

Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, March 21, making March 22 the earliest possible date and April 25 the latest. In the near future, the earliest Easter will be March 25 in 2035 and the latest will be April 25 in 2038.

- ◆ If you would like a hard copy of one of Brother Ed's sermons, please contact the church office.
- ◆ The UMW/United Women in Faith will hold a reorganizational meeting Tuesday, April 5, at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall Lounge. All ladies are welcome to attend.
- ◆ First Methodist has an open **Meals on Wheels** date, the 2nd Friday of each month. Contact the church office.
- ◆ If you would like to help with the children or youth, contact Leslie or Chrystal.

Attendance / Average for March

Sunday School	17
Worship	90
Live Stream	26
Facebook	79

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 Wright/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

Ramsey Owens/Amanda McDaniel - Financial Secretary

105 E. Spring St, Sylacauga, AL

256-249-0362



FIRST NEWS

APRIL 2022

PASTOR'S PAGE

What an honor it has been to serve as your preacher for a short while! Your congregation clearly has a gift of welcoming.

If I haven't met you yet, my name is Ed Sims, and folks generally call me "Brother Ed." I retired in June of last year after having served thirty years as a United Methodist pastor. My wife Amelia is also a retired UM pastor, and works at Soujourns Fair Trade store in Crestwood (Birmingham). We live in Talladega County on Lake Logan Martin near Clear Creek Marina with our dog Yuki and our cats Bella and Clovis.

Easter reminds us that new beginnings happen in surprising ways, and that Jesus has fulfilled his promise to be with us no matter what we go through in life. Just as the disciples were anxiously awaiting the resurrection, I know that you have been longing for the arrival of your new appointed pastor. I want you to know that Amelia and I are praying for and with you, that God will send you the pastor that you need to achieve the new life that Jesus is calling you into.

In the meantime, let me thank you for the ministry that you are already doing in Jesus' name. When I drive up to the church and see the smiling faces of children in your kindergarten, when I look out on the smiling faces of the congregation as we worship together, and when I am repeatedly inspired by the heart-moving music of your worship, I am aware that God is powerfully present among you, and will continue to be with you through and beyond this period of waiting.

God bless you, as a congregation, as families, and each of you as an individual believer!

In Jesus' name,
Brother Ed

Worship & Arts Ministries!

Hello Worship & Arts Friends!!!

The month of April looks to be a busy and vibrant time for our church, and our Worship & Arts Teams! Here is a look at our upcoming activities!

April 3, Sunday Worship – Our Chancel Choir, Accompanists & Guest String Musicians will be presenting *“A LIVING HOPE – Celebrating the Risen Christ” Cantata*. You won’t want to miss this special presentation of the Word through music!

April 10, Palm Sunday – Our Worship will feature the celebration with palms of Christ’s entrance into Jerusalem, and usher in the start of Holy Week! Choir, Handbells, Worship Band and Media will all be leading our congregation! Scripture Focus – Luke 19:28-40.

April 11-15, Holy Week Noonday Services - Each Day of Holy Week, we will meet to worship at noon, led by Guest Pastors from our community. It will be a 30 minute service of Word and Music, followed by a light lunch provided by our own Church Family. Make your plans to be with us.....it will be a blessing for all!!

April 14, Maundy Thursday Service, 6pm – FUMC’s Traditional Maundy Thursday Communion Celebration promises to be a special time, and setting the stage for the culmination of the Passion, and leads us to Easter! Scripture Focus – John 13:1-17, 31-35.

April 17, EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP! He Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed! Plan to be with us for this special 10am Worship Experience! Scripture Focus – Luke 24:1-12.

April 24, Sunday Worship – Sunday after Easter – “What’s in a Name?” Scripture Focus – Exodus 3:10-14.

Love of Christ Be With You!

David Simpkins, Director of Worship & Arts

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

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

~ SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH ~ ~ March ~

In Memory of Edna Lusk by Danny Culp, Sammy & Bebe Andrews, Elizabeth P. Siskron, Joe & Willie Harris, Connie Wright, James & Kathy Landus, Suzanne & Paul Phillips, Jerry & Debbie Adair, Penny Young.

In Memory of Rita Powell by Anne O. Gray, Jerry & Debbie Adair.

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 (205) 601-4144.

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

April 3rd

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **John Milton and Bernice Williams Hightower; John Judge and Neal Chandler Hightower; and Robert Neal Hightower** by Martha and Joe Turner & Family.

NARTHEX FLOWERS in honor of the marriage of **David Gray and Kathy Smith** by Anne O. Gray.

April 10th

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **the deceased members of the UMW/United Women in Faith** by UMW/United Women in Faith.

April 17th

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Ware Gaston; Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Gaston, Sr.; and Dr. & Mrs. Dwight L. Evans** by their Sons and Grandsons: Charles, Joel and Maury Gaston.

April 24th

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. William Murray Melton, Sr.** by The Earl Lewis Family and The Bill Melton Family.

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Noon service followed by a light lunch

April 11 - Rick Patrick, First Baptist

April 12 - Mark Jessup, Knollwood Presbyterian

April 13 - Charles Sims, First Presbyterian

April 14 - Henry Looney, Reaching the World Bible

April 15 - Stephen McWhorter, St. Luke's Episcopal

April 14 - Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 16 - Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunt

We are planning a community wide hunt on Saturday, April 16, at 10 am on our front lawn.



We need your help!

We need plastic eggs filled with candy brought to the church office, or placed in the bin in the Narthex. We need as many filled eggs as possible. You are also welcome to donate bags of individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs separately. Thank you for your help in making this a successful event for the children in our area!

*Leslie Lucas, Director of
Children's Ministries*

Kindergarten/Day Care News

We held registration March 3rd – very good turn-out. We have slots open for K4/K5 and 1 yr. olds beginning in August. We are planning a fun-filled summer with visits to the B.B. Comer Library, Sno-Biz, pizza lunches and more. We will have a fundraiser in April for St. Jude. This fundraiser is one that we believe very strongly about. Bless these children. The playground is getting some very needed cleaning done thanks to one of our fantastic friends! I am sad to say that our long time Financial Secretary, Ramsey Reynolds Owens will be leaving us to continue her education. I am so proud of her, and I will miss her tremendously. Amanda McDaniel will serve as our Financial Secretary. She is currently K3 Lead Teacher. Her financial duties will begin in April. (She will maintain her Lead position until the end of May). God is good!!!

Dee Dee Mathews, Director



April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm				1	2
3 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Cantata A Living Hope	4 9:30 am - MMBS - Library 6:00 pm - APPS Group	5 10:00 am - UMW 5:30 pm - Handbell Choir	6 6:00 pm - Children's Activities 6:00 pm - Youth 6:00 pm - Choir 7:00 pm - Worship Team	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship	11 9:30 am - MMBS - Library 12:00 pm - Worship 12:30 pm - Lunch 6:00 pm - APPS Group	12 12:00 pm - Worship 12:30 pm - Lunch 5:30 pm - Handbell Choir	13 12:00 pm - Worship 12:30 pm - Lunch 6:00 pm - Children's Activities 6:00 pm - Youth 6:00 pm - Choir 7:00 pm - Worship Team	14 12:00 pm - Worship 12:30 pm - Lunch 6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service	15 12:00 pm - Worship 12:30 pm - Lunch	16 10:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt
17 EASTER 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship	18 9:30 am - MMBS - Library 5:00 pm - Finance Mtg 6:00 pm - Administra- tive Board Mtg 6:00 pm - APPS Group	19 5:30 pm - Handbell Choir	20 6:00 pm - Children's Activities 6:00 pm - Youth 6:00 pm - Choir 7:00 pm - Worship Team	21	22	23
24 8:30 am - Prayer for Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship	25 9:30 am - MMBS - Library 6:00 pm - APPS Group	26 5:30 pm - Handbell Choir	27 6:00 pm - Children's Activities 6:00 pm - Youth 6:00 pm - Choir 7:00 pm - Worship Team	28	29	30