



THE CRUSADER

SYLVAN HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“A community of Christians committed to strengthening families
of all shapes and sizes.”

April 2017

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRITTANY

Every year I look forward to Easter for one reason—Cadbury Eggs! I LOVE Cadbury Eggs! They are my favorite candy in the world, and yet I have to wait and wait and wait for them. When I was a kid the “Easter bunny” would place 3 Cadbury Eggs in my basket and 3 in my brother’s. When my brother went to sleep that night I would then go to his Easter basket and replace said eggs with the cheaper, less tasty chocolate eggs. I would eat them that night to hide the evidence and then play innocent the next morning. Such was my love of Cadbury Eggs.

You can imagine my horror then when one September I was walking through the Halloween section of the store and spotted oddly colored Cadbury Eggs. Wrapped in black and green, they were piled next to candy eyeballs and teeth. I was horrified, but that did not stop me from buying a pack. Then, the following JANUARY, I spotted Cadbury Eggs out in the clearance Christmas decor, a full 3 months before Easter day. At this point my excitement about these coveted eggs was waning. If you can get Cadbury Eggs eight months a year, their specialness begins to wear off. I found that to fully appreciate these delicious treats, I needed to have time to miss them.

We all want to rush to Easter day, perhaps not of the candy, but for the hope. This is why Lent is a hard season for us. The world tells us that we never have to wait, that we deserve to have what we want when we want it. Lent however, is a season of waiting and preparation. During these 40 days we spend time focusing on our relationship with God, remembering our broken nature, and realizing how much we truly need Jesus Christ. We do all of this so when the beauty of Easter day arrives we are ready, having craved the joy and hope of this day for six long weeks.

Easter has not yet arrived. We are still in the season of Lent for two weeks until we can celebrate the glory of the risen Christ. If you have not taken time to focus on the essentials of your faith so far this Lenten season, I hope you will do so in the next couple of weeks. Take time for daily prayer, embrace a daily discipline of scripture reading, or seek ways to be of service to others. Each of these are ways that you can prepare yourself for Easter. Also, make plans to attend one or all of our Holy Week services. Each of these services offers us the opportunity to witness the steps of Jesus toward the cross. Through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday we have a chance to bear witness to the fullness of Christ’s sacrifice, a crucial step in preparing ourselves for Easter morning. Lent is an important season, because even though it can be challenging, we know that it ends in victory. However, to fully



JOIN IN PRAYER FOR SHUMC

PRAY

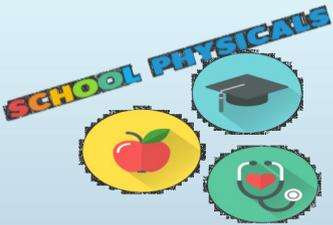
Is there more than one way to pray? There are many questions concerning prayer. Plan to attend the prayer gathering Monday, April 3, at 9 a.m. as we pray for our church. Take advantage of this op-

FAMILY FUN DAY



Easter Fair

Families with kids and youth, plan to participate after worship Sunday, April 2. The Easter Fair will include games, videos, discussions, and various activities for the



WELLNESS CLINIC

Thursday, April 6, 4 to 7 p.m.

This month's focus will be **physicals**. Remind your family and neighbors that the clinic is free and that we offer blood glucose testing, blood pressure checks and doctor consults. All these test results can help you determine if you need additional medical consultation to keep you in good health.

Girls
Night Out

Help promote women's wellness in May

Women's Wellness and Prevention
Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church
Thursday, May 4
4-7 p.m.

Wellness Screening * Relaxation Services * Door Prizes

Holy Week Activities Schedule

Passion/Palm Sunday

April 9, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 13, 2:30 to 6 p.m.

Good Friday

April 14, 6 p.m.

Easter egg hunt

April 15, 2-3:30

Easter

April 16, 6:30 a.m. Sunrise (Sherwood Forest)

7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
(SHUMC)

9:30 a.m. Worship



Easter Lily



Peace Lily

We have forms/envelopes for you to order your Easter lily or peace lily for the chancel area. Orders will be taken through Sunday, April 9. The cost is \$12 per East-

Sunday, April 23, at 9:30 a.m. the Chancel Choir will present "Who Do You Say That I am?" Plan to attend as we hear John, Peter, Mary, Pontius Pilate, Joseph of Arimathea and Mary Magdalene, all who knew Jesus, answer this question in narration and song.



Guinn Massey will be the guest speaker on Monday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. Plan to attend as he presents "Ethics" along with sharing memories of growing up in Sherwood and SHUMC.

SHERWOOD PET FAIR

Help us spread the word about Sylvan Hills UMC as we participate in the Annual Sherwood Pet Fair Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sherwood Forest. Sign up in the narthex to sit at the table, take prayer requests, and share goodies with the people of Sherwood. We need congregation members to participate, so join us as we celebrate our great church in our amazing community.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Happy Spring ELC families and friends!

We have a busy month ahead of us and we are all getting geared up for our May 21 Celebration. Keep an eye out for more news on this wonderful showcase of what the children have learned this year.

We would like to thank all of you who donated to our Procare fundraiser. I have great news: we all worked very hard to be able to get the system, and it will be up and running in the next couple of weeks. A special thank you to Mr. Kelly Cannon for getting our entry door done so quickly. It looks great! We would also like to thank the congregation of SHUMC for helping make our ELC a safe and secure place for the children in our care. If you have any questions or concerns or just want to see what all the fuss is about, please don't hesitate to stop by and we will be happy to show you.

On a more personal note I would like to thank you for all your support and for the blessing of being a part of this

WALK FOR THE WAITING

On Saturday, May 6, SHUMC will be joining with Lakewood UMC to walk for the kids who are currently in the fostering system in Arkansas. If you would like to sign up to walk with the team, find a form in the narthex, or sign up online. If you would like to support our team, you can find donation forms in the narthex as well. We hope everyone will offer support (either in person or through a gift) to those kids in our state who need it most! If you have any questions please contact Malarie

MISSION REQUEST

Rev. Bev is compiling a bag for the homeless. Please bring your old T-shirts for repurposing into tote bags. Also those who travel, please bring the complimentary toiletries to help fill the tote bags.

Our Lunch Bunch potluck gathering is on April 25, at noon.

Plan to attend as SHUMC's Amy Sanders shares "her story."



Hey all!

Easter is right around the corner and things sure are getting exciting! Saturday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m. will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt and mission opportunity. The kids will pack Easter baskets to help our neighbors enjoy Easter, then the kids will have a classic Easter egg hunt. We are still accepting donations for the Easter egg hunt (Easter baskets, candy or small items that will fit in the eggs, and plastic eggs). There is a blue tub by the door of the sanctuary for donations!

Also, this Sunday is our monthly Sunday Funday! Families of ALL kids/youth are invited. We will meet in the youth room downstairs following the sermon (10:30). We will split up between the youth and the kids, as we explore and enjoy "Easter Beyond the Eggs." Pizza will be provided for lunch.

This football season, the Razorback game at War Memorial Stadium will be on a Thursday night, August 31. This is one of our biggest fundraisers for the youth and may be our last chance to have it due to scheduling. The game starts at 7, so we will want to start getting there around 5. We are already looking for volunteers (kids and adults) because it takes an entire team!

One last quick announcement, youth is now from 4:30 to 6 on Sunday nights, excluding the first Sunday of each month.

Lana



During Lent our mission focus is providing the basics for Sylvan Hills Elementary School.

To meet basic bodily needs, we will be collecting supplies for hygiene kits that can be use by students in need. To meet basic needs for the mind, we are collecting new and like-new books for kids age 4 through grade 5.

Hygiene Kits List:

- Deodorant
- Floss
- Hand Sanitizer
- Travel Brush or Comb
- Hair Elastics
- Travel Size Wipes
- Chapstick
- Travel Size Tissues

Books: New and like-new Books for kids age 4 through grade 5.

Sunday, April 2

- 9:30 a.m. Worship
- 10:30 a.m. **Family Funday**
- 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. **Trustees**
- 11:30 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Gathering
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, April 3

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Gathering
- 9:30 a.m. Wellness Committee
- 6:30 p.m. UMM
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Tuesday, April 4

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. MOPS

Wednesday, April 5

- 10:00 a.m. Caregiver Support
- 5:45 p.m. Wild Bells Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 6

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting Angels
- 4 to 7 p.m. Wellness Clinic

Sunday, April 9

- 9:30 a.m. Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. **SPRC**
- 1:00 p.m. **Finance**
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Gathering
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, April 10

- 2:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Tuesday, April 11

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Nite Owls Circle

Wednesday, April 12

- 5:45 p.m. Wild Bells Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 13

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting Angels

Maundy Thursday Prayer Walk
2:30-6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 14

Sunday, April 16
Happy Easter

- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Sherwood Forest
- 7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast at SHUMC
- 9:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, April 17

Church office closed

Tuesday, April 18

- 10:30 a.m. MOPS

Wednesday, April 19

- 5:45 p.m. Wild Bells Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 20

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting Angels

Friday, April 21

- noon Handbell State Board Meeting

Sunday, April 23

- 9:30 a.m. Worship Easter Cantata
- 10:30 a.m. Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. **Ministry Committees**
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Gathering
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, April 24

- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Tuesday, April 25

- Noon Lunch Bunch
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday, April 27

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting Angels
- 6:30 p.m. Antioch BGs

Sunday, April 30

- 9:30 a.m. Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. **Potluck**
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Gathering
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

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MARCH MONTHLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

MARCH 5 - 134 MARCH 12 - 139

MARCH 19 - 118 MARCH 26 - 121

MARCH Offerings - \$24,092.98

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS: April 2

We will be collecting **Easter Dinner**
Our goal for 2017 is 3,500 lbs.
Current total: 764 lbs.



CHURCH STAFF

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