

FAMILY MATTERS

I hope you've been enjoying our latest sermon series, "Family Matters." Together we have looked to the witness of Scripture to discover that even the biblical families can be as complicated and messy as our own. This Sunday, as we conclude our series, we will take a look at one of my favorite stories in all of Scripture, the book of Ruth.

Ruth is a story of biblical proportions that includes famine, immigration, death, widows, marriage, justice, and the birth of children of destiny. The book of Ruth is also one of the few places in the male-dominated world of Scripture where women play the major roles and are central characters.

The central characters in our story for Sunday are Naomi, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in Judah, and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, a Moabite. Despite the long-standing rivalry and hatred between these tribes and despite the cultural and religious norms to the contrary, Naomi and Ruth embrace each other in the midst of their grief and fear. In the midst of crisis they become not just family but sacred companions.

It's a fascinating story because scripture is clear, "No Moabite shall be admitted to the assembly of the Lord. Even to the tenth generation, none of their descendants shall be admitted" (Deuteronomy 23:3). In the Israelite worldview, Moabites were the terrible, terrible "other." They were said to be a people of incestuous origins who worshiped false gods and had once refused hospitality and tried to curse Israel. Moabites were not just outsiders but enemies. Deuteronomy says that Moabites have no place among God's chosen people.

And yet through a crazy series of events it is Ruth, the Moabite, who clings to Naomi and displays faithful, loving kindness in the midst of tragedy and turmoil. It is Ruth, the Moabite, who bears witness to the faithfulness of God. It is Ruth, the Moabite, who is ultimately welcomed into the assembly of the Lord despite Deuteronomy's clear injunction against such action. It is Ruth, the Moabite, who gives birth to Obed, who becomes the father of Jesse, who becomes the father of David. It is Ruth, the Moabite, whose family tree ultimately extends to Jesus.

On Sunday, as we worship together and explore what it means to be the family of God perhaps we will discover that defining "family" is more complicated than we once thought. Perhaps that Holy Spirit might move through this ancient story and reveal to us that the family of God is always broader and more expansive than we expect. May God give us the eyes of faith to see, along with Naomi, that when crises emerge and tragedy strikes, the solution to our problem might be someone outside our group. May God give the church ears to hear, along with Naomi, that the key to our survival might be found in reclaiming those we've sent away.



Rev. Patrick Hitchman-Craig
patrickcraig@fumcopelika.org



Wednesday, August 29th

Make plans to join us for MIDWEEK!
5 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Supper
6 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Classes

Menu: Baked Ham, Company Potatoes, Green Bean & Artichoke Casserole, Waldorf Salad, Sister Shubert Rolls, & Dessert

Supper Reservations due by Monday @ 10 a.m. Please register in one of the following ways:

Call the Church (334-745-7604)  Email: lauraboggs@fumcopelika.org

Online: www.fumcopelika.org  Fill out the Blue Pew Card

RADA SALE

United Methodist Women Evening Group will be submitting a Rada order soon. If you would like to place an order you will find a Rada catalog and order forms at the Volunteer Desk in the church office. Be sure to check out the soup and dip mixes. Deadline for ordering is **September 10** and items will be received by mid-October. Direct questions to Betty Letlow, 745-6694.

A CALL TO PRAY!

6:00-7:00pm on Wednesday nights
3rd floor Room 307

Inviting all who would like to pray for the children, youth, and adults in our church and to pray for our community, nation, and world.

Christian Women's Job Corps® of Lee County

Do you know a woman who is in need of help getting into the job market? Christian Women's Job Corps® of Lee County is a faith based, nonprofit ministry that is dedicated to equipping women in need with life and employment skills necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. CWJC reaches this goal by offering FREE courses such as computer skills, budgeting, communication, time management, job skills and Bible study. Interviews are being scheduled now for our fall session, beginning on September 10. For more information, please call Neeley Caldwell at 334-821-0591.

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING

We are offering another opportunity for Safe Sanctuaries training if you have not already been trained with our church. Safe Sanctuaries training is a requirement if you work with the children and/or youth of our church.

Training will be:

Wednesday, August 29th at 5:15 on the 3rd floor



Football Supper - Thursday, August 30th



FUMC will be hosting the Opelika High School Football Team for supper and devotion on Thursday, August 30th!!!



Alex Rainey with Huddle House will again this year provide most of the food but we still need monetary donations to cover the other expenses. If you would like to give to this wonderful community outreach for these young men please mark it "Football Supper".



We need people to help decorate the tables, serve drinks, and clean up.

If you are interested in helping please contact Beverly in the church office (745-7604) or by email beverlymarlett@fumcopelika.org

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 August 26th

Picture Scavenger Hunt!!!

Jr Hi from 5 - 7pm

Sr Hi from 6 - 7:30pm

MIDWEEK Youth on August 29th & September 5th

5 - 6pm is MATT

6 - 7pm is J Groups

NO Sunday Night Youth on September 2nd

MEMORIALS

Kathryn Cooper: Julia & Bobby Huling; Betty Letlow; Lynn & Crawford Tatum

Bo Torbert: Jolene Clark

HONORARIA

A gift has been given to the General Operating Fund in honor of Rev. Robin Wilson, Rev. Patrick Hitchman-Craig, Rev. Rick Lane and all of the FUMC Staff by Cynn timer James.

THE FIVE

a modern expression of a historic faith

Sundays: September 9, October 14, November 11, and December 9

To be a part of our launch team contact Patrick by email
patrickcraig@fumcopelika.org

LAITY MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Greeters

8:30 a.m.:
Fred & Brenda Woods
John Reichmann & Donald Hood

11:00 a.m.:

Jimmy & Mary Collins
John & Deborah Mitchell

Gathering Music

Jim Warman

Cross Bearer:

11:00 a.m.
Jackson Welsh

Acolytes

8:30 a.m.:
Sara Kate Speakman
& Myles Tatum, Jr.

11:00 a.m.:
Claire & Jack McKay

Sound & Video

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

Ushers

8:30 am: Charlie Couey (captain),
Jim Mayfield (Co-Captain), Ben
Landers, Jonathan Patterson, Erik
Speakman, Jake Thompson, &
John Wilson

11:00 am:

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

Welcome Letters

Pat Brown

Nurturing Notes

Julia Moreman

Tuesday Office Volunteer

Jo Lovell

Flower Ministry

Nell Samford, Jean Heath
& Ruth Meadows

Hospital Visitation Ministry

August 27 - Kevin Royal
August 28 - Donna Moreman
August 29 - Ginger Perkins
August 30 - Mary Carol Hitchcock
August 31 - Ginger Perkins

Jail Ministry

Colleen Alsobrook,
Rebecca Sanderson,
Brenda Woods, Margaret Rogers,
& Danielle Fornea

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

August 19, 2018

Attendance

Sunday School: 209
Worship: Sunday Morning: 424
MIDWEEK: 225

Giving

Weekly Offering: \$31,339

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 26

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

Monday, August 27

8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Sonshine Preschool

Tuesday, August 28

8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Sonshine Preschool
5:00 p.m. - E Teen
5:45 p.m. - Trustee Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, August 29

7:00 p.m. - Men's Devo
MIDWEEK
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Supper
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Classes
7:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 30

8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Sonshine Preschool
4:30 p.m. - OHS Football Supper
5:15 p.m. - L.A.F.F.

Prayer Concerns

Home:

David Alexander
(*Marcia Alexander's husband*)
Haldine Baxter
Lori Botta
Mable Collins (Arbor Springs)
Bette Corley
(*Nann Ogletree's mother*)
Betty & Hal Cummings
Courtney & James Daniel
Catherine Davis
Tommy Davis
C J Dodd (*Arole & Esther Marshall's grandson*)
Edgar Edwards
(*Jo Ellen James' father*)
Anne Grady (Camellia Place)
Trey Gafford
Bill Harrelson
Lou Harrelson
Barbara Hartley
(*Marrell Hartley's mother*)
Johnny Johnson
(*Judy Smith's brother*)
Hannah McDonald
(*Shirley & Aaron Harrington's niece*)
Donna Moreman
Dana Morgan (*friend of Pam Hope*)
Dot Norrell
Nann Ogletree
Oscar Penn
Fran Smith
Theron Sorrell
(*Jake Thompson's grandfather*)
Earl Sumners
Jody Wilkerson
(*Deborah Mitchell's brother*)

Out of Town:

Mark Allen
(*Debbie Allen's brother*)
Evan Ashby (*Macy Finck's cousin*)
Mildred Beals (Birmingham)
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*)
Madeline & Sam Hayes, Jr.
(*grandchildren of Sharon & Ron Rooks*)
Carolyn Hicks
(*Lisa Abercrombie's mother*)
Howard Hoch (*Sue Bentley's father*)
Glynda Holliman
(*Sam Bailey's niece*)
Graham Lane (*friend of Sherry & Richard Freeman*)
Doug Letlow (*Betty Letlow's son*)
Allen Liu (*Wei Beach's nephew*)
Buddy Loyd (*Laura Boggs' father*)
Lexi Melton
(*great niece of Stanley Melton, III*)
Bob Miller
(*Sam Bailey's brother-in-law*)
Lea Botsford Perez
(*daughter of Betty Botsford & sister of Leslie Anabtawi*)
June Pyle (*Ken Woolley's sister*)
Ed Reynolds
(*Kim Epperson's father*)
Dot Rice (*Pat Mayfield & Debbi Thornton's sister*)
Marian Rogers
(*Emily Finck's grandmother*)
Jim Sanders
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*)

Leigh Ann Thompson
(*Mike Gaston's sister*)
Greg Wheelus
(*Ginny Gaberlavage's father*)
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*)
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*)