

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 1 · March 2026

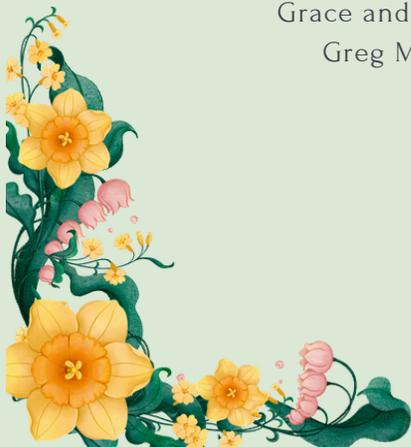


Pastoral Perspective

Folks,

We're in the season of Lent, a time when we slow down and reflect on the cost of our salvation and the suffering Jesus endured for our sake. Traditionally, many of us choose to give something up for these forty days, often something we enjoy or rely on. At our Ash Wednesday service, I shared that this practice serves two purposes. First, it is an act of solidarity with Christ's sacrifice. Second, it is an acknowledgment that we are called to hold loosely to anything in this world, trusting that Jesus is enough. But since giving something up this year, I have realized there is a third purpose. I gave up fast food and DoorDash, both of which had very much become staples of my routine over the last several months. Now, every time I feel the pull toward convenience over intentionality in the middle of a busy week, I am forced to pause and remember why I can't have it. That small moment of restraint has become a prompt, a reminder. Several times a week, I find myself thinking about Jesus' sacrifice. I think about the cost He paid for my sin. I think about the depth of His love and His willingness to lay aside comfort, convenience, and even His own life for me. That is what Lent does when we allow it to. It turns ordinary moments into sacred reminders. It transforms small sacrifices into steady invitations to remember our savior. And in those moments, we are reminded once again that Jesus is enough.

Grace and peace,
Greg Morgan



Worship
& Learn
with Us

Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship
Service:
10:30 A.M.

*Child care is
available during the
classrooms during
Sunday Service*



The Heart Behind the Numbers

Our Director of Finance, Lisa Mitchell, answers our questions about family, finance, and looking forward to the future.



Q

Tell us a little about yourself: your background, family, and what led you to this role.

I was the head accounting supervisor at Walsh Distribution for many years before leaving to stay home with my young kids. I later went back to school and became a Registered Nurse, graduating in 2010. After a short time in that field, I decided it was not my desire to be there. My husband Kelly and I have been married for 40 years this year. We have 3 adult kids that are married and have given us 8 grandkids. I was actively involved on the finance committee for years at our previous church and knew somewhat how church finances work. I approached Eric Cain and Greg about helping to get the finances going for First and just felt led to be a part of it.

Q

What excites you most about serving as Director of Finance at our church and what are your goals for this year??

It is very exciting to be involved with the purchase of the new location and seeing everyone actively wanting to give towards the future of our church. I would like to see us as a congregation be able to payoff the loan for the Northside property.

Q

How do you plug into the church? What are some of your favorite ways to get involved?

I have been helping with the Kids Camp on Wednesdays. It is rewarding to see the young people in our congregation teach their kids about Jesus. I also attend the Women's Bible study on Wednesdays. It has been very fulfilling. I have been in the TNT Sunday School Class for over twenty years, even leading it sometimes.



Q

What's something fun or unexpected about you that our church family might not know?

My son Cody and his wife Alex have a set of boy/girl twins that are about to turn 8 and my daughter Jill and her husband Hector have identical girl twins that just turned 7. They are just under a year apart and we have no twins in our family.

Q

What do you do for fun? Do you have any hobbies?

I like to play pickleball. My husband and I love to travel- some of our favorites destinations have been Maine and Michigan. This January we took our entire family- including all 8 grandkids snow skiing in New Mexico. It was chaotic, but so much fun!

Ash Wednesday



Our Ash Wednesday service marked the beginning of the sacred season of Lent. Using our fingers dipped in ashes, we pressed crosses onto a white tablecloth as a reminder that we are dust.



Faith in Action



On Saturday, February 7th, a team of volunteers from our church and the Texas Ramp Project crew completed a service project at Running WJ Ranch, a non-profit organization which offers therapeutic horseback riding. They repaired the roof of a barn that collapsed during the recent ice storm.

Member Spotlight

MEET THE MCMILLANS!



Gene & Alice

Q Tell us a little about your family—what are some of your favorite things to do?

We have been blessed with family. We have 3 children (2 sons & 1 daughter) and their wonderful spouses who live in Texarkana and Little Rock. We are grateful to have 8 grandchildren (7 grandsons and 1 granddaughter) and one granddaughter-in-law.

We enjoy spending time with our family, our church family and all our friends. We are grateful for our church and the opportunity to participate in Bible studies and serve with church projects & activities where we can sometimes help. We have spent time doing volunteer work with organizations in the community: Texarkana Museum of Regional History, Texarkana Library, Miller County Master Gardeners and Junior League. We enjoy supporting and attending Texarkana Symphony Orchestra & Texarkana Regional Choral performances. We have always enjoyed traveling this country and abroad, reading history related books, seeing historic sites, doing genealogy research, bird watching and being in the woods and forest with our children and grandchildren to enjoy the quiet awesome beauty of nature.



Member Spotlight

Q How long have you guys been married and how did you meet?

We have been married 60 years. While Gene was still in medical school in Little Rock and Alice was teaching school, we met on a providential blind date, thanks to a snow storm! We attended a New Year's Eve party and were married two years later.

Q What are some of your favorite ways to get involved in the church?

We love the Bible Studies, all the church services, fellowship activities and serving in ways we can help with some of the projects, committees & activities. We love getting to know our sweet fellow members and their families, as well as people visiting the church.

Q Do you have favorite bible verses to share?

The Lord's Prayer,
23rd Psalm,
Lamentations:3:21-25,
Philippians: 4:4-8,
Ephesians 2:8-9,
Philippians:1:3-6.



Q If there is a church potluck, who is cooking and what would you be bringing?

If there is a church potluck Gene will be bringing Alice's brownies and himself! Alice loves to cook, and will bring whatever is needed.



Servant's Heart

Kathy Pedigo

Q What role do you serve in, and how did you get started?

I volunteer in Mary's Closet on Tuesdays. I started after I retired in 2018. Two of my closest friends were volunteering and they kept telling me come and work. I am glad I did.

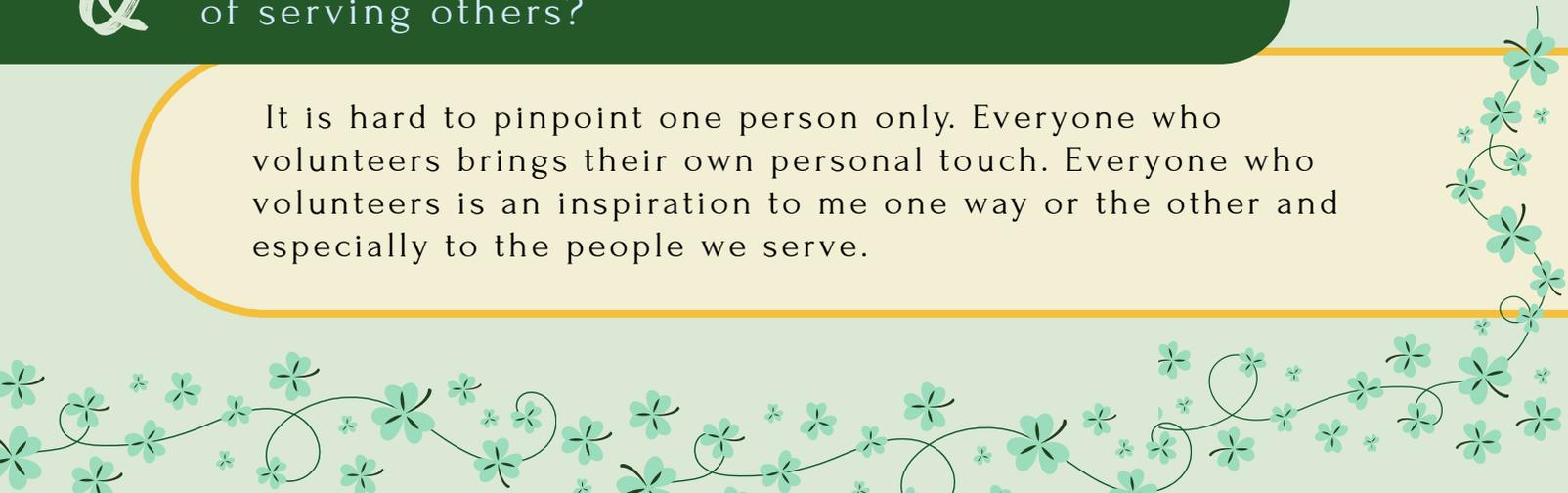
Q What do you enjoy most about volunteering with our church family?

I enjoy all the friendships I have made with the people working at Mary's Closet. I have been able to meet new people from the church who volunteer and donate to the closet and also volunteering the Mary Kay's Clinic and now the food pantry. We also have a few people who volunteer in the closet who are not members of FMC.



Q Who has been an inspiration in your journey of serving others?

It is hard to pinpoint one person only. Everyone who volunteers brings their own personal touch. Everyone who volunteers is an inspiration to me one way or the other and especially to the people we serve.



Dust in the Wind

Sermon Series

This series explores the searching reflections of Ecclesiastes, where the Teacher wrestles with pleasure, achievement, injustice, and the passing of time. In *Dust in the Wind*, we confront the fragile and fleeting nature of life—especially during Lent, when we remember that we are dust and dependent on God’s grace. Each week invites us to consider where we seek lasting meaning and to trust more fully in the One who alone endures.

March 1

Shopping for Satisfaction

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

March 8

All This, For What?

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26

March 15

Life Isn't Fair

Ecclesiastes 4:1-12

March 22

Tomorrow is Never Guaranteed

Ecclesiastes 9:1-12





YOU'RE INVITED TO

**EASTER EGG HUNT
& FAMILY PICNIC**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH
10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.**

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
5801 SUMMERHILL RD**

SEE YOU THERE!

**FOOD-GAMES-FUN
BOUNCE HOUSES**

Celebrations



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Susan Warmack | 15 | Kennessa Pratt |
| | Brian Steed | | David Freece |
| | Karen Williams | 17 | Katie Carter |
| 2 | Richard Janousek | 18 | Beverly Tye |
| 3 | Ed Eichler | 19 | Brenda Wisdom |
| | Debbie Lee | | Katie Dewolfe |
| 5 | Mark Hlavinka | | Caecilie Spyres |
| 8 | Luke Mueller | 20 | Erica Cain |
| 9 | Holly Dickeson | 21 | Debbie Fowler |
| 11 | Will Hlavinka | 25 | Reese White |
| | Courtney Waldrep | 27 | Judy Smith |
| 12 | Boies Bolton | 28 | Zach Dunbar |
| | Sonny Bolton | | Chris McMillan |
| | Trish Reed | 31 | Tommy Nicholas |
| 13 | Ron Burson | | |
| | Mark Budzilowski | | |



Upcoming Events



Campus Tour

March 8th

Meet in the foyer
after worship
service



NEW

High School

SUNDAY SCHOOL

CLASS

starting March 8
in the Gym Cafe
9:30 a.m.

New Member

Luncheon

Sunday, March 15
in the fellowship
hall after service



Easter
Services

Sunday, April 5
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

