



WORSHIP LEADER

Angie Middleton

As we step into the month of March, we're reminded that this season is one of renewal—both in creation around us and in the work God is doing within us. The longer days and fresh beginnings invite us to lift our eyes and prepare our hearts for all that the Lord has in store.

This month also leads us closer to Holy Week, and I want to draw your attention to a very special Sunday coming up. March 29th is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and begin our journey toward the cross and the empty tomb. It's also a 5th Sunday, which means we'll have the joy of seeing our kids and youth participating in the services. Their voices, energy, and genuine faith are always such a gift to our church, and I know their involvement will help set the tone for a meaningful start to Holy Week.

Let's enter March expectantly—ready to worship, ready to grow, and ready to celebrate the One who leads us from death to life. May this month draw us closer to Jesus and to one another.



Youth Ministry Director

Jason Potts

What an exciting and fulfilling time we had in February. We kicked off the month with our Soup-er Bowl fundraiser. There were so many excellent soups that I cannot imagine anyone left that meal unsatisfied. I am proud of our youth for stepping up at this event and setting a great tone for the occasion with their warmth and friendliness. As if all the soup was not enough, volunteers filled two full tables with nothing but desserts. Thank you to everyone who donated food, time, and money to the Soup-er Bowl event. I am quickly realizing that expressing gratitude to the members of this church is a huge part of my work here. While I do my best to steer the vessel that is youth ministry, it is you, the church, who keeps the ship afloat.

Another fundraiser is being planned for March, a dessert auction during our Town Hall. I have high hopes for this event and I am looking forward to winning a few treats myself. If you have a dessert people will love, please consider donating it to the auction.

We were also blessed in February with a trip to Gulf Shores for Impact Weekend. They packed in so much fun, meaningful lessons, with time spent with God that it truly and positively overwhelmed many of our youth. I wish you could have seen the way they represented our faith, Jesus, and our church. It was inspiring. I will say my own faith was impacted as well, both through the sermons and through the opportunity to watch so many other youth workers serving faithfully.

For our monthly fellowship night, we were blessed to have Pastor Dave as our guest speaker. Not only did he lead us in studying the Word of God, but he also shared many campfire stories as we enjoyed cooking over the fire together. We had s'mores, hot dogs, cheddar wurst, fruit, chips, and hot chocolate. We sang songs, listened to each other's stories, and worshiped the Lord. It was a great night of fellowship, faith, and fun.

I would like to take a moment to thank the people who volunteer with our youth, Amanda Peterson, who also gave her time to travel to Impact with us, Noah, Garrison, and Greg. Without them, our youth programs and classes would not exist. More than that, they provide direct guidance and strong role models for our students. I especially appreciated them one Wednesday this month when I was too ill to attend and they stepped in without hesitation or complaint.



Gary Smallwood



INFORMATION ABOUT RMD's THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

Once you reach age 73, the IRS requires you to begin withdrawing a minimum amount from your traditional IRA, 401(k), or other qualified retirement accounts each year. These withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, which can:

1. Increase your overall tax liability
2. Push you into a higher tax bracket
3. Affect Medicare premiums
4. Reduce eligibility for certain tax credits or deductions

For many retirees, RMDs feel like a forced tax event. But with the right planning, they can become an opportunity.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS: A TAX-EFFICIENT GIVING STRATEGY

A QCD allows individuals aged 70½ or older to donate up to \$100,000 per year directly from their IRA to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity. The donation counts toward your RMD but is excluded from taxable income—a win-win for both your tax return and your philanthropic goals.

Key Benefits of QCDs:

1. Reduces taxable income without requiring itemized deductions
2. Satisfies RMD requirements for the year
3. Avoids capital gains tax on appreciated assets (if combined with other giving strategies)
4. Supports causes you care about in a meaningful way

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER A QCD?

QCDs are especially beneficial for:

1. Retirees who don't need their full RMD for living expenses
2. Individuals who take the standard deduction and don't benefit from itemizing
3. Those looking to reduce their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to manage Medicare premiums or avoid the Net Investment Income Tax

Example:

Let's say your RMD for the year is \$25,000. If you donate \$25,000 directly to a qualified charity via a QCD, you satisfy your RMD and avoid adding that amount to your taxable income—potentially saving thousands in taxes.

TIMING AND EXECUTION: DON'T WAIT UNTIL DECEMBER

To qualify as a QCD for the current tax year:

1. The funds must be transferred directly from your IRA to the charity.
2. The transaction must be completed by December 31.
3. You must receive proper documentation from the charity confirming the gift.

Tip: Start early. Custodians may have year-end processing delays, and charities need time to acknowledge the gift.

BOTTOM LINE

If you're taking RMDs and want to give back, a QCD is one of the most tax-efficient ways to do it. It's a strategy that allows you to support the causes you care about while reducing your tax burden—and it's one that needs to be executed before year-end.

CHICKASAW Methodist

If establishing a QCD is something you might want to consider, you are encouraged to consult with your tax planner, financial advisor or accountant to gain a better understanding. Several church members are utilizing this benefit by designating our church as a recipient of a portion of their RMD. Please feel free to direct any questions to Anne or Gary.



DESSERT AUCTION FUNDRAISER
March 29th During TownHall Meeting come Support the Youth Summer Camp and win yourself a sweet treat!

MARCH 29TH @ 10AM
 5TH SUNDAY

Church Townhall
 Coffee, Conversations, and Connections

We have a Prayer Ministry Team who commits to praying for requests weekly. If you have a prayer request you'd like them to pray for, please email it to Martha Williams at marthaannwilliams5@gmail.com

Ageless Adventurers
 Tuesday, March 10 9:30 am
 History Museum of Mobile
 "Sunken Treasures, Ancient Seas: Artifacts from the Deep"

Will meet at Los Tres Amigos. March 1st after service

FIND YOUR PLACE. JOIN A MINISTRY TEAM!

AT CHICKASAW METHODIST, EVERY GIFT MATTERS. THERE'S A TEAM WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SEE JENNIFER BARNES FOR MORE DETAILS.

Altar Flowers

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 Jason.Potts@chickasawmethodist.com

MARCH 29TH @ 10AM
 5TH SUNDAY

Church Townhall
 Coffee, Conversations, and Connections

Lydia CIRCLE
 03/24/2026 10:00AM

Chickasaw Methodist Church
 Join Us for a Lenten Study Series!

JESUS ASKING
 A Daily Journey with Jesus in the Gospels

Daily Study Begins February 18
 Listen to the Wake-Up Call or read along with the daily email devotion

Sermon Series Begins March 8 and continues through Easter
 Draw closer to Jesus this Lent. as we March through Easter~

Youth Fellowship
 Night 5-9pm
 03/13/26

Mike's food pantry
 1st and 3rd Tuesday every month. 3pm to 5pm

Chickasaw Seniors' Breakfast 7:30AM
03/02 \$5 at CM

Ladies' Breakfast
03/21 9:00am

Men's Club
7:30am
03/15

Jennifer Barnes



NEXT GEN CHAIR

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: RECONNECT ON WEDNESDAYS
 Let's ROW Together

Wednesday nights at Chickasaw Methodist Church are powered by connection, collaboration, and care across generations.

Each week, adults gather for Bible study and choir, children and youth grow in faith and friendship, and our church family reconnects—beginning around a shared meal.

The Wednesday meal is just \$6 for adults, and every meal purchased and donation made helps ensure that kids and youth eat free, removing barriers so all can participate and belong.



A heartfelt thank you to the ROW Dinner Ministry Team, who faithfully prepare a delicious and filling meal each week—complete with beautiful desserts and generous hospitality!

We are also grateful for the volunteers and ministry leaders who make Wednesday nights possible through:

- Kids & youth ministries
- Nursery care
- Adult Bible studies
- Choir practice



Together, these teams help our church ROW in the same direction, strengthening faith, relationships, and community!

You need to make plans to Reconnect on Wednesdays! We hope to see everyone there!

Let's ROW together!





PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity."

Jeremiah 29:12-14a

Let's become better friends during Lent

Between today and Easter Sunday, April 5th, we are in a season of the church year that we call "Lent". Way back in the early 90's, I was waiting for a pastor's meeting to start at another church. To pass the time before the meeting I picked up a copy of that church's newsletter and read an article that was titled something like "What is and why do we have Lent?" I appreciated how my colleague was explaining that the church centuries ago made a choice to set apart 40 days to invite the people to "sharpen or intensify our relationships with God."

Over the years that followed that day, I have sought to better live with this purpose of Lent. As I thought of verses that will explain the intent of Lent, nothing seemed stronger than the promises of God found in Jeremiah 29 that I have shared above. This verse uses a peculiar verb to speak of encountering God, the verb is 'find.' Sometimes, I must find my keys or certain gadgets that I forget where I stored them, but I don't think of myself as losing God. So, what is God speaking of when He speaks of our need to find Him? Before I share about the reality of finding God, let's first speak of what God meant when He called us to "seek Him."

How do we seek God? "Seeking God" is one of those religious phrases that we use a lot, but what do we mean? We seek God both in our living and by setting time apart for God. Every time any one of us chooses to obey God in any situation, we are seeking God by our living. All the worship and study we do will have very little impact on our lives unless it impacts into our living. Obedience is a powerful way to seek God in our lives. There is the powerful reality that our living won't be filled with obedience if we aren't also seeking God through study and worship. Whether it be daily devotional time or our weekly worship experiences, if we give time to seeking God through focused time, we will be experiencing God because He wants to work in each of us.

Let's consider one other tool that God gives us in seeking Him. That tool is community. Whenever we seek God alone, we are moving forward, but when we join with other brothers and sisters in the Lord in the actions of seeking God, the power of God is multiplied in our lives. When God's people come together to seek Him, God is pleased and He blesses us.

As I was listening to a SeedBed Jesus Asking podcast and I heard a great way to explain the purpose of Lent. The sentence is "During Lent, let's deepen our friendship with Jesus." Don't we always love it when we find a friendship that grows stronger? Sure, we do. The ability to go deeper in a friendship is, of course, dependent on the other person. So, let's ask the question, "Does Jesus want to go deeper in a friendship with us?" The Bible clearly states that Jesus has already made the first move to bring us into a deeper friendship with Him. In the verses from Jeremiah, we are being asked are we going to give God the focused time and obedience, especially in community so we can find God in powerful ways.

What does it mean to find God? Based on my study of the Book of Jeremiah, finding God speaks of us understanding God's love for each of us and each of us responding in trust of God by living in obedience. To help all of us find God this Lent, especially in community, let me invite you to join daily on the Jesus Asking daily devotional by either podcast or by email. Simply go to seedbed.com/wakeupcall and either click on the podcast or the email link. You can also order the book "Jesus Asking" from Seedbed.com if you want all the devotionals all in one book. Taking these simple steps will bring us to a stronger friendship with Jesus this Lent. I will be preaching a sermon series following the three questions starting March 8th.

Brother Dave



CHURCH NEWS

By Rev. Dave Rhodes

Before I share about the month of March, let us pause and celebrate what we were able to do for the Lord throughout February. We had a wonderful youth fundraiser, selling soups on the first Sunday of the month. Our youth then traveled to Impact Weekend in Gulf Shores, where they had a great time growing closer to each other and to the Lord. We also experienced two very sweet and precious times of worship in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday.

Of course, we continued our week to week ministry and fellowship times throughout the month as well. I am especially excited that our Replicate Group ministry has grown from three people in one group in September to three people now leading three full groups. We continue our Replicator Groups with the goal of making new disciples and teaching them how to guide others in becoming disciples. It has been encouraging to see people growing deeper in their faith while also learning how to pour into others.

Compared to February and April, March may seem like a slower month in the life of our church. However, what we do in March is vital for where we are going as a church. Let us continue to journey together using the Jesus Asking plan. I encourage everyone to read or listen to the devotional each day. You can simply go to seedbed.com/wakeupcall and either read or listen. These devotionals are short, concise, and each one carries a meaningful point.

Our Vision Leadership Team gave serious thought to the best ways to help our church thrive and do well in the year 2026. Three priorities were decided upon, an excellent Bible School, friendly outreach events, and deploying our ministry team strategy at full strength. Over the next several weeks, we will see the work of each of these priorities being lived out in our church.

With these three priorities, we are moving toward a plan where everyone in our church can make a meaningful contribution to one of our ministries. At the same time, we will be showing our community how much we love them. These are exciting days to be at Chickasaw Methodist Church.



March 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 CHICKASAW DINERS 12:00pm Los Tres Amigos.	2 Chickasaw Seniors Breakfast 7:30AM WOMAN'S REPLICATE GROUP 7pm	3 Mike's food pantry 3pm - 5pm	4 R.O.W 5:30- Dinner 6pm- Kids & Youth 6:15- Adult Bible Studies & Choir	5 MEN'S REPLICATE GROUP 6pm	6 Backpack Blessings	7
8 Daylight savings spring forward	9 WOMAN'S REPLICATE GROUP 7pm	10 Angela's Adventures History Museum of Mobile 9:30am	11 R.O.W 5:30- Dinner 6pm- Kids & Youth 6:15- Adult Bible Studies & Choir	12 MEN'S REPLICATE GROUP 6pm	13 Youth Fellowship Night 5-9pm	14
15 Men's Club 7:30am	16 WOMAN'S REPLICATE GROUP 7pm	17 Mike's food pantry 3pm - 5pm St. Patrick's Day	18 R.O.W 5:30- Dinner 6pm- Kids & Youth 6:15- Adult Bible Studies & Choir	19 MEN'S REPLICATE GROUP 6pm	20 SPRING EQUINOX Backpack Blessings	21 Ladies Breakfast 9:00am
22	23 WOMAN'S REPLICATE GROUP 7pm	24 Lydia Circle 10:00AM	25 R.O.W 5:30- Dinner 6pm- Kids & Youth 6:15- Adult Bible Studies & Choir	26 MEN'S REPLICATE GROUP 6pm	27	28
29 5th Sunday Church-wide Townhall Meeting 10am DESSERT AUCTION FUNDRAISER	30 WOMAN'S REPLICATE GROUP 7pm	31	March is National Nutrition Month Eat Right!			

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sunday Schedule:
 Contemporary Service: 9am
 Sunday School: 10am
 Traditional Service: 11am

MARCH RED CROSS MONTH

Chickasaw METHODIST CHURCH

LOVING GOD BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS SERVING THE WORLD

March 2026

Wedding Shower

Soup-er Bowl

ASH WEDNESDAY