



Chickasaw METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2024



Ash Wednesday



Phil King sharing a message of Hope



Intergenerational games for Valentine's Day prior to the Ash Wednesday Service



Psalm 23

Lent Sermon Series:

March 3, 2024

He Serves Us For Himself

March 10, 2024

Security in the Face of Crisis

March 17, 2024

The Tools of Comfort

March 24, 2024

Blessings Beyond Measure

March 31, 2024

The Promise that Only God can Give



Ageless Adventures



PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

REV. DAVE RHODES



The God-given Vision (or How the Bookends of the Book of Acts relates to us today)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8
"So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven." Acts 26:19

The Book of Acts begins with Jesus speaking the words of Acts 1:8 to His remaining eleven disciples. The disciples have just asked Jesus what He is going to do with the nation of Israel. It is obvious in verse eight, that Jesus is calling the disciples to reach the whole world. Yet, the disciples are focused on Israel. The Book of Acts is the story of the church of Jesus Christ realizing that they were called to reach more than just the Jewish people. The leaders of the church were so Israel-focused that they couldn't see that God had a bigger picture for them to live into. God wanted the church of Jerusalem to reach the gentiles. Aren't you glad the Lord wanted us gentiles to be brought into the Kingdom? At the end of the book in Acts 26:10, the Apostle Paul said, we never got off course to the vision that God gave us. The Book of Acts ends with Paul being under house arrest waiting to be tried, sharing Jesus with whoever he could, then eventually executed. The execution story is not in Acts.

The question lingers, "How did they get on course to reach the gentiles?" Several years ago, I took on an in-depth study of the Book of Acts to answer a number of questions that I had. I answered some others, I learned I had to be ok with other ones. I was surprised that the whole story of the Book of Acts is a story of people having their minds changed. Basically, the church leaders were so sure that Jesus was about to come back very soon they didn't have

that much to do outside of Jerusalem. God, time and time again, spoke to the people that they needed to reach the gentiles. Eventually they obeyed the word from the Lord and the gospel began to spread to all of the world. There were some divine interventions like Simon Peter being called to go see Cornelius (Acts 10) and the Damascus Road conversion of Paul (Acts 9). Many times when one or two people get a strong idea in their heads that is different from the group, the group will fracture. So how was the church able to stay united through the Book of Acts? There were three groups on the outside trying to split up the church—the Judaizes, the Gnostics and the Roman Authorities.

In all of the Book of Acts, there was only one vote ever taken. That vote led to a shipwreck in chapter 27. So how the church did makes such a bold change? The church went from staying in Jerusalem to sending out missionaries to the west, north, and east. The missionaries to the south went out in the next century. The church leaders practiced a decision making methodology of listening to God separately and then sharing with the group of what God was saying.

With this process of listening to God they shifted from serving one ethnic group to serving the entire known world. Our new vision team will seek to make wise administrative decisions for our church, but more importantly, they will seek to hear from God as a group about what God is calling us to do next using our limited time and money. We had our first real meeting Sunday. We have been reading books, praying, and talking to each other. There was so much enthusiasm in the room as we sought to understand the challenges we are facing and what the best ways to meet them are. I am convinced that God will speak to us individually to create a vision that will resonate with the group of a whole. We will be sharing with the whole church what God is showing us very soon as we move forward in faith. I believe a "vision miracle" will take place. All of us in the church will feel our hearts quickened as the Lord shows us the next steps. We will then work together taking the steps as God shows them to us. I know this sounds idealistic, but I can the whole church uniting and doing great things together.

God Bless,

Brother Dave
SENIOR PASTOR

Thank you to our March Volunteers!

Sunday March 3rd

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: Gary Smallwood

Communion: Dave Rhodes, Bryan McGrew, Babe McGrew, & Lynn Lankford

Sunday March 10th

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: Gary Smallwood

Sunday March 17th

Nursery: Lynn Lankford, Greg and Diane Green

Counters: Bobbie Spencer & TBD

Ushers: Jim Trout & TBD

Breakfast: Men's Club (Bryan McGrew)

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

Building Steward: Gary Smallwood

Sunday March 24th

Nursery: Karen Wells, Greg and Diane Green

Counters: Doc Greene and Sheri Greene

Ushers: Steve Reeves & Chris Coaker

Breakfast: Ladies Sunday School Class (Lynn Lankford)

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

Building Steward: Gary Smallwood

Sunday March 31st

Nursery: Lynn Lankford, Greg and Diane Green

Counters: Gary Smallwood & TBD

Ushers: Gary Smallwood & Doc Greene

Breakfast: Pathfinders (Justin Danger)

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

Building Steward: Gary Smallwood

How could you serve our church?

Mike's Food Pantry

March 5th & 19th @ 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

March 12th @ 9:30am

Our Ageless Adventurers are heading out to Stockton, Alabama on March the 12th. We will roll out of the parking lot at 9:30am that morning. We have a guide who will meet us at the Stockton Heritage Museum for a short trip down the history of Stockton, Alabama. Joe Centanni will be along on the trip and who knows what history he will be able to share with us. Then, we will eat at our favorite Stockton restaurant, The Stage Coach. As Barbara is prone to say, it is true, "No matter where we go, we always have such a good time!"



Ladies Breakfast

March 16th @ 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

March 17th @ 7:30am

Please Join our Men on the 3rd Sunday of the month, March 17th @ 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.



Journey To Jesus

March 30th @ 10:00am

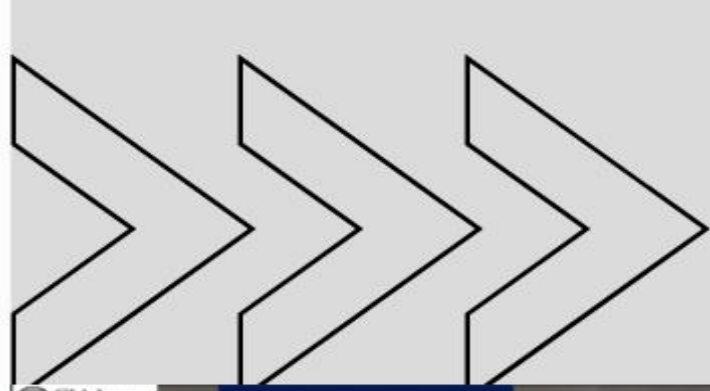
Join the Chickasaw Christian Community on March 30th at 10am for a free family event. Journey to Jesus will be held at the Chickasaw Amphitheater. There will be all kinds of games, prizes, easter egg hunt, food and more!



Next Generation

Connecting the Next Generation to Christ

Chickasaw Methodist Church
Loved God. Built Relationships. Served the World.



MinistrySafe
Protecting children and those who serve them

LUNCH PROVIDED

Child Safety Workshop
MARCH 10, 2024 @ NOON

Twitter, Facebook, Email icons

We have a very important day coming up in the life of our church....March 10, 2024 we will be hosting a MinistrySafe Training Event. All staff members, leaders of the church, and anyone who works with children or vulnerable adults are invited and highly encouraged to attend!

For years we have faithfully worked with Safe Sanctuaries, but we are transitioning to a new, much more comprehensive and relevant, protection plan. MinistrySafe and the Global Methodist Church are working together to make protection of children and vulnerable adults a top priority. As of June 1, 2023, a new Agreement between the GMC and MinistrySafe gives all GMC ministries access to MinistrySafe Membership and Resources at no cost.

MinistrySafe was founded by legal professionals and sexual abuse experts. They recognized a vital need to equip churches and ministry programs to better protect children from sexual abuse. MinistrySafe is a 5-part system that includes Sexual Abuse Awareness Training, Monitoring and Oversight, Skillful Screening, Policies and Procedures, and Background Screening Checks.

Please make plans to stay after the worship service for this very important training. Lunch will be included, and it will take no longer than 2 hours. Consider this an investment you are making to ensure our children, vulnerable adults, and those who serve them are protected!



~ Jennifer Barnes,
Next Generation
Chairperson



~ Noah Morgan
Youth Ministry
Co-Leader





PALM SUNDAY PARADE

March 24th is Palm Sunday. This is the day we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. At the 10:30am worship service the children and youth will celebrate this tradition by bringing in palms to open the worship service.

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Friday, March 29th @ 6pm Intergenerational Good Friday Experience

Saturday, March 30th @ 10am-12pm Journey to Jesus for a Community Experience

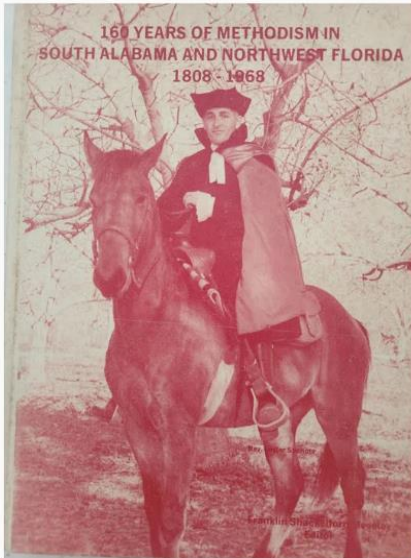
Sunday, March 31st "The Journey Continues!"



SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

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

ELEMENTARY - Blue Lake Worship Arts Camp - Andalusia AL - Dates and pricing will be released soon.



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.

We have an important training taking place called "Ministry Safe". Whether, we like it or not the world around us is changing and we have to be more vigilant in how we run our ministries than ever before. We have to be wise in how we structure and run our ministries to prevent bad incidents. Ministry Safe is a training program that the Global Methodist Church has endorsed so that we run effective and safe ministries. We are having a training event on Sunday, March 10th where we will be training our staff members and all youth and children's ministry volunteers. If anyone else in the church would like to attend they may sign up by contacting Disa Danger or Jennifer Barnes. Lunch will be provided as part of the training. It is our dream as a church to be a place where we will do ministry in a manner where all people are protected from things that are hurting people in our society today.





Chickasaw Diner

What does bread have to do with worship? That is an odd question, and it has a simple answer, a lot. How does bread have a lot to do with worship? Well, I'm glad you asked. My answer is that Jesus found that breaking bread is a great way to get people to commune together. So, if Jesus thought that eating together was a good idea, then I suppose we should follow that example. How is that worship?

Eating bread isn't exactly worship but the effect of breaking bread or eating together can have an important impact on worship. Would you rather go on a trip with people that you don't know or people that you do know? Most will say people that they know. A great way to get to know someone is to take time to eat with them.

As you bond over the bread, you become more comfortable being around that person and may even enjoy being around them. Then when you get to church you see familiar faces. When those familiar faces along with yours are showing up to church then you have an opportunity to worship together. You may be worshipping differently just like having different meals while eating but you are still able to enjoy your time with that person and in turn create an opportunity to enjoy worship together.

I began to think about breaking bread and worship when I saw Phil Kings food postings on his Facebook page. He has posted a variety of foods, and he seems enthusiastic about those foods. It made me think of some friends that I used to work with and all the occasions that we went to various places to eat and spend time together. I asked Phil if he would be interested in having someone join him for lunch sometime and what his thoughts would be on inviting others also, so that we could have a bread breaking experience. Phil said yes and we had our first meeting of Chickasaw Diners last Sunday at Cozy Browns.

The food was good, and the company was even better. There were only three people there, Phil, Angie, and me; because it hadn't been officially announced and we had some details to work out. So please consider yourself invited to break bread with the Chickasaw Diners April 7, 2024. This is open to everyone. There will be a sign-up sheet or let Brent, Phil, or Angie know if you are interested in going.

~ Brent Middleton

Chickasaw Diners

Let us break bread together

Appetizer

Whet your appetite with a bit of small talk



Main Course

A delicious mix of discussion, laughs, and food

Dessert

Making a new friend and worshipping together



There are more than a few ways to serve

Have you been asking God for a special place to serve at church? Do you have a desire to be part of the worship ministry at Chickasaw Methodist? If so, I want to invite you to join us! There are many different ways you can serve-

1. Singing in the choir/leading worship on Sunday mornings
2. Audio/Visual- helping with all the sound and visual media on Sunday mornings
3. Participate in other roles in the worship services- offertory prayer, leading the affirmation of faith, special scripture reading or announcements
4. Welcome and Pastoral Prayer

We would love to have you join us!! The first 2 options involve a strong level of commitment as we meet for practice every week! Please reach out to me if you have questions or would like to know more!

~ Angie Middleton,
Minister of Music



Chickasaw United Methodist

Kids4Christ

Love Learn Serve Worship

In February we had an adventure in Kindness! God showed kindness by sending Jesus for us—even when we didn't deserve it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated. We had a wonderful time with our church family at our "Souper-Bowl" fundraiser. The food was delicious and we raised \$438.44 to help us go to summer camp! We are looking forward to moving into spring.

March will THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PEACE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY. Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. Since we reflect God's image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well. That's why we're taking the first three weeks of March to highlight some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world. Of course we will also be celebrating the wonderful Easter season with our church family and are looking forward to those celebrations!

~Michelle Phillips
Children's Director





SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1	2 City of Chickasaw Farmer's Market
3	4	5 Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm	6 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	7 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	8	9
10 11:45am Ministry Safe Training	11	12	13 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	14 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	15	16 Ladies' Breakfast 9:00am
17 Men's Club 7:30am	18	19 Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm	20 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	21 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26 Lydia Circle 10am	27 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	28 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	29 Good Friday 6:00pm	30 Journey to Jesus 10am - 12pm
Easter Sunday 31						

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Protecting children and those who serve them.

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160 YEARS OF METHODISM IN
SOUTH ALABAMA AND NORTHWEST FLORIDA
1808 - 1868

Good Friday
AT CHICKASAW METHODIST
FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024
6:00PM

Please visit Chickasawmethodist.com for more info.

Easter
AT CHICKASAW METHODIST
SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024
10:30AM

COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE
6:30AM
CHICKASAW AMPHITHEATER
Please visit Chickasawmethodist.com for more info.



Church News

by: Rev. Dave Rhodes

Well, as a church family, we are heading into a March with five Sundays and when Easter occurs. I looked it up, Easter has been in March only four times in the last twenty years. We start out the month serving on a Saturday at the Chickasaw Market greeting people with a cold water and opportunity to be prayed for. While some of us are serving at the Chickasaw Market, our Methodist Men will be building a ramp for a family in our church. Then, on Sunday, the third, we will gather in worship to learn about our Good Shepherd leading us into paths of righteousness. We will close our time together communing with the Lord as we celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Then, we will move into the next week and get to engage in our Christian responsibility and privilege of voting on March 5th. On March the ninth, we will have our yearly ritual of springing forward our clocks as the twice a year time-change takes place. The following Sunday, the tenth, in addition to having a great time of worshipping our Lord; we will prepare to keep our children and vulnerable adults safe by having a ministry safe training event after the worship service. The following Tuesday, our Ageless Adventurers will head to Stockton to learn a little history and to eat a great lunch together. The best thing about these trips is we get to know our brother and sisters in Christ better as we travel together.

Then, we will enter in to Passion Week as we celebrate Palm Sunday of the 24th of March. Then on Friday, the 29th, we will bring together the 23rd Psalm, Good Friday, and our lives in some powerful ways. The next day on Saturday, we will serve our community at our annual Journey to Jesus event. We have created a great working relationship with some of the other churches in Chickasaw as well as the City of Chickasaw Recreation Department. We will be serving the community and sharing the message of Christ's Resurrection. We are the people of the Resurrection and it is our God-given opportunity for us to celebrate the resurrection in the fullest sense of the word during the month of March.

Sure, we will continue to have worship, Sunday school, R.O.W. Dinners and Wednesday night ministries all through this month as well. We will continue to serve people through Mike's Food Pantry, backpack blessings and our communion rail offering. A church is a spiritual family where we work together pursuing Christian Discipleship through serving, worship, learning and fellowship. God is glorified through the process and we are being transformed. We need the structure of being committed and working together or many great opportunities would simply pass us by.

The new governance committee has had two meetings now and we are hard at work. We will be sharing with the church what we are hearing from God as we study, pray, read and reflect together. God is going to bring us into a time of exciting ministry as we as we seek to listen to Him and work together as His people.

Please be in prayer for our 12 member Single Governance Committee:

Tom Williams, Bryan McGrew, Babe McGrew, Greg Green,
Gary Smallwood, Dave Rhodes, Steven Reeves, Terry Smallwood,
Jim Trout, Jennifer Barnes, Linda Lyles, & Kathy Couey

