

# "New Direction" Center Grove UMC

4th Sunday in Lent

10 March 2013

Liturgical Color: Purple

Rev. Alan Thompson

"Small church...big hearts for serving the Lord and our neighbor in love...transforming the world."

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Gathering

Call to Worship \*

Prayer of Illumination

Praise Song \*

Liturgy

Silent Meditation & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Traditional Hymn

Children's Word

Giving of First Fruits

Scripture: Psalm 19: 13-16a

Sermon: Hard Topics in Christianity--Abortion

Invitation to Respond

Praise Song \*

Benediction

Postlude: #672 God Be With You Til We Meet Again

Stand as you feel led to do so

\*CCLI: 11125485

## Lenten Schedule

Passion/Palm Sunday Service 3/24      Holy Thursday Service (SPUMC) 3/28 7pm  
Good Friday Prayer Vigil 3/29      Easter Sunrise Service (SPUMC) 3/31 7:11 am  
Flowering of Cross Easter Service (SPUMC) 3/31 0830 am

## "New Direction"

- Attendance 3/03/13: 3
- "Hard Topics" Sermon Series during the Lenten Season 2/17/13-3/24/13
- Pastor will be away at Course of Study on Fridays/Saturdays in March
- Mission Opportunities
  - Pine Bluff Food Pantry – seeking donations and volunteers
  - CCM – seeking volunteers
  - Stop Hunger Now (collecting spare change for this mission)
  - Basic Disaster Response Training 4/13/13 Mathews UMC 9am-5pm
- Holy Conferencing:
  - Worship Planning TBD
  - Council Meeting
  - Lay Speaker Training April 6 & 7 @ Epworth UMC
- Invite others to experience "New Direction" at Center Grove UMC
- Easter Egg Hunt 3/30/13 2p-4p @ SPUMC. Need volunteers.
- Fifth Sunday falls on Easter Sunday...we WILL be having sunrise & Easter morning service
- 3/26/13 @ 6pm: Movie Night SPUMC – "Passion of the Christ" Come experience the journey to the cross together as the body

## Prayer List

**Local Church:** Helen Shinn, Polly Meehan, Bob Krimminger, Wanda Krimminger, Jerry Walter, Bob McClain, Betty McClain, Angel Thompson, Myra Thompson, Don Cassese, Sue Barbee (hospital)

**Homebound:** Laura Leigh, Rosalyn Greene, Elizabeth Widenhouse, Ellen Cline, Martha Hartsell (rehab)

**Community:** Kate Fincher, Matthew Wallace, Jonathan Sapp Family, Mary Helms, Military troops, World leaders Tammy Smith, Vicky Allman, Cindy Wise, *(in an effort to keep our prayer focused on particular needs, please provide updates on conditions when available as well as those that need to be added to our prayer program along with those to be removed)* \*\*\*

## Upcoming Birthdays, Special Events, & Anniversaries

Alan Thompson	3/21	Elizabeth Beaver	3/20	William & Tammy Beaver	3/23
Wes Lefler	3/1	Sara Milke	3/6	Becky Morgan	3/28
Todd Wilcox	3/21	Melissa & Jim Blovsky	3/14		

Sermon Series: "Hard Topics in Christianity." 2/17-Suicide, 3/3-Homosexuality, 3/10-Abortion, 3/17-Immigration, 3/24-Addictions, 4/7-Poverty, 4/14-Violence

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Paragraph 161 UM Book of Discipline: J) *Abortion*—The beginning of life and the ending of life are the God-given boundaries of human existence. While individuals have always had some degree of control over when they would die, they now have the awesome power to determine when and even whether new individuals will be born. Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child. We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures. We support parental, guardian, or other responsible adult notification and consent before abortions can be performed on girls who have not yet reached the age of legal adulthood. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection. We oppose the use of late-term abortion known as dilation and extraction (partial-birth abortion) and call for the end of this practice except when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life. Before providing their services, abortion providers should be required to offer women the option of anesthesia. We call all Christians to a searching and prayerful inquiry into the sorts of conditions that may cause them to consider abortion. The Church shall offer ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies. We commit our Church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth. We particularly encourage the Church, the government, and social service agencies to support and facilitate the option of adoption. (See ¶ 161.L.) We affirm and encourage the Church to assist the ministry of crisis pregnancy centers and pregnancy resource centers that compassionately help women find feasible alternatives to abortion. Governmental laws and regulations do not provide all the guidance required by the informed Christian conscience. Therefore, a decision concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved, with medical, family, pastoral, and other appropriate counsel. K) *Ministry to Those Who Have Experienced an Abortion*—We urge local pastors to become informed about the symptoms and behaviors associated with post-abortion stress. We further encourage local churches to make available contact information for counseling agencies that offer programs to address post-abortion stress for all seeking help.