


March

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday Schedule: Contemporary Service: 9am Sunday School: 10am Traditional Service: 11am			5:30pm: ROW 6:00pm: K-5th-Kids4Christ 6-12th grade-Youth 6:15pm: Adult Bible Study & Choir			1
2  12:00pm - Mugshots	3 Early Bird Chickasaw Sr. Breakfast 7:30am \$5 at CMC  VLT Meeting 6pm	4  Mike's food pantry 3pm - 5pm	5 MARCH 5th: 5:30pm- R.O.W. Dinner 6:00pm- Family Fellowship Time 6:30pm- ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings 	10	11 Punta Clara Kitchen in Point Clear followed by lunch! Meet at 9am 	12 5:30pm: ROW 6:00pm: K-5th-Kids4Christ 6-12th grade-Youth 6:15pm: Adult Bible Study & Choir	13 Outreach Easter Planning Meeting 6pm	14	15 
16 	17	18  Mike's food pantry 3pm - 5pm	19 5:30pm: ROW 6:00pm: K-5th-Kids4Christ 6-12th grade-Youth 6:15pm: Adult Bible Study & Choir	20 New Ladies' Bible Study starting at 2pm at Toni Greene's home. Please contact Toni. Limited seats available.	21	22 
23	24	25 	26 5:30pm: ROW 6:00pm: K-5th-Kids4Christ 6-12th grade-Youth 6:15pm: Adult Bible Study & Choir	27	28	
30 NOISY OFFERING  Fellowship on the 5th Sunday in the Fellowship Hall during 10am Sunday School hour!	31	"SO I TURNED TO THE LORD GOD AND PLEADED WITH HIM IN PRAYER AND PETITION, IN FASTING, AND IN SACKCLOTH AND ASHES." DANIEL 9:3				



Chickasaw  
METHODIST CHURCH

LOVING GOD BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS SERVING THE WORLD

March  
2025



Special Valentine's Day R.O.W.



AGELESS ADVENTURES @ Moe's BBQ



Men's Club Serving



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Ladies' Night Out serving our Community



Laity Summit Training





# PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

## Redeeming Regret

“(Jesus said) I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” John 17:4-5

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

I guess each one of us has heard the phrase, “What are you going to give up for Lent?” I want to ask everyone in our church to take a new approach to giving things up for Lent by seeking to give our regrets to God. There is that saying that goes, “Everyone has an opinion, and everyone likes theirs the best.” I started thinking about how we all have regrets, but we don’t like them at all! The scripture above from the Book of John is absolutely amazing. Jesus said this sentence at the end of His life. Jesus had no regrets if he said such a strong sentence. Then there is the incredible sentence in 2 Timothy where Paul is at the end of his life, and he conveys that same amazing attitude of no regrets. We see from these two scriptures that our Lord wants us to be free from our regrets and we can end our lives with a clean conscience.

I first felt God giving me the nudge to speak on regrets when I was talking to two wonderful Christian ladies in our church, and they asked me if I would preach on regrets and getting free from them. It was more than they asked me to preach on this topic, it was the sound of their voices that compelled me to see the need to speak on regret. Well, there are eight preaching opportunities for me during the season of Lent if we count Ash Wednesday. As I was studying about regret and organizing sermons on the topic, I quickly came to see this is a bigger topic than I realized. There is a lot more attached to regret than meets the eye. I hope you will be with us every Sunday during Lent.

Jesus achieved a mighty and powerful victory in His death and resurrection. The victory that Jesus achieved was for us. Jesus didn’t need to be set free from what binds us. Jesus in His amazing love for us, faced all the work of the cross and the resurrection to set us free from our fears, our selfishness, or sins, our pain and our regrets.

I know some will say that “regrets really aren’t that big of deal.” As I studied on the topic, I began to see that regrets are a big deal. Regrets are one of the things in life that prevent us from receiving Love from God and giving love to others. We don’t want to have feel any more pain of regret, so we shut down certain areas of our lives. It is not God’s will that we go through life feeling afraid or partially asleep. So, let’s all meet with Jesus though Holy Spirit so we may find freedom from our regrets.

Finally, I am so excited about our Lent Devotional book that will be a key element of our Lent experience this year! We have 36 devotionals written by people in our church and we have four from some of our saints of old. I have read these devotionals, and they are full of spiritual fire. You do not want to miss out on this experience. Then on each Sunday in the book - the sermon title, scripture, and the main idea of the message for that Sunday’s worship service are printed. I believe God just doesn’t want to a special work in just few people’s lives in our church this Lent. I believe God has a profound work that He is seeking to do through all parts of our church. I am convinced that God is wanting to bring a powerful move of His Spirit all through our church. So please, please, pick up a book on Ash Wednesday, March 5th or on the first Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. God has wonderful gifts for us this Lent.

God Bless-

*Brother Dave*

By Rev. Dave Rhodes

# CHURCH NEWS

Have you ever wondered why certain TV shows are so popular even though the stories are pretty predictable? You know the shows, like The Walton’s, The Brady Bunch, or The Andy Griffith Show. I have a theory about the success of these types of shows, it’s that they show a family functioning well together and everybody wants to see that reality, even in a TV show. The truth is that God has made us for relationships and families. We need to know that we belong to other people, and they are going to be loyal to us as well. God teaches us in a number of places in the New Testament that the local church is to be the family of God for those who are engaged in that church. No where is this truth stated more clearly than in 1 Timothy 3:15 “Then, even if I am delayed, you will know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.”

Even if our family of origin is as great as the Walton’s or the Brady’s, we can go to a place, a group of people, where we know we belong, and people will love us. The church is to be our family outside of our family. As I was reading over the rest of this newsletter, I was struck at how the month of March is just like a family. First of all, families are made to celebrate together. We will be celebrating God’s goodness and redemption every Sunday of the month at either the 9:00 or 11:00 service. We also celebrate each other in our fellowship times, whether it is in a Sunday School class on Sundays or a small group meeting at another time in the week. Of course, families eat together. I am looking forward to the hamburger meal that our men will be cooking for R.O.W. tonight. We will have R.O.W. dinners every Wednesday in March. We will have special time together on the last Sunday morning of the month where we bring our two worshipping groups together for “Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.” I believe there will be some food involved with that great fifth Sunday time. Families take trips together and we are no different. Please read about the great trip our youth had to Gulf Shores last month. Also, our Ageless Adventurers are headed to Pointe Clear to tour and do some tasting at the Punta Clara Candy Company and we will find a good local lunch afterwards.

Families accomplish a lot of serious work as well. Have you ever considered how much influence on you that your family had? It is amazing how much we grow and learn in our homes. We will be doing plenty of learning in our small groups, Sunday School classes, youth ministry, and children’s ministry this month. A healthy family seeks to help others as well. We will be serving others through our Mike’s Food Pantry, as well as our Backpack Blessings and our help through the communion rail offering. Our Sonshine Ministry Team will continue to make visits and send cards to our homebound family members. Then, our Prayer Ministry Team will be lifting up people from our church as well the work of the church before God’s Throne of Grace.

March will be a special month of reflection as we consider allowing God to redeem our regrets. We will begin this holy work on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> as we go through the entire season of Lent. Our Lenten Devotional book will be delivered that night as we begin the holy work of inviting God to work deeply enough in our lives so that we can be free from our regrets. With God the future is always bright. Let’s move forward with faith.



Jennifer Barnes

YOUTH LEADER

February was an incredible month for our youth ministry, filled with growth, connection, and a deepening of faith. With a strong focus on discipleship, we saw students engaging in meaningful conversations, diving into God's Word, and strengthening their walk with Christ!

One of the highlights of the month was our Discipleship Now Impact Weekend Retreat at Gulf Shores Methodist Church. We were all able to step away from the distractions of the world and encounter God in a powerful way. Through worship, prayer, and engaging sessions, hearts were stirred, faith was strengthened, and commitments to Christ were renewed. It was a time of refreshment and spiritual breakthroughs!

Wednesday nights were also a huge blessing, as we continued diving into God's truth through discipleship-focused lessons. After months of collecting "llama bucks" for attendance, serving, participation, and scripture memory, we held our long awaited "Auction." Students were able to "redeem" the llama bucks they had earned and saved for fabulous auction items like video games, headphones, candy, and even cool socks and stuffed animals. To be honest, I wasn't quite sure how the Llama Bucks project would really turn out. It was important that it not be just another "reward points" program – but that it be an exercise in and reinforcement of honoring commitments, sacrificing momentary pleasure for long-term joy, and the value of saving.

Even with all those important lessons, I prayed that there would be a deeper, disciple-making truth that would resonate with our teenagers from this process. And, true to who He is, God always provides more than we can ask or imagine! The Llama Bucks Auction took place directly following our Wednesday Night series on "Sneaky Sins" (like pride, gossip, and comparison). And so trading the flimsy pieces of paper for something of greater value, was a powerful, tangible way to learn the meaning of the word "Redemption." Sin separates us from God, but 1 Peter 1:18-19 shows us it's not money that redeems us from the emptiness of the world, but the precious blood of Jesus. It is our prayer that the "Lessons of the Llama Bucks" will outlast the items they worked so hard to purchase, as they remember the love and sacrifice of their Savior for the rest of their days.

Another beautiful experience of February was our Saturday morning "Connections" group that met at Rooted and Grounded Coffee Shop. Our older teens/young adults are wanting to study and discuss more spiritually advanced topics than we can address in traditional "youth group." We are working hard to establish a monthly Saturday morning tradition of meeting at a local coffee shop to discuss passages of scripture more in depth and learn how they can be applied to our lives.

We're so grateful for all God is doing in the lives of our students and look forward to even greater things ahead! Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our Next Generation Ministries (cradle to college/new career) – God is at work!

Wednesdays @ 6pm  
Led by Jennifer Barnes

Youth  
BIBLE STUDY

Sundays @ 10am  
Led by Gary Smallwood



Angie Middleton

WORSHIP LEADER



James 4:8: "Come near to God and he will come near to you".

Angie and I were playing at a rehab facility years ago and one of the guys that was staying there at the time started talking to me about playing the guitar. He said that he plays sometime but didn't have a pick to play with, so I gave him a couple of mine. The guy was very appreciative and thanked me very much for the picks and said that he liked them. I explained to him why I used those particular picks and we spoke for a few more minutes then he walked away.

One of the people that was serving with us that day overheard the conversation and said that the guy that got the picks seemed very excited about receiving them. My response was that picks are very important. I explained to him that the pick is what gives you the connection between you and the guitar. If you don't have a pick you can play with your fingers but it is hard to do if you're not used to it. Plus, the strumming is different. A pick that doesn't feel right or is thicker or thinner than you need for what you are playing will cause you to strum too hard or too soft and it just throws off your playing. You have to adjust your playing style to the pick that you are playing with and sometimes that just causes you to feel off and messes up your playing.

I have always remembered that conversation because of my personal connection to guitars and how it relates to our relationship with God and our worship to God. If you don't have a pick to connect you with the Instrument then you're not able to fully interact with the instrument. You may experience the same outcome if you aren't using the correct pick or even the wrong pick. Jesus is our connection to God and when the "Pick" isn't there or we aren't in the correct place with the "Pick", then we can't get our relationship and worship in sync. They will always feel off.

Here are some ways to help you find the right "pick" for you so that you can reconnect, grow, or strengthen your relationship with and worship to God. Choose a version of the Bible that you can read and understand. Use a Bible concordance and commentary. These are available in apps and online if you prefer digital. If songs from the hymnal help you connect better then come to the 11am service. If there are some newer songs that you have heard that help you connect with God then come to the 9am service. Try out a small group or go out to one of the events like Chickasaw Diners to help get you connected.

Find a pick that helps you connect and draw near to God. He is certainly anxious to draw near to you but sometimes we pile up our hurts, life problems, opinions, anger, time, or generic excuses to keep us from playing. God has the right pick for you and I'm certain He would love to give it to you so that there will be less reasons to put down the guitar instead of playing every chance you get.

-Brent Middleton



**MARCH 5th:**  
 5:30pm-  
 R.O.W. Dinner  
 6:00pm-  
 Family Fellowship Time  
 6:30pm-  
 ASH WEDNESDAY  
 SERVICE



**SATURDAY MORNING**  
*Connection*  
**Ages 17-25**  
**Saturday**  
**March 22nd**



Don't you love our altar flowers each Sunday?  
 Such a symbol of beauty and life!

You have the opportunity to help us continue with this beautiful tradition! For just \$40, you can reserve a special Sunday to provide the altar flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. We will print the memorial/honorarium in the bulletin for the week you are sponsoring.

Please contact the church office to reserve your special week by calling during operating hours or by emailing  
[Angie.Middleton@chickasawmethodist.com](mailto:Angie.Middleton@chickasawmethodist.com)

Please pick a date you'd like to reserve.

Early reservations recommended.





Join Chickasaw Diners at MUGSHOTS March 2nd after the 2nd service!

Our next adventure takes us to Point Clear in Baldwin County to the Punta Clara Kitchen! We will have lunch in Baldwin County as well. Location TBD. We will leave the church at 9am. Contact Barabar Pulliam for more details: 251-457-2339



**SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES**

- \*\*Finding Joy, Part Two\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Michelle Phillips, Wed. 6:15pm
- \*\*Going Deeper\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Dave Rhodes, Wed. 6:15pm
- \*\*Men of Valor\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Phil King, Sun. 10am
- \*\*The Beckham Class\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Tom Williams, Sun. 10am
- \*\*The Transitions Class\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Terry Smallwood, Sun. 10am
- \*\*Ladies' Class\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Jennifer Barnes, Sun. 10am

**\*\*NEW Ladies' Bible Study**  
 Starting March 20th. Meet at Toni Green's home every Thursday at 2pm.  
 Seats are limited.  
 Please contact Toni Greene if you are interested.



Men's Club  
**7:30am**  
 Every 3rd Sunday



Every 4th Tuesday  
*Lydia*  
 CIRCLE  
**10:00AM**



Every 3rd Saturday  
**Ladies' Breakfast**  
**9:00am**



*Mallory Barnes*  
**CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR**

Hi everyone,

I'm thrilled to share that I've been given the opportunity to serve as the new Children's Director! At almost 19 years old, I feel incredibly blessed to step into this role and work with the amazing kids in our community.

This summer, I'll be going on a mission trip with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). It's a fantastic chance to spread the love of Jesus and grow in my faith. I'm excited to have this new opportunity to earn money for this trip and can't wait to see what God has in store for me and the people I'll meet.

Working with kids has always been a passion of mine. I love teaching them about Jesus and helping them build a strong foundation in their faith. I aim to create a fun, safe, and nurturing environment where they can learn and grow.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement. I'm looking forward to this journey and all the wonderful things we'll accomplish together.

Blessings,  
 Mallory Barnes



**NOISY OFFERING!! MARCH 30TH - 5TH SUNDAY**  
 Please be saving your extra change for our noisy offering...all collections will be used to help with VBS costs!



Save the date!





**COMING JUNE 2nd-6th 2025**  
*Trek with us on the ultimate Alaskan adventure!*  
**TRUE NORTH**  
*Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*  
**Sign up to serve at VBS!**



*Kids4Christ*  
 Love Learn Serve Worship

**SUNDAY MORNINGS:**

9am Worship Service

2nd grade and younger are invited to leave during the service for their very own Kid's Worship

10am Sunday School

K-5th Grade

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:**

5:30pm ROW Dinner  
 (Reconnect On Wednesdays)  
 Kids eat free

6:00pm Kids4Christ

K-5th Grade

\*Nursery is always available for 3 yrs old and under