

The First News

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Issue 02-18

FEBRUARY 2018



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

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

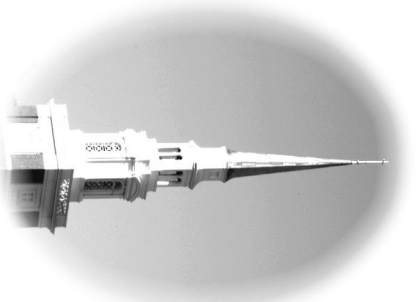
You might remember Waylon Jennings' song, "Lookin' for Love." Some of the lyrics were, "I've spent a lifetime looking for you, single bars and good time lovers, never true, playing a fool's game, hoping to win. Telling those sweet lies and losing again." Another verse said, "When I was alone then, no love in sight; and I did everything I could to get me through the night. Don't know where it started or where it might end, I turn to a stranger, just like a friend." Then the chorus said, "I was looking for love in all the wrong places, looking for love in too many faces, searching your eyes, looking for traces of what I'm dreaming of. Hoping to find a friend and a lover, God bless the day I discover another heart, looking for love."

As I listened to that song today on the radio, I thought to myself, "How many people live their lives like this spiritually?" Even Christians find themselves looking for love in all the wrong places. If you can relate to this, I have some good news. You do not have to wait another moment to begin looking for Christ. It is possible for you to begin right now. Remember God's love for us means that God is already reaching out for us. It is not a matter of us looking for God. God has already found us.

If you find yourself looking for God, perhaps you have been looking in all the wrong places. I know this can be very discouraging. God seems so far away when we need God the most. Remember when the women came to the tomb on that first Easter morning looking for Jesus? An angel asked them, "Who are you looking for?" "Jesus," they answered. The angel said, "Why are you searching for the living among the dead?" So where is God when you need God the most?

God shows himself to us in so many ways if we only have eyes to see him. He is there. But, you say, "Don't just tell me God shows himself through other people." I'm not saying that. God has his own unique ministry of presence in addition to God's revelation through other people. God, through his Holy Spirit, stands at our elbow and calls our name. Just listen. God is there.


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

Worship is not a spectator sport! It is not a concert! It is God's people DOING SOMETHING! Worship is when we blend our hearts and voices together to magnify and glorify our Lord! We need people who are being called to be leaders in worship, as the Levite Priests of old. Please consider joining one of our worship leading ensembles, and help us lead people into the presence of the Lord each and every week!

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays – 6pm, Choir Room

*Answer God's call to help us lead 11am Worship!
Your presence is MUCH needed!*

New World Choir

Sundays – 4:30pm, Choir Room

***Sing OUT '18 Gatlinburg is under production!**
Deposits & Commitments Due ASAP!
FUMC! Thank you for your support of this ministry!*

Praise Band

Wednesdays – 7:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Handbell Choir

Tuesdays – 4:00pm

Join us! You can RING for the Lord, too!!!

Children's Choir

Wednesdays – 5pm, Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday Celebration – April 1st

See you at CHURCH!!!

David Simpkins

256-404-4109

david@firstmethodistchurch.com or
georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Terry Barnett by Raymond & Glenda Styres, Joe & Willie Harris, Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins, Anne O. Gray. Jim & Jane Hare Sims, Rex & Linda McAdam, Nick & Janice Menzies.

In Memory of Kathy Brown by Anne O. Gray.

In Memory of Mildred Davenport by Jim & Jane Hare Sims.

In Memory of Jimmy Hare by Jim & Jane Hare Sims.

In Memory of Edna Hickman by Nick & Janice Menzies, Joe & Willie Harris.

In Memory of Dee Shell by Anne O. Gray, Hope Class, Bill & Anne Hare.

In Memory of Joe Swindall by Mickey & Sandra Morton, Raymond & Glenda Styres, Ralph & Clarene Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Green, Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins, Margery McBride, Ashley & Lane Sanders, Mark & Debra Easterwood, Taylor & Lydia Pursell, Jim & Jane Hare Sims, Purpose Seekers Class, Tommy & Donna Brown, Tony & Joann Mitchell, Travis & Averiett Wesson, Earl Lewis, Rex & Linda McAdam, Nick & Janice Menzies, Neal & Jan Reynolds, Glenn & Rachel Jones, Jerry Fielding Family, Steve Bowen, Jim & Kay Nail, Don & Mary Harvard, Asa & Donna, Lawrence & Andrew Farr, Monday Night Apps Group, Timothy Project Class, V.A. & Sandra Crawford, Ellen T. Carroll, David & Laure Wilbanks.

In Memory of Georgeann Veazey by Marble Valley Daughters of the American Revolution, Raymond & Glenda Styres.

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

February 4

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Styres and Mr. & Mrs. O. L. Peters** by Raymond & Glenda Styres.

February 11

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **John Durden** by Lorez Durden; Rita & Family; and Dylan & Family.

FLOWERS in the Narthex are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Nell Whetstone Sarvis** by Paul Sarvis; Paul Sarvis, III; and John & Ellen Sarvis.

February 18

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in **Celebration of Helen White's Birthday** by Her Family.

FLOWERS in the Narthex are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Louise Wakefield** by R. C. Wakefield.

February 25

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **The Deceased Members of our Families** by Travis & Averiett Wesson; Wallis & Jimie Wesson; John & Katie Wesson.

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, Sammy Blocker, 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), Don Wallis.

IN HOSPITAL: Cheryl Dobson-Brookwood.

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

YOUTH NEWS and OTHER STUFF

I am preparing for Discovery Weekend, so the newsletter article looks a little different this week. I just want to tell you what is on my heart. Our first Discovery Weekend, Penny Moore was working in the prayer chapel. The first night of the Weekend, she prayed with the first speaker of the weekend, Leigh Terry. Leigh was to give a talk entitled "Why I Love My Church". After her time with Miss Penny that night, Leigh discarded the speech she had written and went downstairs and delivered an extemporaneous speech. Her speech basically told the story of the lady in the prayer chapel that was praying for her, even as she spoke, and she ended her talk by telling the gathered students that she loved her church because of people like Penny Moore.

This brings me to two points. The first point is, how many of our elderly church members do you keep in touch with? Some of them don't get very many visitors. (Some of them do not necessarily want visitors, though. You need to check with Karen in the church office or family members before making a visit). It may be that a visitation ministry is what you are called to do. Maybe "adopt a grandparent." Just food for thought.

The second point is this: who in the church, if asked to give the speech that Leigh gave, would say, "I love my church because of people like YOU?" Now when I say you, I am talking about you, dear reader. Whose life have you impacted for the Kingdom?

If you cannot think of anyone, then you have prayers to pray. I pray that God would give you wisdom to know what your job is in the Kingdom. I pray that God would put the person in your path that you are especially gifted to minister to. Remember, ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church.

Love all.

Chuck

Mr. Chuck =-)

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

Children's Corner

Lots of fun things going on in the Children's Department at FUMC. So make sure to be there and bring a friend.

February Children's Corner Calendar

February 7th- Valentine Dance!!!



February 14th- *Ash Wednesday*

5:00pm—Children's Choir

5:30pm—Children's Corner

6:15pm—Pick up

6:30pm—Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary

February 21st- "I Have Jesus in My Heart"

February 28th- Movie Night!!!

Mark Your Calendars

Easter Egg Hunt - March 31st at 11am



VBS- June 18th- 22nd.

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



FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN - DAYCARE

KINDERGARTEN MOVING ONWARD AND UPWARD

First Methodist Kindergarten is alive and kicking. So many things going on – all for the good. We have grown by eight children in the past two months. We now have a total of 132.

New parents come in and say “We heard y’all are the best!” That is so nice to hear. We strive for the best in all we do. May take a few steps to get there and once we get there we take a few more. So proud of this ministry. Come visit us and see for yourselves what goes on.

MOTHER'S DAY OUT PROGRAM will begin accepting children NOW. Days are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Time is 8 am to 12 noon. Registration is \$50.00. At this time tuition will be \$15.00 per day. We are hoping to go year round beginning in August. Hope everyone stays warm and healthy!

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.
- ♦ **FRIDAY, Feb 2-4 DISCOVERY WEEKEND!**
- ♦ **February 8th**, 11AM –Fellowship Hall. **“JOY”** - Just Older Youth– Join the 55+ group for fun and a delicious lunch. Make your reservations to attend by February 1st.

Children’s & BUBBAS Choirs February, 2018

February 7th - Children’s - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

February 14th - Children’s - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

February 21st - Children’s - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

February 28th - Children’s - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

OUR STEWARDSHIP January, 2018

Contributions	\$48,945.00
Expenditures	\$53,309.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	85
Casual 'n Christ	102
Grounded	72
Traditional Worship	48
Live Stream	47

Bible Verse

“and the greatest of these is love.”

I Corinthians 13

LaKeisha Crocker

Children’s Choir

256-762-5229

lakeishacrocker@gmail.com

crockerl@syllacauga.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

February

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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					DISCOVERY WEEKEND ! Feb 2nd — Feb 4th	
4	5	6	7 Children's- Valentine Dance!!!	8 11am: "JOY" Fellowship Hall	9	10
11 SCOUT SUNDAY	12 5:30pm Trustees Meeting	13 6:00pm- Knit Together	14 11am –and- 6:30pm Ash Wed Service in Sanctuary <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17
18	19 11:30am-UMW Exe Mtg. 5pm-Finance Committee 6pm-Administrative Board (Leadership)	20 10:00am UMW Circle I & II 2:00pm UMW Circle III 6:30pm GNO	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			