

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

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

July Worship & Generosity Report

Average In-house Attendance: 91

Average Livestream/Facebook views: 32/59

Offerings \$ 81,478

Expenditures \$ 83,071

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

105 E. Spring St, Sylacauga, AL

256-249-0362



FIRST NEWS

AUGUST 2022

PASTOR'S PAGE

Wow!!! I can officially say that I have experienced my favorite *first month of ministry*! Yes, I've had first months at other appointments; however, this one has truly been special. Sylacauga First UMC is amazing and I'm so glad that our journeys have brought us together.

I hope you enjoyed our first sermon series, "We Are Sylacauga First!" as much as I did. I felt that naming who we are and who we are in relation to God, while also exploring the topics of living as God's masterpiece, children, and messengers got us off to a strong start. I'm also excited about our August sermon series titled, "Finding Our Rhythm." This series will focus on finding and establishing a vibrant and sustainable rhythm of life and ministry by naming and confronting realities such as: chaos, distractions, limitations, and being overwhelmed by the needs around us which so often pull the people of God out of rhythm. I'm looking forward to the worship and rhythm-finding that awaits us as we unpack this series.

I want to get to know you, and I want to hear from you. So, on August 21st-23rd & August 28th-30th from 6:00pm-7:00pm, I will be hosting listening sessions in the church library. In these sessions, each participant will be asked the questions listed below, and everyone will listen as you briefly answer.

- 1) What do you love most about Sylacauga First?
- 2) What, if anything, would you like to see changed or developed at Sylacauga First?
- 3) What joys, questions, or concerns do you have as we move into a new season of ministry together?

Due to time constraints, the listening sessions will be limited to 12 participants per session. The sign-up forms for each session are available in the church office. I'm looking forward to sharing this time with you.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Andy Curtis

Worship & Arts!!!

Here is a look at our “tentative” Fall Schedule in Worship & Arts Ministry!

Regular Rehearsal Times / Beginning August 10

<i>Handbell Choir</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>5:30pm</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
<i>Youth Worship Ensemble</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6:00pm</i>	<i>Choir Room</i>
<i>Worship Band</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Aug. 10 Wed, 6:00 pm *Back to School Bash*
Aug. 17 Wed, 5:15 pm *Youth Worship Organizational Meeting, Sanct.*
Aug. 20 Sat, 9:00-11:30 ***Christmas w/Hoppers Kick-off Rehearsal***
Sept. 11 Sun, 10:00 am *Grandparents Sunday*
Oct. 2 Sun, 10:00 am ***Worship with Mark Lanier, Gospel Singer***
Oct. 15 Sat, 9:00-12 ***New World Choir Reunion Rehearsal & Social***

(Bright New World/Majesty & Glory/Over in the Glory Land/ Let's Just Praise-Get All Excited)

Oct. 16 Sun, 10 am ***Laity Sunday / WELCOME HOME / New World Choir Reunion***

Oct. 26/30W/S, 5:00 pm *Trunk or Treat*

Nov. 6 Sun, 10:00 am ***All Saints Sunday & Veteran's Day Celebration***

Nov. 20 Sun, 10:00 am ***Thanksgiving Worship***

Nov. 21 Mon, TBD *Advent/Christmas Decorations go up!!!*

Nov. 23 Wed *NO ACTIVITIES (Thanksgiving)*

ADVENT

Nov. 27 Sun, 10:00 am ***Advent I (Hanging of the Greens)***

Dec. 4 Sun, 10:00 am ***Advent II - “AT LAST! NOEL!”- Christmas Choir Cantata***

Dec. 9 Fri, 6:00 pm ***Community Choir featuring THE HOPPERS***

Dec. 11 Sun, 10:00 am *Advent III*

Dec. 18 Sun, 10:00 am *Advent IV*

Dec. 24 Sat, 5:00 pm ***Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion***

Dec. 25 Sun, 10:00 am *Christmas Day Worship*

Jan. 1 Sun, 10:00 am *New Year's Day Worship*

Love of Christ Be With You!

David Simpkins, Director of Worship & Arts

~ SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH ~

~ July ~

In Memory of Ann H. Porter by Matthew Haeffner, Jim & Jane Hare Sims, Mr. & Mrs. John Floyd, Money Concepts Capital Corp., Judith Wilson, Suzanne & John Page.

In Memory of Richard Werling by Anne O. Gray.

In Memory of Jim Floyd by Anne Gray.

In Memory of Robert Huffman by Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins.

In Memory of
Ann H. Porter
July 13, 2022

Monday Morning Bible Study will start a new study on August 15, 2022. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. The study guide for this 7-week session will be The Gospel on the Ground by Kristie McLelland. The study will focus on the early years of the church as told in the book of Acts. Cost for the study guide is \$24. All ladies are invited to attend.

Beyond Sunday

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6 pm in the church library for *Beyond Sunday*. Beyond Sunday is a group designed to strengthen our connection with God through Christ Jesus, to build up and unite multiple generations of believers through fellowship, prayer, scripture, study and discussion and to energize and equip disciples to make Sylacauga, Alabama a better place for all people. Please feel free to bring your own supper or snack. See you Wednesday at 6!

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

August 7th - ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving celebration of **Helen & Byron White on their Anniversary** by Byron White.

August 14th - ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving honor of **Clyde Machen** by the Vivian Machen, Jim & Sue (Machen McGee) Wind, Steve & Jan (Machen) Dickson, Matt, Kim, Samuel, David, Katie, Jacob, Sarah, & Anna McGee, Steve, Melissa, Austin & Abby Bonneau, Andrew, Alex & Adalyn Dickson.

August 21st - ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **our parents, Mr. & Mrs. William A. Edwards** by Jackie, Sally & Dan.

August 28th - ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Jim Bailey, Elizabeth & Hank Thompson and Lilian Shirey** by Carole Bailey.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ♦ **Meals on Wheels** has openings the second Monday and fifth Thursday of each month. Meal delivery takes about an hour, or less if you partner with someone. Contact the church office if you would like to help with this important ministry.
- ♦ **Care House** business has been picking up in recent months and they are in need of volunteers again. They need two volunteers per day from 9:30-noon (Monday-Thursday). ***Please contact the church office if you can help so we can answer the Care House.***

Kindergarten/Day Care News

Proud to say that I have been part of First Methodist Kindergarten/Day Care for the past 29 – going on 30 years. Each day is a different day – some full of chaos, some stressful, but most are happy days. I wish everyone could see these children as we do. They need us! We provide love, consistency and a safe environment. Teachers have come and gone. I miss them all. Lisa McCain and I are the only ones left that remember the first days of the nursery (Thanks to Lynn and Ann). We've gone from 18 to 80 nursery/toddler children over the years. Our older preschool children have decreased in number because of the public system (which is understandable). We can still boast of our fantastic Abeka program. I hear every day "I want my child in First Methodist because I know it's the best!" I hope First Methodist is still in operation for another 75 years. It will be because you know whatJesus is the reason!

Dee Dee Mathews, Director

Sylacauga First United Methodist Church
105 E Spring Street, Sylacauga AL 35150 | 256-249-0362

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH | WEDNESDAY
8.10.22 | 6:00 PM
ON THE FRONT LAWN
ERNIE'S FOOD TRUCK
SYLACAUGA SNOBIZ
BLOW UPS & GAMES
FUN FOR ALL AGES

BACKPACK BLESSINGS | SUNDAY
AUGUST 7, 2022
10:00 AM WORSHIP

Back to School Celebrations

Youth & Children's News

Once school resumes, we will return to our normal schedule. We meet Wednesday nights at 6:00. Join us! Bring a friend!

Leslie Lucas, Director of Children's Ministries

Chrystal Whitehead, Director of Youth Ministries



August 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 pm - APPS Group	2 5:30 pm - Handbells	3 6:00 pm - Children's Activities, Youth 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team	4	5 Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	6
7 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship Backpack Blessings	8 FUMK Open House 6:00 pm - APPS Group	9 FUMK First Day 5:30 pm - Handbells	10 6:00 pm - Back to School Bash 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team	11	12	13
14 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship	15 9:30 am - Monday Morning Bible Study 6:00 pm - APPS Group	16 5:30 pm - Handbells	17 5:15 pm - Youth Worship Organizational Meeting 6:00 pm - Children's Activities, Youth 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team	18	19	20 9:00 - 11:30 am Christmas with The Hoppers Kick-off Rehearsal
21 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship 6:00 pm - Listening Session	22 9:30 am - Monday Morning Bible Study 6:00 pm - APPS Group 6:00 pm - Listening Session	23 5:30 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Listening Session	24 5:00 pm - Youth Ensemble 6:00 pm - Children's Activities, Youth 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team	25	26	27
28 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship 6:00 pm - Listening Session	29 9:30 am - Monday Morning Bible Study 6:00 pm - APPS Group 6:00 pm - Listening Session	30 5:30 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Listening Session	31 5:00 pm - Youth Ensemble 6:00 pm - Children's Activities, Youth 6:00 pm - Choir, Beyond Sunday Bible Fellowship 7:00 pm - Worship Team			