

the **Vine**

April 2024



The Church in the Heart of Town, with the Town at Heart.

**We now have First Methodist
t-shirts for sale!**



There are two different color variations. The t-shirt is Comfort colors and the cost is \$20 for S-XL and \$23 for 2X-4X. Order forms are available at the church just outside the sanctuary. You can also send your order to the church. No shirt will be ordered without payment so be sure to include payment with your order.



Happy Birthday to:

- 3- Joe Martin
- 4- Jerry Wilhite
- 6- Mandy Baker
- 8- Marge Bennett
- 20- Davis Denton
- 22- Mark Ross
- 28- Jesse Hall

Happy Anniversary to:

- 1- Rodney & Julie Wilson
- 4- Rick & Dawn Cody
- 8- Marvin & Ann White
- Junior & Bettie Jordan

Thoughts from *Bro. Mark*



Now that we are fully into spring, we can say goodbye to the chilly nights, and deal with only a few cool ones. Of course, the days are longer especially on the evening end, which affords us more time to do the things we like to do after our normal work/school day. The warmer temperatures and the longer evenings also allow us to fire up the grille and maybe even enjoy the occasional meal outdoors. For the children (and the teachers) and their families, it means the end of this school year is near and it is time to look to summer for vacations, day trips, and hopefully a bit of rest.

Here the church, as Easter came early this year, it is time to look toward the activities of summer and get serious about planning them. This year, summer planning includes VBS for the first time in a long time and developing plans for fellowship opportunities outside the church walls. All this work must be done in April, so it is ready to go as soon as summer arrives. Please be thinking and praying about these events and know that we are open to any suggestions. Also, do not be surprised if you get approached either in person or by phone and asked to take part in events this summer, or anytime for that matter.

This does not mean April will be a simple time of going through the motions. No, this year we have some special things planned for a couple of our Sunday services. During two of them, we will hear from laity who will share with us the ministries of this congregation. One Sunday we will hear about our inward-focused ministries and the next about our outward-focused ones. We will also be holding our first annual membership town hall meeting to update you and address the state of the church after coming through the first quarter. This meeting, coupled with our Annual Membership Meeting in November, allows you as members of this church to stay informed and guide the future of this Body of Christ. Though there will be no voting at this meeting, it will be a time for answering questions. This process is designed to allow for transparency in the operation of the church.

As a side note, do not be surprised or alarmed over the next few months if your drive past the church and see things out of place, in new places, or at least looking different. For the past couple of months, the Trustees have been working hard to repair damages to the buildings and remove potentially damaging trees; and

this work will continue. This has left the campus looking a bit, shall we say “naked”. However, this has also made room for updates and renewals. Therefore, over the next several months the Trustees will be doing the much-needed work of putting a fresh face on the church campus, starting with the area around the main building. This will include landscaping. Some concrete work, updating safety, etc. Though this may at times create a bit of inconvenience, I assure you that the end result will leave us with a beautiful and inviting campus we can all be proud of.

Blessings,
Bro. Mark

Flower the Cross!

Easter Sunday bring fresh flowers and blooms to:

- Remember a loved one
- Pray for a burden you carry
- Blessing you are thankful for



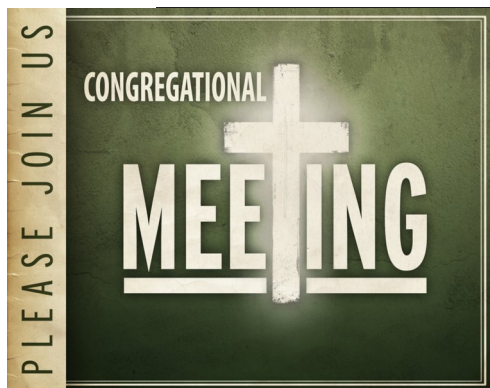
RECHARGE

Wednesday Nights @ 1st Methodist

Wednesday activities will conclude in April.
Meal begins at 5:30 and Bible Study at 6:30.

There are two study options . Bro. Mark will led discussion on Matthew. Mary will continue to meet with the young adults.

Our last Wednesday night gathering will be on April 17th. This night we will grill hamburgers and hotdogs along with homemade ice cream. We will also have some plans for the summer to share.



April 21st

Immediately following the worship hour, we will hold a brief, mid-year Congregational meeting. Please make plans to stay for important information on the status of the church and future plans. We

have exciting things ahead and your input and questions are important to us.



We are collecting items for the Baby Pantry. Please bring the following items and place in the designated boxes.

- Diapers & wipes
- Diaper rash ointment
- Bathing supplies
(wash, lotion, etc.)
- Powdered formula
- Baby food
- Bottles & Pacifiers
- Monetary gifts are also appreciated.



- 8:30 Choir
- 8:45 Coffee in Library

Come join us on
Sunday mornings!!

HERE'S WHAT'S GOING ON THIS MONTH:

9th-6:30 Methodist Men

21st-Congregational Meeting after Worship

28th-12:00 Methodist Women



Thursday mornings

5:30-7:30 @ Backwoods



ONLINE DIRECTORY!!



Please download our directory app. This allows you to have contact information directly on your phone or mobile device.

Search for **ctrn** in

your app store and enter **fbolivar** for the passcode or mobile code.



This month's
Communion offering
Benefits



Information for the
May issue of
"The Vine" needs to be
turned into the
church office no later than:
April 18th

Keeping Us Connected

First Methodist Church
218 W. Market St.
Bolivar, TN 38008

Website: www.firstmethodistbolivar.org

Facebook: Friends of Bolivar 1st Methodist

Email: office@firstmethodistbolivar.org

Phone: 731-658-5114

Fax: 731-658-9112

Worship

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30

Sunday School: 10:45



Friends of Bolivar 1st

STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Mark Templeton
pastor@firstmethodistbolivar.org
615-655-4457

Office Administrator: Dawn Cody
Facilities Manager: Jerry Avent

Lay Leadership:

Lay Leader: Carla Wilhite
Staff-Parish Relations Chair: Gem Mitchell
Finance Chair: Jerry Wilhite
Treasurer: Lindsey Denton
Trustees Chair: Mark Gooch
Administrative Council Chair: Michelle Gooch