

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 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](#)



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First Methodist Church
CHANDLER, TEXAS
Bringing the Love of Christ

CONNECT SERVICE

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

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

Pastor: Reverend Bryan Harkness

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

Call to Worship

Welcome

Stephanie Fleet

Songs of Meditation

Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Rev. Bryan Harkness

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

Acts 17: 16-18

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

Acts 17:22-27

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

Acts 17:29-31

29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Message: "Easter Matters"

Rev. Bryan Harkness

Communion

Communion Servers: John, Kasey, Levi, Luke, Livvy Oliver

Sending Forth

Announcements & Dismissal

Rev. Bryan Harkness

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?