

The First News

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Issue 12-17

DECEMBER 2017



Our Mission:

Bringing People to Jesus
Building up Believers
Blessing the World

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

Have you ever noticed at a gathering of any kind when the songs of Christmas are sung, the singing of “White Christmas” seems to bring a special reaction? There is a kind of hush and people get a faraway look in their eyes as though returning in memory to days gone by. At times I find myself doing that even though I was born and raised in Birmingham and have only experienced one white Christmas. That was during our tenure serving the First Methodist Church in Crossville.

There is something about Christmas that makes all of us want to be at home with our families. A survey indicated this was the time of year that people want to be home the most. It beats birthdays by three to one and the Fourth of July by five to one.

Why do we associate Christmas with being at home? Some of it has to do with tradition and a sense of belonging and happiness that we have all experienced at Christmas time. Many of our best memories are built around being home at Christmas – the beauty of the childhood Christmas trees, the magic of packages around the trees waiting to be unwrapped, the smell of baking in the air, and the sound of our favorite records being played. My favorites were “Christmas with Perry Como” and “Andy Williams Christmas Classics.”

There is something deeper than all of this that is involved in our feelings of wanting to be home for Christmas. It is a little harder to put into words. The Christmas season is a time when the spiritual dimensions of our lives are stirred, when we feel more than any other time what someone has called the sense of cosmic belonging. Augustine put it well when he said, “Thou hast made us for thyself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in thee.”

Christmas at Sylacauga First United Methodist Church can be a time of belonging and coming home. We have many events and activities planned that offer opportunities for people to gather for study, laughter, eating, fellowship, and spiritual growth. If you have not been to church in a while, this could be a good time for a “homecoming.” Believing our entire church family can come together to celebrate our Savior’s birth would be the greatest gift we could offer one another. What greater gift could we offer to God?

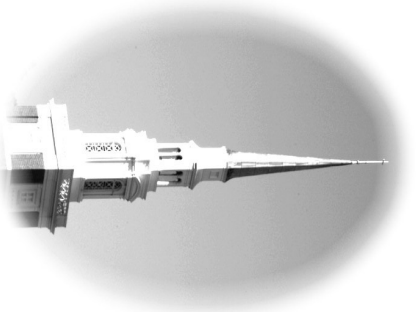
Blessings

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

Merry Christmas to all!!!

Your Worship & Arts Ministries have some wonderful worship experiences planned for the Christmas Season! Make your plans to be with us!

Children's Christmas Musical December 3 – 6pm Fellowship Hall

*Lakeisha Crocker, Children's Choir Director
Leslie Lucas, Children's Ministry Director*

FUMC Christmas Musical The Jesus Gift

December 10 – 6pm Sanctuary

*Featuring the ladies & gentlemen of the
Chancel Choir, New World Choir, Handbell Choir
With special guests musicians from the Alabama Symphony
David Simpkins, Director
Summer Newman Ernest, Narrator*

Sylacauga High School & Nichols Lawson Middle School Choirs

Christmas Concert

December 17 – 6pm Sanctuary

*Martez Tidwell, Director
Hosted by FUMC Worship & Arts*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 – 6pm Sanctuary

For all of our FUMC Family

*And of course, don't miss the exciting worship experiences at our regular Sunday morning worship services during the Christmas season!
See you at CHURCH!!!*

David Simpkins

256-404-4109

david@firstmethodistchurch.com or
georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Jimmy Hare by Tommy & Donna Hebson, Jerry & Libby Fielding, Bradd & Jane McCune.

In Memory of Alice McCall Swindle by Hope Class.

In Memory of Edna Hickman by Lee & Becky Phillips, Tony & Gail Cox, Ryan & Kristin Cox, Hope Class, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hare, Sara Kelley, Connie Wright, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Clifton, Mr. & Mrs. Tony Mitchell, Adrian & Midge Lovell, Tommy & Donna Hebson, Joe & Becky Phillips, Lynda Martin, Rodie G. Ellison, The McPherson Family, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Jackson, Travis & Averitt Wesson, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Lampe, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Styres, Jerry & Libby Fielding, Bradd & Jane McCune, Phil & Suzy Hammonds, Drew, Kellie, Katie & Adam Prusiecki, Jim & Kay Nail, Betty & Penny Mitcham, Jay & Dana Mitchell, Beth & Bob Schuler, Frances Lovell, Banks Street Partners, W. W. Woodring, Ricky & Sherry Reaves, Family of Buddy & Bobbie Sanders, Jenny & Jeff Kirby, Bill & Mary Sue Mims, Anne Gray, Earl Lewis, Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins.

In Memory of Mildred Davenport by Jerry & Libby Fielding.

In Memory of James G. Wright by Jerry & Libby Fielding.

In Memory of Leslie Morris by Jerry & Libby Fielding, Bradd & Jane McCune.

In Memory of Willa Dean Lewis by Steve & Charmelle Lewis, Robin Lewis.

FUMC—United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women say “THANK YOU” to all who participated in the Annual Bake Sale and RADA Utensil Sale. The Bake Sale netted a profit of \$819.00 and the RADA sale made \$369.00. The total of \$1188.00 will go to both local and global missions.

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

December 3

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Willa Dean Lewis** by Earl Lewis; Steve & Charmelle Lewis; Robin Lewis; Rebekah & Joe Barnett.

December 10

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **The Deceased Members of Our Class** by Upper Room—Sunday School Class

December 17

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Dr. James G. Wright** by Mrs. James G. Wright; Jim and Amy.

December 24

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **E.L. Graves, Margaret Graves and Peggy Graves Garris**, by The Graves Family.

December 31

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Doyle & Ruth Henry and Troy & Frances Smithwick**, by Skip & Glenda Smithwick.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jamie Brown, Linda Jinks, Chris McDaniel, Betty Martin, Theodore Kelley, Jeff & Bethany Duncan, 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, Ashley Sanders, Anna Love, Lee J. White, L. P. Hickman, Daphne Robinson Stanton, Mollie Ann Ford, Kathryn Mallory, Corey Miller, Carol White Harris, Steve Phillips, Steve Ezekiel, Tripp Pickering, Cindy Diffie, Shannon Nickolson, Kevin Geeslin, Sammy Blocker, John Comer, Heather Adair, Shirley Pearce, Eli Fortner, Donnie Winfrey, Connie Farr, Nancy Taylor, Henry Blair, Dick Werling, Betty Sprayberry, Gage Wright, David Foote, Shelia Floyd Burton, Jamie Hardy, Todd Hoaglin, Terry Boyd, Betty Etheridge, Charles Vawter, Craig Hunnicutt, Jerry Henderson, Mack Howell, Jan Gibson, Millard Starnes, R. C. Wakefield, Betty Riggs, Lenny Hatala, Jimmy Persons, Family of Norman Basden, Tim Norris, Nancy Schoener, Glenda Ivey, Harold & Becky Brooks, Glenda Styres, Carol Ann Hawkins, Dot Blocker.

IN HOSPITAL: Sarah Whitman-CVMC, Cheryl Dobson-Brookwood.

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

YOUTH NEWS and OTHER STUFF



Discovery Weekend is coming! Yes, believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about Discovery Weekend again. Our weekend to celebrate the junior high students will be February 2-4, 2018. Letters to junior highs will go out in December. We need you to participate. Whether you are a student or an adult, we need your

help. We need OVERNIGHTERS, meal fixers, snack fixers, decorators, prayer warriors, table leaders, shower hosts, setter-uppers, taker-downers, cleaners, and the list goes on and on. I hope that all junior highs will come for the weekend, and I hope that all senior highs and adults will consider taking part in some way. There are quick jobs and weekend-long jobs. It is the most well-attended youth ministry event of the year! Believe it or not, these two alums are helping to lead the event this year! Lord, help us! Just kidding!

Body 4 Believers small group meets at 5:30pm on Mondays. We usually watch videos from founder Greg Locklear. You should come check it out. The success stories are numerous.

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.

Mr. Chuck =-)

Chuck Terrell, Youth Pastor to the stars
chuck@firstmethodistchurch.com
256-267-1300

Children's Corner



SNACKS WITH SANTA!

Sunday, December 17th
2pm—4pm
Fellowship Hall
\$5 per ticket

Bring your camera to capture the moment!

Children's Corner Calendar

- December 3rd- Children's Christmas Pageant at 6pm
- December 6th- Christmas Spirit Lesson
- December 13th- Caroling at the Nursing Home. Leave at 5:30.
- December 17th- Snacks with Santa at 2pm.
- December 20th- Come in your Christmas Pajamas for a Christmas Movie. We'll have hot chocolate and popcorn. Movie starts at 5:30pm.
- December 24th- Christmas Eve Service at 6pm
- December 27th- NO CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES
- January 3rd- NO CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES
- January 10th- Back to normal schedule.

May the Peace and Joy that Christmas brings always be with you and your family.

Praying you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

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



FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN - DAYCARE

Kindergarten Christmas Programs

Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am.

Monday, December 11 (K-3), Autumn, Lindsey, Lynda, Briana,
Tuesday, December 12 (K-4, K-5), Meade, Jessica, Brandy.

MOTHER'S DAY OUT

First Methodist will start a Mother's Day Out Program this summer. The hours are 8am to 12 noon Wednesdays and Fridays. All children who are 2 years of age and not enrolled in our kindergarten / nursery program are invited to attend.

Registration fee is \$50.00. The cost for each month (June and July) is \$120.00. We must have at least 5 children to enroll. If you are interested please call me at 256-249-2300 Ext. 26.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **MEALS on WHEELS**: the **2nd Friday** and the **4th Friday** are open. We need volunteer for these days beginning in Jan., 2018. This is an important ministry of our church. Call the church office.
- ◆ **FUMC CARE HOUSE food items for Christmas Baskets: GREEN BEANS.**
- ◆ **DECEMBER CALENDAR of Events:**
 - Dec 3rd: 6PM Children's' Musical in Fellowship Hall**
 - Dec 10th: 6PM Christmas Cantata: "The Jesus Gift"
 - Dec 17th: 2PM Snacks with Santa in Fellowship Hall
6PM Sylacauga High School Choir Concert — Sanctuary
 - Dec 18th: 6PM Charge Conference
 - Dec 24th: 6PM Candle Light service
 - Dec 31st: 10:30AM Combined Worship Sanctuary
- ◆ **Address Change:** Ann Porter, Aspire, 575 Southland Dr., Room 111, Hoover, AL 35226

FUMC Children's Choir



Sunday, December 3 - Children's Choir presents
AN ABC Christmas - 6pm

Wednesday, December 6 - Regular choir rehearsal - 5pm

Wednesday, December 13 - Choir at 5pm. Caroling at
the nursing home and hospital at 5:30pm

Sunday, December 17 - Snacks with Santa - 2-4pm

Wednesday, December 20 - Choir at 5pm. Pajama party
with a movie and hot chocolate at 5:30pm

Sunday, December 24 - Sing "Silent Night"
at the 9am and 11am services

OUR STEWARDSHIP

November, 2017

Contributions	\$56,578.00
Expenditures	\$57,924.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	52
Casual 'n Christ	111
Grounded	65
Traditional Worship	64
Live Stream	65

LaKeisha Crocker

Children's Choir

256-762-5229

lakeishacrocker@gmail.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- 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

December

2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 6:00PM -CHILDREN'S MUSICAL NO BREAD	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 6pm– Christmas Musical “The Jesus Gift” NO BREAD	11 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 9:30am Kindergarten Christmas Program	12 9:30am Kindergarten Christmas Program 6:00pm- Knit Together	13	14	15	16
Care House FUMC Volunteers Dec.11th—14th						
17 2PM– Snacks with Santa in F.H. 6PM– Sylacauga High School Choir Concert NO BREAD	18 5pm-Finance Committee 6pm-Charge Conference	19	20	21	22	23
24 6PM Candle Light Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30am Combined Worship —NO BREAD—						