

~ SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH ~

~ August ~

**In James Skip Deupree** by R. E. Brown, 2nd Mile Class, Virginia Mills, Gregory Alan Roberson, Taylor & Lydia Pursell.

**In Memory of Ann Porter** by Anne O. Gray, Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins, Bob Grace.

**In Memory of James Preston Nail** by Anne Gray, Jim & Joyce Snowden, 2nd Mile Class, Sammy & Bebe Andrews, Mickey & Sandra Morton, Ralph & Clarene Jackson, Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins.

The church now has a cell phone. If you are unable to reach the office, we are probably in the Sanctuary, or another part of the church. You can call us at 256-404-9510 to contact us.



**CHURCH STAFF**

Andy Curtis - Pastor

David Simpkins - Director of Worship & Arts

Chrystal Whitehead - Youth Ministries

Leslie Lucas - Children's Ministries

Charmelle Lewis/Robin Lewis - Pianists

Karen Brewer - Church Administrator

Dolly Perry - 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

Amanda McDaniel - Financial Secretary



# FIRST NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022

**PASTOR'S PAGE**

August was great! We successfully navigated the back-to-school rush and settled into the rhythm of a new school year. The back-to-school bash was a huge success! In-person worship attendance has started trending upward. Our August sermon series challenged us to find our rhythm by confronting the chaos, confronting our limitations, confronting the distractions, and confronting the needs around us. The August listening sessions were well attended, and I was able to gain some much-needed insight regarding our church (I'll have more to say about this at a later time so stay tuned; for now, just know that I'm grateful to all who participated).

Whew! What a month! I would say we made good use of August, and that is worth celebrating!

So, what awaits us? Quite a bit, actually! September and October will find us challenged by a new sermon series entitled "Rethink." The Gospel of John will serve as our guide through this series and the premise of the series looks like this:

In John's gospel, we are called to rethink some things and see them in new and fresh ways. In this series, we will explore some things that we think we know, but that the gospel itself, or Jesus from within it calls us to rethink in order to deepen our faith.

I'm looking forward to sharing the "Rethink" journey with you!

On another note, as most of you know there is a bit of a leaking roof and HVAC issue with our church facilities. The board of trustees, administrative board, and I feel that this issue is pressing and requires immediate attention. A plan has been put in place to begin addressing this issue. First and foremost, please be in prayer regarding this issue

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and the proposed process for making the needed repairs. Also, please be on the lookout for a letter from the church leadership explaining the process whereby we hope to resolve this issue.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Andy Curtis*

## Worship & Arts!!!

**Hello Worship & Arts Friends!!!**

**Psalm 95:1-2 – Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music & song!!**

**Preparations have begun for several amazing Worship events coming up this Fall!**

*\*Gospel Singer/Songwriter Mark Lanier leads Worship on Oct. 2.*

*\*New World Choir Reunion will rehearse on Saturday, October 15 (9-11am).*

*\*Homecoming Worship Celebration on Oct. 16, featuring New World Choir Reunion!*

*\*Thanksgiving & Advent Preparations/Decorations*

*\*Hanging of the Greens Worship, Nov. 27.*

*\*FUMC Chancel Choir presents the Christmas musical, At Last Noel! Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> in Worship!*

*\*Sylacauga Community Choir Presents “Christmas with the Hoppers” December 9<sup>th</sup>!*

**If you would like to get on board, just let us know!!**

Love of Christ Be With You!

*David Simpkins, Director of Worship & Arts*

## Prayer Concerns

Cindy Diffie	Cheryl Machen	Catie Simpkins
Cheryl Dobson	Tiffani Persons	Kenneth Turner
Mack Howell	Linda Morris	Sally Werling
Lee White	Amanda Farr	John Floyd
Fay Simpkins	Ben and Linda	Tommy Porch
Marese Rayfield	Gamel	Ollie Heath, Jr
Ginger Marable	Pat Pownall	Brandi McDonald
Kelsey Abrams	Stephanie	Janet Huffman
Amy R. Thomas	McGhee	Pete Baker
Yancy Patterson	Larry Reynolds	Wes Coleman
Lou Kyle	Bill Roberts	Tanner Bowen
Barbara Bailey	Diane Atkinson	Lennette Calvin
Rosie Cochran	Vaughn	Christopher
Jim Isbell	Don Neal	Brown
Dylan Durden	Pastor Joel	Dennis Buckner
Jake Montgomery	Maxwell	Steve Taylor

Van Junkins Family (Carolyn Etrass' brother), Ken and Ozaline Carter (Karen Parker's parents), Gene & Mary Sasser, Terry Sasser (Jan & Steve Rousseau's family)

### United Women in Faith (UMW)

The United Women in Faith will meet the third Tuesday of the month, September 20, at 10:00 am in the church library. There will be a business meeting and program. We will also be working on Chrismons. All ladies are invited to attend. Please bring a salad or covered dish to share.

### August Worship & Generosity Report

Average In-house Attendance:	101
Average Livestream:	28
Facebook views:	40
Offerings	\$ 44,870
Expenditures	\$ 45,092

## ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

**September 4th - ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Christian James Henderson** by Mark, Tonya, Will, and Catherine Henderson.

**September 11th - ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Betty Allen and O. C. Allen** by Harmon Allen, Tim Allen, Jim & Debbie Armstong.

**September 18th - ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in LOVING memory of **Dr. & Mrs. William R. Gammon, Victoria Gammon Ballard, and Joe L. Ford** by Deborah Gammon Ford.

**September 25th - ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Fred & Connie Spradley** by Margaret Spradley Powell, Freda Spradley York and Tammy Spradley Meacham.

**September 25th - NARTHEX FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of **Andrew Carwile Gray** by Anne Gray & family.

~ ENCOURAGING ~

### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL BIBLE VERSES**

This is my command. Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Philippians 4:6

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7

## Kindergarten/Day Care News

### MEMORIES

As I sit and think of the past 'few' years with First Methodist I must say it has been so much fun! The children I taught in the K4 program have all grown up, some have married and have small children. These children are now running through the halls. Teachers come and go. Some have passed on – Cindy Turner, Delores Hall, and Naomi Brown to name a few. They are truly missed. Each one was different, but each loved their jobs. That's the main 'thing' here. We do this because we love doing it. The children have good and bad days just like all of us do. Someone once said to me, "You are either on drugs or crazy for doing this." Actually, it's because God has chosen me to do this. This ministry is the best!

*Dee Dee Mathews, Director*



**Mark your calendars  
Wednesday Oct. 26th  
East Spring Street  
Parking Lot**

~We will need LOTS of candy!  
Start buying bags of individually wrapped candy. Collection bins will be set out soon.

~Make a pot or two of soup. We will be handing out cups of fresh, hot soup to all who come.

~Decorate your trunk and pass out candy to all the children who come.

~You can help by volunteering to set up, hand out cups of soup, and help with clean up. Contact Leslie or Chrystal.

*Leslie Lucas, Director of Children's Ministries*

*Chrystal Whitehead, Director of Youth Ministries*



# September



Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	3
4 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship	5  Labor Day	6 5:30 pm - Handbells	7 6:00 pm - Children's Activities, Youth 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team	8	9	10
11 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship	12 9:30 am - Monday Morning Bible Study 5:30 pm - Trustees 6:00 pm - APPS Group	13 5:30 pm - Handbells	14 6:00 pm - Children's Activities, Youth 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team	15 6:30 - Christmas with the Hoppers Rehearsal (First Baptist Church)	16	17
18 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship	19 9:30 am - Monday Morning Bible Study 5:00 pm - Finance 6:00 pm - Admin 6:00 pm - APPS Group	20 10 am - UWF/UMW 5:30 pm - Handbells	21 6:00 pm - Children's Activities, Youth 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team	22	23	24
25 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship 11:00 am - Capital Campaign Lunch	26 9:30 am - Monday Morning Bible Study 6:00 pm - APPS Group	27 5:30 pm - Handbells	28 6:00 pm - Children's Activities, Youth 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team	29	30	