

The COMMUNICATOR

First United Methodist Church

May 25, 2018

Making lifetime followers of Jesus Christ

I've been reminiscing a lot lately. Yesterday, I had the privilege of delivering the commencement address at my high school alma mater in Montgomery. Being back in the place I graduated from just 10 years ago, with many of the teachers and coaches that formed and shaped me has caused me to look back and reminisce. In my reminiscing, I've wondered aloud, "What would I do differently if I could rewind my life?" Have you ever thought about that?

If I could start all over, I would read more history and less "Goosebumps." I would skip over Cartoon Network in favor of PBS. I would listen to more U2 and save the money I spent on my collection of Backstreet Boys albums. I would probably just skip over junior high school altogether. That was rough.

Every once in a while, we realize that our lives could be different and seek to turn over a new leaf. We make lists of everything that has to go and all the things we are going to do more of - exercising, reading great books, spending time outdoors or with the people we love. What would you do if it were possible to start over? What would you do if you could be born again?

In our scripture for Sunday, a Pharisee named Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night and is puzzled by Jesus' riddles. Jesus tells Nicodemus that anyone who desires to enter the kingdom of God must be born from above. "But how can anyone be born after having grown old?" Nicodemus replies. Nicodemus wants to know how he can be born again. Maybe you've felt like Nicodemus before. Maybe you've wondered how to live a new life. Being born again is not the same thing as acting like a nicer person, learning more, or working harder. We cannot give ourselves a fresh start. New life is a gift. Hope and joy come from God. The good news is that the same Spirit that gave life in the first place offers new life over and over again. Thanks be to God that even the dullest day given to God has meaning. The emptiest week committed to love has purpose. The most hopeless life given in faith finds hope in Jesus Christ.



Rev. Patrick Hitchman-Craig

SUMMER PLAYLIST

Summer Playlist

No one sings like United Methodists! Everyone has hymns that have brought them close to God. Indeed, we learn about faith, grace, salvation, and more through these lyrics and melodies that shape us.

During the 5 Sundays of July, we will be singing YOUR favorite hymns, and molding our worship around the ways these special songs communicate the love of Christ. In order to do this, we need your help. Please email Laura Boggs (lauraboggs@fumcopelika.org) with your 5 favorite hymns, and why they are meaningful to you. The top 5 hymns will be the ones we use as our themes each Sunday.

LAITY MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Greeters

8:30 a.m.:
Keith & Phoebe Branch;
Randy & Oline Price

11:00 a.m.:
Bob Ingram & Ben Yates
Beverly Marlett

Gathering Music

Charles Bonner

Cross Bearer

11:00 a.m.:
Julia Bush

Acolytes

8:30 a.m.: Erin & Sam Kemp

11:00 a.m.:
Sarah Bush & Kyle Epperson

Sound & Video

8:30 a.m.: Nathan Goff
11:00 a.m.: Will Levins
& Peter Elliott

Ushers

8:30 am:
Jim Mayfield (Captain),
Michael Bass, Brian Blackmon,
Ben Landers, Jonathan Patterson,
Erik Speakman, & John Wilson

11:00 am:

Bob Boothe (Captain),
Jason Halverson (Co-Captain),
Tyson Daffin, Bill Levins,
Richard Moreman,
& Billy Ogletree

Welcome Letters

Pat Brown

Nurturing Notes

Pat Brown/Jenny Galimore

Flower Ministry

Vikki Hendricks, Jean Heath

Hospital Visitation Ministry

May 28 - Kevin Royal
May 29 - Ginger Perkins
May 30 - Mary Carol Hitchcock
May 31 - Ginger Perkins
June 1 - Danielle Fornea

Tuesday Office Volunteer

Jean Heath

Jail Ministry

Brenda Woods, Nann Ogletree,
Boody Brown, Margaret Rogers,
Danielle Fornea

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

May 20, 2018

Attendance

Sunday School: 187
Worship: Sunday Morning: 348

Giving

Weekly Offering: \$25,356

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 27

8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day - Church Office Closed

Wednesday, May 30

7:00 a.m. - Men's Devo
6:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 31

5:15 p.m. - L.A.F.F.

MEMORIALS

Jan Correll: George & Margaret Walker

Jane Guy: John & Connie Carver; Barbara Sims

Jim Royal: Julia Moreman; Dee Dee & Richard Moreman; Barbara Sims

Father's Day Missions

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone through the Father's Day Missions, please fill out the form below.

IN HONOR OF: _____

and / or

IN MEMORY OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Cost: \$5.00 per name

Deadline is Tuesday, June 12th.

The following missions will receive your gifts:

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

ALABAMA RURAL MINISTRIES

NEW BIRTH MINISTRIES

IT'S A GIRL

Congratulations to Holly & Ryals Sinquefield upon the birth of their daughter,

Dawsie Jean Sinquefield.

Dawsie was born May 21, 2018.

Her big brother is Bram.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Marcus Duncan (Trey) Moreman, III upon graduating from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine with Sigma Sigma Phi honors. Trey will now perform his residency duties in internal medicine at Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina.

Trey is the son of Mark Moreman of Waverly, Alabama and Donna Moreman.

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

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!

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!

NO Sunday Night Youth on May 27th

NO Sunday Night Youth on June 3rd. Sr Hi Youth are in Kentucky!

Jr Hi Girls Swim & Bible Study @ 6pm on Thursday, June 7th at Susannah Couey's house!

Summer Calendars are here!!!

Summer Sign-up Sheets are on the board on the 4th floor!

Start signing up!

Prayer Concerns

Arbor Springs Rehab:

Mildred Beals

Home:

David Alexander

(Marcia Alexander's husband)

Patty Allen

Dean Bledsoe

Lori Botta

Sharolin Bravo

Jan Burke

Mable Collins (Arbor Springs)

Bette Corley

(Nann Ogletree's mother)

Kathryn Cooper

Betty & Hal Cummings

Catherine Davis

Trinchua Dukes

Libby Gaberlavage

Kay Gifford (friend of Stevie
& Charlie Couey)

Anne Grady

Kathy Groves

Bob Hall

Bill Harrelson

Lou Harrelson

Barbara Hartley

(Marrell Hartley's mother)

Dottie Holmes

Bobby Huling

Donna Moreman

Dot Norrell

Oscar Penn

Julene Pugh

Pooker Robertson

Joan Salter

Fran Smith

Theron Sorrell

(Jake Thompson's grandfather)

Judy Welsh (Jeff Welsh's mother)

Jody Wilkerson

(Deborah Mitchell's brother)

Steve Young

Out of Town:

Evan Ashby (Macy Finck's cousin)

Scott Boggs (brother of Kenneth Boggs)

Shirley Brown

(Ginger Perkins' sister-in-law)

Ruth Chen (friend of Wei Beach)

Shannon Cook

(friend of Earle & Kenny Wilkes)

Traci Hart (Pam Hope's sister-in-law)

Sam Hayes, Jr.

(Sharon & Ron Rooks' grandson)

Carolyn Hicks (Lisa Abercrombie's
mother)

Howard Hoch (Sue Bentley's father)

Glynda Holliman (Sam Bailey's niece)

Julia Kirby (Peggy Dyar's mother)

Graham Lane (friend of Sherry &
Richard Freeman)

Allen Liu (Wei Beach's nephew)

Lexi Melton

(great niece of Stanley Melton, III)

Bob Miller

(Sam Bailey's brother-in-law)

Sherry Parrish

(Meg Branch's step-mother)

Lea Botsford Perez

(daughter of Betty Botsford &
sister of Leslie Anabtawi)

June Pyle (Ken Woolley's sister)

Dot Rice (Pat Mayfield & Debbi
Thornton's sister)

Marian Rogers

(Emily Finck's grandmother)

Carolyn Sell

(Jo Vaughan's daughter)

Gladys Shackelford

(Richard Shackelford's mother)

Jackie Spann (Terri Knight's sister)

Hilt Tatum, III (Corinne Hurst's
brother)

Bobby Turner

(friend of Sherri Rowton)

Brian Taylor

(Glenda & Charles Bush's son)

Bobby Woodruff

(Caroline Bush's uncle)

Natalie Woods (Valerie Smith's sister)

Military:

Steven Alvarado

Beau Carroll (friend of the Perkins)

Tyler Carter

(son of Tommy & Lynn Carter)

Michael Fischer, & T J Fischer

(friends of Phyllis & Jim Mayfield)

Robert Groszmann

(Bob Ingram's nephew)

Garrett Guess

(Becky Bailey's nephew)

Paul Leonard (Fay Burns' cousin)

Dalton Lucas

(son of Todd & Stacey Lucas)

Will McKee (son of Mike & Ginger
McKee)

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 extended to Allen, Priscilla, Alli-
Anne & Grant Blythe and all of the
family upon the death of Priscilla's
grandmother, Annie Louise Antley.

. . .is extended to Bill & Betty Hilyer
and all of the family upon the death of
Betty's sister, Lynda Jimmerson.

Israel Trip: (May 28—June 9)

Chona Lane; Tim & Sara Jane Tatum;
Karen & Julia Bush; Suzie Bush; Eric &
Ellen Canada; Connie Carver; Betty
Hilyer; Brooke Hilyer; Barbara Sims;
Ann & Kevin Bennett; Carol & Jaden
Brown; Michael, Bonni & Aaron Hines;
Tim Huckaby; Anne Julian; Cliff &
Toma Knight; Frank & Ellen Laxson;
Hattie Lett; Gary & Jenny Lester;
David & Lydia Martinez; Kenneth &
Debbie Miller; Dee Dee & Blair
Moreman; Lauren Motley; Maurice
Nestor; Reid Parrish; Mike & Alyssa
Payne; Terry & Susan Peoples; Rick
Ruscak; Jim & Shelia Scarbrorough;
Cooka Shaw