

November 30, 2018

Making lifetime followers of Jesus Christ

The Best Days

On my best days, I am prayerfully prepared and uber-organized for the day ahead. And then there are the other days. You know those days: the days when nothing goes according to plan, when mind, body, or spirit just aren't where they should be. Maybe it is not enough sleep, not enough time in God's Word, or not enough "letting go and letting God," but perhaps you have been there as well.

The more years I live on this earth, the more I see God shine through tumultuous days and hard times. For when I don't try and have all of life coordinated and planned out, I get the reminder of how magnificent **God's** plan actually is! I suppose that's where the season of Advent speaks to my life and my heart. You see, Advent is all about watching and waiting on God's plan to unfold. We are waiting on Christ to come into our world. We are waiting on the Messiah to transform our lives and our families. We are waiting on the only one who can save us. We are waiting anxiously to hear that God is with us! We are waiting on God's plan, God's timing, God's power. We are reminded that there is a Messiah who is coming, and that this Messiah, this Emmanuel is the one who will save us. We do not have to try to save the world, over function, and do so much; we get to let God be God.

So perhaps, our "best" days are not always our best days. My prayer is that on our hardest days, we as an Advent people can see in our waiting, that the Hope of the World, the Prince of Peace, the very Son of God has got this. The best days are coming!

Yours,



Robin

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White Christmas Offering United Methodist Children’s Home

The holidays aren’t all about toys and presents. They are about hope, love, and family. There are children in our communities who have been abandoned & neglected, and do not have the security they so desperately need. The United Methodist Children’s Home with our help give these children the greatest gifts of all and a place called home. A special offering for you to give to will be available **THIS Sunday, Dec. 2nd**, during our Worship Services. You may also give to this ministry at any time.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd @ 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This historical service is rich in meaning for the Opelika community as the congregation of First United Methodist Church decorates the Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Come experience the pageantry and story of Christmas through liturgy and carols.

A reception will follow.

A nursery will be provided for ages 3 years & younger.



Children’s Musical & Advent Festival - Wednesday, December 5th

5:30 p.m. - Join us in the Sanctuary as the Joy & Agape Choirs present “**One Silent Night**” (book written by our own Teresa Viguera).

This uplifting and engaging musical for all ages involves familiar FUMC faces, a time machine, and Motown all surrounding the birth of Jesus.



After the musical we will go to the Fellowship Hall where we all come together and share dinner, fellowship with friends, and fun Advent crafts & activities for kids of all ages from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Menu: Grilled Cheese Sandwiches; Soup; Cinnamon Rolls & Hot Chocolate.



Worship Service
Sunday, December 9th
5:00 p.m.



Angel Tree - This tree benefits foster children through Big House Foundation. The Angel Trees are located in the Fellowship Hall and on the 1st floor children’s hall. The ornaments on the tree are marked with age of gender of the children who will receive these gifts. Take as many ornaments as you would like. Place the unwrapped gifts under the tree with the ornament attached. The unwrapped gifts are due by Thursday, December 13.



Stay tune for more information!!!

New Members

We are excited to receive Jerald & Becky Burkett into our FUMC Opelika membership.

IT'S A BOY!!!

Congratulations to Ettiene & Laura (Thompson) Zambrana upon the birth of their son, Moses Munroe Zambrana. He was born November 26. His big sister is Lily.

Sunday, December 2nd @ 7:30 a.m. Breakfast & Program



Our speaker this Sunday will be Russell Bush, a District Judge of Lee County. He joined the Court in 2000 and has recently been re-elected to a new term. Russell received his undergraduate degree from Auburn University and his J.D. from University of Alabama.

MEMORIAL

Edgar Edwards: Rose Anne Hurd



BackPack Packing

We will pack at the Food Bank on Wednesday, December 12th, from 5:15-7pm. Thanks for all you do! Ellen Royal 334-524-9551



The
Sacrament
of Holy
Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed during worship services this Sunday. The offering you leave on the communion rail will be given to Habitat for Humanity. Their mission is to put God's love into action. Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

FUMC WILL RECYCLE IN 2019!!

We are excited to announce that we will begin recycling in 2019. We will collect recyclables here at FUMC. Our plan is to start off simple and collect any excess paper, magazines, plastic, paper boxes that can go into a city recycle bin. We will not initially collect cans or bottles. These are all recyclables generated at FUMC. We will not be collecting recyclables from church members' homes or businesses.

We are now looking for RECYCLE CHAMPIONS, volunteers that will help us every two weeks to move the recyclables from the church to the Opelika Recycle cans that will be kept at Condon Hall. If you are interested in helping our church to maintain this very worthy cause to save our Earth for many generations to come, please call or email Brenda Woods or Judy Smith to put your name on the schedule.

Brenda Woods 706-773-4892 henry.brenda941365@gmail.com

Judy Smith 334-749-8223

Help us to be better stewards of our planet. God gave us this planet to care for it and it's inhabitants. Help us make this mission happen.

YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH - Every Sunday morning up in the Cross Cafe from 9:30-10:30. Milk and cereal and God's Word!

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH - Dec. 2nd is Hanging Of the Greens at 5pm!
Afterwards Jr Hi and Sr Hi are going up to the Cross Cafe for Youth Supper and to decorate Prison Fruit Bags. We will all be through at 7:30pm.

Children's Christmas Concert & Advent Festival on Wednesday, Dec. 5th. Musical @ 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by the Advent Festival @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

POINSETTIA DELIVERY! Our Youth Group is delivering Poinsettias after school on Friday, Dec. 7th. Meet @ the church at 4pm.

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH on Dec. 9th is Mission Night and The Five!

O TOWN ICE CREAM NIGHT on Wednesday, Dec. 12th!

COLLINWOOD LUMINARIES - Our Youth will once again be a part of the live nativity scenes on Friday night, Dec. 14th. Two shifts. First shift from 5-7pm with the second shift from 7-9pm.

Youth Christmas Parties on Sunday, Dec. 16th: Jr Hi from 4-6pm at the Couey's
Sr Hi from 6:30-8:30pm at the Hilyer's

No Sunday Night Youth on Dec. 23rd and Dec. 30th

LAITY MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Greeters

8:30 a.m.

Ogie & Teresa Ogletree
Fred & Brenda Woods

11:00 a.m.

Cori & Lauren Newman
Jake & Tori Beth Thompson

Gathering Music

Shannon Cason

Crucifer

Brooks Bryan

Acolytes

8:30 a.m.

Sadie & Jackson Rainey

11:00 a.m.

Addison Bryan &
Sara Rollins Koon

Sound & Video

8:30 a.m.

Caroline Bush

11:00 a.m.

Nathan Goff & Peter Elliott

Ushers

8:30 a.m.

John Parker (Captain),
Blake Epperson (Co-Captain),
Allen Bush, Paul Kemp,
& John Reichmann

11:00 a.m.

Kenneth Boggs (Captain),
Clay Harper (Co-Captain), Josh
Brown, David Canon, Bill Levins,
& Richard Shackelford

Welcome Letters

Peggy Dyar

Nurturing Notes

Hope Scarborough

Tuesday Office Volunteer

Earle Wilkes

Hospital Visitation Ministry

December 3

Leigh Bass

December 4

Pam Hope

December 5

Lisa Abercrombie

December 6

Joanne Woodall

December 7

Danielle Fornea

Jail Ministry

Donna Hamilton

Carol Powers

Ginger McKee

Margaret Rogers

Danielle Fornea

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

November 25, 2018

Attendance

Sunday School: 189
Worship: 310

Giving

Weekly Offering: \$17,867

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

First Sunday of Advent December 2

7:30 a.m. - Methodist Men's Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
5:00 p.m. - Hanging of the Greens & Reception
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Sr HI & Jr Hi Youth

Monday, December 3

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

Tuesday, December 4

8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Sonshine Preschool
9:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study
2:00 p.m. - Safety Team
5:00 p.m. - E Teen
5:15 p.m. - Wesley Ringers
5:30 p.m. - Children's Musical Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 5

7:00 a.m. - Men's Devo
5:30 p.m. - Children's Musical
6:00 p.m. - Advent Festival
7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 6

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

Prayer Concerns

EAMC: Michael Roberts

EAMC (Lanier): Buddy Lane
(friend of Tonya & Starr Hollis)
Barbara Woolley

Regional Rehab (Phenix City):
Ginger Perkins

Arbor Springs: Jean Meadows

Home:

Trippi Abercrombie
David Alexander (*Marcia Alexander's husband*)
Jimmy Allen
Cole Ashley (*Sonshine student*)
Dean Bledsoe
Caroline Bugg
Eleanor Cole
(*Pam Alsobrook's mother*)
Mable Collins (Arbor Springs)
Al Cook
Bette Corley (*Nann Ogletree's mother*)
Betty & Hal Cummings
C J Dodd (*Arvle & Esther Marshall's grandson*)
Pat Douglas
Nancy Inglett (*Becky Bailey's sister-in-law*)
Trey Gafford
Ronnie Gaston (*Mike Gaston's father*)
Anne & Jim Grady
Reba Gullledge (*Connie Carver's sister*)
Barbara Hartley (*Marrell Hartley's mother*)
Earl Hartsfield (*friend of Laura Fuller*)
Monique Jenkins
Tom Krehling
Donna McCard
(*Becky Bailey's sister*)
Jane & Phillip Moon
(*Joyce Windsor's cousins*)
Dana Morgan (*friend of Pam Hope*)
Donna Moreman
Jackie Motley
(*friend of Linda McCain*)
Dot Norrell
Wallace Paschal
Theron Sorrell (*Jake Thompson's grandfather*)
Jody Wilkerson (*Deborah Mitchell's brother*)
Laurie Williams

Out of Town:

Hartley Brabner (*Tina Roberts' great niece*)
Beth Briele (*daughter of Charles & Elizabeth Mason & Laura Seller's sister*)
Shirley Brown (*Ginger Perkins' sister-in-law*)
Brock Bugg (*Caroline Bugg's grandson*)
Ruth Chen (*friend of Wei Beach*)
Shannon Cook (*friend of Earle & Kenny Wilkes*)
Greg Greaves (*friend of Sherri Rowton*)
Kinsley Green
(*Kyle & Sydney Bugg's niece*)
Ann Greene & Betty Wright
(*Caroline Bugg's cousins*)
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*)
Helen Lane (*Rick Lane's mother*)
Buddy Loyd (*Laura Boggs' father*)
Lexi Melton (*great niece of Stanley Melton, III*)
Bob Miller (*Sam Bailey's brother-in-law*)
Cathy Prescott (*friend of Jamie Crews*)
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*)
Carolyn Sell (*Jo Vaughan's daughter*)
Gladys Shackelford (*Richard Shackelford's mother*)
Steve Smith
(*friend of Eric Canada*)
Sutton Smith (*grandson of Teresa & Ogie Ogletree*)
Jimmy Spence (*Joyce Windsor's cousin*)
Leigh Ann Thompson

(*Mike Gaston's sister*)
Susan Taylor
(*Jimmy Collins' sister*)
Greg Wheelus (*Ginny Gaberlavage's father*)
Bobby Woodruff (*Caroline Bush's uncle*)

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*)

Christian Sympathy. . .

. . . is extended to Merle Walton, Anne & Robbie Robison, Dot Mitchell, and all of the family upon the death of Merle's husband & Anne's father, & Dot's brother, Quinton Walton.

. . . is extended to Margaret Whittelsey and all of the family upon the death of her mother, Betty Joyce Booth.

. . . is extended to Sam & Jimmy Taylor, Lindsey & Matt Owens, Emily & Lamar Prescott and all of the family upon the death of Sam's mother, Lindsey & Emily's grandmother, Mickey Groom.

. . . is extended to John & Connie Carver and all of the family upon the death of John's sister, Shirley Locklear, of Charlotte, NC.