

MARCH CALENDAR

Mon	1st	10-12 p.m.	No Kid Junction
Wed	3rd	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom)
Wed	10th	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom)
Thurs	11th	7 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
Mon	15th	10-12 p.m.	Kid Junction
Wed	17th	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom)
			ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Thurs	18th	7 p.m.	Administration Board Meeting
Wed	24th	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom)
Wed	31st	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom)



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The Zoom Bible Study is Revelation. Growing up, I thought of Revelation as gloom and doom and the rapture of only a handful of believers who attended Church on Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, and the one-to-two-week revivals. I am glad God is more gracious than I initially thought. The Book of Revelation is also known as the Apocalypse which has a more dooming tone to it, especially when we consider the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Conquest, Warfare, Famine, and Death). Using word-pictures, the Apocalypse tells us the end result of empire building: Warfare, famine, and death. The things we humans do to one another in the name of nation or tribe or even religion! What usually gets passed over is what we humans do to each other because of our greed!

Speaking of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, please do not confuse them with wrestling's Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, Ric Flair, and his "cousins" the Anderson Brothers (Ole, Gene, and Arn). I hate to tell you this, but I thought the Anderson brothers were really brothers until about eight years ago. I hope that does not worry you as much as it does me.

Nevertheless, the Book of Revelation is a story of hope and restoration with the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" leading the charge to renew creation. To counter the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse may we embrace working toward reconciliation, peace, the sharing of bread, and enabling life in all its unique situations and locations and particularities

Pastor Mark McFadden



MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS



Donor

Rexene Spraker

Fund

Kid's Junction

In honor of

David W. Spraker



John & Billie Buchanan 3/22



Mary Weddle	03/01	Debbie Tompkins	03/07	Judy Farmer	03/20
Keri Grimes	03/02	Reba Harris	03/16	Michael Larowe	03/28
Austin Spencer	03/04	Alyssa Boyer	03/17		

KID JUNCTION STATISTICS 2012-2020

KID JUNCTION BEGAN IN APRIL 2012 WITH A GRANT WRITTEN BY SARA GEARHEART, WHO WAS THEN OUR CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR.

—*In 2020 Kid Junction was closed from April- July due to COVID-19.

—Prior to the beginning of the 2021-22 school year a phone call was made to Galax Elementary School to see if Kid Junction could assist with school supplies, since we were unable to have our annual Back to School campaign. We contributed a total of \$787.00 for the materials kindergarten classes would need for the year--thanks to the generous contributions received from our church family.

—From September-November parents could visit in person; however, in December the parents gave us sizes and we bagged up items for the families to pick up.

The Kid Junction Team is thankful that we can serve the children in our area. A sincere thank you to our volunteers and for the prayers and donations from our church family and others. To God be the Glory!

YEAR	FAMILIES SERVED	CHILDREN SERVED
2012-2013	68	138
2014-2015	Unknown	Unknown
2016	133	285
2017	68	150
2018	55	127
2019	73	189
*2020	44	113

NATIONS FOR WHICH TO PRAY:

March 7— Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales
March 14— Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
March 21— Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
March 28— Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Sunday, March 7 (Lent 3) (Holy Communion)

Scripture: Isaiah 40:6-8; 2 Peter 3:8-15

Focus: Anticipation of Christ's Return

Sunday, March 14 (Lent 4)

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:13-18

Focus: Finding Healing

Sunday, March 21 (Lent 5)

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9

Focus: Obeying God naturally

Sunday, March 28 (Palm-Passion Sunday)

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11

Focus: From glory to suffering

PRAYER LIST:

NEW ADDITIONS: Vivian Coleman (close relative of Rita, Derek & Anthony Davis family); Susie Blevins (Glenna McFadden's mother); Frances Crowder; Billy Sizemore; Shelby & Gayle Phipps (Shirley DeZern's friends); Dennis Noonam (Ruth Sizemore's sister's son-in-law; Max Brown; Brad Gulla (friend of Jackie & Frank Ceary); Patty Parson (Pastor's cousin).

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON THE PASSING OF: Rev. Ted Bartlett; Billy Coleman; Mack Rodger David; Sherry Burcham Martin; Jewel Melton; Donald Byrd.

Yvonne Strader Alexander
Maggie Amburn
Alice Anderson
Bell Arvin
Sandy Billings
Audene Bogert
Betty Bowman
Clare Boyer
Skip Boyer
Tracy Brannock
Gardner Brannon
Christine Briscoe
Steve Burcham
Billy and Vivian Coleman
Ruth Ann Cox
Glenn Dixon
James Duncan

Eddie Farris
Susie Floyd
Brenda Gravely
Ronnie Gravely
JayJay Grimes
Mimi Hill
Keith Helton
Angie Hill
Laurie Hawks Jones
Keri Grimes Keith
Don Knox
Penny Kyle
Rubie Larrowe
Pam Leadbetter
Danita Moore
Trish Moore
Jane Naylor

Bud Nelson
Linda Painter
Mary Parks
August Reavis
James Rollins
Jo Rudy
Barbara Sawyers
Linda Sharpe
Benny Shupe
Melissa Sizemore
Tim Spraker
Autrey Taylor
Sandy Ward
Judy White
Edith Wilson
Jerry Wolford
Lloyd Works



MARCH 2021 *"I am the vine...you are the branches"* **VOL. 58 – ISSUE 3**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

306 W. Center St. (P.O. Box 445)–Galax, VA 24333

Phone: 236-9937 E-mail: fumcgalax1@gmail.com Web Page: www.fumcgalax.org

INVITING—FORMING—SERVING

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Well, the shortest month of the calendar year has ended. Welcome to windy March! May we have more spring-like days in March than we did in February. March is the bridge from winter to spring, and this year it is also the bridge from Lenten season to Easter season which begins Easter Sunday (April 4). March is “full of Lent.”

March is also the month in which I notice and appreciate the longer hours of daylight. Soon, if warm enough, I hope I will be able to read my morning devotion in the BBQ pit pavilion. It is a wonderful place to sit, read, and reflect. If you see me out there, feel free to stop and chat (it is open air).

There is one big religious/secular holiday in March. It is St. Patrick's Day! Also, it is my mother-in-law's birthday. Every year I ask Susie how to say “son of little Patrick” in Irish and Scots Gaelic. Winner gets a prize if you know it.

The oddest thing for me this March is High School Football. I am glad the kids have the chance to play. When I saw the lights on at the stadium on February 22, I drove by our well-lit beautiful football field. I thought it odd that Galax was wearing their white away jerseys. I found out later it was Floyd County playing Carroll County. Having turf helps in wet weather. Nevertheless, it was pleasant to drive by the football field and see players, coaches, and fans. Other high school sports will be up and running/walking soon: Softball, Baseball, Track, and Soccer. If I am not mistaken the last Boys Soccer champion was the Maroon Tide!

I pray for the gradual return to normal, but I do not think it will happen as quickly as we all wish it to be. It is like a long, slow, drawn-out Lent. If there is one thing to appreciate at the end of this pandemic, it is to not take gatherings and eating out for granted. For now, for us, it is takeout for the most part. **(Continued on page 3.)**