

December 7, 2018

Making lifetime followers of Jesus Christ



A recent Gallup poll found that nearly 80% of Americans believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God. Another fact, demonstrated by many surveys, is that most Americans have no idea what the Bible actually says. Ironically, while many Americans invest a lot of authority into Scripture, biblical literacy is at an all-time low. In 2019, we are doing our part to improve biblical literacy. We are encouraging everyone at First United Methodist to read through the Bible in a year. This is a big commitment but one that we believe is essential to deepening our faith. We hope you'll prayerfully consider opening up your heart and mind to God through the spiritual discipline of Bible reading.

How can I follow along?

- **Download the Read Scripture app:** The easiest way to journey with us through Scripture is to download the Read Scripture app on your tablet or smartphone. Within the app you will find your daily readings along with short educational videos that will help you better understand what you're reading.
- **Pick up a hard copy of our reading plan:** We have paper copies throughout the church that follow the same reading plan as the Read Scripture app. Stick this on your fridge, sit it on your bedside table, or place it in your Bible as a reminder to set aside a few minutes each day to spend time in God's word.
- **Follow @fumcopelika on social media:** Each week, we will post the weekly reading assignments on Facebook and Instagram along with educational videos that will guide you through your readings.
- **Share your insights:** Have you read something that encouraged or challenged you? Snap a picture of your reading and share your insights on social media. Be sure to include the hashtag #B365 and tag @fumcopelika in your post.
- **Find a reading partner:** Life is busy. Developing habits can be hard. Find a friend within the church and commit to providing each other with encouragement and accountability so that you don't give up when the commitment becomes a challenge.
- **Lecture series:** Throughout the year, we will invite a few guest speakers who are experts in the field of biblical studies to come and teach us how to be informed readers and better stewards of God's word.

What about children and youth?

- **Children:** Our children (4-year-olds through 6th grade) will be using the "Digging into the Bible" and "Digging into Discipleship" curriculums which will take them on a journey from Genesis to Revelation.
- **Youth:** Our youth will be following the #B365 reading plan and discussing relevant chapters each week in Sunday school.

Rev. Patrick Hitchman-Craig
patrickcraig@fumcopelika.org



Sunday, December 9th @ 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a special Advent edition of THE FIVE.

The Five is a modern expression of a historic faith. We gather on the second Sunday of each month and combine modern praise choruses with ancient liturgical practices. The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered every time we gather. Christ's table is open to ALL!



**United Methodist Women's Christmas Dinner
Monday, December 10th, @ 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**



BackPack Packing

Wednesday, December 12th, packing @ the East Alabama Food Bank. Meet in the church parking lot @ 5:15 p.m. We will return around 7:00p.m.

Grocery Bag Delivery

Sunday, December 16th, we will delivery grocery bags immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Meet @ Condon Hall.



Thanks for all you do! Ellen Royal 334-524-9551



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. Place the unwrapped gifts under the tree with the ornament

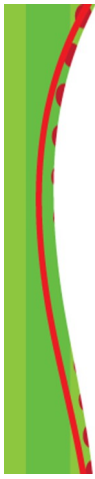
Collinwood Luminaries - Friday, December 14th 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.



The Collinwood Luminaries have become a popular holiday tradition and a symbol of the Christmas season. The candles are set out along the roadway through the neighbor for the "journey to the manger." Along the journey you will see shepherds, wise men, and angels following the star on their way to see the Christ Child.

The shepherds, wise men, angels and other live nativity are members of the Youth @ First United Methodist Church of Opelika.

This has been a gift from First Methodist Church for over 35 years to the Opelika community.



Pancakes with Santa



Saturday, December 15th

9:30 a.m.

FUMC Fellowship Hall

\$3.00 per child

\$4.00 per adult



Third Sunday of Advent - December 16th

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Services

Morning worship will be filled with sounds of the season as the Chancel Choir, One Accord Youth Ensemble, and the Wesley Ringers present carols old and new accompanied by a guest chamber orchestra.

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, cardboard 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. If you are interested in helping our church to maintain this very worthy cause, please call or email Brenda Woods (706-773-4892, henry.brenda941365@gmail.com) or Judy Smith (334-749-8223).

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 ON Dec. 9th, is Mission Night and The Five! Jr Hi from 4:30-6:30pm and Sr Hi from 5-7pm.

O TOWN ICE CREAM NIGHT on Wednesday, Dec. 12th, at 6:30pm!

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.

Jay & Jenny Galimore, Hudson,
Barrett, Lilly Margaret, & Tate
Barbara Patton

11:00 a.m.

Louise Harris & Joyce Windsor
Jack & Short Brown

Gathering Music

Jim Warman

Crucifer

Bryce Speakman

Acolytes

8:30 a.m.

Caden Blair & Myles Tatum, Jr.

11:00 a.m.

Allie Prescott &
Sara Kate Speakman

Sound & Video

8:30 a.m.

Nathan Goff

11:00 a.m.

Will Levins & Peter Elliott

Ushers

8:30 a.m.

Aaron Waller (Captain),
Michael Vance (Co-Captain),
Blake Epperson, Andy Jordan,
& Buddy Young

11:00 a.m.

George Walker (Captain), Mike
McKee (Co-Captain), Michael Guy,
Chris Harrison, Bill Levins,
Jason McKay, & Jeff Suhling

Welcome Letters

Margaret Walker

Nurturing Notes

Hope Scarborough

Tuesday Office Volunteer

Jo Lovell

Flower Ministry

Nell Samford, Phoebe Branch
& Lorene Paschal

Hospital Visitation Ministry

December 10

Lynn Harrington

December 11

Jo Lovell

December 12

Bob Ingram

December 13

Joe Harrington

December 14

Lindy White

Jail Ministry

Ron & Sharon Rooks,
Donna Hamilton, Margaret Rogers
Danielle Fornea

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

December 2, 2018

Attendance

Sunday School: 218

Worship: 683

Giving

Weekly Offering: \$16,382

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 9

8:30 a.m. - Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

4:00 p.m. - One Accord Rehearsal

4:30 p.m. - Jr Hi Youth

5:00 p.m. - The FIVE Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Sr HI Youth

Monday, December 10

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

6:00 p.m. - UMW Dinner

Tuesday, December 11

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

9:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study

5:15 p.m. - Wesley Ringers

Wednesday, December 12

7:00 a.m. - Men's Devo

5:15 p.m. - Backpack Packing

6:30 p.m. - Youth @ O Town Ice Cream

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 13

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

12:00 p.m. - Sonshine Preschool Christmas
Program & Reception

Friday, December 14

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Collinwood Luminaries

Saturday, December 15

9:30 a.m. - Santa Breakfast

Prayer Concerns

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

Northside Forsyth (Atlanta):
Ed Reynolds (Kim Epperson's
father)

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)
Nancy Inglett
(Becky Bailey's sister-in-law)
Ellen Gaberlavage
(Paul Gaberlavage's mother)
Trey Gafford
Ronnie Gaston
(Mike Gaston's father)
Anne Grady (Camellia Place)
Jim Grady
Reba Gullledge
(Connie Carver's sister)
Barbara Hartley
(Marrell Hartley's mother)
Earl Hartsfield (friend of Laura
Fuller)
Monique Jenkins
Tom Krehling
Lucretia Mann
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
Ogie Ogletree
Ginger Perkins
Michael Roberts
Ron Rooks
Theron Sorrell (Jake
Thompson's grandfather)
Jody Wilkerson (Deborah

Mitchell's brother)
Garland Grace Welsh
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' sis-
ter-in-law)
Brock Bugg (Caroline Bugg's
grandson)
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)
Freida Meacham (Emily Finck's
mother)
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)
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 Pat Mayfield and
Debbi & Bruce Thornton and all of
the family upon the death of
Debbi & Pat's brother, Doug
"Butch" Smith.

MEMORIALS

Betty Joyce Booth

by Ann & David Canon

Mickey Groom

by Ann & David Canon

Shirley Locklear

by Ann & David Canon

Janie Wall

by Lynn Crawford Tatum

Quinton Walton

by Ann & David Canon;
June & Bill Garrett; George &
Margaret Walker, Earle & Kenny
Wilkes; Buddy & Becky Young;
Joyce Young