

Chickasaw United Methodist Church
108 Lee Street
Chickasaw, AL 36611
Phone: 251-452-3461
Fax: 251-452-3468

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mobile, AL 36601
Permit No. 677

Prayerfully prepared
for:

CHICKASAW U.M.C. APRIL 2016



The Ministry of Hospitality

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

The Meriam-Webster Dictionary defines hospitality as “generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests”. The ministry of hospitality is a truth that runs through the whole Bible. Abraham took steps to establish his covenant with God by inviting some strangers into his tent in Genesis 18:2-5. Jesus’s disciple, Matthew, invited all his sinful friends to a party so they could meet Jesus also. We are all familiar with Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 25 about whenever we serve people in need we are serving Jesus. The time in the life of the early church when the book of Hebrews was written was a time when the persecution of Christians was growing at an alarming rate. The people of God were becoming afraid of people that they didn’t know because it could be a “set-up” for an arrest. Right there in the middle of that time of crisis God sends this amazing word, “be kind to strangers.” Then, the author of the book of Hebrews goes the extra mile under the Spirit’s leading and says we can actually be kind to angels without knowing it by being kind to strangers.

The call to Christian hospitality goes all the way back to the truth that when we were once far away and strangers to God, He welcomed us in. The entire message of the Christian Gospel is based on this idea. From this extravagant hospitality, we see that our Lord calls us to hospitality as well. As much as we would like to think that hospitality would come naturally like breathing, this is not so. We must decide to be people of hospitality and learn the art from our Heavenly Father. To describe hospitality using one word picture, I think it is an attitude of wearing a special set of glasses so that you see people differently, especially those who are new to our church. I believe as we move forward as a church we will make some organized efforts to show hospitality to “our own” and to “strangers.” At the same time, we must be all the more intentional to wear the glasses of hospitality at all times. As we live out this hospitality as a church, our Lord will be glorified as people see the hospitality of God lived out through us.

God Bless
Dave Rhodes
Dave Rhodes



Canned meats, canned fruit, packets of oatmeal, grits, rice, peanut butter & jelly, and crackers are needed.

Thank you for all your support of our food pantry. And thanks to the wonderful volunteers that bag the food and hand it out on Tuesdays.



- 3- Tom Burch
- 4- Bob Trehern
- 5-Jan Miller
- 8- Kathy Couey
- 10- Gladys O’Neal
Scott Mosley
- 11- Derry England
- 21-Wesley Rhodes
- 22-Brett Herndon
- 25 Tony Diggs
- 29 Ervin Dailey

CHURCH NEWS

The biggest event that we have on our horizon is our church conference on April 3rd where we will vote on our Antioch consultant recommendations. Simply put, if we vote yes to these recommendations by at least 70%, the conference will assign us five coaches to help us carry out these plans at no charge to us for 18 months. It is very interesting in talking with other pastors; we all have this same problem regardless the size or location of the church. The problem is that the people of the church and the pastor see the need to make the changes, but are inexperienced in doing the kind of work that is recommended. That is why churches haven't done it. The recommendations are not done because the church doesn't really know how to move forward on them. I consider the coaches the key to success of the entire Antioch Project. The coaches will give us expert advice on how to move forward on the plans, provide us with the accountability to keep us on track as well as encourage us when we struggle.

What will the vote on Sunday be? I don't know. The local churches of the United Methodist Church are set up on a democratic model. We won't move forward unless we have a united consensus or clear vote on any church-wide decision. Please be there on Sunday at 12:00 for our church conference. The type of changes that we will be working for as we carry out the Antioch recommendations will bring us together in a new level of unity that we haven't experienced in a very long time.

There are two new Bible studies starting in April. I, Brother Dave, will be leading a six week study on the gospel of John using the book by Adam Hamilton. We will be meeting on Sunday afternoons at 5:00pm, Tuesday Mornings at 10:00 and Wednesday Evenings at 6:40. Jennifer Barnes will be leading a Bible Study on Living Beyond Yourself by Beth Moore on Wednesday evenings as well. If you are looking to know the Bible and our Lord better, please join one of these studies.

Our youth and children are planning some great activities for this summer. Please read their articles about the dates and events that we will be doing this summer. Also, a big thank you goes out to Tony Barnes and the choir for their wonderful ministry of music that they shared with us on Easter Sunday. On the music front, please be praying for our musicians at the 9:00 service as they are working to add additional music instruments to the service. We are planning to have a guitarist playing on Sunday the 17th.

We believe that God calls everyone to meaningful ministry. Find a place where you can contribute your time and skills.

SANCTUARY USHERS

Sanctuary Ushers are needed to serve just once a month. For more information please contact Jim Trout or Dave Rhodes

COMMUNION SERVERS

Communion servers are needed to serve just once a month in the Sanctuary at the 11:00 service. For more information, email Lynn at chickasawumc@gmail.com.

TAPE MINISTRY

Deliver the Sunday Sermon to a shut in. Just once a month you will drop a bulletin and tape off to a shut in. For more information email Lynn.

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Provide breakfast on Sunday morning between the two services. If you are able to help or would like to donate the money and have someone else prepare the breakfast please email or call the church office.

Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Family Easter Egg Hunt



Holy Week Breakfast



**A Good Word From Our
Ministry Intern
Brooke Herndon**



Kelsey Holder Children's Director

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Antioch Vote! 12:00	4 Mission's Committee Meeting 6:00pm	5 Mike's Pantry 9-11 Adam Hamilton Study 10:00 UMW 6:30	6 Quilters 9-11 New Small Groups starting	7	8	9
10 Adam Hamilton Study 5:00pm	11 Trustees Finance Ad Council	12 Adam Hamilton Study 10:00 Esther Circle 6:30	13 Quilters 9-11 Beth Moore Study 6:30 Adam Hamilton Study 6:40	14	15	16
17 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Adam Hamilton Study 5:00pm	18	19 Mike's Food Pantry 9-11 Adam Hamilton Study 10:00	20 Quilters 9-11 Beth Moore Study 6:30 Adam Hamilton Study 6:40	21	22	23
24 Adam Hamilton Study 5:00pm	25	26 Adam Hamilton Study 10:00 Lydia Circle 10:00	27 Quilters 9-11 Beth Moore Study 6:30 Adam Hamilton Study 6:40	28	29	30

In Philippians 3:7 Paul says "I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done." These past few weeks of Lent, I have really been reflecting on Christ being crucified for ME and YOU. It is so mind blowing to me, because I disappoint him daily, and he still welcomes me back every time with open arms. Lord, thank you for Your grace! My friend Lisa Taylor makes these bracelets. They have a penny on them, and they have the word "Worthy" carved into them. It is something that I love wearing as a beautiful reminder to myself that days when I feel as worthless as a penny, the Lord looks at me and says "You are so worthy and loved!"

If you are interested in purchasing a penny bracelet. You can visit her website and buy a bracelet: <http://oorcollection.weebly.com/store.html> Happy Spring!!!

Acolytes for April

- 1st Brooks Boutwell/Emma Jackson
- 2nd Nathan Boutwell/Averie Lloyd
- 3rd Cooper Crenshaw/Kamarre Diggs
- 4th Brooks Boutwell/Nathan Boutwell

Summer Schedules will start soon. If you have events you would like on the church calendar please call the church office.

Backpack Ministry: We provided 24 backpacks to Chickasaw Elementary School this year. Thank you to all that contributed money, placed the order, picked up the order, packed the bags and delivered the food. We could not have done it without you! This ministry allows children to eat over the weekend. It takes such a small donation from our church members. But it means so much to the students and teachers at Chickasaw.

We at Kids for Christ had a blast learning about Easter this March! We also took advantage of the warmer weather every opportunity we could. A special memory from this past month specifically was the Sunday evening of daylight savings time. Only a few children came and we were all so excited that the sun was out that we had to go outside. I brought a story book full of different short stories from upstairs, but doubted the kids would be able to focus on it with the gorgeous weather distracting them. After reading the first part, I was delighted when one of the children purposefully left the swing she was on to sit closer to me and hear the next part. Then for the next hour we continued a pattern of play, then story, play, and so on. This system inspired the rest of our Lent/Easter lessons, even when we stayed inside, since we were called to both reflect and celebrate during this season.

I want to express my appreciation for all those who made our Easter Egg Hunt such a success! We couldn't have done it without your generous donations of eggs, candy, decorations, time, and more. I was proud to see all the children and families in our fellowship hall so welcomed and loved on by our church. I also want to thank Stephanie Stewart and Linda Stringer for offering their experience and leadership in all aspects of the event.

As we look to April, it is already time to prepare for summer at Blue Lake. The Early Bird deadline is April 15th, with a price increase following that date. I plan to send out more information as I receive it, but I know that we have historically had a group go to the Worship Arts camp experience. We are also open to sending children other weeks if the theme/activities are more to their liking so that each child gets a camp experience that fits them. If you have questions about Blue Lake Camp, feel free to talk to myself, Jayne, or Brooke. If you are interested in helping with camper scholarships, please contact Lynn Lankford for more information.

Sunday Morning Schedule: 1st Service 9:00; Sunday School 10:00/10:15; 2nd Service 11:00.
Sunday Afternoon: Rt. 19 Youth Ministries, Kids for Christ & Adam Hamilton Study 5:00pm
Wednesday Night Activities: Covered Dish Supper 6:00; Kids for Christ, Youth & Beth Moore Study 6:30, Small Group Study/Choir 6:45; College & Career Small Group Study 8:00



Tony Barnes, Music Director

One of my favorite chapters in the Bible is Psalm 100. Making a joyful noise is one of the first things it tells us to do. Serve the Lord and come before Him with singing. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise. Be thankful and bless His name! I trust that each of the songs that we sing on Sunday morning will help us all achieve that passage of scripture.

My prayer for all of us is that our focus is on Jesus, not just the words or music in the songs. We live in a time where we need Jesus and God's Word in our lives more than ever before. Music will come and go, but God's presence is always awaiting us. It is my hope that as you sing our songs of worship, you will find yourself in the middle of a downpour of God's holy rain.

If you are interested in sharing your talents in one of our choirs, or just want to come and see how much fun we have making a joyful noise for the one who gave us a reason to sing. Join us. Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday nights at 6:45 PM in the sanctuary followed by the True North Praise Team at 7:45 PM in the sanctuary.

Your friend in Worship, Tony Barnes

OUR SCHEDULE!

Sunday Afternoon
Kids for Christ & Rt. 19 Youth 5:00pm
Wednesday Night
Kids for Christ & Rt. 19 Youth 6:30pm
Chancel Choir 6:45pm
True North 7:45

Rt. 19 Youth Ministries

Jayne Stewart

I've always liked the whole "many parts; one body" idea that we have in church. As a member of the millennial generation, who has been taught all their life that teamwork makes dreams work, it speaks to me not only in my spiritual life, but in my social life as well.

1 Corinthians 12:24-27

"But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

In one of my classes recently, I was able to share how important the body of Christ is to our church. It's easy to see how a group of people who are very similar to each other can get a lot of things done, but what makes the Church so beautiful is that we understand that despite our differences, we are all children of the same God.

I feel like people in our world seem to forget that. And even though I don't see it a lot in Chickasaw United Methodist Church, I've seen it in other churches I've visited. It makes me so happy that our church works well together as one body, working to further the kingdom. It makes me think about how I can incorporate that into the world around us that we are trying to minister to.

I read a book called "Messy Spirituality" last summer, and it helped me look at the beauty of all of the parts of the Body of Christ. It's a great book and it will be our youth curriculum for the summer. (Speaking of summer, the youth will be getting info about Blue Lake within the next few weeks and also details about our annual 30 hour famine, and youth lock in which will be in early May this year.)

I love that our church is so willing to be one body working together. I always see so much of it around Easter with Holy Week breakfast and the egg hunt, and Good Friday service. I'm excited to see how we will continue to work together ministering not just within our church but the world around us.

**"COMMIT to the LORD whatever YOU DO,
and HE will establish
your PLANS." Proverbs 16:3**

Adult Bible Study

2 STUDIES

4 OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

JOHN The Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton | Six week study | begins Tuesday, April 5th at 10:00am & Wednesday, April 6th at 6:40pm | Beckham Classroom | Led by Rev. Dave Rhodes | The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. It includes some of the loftiest and most loved verses in all the Bible: "And the Word became flesh...", "For God so loved the world...", "You who are without sin cast the first stone...", "I am the resurrection and the life...", "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that his readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name."

LIVING BEYOND YOURSELF Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit by Beth Moore | 10 week study | begins Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30pm | Led by Jennifer Barnes | Experiencing the Spirit Filled Life. You can know the freedom of a life filled with the fruit of the Spirit. In Living Beyond Yourself, noted Bible teacher and author Beth Moore leads an in-depth study of the fruit of the Spirit—living proof that the Spirit of God dwells in us. Through this study you'll come to appreciate the supernatural aspects of the fruit and will learn that you cannot grow, learn, or produce the fruit on your own. As you walk with God, He develops in you the fruit of the Spirit. A Spirit-filled life truly results in living beyond yourself.

If you would like to participate in either of these studies please call or email the office at chickasawumc@gmail.com. A study book will need to be ordered.

New Sermon Series

How the Good Shepherd brings us into Abundant Life

John 10

April 3rd | The Power of Vision
(Church Conference at 12)

April 10th | Abundant Life Begins at the Gate

(Communion Sunday)

April 17th | Abundant Life and Relationships

April 24th | Abundant Life and You

May 1st | Abundant Life and the World Around You

May 8th | God Gave us the Gift of Mothers



Chickasaw United Methodist Kindergarten

is accepting applications for the 2016-17 school year.

Days and Times

Monday-Friday

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8:00 - 12:00

Ages

Three, Four and Five year olds,

\$25 registration fee

\$95 Supply fee

\$85 monthly tuition/3 days a week

\$100 monthly tuition/5 days a week