

The COMMUNICATOR

First United Methodist Church

Making lifetime followers of Jesus Christ

February 23, 2018

Exciting Front Porch Project Update

For many years, noticeable dips, cracks, and standing water could be seen on the front porch of our Sanctuary. Underneath in the boiler room, leaks and deteriorating bricks were visible. Beginning in mid-January, with the help of J.A. Lett Construction, we began the process of rebuilding our front porch. This rebuilding will not only make the porch structurally sound, but will also breathe new life into one of the main entrances to our church. Our goal is to have the project completed by Easter Sunday. Thank you for your patience and willingness to use alternate entrances into the Sanctuary while this project is underway.

Can You Hear Us Now? An Update on Our Phones

If you have tried to call the church office over the past couple years, you might have experienced the inability to get through or your call may have been dropped mid-conversation. It has been just as frustrating for the staff. Preparations for upgrading our phone system were underway, including putting new phone lines in each office, but it was a recent power outage that required us to move more quickly with our upgrading plans. With a big thanks to Opelika Power Services, we now have faster internet and a more reliable phone service hosted by OPS. We have more exciting IT upgrades coming soon.

My Jerusalem Work Day – Saturday, March 3rd

My Jerusalem is when God's people have a burden for those in their community who have brokenness in their life. It is when God's people take action to rebuild the broken. FUMC is scheduling a work team for Saturday, March 3rd!!! Everyone has a gift, talent or skill that can help our team. Sign up now! Email Eric Canada ecanada@myops.net or sign up @ the Reception Desk on the 1st floor.

Poverty Meal hosted by Trinchua Dukes

It has been placed on my heart by the Holy Spirit to host a poverty meal at my house (1704 Spruce St., Opelika).

Monday, February 26th, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Rice and water will be served.

Fast morning and lunch meal that day and pray.

Donations are being requested for the amount of money you would spend on an "out to eat meal".

All proceeds will go to FUMC Backpack food program.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA EPISCOPAL AREA
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAVID W. GRAVES
RESIDENT BISHOP

February 15, 2018

Rev. Robin Wilson
Opelika First UMC
702 Avenue A
Opelika, AL 36801

Dear Robin,

As we settle into 2018, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for paying 100% of your apportionments to the ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church. Your faithfulness allowed ministry to happen here locally and to the ends of the world. You made a difference in the lives of many people. In addition, we witnessed record giving to disaster response in 2017. Thank you!

Because of your faithfulness, and our mission that the Alabama-West Florida Conference exists to assist the local church, we have enclosed a check for you to put back into your church's ministry. We are sending a check to the 404 congregations that paid 100% of their conference apportionments to fulfill our desire to be the best stewards of your money. We are returning the monies that we did not spend from your apportioned giving. The amount is based upon the percentage your church was apportioned, number of churches paying 100%, and the amount received.

Thank you for trusting us. To continue our work together, we want to build upon that trust as we say thank you. What will 2018 hold? Only God knows. Yet as we remain faithful, we know the best is yet to come!

Please express our sincere thanks to your congregation and let us continue to celebrate our work together.

In Christ,

Beebe Frederick

Chair of the AWF Conference Finance and Administration

David Graves

Bishop of AWF Conference

LAITY MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Greeters

8:30 a.m.: Randy & Oline Price; Myles, Payton, Myles, Jr., & Banks Tatum

11:00 a.m.: O D & Colleen Alsobrook; Jim & Wei Beach

Gathering Music

Charles Bonner

Acolytes

8:30 a.m.: Caroline Couey & Myles Tatum, Jr.

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

Cross Bearer (11:00 am)

Ben Royal

Sound & Video

8:30 a.m.: Nathan Goff

11:00 a.m.: Will Levins & Peter Elliott

Ushers

8:30 am: Kenneth Boggs (Captain), Jim Mayfield (Co-Captain), Michael Bass, Brian Blackmon, Charlie Couey, Jonathan Patterson, John Wilson

11:00 am:

Bob Boothe (Captain), Jason Halverson (Co-Captain), Norris Alsobrook, Bill Levins, Richard Moreman, Billy Ogletree

Welcome Notes

Pat Brown

Nurturing Notes

Phoebe Branch

Monday Flowers

Vikki Hendricks, Colleen Alsobrook, & Sara Raley

Tuesday Office Volunteer

Jo Lovell

Prison Ministry

Anne Whittelsey, Rebecca Sanderson, Brenda Woods, Margaret Rogers, Danielle Fornea

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance

Sunday School: 210
Worship: Sunday Morning - 396
Ash Wednesday - 198

Giving

Weekly Offering: \$10,530

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 25

8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
4:00 p.m. - One Accord
5:00 p.m. - Sunday Night Youth
6:00 p.m. - Wesley Ringers

Monday, February 26

5:30 p.m. - Communications & Evangelism Team

Tuesday, February 27

1:00 p.m. - Prison Ministry
5:30 p.m. - Courageous Conversations
6:00 p.m. - eTeen

Wednesday, February 28

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. - Classes
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 1

5:15 p.m. - LAFF

Friday, March 2

Saturday, March 3

8:00 a.m. - My Jerusalem Work Day

Wednesday Connection Dinner (served from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.)

Menu: Chicken & Rice Casserole, Sautéed Green Beans, Fruit Salad, Rolls with butter, & Dessert

Reservations for dinner can be made by:

1. Placing the Dinner Reservation card found in the pew rack in the offering plate.
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.

MEMORIALS

H S Bence: John Bell Realty; Susan & David Housel

Celia Satterwhite: Dr. & Mrs. Mike Lisenby

Era Claire Collins: Don Lawrence

Ethel Story: Jimmy Burdette

Betty Lawrence: Richard & Patty McLeon

IT'S A BOY

Congratulations to Jim & Whitney Davis upon the birth of their son,
John Forest Davis.

John Forest was born February 17, 2018, weighing 8 lbs., 1 oz. and 21 inches long.
He is the grandson of Kenneth & Laura Boggs.

"VBS" (Vacation Bible School)

Save the date for VBS: June 18 - 21

We need volunteers!!! Please contact Priscilla Blythe or Drew Speakman if you can help!

Youth News

Sunday Morning Youth

Every Sunday morning on the 4th floor in the Cross Cafe from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Milk and cereal and God's Word!

Sunday Night Youth on February 25th

Jr Hi "One Accord" Choir from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Jr Hi Youth from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sr Hi "One Accord" Choir from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sr Hi Youth from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Youth on February 28th & March 7th

M.A.T.T. from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

J Groups from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Night Youth on March 4th

Jr Hi & Sr Hi "One Accord" Choir from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SURGE Night from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.

Bring your friends!

Prayer Concerns

EAMC:

Jim Royal (*Kevin Royal's father*)

UAB: John Bishop

(*Mary Roberson's father*)

Regional Rehab (Phenix City)

Dot Norrell

Pooker Robertson

Emory:

Lea Botsford Perez

(*daughter of Betty Botsford & sister of Leslie Anabtawi*)

Home:

David Alexander

(*Marcia Alexander's husband*)

Barbara Allen

John Askew

Sharolin Bravo

Ann Canon

Mable Collins (*Arbor Springs*)

Mary Collins

Bette Corley

(*Nann Ogletree's mother*)

Betty & Hal Cummings

Tommy Davis

David Dorsey, Sr.

Trinchua Dukes

Kay Gifford (*friend of Stevie & Charlie Couey*)

Anne Grady

Lola Grossman (*daughter of Deborah & John Mitchell*)

Kathy Groves

Barbara Hartley

(*Marrell Hartley's mother*)

Corinne Hurst

Dot Mitchell

Genna Mitchell

Donna Moreman

Ron Rooks

Fran Smith

Sandra Smith

(*Ric Smith's mother*)

Theron Sorrell

(*Jake Thompson's grandfather*)

Emilie Tucker

Jill Turner

(*Tori Beth Thompson's mother*)

Jody Wilkerson

(*Deborah Mitchell's brother*)

Joe Wilson

Starnes Windsor

(*brother of Pam Alsobrook*)

Out of Town:

Peggy Akin (*Ann Canon's niece*)

Annie Louise Antley

(*Priscilla Blythe's grandmother*)

Evan Ashby (*Macy Finck's cousin*)

Scott Boggs

(*brother of Kenneth Boggs*)

Bob Bowen

(*Julia Moreman's brother-in-law*)

Shirley Brown

(*Ginger Perkins' sister-in-law*)

Sally Buck

(*Billy Ogletree's mother*)

Gail Colvin

(*cousin of Bobbie Hamilton, Becky Saggus, Fran Smith*)

Bill Cook (*Al Cook's brother*)

Shannon Cook

(*friend of Earle & Kenny Wilkes*)

Bill & Anita Finck;

Romilda Westenhofer

(*Macy Finck's grandparents*)

Traci Hart

(*Pam Hope's sister-in-law*)

Sam Hayes, Jr.

(*Sharon & Ron Rooks' grandson*)

Carolyn Hicks (*Lisa Abercrombie's mother*)

Graham Lane (*friend of Sherry & Richard Freeman*)

Allen Liu (*Wei Beach's nephew*)

Maggie Joy Mclain

(*Pam Alsobrook*)

Lexi Melton

(*great niece of Stanley Melton, III*)

Bob Miller

(*Sam Bailey's brother-in-law*)

Paxton Jane Norman

(*infant great-granddaughter of Ann & David Canon*)

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*)

Missionary

Orphanage Emmanuel:

Rachel Canada

(*daughter of Ellen & Eric Canada*)

Christian Sympathy

Mike & Kim Mann; Hank & Abby

Mann; David & Ann-Braxton Smith upon the death of Mike's father, Huey Mann.