

Methodist Message

April 2023

St. Louis First United Methodist Church

SAVE US!

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Luke 19:38



How does Christ save us, and do the specifics matter? Should we simply offer thanksgiving for a holy mystery we can't comprehend? Are we supposed to understand the cross as payment for the penalty of sin that only Christ could satisfy? Was Jesus born to die, or was Good Friday a tragic, unintended consequence of being obedient to God?

When Jesus entered into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey during Passover week, the crowd shouted, "Hosanna!" meaning "Save us," and they had a very specific salvation in mind. Depending on which of the four Gospels you read, the crowd was either waving palms or spreading out their cloaks in recognition of Jesus as King. Jesus' triumphant entry is a story heavy with tragic and painful irony. The crowd was shouting, "Blessed is the King," and the Pharisees replied, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out" (Luke 19: 39-40).

The crowd went on shouting, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 19:38), but days later the same crowd was chanting, "Crucify Him!" (Luke 23: 21). The crowd quickly turned on Jesus, because He did not fit their definition of Messiah. Jesus did not deliver on the promises *they* thought He should have kept. They wanted Jesus to fit their own ideas. Jesus was supposed to be King, kick Rome out, and establish an earthly Kingdom. Instead He got arrested, beaten, and mocked. So the crowd turned away, and if we are being honest, sometimes we do, too. Sometimes we get angry with God when our prayers are left unanswered, even if our prayers are selfish. We question whether God is there when our desires are unmet, even if those desires are misguided. We don't say, "Here I am Lord, send me." Instead, we say, "Come to me Lord, because I like where I am."

The song, "Bargain," by the Who says, "I'm looking for that free ride to me. I'm looking for you." That's what the crowd was really shouting as Jesus entered Jerusalem: "We are looking for the easy road for ourselves." But Jesus knows this about us, and dies for us anyway. Jesus knows and still chooses to love us.

Maybe we do cry for someone to save us, and maybe we don't care how they do it. The Good News is that salvation is already here, and Christ offers us salvation through humility, generosity, obedience, and sacrifice. Salvation is not a quick road to ourselves; rather, we let go of ourselves so that we might learn to love God and love one another. As the Apostle Paul puts it, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)

When you think of salvation, what do you envision? Do the details matter?

Blessed Easter,
Pastor Billie Lou

New Member Sunday

New Member Sunday was held on March 26th. We are blessed to announce that **Marisa Bramer, Eric & Cortney Harrison** professed their faith for the first time. We welcome them into the United Methodist Church and specifically our BUMC church family and look forward to seeing all that God has in store for them.

Also on this day, **Eric, Cortney, Raegan & Reese Harrison** were baptized. We celebrate them as a new brother and sisters in Christ and into the family of God.



Sympathy is extended to Scott Guthrie on the passing of his mom, Kathei Guthrie, on March 22. Please keep their family in prayer.

Please join us in a **birthday card shower** to honor Arlene Foster who will be 93 on April 22. Please send cards to her home.

Beginning May 7, a new **Health Care Team**, made up of medically trained persons will be available following worship in the Chapel each first Sunday of the month, to record your blood pressure, O2 reading, look at bruises or stiches, etc. They will not be diagnosing—just observing and listening. Only 1 person will be seen at a time by 1 medical person with another non-medical person (for safety). Each person will receive a tri-fold card to keep in their wallet for their doctor appointments. Please take advantage of this new ministry.

Graduation Sunday, will be June 4. We will celebrate High School, College, University & Trade School graduates during the worship service and with a special Coffee Hour. Please submit names of student that would like to attend and be honored to the church office or Pastor.



United Methodist Friends,

Thank you to everyone who attended our March Potato Bash. We cleared \$403.00 for mission projects. So, thank you, thank you!

It doesn't seem possible that Easter is right around the corner. Our very popular cookie-candy sale will once again be held on Palm Sunday following church. Items will be sold by the pound with funds going toward mission projects. We would love it if you joined us in Fellowship Hall to purchase your Easter goodies. Many items will keep or can be frozen for your Easter festivities.

Looking forward: all activities @ the SLF facility
Sunday, April 2nd—Palm Sunday Cookie-Candy sale—immediately following church
Wednesday, April 5th— 9:30 AM - UWF Business (General) Meeting
Wednesday, April 12th - 1:00 PM—Dorcas Circle—Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, April 19th—9:30 AM—Carrie Knause—Fellowship Hall

None of our activities or fund raisers would be possible without the dedication of our generous, wonderful ladies. Many thanks for your efforts.

Blessings, Sue Baker, UWIF President

Holy Week Activities

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 6th

7 PM @ BUMC

Communion and Optional Foot/Hand Anointing

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 7th

There will be 3 services available in our area

Noon—Parkside A.G. Church in SL

1:00—Countryside Brethren—Breckenridge

7:00—St. Louis First United Methodist Church

Holy Saturday

Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt 11 AM
At Parkside Church in Saint Louis

Easter Sunday

9:30 AM Service @BUMC

11 Am Service @SLFUMC

- Golden Egg Scavenger Hunt for kids during service at both churches
- Easter choir at both churches
Handbells @ BUMC

MOVIE NITE



The Magician's Elephant
(PG) Netflix presentation

Saturday, April 15th 6pm

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Please put these activities on your calendar and find a place to get involved!

Sunday, April 2nd— Monthly Brunch 8:30am

Palm Processional & special music—Noisy Offering-
Communion

UWIF Cookie/Candy Sale @ SLF 12:30pm

Monday April 3rd-9th—Holy Week—see sidebar for Holy Week activities

Wednesday, April 5th— Hero Supper & Study (last)—@ SLFUMC 6-7:30

Superman Mac 'n Cheese

Sunday, April 9th—Easter Sunday 9:30 (B) & 11 (SL) Easter Choir, Hand
bells, Golden Egg Scavenger hunt

Tuesday, April 11— Care Team will meet @ 5pm

United Leadership Team will meet @ 6:30pm

Thursday, April 13— Y.A.H.A. (Young at Heart Always) meet @ noon for lunch
& fellowship

Saturday, April 15th—Movie Night at BUMC—*The Magician's Elephant*
(PG) @ 6 PM

Sunday, April 16th—Holy Humor Sunday & Maple Syrup Sweepstake

Sunday, April 23rd—Special Sunday Offering: Native American Ministries

Tuesday, April 25th—Free Community Soup Supper (SLF) 4:30pm

Sunday—April 30th—Blue Sunday—Day of prayers for victims of child
abuse

Sunday, May 7th—Morning Worship with Communion; Health Care Team in
Chapel following worship (see information elsewhere)
God's Daughter Tea @ 2PM at BUMC. All women are
invited. Please sign up!

Thursday, May 18th—Outreach Team lunch for BHS grads @ 11:30am

Thursday, June 1-Sunday, June 4—Annual Conference Michigan UMC

Sunday, June 4—Worship with Communion, Noisy Offering, Graduation Sun.
& last day of Jr Church until fall Rally Day

Monday, June 19-Wednesday, June 22—Art & Music Camp 12-2pm

Thursday, June 22—Art & Music Camp Gallery Open House 7pm

Friday, August 11—Loons Baseball Game Nite-Sign Up required (30 tickets)

Thursday, May 18 @ 11:30am, the Outreach Team will be taking lunch to the Breckenridge High School Seniors to celebrate their graduation. The lunch will be served in the HS Library. We will also be giving a small gift to each student. If you would like to assist with the lunch or help pay for the gifts, please contact Dave Briggs or Pastor. We are needing 3 large Jell-O salads, 1 extra large taco salad, 1 peanut butter sheet cookie bar, and 1 chocolate sheet cookie bar. We are serving 40 seniors. You may use the church kitchen if you wish.

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:

Sherri—Mon.-Tues. 9 am—2 pm

Email Address:

stlouisfumc@yahoo.com

Facebook Address:

www.facebook.com/stlouisfumc

THE METHODIST MESSAGE

“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING GOD’S LOVE”

First United Methodist Church

116 S. Franklin St.

Saint Louis, MI 48880

Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown—Pastor

Office phone: 989-681-3320

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11:00 AM worship

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

****Please notify the church if you wish to be taken off the mailing list.**

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116 S. Franklin St.
Saint Louis, MI 48880
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