* simply means 'spring' since it is observed mostly in the spring time. Lent runs for 40 days from Ash Wednesday to midnight Easter morning. As the time of preparation in this cycle, people often take part in acts of greater devotion to Christ. This might include fasting or more prayer; people often talk about giving up something for Lent. It might also be a time for taking something up, for instance contributing to and helping with Rise Against Hunger. Our Lent observations include an Ash Wednesday service at 6:45 pm on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, and Passover meal, or Seder, on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. I hope you can make both of those.

The season of Easter begins on, you guessed it, Easter Sunday; April 21<sup>st</sup> this year. It runs for 50 days until the day of Pentecost. The Easter season is a time of great celebration and joy reflected in our music and worship. On Easter Sunday we will have a sunrise service at 7:30 AM, followed by breakfast at 8:00 AM and one worship service at 11:00 AM. The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

The day of Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples in Jerusalem. Those who were in hiding from the religious authorities, began speaking loudly in different languages. People noticed and responded to the message of the Gospel that Peter preached. The season after Pentecost is the longest of the Christian year. It represents the time between the Lord's going up to heaven and his return at "the end of the age." As the time of growth in the Easter Cycle, it is a time for us to be noticed also, to share the Gospel, so that others may respond. This is the mission we have from Jesus himself.

I hope you have found these articles informative, but also transformative. That is, I pray that they may help enhance your spiritual growth and devotion to Christ as we journey through the Christian Year together.

Blessings,  
Pastor John



**Just a reminder; choir is on Wednesdays at 7 and we would love to have you join us in the fun and learning music that praises God.**

Also, if you would be interested in helping out in the sound room, learning how to run the system and helping Henrietta, please let me know. It's always nice to have several people that are trained in this so that it is not a burden on one.

## WINTERVILLE UMC SMALL GROUPS



The United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, March 12 at the church. We would love to have you join us. If you have not been with us in a while, we have missed you. If you have not ever joined us, we would love to have you!

In anticipation of the 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women, some special events are planned. From now until March 24, at the 11 am worship service, a member of our UMW will share a brief bit of history of

how UMW has impacted the lives of women, children, and youth around the world and in our community. You will also learn how you can be a part of the UMW legacy by helping us meet our goal for a Legacy Fund Gift. A display of items and information about UMW and the Winterville UMW is also planned. If you, your mother, or grandmother were a part of UMW, we would love to hear your stories or borrow any pictures or memorabilia you may have. If you have anything to share, please let us know.

On Sunday, March 24, we will celebrate with UMW Sunday! UMW will have a part in the 11 am service, an offering for the Legacy Fund will be taken, and best of all, we will have a birthday party after worship! Please plan to stay and have birthday cake with us!

Women have been involved in sharing the message of the Gospel since Jesus' ministry began. We are honored to share that history.

Terrie W. Seagraves



Please join the UM Men on Thursday, March 21st at Loco's Grill in Athens, GA at 6:30 pm.

All men are welcome.

Johnny



On February 5<sup>th</sup> we left on our day trip. First stop was at the Stone Mountain Pecan Store for coffee and nuts. Next stop was the Old Walton Mill for antique browsing and piano entertainment with Betty Bell. Lunch in Rutledge then on to Madison Cultural center museum. Ice cream at scoops before we headed home.

March 14<sup>th</sup> our day trip will begin at the South Carolina Botanical Garden at the Bob Campbell Geology Museum.

We will have lunch in Anderson before stops at Hamricks and Russell Stover store. Sign up sheet is in the hallway, cost \$10.

In Gods Love  
Linda & Charley

## **ALYAR FLOWERS**

**You may place flowers in honor OR in memory of a loved one on their birthday, anniversary, retirement, etc.** To put flowers in the sanctuary, please sign up on the flower calendar in the Administrative Hall. Let Kristy know what you would like printed in the bulletin.

COMMUNITY WIDE-  
**PET BLESSING**



**MARCH 16  
 CHURCH LAWN  
 TIME: 1:00 pm**

PETS: any type – (that is not dangerous)  
 Blessing from Rev. John Merk along with a treat.



I was asked to write a “Blurb” about our upcoming (June 1st ) Church Yard Sale. The term “Blurb” means: noun \ 'blərb \ Definition of blurb: a short publicity notice. I cannot do short, other than in height or lack thereof – but I will do my best.

I have been practicing Feng Shui for about 20 years. Feng Shui is the art of placement in regards to your surroundings. The first rule of Feng Shui is to “Clear The Clutter”. Anything that you do not use clutters your home and stops the flow of good chi. All of that means get rid of what you do not use. Most of us do that once a year in a ritual known as “Spring Cleaning”. We gather our “stuff” we no longer use and take it to the local Goodwill or Salvation Army stores.

Well Guess What! Winterville United Methodist Church is having a yard sale Saturday, June 1st . Thank you Judy Aldridge for the suggestion. We are asking that as you do your spring cleaning that whatever you are clearing – please consider letting us have it for the yard sale. We have set aside a room at the church for this “stuff”, but hope that you can wait as long as possible to bring you possessions in. Thank you in advance! This public service blurb is now over. Please resume whatever you were doing.

Patty Boyd

**THANK YOU!**

Dear WUMC Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas cards and the generous staff gift. In New Orleans they use the term "lagniappe" (pronounced LAN yap) to refer to "something extra" given in addition to a transaction, such as some extra fruit added to a farmers market purchase. I mention that because the cards and bonus are lagniappe to the true gift of being able to spend time with children in the nursery. There was a reason Jesus said we should be like little children, because they are open minded and still filled with wonder at this amazing world. So I especially thank you for entrusting me with the care of these precious little ones.

Sincerely,

Brenda Keen

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Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! I want to send a huge “Thank You” to all who helped, offered to help or attended our “You Are Still My Valentine” Movie Night. For a little while the church was the “Winterville United Methodist Greek Orthodox Church.” It was a quadruple “F” event – Friends, Food, Film and Fun. The laughter was contagious! I am sure quotes from the movie will be dancing around in the heads of those in attendance like Ouzo for a little while. If you were unable to attend, maybe the next time you will be able. We all learned a little about being Greek. A big ole thank you to our handsome, talented photographer, Mike Boyd (I may be a little prejudice), for his fine work, transportation assistance and moral support. We will be doing this again, so I hope you will all be able to attend.

OPA!

Patty



## Blowing And Going Outreach – Try To Keep Up

Man oh man, I am one tired little (maybe not so little) Cajun. I am writing this the day after the “You Are Still My Valentine Movie/Date Night.” We had a good time fellowshipping (is that a word?) and eating just like good Methodists do. Now that that is done, let’s move on to our future events – but let me rest a little first.

On March 5th, Fat Tuesday (Ayeeee), at 5:30 PM we will be having our pancake supper with a little Louisiana flair – beads and king cake will be in attendance. As we enter into the Lenten season, fasting or eating and living simply is what is done. So on Fat Tuesday (or the other term, Mardi Gras), you should consume (as not to waste) all of the rich ingredients in your home, getting rid of the temptation. Pancakes use milk, butter and eggs, the rich foods in a simply delicious form. The Louisiana/Mississippi coastal region take it a few steps further and just party starting on Twelfth Night till Fat Tuesday – hence Mardi Gras Season. So come on out and get your Cajun on.

Also in March, on the 16th, starting at 1:00 pm at the church, we will be hosting a community wide Pet Blessing Day. I am trying to arrange to have MOAS come out with their truck and cutie adoptable pets. So bring your pets (any type – that is not dangerous) out for a blessing from our “Top Dog” the Rev. John Merk along with a treat. Maybe a few of us can do some face painting as well? Not on the pets – the people. If you have any further suggestions, please let me know.

In looking to the not-to-distant future (April) there are a couple of events planned and I need some help. One April 15th (I’m the tax man yea..the tax man – could not help it. I’m a Beatles fan) we will be having a “Stamp It Done Day”. Thank you JoAnn Snow for the idea. I have checked with the Winterville Post Office to see if we could set up there, but due to it being federal property – we cannot. The postmaster really wanted to but his hands were tied. He did suggest that I talk to the business next door about setting up there. Accurate Appraisal Group, specifically Don Gray (love the last name) said he would be pleased to let us set up on their sidewalk. So from about 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (?) we would like to have a table with 2-4 people manning it equipped with stamps, lemonade, cookies, a card regarding church information and the gift of gab. This can be split up into shifts however need be. I will be traveling back from Louisiana that day, so I will not be able to take a shift. There will be a sign-up sheet with times marked out for you to volunteer. Please consider helping out.

We are bringing back the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th starting at 11:00 am. This will be another community-wide event at the church. The needs for this event are as follows: non-chocolate candy, regular sized fillable plastic eggs, the Easter Bunny and the Easter Bunny’s helpers to hide the eggs. More information to come as the date draws near.

Whew! It is going to be a BUSY couple of next months. Busy but fun! You are all so awesome and I love ya. So as we say in Louisiana “Throw Me Something Mister” and Let The Good Times Roll (Laissez les bons temps rouler).

Patty

**We believe churches are meant for praising God.  
But so are 2 am car rides, showers, coffee shops, the gym,  
conversations with friends, strangers, etc.  
Don't let a building confine your faith because we will never change the  
world by just going to church. We need to be the church!**

**Your Outreach Committee**

**Donations given to the Operating Fund**

**In Honor of Mildred Burt**  
Connie Burt

**In Memory of Marie Hughes**  
Billy & Betty Patton

**In Memory of Mary McDonald**  
Henrietta Tucker  
Billy & Gloria Bowman

**In Memory of Mary Whitehead**  
Winterville Civitan Club

**In Memory of Herschel Reeves**  
Barbara Culbertson  
Charles & Elaine McGarity  
Hilda Poss



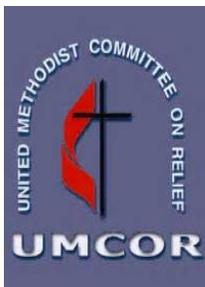
Turn your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night, March 9 so you will be right on time for church.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE YOUR CHANGE!**



**Rise Against Hunger**—like last year, collection jars are in the sanctuary. We are asking everyone to pledge \$2/day for each of the 40 days of Lent. This means when all 50 jars have been collected we will have raised \$4,000. This helps to provide 12,096 meals. Please return your jar on April 7.

Our meal packing event will be Saturday, April 13. We will need some men to help unload at 9 AM. We need 40 to 50 folks (all ages) to assist in individually packaging the food beginning at 10 AM.



(One Great Hour of Sharing)  
Your contribution ensures UMCOR's response in times of crises. You will have the opportunity to make a donation on Sunday, March 31st.

**GOVERNANCE BOARD  
MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 19  
7:00 PM**

# Upcoming EVENTS



## **STAMP IT DONE TAX DAY,**

**Monday, April 15 — 10:00 AM to 6:00 pm**

**Accurate Appraisal Group which is next door to the Winterville Post Office**



## **SEDAR MEAL**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**6:00—8:00 PM**



## **GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**12:00 PM—WORSHIP**

**12:30 PM—LUNCH**



## **COMMUNITY WIDE—EASTER EGG HUNT**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

**11 AM**

**CHURCH LAWN**



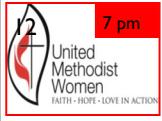
## **EASTER SUNDAY**

**APRIL 21**

**SUNRISE SERVICE—7:30 AM**

**BREAKFAST—8:00 AM**

**WORSHIP—11:00 AM**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday Worship Worship 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Children's Church Nursery provided for both services.		<b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL BORN IN MARCH</b>			1	2  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Mary Stewart Ed Smith</div>
3  <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Kathy Williamson</div>	4 Girl Scouts, 6  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Mallory Spratin</div> ALC, 9-3:30	5 <b>Fat Tuesday</b>  5:30 pm ALC, 9-3:30	Fellowship Meal, 6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><b>ASH</b> Wednesday</div> Worship 6:45 Choir ALC, 9-3:30	7  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Sam Alvarez</div> ALC, 9-3:30	8	9  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Terrie Seagraves</div>
10 <b>First Sunday in Lent</b> Daylight Savings Time begins, move clocks up Girl Scout Sunday <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Kathy Williamson</div>	11  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Trenton Chandler</div> ALC, 9-3:30	12  7 pm United Methodist Women FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Kevin Ashley</div> ALC, 9-3:30	13 Fellowship Meal, 6 pm Choir, 7 pm ALC, 9-3:30	14  Bus reserved ALC, 9-3:30	15  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Grace Williamson</div>	16  Blessing of the Animals At the church, 1 pm
17 <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> After Conference session South Campus of Greensboro UMC at 4:00pm	18 Girl Scouts, 6  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Everte Dunbar</div> ALC, 9-3:30	19  Governance Bd, 7 pm <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Bobbi White</div> ALC, 9-3:30	20 Fellowship Meal, 6 pm Choir, 7 pm ALC, 9-3:30	21  6:30 @ Loco's UMM UNITED METHODIST MEN ALC, 9-3:30	22	23
24 <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> UM Women 150 Anniversary Celebration 11 AM <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">George Chandler</div> 31 UMCOR Offering	25  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">George Chandler</div> ALC, 9-3:30	26 Fellowship hall reserved, 6:30 pm  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Betsy Bell</div> ALC, 9-3:30	27 Fellowship Meal, 6 Choir, 7 pm ALC, 9-3:30	28	29	30 Fellowship hall reserved, R. Bray
<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>	ALC, 9-3:30	ALC, 9-3:30	ALC, 9-3:30	ALC, 9-3:30		

**Atlas Learning Center**  
Monday—Thursday  
9-3:30 pm

# March 2019

## STEWARDSHIP

### Sunday

	General Fund	Attendance
Jan. 29	\$2,277	73
Feb. 3	\$3,717	69
Feb. 10	\$3,489	69
Feb. 17	\$3,373	67

**Please make sure all Doors are locked and all Lights are turned off when you leave the building.**

## REGULAR SCHEDULE

### Sundays

Worship	8:45 AM
Sunday School	9:30 AM
Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	
Nursery provided for both services.	

### Wednesdays

Fellowship Meal	6:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm

**Winterville United Methodist Church**  
P.O. Box 30, Winterville, GA 30683  
706-742-2445  
[www.wintervilleumc.org](http://www.wintervilleumc.org)  
Face book: **Winterville United Methodist Church**

**Rev. John Merk, Pastor**  
Email: [revjohnmerk@gmail.com](mailto:revjohnmerk@gmail.com)

**Kristy Smith, Church Secretary**  
Email: [wumc101@gmail.com](mailto:wumc101@gmail.com)

**Office hours**  
Monday -Thursday 9 AM—1 PM