

# The Messenger

## Whitehouse United Methodist Church

Love - Serve - Share Christ  
March, 2019

**Pastor: Rev. Matt Thomas** 903-839-2173; Morning Fellowship 9:30 am  
Cell 903-279-7903 Sunday School 10:45 am  
[thomasm11@georgefox.edu](mailto:thomasm11@georgefox.edu) Worship Services 9:30 am  
Website: [www.whitehouseumc.com](http://www.whitehouseumc.com) Church E-mail: [whitehouseumc@tyler.net](mailto:whitehouseumc@tyler.net)

### Persons of Sacred Worth

I would like to thank everyone for last Sunday. It was truly a meaningful time of worship as we gathered to pray for the church, family, community and the special called General Conference of the United Methodist Church. The general conference concluded this past Tuesday. The conference convened for the sole purpose of tackling the issue of defining human sexuality. The conference is made up of persons from across the United States and across the seas. Numerous delegates from each conference convened for what turned out to be the most difficult and contentious gathering that United Methodism has seen in decades.

There were 3 main plans on the table for adoption/rejection. By the conclusion of the conference the delegates adopted the Traditional Plan, thereby, keeping the current language of our discipline and adding some accountability measures to it. The current language, and I am paraphrasing, affirms we are all loved by God and are persons of sacred worth but the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.

As you can imagine, for many of the delegates, this was not received well. There are many people who feel rejected and unloved by the church. There are many in our congregations across our connection who are upset with the decision and many more who feel affirmed by the decision. The conference's goal was to provide as much unity as was possible while trying to come to an agreement on the issue of human sexuality. There were no winners and losers. Pastors from across our denomination are now trying to pick up the pieces and minister to people in their congregations.

All of us are created by God and persons of sacred worth in spite of being incredibly flawed. This is true regardless of the situation or decisions made at general conference. My hope and prayer is you will remain hopeful and prayerful for a portion of our family that may feel rejected and dejected. Pray for our entire church as we seek to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We are called to love one another in spite of our differences.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Matt

## Worship Services

### March 3: Transfiguration Sunday

#### Communion Sunday

Exodus 34: 29-35

Luke 9: 28-36

#### Jesus Transfigures



### March 6 - Ash Wednesday-6:00 pm

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

#### Days of Lent

### March 10-First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

#### Just Simply Ask

### March 17

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Luke 13:31-35

#### What God Wants Most from You

### March 24

Isaiah 55:1-9

Luke 13:1-9

#### The Secret to Fruitful Ministry

### March 31

Joshua 5:9-12

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

#### The Parables of Finding Sheep, Coins & People

## *Prayer Requests*

The Weaver's  
The Walton's  
Juanita Hagan  
The Loro's  
The Wilkes  
Johnny Gay  
Steven Robinson  
Gene Ruelle

Unspoken Prayers

Our Church

The United States

## Family Night

We will not be meeting for Family Night on Wednesday, March 6 (Ash Wednesday) or Wednesday, March 13 (Whitehouse ISD Spring Break).

**Choir Practice will continue as normal.**

## Philadelphia Blessing

### Ongoing needs are:

Canned foods, jello, cereal, peanut butter crackers, spaghetti, jars of peanut butter, individual packets of macaroni and cheese, pudding, crackers of all kinds, fruit-rollups, jelly, nutrition bars, and fruit cups are essentials.

Baking goods such as flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cornmeal, vanilla, etc., are also needed.

Zip bags in quart and gallon sizes are welcomed.

If you wish to donate money, please write a check to Whitehouse UMC and note Philadelphia Blessing in the memo line.



## March 11th

Trustees will meet at 6:00.  
Finance Committee will meet at 7:00.

## Support our Missions

### Apportionments

(Extra Tithe or Offering)

### Scholarship Fund

(Designated Gift)

### Philadelphia Blessing

(Donations and Your Time)

### International Heifer Project

(Bring Your Quarters)

## Ash Wednesday Service

Begin the season of Lent with us  
Wednesday, March 6th  
At 6:00 PM.

## Methodist Men and Women

will meet at 6:30, March 18th for fun and fellowship together.

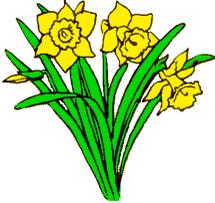
Watch your email for more details.

Add it to your calendar—we hope to see you there!



# MARCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
					1	2
<b>3 Transfiguration Sunday</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	<b>4</b> 	<b>5 Quilts for Kids</b> 9 am	<b>6 Methodist Mowers</b> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 6:00 <b>Choir Practice</b> 7:00	<b>7</b>  <b>East Texas Bee Keepers</b> 6:00 pm.	<b>8</b>	<b>9 Set your clocks ahead one hour, before bed.</b>
<b>10 1st Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>	<b>11 Trustees</b> at 6 pm <b>Finance Committee</b> at 7 pm.	<b>12 Quilts for Kids</b> 9 am	<b>13 Methodist Mowers</b> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 <b>Choir Practice</b> 7:20	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Whitehouse ISD SPRING BREAK						
<b>17 2nd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 	<b>18 Methodist Men and Women 6:30—</b> <b>details coming soon!</b>	<b>19 Quilts for Kids</b> 9 am	<b>20 Methodist Mowers</b> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 <b>Family Night</b> 6:00 <b>Choir Practice</b> 7:20	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	<b>25</b>	<b>26 Quilts for Kids</b> 9 am	<b>27 Methodist Mowers</b> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 <b>Family Night</b> 6:00 <b>Choir Practice</b> 7:20	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 4th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School						

## God's Song

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE."

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing.

Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy was sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing."

Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon, his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played - only the classic "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

That's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful. Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing."

Feel His loving arms around you. Know that His strong hands are there helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called, and He'll always be there to love and guide you on to great things.

