



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY—

- ◆ During the month of December the church had two very special “Second Mile Giving” causes which we were asked to support with financial contributions: Tornado Relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (U.M.C.O.R.) and the United Methodist Children’s Home (White Christmas).
Sylacauga First UMC is sending \$1200 to UMCOR for the Tornado Relief effort and \$1635 to The White Christmas Offering. Thank you for this generous support totaling \$2835.00 for these important ministries!
- ◆ **MMBS** will resume meeting in the church library on January 24, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. “Jesus and Women in the First Century and Now” by Kristi McLelland is the teaching resource we will be using. All ladies are welcome to attend. Study books will be available for purchase at that time.

CHURCH STAFF

Don Neal - Senior Pastor

Byron White - Assistant Pastor

David Simpkins - Director of Worship & Arts

Chrystal Whitehead - Youth Coordinator

Leslie Lucas - Children’s Ministries

Sharon Wright/Charmelle Lewis/Robin Lewis - Pianists

Karen Brewer - Church Administrator

Jean Campbell - Administrative Assistant

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Kindergarten: (256) 249-2300 Nursery: (256) 249-0644

Dee Dee Mathews - Kindergarten Director

Ramsey Owens - Financial Secretary

Pastor’s Page

The month of January is often shown on calendars with two face masks. One mask is turned backward looking at the year just ended; the second mask looks forward toward the coming twelve months.

Many of us probably do not want to spend too much time looking back into 2021 because it was a very difficult time. We saw, heard, and were confronted with too much “covid”, “pandemic”, and a number of issues brought on or at least made more difficult by this virus. We are ready to move toward a brighter, better, future where “normal” can be re-established and lived into!

Think with me for just a moment or two about what might be included in a formula for making 2022 the better year we hope it becomes and is:

I hope we rediscover the ability to talk with each other about subjects both great and small without seeing disagreements make us disagreeable all the time. This would be a hope I have for the highest levels of national and international affairs right on down to our daily lives. We need to be able to discuss things from different perspective and somehow find “middle ground” where we understand even if we don’t agree.

I pray that 2022 will bring a renewal in our society and culture for the important role our spiritual identity plays in not only our individual lives and character but also how the spiritual is part of the foundation of our existence as a people, a nation, and a world!

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Pastor's Page

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The Pew Foundation and other research groups continue to tell us that religion, faith, and active participation in organized faith movements is at all time low levels. You and I can be part of an answer to this issue if we intentionally live according to the highest ideals of Christ's teachings in all our relationships as we strive to see the Kingdom on earth become more and more like God's coming Eternal Kingdom!

It may be too much to hope for but I pray that somehow, we as a nation of people, divergent as we can be sometimes, might begin to redevelop a sense of national identity that unifies us. We have seen it happen when we faced a national crisis such World War II, 911, and one or two others occasions. There are, I believe, far more important things that we have in common than there are issues that divide or should divide us. Only as we learn to pull and work together more can we be the nation and the people I believe God wants us to be!

May 2022 see us move toward the fulfillment of the highest ideals of Christ and his Kingdom and may that help us all live together with stronger bonds of care, compassion, and companionship! God Bless

Don

Children's Corner

We are excited to have **Children's Corner** on Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 7pm. Ages K5-5th Grade.

The children sing, have a lesson, and a fun craft to do as well. Please be sure to help spread the word to the children you know.

We look forward to fun and fellowship with the children at FUMC.

Leslie Lucas,
Director of Children's Ministries

Prayer Concerns:

Jamie Brown,
Cindy Diffie,
Todd Hoaglin,
Cheryl Dobson,
Mack Howell,
Lee White,
Fay Simpkins,
Dr. Daniel Gammage,
Marese Rayfield,
Ginger Marable,
Kelsey Abrams,
Amy R. Thomas,
Yancy Patterson,
Jalee Worley,
Ruth Elder,
Lou Kyle,
Melinda Gatlin,
Barbara Bailey,
Rosie Cochran,
Jim Isbell,
Dylan Durden,

Jake Montgomery,
Mollie Ford,
Jeff Hestley,
Cheryl Machen,
Heather Grommes,
Tiffani Persons,
Van Junkins Family (Carolyn
Etrass' brother),
Ken and Ozaline Carter
(Karen Parker's parents),
Gene & Mary Sasser,
Terry Sasser (Jan & Steve
Rousseau's Family),
Linda Morris,
Amanda Farr,
Ben and Linda Gamel,
Pat Pownall,
Karen Brewer
Wallace Ray
Glenda Styres
Don Neal
Stephanie McGhee

Thought For the Day!

Happiness is like a butterfly:

*The more you chase it,
the more it will elude you,
but if you turn your attention
to other things it will come and
sit softly on your shoulder....*

Thoreau

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

January 2nd

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. Jack G. Spears** by Drs. Ted & Shirley Spears, Jonathon & Tara Douglas, Anthony & Tonya Strickland.

January 9th

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mrs. Lilian Shirey & Mrs. Jane W. Kramer** by Mr. Chris Kramer, Jr.

January 16th

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Deedie & Dr. French H. Craddock, Sr., Julia & Bro. Dan Whitsett, Miss Virgie Oden, Ms. Sadie Cliett** by Mrs. Martha Hightower Turner.

January 23rd

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Tony Holmes, Mr. & Mrs. W. J. McKemie, Sr. and Mr. William Joel McKemie, Jr.** by Mrs. Martha McKemie & Family & Mr. & Mrs. Howard Holmes & Family.

January 30th

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Cherry Rozelle** by Gene Rozelle.

~ SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH ~ December

In Memory of Carla Persons by Steve Persons

In Memory of Ruth Johnson by Willie Johnson,
Anne Gray

In Memory of Bob & Shirley Bain by Monty &
Becky Bain

Worship & Arts Ministries!

We wish you a Happy New Year
from the Worship & Arts Ministry!

With the New Year come new needs and new opportunities for service. Perhaps you would like to get plugged in to one of our teams. We welcome short term commitments as well as the long term. Here are some of our teams for you to consider.

Chancel Choir – Wednesday Rehearsals, 6pm / Perform in most services No experience necessary. Just love of worship and music!

Praise Band – Wednesday Rehearsals, 7pm / Perform in most services. Personnel Rotation / Needed: Guitars, Drums, Keys, Vocalists

Media Team – Sunday Morning Rehearsals/Serve in all services. Personnel Rotation / Needed: elementary computer, video knowledge

Handbell Choir – Tuesday Rehearsals, 5:30pm / Perform in special services. No experience necessary. Just love of worship and music!

Youth Worship – For Teens interested in leading worship!
Program to be set based on needs of those interested!

Children Worship – For Kids interested in leading worship!
Program to be set based on needs of those interested!

Do you have a special interest that we are not providing?
Maybe you can help us start it!!! Please contact David and let's talk about getting you on board today!!

Blessings!

David

SUNDAY
 8:30am – Prayer for Worship
 9:00am- Sunday School
 10:00am– Worship- Sanctuary


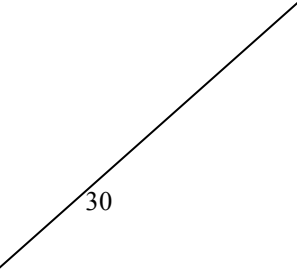
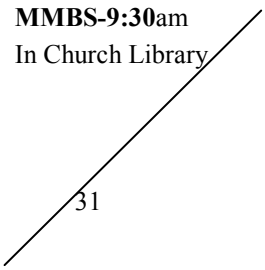
MONDAY
 9:30am– MMBS —Resume
 Jan. 24, '22 In Church Library
 6:00pm– APPS Group

TUESDAY
 5:30pm Handbell Choir
 Room 305

WEDNESDAY
 6:00pm- Children’s Activities
 6:00pm- Youth
 6:00pm- Choir
 7:00pm- Worship Team

THURSDAY
 No Activities

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Second Mile SS Class meets in Room 105	10 5:30pm—Trustees Meeting Room	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 5:00p Finance Mtg. 6:00p Administrative Board Mtg	18	19	20	21	22
23 	24 MMBS-9:30am In Church Library 	25	26	27	29	28
30	31					