

The COMMUNICATOR

First United Methodist Church

Making lifetime followers of Jesus Christ

January 5, 2018

Name Badge Sundays

Name tags help others learn your name and you learn their name. They show hospitality to guests. They will help our new pastors get to know the members of the congregation.

We will have temporary name badges available for the following Sundays:

January 14; January 21; January 28; February 4; & February 11.

If you already have a name badge please wear it on each of these Sundays.

Membership Sunday (January 21, 2018)

We would love to have you as a member of First United Methodist Church! We believe that any baptized person is baptized into the "whole" church. The local church is where we are fed and challenged to grow as disciples.

- You are able to join the church on this designated Sunday with several others that have already decided to join.
- You may join by transfer of membership if you have an active membership in a church somewhere else.
- You may have your membership restored if you have no active membership.
- If you have never joined a church, you may join by professing your own faith in Jesus Christ. If you have never been baptized, we would be thrilled to share in that exciting time with you.

If you want to learn more about the United Methodist Church and FUMC Opelika, Robin and/or Patrick will be happy to meet with you personally. It will be an honor and privilege to serve with you as we "Make Lifetime Followers of Jesus Christ."

Spiritual Gift Assessment

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.
- Frederick Buechner

As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to be in ministry, serving others and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Often we need help to identify our spiritual gifts in order to see how we can best serve our community. Through finding our purpose and skills, we begin to understand how God has uniquely made us and how we can live our lives to our fullest potential.

You may go to <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts> to discover your gifts. Assessing your gifts will help you determine how to connect with the volunteer opportunities available in our church and in our community. After you discover your gifts, be in prayer about how you are called to share them in service to God in our church. A list of volunteer ministry opportunities will be published next Sunday. How strong we are in 2018 with over 1200 people serving God in their areas of strength together!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 7

8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
5:00 p.m. - Jr. High Youth
5:30 p.m. - Sr. High Youth

Monday, January 8

8:45 a.m. - Sonshine Preschool

Tuesday, January 9

8:45 a.m. - Sonshine Preschool
1:00 p.m. - Prison Ministry
6:00 p.m. - eTeen
7:00 p.m. - Methodist Women (Evening Group)

Wednesday, January 10

7:00 a.m. - Men's Devo
5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Night Supper
5:00 p.m. - M.A.T.T. (Meals And Teen Tires)
5:15 p.m. - Children's Choir
6:00 p.m. - Wednesday Connection Programs
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 11

8:45 a.m. - Sonshine Preschool
5:15 p.m. - LAFF

Friday, January 12

3:30 p.m. - Youth Leave for Ski Trip

LAITY MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Greeters

8:30 a.m.: Wallace & Lorene
Paschal
Ogie & Teresa Ogletree

11:00 a.m.: Tyson, Heather,
Witt, & Laura Tyson Daffin and
Jim & Sara Nan Levins

Acolytes

8:30 a.m.: Myles Tatum
& John Dickson Parker

11:00 a.m.: Emily Gaberlavage &
John Thomas Gaberlavage

Cross Bearer (11:00 am)

Libby Gaberlavage

Ushers

8:30 am: John Parker (Captain),
Blake Epperson (Co-Captain),
Allen Bush, John Reichmann,
Chuck Wacker

11:00 am: Kenneth Boggs
(Captain), Clay Harper (Co-
Captain), Ramsey Anabtawi, Jim
Beach, Josh Brown, Bill Levins,
Richard Shackelford

Sound & Video

8:30 a.m.: Caroline Bush
11:00 a.m.: Nathan Goff
& Peter Elliott

Nurturing Notes

Paula Plan

Welcome Notes

Peggy Dyar

Flower Ministry

Vikki Hendricks, Colleen
Alsobrook
& Sara Raley

Tuesday Office Volunteer
Jo Lovell

Prison Ministry

Ron & Sharon Rooks, Colleen
Alsobrook, Margaret Rogers,
Danielle Goff

Hospital Visitors

Jan. 8: Lynn Harrington
Jan. 9: Jo Lovell
Jan. 10: Bob Ingram
Jan. 11: Joe Harrington
Jan. 12: Lindy White

Outlive Your Life

On Sunday, January 14th, our church will begin a 5-week sermon series called, "Outlive Your Life." During this time, Pastors Robin and Patrick will preach through some of the key stories in Acts – stories of how the first church in Jerusalem expanded their impact to become a world changing force. At the same time, we will be examining our own lives in relation to our mission and the legacy we are leaving in the world. During these 5 Sundays (Jan. 14 - Feb. 11) our Sunday school classes will be participating in the Outlive Your Life curriculum. We are excited by the challenge to "outlive" our lives and believe this will be a time of personal, spiritual growth as well as a time of learning new ways we can expand our influence and make a difference in our community and in the world.

If you are not currently in a Sunday school class but would like to participate in this church-wide study, please email Patrick at patrickcraig@fumcopelika.org

Youth News

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH

Every Sunday morning up in the Cross Cafe from 9:30 - 10:30. Milk and cereal and God's Word!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH ON 1/10 and 1/17

M.A.T.T. from 5 - 6pm then J Groups from 6 - 7pm
O Town Ice Cream from 6:15 - 7pm on 1/10/18.

YOUTH SKI TRIP IS JANUARY 12/15!

NO SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH AT THE CHURCH ON 1/14/18. Youth will be on Ski Trip.

YOUTH CHOIR STARTS BACK ON 1/21/18

Thank You. . .

Dear Church Family,

Thanks you for your prayers.

At age 80, I suppose the last thing I wanted to hear was that my appointment at the UAB Hospital, a place I have never visited, was set for Dec. 8th for 6 hours of surgery with a doctor I have never met to repair an abdominal aortic aneurism and yet when the anesthesiologist came to my side and asked if I was ready I replied with a strong YES. I felt surrounded by God's love, peace and strength. There was no fear! I attribute this to God's answer to the many prayers offered on my behalf. Thanks to each of you and Thanks Be to God.

Joe Harrington

P.S. Never Stop PRAYING!

MEMORIALS

Laurel Blackwell
by Ann & David Canon

**Beverly Collins; Ray Henderson;
& Warner Williams**
by Judy Smith

Era Claire Collins
by Boody Brown; Ann & David
Canon; George & Peggy Dyar;
Susan & Peter Elliott;
Sherry & Richard Freeman;
The Harris Family;
Jeffrey Kisaul & Tommy Braswell;
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Levins;
Barbara Sims; Judy Smith

Tom Lovell
by Fay Burns;
George & Peggy Dyar;
Susan & Peter Elliott

Bob Mayfield
by Peter & Susan Elliott

Mary Rose Smith
by Fay Burns

Ileta Sumners
by Boody Brown; Fay Burns;
Ann & David Canon;
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Levins;
Barbara Sims;
Bette & Doug Vaughan

HONORARIUMS

Mildred Beals
by Judy Smith

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance

Sunday School: 92

Morning Worship: 286 (84/202)

Giving

Weekly Offering: \$30,038

WEDNESDAY CONNECTION Begins this Wednesday, January 10

Dinner is served from 5:00 to 6:00. Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, Mixed Green Salad, Rolls, & Dessert
Reservations for dinner can be made by:

1. Placing the Dinner Reservation card found in the pew rack in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.
2. Calling the Church Office at 745-7604
3. emailing Laura Boggs at: lauraboggs@fumcopelika.org
4. Register using the "Ministries", then "Discipleship" tabs on the church website.

DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED NO LATER THAN NOON ON MONDAYS.

ADULT PROGRAMS

The True Measure of a Man

Facilitator: Eric Canada

Room Thoroughman Class

Jan. 10 - Mar. 14

This Men's only Study based on the book by the same title, provides liberating truth on how to be set free from the fear of failure, comparing ourselves to others, and the false ideas we have about masculinity. You don't have to be a business executive or professional to be driven by an insatiable desire for recognition and success. Men from all walks of life are prone to competition and comparison. This study presents new parameters for assessing your worth as a man because the old measurements simply don't work when times get tough!

Biblical Zionism by Malcolm Hedding

Facilitator: Barbara Sims

Bible Basics Classroom

Jan. 10 - May 2

Brown bag dinners will need to be supplied by participants after March 28.

This 16 week DVD-based study will show participants God's purpose for Israel, the Church and the nations. Susan Michael, US Director of ICEJ says "Through this study you will come to understand God's plan for you and the world that has been in place since before eternity, and reveal mighty acts of God throughout history fulfilling that plan. The story of the Bible is the story of God's love for the world... Central to this story is the calling on the nation of Israel." A minimum of 6 participants are needed for this study, and pre-registration with Laura Boggs is required.

Entrusted-A Women's Study by Beth Moore

Facilitators: Ellen Canada and Jean Heath

Room 303

Jan. 10 - Feb. 21

****Each session begins at 5:45**

"God has a plan for you. He has entrusted you with the gospel message and has gifted you to carry it to the furthest reaches of this planet. He's calling you to be His mighty servant, willing to face whatever difficulty you encounter as you carry out His mission. Join us in this 6-week video study of 2 Timothy.

12 Extraordinary Women

Facilitator: Matt York

Room 308

Jan. 10 - Feb. 21 & repeats Feb. 28 - Mar. 28.

Based on the book of the same title, this study explores the courage, vision, hospitality, and spiritual gifts of twelve women who worshipped and served one true God, how God shaped them, and what He wants to do with you.

Christianity, Judaism, and Islam: A Comparison and Contrast of the Three Major Faiths

Facilitator: Ramsey Anabtawi

Room 309

Jan. 10 - Feb. 21 & repeats Feb. 28 - Mar. 28.

This study will explore the foundations, history, beliefs, and practices of the three major world faiths, and compares them to each other so that we will truly know the answer to the question, "So, what's the difference?"

What Does It Mean to be a United Methodist?

Facilitator: Robin Wilson

Room 310

Jan. 10 - Feb. 28

"So, I'm a Methodist and I don't really know why?" Join Robin for a lively look at the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church. This study is open to life-long Methodists, new Methodists, and those exploring membership.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Please register your child so we can prepare for each Wednesday Night.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR 5:15 – 6:00

2 & 3 years old meet in Room 105

4 year - Kindergarten meet in Room 106

1st - 6th grade meet in Room 301

PROGRAMS 6:00 -7:00pm

INFANTS - 2 YEARS OLD in Rooms 100 & 101

with Jolene Clark, Wendy Counts, & Donna Moreman

3 YEARS OLD in Room 102 with Dawn Whitlow

4 YR – KINDERGARTEN in Room 103 with Payton Tatum and Katie Epperson

The Armor of God.

1st - 6th GRADE on the third floor with Drew Speakman

Big City Studio - Jesus: The Early Days, Lessons from the gospels

YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAMS

M.A.T.T.

Meals and Teen Tires meets in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 to prepare boxed meals for delivery to shut-ins.

J Groups

meet from 6:00-7:00p.m. on the 4th Floor. Come study the word of God in small groups and learn practical applications to your life.

Contact: Rick Lane, Director of Student Ministries at ricklane@fumcopelika.org

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Our **Health Care Ministry Team** is located in the foyer of the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday night from 5:15-6:00 to check blood pressure and answer other simple health related questions.

Contact: Chona Lane

PRAYER MINISTRY meets in **Room 307** from 6:00 to 7:00p.m.

Contact Chona Lane or Caroline Bugg for more information and to make a prayer request.

MUSIC MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Chancel Choir

The Adult Chancel Choir meets in the Round Room from 7:15 to 8:45. Music for all Sunday worship services, Lenten and Easter special services will be rehearsed. The first 30 minutes will be used for anthem rehearsal for the upcoming Sunday.

Contact: Mary Virginia Norris, Director of Music Ministry at marynorris@fumcopelika.org

Prayer Concerns

EAMC:

Sam Bailey
Jean Meadows
Dot Mitchell
Celia Satterwhite (*Ruth Meadows' mother*)

M.D. Anderson:

Trinchua Dukes

Home:

Peggy Aiken (*Ann Canon's niece*)
David Alexander (*Marcia Alexander's husband*)
Barbara Allen
Pam Alsobrook
John Askew
Becky Bailey
Jim Beach
H S Bence
Sharolin Bravo
Edna Caldwell
Bette Corley (*Nann Ogletree's mother*)
Jerry Coughlin
Betty & Hal Cummings
Anne Grady
Barbara Hartley (*Marrell Hartley's mother*)
Lilli Jackson
Cordelia Kliner
Betty Lawrence
Doug Mitchell, Sr.
Genna Mitchell
Donna Mowery (*Jim Levin's daughter*)
Dot Norrell
Cora Reames (*Rhonda Boothe's mother*)
Ron Rooks
Bill Samford
Fran Smith
Sandra Smith (*Ric Smith's mother*)
Theron Sorrell (*Jake Thompson's grandfather*)
Emilie Tucker
Jill Turner (*Tori Beth Thompson's mother*)

Out of Town:

Annie Louise Antley (*Priscilla Blythe's grandmother*)

Evan Ashby (*Macy Finck's cousin*)
Bob Bowen (*Julia Moreman's brother-in-law*)
Shirley Brown (*Ginger Perkins' sister-in-law*)
Sally Buck (*Billy Ogletree's mother*)
Cody Burns & family (*Lynn Harrington's nephew*)
Gail Colvin (*cousin of Bobbie Hamilton, Becky Saggus, Fran Smith*)
Bill Cook (*Al Cook's brother*)
Shannon Cook (*friend of Earle & Kenny Wilkes*)
Scott & Christy Ellis (*friends of Rick Lane*)
Bill & Anita Finck; Romilda Westenhofer (*Macy Finck's grandparents*)
Traci Hart (*Pam Hope's sister-in-law*)
Sam Hayes, Jr. (*Sharon & Ron Rooks' grandson*)
Allen Liu (*Wei Beach's nephew*)
Michael Marcades
Lexi Melton (*great niece of Stanley Melton, III*)
Bob Miller (*Sam Bailey's brother-in-law*)
Kelly Oliver (*Lynn Harrington's niece*)
Sherry Parrish (*Meg Branch's step-mother*)
Lauren Ragsdale (*Michael Bass's sister*)
Marian Rogers (*Emily Finck's grandmother*)
Carolyn Sell (*Jo Vaughan's daughter*)
Jackie Spann (*Terri Knight's sister*)
Rick Vetra (*Karen Bush's cousin*)
Bobby Woodruff (*Caroline Bush's uncle*)

Military:

Beau Carroll (*friend of the Perkins*)
Tyler Carter (*son of Tommy & Lynn Carter*)
Michael Fischer, T J Fischer, & Frank Rielly (*friends of Phyllis*

& Jim Mayfield)
Robert Groszmann (*Bob Ingram's nephew*)
Garrett Guess (*Becky Bailey's nephew*)
Dalton Lucas (*son of Todd & Stacey Lucas*)
Chandler Norris (*cousin of Mary Virginia Norris & Louisa Wood*)
Alex Pendergraph (*Janet Taylor's grandson*)
Jacob Ramus (*Phyllis & Jim Mayfield's son-in-law*)
Kennard R. Smith (*friend of Anne & Sheldon Whittelsey*)
Ronnie Snyder (*grandson of Arden Snyder*)
Bubba Sumrall (*son of Leslie Sumrall*)
Drew Tatum (*son of Crawford & Lynn Tatum*)

Christian Sympathy is expressed to . . .

Jean Meadows & all of the family & friends upon the death of Jean's sister-in-law, Martha Ross Meadows "Rossie" Culley.