

*Keep These in Your Prayers*

Long-term illness: Lela Warren, Martha Copeland, Landyn Kidd

Health, grief or need for strength or guidance now: Elvin White, Barbara Alexander, Shannon Greene, Carol Franklin (sister of Janice Poteet), Sharen Smith, Melva White, James Neal, Savannah Stout, Shirley Rogers, Linda Leftwich, Becca Hoon, Ashley Jayden, Jo Stauber, Becky Callaway, Betty McKay, Vincent Davis, The Pipkin family, Watson Kuykendahl, Debra Costlow, Cathy McNulty, Margaret Neal, Annie Christian, Ann Church, Linda Wright, Bob Peyton, Pam Nokes, Donna Owens, Susan Sage, Jerry Keating, Chuck Sage, Merlene Gager, Dorothy McHam, Gayle Varnell, Donna Morrison, Judy Deal, Chandler Wilkins, Jewell Tidwell, Johnny Dowdy, Susan Peyton

Continuing Care Retirement Community: Chandler Nursing Center: Lola Ruddy, Betty Dalton, Clarence Davis, Charlotte Adkins. Oak Terrace: Mary Stewart. Arabella, Athens: Gayle Haynes. Azalea Heights: Willy Graham. Oak Wood Assisted Living, Athens: Vincent Davis

Remember to Pray for Our Military

### Schedule for the week of March 31 – April 6

**Sunday:** Connect Service, 9:30 am | Sunday School, 9:45, 10:45 am | Traditional Worship, 11 am | Youth, FLC, 5:30

**Monday:** Ladies Bible Study, WF Classroom, 10 am | Men's Bible Study, Parlor, 6:30 pm

**Tuesday:** Men's Prayer Breakfast, DQ, 7 am | Senior Adult Game Day, HH, 1 pm | Angelus Ringers, Choir Room, 7 pm

**Wednesday:** Children's Choir – Choir Room, 4 pm | Cross Training, Youth – FLC, 5:30 pm | Chancel Choir, CR, 7 pm

**Thursday:** Celebrate Recovery, FLC, 6 pm

VBS Interest meeting, April 7, 5:00 pm in Family Life Center, Kid's side

First Methodist Church PROJECT TRANSFORMATION is Saturday, April 13, 2024. Submit needs to Derek Blackmon at [derek@firstchandler.org](mailto:derek@firstchandler.org) or his office phone (903) 515-1332.

Volunteers, age 10-adult, are needed. Please also sign-up with Derek.

Project Transformation 2024 Volunteer Registration Link!

[Project Transformation 2024 - Google Forms](#)



FMC Chandler - Give  
firstchandler.org

Follow this QR code for  
on-line giving



# First Methodist Church

## CHANDLER, TEXAS

*Bringing the Love of Christ*

### March 31, 2024

#### Our Mission

*Bringing ALL together in Christ's love  
Through worship, growth, and service.*

#### Our Vision

*A family of faith, united by grace, making  
a difference for Christ in our community  
and the world.*

507 N. Broad Street, Chandler, TX 75758

Office: 903-849-6839, website: [firstchandler.org](http://firstchandler.org)

Facebook: [ChandlerTXFMC](https://www.facebook.com/ChandlerTXFMC)

Director of Music & Adult Ministry: Ken Reid  
Contemporary Worship Leader: Stephanie Fleet  
Director of Youth Ministry: Derek Blackmon  
Director of Children's Ministry: Kasey Oliver

## Welcome & Announcements & Prayer

Rev. Bryan Harkness

**The Resurrection of Jesus:** Luke 24:1-12

**Opening Voluntary:** “Rejoice, The Lord is King”

Patti Long, keyboard

## The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Leader: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. Christ is our light!

**All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn:** “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (Raise Your Joys and Triumphs High)

No. 302

**Affirmation of Faith:** We believe in God, whose life-giving love was let loose on the first Easter Sunday and whose life-giving love we share and proclaim here today. We believe in God who gave up divinity and submitted to the pain of suffering; and who suffers with us in whatever we face. We believe in God who raised Christ from the death of the grave to new life; and who raises our lives from sin and grief to newness and hope again. We believe in God who sent Mary out from the garden to be the witness and messenger of the resurrection; and who calls us, like Mary, to be messengers of God’s good news. We believe in God, whose life-giving love we share and proclaim today to all of creation as people who are loved, blessed and called by God into new life.

**Response:** “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

No. 334

**Anthem:** “On the Third Day”

Chancel Choir, Brass, Handbells and Kim Pollard, piano

## Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Bryan Harkness

**Hymn:** “Up from the Grave He Arose”

No. 322

**Scripture:** Acts 17: 16-18, 22-27, 29-31

**Message:** “Easter Matters”

Rev. Bryan Harkness

**Offering Prayer/Offertory:** “How Majestic is Your Name”

Patti Long & Kim Pollard

## Doxology

**Prayer of Confession:** Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling, and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration, and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving:

Communion Servers: Lindsey, Luke, Benny and Aubyn Little

**Hymn:** “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

No. 327

**Benediction**

Rev. Bryan Harkness

**Postlude:** “Hallelujah Chorus”

Keyboard, Piano, Brass Bells

**EASTER BRASS:** Trumpets: Zachary Paul, Noah Nunéz; Trombones: Jeff Hutchinson, Ty Barclay

**EASTER BELLS:** Taylor Johnston, Debbie Taylor, Natalie Capo, Alice Wilson

## SERMON NOTES

Do we really need Easter?

Easter answers two questions that everyone wrestles with:

Is there a personal God?

What does that mean for me personally?

Science cannot explain the internal yearning and the questioning that comes with making sense out of life.

Jesus came to remove the \_\_\_\_\_ and add \_\_\_\_\_ to who God is like, who God likes, and what God cares about.

God left heaven to come and live among us because he wanted to close the \_\_\_\_\_ between him and us and to show creation he \_\_\_\_\_.

The resurrection was a current event that \_\_\_\_\_ everything Jesus said about God, you and me.

The resurrection provides \_\_\_\_\_ that God is love and God loves us.

## Think It Over

1. How important was Easter in your home growing up?

2. At one time or another, we’ve all wondered about God or wandered from God, or both. Have you wondered if God really knows you and loves you? Have you ever had a season where you’ve wandered from the faith you once knew?

3. Read Acts 17:22–31, where Paul was speaking to people who weren't raised with a Jewish background. What do you observe about Paul's approach with them?

4. Does God seem far away from you or near to you? What makes you say that?