

# The First News

Information published as of: July 30, 2017  
Issue 08-17

## AUGUST 2017



**Our Mission:**  
Bringing People to Jesus  
Building up Believers

### NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

I write this in the glow of our worship experience Sunday, July 23rd as we celebrated the New World Choir Reunion. It was a great service. Reverend Ray Crump then preached a sermon from Isaiah 6:1-6 and the familiar text of Isaiah's salvation experience and his call to discipleship. God asked the question, "Who will go for us and whom shall I send?" Isaiah responds, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

**Salvation is always followed by a call to discipleship.** Every Christian is not only saved from sin and set free for eternity in Heaven, but we are also "called" of God for faithful discipleship while we are here in God's world. **There is no such thing as a "sit and sing" Christian.** We are called to service in God's Kingdom. **You are not too young, too old, too inexperienced, too over experienced, too busy, too disabled, too contemporary, too old fashioned, too conservative, or too liberal. If you are a Christian, you qualify.**

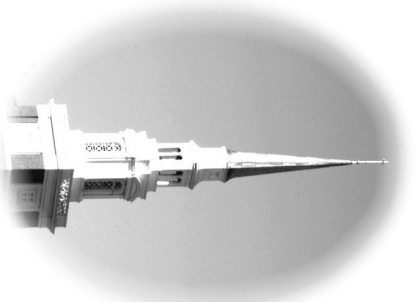
When we joined the United Methodist Church, we took a vow to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Our service to the church cannot be a secondary priority taking back seat to our other priorities in life. A tithe for our service is just as important as our tithe for our finances.

With this said, I want to encourage you to consider giving service to your church by letting me know where you feel called to serve. In a few weeks, the Nominating Committee will be looking to fill several leadership positions in the church for 2018. We need persons to serve on the Leadership Team, the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and the Nominating Committee. In addition, we need women to step up and guide our United Methodist Women. We also need some persons to serve in Missions, Shepherding of our congregation, Evangelism and the follow-up of our visitors, and we are looking to revitalize our United Methodist Men. We need additional Holy Communion Stewards, persons who can come to the church and help with tasks such as changing light bulbs, set-up of tables and chairs for special events, someone to be in charge of taking care of the Baptismal in the Fellowship Hall, a Sunday School Director, Stream Team and audio persons who will help on Sunday mornings, Chancel Choir members, Sunday School teachers, volunteers to help with children on Wednesday nights, and even persons who can help open and lock the building on Sunday mornings.

So, if you were wondering where you could serve, these are just a few of the areas open for service. God is asking, "Who will serve in these areas? Whom shall I send?" I hope you will respond, "Lord, here am I. Send me."

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](http://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](http://www.firstmethodistchurch.com)

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# MUSIC & WORSHIP

## Choir Members Needed!

*Chancel Choir – Youth Choir –  
Children’s Choir*

*Let your voices be heard! Make a joyful noise!*

### **Chancel Choir (Adult Choir)**

Rehearsals Begin – Wednesday, August 9, 6pm

#### **Christmas in August Workshop**

Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-12noon – Lunch

### **New World Choir (Youth Choir)**

Kick-off Retreat – August 11-13

Regular Rehearsals Begin – Sunday, August 20, 4pm

### **Children’s Choir (4th-5th Grades)**

Rehearsals Begin – Wednesday, August 16, 5pm

### **Bubba’s Choir (6th Grade)**

Rehearsals Begin – Wednesday, August 16, 5:30pm

### **Handbell Choir**

Adult Members / Various Worship

Rehearsals Begin -Tuesdays, August 8, 4pm Room 306

## **Additional Worship & Arts Ensembles**

\***Praise Band** (Adult Members -Service Rotation / 9am Casual ‘n Christ  
Worship / Reh - Wed, 7:30pm)

\***Stream Team(s)** (Adult & Youth / Various Worship / Provide Media for 3  
Worship Services)

**David Simpkins**

256-404-4109

[david@firstmethodistchurch.com](mailto:david@firstmethodistchurch.com) or  
[georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com](mailto:georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com)

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

**In Memory of Gwen Turner** by Travis & Averiett Wesson.

**In Memory of Jimmy Hare** by Travis & Averiett Wesson,  
Larkin & Rickie Radney, Jerry & Sheila Gilbert, Earl Lewis,  
Lyman Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Craig Miller, Bob & Ruth  
Mary Norris, Hope Class, Joanne Herold, Wade Bain Family,  
Capital City Sharpening, Bill Haynes, Raymond & Glenda  
Styres, Anne O. Gray, Sue Machen McGee Wind.

**In Memory of Stanley Heinfeld** by Anne O. Gray.

**In Memory of Joann Boykin** by Marion Wood, Jerry & Nan  
Henderson.



## **KAIROS MINISTRY**

The men of Kairos #18 Team extend their thanks to each of you for your support for our four days (July 17-20, 2017) of ministry to the men at Talladega FCI (Federal Correctional Institution).

Your support, with your prayers, AGAPE and finances makes this ministry a success. This was especially true this year, because some of the team members and participants took time off from their jobs to make this walk with God.

The prayer chain and other AGAPE was a big hit with the participants attending. We had more AGAPE and the prayer chain was longer than last year which was a great year.

Some of the participants kept asking if some one was praying for them at that moments or children took the time to color the many posters just for them. The answer was YES, and they would walk away like they had been given the keys to heaven.

These men come to the program looking for answers to many questions about God’s love for them.

Your prayers and AGAPE give them hope they have not been forgotten and God loves them.

Thank you,

Willie Johnson / Kairos Team Member



## ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

### August 6

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in honor of Drs. Clay and Renee Davis by Connie Farr.

### August 13

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Clyde Machen** by Vivian Machen; Jim & Sue (Machen McGee) Wind; Steve & Jan (Machen) Dickson; Matt, Kim, Samuel, David, Katie, Jacob, Sarah & Anna McGee; Steve, Melissa, Austin & Abby Bonneau; Andrew, Alex and Adalyne Dickson.

### August 20

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Parker Cather** by Ruth Cather & Family.

### August 27

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

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**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Leslie Morris, 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, Pat Carver, Ashley Sanders, Anna Love, Lee J. White, Edna & 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, Bob & Ruth Mary Norris, John Comer, Heather Adair, Daniel Kissic & Family, Family of Harold Hyatt, Shirley Pearce, The Family of Linda Terry, James Hayes, Debbie Deese, Eli Fortner, Donnie Winfrey, Wanda Phillips, Connie Farr, Nancy Taylor, Henry Blair, Julia Truelove, Dick Werling, Betty Sprayberry, Gage Wright, David Foote, Shelia Floyd Burton, Family of Hilda Hall, Pam Kirby.

**IN HOSPITAL:** Sarah Whitman-CVMC, R. C. Wakefield.-Fairhaven.  
*(Please notify the church office of anyone to be added or removed from the prayer list.)*

## YOUTH NEWS



### **GATHER. Worship Collective.**

It's coming. This is a project that Dawson has been working on to kick off the school year for youth. There will be special musicians and speakers at each event. Three Wednesday nights in August: 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. You don't want to miss it. Upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders, get in the UMYF loop by coming every Wednesday! All grades: There will be a special door prize each Wednesday night for the student that brings the most first time visitors! Three nights only (for now!) You need to experience... **GATHER.**

Body 4 Believers small group meets at 6:00pm on Mondays. We usually watch videos from founder Greg Locklear. You should come check it out. The success stories are numerous.

Speaking of small groups, I have openings this fall for Accountability Groups. We usually meet for breakfast before school. I lead the young men's small groups, and I am still looking for an adult female to lead the young ladies. Accountability Groups are REAL and deal with REAL issues facing teens every day. Confidentiality is a must! Groups should be no more than 3 or 4 students, and meetings are generally from 6:45am until 7:30am. I can schedule other times if needed. It's a tough time to be a teenager. Everyone needs accountability. Talk to me about it.

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  
chuck@firstmethodistchurch.com  
256-267-1300



# Children's Corner



- August 2nd– NO Children's Activities
- August 9th- **Back to School** Bash at **The City Pool** from 6pm-8pm
- August 13th- Bring your book bag to church for **"Blessings of the Backpacks"**
- August 16th- 5:30pm Snack Supper  
6:00pm Back to School with Jesus lesson  
6:00pm Confirmation meeting
- August 20th- Promotion Sunday
- August 23rd- 5:30pm Snack Supper  
6:00pm Shine with Jesus lesson
- August 30th- Movie Night! Be sure to bring a friend.  
Show starts at 5:30pm

—**Confirmation Classes** are scheduled for September 6 through October 25 - each Wednesday evening from 6:00pm until 7:00pm. The room number will be announced later. Confirmation Class is for any 5th, 6th, and 7th graders (and any others who feel the need to attend). Confirmation Class is about learning who God is and how God has shown us his love and grace through the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. We will also learn about the Sacraments, the Church and what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and a faithful member of the Church. We will be using material called "The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith" by Phil Tallon. It is important that I have some idea of who will attend these classes. They are open to anyone interested in knowing about the Christian faith and wanting to become part of the Church.

**There will be a required meeting of parents and students for those interested on Wednesday, August 16 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

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



## FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN - DAYCARE

### 2017-2018 LINE-UP

The first day of school will be Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. We are excited that we have a wonderful staff ready for these beautiful children.

**K-5** – Gerita Meade;

**K-4** – Jessica Cleveland and Brandy Smith,

**K-3** – Autumn Myers, Lindsey Desot, Lynda Ivey, and Briana McNeel.

**2 yr olds** – Lisa McCain, Jamie Blankenship, Felicia Carter, and Crystal Hamm,

**1 yr olds** – Dawana Barnett, Teresa McDonald, Mildred Devine, and Randa Gaither,

**Infants** – Brandy Davison, Katlyn Giddens, Denise Jackson,

**Floaters** – Demea Jones, Jessica Ward.

Deasia Twymon is a member of our afternoon staff.

We are proud of all these employees. We strive to keep the children safe and happy. Bible stories and blessings are a large part of our program as well as the ABEKA curriculum.

Come see us sometime and watch a child grow in Christ.

*Dee Dee Mathews, Director*  
**256-249-2300**

#### **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

July, 2017

Contributions	\$55,878.00
Expenditures	\$54,210.00

#### **ATTENDANCE / Average for Month**

Sunday School	65
Casual 'n Christ	116
Grounded	46
Traditional Worship	200
Live Stream	116

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

- ◆ **NEW CLASS:** Byron White will be teaching a new bible study for adults beginning **Monday, August 14th** at 9:30am in room 105. This study is a follow up to the spring class on the Synoptic gospels. The new study is John, The gospel of Light and Life. The resource is Adam Hamilton's book by the same title. Please come and join in this study.
- ◆ **Wednesday, August 16,** 6pm Confirmation class Parent/student meeting in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ A big **THANK YOU** to Leslie Lucas, the other adult leaders, and the kids who participated in the FUMC Bible School. They collected some 500 nonperishable food items for the Care House, and we can't thank them enough. The Care House serves a great purpose in our community, and without gifts of this kind it could not continue to operate. Blessings and thanks, Earl Lewis, Director.
- ◆ Please note: We have cleaned out cabinets in the kitchen. We have available plates, cups, saucers, dessert plates and bowls (sets of 12). Come by office if you are interested.

## 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

## FUMC Sylacauga Children's Choir

**I am very excited about this year's Children's Choir.**

ALL children (ages 4-5th grade) will rehearse together on Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm in the upstairs Children's choir room.

There will be BUBBA'S Choir (6th grade only) on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 downstairs in the BUBBA'S room.

We will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, August 16.

The date for our Christmas program is Sunday, December 3 at 5pm in the FUMC Sanctuary.

I would also like to continue our children's participation in Sunday morning worship, whether that be as a group or individually. I will have a sign-up sheet for these performances.

I am looking forward to another wonderful year with your children at FUMC Sylacauga.

Please do not hesitate to come to me with any questions or concerns.



**August Bible Verse**  
**Ecclesiastes 12:1-3**  
*"Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor Him in your youth before you grow old and say, 'Life is not pleasant anymore.' Remember Him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky. —*

**August 16—** Children's and BUBBA'S choirs begin.  
Children's at 5pm and BUBBA'S at 5:30pm.

**October 25—** NO CHOIR REHEARSALS

**December 3—** Christmas production

**January 10, 2018—** Rehearsals resume

*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- 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 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 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 * 6:15pm— 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
		1	2 NO CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES NO-Chancel Choir NO-Praise Band	3	4	5
6	7	8 Handbell Choir 4pm-Fall Programs	9	10	11 NWC Kick-Off	12 NWC Kick-Off
13 NWC-SINGING	14 <b>9:30am-MMBS Begins</b> <b>9:30am-Bible Study</b> <b>Begins</b> 11:30am-UMW Exe Mtg. 5:30pmTrustees Meeting	15 10am- UMW Circle I & II 2pm- UMW Circle III	16 6:00pm Confirmation Class Parent/students Meeting in Fellowship Hall.	17	18	19
20 NWC 4-5:30pm Rehearsal	21 5pm-Finance Committee 6pm-Leadership	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	<b>30</b>	31		