

The First News

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Issue 04-18

APRIL 2018



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

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

The writer, Franz Kafka, wrote a story about a man who had been imprisoned for many years in a cell and had given up all hope of ever being free again. When the slightest glimmer of hope would rise in him, he would quickly put it out of his mind and resolve in his heart that he would die in that cell. One day, however, he walked over to the door of his prison cell, leaned against it and discovered it to be unlocked, as it had been all those years. He opened the door and walked out into the light of freedom.

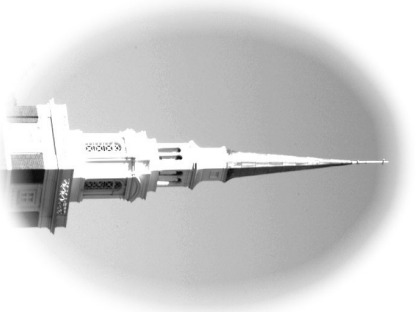
As I thought of that story, I am reminded that we are living in a time when hope, for many people is just about darkened to nothing. Without a sense of hope and promise for the future, life loses its vitality and promise. When there is no hope for the future, there is no power to live in the present.

The dispirited followers of Jesus were consumed with feelings of doubt and despair and hopelessness when that first Easter morning dawned. But then as they were walking toward the tomb, it happened. They had come for a burial, but they were greeted with a resurrection. They were preparing for a funeral but discovered that death had been conquered just as Jesus had told them.

Whenever we live our lives void of hope, it is of our own choosing. Like the promise in Franz Kafka's story, we are choosing not to try to turn the handle on the door that can lead us out into freedom and horizons unlimited. Easter reminds us in an unforgettable way that the door to many of our own prisons is unlocked and a wide-open world of love, hope and unlimited horizons await us. **Ta Daaaaaaaaa!**


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»



WORSHIP & ARTS MINISTRIES

We have so much to be thankful for at
FUMC!

We are so blessed that we have the musicians, singers and tech people in place to provide wonderful worship experiences each and every week! As we look to the final few weeks of spring programming and to the summer, we find a new opportunity to prayerfully consider what we can GIVE to the Kingdom and to our home church in response to the amazing Grace we have been shown. Perhaps the Lord is calling YOU to join one of our choirs or worship ensembles! If you find your heart is being tugged, come see me and let us find a place to get you plugged in with worship and arts!

Now, as a congregation, we want to invite you all to be MORE invested in supporting your worship leaders and musicians, helping us celebrate the presence of God each and every Sunday with BIG and BOLD Congregational singing! Lift your voices to the Lord!

In the words of John Wesley:

Rules for Singing #3 – Sing ALL! See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing!

And Rule #4 – Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

(John Wesley, Select Hymns, 1761)

See you at CHURCH!!!

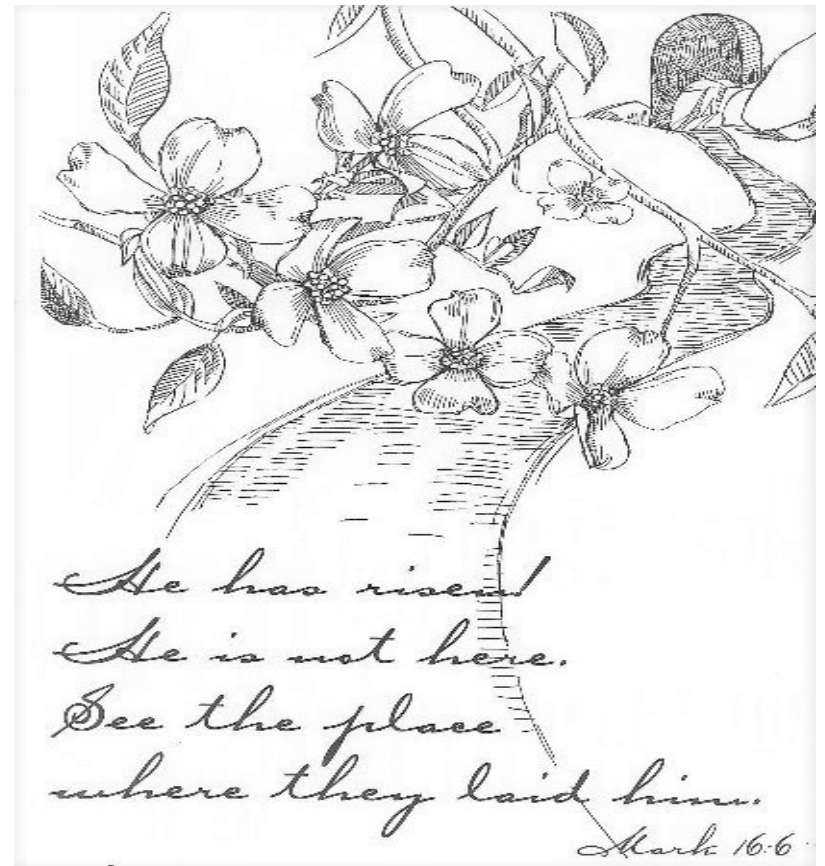
David Simpkins

256-404-4109

david@firstmethodistchurch.com or

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jamie Brown, Linda Jinks, Chris McDaniel, Betty Martin, Jeff & Bethany Duncan, Clytee Fox, Dottie Arnold, Louise Craig, Ruth Cather, David Cochran, Russ Stanton, Lucy Barnett, Ashley Sanders, Anna Love, Lee J. White, L. P. Hickman, Daphne Robinson Stanton, Kathryn Mallory, Corey Miller, Carol White Harris, Steve Phillips, Steve Ezekiel, Cindy Diffie, Shannon Nickolson, Kevin Geeslin, John Comer, Heather Adair, Shirley Pearce, Eli Fortner, Donnie Winfrey, Connie Farr, Nancy Taylor, Betty Sprayberry, Gage Wright, David Foote, Jamie Hardy, Todd Hoaglin, Terry Boyd, Charles Vawter, Craig Hunnicutt, Jan Gibson, Millard Starnes, R. C. Wakefield, Betty Riggs, Lenny Hatala, Jimmy Persons, Tim Norris, Glenda Ivey, Harold & Becky Brooks, Glenda Styres, Troy Skinner, Nick Menzies, Barbara Hemphill (Kay Nail's sister), Cheryl Dobson, Peggy Porch, Stephanie Terrell, Don Hodges, Catie Simpkins, the Lane Family.

(Please notify the church office of anyone to be added or removed from the prayer list.)



ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

April 1

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 8

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

April 15

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 22

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 29

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

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Bob Hunt by Ted & Betty Price, Donnie & Kellie Price, Rita & Ashley Ingram.

In Memory of Edna Hickman by Ken & Kim Windsor

In Memory of Steve Graves by Travis & Averiett Wesson.

YOUTH NEWS and OTHER STUFF



By the time you read this, the 51st edition of the NEW WORLD CHOIR will be home from SingOut, and the homecoming concert is the evening of Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018! We hope you will join us at 6pm in the 1st floor sanctuary to celebrate this choir. Pictured in the photo are CJ Morris, Nathan Perry, Neely Scott Murphree, Stefanie Perry, GG Hackett, Addie Collins, Bennett Wilkinson, Steve Lewis, Will Henderson, and Catie Simpkins. Seven choir members were unable to attend this kick-off performance in Ashland, Alabama,

and are not pictured here, but we will have 15 students and 15 adults with us when we head out for Gatlinburg on March 24. It is a small choir, but God promises to be with us when we gather in His name! Come on out Easter Sunday evening after you eat some leftover ham, and let's worship!

Mark Arnold has begun a Sunday School class that meets at 9:10am on Sundays in the old New World Choir room in the back of the Activities Room. We call it, "Nine-Ten." Well, isn't that special? It is an all-ages class. The topic of discussion every week is the Scripture passage that will be preached in Grounded Worship at 10am. Hope to see you there.

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

Don't forget that we always enjoy (and need) extra adults at every youth meeting. We are depending on you volunteers to keep us Safe-Sanctuary compliant.

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

I love you, church.

Chuck

Mr. Chuck =-)

Chuck Terrell, Youth Pastor to the stars
First United Methodist Church, Sylacauga AL
256-267-1300

Children's Corner

April Calendar

April 4th- Spring into Jesus Lesson

April 11th- Caroling at the Nursing Home

April 18th- Grow in God Lesson

April 25th- Movie Night!!!

Important Dates to remember:

May 23rd- SUMMER BLOWOUT

June 18th- 22nd- Vacation Bible School in the evening.
Please let me know how you can help this year.

We have so many wonderful things going on with the Children's Ministries here at FUMC. We would love for you to be a part of it. Please let me know if you would like to help with Sunday School, Snack Supper, and or Children's Corner on Wednesday nights. What an awesome ministry this is to be apart of and you don't want to miss the fun that we are having.

Leslie Lucas,
Children's Director
256-861-0409



FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN - DAYCARE

A little over 2 months left in the school year – my how time flies when you're having fun!. Our teachers are busy teaching and our children are busy learning. For the last few weeks we have been talking about the true meaning of Easter. The children are fascinated about Jesus rising from the dead. The week of March 26th will be our Spring Break. The Day Care will be open during this time. We will close on Good Friday (30th). Our K- 4/K-5 classes will go to Sylacauga Health and Rehab to enjoy an egg hunt with the residents. They will also entertain them with a few songs.

Registration was a huge success. We still have openings available. Please see me or call 256-249-2300 if you know someone who would like to register their child. Our Mother's Day Out program is available for 2 year olds only (at this time). 8-12 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. \$15.00 each visit.

Come see us!

Thank you,

Dee Dee Mathews, Director
256-249-2300

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

Church Announcements

- ◆ **Monday, April 2nd** Called Administrative Board Meeting.
- ◆ **April 2nd-6pm-8pm. Grief Sharing Support Group** will meet in room 304.
- ◆ **Monday –April 9th Byron White’s Bible Study** will resume at 9:30am . Study will be “GRACE”. All are invited to attend.
- ◆ A group of women at Sycamore UMC are making mats for the homeless out of plastic grocery bags. It takes a thousand bags per mat. Several have been made and donated. Bring you recycle bags to the church office or contact Helen White at 256-404-4781.
- ◆ **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=5g9rkigab&p=oi&m=1116971002078&sit=5muqsruib&f=13af20f2-89dd-44f0-8fd2-9121555f6616> this will take you directly to the sign up form.

OUR STEWARDSHIP March, 2018

Contributions	\$53,410.00
Expenditures	\$50,452.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	76
Casual 'n Christ	82
Grounded	79
Traditional Worship	52
Live Stream	49

Children's and BUBBAS Choirs

April 2018

April 4th - Children's - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

April 11th - Children's - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

April 18th - Children's - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

April 25th - Children's - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

LaKeisha Crocker

Children's Choir

256-762-5229

lakeishacrocker@gmail.com

crockerl@sylacauga.k12.al.us

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">April</h1> <h1 style="font-size: 3em; margin: 0;">2018</h1>
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- Traditional Service* 4:30pm- NWC 6:00pm- Bread for the Journey	6:30am –Monday Morning Glory 9:30am– MMBS 9:30am– Bible Study 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	3:00pm- Youth Room Opens 5:00pm- Children's Choir 5:30pm- BUBBAS Choir 5:30pm- Children's Activities 6:00pm- UMYF / BUBBAS 6:00pm– Care Group-Bible Study 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir * 7:30 pm - Praise Team *	9:00am-Breath for Life 10:00am-Breath for Life	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER SUNDAY NWC Homecoming 6:pm	2 6pm– Called-Administrative Board Meeting. 6pm-8pm Grief Sharing Support Group Room 304	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 9:30am B. White's Bible Study Begins 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 6pm-8pm Grief Sharing Support Group Room 304	10 6:00pm- Knit Together	11	12	13	14
15	16 11:30am-UMW Exe Mtg. 5pm-Finance Committee 6pm-Administrative Board 6pm-8pm Grief Sharing Support Group Room 304	17 10:00am UMW Circle I & II 2:00pm UMW Circle III 6:30pm GNO	18	19	20	21 UMW District Prayer Breakfast.
22	23 6pm-8pm Grief Sharing Support Group Room 304	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 6pm-8pm Grief Sharing Support Group Room 304					