

Welcome to All Who Worship with Us Today

We welcome you to worship today. No matter who you are, or what your lifestyle may be, whether you are high on the "hog" or low down in the pits, we welcome you with open hands, open hearts, and open minds. We invite you to join with us in church membership. If you desire to join with us, please meet the pastor at the altar during the last hymn.

Lent and Easter Schedule and Services

4/14: Palm Passion Sunday

4/18: Maundy Thursday Communion: 5:00 pm: Swords; 7:00 pm: Fork Chapel

4/19: Good Friday Tenebrae Service: 7:00 pm, at Fork Chapel

4/21: Easter Sunday:

9:00 am; Swords Easter Service beginning with Worship at Cross

11:00 m: Fork Chapel Easter Service

Unshakeable Hope - Small Group Study - Wednesday. 7:00 p.m.

God's promise: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). Come this Wednesday night to learn how you can know that God not only forgives your sin, but also claims you as his son or daughter, brother and sister to Jesus Christ. Dr. Gavalas will lead the study.

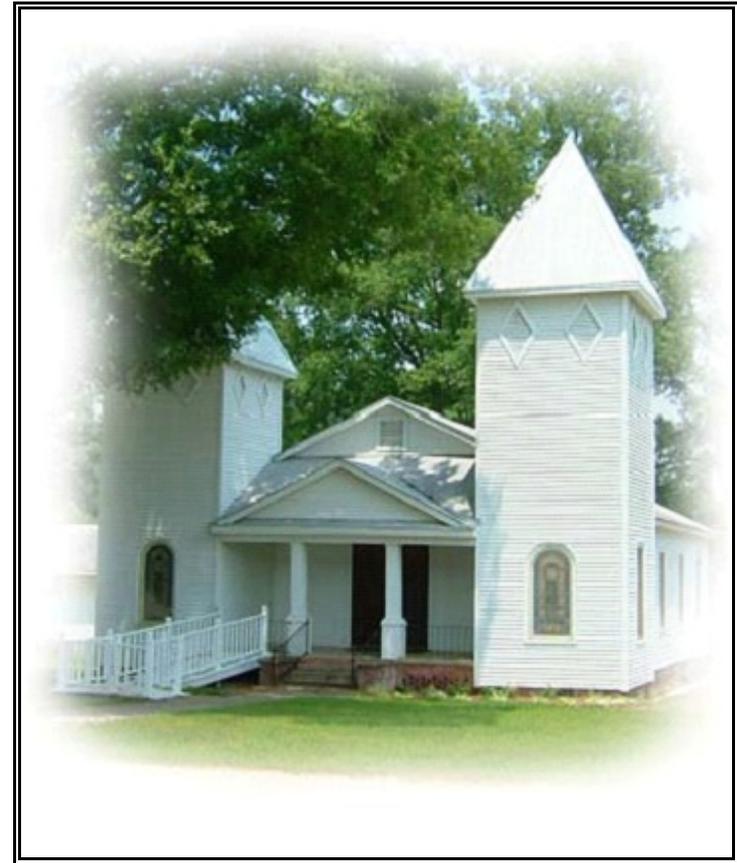
Green County Food Pantry - April Food Items

Corn, green beans or any canned vegetables

Bring to church by April 21

St. Andrew Lenten Devotions and Giving Program for Hunger in America "Seasons of Joy and Gladness" Lenten Devotional Guide.

Today's devotional writer in *Seasons of Joy and Gladness*, writes *Joy*, and asks us to consider the final season of life, and our approach to that season. What has been theoretical so long, will soon be actual! Consider giving this Lent to the Society of St. Andrew, a nationwide ministry focusing on caring for actual physical hunger. In many cases death by starvation is avoided. Every \$3.00 given provides 20 meals of nutritious, fresh food for the hungry in America! Please use the coin box (for use daily at meal time) and/or offering envelope (for a one time gift) that are provided to make your gift. We will dedicate our



FORK CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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March 31, 2019

4th Sunday in Lent

The Service for the Lord's Day

Welcome, Celebrations and Concerns

Opening Prayer

*Hymn Sing

*Apostles' Creed No. 881

Special Music

Scripture and Prayers Swords: Louise Hess; Fork Chapel: Cathy Smith

Luke 15:11-32 - Parable of the Prodigal Son and His Brother.

Pew Bible: Swords, p. 797; Fork Chapel, NT p. 78

Prayer of Confession - Led by Prayer Leader (inspired by Luke 15:11-32)

I will get up and go back to my Father and say: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer fit to be called your child. Please make me one of your hired laborers.

Let us return to our God, and make our confession. Let us pray.

**Loving God, There is enough evil within us to dampen our confidence;
Sometimes there is enough doubt in us to swamp our faith.**

**Some days there is enough weariness in us to swamp our hopefulness.
There is enough apathy within us to smother our compassion.**

**Yet, thankfully there is also enough hunger in us to keep us unhappy.
And enough discontent in us to make us return home to your love**

**God of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner. Amen.
Have mercy on me a sinner!**

[Silent time for personal prayers of confession]

Assurance and Pardon - The Pastor

God of monumental patience and of prodigal mercy, forgive us your people of our numerous sins, have pity on our pride and folly, lead us to the

fountain of your grace, and wash us thoroughly from all that defiles us. Through Christ Jesus our Redeemer. Amen!

Jesus told us: "Then the Father said: Bring quickly the best clothes for him, and put a signet ring on his finger and shoes on his feet, and kill the fattened calf, and let us eat and celebrate, for this my child was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found."

My friends, welcome back home. This fellow Jesus, and his remarkable household, welcomes sinners and even eats with the likes of us!

Pastor's Prayer with the Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Offering with the Doxology

Scripture: Psalm 32 - The Relief of Forgiveness +Hymnal 766

Sermon "**Hey Stubborn Mule! God's Name Is Mercy**" +Dr. Gavalas

*Hymn 357: "Just As I Am"

Charge and Blessing

Dismissal Chorus

"God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again."

C. S. Lewis on "Forgiveness"

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. Yet, every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive ... And then, to mention the subject at all is to be greeted with howls of anger. I think that if God forgives us we must forgive ourselves. Otherwise, it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him.

Prayer Leaders Next Sunday, April 7

Swords: Jeanne Quigley; Fork Chapel: Bonnie Duvall