



MUMC Compass

April 2026

WHEN GOD CALLS YOUR NAME

April 2026 Pastoral Letter

When God calls your name – often signified in scripture by a repeated name like “Abraham, Abraham” or “Samuel, Samuel” – it is a deeply personal summons intended to grab your attention, signify a major life shift, or reveal a new purpose. This call signifies being chosen, known, and loved, often initiating a transformation from a past lifestyle to a new divine purpose.

There are Biblical examples of this call taking place in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, and just a few of these are found in:

Genesis 22:11-12: But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied. “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” This stopped Abraham from taking the life of his son, Isaac, it confirmed Abraham’s complete faith in God, and it provided Abraham with a new direction.

Exodus 3:4: When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” This call to Moses from the burning bush initiated a new, personal, and profound relationship with God.

1 Samuel 3:10: The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” In this case, Samuel was called by God to initiate his role as a prophet.

John 20:16: Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned to Him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). The act of Jesus calling her name transformed Mary’s grief into joy, revealing His resurrection.

When this happens, our reaction is a pivotal moment in our lives – similar to Abraham – as he responded with willingness and openness with these words: “Here I am!”

Each one of these individuals responded in such a way that God was allowed to make a significant impact in their lives. However, as I write this, with the Season of Lent soon concluding, and Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday just over a week away, I want to focus on Mary Magdalene. When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He has driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him, they did not believe it (Mark 16:9-11).

Luke 24:11 tells us that they (being the apostles) did not believe the women, because their words seemed like nonsense. As much as they longed for Jesus to be alive, surely the angel’s announcement of Jesus’ resurrection would not be made first to a group of women – especially one with Mary’s background.

Mary’s grief had been profound. How could she go on? What meaning could her life hold with Jesus gone? Her eyes red and swollen from weeping, she thought she saw the gardener. Then He spoke her name: “Mary.” Her heart raced again at the memory. “I have seen the Lord!” Her witness was sure, for she knew Him well.

Before she met Jesus, life was torture for Mary of Magdala. Imagine seven demons. Their effect may

have been physical, emotional, moral, or all three combined. Undoubtedly, before her healing, Mary had few friends and was greatly misunderstood. We do know she had a reputation among the disciples – the Mary of seven demons.

There are not details of Mary’s deliverance, but as the demons’ crushing hold was broken, Jesus surely looked into eyes filled with a pure love for God. From that moment on, her sole focus was to follow Jesus.

She was among the women who traveled with Jesus and His disciples, “helping to support them out of their own means” (Luke 8:3). All four Gospels record her at the cross, outside of the tomb as Jesus is laid to rest, and among those who came to anoint His body after the Sabbath. Even death could not quench the fire of her love and the constancy of her presence with Him.

There was no mistake: Jesus chose Mary Magdalene to be the first of His followers to see Him risen from the grave (John 20:18). He wanted personally to end her bewilderment at the empty tomb. He waited for her, longing to reward her single-hearted devotion and loyalty. He was glad to see her. Mary’s was a love that Jesus trusted, a love that He cherished.

There is a reward for faithfulness far beyond our ability to comprehend or predict. When God calls us to a life of single-hearted devotion to Him, we need to hold on to it with everything in us. Anything others might think or say can’t begin to touch the wonder we will know when we see Him face to face and hear Him speak our names.

Happy Resurrection Sunday! “Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed!”

Blessings!

Pastor Michelle



MUMC April 2026

1	10:00am	Memory Care Cafe	11	7:30am	UMM Breakfast	22	5:30pm	Choir
	5:30pm	Choir		9:00am	Hand Bells		7:00pm	Wed Bible Study
	7:00pm	NA Meeting		10:00am	AA Meeting		7:00pm	NA Meeting
2	6:00pm	Scouts of the Round Table	12			23	7:00pm	GA Meeting
	7:00pm	GA Meeting	13			24	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie
3	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie	14	1:00pm	Men's Bible Study		10:00am	Bunco
	7:00pm	Good Friday Service		6:00pm	Cub Scouts		Noon	Bunco Lunch
4	9:00am	Hand Bells	15	1:00pm	Women Share & Care	25	9:00am	Handbells
	10:00am	AA Meeting		5:30pm	Choir		10:00am	AA Meeting
5		Resurrection sunday		7:00pm	NA Meeting	26	Noon	Our Neighbors Table
	10:00am	Easter Egg Hung	16	9:00am	Prayers & Squares		1:00pm	My Own Bookcase
6	4:00pm	Bible Journaling		7:00pm	GA Meeting	27		
	5:45pm	YT Meeting	17	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie	28	1:00pm	Men's Bible Study
	6:00pm	Outreach Team	18	9:00am	Hand Bells		6:00pm	Cub Scouts
7	6:00pm	Cub Scouts		10:00am	AA Meeting	29	5:30pm	Choir
8	10:15am	Young at Heart		10:30am	Book Club		7:00pm	NA Meeting
	5:30pm	Choir	19	4:00pm	Youth Fellowship	30	7:00pm	GA Meeting
	7:00pm	Wed Bible Study	20	6:00pm	Outreach Team			
	7:00pm	NA Meeting	21	6:00pm	SAS Meeting			
9	7:00pm	GA Meeting		6:00pm	Service & Missions			
10	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie		6:00pm	Cub Scouts			

HAPPY Anniversary

3	Jerry & Janis Crews
15	Mary Ellen & Patrick Brown
20	Todd & Vanessa Lirely

4	Gloria Stoker	21	Heather Bean
10	Aiden McNitt	21	Lacey Brown
13	Durice Runge	21	William Mileur
16	Glenda Martin	21	Megan Mileur-Zeinz
18	Rosemary Cornell	22	Sylvia Frank
20	Cadence Brown	24	Jay Graff
20	Nancy Fager	29	Megan McNitt
20	Thelma Pierson	30	Brittany Nolan



Date	Greeters	Liturgist	Usher Team	Scripture Reader	Date	Friday Volunteer
5th	Patty Thrailkill	Nancy Fager	Team #2	Hernan Family	3rd	Pending
12th	Thelma Pierson	Thelma Pierson	Team #1	Voss Family	10th	Janet Porter
19th	Barb Hughes	Rick Runge	Team #1	Imhoff Family	17th	Nancy Fager
26th	Vanessa Lirely	Barb Hughes	Team #3	Graham Family	24th	Sharon Jones



At the beginning of April, the Seekers Adult Sunday School Class will be concluding their study of Adam Hamilton's 24 Hours That Changed the World. In his best-selling book, pastor and popular Christian author, Adam Hamilton helps readers relive the one day in history that changed everything - the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. The class will then return to their study of the Book of Acts for the remainder of the month. Adults of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend the class for a time of study, discussion, fellowship, and prayer.

Young at Heart on the Road

Well, we didn't make it down there last month, due to the weather, so we are giving it another try. On Wednesday, April 8, YAH on the Road will be traveling to Anna, IL, to The Kitchen on Lafayette. They offer a unique dining experience with something new every day, crafted with care, and designed to satisfy. After lunch there will be time for shopping at the Annabelle Market, a unique boutique just a short walk from the restaurant, and we will also offer transportation to Farmstead Market (offering baked goods and Amish made products). We will depart from the MUMC church parking lot at 10:15 a.m. for 11:00 a.m. reservations. Please join us for another fun outing where the focus is on good food and good fellowship, and don't forget to invite a friend.

The Saturday Book Club
Church Library
April 18th, 10:00 a.m.

Three Days in June
By Anne Tyler



Gail Baines is having a bad day. To start, she loses her job—or quits, depending on whom you ask. Tomorrow her daughter, Debbie, is getting married, and she hasn't even been invited to the spa day organized by the mother of the groom. Then, Gail's ex-husband, Max, arrives unannounced on her doorstep, carrying a cat, without a place to stay, and without even a suit.

But the true crisis lands when Debbie shares with her parents a secret she has just learned about her husband to be. It will not only throw the wedding into question but also stir up Gail and Max's past.

Told with deep sensitivity and a tart sense of humor, full of the joys and heartbreaks of love and marriage and family life, *Three Days in June* is a triumph, and gives us the perennially bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer at the height of her powers.

Read ahead book for May: *The Maid* by Nita Prose

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!

murphysboroumcprayerchain@gmail.com

Prayer Chain Ministry

Please delete the old yahoo address and add the new one to your contact list to ensure the emails go to your inbox.

To be added to the list contact the Church office or send an email to the above address.



Each Sunday from
8:15 - 10:30

Stop in and register for a Coupon for a free Pie each month.

Coffee, Treats,
& Fellowship

sign up to volunteer for Coffee Cafe by contacting Rosie or the Church Office



THE RESURRECTION
CHANGES EVERYTHING

OUR NEW LIFE
IN CHRIST

Sermon
Series
Starting
April
12th

The Prayers and Squares Quilting Ministry is up and sewing again! Whether you are an experienced quilter, or someone who has always wanted to learn, you are welcome and encouraged to join us in the MUMC Fellowship Hall on Thurs, April 16th at 9:00 a.m., and then continuing on the third Thursday of each month at the same place and time. We will focus on a variety of quilting projects including lap quilts, fidget blankets, etc. Please make sure you stop by the Welcome Center for the next few weeks as quilting kits and fidget blankets will be available for viewing. We are excited to restart this ministry opportunity for our church and look forward to seeing you on the 19th!

Speaker: Pastor
Stephanie Voss



“Let Love Grow” 16th Annual Women’s Prayer Breakfast

Sat, May 2nd 2026

9 - 11am

Grace UMC



Tickets on Sale now \$15, includes
Catered Breakfast, Photo Booth, Door
Prizes, & Silent Auction
Contact Michelle Parker-Clark, or
Rosie Wece for more informatin

1 Thessalonians 3:12

*“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each
other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”*



The 10th My Own Bookcase Presentation Ceremony will be Sunday, April 26 at 1pm at the Murphysboro Elks Banquet Hall. Please join us as we will present 30 Head Start children who will be

attending kindergarten this fall with their own bookcase and starter set of books. The look of excitement on the children’s faces as they receive their bookcases and books is something that you won’t want to miss!