

# The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan  
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

APRIL 2021



## GOOD FRIDAY and EASTER SUNDAY

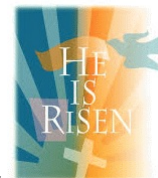
April 2nd: 7:00pm **Good Friday Worship**

April 4th: 8:45am **Easter Worship** at Monroe Chapel

10:00am **Outdoor Easter Worship** in the courtyard

10:30am **Indoor Easter Worship** with a virtual choir

*The Easter Offering will benefit SCCO. Donations payable to First UMC.*



### HOSPITALITY CORNER

Help yourself to coffee, hot water for tea, bottled water, or individually wrapped snacks before or after worship. Insulated cups are available or bring your own. We encourage everyone to follow posted safety precautions.



### VIRTUAL WORSHIP: Watch Recorded Services via:

**Facebook:** Harlan First & Monroe Chapel United Methodist Churches

**Website:** [www.harlanmethodist.com](http://www.harlanmethodist.com)



**Local Cable: FMCTC:** Tuesdays, 1:00pm #48

**HMU:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 7:30pm #15

**Mediacom:** Mondays, 10:00am #18

### 5 WEEK SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



There will be a 5 week Sunday School Class starting on Sunday, April 11th, meeting from 9:15-10:00am. The subject of topic will be **“When You Can Be Anything....Why Be a United Methodist?”** The class will be led by Rebecca Gough and will reflect on why we became United Methodists, as well as review some of the history, theology, and polity of the United Methodist Church. Let the office know if you'll be participating.

### A MOMENT WITH MIKE

During our worship service on March 14th, Dr. Roger Davidson, our Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (S.P.R.C.) chair, announced that the bishop and appointive cabinet of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church have appointed me to serve as pastor of the Cherokee United Methodist Church, effective July 1st of this year. During these past (what will be) four years, I have gotten to know many of you and have enjoyed serving as your pastor. We have had times of celebration and accomplishments in ministry together, and we have certainly had struggles with COVID. I know that as I move to Cherokee and another pastor moves to Harlan, you will continue to be in ministry with one another and the community. We do not yet know who your next pastor will be, but our district superintendent has been in communication with our S.P.R.C. committee as she and the rest of the appointive cabinet make a prayerful decision. Once a decision has been made, Dr. Davidson will make the announcement during a worship service.

I have some additional news to share, as I have been in conversation with our district superintendent and our S.P.R.C. committee about taking a renewal leave. Pastors in full time ministry are encouraged to take a renewal leave every four years in order to rest, reflect, grow spiritually, and recharge for ministry. In my 17 years as pastor (12 of them full-time in the Iowa Annual Conference), I have not yet taken a leave. The Bishop, District Superintendent, Cabinet, and Annual Conference Continuing Education Committee have approved a renewal leave for me, which I will be taking April 11<sup>th</sup>–May 31<sup>st</sup>. During this time, I will be involved in continuing education opportunities, and I will continue my district and conference responsibilities. While I am on leave, the Rev. Lori Shannon will provide coverage for Sunday services and emergency pastoral situations. In the case of an emergency, Rev. Lori can be reached by calling 712-653-3017.

Please be in prayer during this time of transition and change.

Pastor Mike

### FIRST UMC FINANCES

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the 2021 year will bring financial challenges and changes to the church. A new pastor will be assigned to First UMC and Monroe Chapel to begin July 1, the future of the Christian Education program will be reviewed, and office hours might be modified. We will keep you informed. We encourage you to keep the church in your prayers.

Thank you for your continued support. Detailed financial reports are always available in the office. – Finance Committee

