



# Chickasaw METHODIST CHURCH

# FEB 2024



Thank you, Dennis Brown, for sharing your thoughts and words with us this year.



Ageless Adventures



Pathfinders  
"Fellowship by the Fire"

**Psalm 23**  
**Lent Sermon Series:**

**February 18, 2024**

*We are His Sheep*

**February 25, 2024**

*The Shepherd Provides*

**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*



Thank you for all you do!  
Tech/Sound team.  
You make Sunday Morning Worship happen every week!





# PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

TONI GREENE ON BEHALF OF REV. DAVE RHODES

*"Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:32*

*If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 1 John 3:17*

What motivates and inspires you? I have been inspired throughout my life by many things but none so deeply as the life of Richard and Edna Shump. Edna and Rich were devout Christians who committed their life, time, and talents to the Lord through their church. They had no mind for accolades, their only desire was to fan the flames of a thriving church community. Members for some sixty-plus years, they weren't just doers. They lived their faith on their faces and were blessed with servants' hearts. Young people saw their godly marriage and learned how to share that love with others. They demonstrated to everyone a life of faithful service using the spiritual gifts God gave them.

As they got on up in age, their attendance and participation waned due to Rich's sickness and inability to continue "getting around." Edna lovingly became his twenty-four-seven care giver. Even with their infirmities, they stayed active by calling and checking up on friends and sick members of the congregation while also participating in a prayer warrior group. As time went by, they became more and more isolated from church because visits from the community grew infrequent. As their health dwindled, so did their vitality to the church, and they were eventually cast aside by the same people they called family. Richard passed at age 90 and Edna continued her calls and participation in prayer groups. Nonetheless, she was lonely and thirsted for someone to visit with and share God's Word.

One day, when out with her daughter, Edna ran into a young man who grew up in her church. This man now led a small congregation of his own. Guided by God's inevitably gracious plan, the young preacher and Edna became friends instantly. Every week for the next two years he visited her.

They divulged in the word of God and explored their mutual love and wonder for our Lord and Savior—over coffee and donuts, of course.

At the age of 92 Edna returned to the Lord, but not before becoming a member of that little church her young friend and pastor served. That day, on her deathbed, she claimed that new church to be her home. Many members of that church family came into her home and joined to sing old hymns, praising the Lord right in her living room. I thought surely God would take her right then and there but He kindly let us experience her presence a few more days. Eventually, that sweet pastor performed a very beautiful and especially personal funeral—you see, he knew Edna because of those weekly visits.

Edna was my mentor, my surrogate mother, my aunt. She talked many times to me about the Lord and played an instrumental role in my return to the church. Even though she experienced the pain of being forgotten by a congregation, she felt uplifted knowing the Lord was with her every day.

In 2018 when I learned Pastor Dave needed a partner to help with visitation, I believed it an opportunity to serve the Lord and honor Edna's memory and experience. Those of you who know me know that I don't mince words; I get right to the point. I asked Pastor Dave the first day we went visiting together: "You aren't going to train me and then try to turn it over to me, are you?" He replied: "This ministry is one of the most important things we can do and I would never not participate in it."

I learned almost immediately that these people are the foundation of our church, the very rock upon which we stand. I believe that we OWE IT to them to make them feel loved and appreciated.

Next time Pastor Dave urges you to pick up the phone and call or when he encourages you to send a card, please don't say, "I should do that," instead say, "I will do that." We are called to honor the folks that come before us. It may be you one day. Don't you hope someone will visit you?

I am so proud of this faithful tradition and the powerful ministry of our church. I am blessed every week with the privilege to visit these foundational members of our church family. For anyone who feels called: Disa and Pastor Dave have a directory of phone numbers and addresses. Calls and cards are greatly appreciated. If you know someone who should be on our list to be visited, share with Dave, Disa, or myself. Be a blessing to someone today!

God Bless,

*Toni Greene*







SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	2	3
4	5	6 Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm 6:15pm Pathfinders Young Adults	7 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	8 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	9	10
11 Kids4Christ SOUPer Bowl Sunday	12	13 6:15pm Pathfinders Young Adults	14 Love requires Sacrifice 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 5:30pm Family Dinner 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	16	17 Ladies' Breakfast 9:00am
18 Men's Club 7:30am Staff Planning Meeting 11:45am	19	20 Ageless Adventures Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm 6:15pm Pathfinders Young Adults	21 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	22 1:00pm Adult Bible Study	23	24
25	26	27 Lydia Circle 10am 6:15pm Pathfinders Young Adults	28 5:30pm ROW Dinner 6:00pm Kids4Christ & Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 18+ 7:00pm Choir Practice	29		

**MinistrySafe**  
**COMING SOON**  
Monitoring and Oversight

If you have ever considered being part of the amazing work that God is doing through our Next Generation ministries, NOW is a great time to jump on board! We are in a period of transition in many ways - one of which is our child/volunteer protection service. We are moving away from Safe Sanctuary (which is very limited in some ways), and moving to Ministry Safe, which is being recommended by the Global Methodist Church because it is less expensive and more comprehensive.

We will announce our Ministry Safe Coordinator soon, please be in touch with them for more information. Watch the bulletin and church Facebook page for more details about how you can go through the very quick and easy Ministry Safe process so that you don't miss any of the beautiful moments that come from serving with the youth and children of our church!





**“The best way for a child to know God is to know someone who knows God.”** – I had this quote from Reggie Joiner, Founder of Orange Ministry Curriculum, as the background on my computer screen for many years. When I would start to feel discouraged thinking setting in, “there’s just not enough time to make the lesson perfect” .... or “we don’t have the resources of a bigger church, so why do we even try?” ..... that quote would remind me of the bigger picture, and I was reminded of it once again as it was discussed at the Spirit & Truth Conference this past weekend: **It’s not about programs, it’s about presence and people.**

I am so incredibly grateful for the encouragement and support our church so consistently shows to our children, youth, and young adults! Truly – our young people are watching and learning. Their faith is growing deeper as they begin to understand the grace and love of their Savior when they experience relationships with the “spiritual parents” who make up their church family!

And this is where YOU come in! Yes, YOU!!! Anyone who is reading this right now ....and anyone you can think of who **needs** to read this right now.....this is about ALL OF YOU – leaning into loving and leading our Next Generation as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus!

Here’s how: We are launching our new Ministry Safe Child and Volunteer Protection Program. **NOW is a GREAT opportunity for all our adults to view the required one-hour video training and have the mandatory background check completed so that you can serve where needed in our Next Generation Ministry!** There are so many ways you can “just be there!” Don’t worry if you feel like you “don’t know how” – we will show you all you need to know!

You can:

- Serve in the Nursery as part of our Sunday Morning Rotation during the worship service (typically one Sunday a month – or less if we can have more volunteers in the rotation!)
- Help by being an extra adult in the room on Wednesday Nights for either Kids 4 Christ (Kindergarten – 5 th Grade) or Youth (6 th Grade – Senior High) ....or even leading a small group on Wednesday nights once you get more comfortable!
- Helping with Kid’s Worship on Sunday Mornings
- Praying for and/or mentoring a young adult in our church family
- Being an extra set of hands, eyes, ears for special events – for both on-campus and off- campus events.

Please seriously pray about where the Lord is sending you! Be opened to trying new things and serving in new ways! Let our children know God better as they get to know you better! And you will probably discover that YOU are getting to know Him better too!

Call or text me (Jennifer Barnes) at 251-454-9197 or come find me on a Wednesday or Sunday - we would love to have you join the team!



~ Jennifer Barnes, Next Generation Chairperson

~ Noah Morgan Youth Ministry Co-Leader





Chickasaw United Methodist

# Kids4Christ

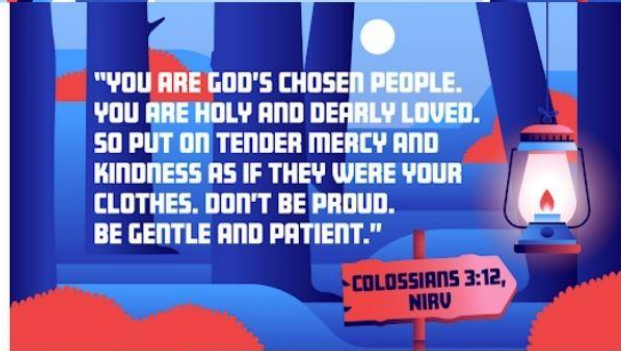
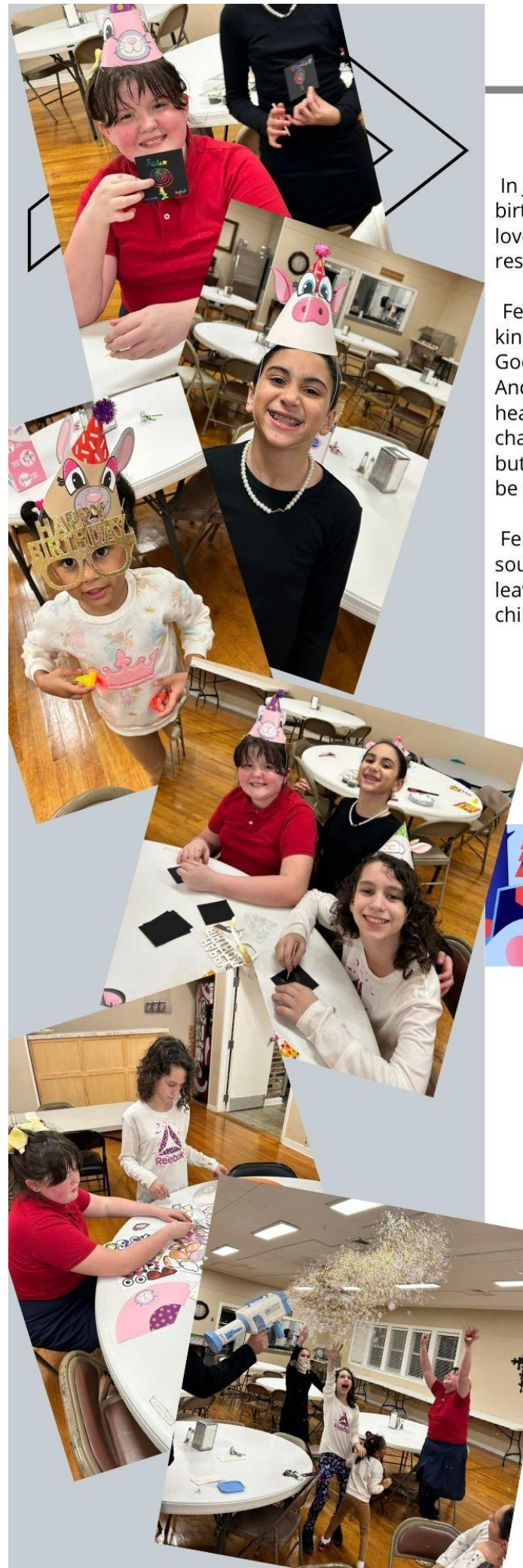
Love Learn Serve Worship

In January we had a wonderful time ringing in the new year & celebrating our birthdays together! We learned that our most important responsibility is to love God & others. We shared with each other about our pets and responsibilities and we worked together to memorize Luke 16:10.

February we will be gearing up for an adventure in Kindness! God showed kindness by sending Jesus for us—even when we didn't deserve it. Because of God's love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and how much God loves them. Kindness should be a characteristic of people who follow Jesus. Not only did Jesus model kindness, but He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated.

February also means it is time for our "Souper-Bowl" fundraiser! We will have soups available after service February 11, please have a bowl before you leave. Donations will go to Kids4Christ. Thank you for always supporting our children's ministry. We look forward to sharing our soups with you!

~Michelle Phillips  
Children's Director





# Thank you to our February Volunteers!

## Sunday February 4th

**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:** Bobby Smallwood

**Communion:** Phil King, Kathy Couey, & Linda Lyles

## Sunday February 11th

**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:** Bobby Smallwood

## Sunday February 18th

**Nursery:** Lynn Lankford, Greg and Diane Green

**Counters:** Bobbie Spencer & TBD

**Ushers:** Bryan McGrew, Jim Trout

**Breakfast:** Men's Club (Bryan McGrew)

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

**Building Steward:** Bobby Smallwood

## Sunday February 25th

**Counters:** Doc Greene and Sheri Greene

**Nursery:** Karen Wells, Greg and Diane Green

**Ushers:** Steve Reeves & Chris Coaker

**Breakfast:** Ladies Sunday School Class (Lynn Lankford)

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

**Building Steward:** Bobby Smallwood

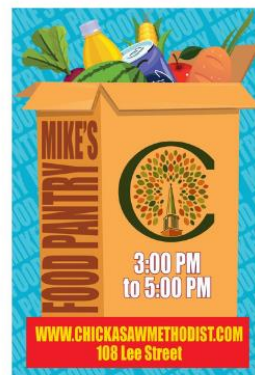
**How could you serve our church?**

## Mike's Food Pantry

**February 6th & 20th @ 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

**February 20th @ 9:30am**

Our Ageless Adventurers will be leaving the church at 9:30am on February 20th to go to Fairhope, AL to visit Tom Jones Pottery. Then, they will have lunch at Big Daddy's. If you would like to attend this trip, please contact Barbara Pulliam at (251) 457-2339



## "SOUP"-er Bowl Sunday

**February 11th @ 11:45am**

On Sunday, February 11th, following the worship service, Kids4Christ is hosting a "SOUP"-er Bowl Sunday fundraiser. If you would like to provide a crockpot of soup for this event, please contact Michelle Phillips. Everyone is invited to stay for this fundraiser and we would appreciate the donations to support our Children.

## "SOUP" -er Bowl Sunday!

Please help support our Kids4Christ during this fundraiser. February 11th, 2024 Following Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.



## Ladies Breakfast

**February 17th @ 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

**February 18th @ 7:30am**

Please Join our Men on the 3rd Sunday of the month, February 18th @ 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.







# Church News

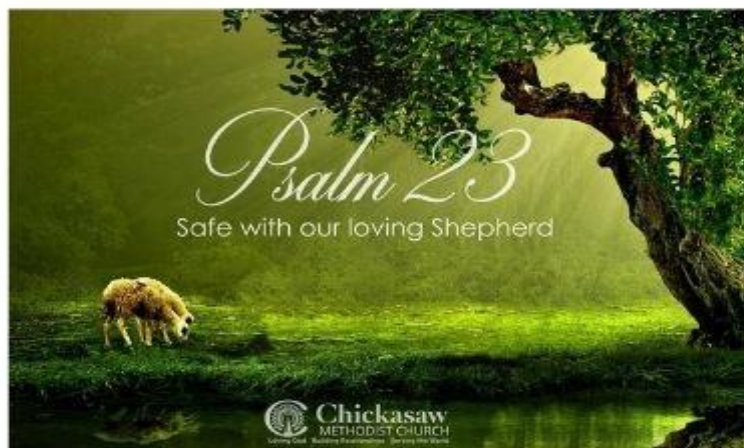
by: Rev. Dave Rhodes

We as a church family are moving into this year with a lot of confidence and courage. We continue to do our basic ministries with quality. Please read the calendar in this newsletter as well as the great variety of articles. To stay loyal to the values of an organization, the people of the organization must be faithful to keep on doing the basic practices of the organization, yet be open to change to use the best ways of serving those we seek to serve. During the month of January, we have peacefully embraced some bold changes. We have brought Angie Middleton on board as our minister of music. She and the choir are working very hard together to create great worship experiences that help to bring each of us into the powerful presence of God. Then, our administrative council voted to change the decision-making structure of our church to a twelve member group to replace the four committee system that we have been presently using. We had a very serious, but peaceful meeting on January 22nd where everyone that was present shared their thoughts. We took a paper ballot vote and the plan was set into motion. The Administrative Council commissioned the Committee on Lay Leadership to create a team of twelve people to be our new governance team to make decisions for our church. On Sunday, February 4th following worship service, We will have a meeting of our present administrative council to approve the twelve people to serve in this new decision-making body of our church. If this slate of leaders is approved, they will have their first meeting on the same Sunday afternoon to begin to organize to make decisions for our church and to seek to receive a new vision from God for our church. I am convinced this new plan using our existing people is going to lead us into a time of new spiritual vitality and growth for all of us who make up our church.

We will have Ash Wednesday services on February 14th at noon and at 6:30pm. I want to invite everyone to come to either of these special services. On this Wednesday night, we will have our regular ROW Dinner at 5:30pm. We will have a fun, intergenerational Valentine's Day activity at 6:00pm. Then, we will move on into the sanctuary to have our Ash Wednesday Worship service at 6:30pm. I heard Ellworth Kallas speak in 1994 and had my understanding of the season Lent totally transformed. Dr Kallas spoke approaching Lent and Advent not as a time of something to be endured, but as a time of spiritual harvest and renewal. For the seven Sundays of Lent this year, I will be preaching a sermon Series from the 23rd Psalm titled, "Safe With Our Loving Shepherd." I hope you can be with us every Sunday for worship over these seven Sundays. These Sundays will be a great opportunity to invite your friends to join us for worship. Also on February 11th , Phillip King will be sharing a powerful message with us about dealing with mental illness in one's family and why the Grace of God is more powerful.

Let's draw near to God and God will draw near to us as we seek to be obedient to the vision that He will give to us.

God Bless  
Brother Dave



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
HE RESTORES MY SOUL

SUNDAY MORNINGS  
9:30 AM  
STARTING FEBRUARY 18TH

A 7-SESSION BIBLE STUDY

- Join us if you want to:
- Gain fresh insight and encouragement from Psalm 23
- Explore the depths of God's compassionate care
- Trade the myth of self-reliance for the truth of God's providence
- Be still/fear as you trust the Shepherd's goodness in every season of life

Chickasaw Methodist Church