

OUR PRAYERS

- Our Ministers Our Church
- Our Leaders Our Ministry Teams
- Our Children & Youth Our Homebound
- Our College Students Our Missionaries
- Our Police Dept Our Fire Dept.
- Our City Our Military

Homebound and Assisted Care

- Martha Allen June Burton Carolyn Escue
- Ray Escue Marcelle Farrow Mava Dell Fry
- Earl Galloway Doris Hight Marie Hughes
- Margaret Kenley Wayne Lawrence Ted Lewis
- Betty Ray Bernice Shelby Emmett Smith
- Betty Smithmier Martha Wallace

Baptist Memorial

Tom Boillot 2354

At Home

- Dorothy Scheirer
- Kay Hudak
- Chris Hudak
- Lois Conrad

Vanderbilt Hospital

Cindy Garner Stanfil

Special Prayers for

- ...the Vargas family
- ...disaster victims
- ...immigrants

OUR PRESENCE - March 19

Sunday School 54
Worship 71

OUR GIFTS - March 19

Offering \$ 2,665
Month to Date \$ 14,484
YTD \$ 44,513

OUR SERVICE - March 26

Greeters..... Jeanette Leslie
 Lou Pennington

Liturgist..... Bruce Hughes

Scripture..... Dr. Finzel

Children's Time..Lana Solomon

Lock-up..... Tom Lockhart

OUR WITNESS

March Scripture Reader
Dr. Finzel

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
4459 Willow Road
Memphis, TN 38117-6917



OUR PRAYERS (con't)

- Kristen Boggs Palma Borgognoni Jim Brazile
- Brenda Brazile Melissa Cole Jaunay Davis
- Miriam Davis Corella Edwards Gordillo Family
- Diane Harrison John Hight Mildred Hight
- Jeff Irwin Freda Lipford Ursula Lewis
- Bill McClain Jesse McClarkin Bill McMullin
- Lou Ella Morris Richard Morris Joe Moseley
- Boyd Pilkinton Ruth Pilkinton Moira Pomije
- Wade Reeves Stephanie Roberts David Weaver
- Shannon Weaver Margie Williamson

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The



Flame

Aldersgate United

Phone: (901) 683-8861

E-mail: office@agumc.org

Methodist Church

Fax: (901) 683-1374

Website: www.agumc.org

March 22, 2017

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The Universe as Communion

by [Thomas Berry](#)

Source: [The Great Story](#)

The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects. And we have this from our first awakening to the universe. Your first impression when you see a flower or see a tree or see a sun-set or see the ocean, or see anything in the natural world, is a communion experience.

There's one experience that I think has had a very deep influence on my life. When I was about ten years old I saw a meadow and I saw it first in spring time—in early May. How wonderful this is to live in the universe where there's a sun in the heavens, where there are so many wonderful creatures of Earth; with the song of the birds and butterflies and the cicadas in the evening.

What is all this? Obviously, it's not a collection of objects to be used. Obviously, it's a world to be venerated. It's a world to be communed with, to be present in, to be delighted with and together, to have a certain experience that might be called ecstatic. A good economy is what makes that meadow survive. Good politics protects that meadow. A good religion is what enabled me to understand the deep mystery in the meadow.

If we don't have certain outer experiences, we don't have certain inner experiences, or at least we don't have them in such a profound way. We need the sun, the moon, the stars, the rivers and the mountains and the trees, the flowers, the birds, the song of the birds, the fish in the sea. All of this evokes something in our inner world, evokes a world of mystery. It evokes a world of Sacred and gives us that sense of awe and mystery.

Blessings,

Virginia

Scriptures Readings:

I Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

Psalms 23

John 9:1-41



Sun. 3/26	LOOKING AHEAD Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:30a Fellowship Time Hosted by the Choir 10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship
Mon. 3/27	12:00p News Deadline
Tue. 3/28	No Activities
Wed. 3/29	10:00a Asbury Bible Study Noon Devotional by Peggy Brightwell & Lunch @ Asbury 6:45p Choir Rehearsal
Thu. 3/30	9:00a Asbury Food Pantry 10:00a Lenten Bible Study 5:45p Girl Scouts
Fri. 3/31	Offices Closed 5:45p Girl Scouts
Sat. 4/1	No Activities
Sun. 4/2	Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Rice Noodles
Canned Sauces
(NO glass jars, please)
Cash is also welcome.



EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Bunny will be hiding eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th (rain date, April 15), at 1 p.m. We are excited to have Asbury UMC join us this year and we are expecting lots of kids. Toddlers through 5th graders are invited to hunt. All other family members and friends are invited to come cheer them on. Your gifts of individually wrapped candy for the Hunt will ensure smiles on everyone's faces. **NO plastic eggs** are needed this year. Please leave your candy donations in the baskets outside the church office by April 5.

Thanks for your help!!!!

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,
Your love and care for us has continued with your many memorial gifts for Terry. Thank you so much. I will always remember how your friendship helped us through Terry's illness and passing.

With love,
Margie

~ ~ ~
Thank you! Thank you! Work Day was a big success! 13 people came to help with our projects and we made a lot of progress. Our special thanks to: Perri, Barry, Mireya, Millie, Tom, Dean, Neil, Jimmie, Margaret Ann, Henry, Lisa, Cathy, and Mary. You made it a good day. Thanks again.
The Trustees

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCH AT ASBURY EACH WEDNESDAY DURING LENT

Wednesday, March 29, will have Peggy Brightwell giving the devotional prior to lunch at Asbury UMC. If you like, you may attend their Bible Study at 10 a.m., then stay for lunch of soup and sandwiches. Please call Asbury if you plan to attend, 363-1135.



EASTER CANTATA APRIL 9

Plan to join us on Palm Sunday, April 9th, at 11:30 a.m. to hear our Easter Cantata, "He's Still the Lamb", by Dave Clark and Russell Mauldin. Each year the Easter season beckons us to Golgotha. We lament the suffering, grieve the sacrifice and rejoice in the victory of an empty tomb. But, too often it seems, that is where the annual pilgrimage ends. Our efforts would be in vain if we left you with only the story of what was. It's the 'what is' that makes the story worth telling again and again. The songs are meant to serve as markers along the road, helping lead you toward Easter, and the journey will be a reminder that beyond the sacrifice, Christ is "Still the Lamb".



Spiritual Growth Retreat

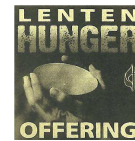
March 31-April 1 at Lakeshore

The registration deadline is March 24. Forms are available in the church office and on line.



UMMEN TO HOST GATHERING THIS SUMMER

The National Gathering of United Methodist Men will be July 7-8, at St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis. At this gathering, the theme is "Discipleship: The Contact Sport". Nineteen workshops will be offered focusing on leadership, ministry development, personal growth and spiritual growth. Men of all ages are encouraged to attend. Details about lodging and registration will be found online at UMMGathering.org Register by April 1 for \$99. After that date, the fee increases to \$129.



NEW GOAL SET FOR MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

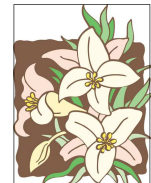
Dr. Debra Selby is leading the campaign for the Memphis Conference in the new quadrennium (2016-2020) as the conference's new world hunger advocate. She lives in Paris, TN, where she works as a pediatrician and attends Paris First UMC. Dr. Selby asks each church to participate and to help implement and drive the campaign at their local level, working intentionally to open our eyes about who is hungry in our communities. The goal for this year's offering has been set at \$50,000, with grants to be given to local church's community and neighborhood food pantries and feeding ministries. Your offering will be accepted anytime between Palm Sunday, April 9, and the Sunday after Easter, April 23. Simply place your gifts in the offering plate and please note for "Lenten Hunger".

BISHOP MCALILLY NAMES METRO DS

The Bishop has announced that the Reverend Dr. Deborah B. Smith will be appointed as District Superintendent of the Metro District at the 2017 session of the Memphis Annual Conference. Dr. Smith is a graduate of Perkins School of Theology (Master of Divinity) and Louisiana State University (Doctor of Philosophy). She is married to Eddie Smith, Jr. and they have 3 grown children: Kasia (& Ernest) Alexander, Kimberly Rodriguez, and Eddie Smith III, as well as 3 grandsons. Dr. Smith will assume her new role in June of this year with the setting of appointments at Annual Conference.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Blessings come in many forms.
Give thanks for your blessings great and small.



EASTER LILIES

Honor your loved ones this Easter by placing lilies in the Sanctuary. Please complete the form below and return it, with payment, to the office or place in the offering plate.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

The cost is \$15 each. Make checks to Aldersgate UMC and designate "Easter Flowers" or "Lilies" in the memo line. The deadline is April 10th.