



ASHBURN, GA APRIL/MAY 2017

The Flame

Ashburn First United Methodist Church

406 N Main Street
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Ashburn, GA 31714
229-567-2627

ashburnmethodist@gmail.com

[f Ashburn/Sycamore First UMC](https://www.facebook.com/Ashburn/Sycamore-First-UMC)

Worship Times

Sunday
9:00am – Sycamore
10:00am – Sunday School Ashburn
11:00am – Ashburn
Wednesday
6:00pm – Ashburn/ Social Hall
6:00 – Youth Small Groups & Children's Program

FOLLOW, LOVE, SERVE

From the Pastor.....

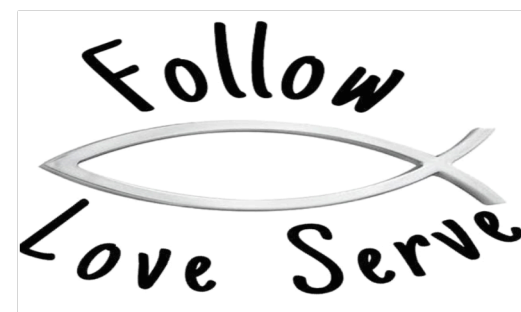
As I write today it is the second day of spring and I am thinking about God's revelation of Himself in nature. We've been moving through the Lenten season acknowledging our need for a savior as we cry out with the Psalmist "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge" (Psalm 51:4). We've been remembering our call to holiness of heart and life as we've been reflecting upon God's call through Scripture "You must be holy because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

I'm reminded today that winter is past and life springs anew as we move from the somber reflections of Lent to the wonderful celebration of Easter! I hope this Easter season you will take time to hear God's call to you through the resurrected Lord, Jesus the Christ! One of the most beautiful expressions of that call is found in the Song of Songs 2:11-12.

See! The winter is past;
The rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth;
The season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.
The fig tree forms its early fruit; The blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling;
my beautiful one, come with me.

I hope you will find time to sit in wonder at God's work in nature, looking for the new life of God in nature. Welcome spring with joy to the Father of all seasons. Let the beginning of spring remind you of His resurrection power. Jonathan Edwards wrote, "Nature is God's greatest evangelist." AMEN!

Blessings, *Carrie*



Our Mission

Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



Annie Ruth Hopkins
Bill Stone
Steven Young
Vera Hobby
Dolores Gamaras
Bill Gilbrid
Willie Joyner

Cliff Gibbs
Aubrey Brock
George Brown
Jack Greene
Bonnie Brown
Hazel Hennings
Bill McCann

Bussey Coker
Teresa Brooks
Kirsten Lyerly
Bill Ivie
Patsy Brown
Ruth Tanner
Larry Dalrymple
Dan McCorvey
Sharon Barber

Sybil Hill
Laura Holt
Christine Brown
Sara Johnson
Gerry Foltz
Jerry Spike
Hellyn Jordan
Wayne Blue
Jenny McCranie

Mindy Preston
Farrell Brown
Sherry Whiddon
Sylvia Rogers
Darlene Connell
Barbara Wood
Raymond Adams
Helen Williford
Kitty Risher
Carlene Penney
Joann Shivers
Preston Wells
Phyllis Landis
Mary Blackwell
Donna Duke
Stephanie Hortman
Cheryl Blizzard
Murphy McCranie
Rhodes McCranie

MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts have been given in memory of George Johnston, CL Smith, John Goss and Greer Odom.

FINANCIAL

2017 Budget - \$236,455
Needed to date: \$50038.00
Received General: **\$39648.35**
Received Building: \$9866
Needed weekly: \$4548
Average weekly: **\$3757**

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Jesus Christ. Phillipans 4:19

Stewardship Corner

Thank you for your faithful giving! Because of your generous and regular contributions, the Trustee Committee continues to move forward with their "To Do" list of improvements and repairs at Ashburn First UMC. The roof and third floor repairs have been completed. Conversations about air conditioning and stained glass window updates are happening! Your contributions above your normal tithes and offerings to the building fund help ensure that Ashburn First UMC continues to be an expression of God's love and creativity through this beautiful campus.

The Evangelism team is hosting an outreach to the neighborhood around us with a "Spring Fling," a family fun event. Your faithful financial support and involvement help the ministries at Ashburn First UMC continue. It is through ministries supported by your regular giving that AFUMC is able to "share God's love as faithful followers of Jesus Christ who love our neighbor and serve our community."



Give Online. It's easy!

- Set up and manage recurring donations
 - Make one-time contributions
 - View your online giving history

Get started today!

Visit www.ashburnmethodist.com



Here is the QR code for our online giving, if you are a tech savy person

April Happenings

April 2nd – Easter Musical @ 11:00

April 4th – Staff @ 10:30

UMW @ 7:00

April 5th – WNL – Family Night

April 8th – Spring Fling 12:00-2:00

April 10th – 13th – Breakfast @ 7:00

April 12th – Egg hunt @ 6:00

April 13th – Maundy Thursday

April 16th – Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00

April 27th – UMW @ 10:00

April 29th – Thrive Drive-In Movie & Meal

April 30th – District Conference @ 3:00

May Happenings

May 2nd - UMW @ 7:00

May 6th – Youth Helping Hands Day

May 7th - Baccalaureate Service

Youth Fundraiser begins

May 8th – Finance meeting @ 6:15

Administrative Board @ 7:00

May 9th – VBS Meeting @ 6:30

March 15th – The Herald's

March 21st - UMM

Ushers & Greeters 2017

If you are interested in being an Usher or Greeter on Sunday mornings there is a calendar sign up sheet on the back information table. Thank you for serving Ashburn First UMC!

UMM – UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men have a busy month scheduled in April. The men will be cooking for the church wide Spring Fling, which is scheduled to take place on April 8 from 12:00 to 2:00. This will be a wonderful outreach event for Ashburn FUMC and we hope to have those from around the neighborhood of the church attend.

Also in April, the men will be cooking hot dogs for the church wide Easter Egg hunt that is taking place on April 12. And finally, we will also be continuing our annual tradition of cooking breakfast for the sunrise service on Easter morning, which will be taking place at 7:00 am.

As you can see, it will be a busy April for the United Methodist Men. We encourage and need your participation so feel free to join us at any of these church wide functions.

Youth and Children at Ashburn First UMC

By Dee Cunningham, Children/Youth Director



Wow! Spring has sprung and so it's a perfect time for youth and children activities to really "spring" into action! We will have many fun activities but we will also be focusing on service acts. Be on the lookout for our Thrive youth crew as well as our Fun in the SON gang in action as they learn to Follow, Love, Serve!

- Wednesday, April, 12th 6:00-7:00 Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Cookout (*Thrive youth please come at 5:30 PM to hide eggs!)
- Saturday, April 29th 7:30 PM "Drive-In" Movie and Hotdogs at the church playground. *Movie will begin at 8:00 due to sundown. *Everyone is invited to attend! Family-friendly movie TBA! *Free admission, concessions for sale as youth fundraiser.
- Helping Hands day TBA! Thrive youth will be doing service acts as needed.
- Sunday, May 7th Baccalaureate service for Tift Area Academy graduates, Brooke Wilson and Rachael Wilson
- Sunday May 7th 4:00PM begins Thrive youth fundraiser, "You've Been Pinked!" Pink flamingos will be placed in yards with a fundraiser explanation sign. For a donation, the yard of a friend, neighbor or boss can be "pinked" by our youth! Let the pink fun begin!

SAVE THE DATE: VBS will be JUNE 12-15th 5:30PM! *Volunteers needed!



Music – by Debbie Conner

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. Ephesians 1:3

This verse was part of the inspiration for Thomas Ken to write "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." Thomas Ken was known as "England's first hymnist" before John Wesley or Isaac Watts. After becoming ordained into the ministry Thomas became the chaplain at Winchester College. At this time only the Psalms were sung in public worship. Thomas felt the boys of the college needed something more to encourage devotional habits. He wrote three hymns for the boys to sing in private. One for morning, one in the evening and the third at midnight if they were not asleep. All three hymns ended with the common stanza which became the most widely sung verse in the world.

Although the word doxology is not found in the Bible, the themes expressed are certainly scriptural.

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to him be glory forever. Romans 11:36

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Ephesians 3:21

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 28:19

The doxology is an expression of praise to God for ALL our many blessings including spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, etc. I am thankful AFUMC continues to sing the doxology each Sunday. We have countless blessings for which to praise our God.

UMW – UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW night group meets the 1st Tuesday of the month @ 7:00pm. The UMW day group meets the last Thursday of the month @ 10:00am in the Church office. Ladies you are invited to be part of our UMW. Join us during either of these meetings as we move forward in 2017 as faithful followers of Jesus Christ who love our neighbors and serve our Community!

Ashburn First United Methodist Church-April

Ashburn Methodist

Apr 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>26</div> <div>Lindsey Coker's</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Jay Davis' Birthday</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Joan Borem's Birthday</div>	<div>1</div>
<div>2</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10:30am - Staff</div> <div>7pm - UMW</div>	<div>5</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Spring Fling</div>
<div>9</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>10</div> <div>7am - Holy week</div>	<div>11</div> <div>7am - Holy week</div>	<div>12</div> <div>7am - Holy week</div> <div>6pm - Egg Hunt</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7am - Holy week</div> <div>6:30pm - Maundy</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div>
<div>16</div> <div>7am - Easter Sunrise</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>7pm - UMM</div>	<div>19</div> <div>12pm - The Herald's</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10am - UMW</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Drive in Movie & Meal</div>
<div>30</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>3pm - District</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10:30am - Staff</div> <div>7pm - UMW</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Youth Helping Hands</div>

Ashburn First United Methodist Church-May

Ashburn Methodist

May 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>30</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>3pm - District</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10:30am - Staff</div> <div>7pm - UMW</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Youth Helping Hands</div>
<div>7</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>8</div> <div>6:15pm - Finance</div> <div>7pm - Administrative</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6:30pm - VBS Meeting</div>	<div>10</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>
<div>14</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>7pm - UMM</div>	<div>17</div> <div>12pm - The Herald's</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>
<div>21</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10am - UMW</div> <div>10am - UMW</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>
<div>28</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Worship Service</div> <div>4pm - Youth - Thrive</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>6pm - Children's Fun in</div> <div>6pm - Small group -</div> <div>6pm - Small Group -</div> <div>6pm - Wednesday Night</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>

Evangelism Committee

By Jessica Parker

Our Evangelism Committee, formerly known as the Next Step Team, has been hard at work moving forward with Ashburn First UMC's next steps in sharing God's love. You will notice directional signs being put around the church property as we show radical hospitality to visitors who attend our Sunday morning worship and Sunday school. You may find them helpful too! In the next few weeks we hope to have our New Ashburn First UMC directional signs up at the intersection of Washington Ave. and Highway 41. Be on the look out! We thank those who donated special funds for this project!

Our neighborhood "Spring Fling" is coming up Saturday, April 8th from 12:00pm – 2:00pm in the church playground area. This is an outreach to our surrounding neighbors so they know Ashburn First cares about them and wants to be good neighbors too! We would love for all our members to come out and be part of this event as we meet our neighbors and fellowship with them. We will have games, food, and fellowship. See you there!

As we continue to look forward in support of our neighbors and current church members, we are planning a "neighborhood walking group." We would love your input on day and time for a group to start walking. John Y. Christian has offered (been volun-told) to lead a group on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 8:00pm-9:00pm. If there is enough interest and another time would fit your schedule better, we will plan another group. Hallelujah! Please let us know how we can help you walk your way to better health on our Facebook page or by contacting the church office.

We are hoping to offer further support to our members, neighborhood and community by hosting classes using Dave Ramsey's *Money Management Series*. If you would be interested in participating in classes please contact the church office. We will make arrangements according to class size.

We are excited about the future of Ashburn First UMC and hope that you are too! The evangelism committee would appreciate your input and ideas as we seek ways to follow, love, serve. Feel free to contact any of the members of the Evangelism team: Jessica Parker, Edd Cunningham, Mike Geoghagan, Lynn Odom, Allen Blue, John Y. Christian, Brad Christian, Bob Mitchell and Reagan Ward.

