

**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

**St. Francis Bartlett**

Karen Mosley 360

**Memphis Jewish Home**

Doris Bellott 107

**Vanderbilt Hospital**

Cindy Garner Stanfil

**At Home**

Teresa McMullin  
Tom Boillot

**Hospice Care**

Mildred Hight  
Richie Conrad

**Special Prayers** for

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

**OUR PRESENCE - April 2**

Sunday School 54  
Worship 87

**OUR GIFTS - April 2**

Offering \$ 3,117  
Month to Date \$ 3,117  
YTD \$ 48,975

**OUR SERVICE - April 9**

- Greeters**..... Lilian Garcia  
Audrey Weaver
- Liturgist**..... Rebeca Ernst
- Scripture**..... Dr. Finzel
- Children's Time**..Andrew Baker
- Lock-up**..... Neil DeLong

**OUR WITNESS**

**April Scripture Reader**

- 9 Dr. Finzel
- 16 Dr. Finzel
- 23 Andrew Baker
- 30 Jay 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
- Kay Hudak
- Chris Hudak
- Jeff Irwin
- Freda Lipford
- Ursula Lewis
- Bill McClain
- Jesse McClerkin
- Lou Ella Morris
- Richard Morris
- Joe Moseley
- Boyd Pilkinton
- Ruth Pilkinton
- Moira Pomije
- Wade Reeves
- Stephanie Roberts
- Janet Snow
- David Weaver
- Shannon Weaver
- Charlie Whitaker
- Margie Williamson

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The



Flame

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April 4, 2017

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**The Meaning of the Missing**

by Kayla McClurg

Mind the gap," the disembodied voice warns passengers stepping onto a London train. Notice what is not there in plain sight. Pay attention to the empty spaces, what you do not see. Jesus, too, urges us to be alert to the absent. Empty branches hang heavy with meaning. The fruit that has not come is ripe and juicy, full of wisdom yet to be discovered.

The story is of a fig tree that keeps on, year after year, not dying, but at the same time not bearing any fruit. The tree is caught in that limbo land called living-a-little, familiar to many of us whose lives have become something less than meets the eye. Oh, we might still be standing upright, filling a space in our orchard, but can we count on fruit? What has become of neighborliness and civility? Has compassion all but dried up? Where is our delight in diversity, our solidarity with suffering?

For three years the landowner comes looking. Surely a fig or two will have come, but again and yet again he finds none. "Cut it down," he tells the gardener. "Why let it waste soil?" But the gardener takes pity on the tree, begs for one more year, promises to nurture it, dig around it, lay manure on it, love it into fuller life.

What would it mean to join the gardener's team, to "dig around" what seems dead in us and among us? How might we purposefully poke and prod and get our hands dirty for the sake of love? The soil that seems least likely to yield fruit could be the very site of our next becoming. Maybe it is into those who seem to have given up that God is most likely to breathe new life. Look again at the dead places, the empty spaces, the embarrassingly shriveled parts of our common life that stink to high heaven. Surprising richness is likely to reside there. The "not yet" turns out to have been the "yet to be." Meaning awaits us in what's missing.

Blessings,  
Virginia

**Scriptures Readings:**      **Liturgy of the Palms:** Matthew 21:1-11    Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
**Liturgy of the Passion:** Isaiah 50:4-9a    Psalm 31:9-16    Philipians 2:5-11    Matthew 17:11-54

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Sun. 4/9 **Palm/Passion Sunday**  
**NO Sunday School**  
 10:00a **Asbury** Worship/Cantata  
 11:30a Worship/Easter Cantata

Mon. 4/10 12:00p News Deadline

Tue. 4/11 10:00a Koinonia Circle  
 7:00p Love/Hope Circle

Wed. 4/12 **NO Asbury** Bible Study  
 Noon Devotional by Nancy Murdock & Lunch @ **Asbury**  
**NO** Choir Rehearsal

Thu. 4/13 **Holy Thursday**  
 9:00a **Asbury** Food Pantry  
**NO** Lenten Bible Study  
 5:45p Girl Scouts  
 6:30p Communion Service @ Asbury

Fri. 4/14 **Good Friday**  
 Offices Closed  
 4 to 7p Come & Go Stations of the Cross  
 5:45p Girl Scouts

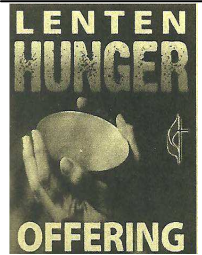
Sat. 4/15 **Holy Saturday**  
 1:00p **Rain Date** for Egg Hunt

Sun. 4/16 **Easter Sunday**  
 10:15a Sunday School  
 11:30a Worship



— REMEMBER —

Our Easter Egg Hunt is on April 8th (rain date, April 15), at 1 p.m. Asbury UMC will be joining us for all the fun! Toddlers through 5th graders are invited to hunt. All others are encouraged to come cheer them on.



Please turn in at church between April 9 and 23.

**FINAL LENTEN DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCH AT ASBURY**

Wednesday, April 12, will be the final Devotional and Lunch at Asbury before Easter. Nancy Murdock will give the devotional at noon prior to lunch. You are invited to remain for lunch of soup and sandwiches. Please call Asbury if you plan to attend, 363-1135.



**EASTER CANTATA 'HE'S STILL THE LAMB'**

Asbury and Aldersgate Choirs will present "He's Still the Lamb", by Dave Clark and Russell Mauldin, on Palm Sunday, April 9th, at 10:00a and 11:30 a.m., respectively. Please plan to join us!

**PLEASE NOTE — DATE CHANGE**  
 The April Trustees meeting has been changed to Monday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m.



Thank you, ladies, so much, for your gifts to Church Women United. There was a big variety of clothes for boys and girls. The Easter Fashion Parade will be on Wednesday, April 12, at 4:45p, at the Salvation Army Purdue Center, 696 Jackson Ave. Can't you just see the smiles and feel the excitement of the children who will model those new clothes?  
 Group meetings will be on Tuesday, April 11 at the church:  
 10:00a Koinonia Group 7:00p Love/Hope Group  
 We will be collecting canned vegetables for the food pantry, tab tops from aluminum cans, coins for Least Coins and Tools of Hope.



**Metro District United Methodist Men Roundtable**

Saturday, April 29, 8:00 a.m.  
 Crossroads UMC  
 9315 E. Shelby Drive  
 Collierville, TN

Breakfast served at 8 a.m. Program starts at 8:30. Reservations may be made at 901-737-3776 or contact Steve Ragsdale, 901-647-7546 or [stevier56@yahoo.com](mailto:stevier56@yahoo.com), by April 26th.  
 At this meeting we will collect and assemble items for UMCOR Health Kits. Please bring items (in bulk—NOT pre-packed) from the list below or cash donations may be made. The estimated cost for each kit is \$12.00.  
 Each kit will contain:  
 1 hand towel (15"x25" up to 17"x27") Please, **NO** kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels.  
 1 washcloth 1 metal file or nail clippers  
 1 bath-size soap 6 bandaids  
 1 toothbrush(packaged) \$1 to purchase toothpaste  
 1 gallon-size, sealable, plastic bag  
 Please adhere to these specifications. Other items **cannot** be used. There are very strict rules on what can be sent to other countries.



**APRIL FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

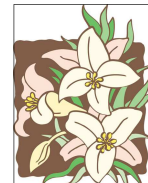
Canned Vegetables  
 (NO glass jars, please)  
 Cash is also welcome.  
 Thank you.

**LOST AND FOUND**

Have you lost a small tool kit in a black bag? It has been found in our Sanctuary. Please call the church office to claim it, 683-8861.

**IN THE WORDS OF WELSEY**

"I want to know one thing, the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. Give me that book! At any price give me the Book of God!"— [John Wesley](#)



**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.

**Margaret Craft Plant Scholarship Fundraiser**



*Spaghetti Lunch*



Sunday, April 23, 2017  
 12:30p Fellowship Hall

Your donation to the Scholarship Fund earns you a free lunch!

For Reservations call or email the Church Office 683-8861 [office@agumc.org](mailto:office@agumc.org)  
 Or sign up on the office window