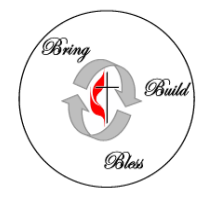


The First News

Information published as of: March 30, 2016
Issue 04-17

APRIL 2017



Our Mission:
Bringing People to Jesus
Building up Believers
Blessing the World

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

The Easter event that we celebrate this month is about a discovery the disciples made. On Good Friday the cross was a great tragedy that seemed a denial of God, but on Easter it became a victory symbol, a revelation of God. What a turnabout!! One day all looks dark with no hope, no faith, no God. Then three days later, everything in life seems possible. Nothing is beyond reach. No circumstance is beyond hope. Life is alive again.

At the heart of Easter is that proclamation that we need never allow life's experiences to defeat us, that the last word is always a word about new life and new possibilities. That is what makes the transition from winter to spring such a joyous time. All of creation has been lying dormant in cold and lifelessness. Then all of the sudden, life begins to re-emerge. Life explodes around us.

There was an explosion of life on that first Easter morning. The message the disciples and followers of Jesus began to preach after the resurrection was that the world was not under the control of fate or impersonal forces, but in control of God who cares. They said there are no ultimate defeats, only new beginnings.

It makes a big difference if we really believe that through all the seasons of our lives God is at work helping us turn our tragedies into triumphs and our defeats into victories. If we really believe this, then we have to always look for new openings, we look for the possibilities, we become more aware of the possibilities that are around us.

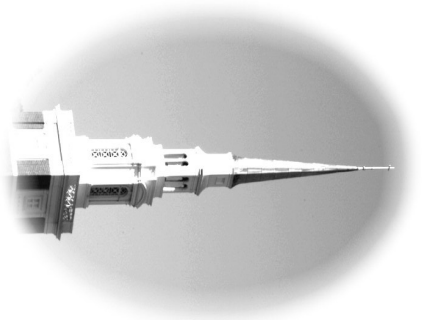
I like the spirit of the eight-year-old boy who left the following note on the kitchen table: "Dear Mom, I have a very bad headache and my stomach aches. I have taken two aspirins and a glass of water and gone out to play football."


I wish for you this Easter season all the new possibilities of life that bring you to faith and joy in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!

Blessings
James

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
105 E. SPRING STREET
SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA
256-249-0362

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 We're on the web!
www.firstmethodistchurch.com
You can see the newsletter and much
more ... check it out!

CHURCH INFORMATION
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Phone: (256)249-0362 Fax: (256) 207-0941
Web: www.firstmethodistchurch.com

«Code»
«Title» «First Name» «Last Name»
«Address»
«2nd line Address»
«City» «State» «Zip» «Zip1»



MUSIC & WORSHIP

***New World Choir / Sing Out '17**

Many thanks, once again, to all of you who supported the New World Choir, Sing Out '17 – 50th Anniversary Tour to Italy! It was indeed, a trip of a lifetime. We were witness to God moving through our young people as they shared the Gospel!

***New World Choir / Inviting New Members!**

New World Choir will have just a few more activities before we break for summer. We will rehearse on Sunday, April 23rd & Sunday, April 30th at our regular 4pm slot. We will then perform one more time, at morning worship on May 7th. We will be inviting all students who will be in grades 7-12 next year to join us! This will be a great opportunity to get plugged in with what will be the 2017-2018 New World Choir!

***Community Easter Musical – “TWO CROWNS”**

– April 9th @ SHS / 4pm & 6pm Performances

On Palm Sunday, April 9th, FUMC Worship & Arts/Chancel Choir will be combining with the Worship Ministries of First Baptist and Sycamore Baptist to present a Community Easter Musical, entitled “TWO CROWNS” by Randy Vader & Jay Rouse. There will be two performances, 4pm & 6pm at Sylacauga High School Performing Arts Center (Auditorium). Admission will be free. It will be a tremendous way for several of our local churches to proclaim that we are all on the same team, and that Jesus Christ is still Lord of ALL! The program will be conducted by *Yours Truly* and Tim Pearce from FBC. Please make your plans to celebrate the start of Holy week with this production of “Two Crowns”!!!!

Grace & Peace to All!

David Simpkins

256-404-4109

david@firstmethodistchurch.com or
georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Leslie Morris, Jamie Brown, Linda Jinks, Chris McDaniel, Betty Martin, Theodore Kelley, Jeff & Bethany Duncan, Jimmy Hare, Clyde Fox, Dottie Arnold, Milton Hogland, Megan Samples, Louise Craig, Ruth Cather, David Cochran, Charles Jones, Joseph Zwireck, Crystal Wilson, Nan Hoaglin, Russ Stanton, Alex Dickinson, Lucy Barnett, Pat Carver, Ashley Sanders, Anna Love, Lee J. White, Edna & L. P. Hickman, Daphne Robinson Stanton, Mollie Ann Ford, Charlene Cleveland, Kathryn Mallory, Corey Miller, Carol White Harris, Steve Phillips, Steve Ezekiel, Tripp Pickering, Cindy Diffie, Shannon Nickolson, Kevin Geeslin, Sammy Blocker, Bob & Ruth Mary Norris, Stan Heinfield (Stefani Thompson's dad), John Comer, Heather Adair, Daniel Kissic & Family.

IN HOSPITAL: Sarah Whitman-CVMC.

Please help keep our prayer concerns list up to date.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Willa Dean Lewis by Willie & Ruth Johnson, Connie Wright.

In Memory of James Gammage by Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins.

In Memory of Rev. Willie Joe Mallory by Anne O. Gray, Upper Room Class, Mr & Mrs Wayne Hawkins, Mr & Mrs Raymond Styres.

In Memory of Yvonne Helton by Anne O. Gray, Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins.

In Memory of Mildred Davenport by Vivian Machen, Anne Gray, Hope Class, Connie Wright, Ruth Cather, Earl Lewis.

In Memory of James McCollum by Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins, Anne O. Gray, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Fielding.

In Memory of Dr. James G. Wright by Ruth Cather, Earl Lewis, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Brentnall, Kenneth Sims, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Styres, Willie & Ruth Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Harris, Anne O. Gray, Circle I & II U.M. Women, The James Cochran Family, Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Morton, Connie Farr, Hope Class, Kenneth G. Sims Family, Gene Rozelle, Jim & Kay Nail, Connie Wright, Mr. & Mrs Wayne Hawkins, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Jackson.

In Memory of Dr. Morris Hollis by Earl Lewis.

In Memory of Desmond Mitchell by Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Styres.

In Memory of Barbara Hosey by Bill & Anne Hare.

In Memory of Thomas J. Hale, Jr. by Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Styres.

In Memory of Carl Burton by Bill & Anne Hare.

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

April 2

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **John Milton and Bernice Williams Hightower; John Judge and Neal Chandler Hightower; and Robert Neal Hightower** by Martha and Joe Turner & Family.

April 9

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Deceased Members of UMW** by FUMC United Methodist Women.

April 16

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Ware Gaston; Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Gaston, Sr. and Dr. & Mrs. Dwight L. Evans** by Their Sons & Grandsons; Charles, Joel and Maury Gaston.

April 23

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. William Murray Melton, Sr.** by The Earl Lewis Family and The Bill Melton Family.

April 30

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **George Atkinson** by June Atkinson and Family.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

March, 2017

Contributions	\$59,238.00
Expenditures	\$60,834.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	74
Casual 'n Christ	104
Grounded	53
Traditional Worship	73
Live Stream	42
NWC Homecoming Concert	192

YOUTH NEWS

Sing Out 2017

Wow. Wow. Wow.

The choir was superb. Their behavior was excellent. The trip was magnificent. It's all thanks to you, church. We could not accomplish such a magnanimous task without the esteemed leadership of David Simpkins and without the unwavering support of our church family. David and I began



talking on SingOut 2016 about how to make SingOut 2017 the trip of a lifetime, and I think that was accomplished. It was spiritually rich, culturally rich, historically rich, and full of great fun, fellowship, and food. We had two full days of travel and two full days of performing and sight-seeing in three different Italian cities: Rome, Florence, and Venice. We were gone for eight days, walked about fifty miles, slept about 20 hours and hopefully were a testimony to the greatness of Christ everywhere we went. The photo was taken the last night of the tour, when your New World Choir represented the USA at the 27th Annual International Music Meeting in Arre, Italy. I was so proud of our students. Where we going next year, Dave????

Springtime by the Sea VBS for Senior Adults. The dates are May 22-25, 2017. I'm driving the bus. Pick up registration forms in the church office and return to me by April 15. As of right now, it looks doubtful that this trip will make. Let me know with your completed registration as soon as possible if you plan to go.

The website continues to shape up and become distinctively us. Good stuff. Check it out at www.firstmethodistchurch.com Let me know if you need something added to the site, or if you see outdated material that needs to be removed. It takes a village. Just management of the website and social media could be a full-time job.

Body 4 Believers has evolved into a full-fledged ministry of the church. The small group meets at 5:30pm on Mondays for 45 minutes of beginner aerobics, and then we meet for 45 minutes, sharing tips, recipes, and testimonies. We usually watch videos from founder Greg Locklear. You should come check it out. The success stories are numerous.

We offer Aerobics with instructor Sarah McGuffin. The beginner class on Mondays at 5:30pm and an advanced class on Tuesdays at 5:30pm, in the Activities Room. The cost is \$5 per session to pay the instructor. Come check it out.

High School Senior Graduation celebration luncheon is Sunday, May 7. Look for info in the mail. Let me know if your senior plans to participate.

Check the website calendar and social media (or sign up on the website) to get the latest on upcoming activities for the church.

That's my story, and I am sticking to it.

I love you, church.

Mr Chuck =-)
Chuck Terrell, Youth Pastor to the stars
256-267-1300

Children's Corner



You are invited!

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Hop right this way:

Saturday, April 15th at 10am!

Bring your own basket!

We need your help!

We need plastic eggs filled with candy brought to the church office, or placed in the totes on the third floor information tables. We need as many filled eggs as possible. You are also welcome to donate bags of individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs separately.

• Children's Corner for April

- April 5th- Relay Game Night
 - April 12th- The story of Easter Lesson
 - April 15th- Easter Egg Hunt at 10am on the front lawn.
 - April 16th- Easter Sunday
 - April 19th- He Arose Lesson
 - April 26th- Scavenger Hunt
- A representative from **Camp Sumatanga** will be here on **Wednesday, April 19th** during time of Children's Activities and BUBBA's. She will have information to share about 2017 summer camps and age groups.
- Be sure to mark your calendars now for **2017 VBS** on June 19th- 23rd from 5:30-8pm.

Leslie Lucas,

Children's Director

256-861-0409

leslieslucas@hotmail.com

CHURCH STAFF

James Haskins - Senior Pastor;

Byron White - Assistant Pastor;

David Simpkins - Director of Worship & Arts

Chuck Terrell - Director of Youth Ministries

Leslie Lucas - Children's Ministries;

LaKeisha Crocker - Children's Choir

Dawson Brown - Grounded Worship Leader

Martha McKemie - Organist;

Robin Lewis/Charmelle Lewis - Pianists

Karen Brewer - Church Administrator

Jean Campbell - Administrative Assistant

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Kindergarten: (256) 249-2300 Nursery: (256) 249-0644

Dee Dee Mathews - Kindergarten Director

Ramsey Reynolds - Financial Secretary



E-GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE.

This is the **QR code** and also the **tinyurl** that was made for the giving website.

<http://tinyurl.com/give-FUMC-Syl>

ARTICLES FOR MAY NEWSLETTER DUE :
APRIL 25th!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- ◆ **WE NEED YOUR HELP! EASTER EGG HUNT– Saturday April 15th.** We need plastic eggs filled with candy brought to the church office, or placed in the totes on the third floor information tables. We need as many filled eggs as possible. You are also welcome to donate bags of individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs separately.
- ◆ **Sunday, April 9th: EASTER CANTATA — “TWO CROWNS** Performances at 4pm & 6pm at Sylacauga High School. This is the combined voices from FUMC, Sycamore Baptist, and First Baptist and others from the community. Free Admission.
-  A representative from **Camp Sumatanga** will be here on **Wednesday, April 19th** during time of Children’s Activities and BUBBA’s. She will have information to share about 2017 summer camps and age groups.
- ◆ **Senior Adult Vacation Bible School** Information and Registration forms are in the church office. May 22-25. Location: Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. Must be turned in to Chuck Terrell.
- ◆ **Constant Contact** is our main source for communicating events and current happenings. Sign up for Constant Contact (an email from James Haskins)

<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=5g9rkiqab&p=oi&m=1116971002078&sit=5muqsruib&f=13af20f2-89dd-44f0-8fd2-9121555f6616> this will take you directly to the sign up form.
- ◆ ***Stream Team,** We need volunteers. Sound Board, Lights, Computer/Video Graphics, Live Stream Camera and Editing, No Experience Necessary.....just a heart for service.

FUMC Sylacauga Cherub Choir & Children’s Choir

I am very excited about our Easter performance which will take place April 2 at 9am and 11am. I love seeing the children in our church eager to serve through their gift of music. Parents: please let me know if you want your child to sing a solo for the church. I will be glad to add them to the schedule.



April Bible Verse

Mark 16:6
 “Don’t be alarmed’ he said. ‘You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here...”

April 2nd —Easter performance.
 9am and 11am services
 May 10th —last choir rehearsal
 June 25th -29th—VBS!!!! 5:30-8pm

LaKeisha Crocker
 Children’s Choir
 256-762-5229
teachmusic73@yahoo.com
crockerl@sylacauga.k12.al.us



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:30am – Prayer for Worship 9:00am- Casual 'n Christ* 9:00am- Children's Church 9:00am- Sunday School*Rm305 10:00am- "Grounded" Worship 10:00am- Sunday School* all ages 10:40am- Prayer for Worship 11:00am- Children Choir 11:00am- Traditional Service* 4:00pm- NWC 6:00pm- Bread for the Journey	6:30am –Monday Morning Glory 9:30am- MMBS 9:30am- Bible Study 5:30pm- Cardio-Beginner 6:30pm- Boy Scouts-(Scout Hut) 6:30pm - CUB Scouts (F.H.)	6:00am - Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00am- Breath for Life 10:00am- Breath for Life 4:00pm- Hand Bell Choir 5:00pm- Emmaus Reunion 5:30pm- Cardio-Advance 6:00pm- Knit Together	3:00pm –Youth Room Opens 5:30pm- Children's Activities 6:00pm– Care Group-Bible Study 6:00 pm –Chancel Choir * 6:00 pm– Pastor's Bible Study 6:15pm—UMYF/BUBBA's/ Children 7:30 pm - Praise Team *	9:00am-Breath for Life 10:00am-Breath for Life



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8 CORE Trip to Birmingham
9 PALM SUNDAY-Service Children's Choir 9 & 11 am services. EASTER CANTATA 4PM & 6PM @ SHS	10 5:30pm-Trustees Meeting	11	12	13 7:00PM - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	14 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	15 10AM— EASTER EGG HUNT FRONT LAWN! 
16 EASTER SUNDAY NWC 9AM & 11AM- SERVICE	17 11:30am-UMW Exe Mtg. 5pm-Finance Committee 6pm-Leadership	18 10:00am UMW Circle I & II 2:00pm UMW Circle III 6:30pm GNO	19 5:30pm– Representative from CAMP SUMATANGA here.	20	21 MIRACLE WORKER @ BB COMER. 6:30PM	22 MIRACLE WORKER @ BB COMER. 2 & 6:30PM
23 MIRACLE WORKER BB COMER. 2PM MIRACLE WORKER 2 & 6:30PM	24	25	26	27	28 MIRACLE WORKER @ BB COMER. 6:30PM	29 MIRACLE WORKER @ BB COMER. 2 & 6:30PM
30						