

# The COMMUNICATOR

## First United Methodist Church

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*Making lifetime followers of Jesus Christ*

March 2, 2018

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*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,  
so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.*  
– Romans 12:2

You have heard me preach and proclaim that all Christians do not share the same views on every issue. We were not created to be clones of one another, but we are all made in the image of God; brothers and sisters in Christ, gifted by the Holy Spirit to journey together in this life. We are called to lift each other up, to hold one another accountable with grace and love, and to do our best to discern God's will, and live it. This cannot be done without great humility, great compassion for one another, and great faithfulness to our God and to one another.

It humbles me every time I serve the sacrament of Holy Communion and see people kneel beside each other at the same communion rail, desperate to receive God's grace and love. And when I look into those faces and know part of their stories, I see Republican and Democrat, I see young and old, I see black and white, I see rich and poor, I see gay and straight, and all kneel shoulder to shoulder partaking of the same sacrament at the same table. For Christians humble themselves before God and place the love of Christ above any issue that would divide us.

We, as gathered Christians, hear in the communion liturgy that we are indeed the Body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Then we boldly petition our Almighty God, "By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet."

I wonder if we grasp what these words might mean for us? To be one with Christ, which will mean that often our way and our will is wrong. To be one with each other despite our vast differences so that our witness is even stronger. To be one in ministry to all the world, which means struggling with our fear of the stranger, of the "other" that we encounter in the world.

In response to all that God has given us through Jesus Christ – let me invite you to find a brother or sister in Christ here at First UMC who may hold different views than you on world issues affecting our daily lives. Engage them, pray with them, study with them, and go serve with them in this world and change our community!

As we look to the way God is moving in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and as we open ourselves to relationships and service with them, our ministry to all the world becomes more authentic. Then the world will see the glory of a God who calls us all to come and follow.

Yours,



Robin Wilson  
Senior Pastor  
[robinwilson@fumcopelika.org](mailto:robinwilson@fumcopelika.org)

## LAITY MINISTRY THIS WEEK

### Greeters

8:30 a.m.: Bill & Barbara Kent;  
John Reichmann

11:00 a.m.: John & Deborah Mitchell;  
Jerry & Ginger Perkins

### Gathering Music

Shannon Cason

### Acolytes

8:30 a.m.: Bryce & Sara Kate  
Speakman

11:00 a.m.:  
Sam & Erin Kemp

### Cross Bearer 11:00 am

Garland Grace Welsh

### Sound & Video

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

### Ushers

8:30 am: John Parker (Captain), Blake  
Epperson (Co-Captain), Michael Bass,  
Allen Bush, Richard Pelham,  
John Reichmann

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

### Welcome Notes

Peggy Dyar

### Nurturing Notes

Barbara Kriel

### Monday Flowers

Vikki Hendricks, Bill & Nell Samford

### Tuesday Office Volunteer

Earle Wilkes

### Prison Ministry

Sara Nan Levins; Charlotte Ward;  
Edna Caldwell, Margaret Rogers,  
Danielle Fornea

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## ATTENDANCE & GIVING

### Attendance

Sunday School: 235  
Worship: Sunday Morning: 392

### Giving

Weekly Offering: \$16,925

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## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, March 4

7:30 a.m. - Men's Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. - Worship  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
4:00 p.m. - One Accord  
5:30 p.m. - Sunday Night Youth – "Surge Night"  
6:00 p.m. - Wesley Ringers

### Tuesday, March 6

1:00 p.m. - Prison Ministry  
6:00 p.m. - eTeen

### Wednesday, March 7

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. - Wed Night Studies  
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir

### Thursday, March 8

5:15 p.m. - LAFF

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

**Menu:** Homemade Lasagna, Mixed Green 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](mailto:lauraboggs@fumcopelika.org)
4. Register using the "Ministries", then "Discipleship" tabs on the church website.

## MEMORIALS

**HS Bence:** Agnes Green; Joyce Windsor

**Era Claire Collins:** Betty Letlow

**Albert Killian:** Jo Vaughan

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The sacrament of Holy Communion will be served this Sunday during our Worship Services. The offerings you leave on the communion rail will be given to ARM (Alabama Rural Ministries).

Their vision is to eliminate substandard housing in rural Alabama. By restoring hope and building dreams we are making Sweet Homes for Alabama and extending an arm of Christ's love.

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### **My Jerusalem Work Day – TOMORROW, March 3<sup>rd</sup> (8a.m. – 4p.m.)**

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.

For more information email Eric Canada [ecanada@myops.net](mailto:ecanada@myops.net)

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### **"VBS" (Vacation Bible School): June 18 - 21**

#### **Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity**

Experience the thrill of traveling back to ancient *Babylon* with Daniel and his friends. We need volunteers!!! Please contact Priscilla Blythe or Drew Speakman if you can help!

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## 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 March 4<sup>th</sup>**

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!

### **Wednesday Night Youth on March 7<sup>th</sup> & March 14<sup>th</sup>**

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 11<sup>th</sup>**

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.

Second Sunday Worship

Sr Hi Grocery Pack

# Prayer Concerns

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## **EAMC:**

Dot Norrell  
Jim Royal (*Kevin Royal's father*)

## **UAB: Emory:**

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

## **Home:**

David Alexander  
(*Marcia Alexander's husband*)  
Barbara Allen  
John Askew  
Dean Bledsoe  
Sharolin Bravo  
Mable Collins (*Arbor Springs*)  
Mary Collins  
Bette Corley  
(*Nann Ogletree's mother*)  
Betty & Hal Cummings  
David Dorsey, Sr.  
Trinchua Dukes  
Kay Gifford (*friend of Stevie & Charlie Couey*)  
Anne Grady  
Lola Grossman (*daughter of Deborah & John Mitchell*)  
Kathy Groves  
Lou Harrelson  
Barbara Hartley  
(*Marrell Hartley's mother*)  
Corinne Hurst  
Dot Mitchell  
Genna Mitchell  
Donna Moreman  
Pooker Robertson  
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*)  
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*)