

April 10, 2014



Methogram

**“The mission of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee is to glorify God,
make disciples, and transform lives in Christ**

The Methogram is a
publication of :
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Dan's Divinities

Holy Week is the most important week of the church year. It begins with Palm Sunday, with the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as people waved palm branches and proclaimed him the Messiah as he entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The Jewish rulers rebuked Jesus about this outrage, but Jesus rebuffed them when he told them that if his followers were to be silenced, the very rocks would cry out his praise (Luke 19:40). Right after the parade, Jesus entered the Temple and began turning over the tables of the money changers and driving out those selling sacrificial animals. He violently protested the corruption of the sacrificial system that the Jewish ruling council, the Sanhedrin, and the High Priest had turned into their cash cow. They had made the Temple into a "den of thieves and robbers" (Matthew 21:12-13). It does not seem that Jesus took the course on avoiding conflict!

The Gospels are full of the events and teachings of that week. On Thursday Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. He washed their feet (John 13) and gave them the mandate to love one another just as Jesus loved them (the name "Maundy" Thursday probably comes from a corruption of the Latin word for "mandate"). The Last Supper reinterpreted the symbols of the Jewish Passover, and Jesus became the new Paschal Lamb who was to be slain to cover the sins of all.

After the Last Supper Jesus was arrested in the Garden on the Mount of Olives through the betrayal of Judas Iscariot into the hands of the High Priest and the Sanhedrin. In what was probably an illegal nighttime secret trial, the Sanhedrin found him guilty of blasphemy, a charge that carried the death sentence in their faith. But not wanting to bear the blame of his death, they took him to Pontius Pilate on the false charge of sedition against the Roman Empire. Although Pilate

wanted to set Jesus free because he knew it was out of jealousy the Jewish had plotted against Jesus, the Jewish leaders used their power and influence to force Pilate to send him to the cross. According to Matthew 27:46, Jesus died on the cross at 3:00 p.m., the very time when Jewish families were supposed to slaughter the Passover Lamb. Many are the events of the Good Friday.

And do you remember what happened on the third day? Of course you do, the women went to the tomb and found it empty. Jesus had risen from the dead!

Holy week is a great time to set aside some time to read some of the stories from the Gospels and mediate on what Jesus has done for you and all who will receive him. It also a great time to attend corporate worship.

Our Palm Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00 will feature a Palm Parade by the children. On Maundy Thursday (April 17) at 7:00 p.m. we will have our choir cantata, which is entitled, "Journey to the Cross." It tells in song the stories of the Transfiguration, Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, and the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord. We will receive Holy Communion as a part of the service.

Good Friday will be a Tenebrae Service, also at 7:00 p.m., which features the story of the cross. We extinguish candles and lower the lights until we are in near total darkness to remember the death of Jesus on the cross. At that time Rebecca and Paula Darby will sing, "Pie Jesu," which means "Merciful Jesus."

Our Easter services will be at the regular times of 9:00 and 11:00, and will be a glorious celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dan

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Wanted: Young men and women who are interested in helping to lead worship on Sunday mornings!

Active
Committed
Overseers Who Are
Luminescent,
Young,
Trained,
Eager
Servants

Acolytes have an important job to do! They carry flames that represent God's presence with us during Sunday morning worship as they lead our pastors in a processional down the aisle. They light the altar candles and joyfully lead the congregation in worship during our traditional service. When the service ends, they retrieve the flames from the altar and lead our pastors in a recessional. That represents the light of Christ moving out into the world, in and through His servants. It is an opportunity to learn and serve at the same time!

This is an office that has been reserved for young people who are currently in third grade and older. It is available until graduation from high school. Acolytes are trained and commissioned to serve for one year, then recommissioned yearly as long as they are willing to continue in the office. Training sessions are a short series of classes.

Parents, if you have a son or daughter who fits the age requirement, please consider this opportunity. Not only does it offer young people a chance to serve, but it strengthens character and commitment. Some service organizations give credit hours for voluntary church activities such as acolyting, choir participation, and helping with VBS. We can sing in the choir and help with VBS all our lives, but our years of eligibility to acolyte are limited. We're only young once!

Mrs. Dagma Murphy is prepared to teach the next group of acolytes during the second week of June. If your child is interested in acolyting, please call Dagma at 385-3615 or Paula Darby at 385-2467.

Church Survey Responses Welcomed and Appreciated!

Thank you for your voice and for all of the great and creative ideas submitted in response to the church survey! God is at work, and we are excited to prayerfully consider the good work we can do to glorify Christ as a church body.

Elizabeth Auer compiled our survey results which have already been forwarded to our hard-working church committees for ACTION relating to your suggestions and ideas. Please know that if you have not filled out your survey or submitted your ideas for the improvement of our church, your thoughts are still welcome and may be given to Elizabeth or to the church office. We truly seek to hear from each of you.

All of the committees are quickly scheduling meetings to consider survey response ideas and suggestions. One committee has already met; the Church Council formed a sub-committee headed by Bill Voigtman. Based on the survey results, they are recommending three actions. The first action addresses our desire for a united church family. The feedback on the surveys varies broadly, so the committee is recommending some form of opportunity for church-wide fellowship. Two suggestions that are being considered are having one worship service on Communion Sundays (first Sundays of the month) which could also allow those present to receive communion at the altar rail which is a desire of many in the first service, or having a monthly evening worship service with an attached fellowship event such as a Covered Dish Supper, a pie eating contest, or other fun event to bring people together. We are still brainstorming and coming up with ideas to unite and come together in worship. Please share any ideas you have by emailing Elizabeth Auer at lizauer@gmail.com or the church office at office@silsbeeumc.com.

Our Methogram is the subject of a number of survey comments, and the Church Council sub-committee is recommending publishing a Methogram which is packed with information every other week to improve our communication to you as a church body. This will require some changes in the church budget, and we already have some ideas on how to obtain the necessary funds to cover these costs. Do you have any ideas? We would love to hear them! We will perhaps also need some volunteer help.

Finally, the sub-committee is recommending to the Church Council a new church pictorial directory. The new directory could be professionally produced with the cost covered by portrait sales, or it could be accomplished as an in-house publication for a small fee. In either case, we will appreciate your volunteer efforts!

The above recommendations will be brought to the Church Council's next meeting on May 19 for discussion, adaptation and adoption. Other committees will have met by that time, and we will publish their recommendations as soon as possible in the Methogram. Your ideas presented in the surveys are greatly appreciated and are being seriously and prayerfully considered by the committees and councils of the church. We are thankful your ideas are generating a lot of positive and optimistic excitement among our leadership and our church family as a body. Let your voice be heard!! Complete a survey today!! We appreciate you, and thank you with a grateful heart that you are willing to serve and to worship our Lord, Jesus Christ here at Silsbee First United Methodist. Blessings abound.



All Faiths Day School is Now Registering for Next Year!

All Faiths Day School is now accepting registration packets for the 2014-2015 school year. Spaces are already very limited, according to our Director, Traci Turner, so if you are interested, or know of someone who is, please register soon! You can register by calling Traci Turner at 385-2741 or by visiting the Day School website at www.allfaithsdayschool.com.

Camp packets are in! Please stop by the church office and pick up your camp packet today if you have not received one in the mail.



It is almost that time again! Before we know it, Vacation Bible School will be starting. Our theme this year is going to be the Workshop of Wonders! Our VBS this year is going to be June 23-27. If you are interested in helping out or volunteering in ANY way, please let Glenda Delano know. Also, Dagma Murphy is asking for CDs to be used in a craft project. She just asks that one side of the CD not have any writing on it. If you have any questions, or for more information, please call the church office at 385-5568.

The Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee will present their Holy Week Cantata on Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. *Journey to the Cross* will open with John Stainer's beautiful piece entitled, "God So Loved the World," based on John 3:16-17. Then, the themes of Jesus' earthly journey will be picked up in Pepper Choplin's power anthem, "This Is My Beloved Son," which is based on the story of the Transfiguration.

The joyful hosannas of adoring crowds on Palm Sunday will be celebrated in Ruth Elaine Schram's "King Triumphant." The dying echoes of "Hosanna!" and "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" led to the Last Supper, the washing of the disciple's feet, and Jesus's betrayal in the garden by Judas Iscariot. The music of Lloyd Larson asks the question on Maundy Thursday, "Who Is This King?"

After celebrating Holy Communion, the congregation will journey to the cross as the choir sings the very solemn and pensive piece, "The Shepherd Became a Lamb," written by Mark Hayes. The cantata will conclude with an arrangement of familiar hymns by Lloyd Larson triumphantly celebrating the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ entitled "Crown Him, the Risen King!"

The songs will be tied together with a narration read by Rev. Nancy Ratchford, helping to further tell the story of Jesus' *Journey to the Cross*. Choir Director Betty Shine will be conducting the chancel choir, which will be accompanied by Paula Darby on the piano. A nursery will be provided for children under the age of four.

In Loving Memory

Gus Dunbar

Patricia Donalson
 Freeda Duffle
 Ed & Sonia Cain
 Dana Bradshaw
 Martha Bradshaw
 Fred & Linda Miller

Frances Richardson

Patricia Donalson
 Freeda Duffle
 Patricia Miller
 Carole and Jim Wills
 Jeanette Van Winkle
 Fred & Linda Miller

Anna Fuller

Jeanette Van Winkle

Olliemay Ford

Carolyn Hawkins
 Jeanette Van Winkle

Doris Eveland

Tommy & Billie Hancock
 Martha Bradshaw
 Dana Bradshaw
 Dan & Sharron Herron
 Fred & Linda Miller

Mary Francis

Allan & Dagma Murphy
 Dana Bradshaw
 Martha Bradshaw
 Marianne Deadmon
 John & Ginny Blake
 Caroline Blake
 Irene Redkey
 Carol McWhorter
 Jeanette Van Winkle
 Patrick Richardson
 Victory Class
 Fred & Linda Miller
 Freeda Duffle

Jed Lewis

Loretta L Shill
 Norma & Melba Sisk

Mary Nelson

Carol McWhorter
 Chancel Choir
 Allan & Dagma Murphy

Gifts and Presence

Worship

03/16	123
03/23	153
03/30	134
04/06	110

Sunday School

03/16	69
03/23	88
03/30	70
04/06	72

Gifts

03/16	\$5,389.00
03/23	\$7,156.75
03/30	\$4,263.00
04/06	\$7,864.00

Church Finances

The contributions to the church were low in January and February, but made a comeback in March. Contributions for the quarter were \$77,644, which is about \$2100 below the prorated amount expected. Total income for the period was \$83,077, which was about \$1008 above actual expenses. So, our budget is on track for the year, so far. It should be noted, however, that our current budget does not include any of our apportionments, which is our giving to support the connectional work of our district, annual conference, and national denomination. We are praying that the Lord will show us how we can meet these obligations.



He is Risen! Breakfast

Parents and children! Please join us on Easter morning, Sunday, April 20, during the 10:00 Sunday School hour in McDonough Hall for the He is Risen Breakfast. It is a great time of food, fellowship, music, and celebration of the Resurrection! If you are interested in helping with the breakfast, please contact Glenda Delano at 291-9480 for more information.

We are now accepting applications for the Jean Dinkle Scholarship. Applications can be picked up from the church office or found on our website, www.silsbeeumc.com under Church Forms.

Holy Week Activities



• April 13 – Palm Sunday – Our children will lead the processional with the waving of Palm Branches as we celebrate the triumphal entry of the Son of David into Jerusalem. Dr. Darby's sermon will be "The Servant King" based on Philippians 2:1-11 and Matthew 21:1-11.



• April 17 - Holy Thursday – 7:00 p.m. Our Chancel Choir will present the cantata, *Journey to the Cross*. Holy Communion will be a part of the service.



• April 18 – Good Friday – 7:00 p.m. We will have a Tenebrae Service consisting of the reading of the passion story interspersed with the extinguishing of candles as we descend into near total darkness. Paula and Rebecca Darby will be singing *Pie Jesu*.



• April 20 – Easter Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., Dr. Darby's Easter sermon will be "The Resurrection of Jesus," based on Matthew 28:1-10.



2014 Theme Verse

*The Spirit and the bride say,
'Come.'*

*And let everyone who hears
say, 'Come.'*

*And let everyone who is
thirsty come.*

*Let anyone who wishes take
the water of life as a gift.*

Revelation 22:17 (NRSV)

Come to the King in 2014!

First United Methodist Church

670 North 5th Street

Silsbee Texas 77656

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