

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

I hope you had a happy and blessed Easter. The Apostle Paul has sober words concerning the resurrection of Christ: "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; you are yet in your sins." (I Corinthians 15:17) Paul hangs the entire Christian message on this single event. That is how sure he is that Jesus was physically raised from the dead. He is risen. He is risen indeed!

It saddens me to once again report the continuing persecution of our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. On Palm Sunday, at least thirty Christians were killed in northern Nigeria. Eyewitnesses report that gunmen on motorcycles screamed "Allah Akbar" as they fired indiscriminately into a crowded street. Northern Nigeria is predominantly Christian, and most of the dead were returning home after attending Palm Sunday church services. Please continue to pray for and support the persecuted church in Nigeria.

Closer to home, the time is getting near for our yearly Vacation Bible School (VBS). There will be a few changes this year. Most significant will be its duration. VBS will happen one day only, Saturday, July 18, from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The theme this year will be "Freedom Road." This will be a patriotic presentation where kids, ages 5 through 12, will learn about the land they live in and will be challenged to become Christian believers who meet, know, grow, serve, and tell others about Jesus.

They will enjoy music, food, crafts, 2 Bible stations, and games. The youngsters will meet George and Martha Washington and visit Dolly Madison's attic. At the close of the afternoon, a water slide will be set up for all to enjoy. It will be a fun-filled, American history-packed day on the Freedom Road.

Because the event is one day only, many more adults should be able to assist with the kids. Be watching for further information from Joyce Ellison as the day draws near.

Finally, please accept my apologies for wishing everyone a belated Happy Atheist Day on April 1, 2026, also known as "April Fool's Day." The Bible pulls no punches. Psalm 14:1 says, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God." The fool cannot deny God using his mind, reason or intellect. He must use his "heart". Romans Chapter 1 declares that everyone knows God is real, because God has shown them. Therefore, "they are without excuse." Disbelief is not the act of a rational mind; it is the willful act of a sinful heart that refuses to accept creation's evidence. God is real, and He is not silent.

See y'all Sunday  
Perry Cunningham  
Lay Leader