

<b>Prayer Concerns</b>	Rosie Cochran	Bill Roberts
Cindy Diffie	Jim Isbell	Don Neal
Cheryl Dobson	Dylan Durden	Diane Atkinson
Mack Howell	Jake Montgomery	Vaughn
Lee White	Cheryl Machen	John Brown
Fay Simpkins	Tiffani Persons	Bill Perry
Marese Rayfield	Linda Morris	Pastor Joel Maxwell
Ginger Marable	Amanda Farr	Catie Simpkins
Kelsey Abrams	Ben and Linda Gamel	Kenneth Turner
Amy R. Thomas	Pat Pownall	Sally Werling
Yancy Patterson	Glenda Styres	John Floyd
Lou Kyle	Stephanie McGhee	Donald Hubbard
Barbara Bailey	Larry Reynolds	

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

**Average Worship Attendance for 2022**

January	76
February	86
March	90
April	122

**CHURCH STAFF**

Ed Sims - Interim Pastor

Byron White - Assistant Pastor

David Simpkins - Director of Worship & Arts

Chrystal Whitehead - Youth Coordinator

Leslie Lucas - Children's Ministries

Sharon Seals/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

MAY 2022

**PASTOR'S PAGE**

Dear friends,

I've decided that two of the most difficult things we are called upon to do as Christians is to love others and forgive them. In addition, Jesus doesn't make it easy for us.

Here's where I'm coming from. In addition to preaching here at Sylacauga on Sundays, I lead a Bible study group at Pell City FUMC on Tuesdays. Each week, we wrestle with a theological concept and try to learn what the Bible says about it.

Last week we focused on love. We found that it is easiest to love someone else when they are lovable, when they are like us, and when they love us back. It becomes more difficult when they do unlovable things, when they have beliefs and convictions that rub us the wrong way, and when they don't particularly like us, much less love us. Then we encounter Jesus, who tells us that we should love even our enemies. Jesus seems to think that love should be unconditional where we are much more comfortable imposing all kinds of conditions.

This week's topic is forgiveness. If we thought love was difficult, what do we do with forgiveness? We live in a culture that says people should get what they deserve. When I studied psychology, I came across a thing called Attribution Theory, which describes how we account for why good and bad things happen to people. According to Attribution Theory, if something good happens to someone else, it was just good luck. If something good happens to me, I deserve it. If something bad happens to me, it's just rotten luck. If something bad happens to someone else... you guessed it – they deserved it! How does this tie into forgiveness? I want justice and judgment for others; I want mercy and forgiveness for myself.

And yet, Jesus says we should forgive and forgive. He says that we will be forgiven to the extent that we forgive others. That's hard!

And yet, one thing I have to admit: loving others and forgiving others is an integral part of the abundant life that Jesus teaches about and calls us into.

I can almost hear Jesus saying: "I never said it was going to be easy!"

Blessings upon you as you seek to follow the challenging teachings of Jesus. It has been a joy to share the journey with you.

In Christ,

*Brother Ed*

# Hello Worship & Arts Friends!!!

We would like to acknowledge and give special recognition to our Worship & Arts Team members who give so much of their time and talents to help us have wonderful worship offerings each week. Now that we have made it through the busy Easter season, this seems the perfect time to celebrate! We are truly blessed to have these wonderful people serving!!

## **Worship Band**

Rocky Lucas, Tommy Brown, Gary Jones, Claude Williams, Steve & Charmelle Lewis, Tracy & Bruce Carr, Sharon Seals – with special appearances by Leslie Lucas, Catie Beth Henderson, Allie Etrass, Donald Brewer.

## **Chancel Choir**

Averitt Wesson, Suzanne Scively, Freda York, Tracy Carr, Dolly Perry, Cassey Head, Buddy Simpkins, Ryan Coleman, Claude Williams, Robert Brown, Steve Lewis, Bruce Carr, Steve Rousseau, accompanist Sharon Seals – with special appearances by Rocky & Leslie Lucas.

## **Handbell Choir**

Tina Fleaman, Bonita Powell, Johnnie Tankersley, Carol Ann Hawkins, Joyce Snowden, Dolly Perry, Nancy Prince, Tracy Carr, Buddy Simpkins

## **Media & Audio Team**

Danny Culp, Tim & Karen Parker, Carolyn & Steve Etrass, Bonita & Don Powell, Ryan Coleman, Russell Hathcock.

## **Administrative Staff & Publishing**

Ed Sims, Byron White, David Simpkins, Dolly Perry, Karen Brewer

If you are not currently involved with our Worship & Arts, and would like to plug in, we would be overjoyed to welcome you! Please let us know how God is urging you to serve!

Love of Christ Be With You!

*David Simpkins, Director of Worship & Arts*

**Attention Sylacauga High School Students and Parents:** Sylacauga First United Methodist welcomes students to serve at church in order to earn community service hours for graduation. High school students may assist with children's ministry events, help with media, or serve in other ways. If you are interested, contact Carolyn Etrass, [layleader@firstmethodistchurch.com](mailto:layleader@firstmethodistchurch.com) (205) 601-4144.

## **Summer Camps at Sumatanga**

For more information go to [sumatanga.org](http://sumatanga.org) and contact Chrystal.

**CLASSIC ELEMENTARY CAMPS** June 5-10, July 17-22

**Description:** Our elementary camps are designed to encourage and inspire campers on their faith journeys through bible exploration, worship, singing, and Christian community. Campers will also participate in traditional summer camp activities such as swimming, hiking, canoeing, crafts, group games, and so much more! For student entering 4th grade up to 6th grade.

**CLASSIC MID HIGH CAMP** June 12-17

**Description:** Our mid-high camps give youth an opportunity to personally engage in God's word as they transition from hearing to actively listening and discussing their faith with peers. To aid in this transition, campers will be placed in family groups to create intentional, Christian community. Mid-High Camp also offers more freedom to choose what the activities they will participate in each day. These choices include swimming, hiking, the Alpine Tower, basketball, archery, and many more exciting activities. For students entering 6th grade up to 8th grade.

**CLASSIC SENIOR HIGH CAMP** July 10-15

**Description:** Senior High camps offer a week of spiritual formation and leadership development through creative worship, intentional fellowship and outdoor adventures. Activities like rock climbing, swimming, crafts, hiking, archery and many other favorites provide daily recreation. Campers will also participate in small groups for discussion and reflection as well as large group activities for community formation. Senior High camps provide opportunities for spiritual growth through empowerment, worship and community formation. For students entering 9th grad up to 12th grade.

## Church Announcements

- ♦ If you would like a hard copy of one of Brother Ed's sermons, please contact the church office.
- ♦ If you would like to help with the children or youth, contact Leslie or Chrystal.

Bring your smiles to church and get your family photo made this Mothers' Day! We are missing some folks from the "Fall 2021 Edition" of our pictorial directory. Suzanne Scivley will be taking photos this Sunday before and after church to update it. If you can't make it this week, there will be a few more Sundays before we release the "Summer 2022" edition. See you Sunday!

### ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

**May 1st - ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving honor of **Raymond Styres' birthday** by Glenda Styres.

**May 8th - ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mrs. William R. Gammon on the occasion of Mother's Day with so much love** from her daughter, Debbi.

**May 15th - ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving honor of **our Children & Grandchildren** by Mr. & Mrs. Travis H. Wesson.

**May 22nd - ALTAR FLOWERS** open

**May 29th - ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Carla Persons** by Steve, Anthony, Tiffani and Chris.

~ SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH ~ April ~

**In Memory of Edna Lusk** by Bobby & Cheryl Cummings, Tommy & Cheryl Dobson.

**In Memory of Todd Hoaglin** by Raymond & Glenda Styres, Travis & Averiett Wesson.

## Youth and Children's News

Join us **Sunday, May 15** at 10:00. We will honor this year's seniors and the youth will lead the worship service.

**Summer Blowout!** The Summer Blowout will be May 25th! All children and youth are invited to the Henderson home for a pool party.

Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School!** It will be July 18th, 19th and 20th from 5:30-7:30 pm. Be sure to see Leslie to volunteer to help!



*Chrystal Whitehead, Director of Youth Ministries*  
*Leslie Lucas, Director of Children's Ministries*

### Kindergarten/Day Care News

May 27<sup>th</sup> ends another school year. Our Summer Session will begin June 1<sup>st</sup>. This year has been one to remember. If it weren't for our wonderful staff, I know we could not have done as well as we did. The Nursery/Toddler program is a blessing full of hard-working individuals: Ashley Henson, Lead, Courtney Dickerson, Kyla Averitte, Emily Duncan, Dawana Barnett, Nikki Davis, Lacey Cleveland, Cassie Gardner, Ashton Garris, Desirae Hulsey, Destiny Driskel, Laney Cook, Paula Patterson, and Tori Tucker. Our Pre school Program consists of Brandy Smith-K4/5Lead, Jera Culberson, Amanda McDaniel-K3 Lead, Lisa McCain, Rebeka McMahan, Rayna Herringdine, Kaitlin Murchison, Crystal Sanchez, and Christy Hill.

They are the best because they care!!

A Big Thank You to them all!!!!!!

*Dee Dee Mathews, Director*

First Methodist Kindergarten/Day Care is looking for a dedicated, child-loving individual who would like to work June and July. The hours are 8 am to 2:30 pm. We need someone who loves working with 4, 5, and 6 yr olds. You must be 19 years of age. Please call Dee Dee Mathews – 256-249-2300, ext. 26. Leave a VM if no answer.



# May 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30 am - MMBS - Library 6:00 pm - APPS Group</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00 pm - Children's Activities 6:00 pm - Youth 6:00 pm - Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 pm - Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm - APPS Group</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 pm - Children's Activities 6:00 pm - Youth 6:00 pm - Choir 7:00 pm - Worship Team</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 <b>Senior &amp; Youth Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 pm - Finance Mtg 6:00 pm - Admin. Board Mtg 6:00 pm - APPS Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 am - UMW/ United Women in Faith</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 pm - Children's Activities 6:00 pm - Youth 6:00 pm - Choir 7:00 pm - Worship Team</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00 pm - APPS Group</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00 pm - Summer Blowout 6:00 pm - Choir 7:00 pm - Worship Team</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>6:00 pm - APPS Group</p>	<p>31</p>				