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1. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HYMN? **Amazing Grace**
2. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE PASSAGE?  
**Psalm 34:8: Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.**
3. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SUMMERTIME ACTIVITY? **Bike riding**
4. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CONCERT EVER ATTENDED?  
**Aretha Franklin**
5. IF YOU HAD TO LISTEN TO ONE SONG THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?  
**You're the Best Thing that Ever Happened to Me by Gladys Knight or Because He Lives**
6. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM?  
**Facebook. I have 700 friends!**
7. IF A MOVIE WERE MADE OF YOUR LIFE, WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO PLAY YOU?  
**Denzel Washington 🤔**
8. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITY?  
**Bowling, Word Connect puzzles**
9. WHAT'S YOUR WANNABE SPORT? **Golf**
10. RIGHT OR LEFT HANDED? **Left**
11. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY TIME ACTIVITY? **Board games like Speak Out, Gestures and Chicken Foot**
12. NOT-SO-FAVORITE FOOD: **Shrimp**
13. DO YOU HAVE VOCAL TALENT? **I carry a tune for myself 😊**
14. AUBURN OR ALABAMA? **Roll Tide!**

## Fun Facts ABOUT CLINTON

### YEARS of Ministry

- 1982** Bethlehem/Holston Chapel
- 1985** Mason Chapel
- 1986** Douglasville
- 1992** St. Paul Downtown
- 1998** New Church Start/  
Birmingham-East (Imani)
- 2008** Brownsville
- 2011** African American Ministries
- 2013** New Beginnings
- 2015** Executive Director Ethnic  
Ministries/ New Beginnings
- 2016** Executive Director Ethnic  
Ministries/Cheaha District  
Superintendent

## FUMCT CONNECTING POINT

# Welcome

TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TUSCALOOSA

## Clinton Hubbard SENIOR PASTOR

### DR. HUBBARD'S Appointment



Dr. Clinton Hubbard, Jr. has been appointed to serve as Senior Pastor of our church beginning **July 8, 2019**. Dr. Hubbard has served the United Methodist Church for almost 37 years, currently as the District Superintendent in the Cheaha District in east Alabama.

"This is a historic appointment for the North Alabama Conference," said Mike Case, chairperson of Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). "It represents the first time an African-American pastor has been appointed to a large, predominately white church. We are pleased to be making history and welcome Dr. Hubbard and his wife, Gloria to First Church and to Tuscaloosa.

"Knowing since last year of Ken's intention to retire in 2019, the SPRC was able to host multiple meetings with Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett and District Superintendent Rev. Sherri Reynolds to clearly convey the qualifications, experience and background we felt are critical in our next Senior Pastor.

"I am pleased to say that Dr. Hubbard "checks all the boxes". The Committee feels the appointment process yielded the best candidate and we are excited about the future of our church under his leadership. Like you, we have not yet met Dr. Hubbard but look forward to doing so prior to his start in July. "

Dr. Hubbard graduated from Birmingham Southern College where he majored in Religion. He also graduated with a Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and got his D. Min. degree from the Interdenominational

Theological Center also in Atlanta. While studying for these advanced degrees, Dr. Hubbard served churches in the North Alabama Conference.

### HIS CALL TO Ministry

His call to full-time ministry came while he was working for the City of Birmingham as a Community Development officer at City Hall. "I felt the nudge and then, out of the blue, a man I did not know invited me to attend a conference that Rev. A. Lewis Patterson was leading about the temptations of Jesus," Dr. Hubbard said. He decided to go to the conference and here's the God-part of the story....

"One of the subjects Rev. Patterson spoke on was *When is a Man Ready to Preach?*" he recounted.



### "THAT WAS CONFIRMATION OF GOD'S CALL ON MY LIFE."

It wasn't what I had planned on doing—I thought

I wanted to be a financial advisor and CEO of a big company," he admitted. "And it was a major financial risk to go full-time into preaching and preparing with more education," he said. One of those early appointments changed his life. At Mason Chapel UMC, he met Gloria. They have been married 33 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

If you ask anyone that knows Dr. Hubbard's career, they will tell you that his greatest accomplishment for the UM church is the New Beginnings Church. He helped three struggling African American churches merge in 2012 to become the largest and strongest



African American congregation in the North Alabama Conference. It might have been Dr. Hubbard's vision but he credits the lay leaders of each congregation for making it work so well.

"We worked for 6 to 8 months with transitional teams from each of the three churches," he said. "The teams of Trustees selected the building that would serve the new congregation. We had lay teams to name the congregation. Finally, we had the vote—overwhelmingly in favor of the merger!"

He served as the first pastor of New Beginnings before being named the Executive Director of Ethnic Ministries. In this position, he was the chief ministerial strategist as United Methodists seek to reach Korean, Latino, Native American, Asian and African American people and renew churches or form new ones.

What's his favorite thing about being the pastor of a local congregation? "Getting people to **respond** to the Gospel message," he said. "Helping them to **recognize** what responding means in their lives," he elaborated. "The people do the work of ministry. My job is to get them plugged in."

Dr. Hubbard's wide smile and knack at story-telling make him instantly likeable. His depth of experience and education make him uniquely qualified for this position.

We look forward to July and the start of his ministry here in our 201st year as First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

**DR. CLINTON HUBBARD**  
Senior Pastor,  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH TUSCALOOSA

Clinton Hubbard is a father to three children, Melanie, Shasha and Trey (Clinton Hubbard, III) who are all in their 30s. All three live in the Birmingham area. They each have a child, Amare who is 12, Zoe who is 6 ½ and Karsyn who is 6. Clinton and Gloria have been "empty-nesters" for almost five years.

The family usually gathers at their house for fun and food or travels together to the beach or to the mountains of Tennessee. Clinton has two older sisters and two older brothers. Gloria has five sisters and two brothers and her mother, 85 is still in good health.

The Hubbards love to travel, especially ocean cruising. They have been to the Holy Land twice and he has travelled to South Africa, England and France for study and preaching opportunities.

Clinton was influenced by a study that the Cabinet did recently on the book by Matthew Sleeth entitled, *24/6: A Prescription for a Healthier, Happier Life*. In the book, Sleeth explores the question of how do we

"remember the Sabbath and keep it holy" in this fast paced, 24/7 world? Since studying the book, Clinton has declared Friday as his Sabbath, or as he calls it, God and Gloria Day. They typically spend the day together walking in the neighborhood, reading or taking the grandchildren to the movies.

### CONNECT ON *Social Media!*

Clinton likes social media. He has 700 friends and welcomes more. He respects the power of social media to connect us together. For example, he recently reconnected with someone in Ohio who worked with him at McDonalds in Birmingham when they were teenagers. He uses Facebook to celebrate with people in their good times and pray with them in bad times.

If you would like to connect with Clinton on Facebook, you can find him at **Clinton Hubbard, Jr.** or email him at [clinton.hubbard@umcna.org](mailto:clinton.hubbard@umcna.org).



## NICE TO MEET YOU, *Gloria!*

Gloria Hubbard is the perfect ministry partner. A professional woman who is now retired and "discovering me", Gloria said one of the most fun things she has done through Clinton's ministry is to host the Imani church-start in her home.

The church started as a Friday night Bible study. When cars lined the streets of their neighborhood, one neighbor remarked to their son, Trey, "**I thought your father was a preacher...you all have a big party every Friday night!**" Gloria likes to meet new people and she says she's "not good at anything but I like to try a lot of things". She is artistic and likes learning crafts, recently taking flower arranging classes and quilting classes, resulting in two quilts. She addresses her Christmas cards in calligraphy, a skill she learned several years ago.

But you won't find her always at the crafting table. She takes a line dancing class and enjoys yard work too.

Her home is stylish and beautifully decorated and she admits she "dabbles" in interior decorating. In the past few years, the Hubbards built two

houses—one in Alabaster and the one they live in now in Trussville.

**"I LIKE STARTING FROM SCRATCH. AND THEN TURNING THE NEW HOUSE INTO A HOME."**

What's her favorite food? "Anything anyone else cooks!" she says.

Gloria is also a graduate of Birmingham Southern College, where she majored in Human Resources. She received a full scholarship to Tennessee State University in Nashville but her parents told her no because "We can't see you from here," so she enrolled in Booker T. Washington Business School in downtown Birmingham. She worked in the superintendent's office of the Birmingham Public Schools for 22 years. She was in the administrator's office at Carraway Hospital until it closed and moved to St. Vincent's to finish her business career.

Gloria currently serves on the United Methodist Foundation Board. She is energetic and eager to meet new friends. We welcome her to First United Methodist Church!

