

The First News

Information published as of: February 28, 2018
Issue 03-18

MARCH 2018



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

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

THE MARKS OF SIN

Once upon a time, there was a father who said to his son one Monday morning, “Bring me a piece of wood, a handful of nails and the hammer.” The boy did as his father asked. His father said, “Son, take this piece of wood, nails and hammer to your room. Every evening before saying your prayers and going to bed, I want you to think of every bad habit, bad word, or terrible thought you might have had toward someone. For every one of these, take a nail, and with your hammer, drive the nail into the wood. Next Saturday night, before you go to bed, bring me the piece of wood.” The son, promising to be obedient, did as his father requested.

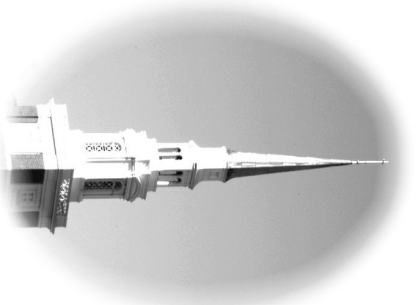
For the next several nights, the boy prepare for bed. He said his prayers and before going to sleep, he thought of all the things he did that day that were wrong. He thought about his laziness at school, not going straight home after school like he was asked, bullying a younger kid at school, a bad word he said when the teacher gave homework, and taking an apple that didn’t belong to him. For everything he did or said, he took a nail and drove it into the wood.

On Saturday night, he took the piece of wood to his father. When the father saw that several nails had been driven into the wood, he told his son, “Now, go back to your room, ask God to forgive you and to help you do better, take your hammer and pull the nails out of the wood. When you are finished, come back to see me.” The son did as his father asked.

When the son returned to his father, he gave him the piece of wood with no nails in it and said, “Look father, all the nails are out!” His father said, “Yes, the nails are out, but the holes are still there. Let this board teach you that even though God takes away our sins, there are always scars that remain and those scars are in Jesus’ hands”

Blessings


James



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

105 E. SPRING STREET
SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA
256-249-0362

Published monthly by the
First United Methodist Church
Sylacauga, Alabama
Publication (USPS 937-980)

 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
Presents*

Sing OUT '18 *Gatlinburg - March 24-27*

*Please be in prayer for our Youth Worship
Ministry as we prepare to sing the Gospel to
the people of East Tennessee!*

*Your donations & contributions are much
appreciated!*

*March 18th, 11am – NWC will perform at
FUMC Ashland*

(Bill Brown, pastor)

*April 1 (Easter Sunday), 6pm – Homecoming
Worship / Sanctuary*

See you at CHURCH!!!

David Simpkins

256-404-4109

david@firstmethodistchurch.com or

georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com

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, Alex Dickinson, 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, Tripp Pickering, Cindy Diffie, Shannon Nickolson, Kevin Geeslin, John Comer, Heather Adair, Shirley Pearce, Eli Fortner, Donnie Winfrey, Connie Farr, Nancy Taylor, Henry Blair, Betty Sprayberry, Gage Wright, David Foote, 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, Tim Norris, Glenda Ivey, Harold & Becky Brooks, Glenda Styres, Carol Ann Hawkins, Dot Blocker, Troy Skinner, Nick Menzies, Barbara Hemphill (Kay Nail's sister), Family of Tracey Stuffle, Family of Brian Morris, Cheryl Dobson, Rocco Gray.
IN HOSPITAL: Don Hodges-CVMC.

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

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

The world never needed Lent as it needs it now. Life is so strenuous and our pace so rapid. "The world is too much with us." We are so apt to forget that we have immortal spirits. Lent teaches us to be still and sense the presence of God, and listen to the still, small voice. An observance of this blessed season cannot but make us better, stronger, purer, and saner, as it prepares us for the life that shall endless be.

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

March 4

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Sam and Delphine Watters** by Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Watters; Rusty Watters; Brad, Kristal, Maddie & Harper Stewart..

March 11

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Dorothy Roberts Moore** by Penny Moore.

March 18

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **C. Elliott & Helen Robbs Wallis** by Don & Jan Serviss Wallis and Family.

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Richard E. & Ophelia C. Serviss; Mary C. Gosnell and Juanita Conville** by Richard Serviss, Jr.; Joe Serviss; and Don & Jan Serviss Wallis and Families.

March 25

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Allen Wood** by Marion & Rita Wood and Nan & Jerry Henderson.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Jimmy Hare by Jerry & Marese Rayfield.

In Memory of Willa Dean Lewis by Jerry & Marese Rayfield.

In Memory of Joe Swindall by Jerry & Marese Rayfield.

In Memory of Roscoe Slagle by Earl Lewis.

In Memory of Sue Thompson by Upper Room Class, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Clifton, Earl Lewis.

YOUTH NEWS and OTHER STUFF

**CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR TO STAY UP TO DATE
WITH WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOUTH**
www.firstmethodistchurch.com



Discovery Weekend was great as always! We had a record-breaking 148 students and adults involved this year. It was awesome. Check the recap video on the church website.

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,

Children's Corner



You are invited!
Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Hop right this way:
Saturday, March 31st at 11am!
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.

March Calendar

March 7th- Spring into Jesus Lesson

March 14th- Relay Night

March 21st- The Easter Story

March 28th- NO Children Activities (Spring Break)

March 31st- Easter Egg Hunt at 11am on the Front Lawn

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



FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN - DAYCARE

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION

Mark Tuesday, March 13th on your calendar. We will have OPEN REGISTRATION in the director's office on second floor of the Kindergarten from 7:30am – 5:30pm. A \$50.00 registration fee is required. You may also register your child for the summer program at this time. (\$35.00 registration fee).

A Mother's Day Out program will be available for the months of June and July. Registration for the 2018-2019 school year MDA program (August through May) can be done at this time.

Please call 256-249-2300 if you have any questions. Additional information is available at the church's information desk.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Monday –Byron White’s Bible Study** will resume on April 9th at 9:30am . Study will be “GRACE”. All are invited to attend.
- ◆ **WE NEED YOUR HELP! EASTER EGG HUNT– Saturday March 31st .** 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.
- ◆ **Sing OUT ’18 Gatlinburg** is under production! Thank you for your support of this ministry.
- ◆ 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. Also, we will be making a trip to Upper Sand Mountain Parrish after Easter. If anyone would like to send clothes or anything that can be sold in their thrift store, call me at 256-404-4781. Thanks you, Helen White.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

February, 2018

Contributions	\$53,578.00
Expenditures	\$55,297.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	72
Casual 'n Christ	145
Grounded	118
Traditional Worship	70
Live Stream	39

Children’s and BUBBAS Choirs March 2018



March 7 - Children’s - 5pm

BUBBAS - 5:30pm

March 14 - Children’s - 5pm

BUBBAS - 5:30pm

March 21 - Children’s - 5pm

BUBBAS - 5:30pm

March 28 - No rehearsal

March 31 - Easter Egg Hunt - 11am

LaKeisha Crocker


Children’s Choir

256-762-5229

lakeishacrocker@gmail.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	<div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h1>MARCH</h1> <h2>2018</h2> </div>	
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	2	3
4	5 9:30am NO-Byron White – Bible Study	6	7	8	9	10
11 	12 9:30am NO-Byron White – Bible Study 5:30pm Trustees Meeting	13 6:00pm- Knit Together		15	16	17
18	19 9:30am NO-Byron White – Bible Study 11:30am-UMW Exe Mtg. 5pm-Finance Committee 6pm-Administrative Board	20 10:00am UMW Circle I & II 2:00pm UMW Circle III 6:30pm GNO “First Day of SPRING”	21	22	23	24
25	26 9:30am NO-Byron White – Bible Study	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm	30	31 Easter Egg Hunt 11AM
NWC - SING OUT 2018 DEPARTS Sunday, 25th >>>> RETURNS Thursday, 29th						