

Under the Dome...

**Proclaiming the Kingdom of God
throughout Jasper and Walker County**



Staff at First Methodist

Alan Beasley
Senior Pastor

Tamara Matthews
Children's Director

Brandi Freeman
Custodian

Cheryl Odle
Administrative Secretary

John Stallsmith
Organist/Choir Director

Delisa Grace
Nursery Supervisor

Lanny Capps
Media Specialist

Chris Trawick
Worship Leader

Thomas Ingle
Media Specialist

Michelle Pearson
Kitchen Director

Eli Matthews
Interim Youth Minister

Sam Hice
Youth Intern

A Constant Reminder

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. - Ephesians 2:4-7

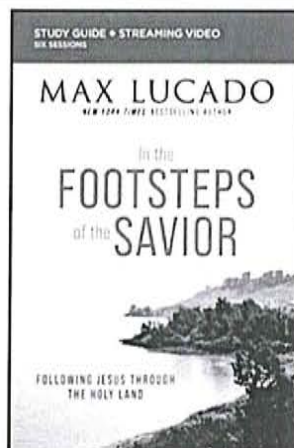
7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. - Ephesians 1:7-8

Athletic teams, no matter the level of competition, practice constantly to become better while competing. After a while, they repeat the same things over and over again until they become very proficient at what the coach is instructing them to do. On occasion, the team will learn new things, or an old thing done in a different way. Athletes constantly need to be reminded of what they are supposed to do and how to do it. So they practice.

Christianity is the same way. Our relationship with Christ is an ongoing process of learning and being challenged and thus living in the likeness of Him. The scriptures remind us of what we are supposed to be doing and how we are to do it. We get into problems when we falsely think we have been doing it so long we don't need to be reminded.

Apply this to Easter. I encourage you to celebrate Easter in its fullness as if this is the very first time you have celebrated the wonderful story of Jesus dying for our sins and gloriously rising from the grave in resurrection power! Let something fresh come out of your Easter experience as if your salvation moment was yesterday. Be joyful. Get excited and shout to the mountaintop that Jesus has surely risen from the grave, He is alive, and lives with us forevermore.

You know the story well. Live like you just learned it! Reread the scriptures above and hear Paul resoundingly proclaiming the good news of the death and resurrection and let it soak in like it is the first time. You will be changed.



SAVE THE DATE

**Begins Wednesday, April 3
6:00 pm**

**6 Sessions
With
Max Lucado**

Order of Worship - Easter Sunday - March 31, 2024

Prelude - "Easter Toccata"

J. Stallsmith

Welcome/Announcements

Altar Flowers Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of *Carrie & Raymond Crump, Cassandra Taylor Crump, Hazel & Albert Schumaker, Lori Sparks* and *Sylvia Schumaker Crump* by Dr. John Crump, Terri, Leigh Ann and Bubba.

The flowers on the sanctuary cross are placed to the glory of God and in loving memory of *Geraldine & Earnest Land* and *Elizabeth & Charles Taylor* by the family.

The flowers on the front lawn cross are given in loving memory of *Hoyt & Evelyn Young* by the family.

Call to Worship *Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
In god's likeness we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.*

Prayer of Invitation *Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come as the wind and blow. Come as the fire and burn.
Convict, convert, and consecrate, until we are all fully thine. Amen.*

Opening Hymn - "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Affirmation of Faith *I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Gloria Patri *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

The Greeting

Recognition of 2024 Confirmation Class

Preparation for Prayer *O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Prayer Response - "More About Jesus" J. R. Sweney

Offering

Offertory - "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" V. Johnson

Doxology *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Hymn - "Up from the Grave He Arose"

Anthem - "Praise the God of Resurrection" M. Hayes

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10 Lori Beasley, Reader

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Lenten Series: Living Lent

Sermon: "Living in the Glory of the Risen Savior" Rev. Alan Beasley

Closing Hymn - "He Lives"

Benediction

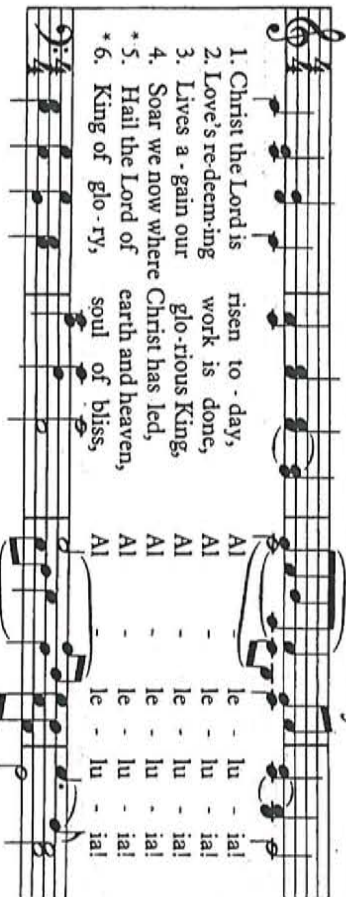
Benediction Response *Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.*

Postlude - "Joyous March" J. H. Rogers

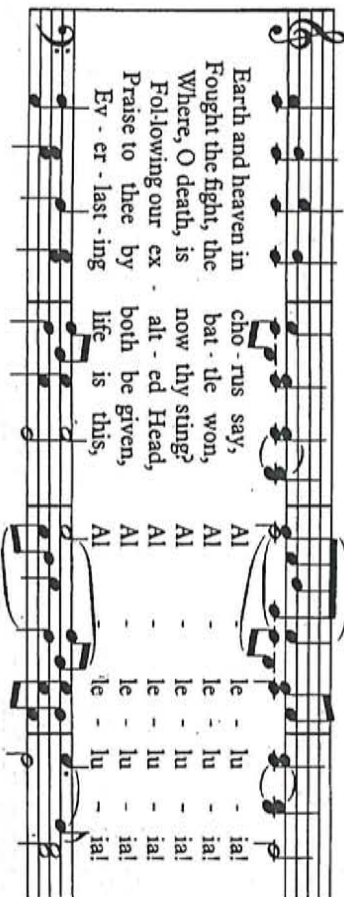
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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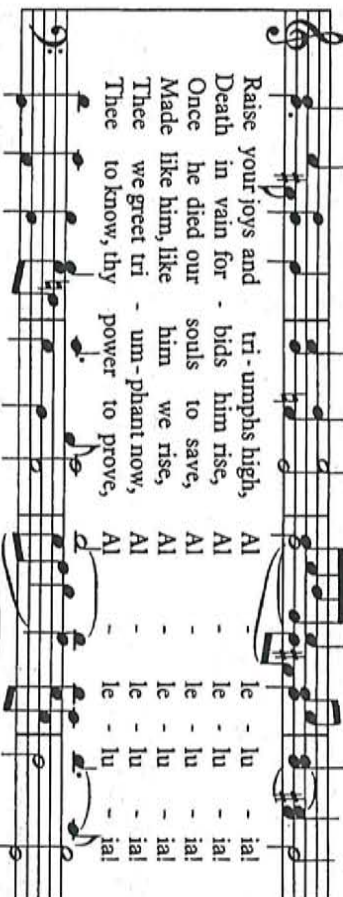
1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
2. Love's re-deem-ing work is done,
3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
- * 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven,
- * 6. King of glo - ry, soul of bliss,



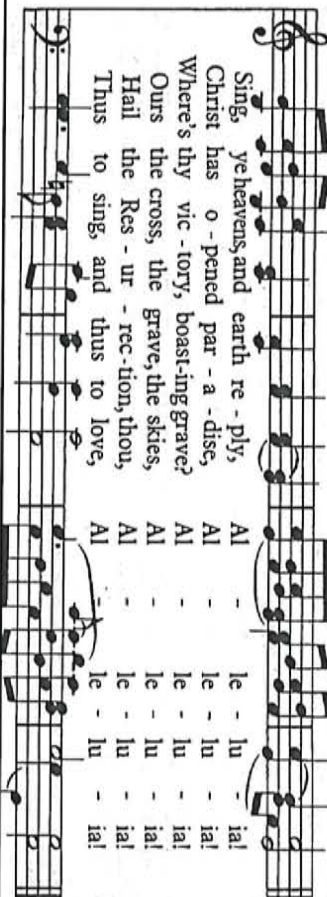
Earth and heaven in
Fought the fight, the
Where, O death, is
Fol - lowing our ex -
Praise to thee by
Ev - er - last - ing



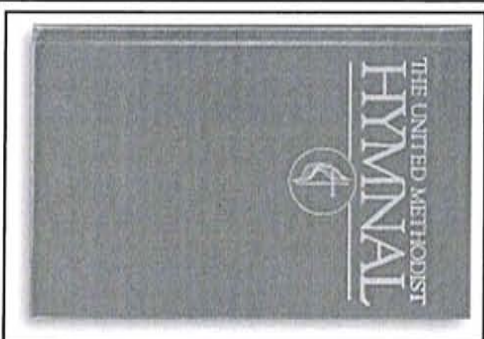
Raise your joys and
Death in vain for
Once he died our
Made like him, like
Thee we greet tri -
Thee to know, thy



Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply,
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise,
Where's thy vic - tory, boast-ing grave?
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,
Hail the Res - ur - rec - tion, thou,
Thus to sing, and thus to love,



R-E-M-I-N-D-E-R - This is our last newsletter issue with hymn photocopies. Please let us know if you want a hymnal for personal use. There are plenty available.



Hymnal Copies Available

We have a supply of hymnals available for members who watch our services online or via streaming services. We are happy to provide you with your own copy to use while watching. This will prevent us from violating copyright regulations by reprinting hymn pages in the newsletter. Each newsletter issue will have the page numbers for the hymns selected for the 11:00 a.m. service. You may contact Cheryl (205.387.2111 or cheryl@jasperfirstmethodist.com) to request your copy of the hymnal. We are happy to deliver one to you. Thanks for your help as we transition through this process.

Reception for Tamara Matthews

Tamara Matthews will retire from her position as Children's Director of First Methodist Church on March 31st. She will remain involved with our children as a volunteer where needed and we are very much appreciative of her desire and willingness to stay connected with those who love her dearly.

We want to honor her with a **reception on Sunday, April 7th**, during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate her ministry with our children and honor her for being faithful to follow God's calling and direction in her life.

Tamara joined the staff in 2016 and took on the Preschool and Children's Department with great passion and love for our children. It has been a joy to work with her since then. (Actually the 2nd time we've worked together at the church.) Every area of her responsibility has grown tremendously since she joined us and we are grateful. Words cannot adequately express our appreciation for her ministry but your presence at the reception will. Please join us on April 7th in the Fellowship Hall.

322 Up from the Grave He Arose

1. Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior,
2. Vain - ly they watch his bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior,
3. Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior,

wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus my Lord!
vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord!
he tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord!

Refrain
Up from the grave he a - rose, (he a - rose) with a

might - y tri - umph o'er his foes, (o'er his foes) he a -

rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, and he
lives for - ev - er, with his saints to reign. He a -

Easter lilies given this year in memory and in honor of loved ones.

In memory

Our parents & grandparents by Jimmy, Hilda, Andrea, Hunter & John Andrew
Jean Stanford by Tim & Tammy McKellar
Jody Barber by Mary Beth, Grayson, Alex and Scout
William Banks by Sue, Patrice, Patrick, Tracie and Jordan
Jim Hardin by Marian
Wilbur Lockhart and Avery Ann Hildreth by Martha Ann Lockhart
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Johnston and Romy Johnston by Martha Ann Lockhart
Dick Wright, Sr. and Richard Wright, Jr. by their family

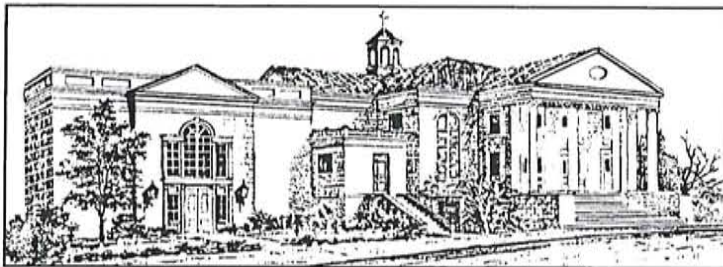
In honor

Rebecca, Matt, Rhodes & Anderson by Gamma & Poppy



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JASPER FIRST METHODIST SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 1978, CDR. Joseph Mathews established the Genevieve Mathews Scholarship to honor his wife. The scholarship was set up to award one First Methodist student, who excelled in school and Church activities, with a \$4,000 scholarship, payable \$1,000 per year for 4 years to a school of choice. From the outset, the First Methodist Men's Club became the primary caretaker organization for the Scholarship Fund with support from fundraisers and donations. This caretaker role has remained constant since inception and last year the Scholarship awarded its 45th scholarship.

Last year, because both CDR. and Mrs. Mathews have passed away, the Men's Club voted to change the Scholarship name to CDR. Joseph and Genevieve Mathews Scholarship in honor of both of them.

Providing adequate funding for the Scholarship has always been a major project for the Men's Club. Its annual sale of chicken dinners has been a major contributor. Many of you have bought dinners, and we have all enjoyed the eating. This past fall marks the first year a chicken dinner fundraiser has not been done and, in lieu, we are embarking on a campaign to further raise awareness of our Church and its ministry by providing identity tee shirts for sale. We will sell shirts for \$20 and ask that you consider an additional donation to support the Scholarship Fund.

To order shirts, please call or text Dwight Hicks at 205-275-7183. Donations can be made as part of your purchase of shirts or to the Church with a designation to the Scholarship Fund. Your attention is much appreciated and may our God bless you and yours.

In Love of Christ Jesus, Dwight Hicks

Celebration Service - March 31, 2024

Welcome to Church

Greeting

Prayer of Invitation to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come as the wind and blow. Come as the fire and burn. Convict, convert, and consecrate, until we are all fully thine. Amen.

My Testimony - Elevation

Glorious Day - Passion

This Is My Song - NorthPoint-H. Baltzglier

Goodness of God - Jenn Johnson

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Recognition of 2024 Confirmation Class

Lenten Series: Living Lent

Sermon: "Living in the Glory of the Risen Savior"

Rev. Alan Beasley

Prayer of Blessing

MARCH 2-0-2-4

Greeters: Jill Odom, Lola O'Mary

Acolytes: 3/31 Avery Stewart, Garrett Stewart

Ushers: S. Shook, S. Thornley, M. O'Mary, J. Ferrell

Readers: 3/31 Lori Beasley

