



Chickasaw METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2024



PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

GARY SMALLWOOD ON BEHALF OF REV. DAVE RHODES

*"Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it."*

1 Corinthians 12:27

When we think about our church, we can be overwhelmed by the needs of our church. We read verses like the one above and we see that God wants everyone serving in His church. We know that we should serve, but we aren't always sure where to serve. At a minimum, each of us should make a concerted effort to greet and welcome visitors and demonstrate our appreciation and personal interest in their presence. We have a wonderful church being led by the hardest working pastor that I've ever observed. We also have neat, clean and comfortable facilities along with a very committed church staff. It should also be mentioned that our new music team is working toward attaining the right balance of contemporary and traditional hymns which is a challenging but very important necessity.

Allow me to draw your attention to two people - one older and one younger. Margaret Sorensen has become a very active and valuable member of our church. She greets people every Sunday, she did a phenomenal job of hosting her station in the Good Friday service and she never says "no" to any request. I don't think she would mind if I pointed out that she would be considered an elderly person by societal standards, but she doesn't impose age related limitations on her willingness to contribute. Then, there is Garrison Gardner who did a great job of narration during the Easter service and he followed up with a very well-spoken and heartfelt personal testimony. He is a young man and has only been involved in a church for a few years but did more on Easter Sunday to make a meaningful contribution to our church service than some people do their whole lives.

The bottom line is God can lead any of us to help spread the word and make a positive difference in the overall worship experience in our church if we will allow him to do so. I'm very excited about a lot of positive developments in our church and I hope and pray each of us will invite others to attend, contribute in areas wherever we felt led and help build on the great foundation of our church that was established by many God fearing and spiritually committed people.

God Bless,

Gary Smallwood

Upcoming Sermon Series



Thank you to our April Volunteers!

Sunday April 7th

Nursery: Robin Lee, Greg and Diane Green

Counters: Gary Smallwood

Ushers: Doc Greene, Greg Green

Breakfast: Transitions Class (Linda Lyles)

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

Building Steward: Dave Rhodes

Communion: Dave Rhodes, Robin Blackwell, Tom & Linda Lyles

Sunday April 14th

Nursery: Babe McGrew, 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: Dave Rhodes

Sunday April 21st

Nursery: Lynn Lankford, 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: Dave Rhodes

Sunday April 28th

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: Dave Rhodes

How could you serve our church?

Mike's Food Pantry

April 2nd & 16th @ 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!



Chickasaw Diners

April 7th after worship service

ALL are welcome to join the new CHICKASAW DINERS for our first gathering for lunch right after church on Sunday, April 7th! Our first one will be at DREAMLAND BBQ! Please sign up in the fellowship hall so we have a count of who will be attending. This will be a dutch lunch, meaning that you will be paying for your own lunch. Please contact Phil King or Brent Middleton for more info!



Scavenger Hunt

April 17th @ 5:30pm

It may be Spring Break, but we will still be having a great time! April 17th @ 5:30pm, we will be having ROW Dinner and then our Youth are going on a Church Family/Community Scavenger Hunt! Which team will collect the clues first? Which team will have the most creative finds?



Ladies Breakfast

April 20th @ 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

April 21st @ 7:30am

Please Join our Men on the 3rd Sunday of the month, April 21st @ 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.



Ageless Adventures

April 23rd @ 9:30am

Our Ageless Adventurers are heading to Grove Hill, AL for another great historical tour led by Kerry Reid, the historian of Clarke County Historical Commission. We will eat lunch at our favorite Grove Hill restaurant, Court House Square Deli. Then, we will go to On the Hill Market to shop for plants and enjoy ice cream for dessert.



GNEX GENERATION

Connecting the Next Generation to Christ



“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

It is so easy to read this passage and think that Moses must be addressing parents and families - but look closely at who is being addressed. All of Israel. The culture of the Israelites was that of a community. As a parent and someone invested in working with our children and youth, I believe one of the greatest values of the Church is its potential to provide community for our Next Generation.

What does that community look like? Well, for one thing, it's about being a place where children and youth can show up and be safe. I was so grateful that so many people stayed for the Ministry Safe Child Protection training this past month! All adults working with youth and children will need to have this training, as well as undergo a thorough background check. Our Vision Leadership Team also took part in the training so they can understand, know, and help carry out a culture of safety for all our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Thank you to those who were able to complete the training and please be in touch with me as soon as possible if you need information on going through the training on your own. We will soon be starting the Background Check process - I will be in touch with those of you needing them soon!

Another way that “community” is demonstrated is when our kids or youth can have meaningful conversations with adults. Sometimes those talks can be challenging - working through doubts or struggles. And sometimes they can be time-consuming and unpredictable. But the “relationship investment” is always worth it, as having a consistent, caring adult is sometimes THE thing that makes a difference in a young person's life and ensures that they grow in the knowledge and grace of Jesus! Special thanks to Gary Smallwood for stepping in to lead the youth Sunday School class when Noah had to miss a few weeks recently! And to all who have worked so hard to learn our kid's names and stories - thank you for SEEING them!

I am grateful for the community of believers called Chickasaw Methodist and the many ways you not only “keep these commandments on your hearts” as instructed in that scripture passage referenced above- but also your commitment to impress them on YOUR children: The Next Generation of Christ followers in your church family!



~ Jennifer Barnes,
Next Generation
Chairperson



~ Noah Morgan
Youth Ministry
Co-Leader



Church News

by: Rev. Dave Rhodes

We are now moving into the month of April. April is known for things like April fool's Day and our tax deadline. With God, every month is a time of grace, whether we file taxes or not. Before I share with you about our up and coming month, I want to say that we had a great time of ministry in the month of March. We had a great time living out Lent and learning about our Good Shepherd together. I really was blessed as your pastor to lead our family through the 23rd Psalm. There was so much grace in that simple chapter of the Bible. We had a glorious holy week experience. Palm Sunday was a powerful time in worship. Good Friday was an amazing time led by eight people in our church blending together the Passion of Christ and the 23rd Psalm. From the opening song to the closing prayer of Good Friday, our minds and hearts were taken on a journey of love as we saw, tasted, heard, and felt the truth of the 23rd Psalm. Then on Saturday morning, we teamed up with three other churches and the City of Chickasaw Recreation Department to create a morning that children will remember for a long time. We were able to count at least 200 children there and over 3000 eggs were hidden that day. Next on Sunday morning, we arrived at the amphitheater to join in with people from four other churches to uplift the name of Jesus. Then, we had a full house in our sanctuary on Sunday morning as we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus together. I also want to thank the very good turnout of church leaders who took time on March 10th to complete the ministry safe training.

This month, I will be preaching about the Christian life from a different perspective by looking at the foundation of our faith as listed out in Hebrews 6:1-2. This list of the foundation of faith include things that we wouldn't normally expect and then leaves out other things that we would assume would be there. I am naming the sermon series "Foundations of Faith.....Not What You Expected." Some of the seven items named, we expected, but others will give us a double-take. I will be sharing why things like the "laying on of hands" is on the list. More importantly, I will be sharing about the principle behind this inclusion that we need to live into. Many people miss out of the abundance of life that Jesus wants to give them because they don't understand these principles of Christian living.

This month, we will support the larger annual conference family of church by hosting an Emmaus Reunion on April 21st. We are excited that one of Bobby and Sandy Smallwood's grandchildren, Taylor Bray, will be getting married in our sanctuary on April 6th. A number of our ladies will be taking part in a ladies' retreat on April 26-28th. The month of April is shaping up to be a month of growth and life for us a church. May will also be an exciting month where we celebrate our high school graduates as well as celebrate our mothers on Mother's Day. Three of us from our church will be taking part in the second annual conference of the Alabama Emerald Coast Annual Conference on May 5-7th. Then, in recognition of our restart as a church in May of last year, we will have homecoming Sunday May 19th with Lester Spencer sharing with us.



We had 28 people in our church get certified on March 10th through Ministry Safe so that we can all work together in keeping our children and Youth taken care of and out of harm's way in our church. This is something that we as a church are extremely passionate about.



Wearing the Armor of God

Are you wearing the full armor of God and preparing for the enemy's schemes? If you are doing your best to seek God and you are being obedient to His Will for your life, you have probably noticed a lot of things in your life going wrong, Relationship problems, financial struggles, even sickness! Satan doesn't want you to succeed. If he can push the right buttons or upset you enough to make you give up and stop praising Jesus, he has won that battle. The bigger the calling on your life, the stronger he attacks. He wants nothing more than to stop you from serving and worshiping Jesus with your whole being so when he sees one of the children of God doing these things, you'd better brace yourself for what's to come. At the same time, you don't want to just fear the enemy. You can recognize when he is after you. God wants to do amazing things through you. So, how do we put on the full armor of God so that we can stand against the schemes of the devil? The Bible tells us just what do Ephesians 6-

- Know the truth of God's word- read scripture and memorize it!
- Live a righteous life. We all know you cannot be sinless, but you can strive to be obedient in everything you do. Ask- what would Jesus do?- before doing anything. Confess your sins and keep trying when you fall!
- Be ready so you can always have the peace that passes all understanding. Know the enemy is going to attack and be prepared. Rest in the peace of knowing God will be there through it all!
- Have faith that God has ultimately won the war. Trust in Him no matter what happens!
- Accept the salvation offered to us through following Jesus and obey His Word!
- Pray. Pray without ceasing. Don't ever stop. Bring everything to the Lord praying in the mighty, powerful name of Jesus!

The Armor of God Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 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

Put it to practice: on Sunday mornings when you come to church, put on your armor! Don't let the difficulties you are facing hinder you from true worship. In fact, use that pain, heartache or fear you might be feeling and pour that into your worship! Let that be what you lay down at His feet if it's all you have! Don't let the enemy win!!

~ Angie Middleton,
Minister of Music



In March we made connections and learned about God's peace! We celebrated Easter with our church family & had a blast at Journey to Jesus with our community. Now we know that WE can be peacemakers because we are made in God's image. We find our peace in HIM and can then share it with all our friends and family. We are so thankful that HE HAS RISEN.

April we are cooking up some patience. We are going to learn that waiting makes us strong. We will even practice waiting for things that we want! Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don't have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what's best for us. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus. Because we're created in God's image, we can reflect God's patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. We can lean on God's Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives. April 5th we are having a Garden Party for our Fun Friday Fellowship! We can't wait to see our seeds grow...

-Michelle Phillips
Children's Director



2024

April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 <i>Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm</i>	3 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	4 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	5 Kids4Christ Garden Party 6:00pm	6 City of Chickasaw Farmer's Market 9:00am Bray/Johnston Wedding 4:00pm
7 Chickasaw Diners Lunch @ Dreamland BBQ	8	9	10 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	11 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	12	13
14	15	16 <i>Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm</i>	17 Scavenger Hunt 5:30-7:30pm	18 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	19	20 Ladies' Breakfast 9:00am Emmaus Dinner 6:00pm
21 Men's Club 7:30am Ministry Teams Meeting 11:45am	22	23 Ageless Adventures 9:30am	24 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	25 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	26-27 Favored Women Retreat	
28 Bridal Shower for Abigayle Jackson 1:00pm-3:00pm	29	30 Lydia Circle 10am				

Be sure to check out our Upcoming Events Page!





April is National Volunteer Month....but when you serve in your local church, you are SO MUCH MORE than “an unpaid person performing a task.” You are never “just a volunteer.” You are part of a SERVE team- a group of people using their gifts, time, and talents to faithfully care for all that God has given us!

Volunteers are focused on the work – servants are focused on the people. Make the month of April your month to find a place to SERVE! It could be writing cards to people in our church, serving in the nursery one Sunday a month, helping with Sunday morning breakfast, being a greeter on Sunday mornings – there are so many opportunities to be part of the team! Find a way to use your gifts to serve others! How will you be part of the Serve Team at Chickasaw Methodist Church? Don't let the month pass you by without being able to answer that question with at least one thing!



Upcoming Events in May and June

Something for the ladies!

Mother's Day and Graduation Sunday

Service

MAY 12, 2024
10:30 AM

CHICKASAW METHODIST
108 LEE ST
CHICKASAW, ALABAMA

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.

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

NEW LADIES
BIBLE
STUDY
BEGINNING
SOON!

Uncover the connection
between the God
Life and the Good Life.
Sunday Mornings
9:15 am

Amos

An
Invitation
to the
Good Life

Chickasaw
METHODIST CHURCH

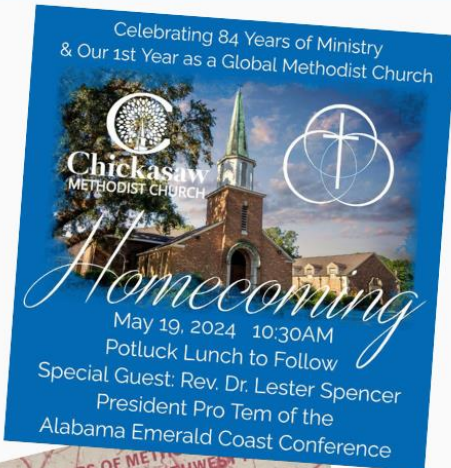
JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD



SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH - Camp Real Life- Marianna, FL - May 27-31 Pricing will be posted.

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



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 relatives 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.

