

# The COMMUNICATOR

## First United Methodist Church

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*Making lifetime followers of Jesus Christ*

March 23, 2018

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Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. This is the lasting image that is etched into our minds. Jesus rides into Jerusalem but he isn't invited. Jesus is not issued an invitation by the mayor. He is not offered a key to the city. No one invited Jesus and, yet, there he is. What a beautiful image of the way God comes to us, even when uninvited! What a wonderful reminder of how God seems to show up in the most unlikely places!

Several years ago, I read a book called *The Shack* and there is one line within its pages that has stayed with me through the years. At one point in the book, a character named Mack is having a conversation with Jesus. In this conversation, Mack asks a very familiar question. Mack asks Jesus, "Do all roads lead to you?" Jesus responds, "No, not at all. Most roads don't lead anywhere. What I do mean to say is that I will travel any road to get to you."

Jesus will travel any road to get to you! Jesus travels the road from heaven to earth. On Palm Sunday, Jesus travels the road from Bethany to Jerusalem. On Good Friday, Jesus travels the road we know as the Via Dolorosa – The Way of Suffering. Jesus traveled all these roads and more to get to you. He traveled all these roads and more to proclaim his message of forgiveness, mercy, and hope.

As we approach Palm Sunday, I can't help but think about the roads we travel. Some of them are pleasant, but others are not. Perhaps it is the road to work every day. Maybe it is the road to school. Maybe you've been traveling the road to the hospital to care for an aging parent or a friend who is sick. As we travel these roads, Jesus wants us to do the things that he did. Jesus wants us to offer words of forgiveness, mercy, and hope so that others along the road might notice, as we have, that God has come.

This Holy Week, as we travel our different roads, may we be reminded that we are often the means by which others encounter the face of Jesus. In the face of Jesus is the very power of God, yet it is filled with all tenderness and compassion. On the cross, we see the face of God's relentless love for you and for me. When we encounter this love, we believe and we wouldn't dare leave. But even if we try, God continues to pursue us along the road. God continues to pursue us...always...even to the grave.



Rev. Patrick Hitchman-Craig  
[patrickcraig@fumcopelika.org](mailto:patrickcraig@fumcopelika.org)

## **Holy Week Worship**

**Palm Sunday, (March 25)**

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*Remembering the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem*

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**Maundy Thursday (March 29)**

7:00 p.m.

*Remembering the Last Supper*

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**Good Friday (March 30)**

7:00 p.m.

*Remembering the Crucifixion through Tenebrae (Service of Darkness)*

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**EASTER SUNDAY (April 1)**

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



**Easter Egg Hunt  
Palm Sunday, March 25**

4:00p.m.—5:30p.m.

@ the Welsh's home  
(2506 Oak Bowery Road Opelika)



**FLOWERING CROSS  
Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Please bring fresh flowers to place on the cross  
before each service. It will be located on the  
sidewalk in front of the sanctuary.*

## LAITY MINISTRY THIS WEEK

### Greeters

8:30 a.m.:  
Fred & Brenda Woods

11:00 a.m.:

Fay Burns & John Rice  
Margaret Walker

### Gathering Music

Charles Bonner

### Cross Bearers

8:30 a.m.: Carlyle Blackmon  
11:00 a.m.: Joulilian Rowton

### Banner Carrier:

8:30a.m.: Ansley Plan  
11:00a.m.: Adam Cason

### Acolytes

8:30 a.m.: Erin Kemp  
& Barrett Galimore

11:00 a.m.: Caroline Couey  
& Cohen Crews

### Torch Bearers:

8:30a.m.: Hudson Galimore &  
Sam Kemp

11:00a.m.: Susannah Couey &  
Susan Gaston

### Sound & Video

8:30 a.m.: Nathan Goff

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

### Welcome Letters

Pat Brown

### Ushers

8:30 am: Blake Epperson  
(Captain), Jim Mayfield (Co-  
Captain), Brian Blackmon, Charlie  
Couey, Jonathan Patterson, Jake  
Thompson, & John Wilson

11:00 am: Bob Boothe (Captain),  
Jason Halverson (Co-Captain),  
Norris Alsobrook, Tyson Daffin,  
Bill Levins, & Billy Ogletree

### Nurturing Notes

Barbara Kriel

### Tuesday Office Volunteer

Jo Lovell

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## ATTENDANCE & GIVING

### Attendance

Sunday School: 171  
Worship: Sunday Morning: 313

### Giving

Weekly Offering: \$15,214

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## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Palm Sunday, March 25

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

### Monday, March 26

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

### Tuesday, March 27

### Wednesday, March 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)  
6:00 p.m. - Wed Night Studies  
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir

### Thursday, March 29

7:00p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service

### Good Friday, March 30

7:00p.m. - Tenebrae Service

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

**Menu:** Baked Potato Bar, Fresh Fruit Cups, Mixed Green Salad, Cobbler & Ice Cream

**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.

## IT'S A BOY

Congratulations to Boykin & Fran Smith upon the birth of their grandson, Grayson Heflin Smith. He was born March 14, 2018. Grayson is the son of Shellie & Jeff Smith.

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Our church pictorial directory is almost ready for print! If you or your family **do not want** to have your information printed please contact Beverly by Thursday, March 29, 2018, at the church office.

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**Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Finance Team @ 5:15p.m. (Conference Room)**  
**Board of Stewards @ 6:00p.m. (Sanctuary)**

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## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### Orphanage Emmanuel Mission Trip - July 12 to July 19, 2018

Join us for a life changing trip to Orphanage Emmanuel, Honduras where you will be the hands and feet of Jesus. For more information, please contact Sara Jane Tatum [sjtatum@att.net](mailto:sjtatum@att.net)

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## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### "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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## MEMORIALS

**Robert Edward James**  
Gene & Bo Torbert

**Huey Mann**  
Jimmy Burdette; Mary Carol Hitchcock

## HONORARIUM

**The Welsh Family**  
The McKay Family

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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 25<sup>th</sup>

Jr Hi Choir from 4-5pm  
Jr Hi Youth from 5-6:30pm  
Sr Hi Choir from 4:30-5:30pm  
Sr Hi Youth from 5:30-7:30pm

### Wednesday Night Youth on March 28<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.  
This is the last WN Youth for the Spring. We start back in August.

**NO Sunday Night Youth on April 1st. Happy Easter! Thank You Jesus!!!**

# Prayer Concerns

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## **EAMC:**

Jim Royal (*Kevin Royal's father*)

## **Providence (Anchorage, AK)**

Frazier Moreman (*Julia Moreman's son; Richard & Wallace's brother*)

## **UAB:**

David Davis (*Opelika Firefighter*)

## **Arbor Springs (Rehab):**

Dot Norrell

## **Home:**

David Alexander  
(*Marcia Alexander's husband*)

Dean Bledsoe

Sharolin Bravo

John Carver

Mable Collins (*Arbor Springs*)

Bette Corley  
(*Nann Ogletree's mother*)

Betty & Hal Cummings

David Dorsey, Sr.

Trinchua Dukes

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

Anne Grady

Kathy Groves

Lou Harrelson

Barbara Hartley  
(*Marrell Hartley's mother*)

Corinne Hurst

Crawford Melton

Donna Moreman

Nann Ogletree

Oscar Penn

Julene Pugh

Pooker Robertson

Fran Smith

Theron Sorrell  
(*Jake Thompson's grandfather*)

Emilie Tucker

Jill Turner  
(*Tori Beth Thompson's mother*)

Jody Wilkerson  
(*Deborah Mitchell's brother*)

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*)

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*)

Glynda Holliman (*Sam Bailey's niece*)

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*)

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

June Pyle (*Ken Woolley's sister*)

Marian Rogers  
(*Emily Finck's grandmother*)

Carolyn Sell  
(*Jo Vaughan's daughter*)

Jackie Spann  
(*Terri Knight's sister*)

Hilt Tatum, III (*Corinne Hurst's brother*)

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. . .**

Earl Allen upon the death of his wife, Barbara.