

Easter Egg Hunt



A great big thank you to the Crusader's Sunday school class for sponsoring out Easter Egg hunt for the kids on Sunday. Attendance was great, and fun was had by all as they enjoyed the candy and learning about the resurrection of Jesus.

Easter Services



Our Community Easter Sunrise service took place at 6:30 a.m., Easter morning, at the gazebo at the Riverfront Park in downtown Dardanelle. The ministerial alliance will provided a simple worship time to welcome the good news of the resurrection. The worship was followed by a breakfast sponsored by the Dardanelle Methodist Women. Approximately 85 people came out early to the Sunrise service and met for food and fellowship at the Life Center at 7:00 a.m. Thank you to all who came out and for those really early risers who got up to prepare the delicious breakfast!

Our 10:55 a.m. Easter Service had three special music presentations from our Choir that celebrated the victory of Jesus over Sin and Death. Bro. Jim preached a message on God being the Master of Second Chances. In all, we had 133 people for worship with us. Praise the Lord!

New Member Sunday Coming

Sunday, April 21 will be the date of our New Member Sunday in Dardanelle. If you have been visiting and would like to become a member of the church, you can come forward and be recognized that Sunday at the end of the worship service. There are New Member forms being distributed April 7, 14, and 21 that you can fill out to help us find out more about you and welcome you to the church. Just drop the form into the collection plate during one of the services, or just give Brother Jim a call. We look forward to your presence with us!

Fundraiser Luncheon

Make plans to be with us in worship and then stay for a fundraiser luncheon on April 28 to benefit our Mexico mission. We will plan to eat together at noon and have fellowship together. All donations will go help fund our mission work.

Rummage Sale in May

It's time again to do that spring cleaning and bring sellable items to the church for our annual Rummage Sale and Bake Sale. The sale is scheduled for May 3 & 4, 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. each day. We will need volunteers with trucks and trailers on the 1st and 2nd to help move the sale items from the storage building, and again afterwards on the following Monday to haul off unsold items. If you can bring baked or canned goods, we will sell them to the shoppers. All proceeds will benefit our Rio Bravo mission.

Through the Fire

I wrote the church a message this same month last year as we waited for a decision from the Annual Conference for permission to part company, and I asked for your prayers for our churches, and for all our members. I was struck by the words of Isaiah, *"I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction."* (Isaiah 48:10)

As a pastor, nothing gives me more heartache than to watch church members struggle with differences of opinion. Our decision to seek disaffiliation from the denomination we had for so long trusted became a crucible for refining not just our opinions, but what we believe God's word means. Such spiritual struggles are inevitable, because in changing times the hold this world has on Christians must inevitably be put through the fire of God's truth to purify them.

This in no way means that those who may hold different opinions about the controversy within the United Methodist Church cannot do so in good conscience. Unfortunately, many have viewed the controversy as a battle between those that believe in the grace and love of our Savior, Jesus, extending to all people, as opposed to those who would seek to oust homosexuals from the church. Progressive members of the Conference harnessed just this view in the language brought forward by paragraph 2553 of the 2019 General Conference in creating extra controversy.

As April comes this year, I thank God for the healing that I have seen within our membership and for grace greater than our own as we move forward. Isaiah also spoke of a moment filled with the hope I now feel, *“When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”* (Isaiah 32:2)

I am also aware that many people of good conscience still remain in a time of testing within the UMC. A fateful and consequential General Conference is coming for that church at the end of this month. Pray that whatever decisions are made, and whatever changes are made to their Book of Discipline, that they will listen to God’s guidance.

I for one, feel a fresh outpouring of God’s Spirit moving through our churches and in the Global Methodist Church. Like Daniel’s companions of long ago, we have been delivered through the fire and even the scent of smoke isn’t upon us. In my own life, certain facts cannot be denied: Time and again, God, through his matchless mercy and grace has transformed my testing into a testimony. And, friends, if God can do that for me, God will do it for us!

Brother Jim

Methodist Women

We hope you will keep informed of our Methodist Women’s Group. They gather together regularly to fellowship, plan activities, and eat together each month. They choose a different location each time and have plenty of fun. You don’t have to join anything, just show up to be with them at their next gathering, and have fun! Below is a photo from the March 2023 luncheon meeting.

