



Chickasaw METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2024



Beautiful day for a
Farmer's Market!
Come see us again on
May 4th.



Fulfilling a promise
by ringing the
church bells.



We were honored to
celebrate Bob
Trehern's 100th
Birthday

Our Youth went on a Scavenger Hunt to learn
some interesting facts about some of our older
members of the church. They also had the
opportunity to pray for them.



PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

REV. DAVE RHODES



Finding God's Power Through Prayer... not quite what you expected.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people". Ephesians 6:18

I take prayer seriously, very seriously. Because of my personal commitment to prayer, I take prayer very seriously. I find it strange that many people say that they pray for things, but they don't see the work of prayer having much impact on their lives. I have wondered what is it that people, even Christians, seem to not understand about prayer. From the most basic understanding of prayer, we have to ask, "Doesn't God want to answer our prayers and bless us?" As I have sought to grow in prayer, I have come to realize there are three key areas where people miss God's blessing in prayer. The three key areas where people miss out on prayer are: prepositions, relationships, and action.

Remember in elementary school when you learned about prepositions. You know the words like "in, from, above, at, to, out, of." Long years ago, when I was at my first church, it became an imperative thought in my mind to ask my church to pray for the church and me as the pastor. I had some really good Christians in that church assure me over and over that they were indeed praying for me and the church. Yet, as time went on, I got a sinking feeling that their prayers didn't seem to be helping. We were slowly losing ground as a church. We were working hard, but we were losing ground as a church. The most perplexing thing to me was that the church belonged to God and yet praying to God didn't seem to be helping.

The good people of my first church were only praying verbs and not prepositions! Recently, two ladies spoke to someone saying that they want to get more involved in our church. It is truly a greater reality when someone says I want to get more involved by doing something specific verses just saying, "this is a great church." Losing Bill Wells last week greatly reminded me that time works against a church that is standing still. For a church to survive, we must be moving forward with vision and spiritual growth AND we must be always working to grow numerically and financially. If we don't keep these four priorities before us, all churches will eventually die.

So, what do I mean when I say praying prepositions versus verbs? A prayer of only verbs is praying "God help our church." A prepositional prayer is "God help our church to grow." Or "God please move in our church so that we will all be more spiritually alive." Or, "Lord help us to be a church that makes a difference in many people's lives." As you pray, notice whether you are using prepositions or not and which ones are you using.

The second way I come to understand prayer better back in my Chumuckla days was relationships. A large percentage of the people in that church were first, second, and third cousins with each other. Over time, I grew to find it entertaining to memorize all the relationship constellations in that church. As time passed and I listened to the people, I noticed that things they talked about were 20, 30 or 40 years in the past. I love a good memory as much as the next person, maybe even more; but I know that God hasn't gone out of business. We as God's people need to be building memories with each other and God right now. Why do we have to rest on the laurels of our past in our relationships? I have heard today from four different women who went to the Favored Women Conference this past weekend. All four women were so excited about the experiences they had with God and each other. We have to invest in our relationships with each other and God for our prayers to be answered. Our Lord is big on relationships, and He wants churches to be places full of vibrant and loving relationships. It is so easy to fall into the mindset of seeing the church as just a heritage hall where all we do is to talk about the past. We are in the church to study together, worship together, serve together and to grow in discipleship together all in the here and now. God answers our prayers more powerfully as we invest in His people.

Finally, our Lord wants us to be acting in the ways that we are praying. From the second of Genesis through the rest of the Bible, we see our all-powerful God wanting the human race to get in the game with Him! God knows and we know that He could do everything without us. Our Father could have made things so that we were just passive recipients of what He has to give. That is just not the way that God made us or the way our Lord like to operate. I have seen many times as a person invests him/herself into an endeavor AND the person prays, God blessings come about in some amazing ways. God pays us an amazing compliment in that He wants to see His work done on earth with us cooperating with Him!

Now, I am not espousing any form of spells or formula prayers. Jesus clearly teaches against thinking that using certain words in hopes of getting one's prayers answered. Furthermore, I have had some bad experiences with people who approached prayer like God was a coke machine, that is if you push the right button, you get the right result (you say the right words or avoid the wrong words and God has to answer your prayers). The Bible clearly teaches over and over that prayer is from the heart. One of the biggest struggles we face as Disciples of Jesus is not entering fully into prayer. We stay in the realms of our mind praying in ways where we won't be disappointed. What I am trying to communicate is that we need to pray. We need to pray consistently. We need to pray consistently from the deepest parts of our hearts. Prepositions, relationships, and actions help us to go deeper into our hearts so that we can bring our whole hearts and our whole selves to God.

So let's lift up our church with prayers like, "Lord, help our church to grow and to have such an impact on people so that we will operate with such generous hospitality so that people will be drawn to our church and after a few Sundays they will say, 'we want to get more involved and God is now working in my life (was that a run-on sentence or what?)"

God Bless, *Brother Dave*
SENIOR PASTOR

Thank you to our May Volunteers!

Sunday May 5th

Nursery: Lynn Lankford, Greg and Diane Green

Counters: Gary Smallwood & TBD

Ushers: Doc Greene, Greg Green

Breakfast: Transitions Class (Linda Lyles)

Greeters: Bobby Smallwood, Margaret Sorenson, Brenda Weeks, Linda Lyles

Building Steward: Dennis McCann

Communion: Tom and Martha Williams, Dave Rhodes & Gary Smallwood

Sunday May 12th (Mother's Day)

Nursery: Greg and Diane Green

Counters: Gayle Cawthon, Karen Wells

Ushers: Gary Smallwood, Bobby Smallwood

Breakfast: Youth (Jennifer Barnes)

Greeters: Bobby Smallwood, Dennis McCann, Bobbie Spencer, Linda Lyles

Building Steward: Dennis McCann

Sunday May 19th (Homecoming)

Nursery: Greg and Diane Green

Counters: Bobbie Spencer & Billie Schrimshire

Ushers: Jim Trout & TBD

Breakfast: Men's Club (Bryan McGrew)

Greeters: Bobby Smallwood, Margaret Sorenson, Brenda Weeks, Linda Lyles

Building Steward: Dennis McCann

Sunday May 26th

Nursery: Karen Wells, Greg and Diane Green

Counters: Doc Greene and Sheri Greene

Ushers: Steve Reeves & TBD

Breakfast: Ladies Sunday School Class (Lynn Lankford)

Greeters: Bobby Smallwood, Dennis McCann, Bobbie Spencer, Linda Lyles

Building Steward: Dennis McCann

How could you serve our church?

**Mother's
Day and
Graduation
Sunday**



MAY 12, 2024
10:30 AM

CHICKASAW METHODIST
108 LEE ST
CHICKASAW, ALABAMA

CHS Band Concert

May 7th @ 6pm

On Thursday, May 2nd, we are hosting the Chickasaw High School band concert. There will be a reception following the concert in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a volunteer opportunity! We need greeters at the multiple entrances/ parking lot before the concert and people to help serve food during the reception after the concert. Please call or email the church office if you can help during this event.

Chickasaw Farmer's Market

May 4th @ 1-4pm

On Saturday, May 4th, we will be handing out water, smiles and prayers at the Chickasaw Market at Miller Park. This will be a volunteer opportunity! We need volunteers willing to provide an hour or two of their time to help at the booth. If you would like to help with this event, please call or email the church office if you can help during this event.

Mike's Food Pantry

May 7th & 21st @ 3-5pm

Mike's Food Pantry is on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 3-5pm.

Feel free to make non-perishable food item donations at anytime. Please let the church office, Disa Danger, know if you would like to serve in this way!

Ageless Adventures

May 14th @ 9:30am

Our Ageless Adventurers are heading to Biloxi, MS to visit the Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home. The charge will be \$10/person, please have cash ready to give to Barbara Pulliam prior to boarding the bus. Then, we will eat lunch at Mary Mahoney's.

Ladies Breakfast

May 18th @ 9am

Every 3rd Saturday of the month is the Ladies' Breakfast, held in our fellowship hall at 9am. They always have wonderful food and a very touching devotion. We look forward to seeing you there.

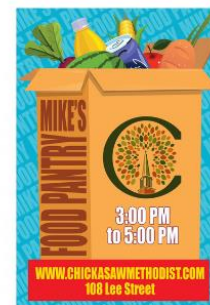
Men's Club

May 19th @ 7:30am

Please Join our Men on the 3rd Sunday of the month, April 19th @ 7:30am for a delicious hot breakfast and time of fellowship. Our Men's Club is a very involved group of men from our church and they are so happy to have guests and potential members.



Chickasaw
Market





“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:12

What does a world-wide chess champion, an honorary Homecoming Queen, a Veteran who has shot an M16 rifle, and a former mayor have in common? Or what about an Alabama fan, a motorcycle owner, a person with a teddy bear collection, and an artist? These were all people who lovingly agreed to be part of our Spring Break Church Family Youth Scavenger Hunt!

We had so much fun going to ten different houses in Chickasaw and matching “the mission” with the person. But the best part of the experience was AFTER they matched the clue and got the required picture. Before they could go to the next mission, they had to ask how they could pray for the person and then, as a group, pray for and with the dear saint of our church. Some of my favorite moments of serving in youth ministry happened that night as I listened to their prayers and experienced beautiful Christian hospitality and love at all of our various stops!

Please be in prayer for 11 of our youth and 3 adults as we travel to Camp Realife in Marianna, Florida during the last week of May. Last summer’s camp experience proved to be a pivotal spiritual experience for a lot of our youth and we are praying that they will be renewed by the Holy Spirit in powerful ways this summer also!

Here’s one more thing I need to ask....It’s a BIG ask - but YOU will be blessed by the yes more than anyone! Please find a way to serve in Next Generation (cradle to college/career) ministry! We need more people on our monthly nursery volunteer list, we need a preschool Sunday School teacher, we need people to help with our Kids 4 Christ program, and we need people helping with youth ministry and our young/recent graduates. Please pray about how you can show up and show God to our Next Generation of Christ Followers!



~ Jennifer Barnes,
Next Generation
Chairperson



~ Noah Morgan
Youth Ministry
Co-Leader



Enjoying a delicious Sunday morning breakfast



Writing birthday cards for Bob Trehern



Helping change the church signs



Thanks Guys!!



Church News

by: Rev. Dave Rhodes

Please take a few minutes to enjoy the pictures of what all our church did for the community and for each other over the month of April. Everything we have done has been done as a gift to God. May will continue to be a great month in our church. We will, of course, celebrate the Lord's Supper to start out the month. Then, we will thank God for our mothers along with recognizing our graduating seniors. After that special Sunday, we will celebrate our first anniversary as a Global Methodist Church. We are excited to have our conference president pro tempore, Lester Spencer, with us. Our new homecoming date is the third Sunday in May. That Sunday is our church's new birthday.

Our Vision Team is working hard, even though the whole team is not meeting that many times. The three breakout teams (trustees, finance, and personnel) have been working hard all through the month. One Thursday morning, I found a member of the Trustees lying on the floor fixing a toilet. Speaking of trustees, they are working hard to correct the electrical problems in our children's upstairs wing. I look forward to sharing with you about the progress that has been made. Our personnel team has been working hard to create position descriptions so that every member of our church's ministry team brings their best efforts to the church for the Kingdom of God. Every week at least one member of the finance team is at the church talking with Anne Green about how we are using God's money as a church. Finally, the chair of the group is talking with me at least once a week about the best ways to prioritize how we use our people and resources as a church. One area that we are praying to grow in as a church is to have a higher percentage of our church in a Christian small group either in outreach or edification.

We will continue on in May with all of our regular ministries from the music ministry to Mike's Food Pantry. Please be reading all the other newsletter articles about these vital ministries of our church. Our youth will be traveling to Camp Real Life in Marianna, Florida on the last week of the month. Everyone of the youth who attended this camp last summer experienced genuine spiritual renewal in their lives. Please pray for this important week of youth ministry in our church.

I wrote a whole article on prayer, so I don't need to say much more on prayer. I do want to share one answer of prayer with you. At our first meeting of our Vision Team, we made a covenant to pray for each other and the church on a consistent and faithful basis. One answer to prayer that we have seen is our worship services. Since we have made this prayer covenant, we have seen at least one first time guest in worship every Sunday. Also, we have seen a certain increase in attendance in worship. Most excitingly, as I spoke of in the previous article, there are people saying that great sentence, "How can I get more involved in the church." Let's just not talk about praying. Let's talk to God in prayer.

*thank you
so much*

Let's say a big thank you to Terry Smallwood for all her hardwork in our rose garden and all the other flower beds. Also, a hearty thank you for those who gave financial gifts to buy replacement plants. The flower beds look great this spring.



Events in May and June

Something for the ladies!

Mother's day is on May 12th and we would love to see all the mothers in our church on this Sunday to honor all that you do on a daily basis. Also, traditionally, we honor the graduates in our church on this Sunday as well and we are so proud of all those that have worked so hard to get here.

Mother's Day and Graduation Sunday

Service

MAY 12, 2024
10:30 AM

CHICKASAW METHODIST
108 LEE ST
CHICKASAW, ALABAMA



Sunday Mornings
@ 9:30 am

Ladies Bible Study

"The Good Life disappears unless we know how to define it correctly"

VIDEO ACCESS INCLUDED

Starting Sunday, May 5th, our Ladies' Sunday School Class will be starting a new Bible Study. If you are a lady looking for a Sunday School Class that is just women, 18+ and are interested in details for this group, please contact Jennifer Barnes @ (251) 454-9197.

Amos

An Invitation to the Good Life

JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD



SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH - Camp Real Life- Marianna, FL - May 27-31

ELEMENTARY - Blue Lake Worship Arts Camp - Andalusia AL - June 24-28th, 3rd-5th graders, \$50 with Scholarship, \$375 Full Price

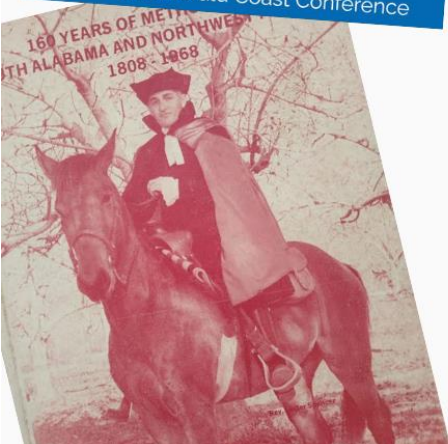
Celebrating 84 Years of Ministry
& Our 1st Year as a Global Methodist Church

Chickasaw
METHODIST CHURCH

Homecoming

May 19, 2024 10:30AM
Potluck Lunch to Follow
Special Guest: Rev. Dr. Lester Spencer
President Pro Tem of the
Alabama Emerald Coast Conference

Our New Governance team met on Sunday, February the 26th. We spent a good bit of the three hour meeting listening to each other and seeking to better understand the challenges facing us as a church. It was a serious, but a spiritually rich time together. One decision we made was to move our homecoming Sunday to a different date. The reasons were that November is a jam-packed month with the Turkey Dinner and Thanksgiving. Also, we became a new church on the third weekend in May of last year when the Alabama West Florida Annual Conference voted us out of the annual conference. Therefore, we will have Homecoming this year on May 19th, the third Sunday in May. We are excited that our new annual conference's President Pro Tempore, Lester Spencer, will be our preacher this year. There are still many people in our church that remember his uncle, Lamar Spencer who was our pastor from 1963 to 1968. Lester's dad, Lester Sr., was the pastor at St Mark Methodist Church from 1957 to 1969. The picture attached to his article is a horseback ride that Lester Sr. did from Mobile to Baltimore, Maryland in honor of the 1966 general conference. Lester has told me that he had a number of relative living in Chickasaw during the 60's and 70's, so in a sense we are inviting an old friend of our community to be with us. It is thought that Lester will be the first bishop of our new annual conference as we move forward. Having Lester with us for Homecoming is truly an exciting event as we move into the new future that God has for us.



Chickasaw United Methodist

Kids4Crist

Love Learn Serve Worship

In April, we cooked up some patience! We practiced showing patience each week and we are continuing that practice as we wait for our plants to grow. April 5 we did a garden party and planted our own little garden...now we just have to wait for all our plants to grow up!

May is always bitter sweet. We get to celebrate the end of the school year at our skate party & are excited to move into our summer time with our youth leaders. Ms Michelle will be busy on her summer sabbatical, but can't wait to come back in August! Before we start packing for summer fun, we will be spending May focused on God's training camp. Commitment is part of God's nature and how God interacts with us, keeping promises and putting plans into action. God's commitment to us is just one of the many reasons we can trust God no matter what. God's promises and plans came true in Jesus, so we can be with God forever. We reflect God's character when we make a plan and stick to it. This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God's Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday.

~Michelle Phillips
Children's Director



**This Year, the End of the Year Party will be at SURGE!
Kids4Crist and Youth are invited! \$5 Admission and you NEED a signed permission form.**

Next Generation Ministry @ Chickasaw Methodist Church

HELLO! SUMMER Party

We are going to Surge!

22 May | Bus leaves the church at 5:30 pm - back around 8 pm

\$5.00 per person
*must have signed permission form

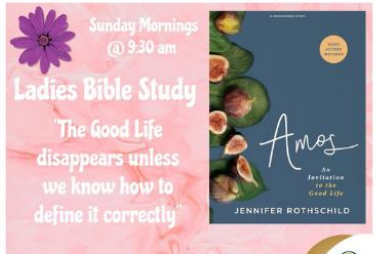
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:00pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 6:30pm Choir Practice	2 1:00pm Adult Bible Study 6:00pm CHS Band Concert	3	4 City of Chickasaw Farmer's Market 1:00pm
5	6	7 Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm	8 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:30pm Choir Practice	9	10 6:00pm Christian Community Kickball @ Miller Park	11
12 Mother's Day and Graduation Sunday	13	14 Ageless Adventures 9:30am	15 Last ROW Dinner 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:30pm Choir Practice	16	17 6:00pm Christian Community Kickball @ Miller Park	18 Ladies' Breakfast 9:00am
19 Men's Club 7:30am Homecoming Sunday Bring a covered dish for lunch	20	21 Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm	22 5:30pm Kids and Youth go to Surge for End of the year party Choir Practice 6:30pm	23	24 6:00pm Christian Community Kickball @ Miller Park	25
26	27 Memorial Day, Remember those we have lost. "Pray for youth while at camp"	28 Lydia Circle 10am "Pray for youth while at camp"	29 Choir Practice 6:30pm "Pray for youth while at camp"	30 "Pray for youth while at camp"	31 "Pray for youth while at camp"	

Youth Camp

Look for these graphics for more information. You can visit our website for more information too!





Worship Ministry

I just want to give a big shout out and a sincere thank you to each person who serves on the worship team! We have a great team of people who show up every Wednesday for rehearsals and every Sunday ready to lead in worship! There are many behind the scenes people serving as well. They work each week with sound, words, live stream, etc. And!!! We have some very talented musicians...keyboardist, guitarist and drummer!!

Thank you to each one for your enthusiasm and love for music! It's a joy to serve with each of you!



~ Angie Middleton,
Minister of Music



Due to Phil King being on a trip, Chickasaw Diners will be back in June for anyone interested in signing up to go out to lunch. This is such a wonderful opportunity to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to Brent Middleton for more details regarding Chickasaw Diners. (251) 979-8077.

GRADUATION

SPOTLIGHT!

Emma Grace Jackson



After Graduation...I plan to attend South Alabama and visit Peru. Experiencing a pandemic during high school taught me.... how to appreciate the opportunities I get. For example, being able to graduate with my entire class in person. These little experiences are blessings within itself that I use to take for granted. One of the people who has influenced me the most as a Christian...is my Nana. My Nana has always been a poised, polite, Christian woman. She has set the standard on how to love the Lord and everyone else since I can remember. She is a pristine example of the values I want to own when I am older. As I begin the new exciting chapter of my life... I am excited about being able to meet new people! Satsuma is an amazing community, however, I am looking forward to getting out of my comfort zone and accepting all of the new experiences the Lord is going to bring me. Thank you to everyone who has supported me for these last 18 years! Your love, support, and kind words mean the world to me. I would not be the young lady I am today without you all!

Avery Faith Lloyd

After Graduation...I plan to attend Coastal Community College and study Cosmetology. Experiencing a pandemic during high school taught me.... to appreciate the people I see everyday. And also to wash your hands!!! One of the people who has influenced me the most as a Christian...is my Nana. My Nana has been one of the people I most look up to and she's been an amazing role model. One of my favorite memories is going to church with my Nana and listening to her church cd's in her car on the way. As I begin the new exciting chapter of my life... I am excited about meeting new people! Also, learning more things about myself as an individual and making more memories and connections.

