

# EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March 2023

TELEPHONE(334) 298-3186 WWW.EPWORTH-PC.ORG

## “Taking Up Our Cross”

The season of Lent—leading up to Easter Sunday on April 9, A.D. 2023—begins with the observation of Ash Wednesday on February 22. The Lenten season typically turns my heart and thoughts to something Jesus told those of us who have chosen to be His disciples: “He who does not take His cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10: 38-39). In essence, as faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ we are challenged to die to self-will, losing *our* wills in *God’s* will for us. Our plans and ambitions, our lives and our living--our everything--become secondary to following Jesus and serving God.

Paul, an apostle writing to the Christians in Galatia, said: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20). Writing to the Roman Christians on the same subject, Paul says: “Our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we

should no longer be slaves to sin” (Romans 6:6). “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism unto death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4).

The Apostle Paul’s symbolism is potent! As Christians we have not only been forgiven of our sins and cleansed for the sake of Christ, but also challenged to rise above the sins and self-centeredness of our past, becoming a different person altogether! The old person (*before* Jesus Christ came into our heart and life as our Lord and Savior) is to be put “to death”—that is, “crucified”—done away with. The new person (*after* Jesus Christ came into our heart and life as our Lord and Savior) is “born again”, that we might walk in newness of life. As someone once said, “I may not be what I *ought* to be, but I’m not what I *used* to be, nor what I *will* be by the grace and power of God working in my life!”

Let’s take seriously the call to repentance during this holy season of Lent, searching our hearts and lives, and seeking ways to live more like our Master, Jesus Christ, would have us to live. If we find some stronghold of sin in our lives, let’s “root it out”—so to speak—that we

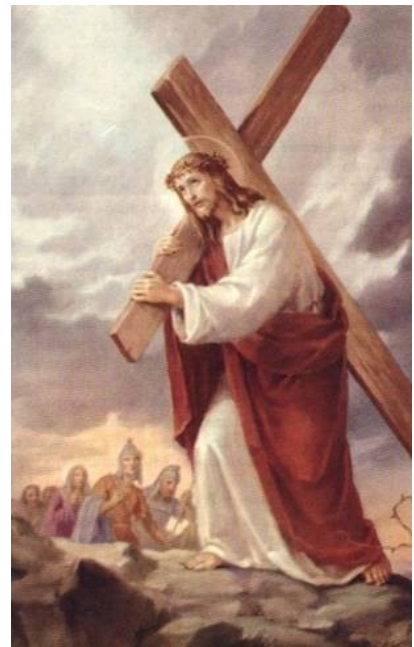


by Rev. Grant Parker

might no longer be a slave to sin. Then as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus on Easter Sunday (April 9), we can also celebrate our newness of life and resurrection from the past!

Keep your hands in Jesus’ hand and your eyes on the Cross, my brothers and sisters!

Brother Grant





# Youth Ministry Youth Ministry

We would love to have you join us for youth each week.

Sun. 9:45 am Contemporary Worship Service

Sun. 11:00 am Small Groups

Sun. 5:00—6:30 pm Youth "Sunday Night Life"

Wed. 6:00—7:30 pm "Wednesday Youth Group"

Life is **better** together. ECC. 4:12



**SNL**  
SUNDAY NIGHT LIFE





Birthdays	
March 1	Teresa Cassman
March 3	Wayne Griffin Estin Martin
March 4	Carly Addison Samuel Bridges
March 7	Becky Snedigar
March 8	Curt Curtiss Bill Badowski Cason Page
March 9	Emma Lee Gullatt
March 10	Crystal Berklite
March 11	Glenn Willis Shelley Lee
March 12	Coleman Duke
March 13	Brenda Kirkland
March 14	Joe Barnette
March 15	Roxanna Hamilton Georgia Denzik
March 16	Kathy Bradley Greg Buchanan
March 18	Tammy Garrison Emma Hess
March 19	Jake Robinson
March 20	Rae Norton
March 21	Hilda Bozzelli Brenda Belk Amanda Pruett
March 23	Jennifer Gatewood GW Glass
March 25	Alice Baxley
March 26	Sara Nauck Rusty Courson
March 27	June Willis
March 28	Gary Dillard Tony Ward
March 30	Chris Garrison Katie Jones Thaddeus Nishimura
March 31	Jo Slappey Jeffery Head Jacob Lake



Anniversaries	
March 2	Don & Penny Verner
March 3	Jeremiah & Margaret Moss
March 5	Skip & Marcia Myles
March 12	Scott & Christina Yeilding
March 19	Buddy & Edith Gentry Brian & Marietta O'Neill Juan & Andrea Gil
March 20	Cody & Kim Burtts
March 23	Shane & Leigh Ann Barbaree
March 25	Cody & Brenda Kirkland

## Lenten Lunches

Everyone is invited to Epworth's Lenten Lunches beginning on March 13th until March 27th.

The lunches will be held on Mondays at 12:00 noon EST until 1:00 pm in the church fellowship hall and will not last over one hour. It is planned so you can come during your lunch time. There will be a simple lunch, at no cost to you, with a devotional given by members of our community. What a great time for food, fun and fellowship. Dates are March 13th, March 20th, and March 27th.

Please come and invite a friend.

## Communion Servers (March 5<sup>th</sup>)

8:30 Service—Sam & Jaime Singer, Kevin Sharpe and Brother Grant

9:45 Service—Justin & Chami Chedrick, Marilyne Williamson and Brother Grant

11:00 Service—Pam Shores, Diane Glass, Kevin Sharpe and Brother Grant

## Visitation Volunteers

The following people will accompany Brother Grant when he goes visiting on Monday nights. If you are listed here, please meet Brother Grant at 5:30 pm at the church to go with him to visit members, shut-ins and prospective new members.

March 6—Don Verner

March 13—Mary Frances Head

March 20—Pam Shores

March 27—Maria Chedrick

# EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

## EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA:

**Palm Sunday, April 2nd, 3-4:30 p.m.**

**Volunteers needed and donations:** Prepackaged chips, snacks, cupcakes, cookies, juice boxes, small bottled water, etc. Filled eggs are needed, and candy for empty eggs.

Please contact Laura Johnson or Letha if you can fill eggs, decorate, clean up, help with the snack table, work with games, etc. **SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS** may volunteer and receive community service hours.

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING COMING IN APRIL

April 23, 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the theme and signing up for work areas.

If you know the area in which you would like to volunteer, please email [letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org)

**VBS DATES:** June 11-15, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

## VBS MATERIALS ARE HERE!

**Vacation Bible School will be Sunday June 11-15, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

Please put these dates on your calendar. If you have a specific area for which you would like to volunteer, please text or email Letha. This year's VBS is **STELLAR: SHINE JESUS' LIGHT**

## **DON'T MISS THE FUN!**

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." -Matthew 5:16

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## REGISTRATION FOR EPWORTH KIDZ PRESCHOOL

### **PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION:**

We are now enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year for our Preschool program for 3 (by September 1) and 4 year old students. Classes meet Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is a \$100 registration fee, and a monthly tuition fee, August through May.

Contact Letha: [letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org) or 205-799-8547

If you have friends that may be interested in our program, please encourage them to contact us for a day to visit the Preschool. Thank you so very much for all your cooperation and support. You are a blessing!

Letha Parker

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**THANK YOU AGAIN for a job well done!** Laura Johnson and her team gave us a great special event on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The **WINTER GAMES** family event was a fun time for all.

Thank you for all the preparation and participation.  
See you next year!!

# March 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  <b>6:30 pm UMW            will meet in the            Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 4:00 pm <b>Confirmation            Class</b>  5:00 pm Youth  5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	<b>6</b>  Noon <b>Happy Days</b>  6:30 pm—Man Church	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm—NO Revelation Class <b>6:30 pm            Called            Church            Conference            (Members            Only)</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool <b>6:00 pm Men's            Ministry</b> <b>6:00 pm—Grief            Ministry</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 4:00 pm Council on Ministries <b>Meeting</b>  4:00 pm <b>Confirmation            Class</b>  5:00 pm Youth  5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	<b>13</b>  12:00 pm Lent <b>Luncheons</b>  6:30 pm—Man Church	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm— Revelation Bible Study	<b>15</b> <b>Newsletter            Deadline</b> 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 4:00 pm <b>Confirmation            Class</b>  5:00 pm Youth  5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	<b>20</b>  12:00 pm Lent <b>Luncheons</b>  6:30 pm—Man Church	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Prayer Vigil 6:30 pm— Revelation Bible Study	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>  5:00 pm NO Youth  5:30 pm No Cherub Choir or Kidz Cruise	<b>27</b>  12:00 pm Lent <b>Luncheons</b>  6:30 pm—Man Church	<b>28</b> <b>NO MDO OR            PRESCHOOL            SPRING            BREAK</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm— Revelation Bible Study	<b>29</b> <b>NO            PRESCHOOL            SPRING BREAK</b> 10:00 am Cart workshop <b>6:00 pm            NO Youth</b> <b>6:30 pm            NO Classes &amp;            Kids            Konnections</b>	<b>30</b> <b>NO MDO OR            PRESCHOOL            SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>31</b>	

## **Looking for 2023 Graduating Seniors**

We will honor our 2023 High School Seniors on May 7, 2023. We don't want to leave anyone out as we celebrate this special time in their lives. Please help us in making our list of graduates complete by taking a look at the list below. If you know of other Graduating Seniors who are members of – OR -- attend Epworth regularly, we need to make sure they get on our list. Please call the church office with any names. 334-298-3186 or contact Diane Glass @ 706-681-2107 / [dianeglass99@gmail.com](mailto:dianeglass99@gmail.com) Thank you!

Dustin Brassell	Smiths Station High School
Chloe Cameron	Harris County High School
Emma Head	Glenwood School
Emily Hogge	Smiths Station High School
Katie Jones	Glenwood School
Esther Kohn	Central High School
Timothy Lee	Smiths Station High School
Emily Ludwig	Smiths Station High School
Emmett Meacham	Smiths Station High School
Jenna Neal	Smiths Station High School
Kaden Walrod	Smiths Station High School
Wyatt Wilkerson	Glenwood School