



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TUSCALOOSA

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CONNECTING POINT INFORMATION

The Connecting Point is published monthly by FUMCT, 800 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 | 205.345.7261 | www.fumct.org

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Submissions can be emailed to cp@fumct.org or may be submitted to Savannah Smith in the church office. To unsubscribe to this publication, send an email to contact@fumct.org or call 205.345.7261.

Lent



Rev. Jesse Tosten
PASTOR OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

In many cultures, there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the 40 days of Lent is do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent 40 days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself as you begin this journey known as Lent:

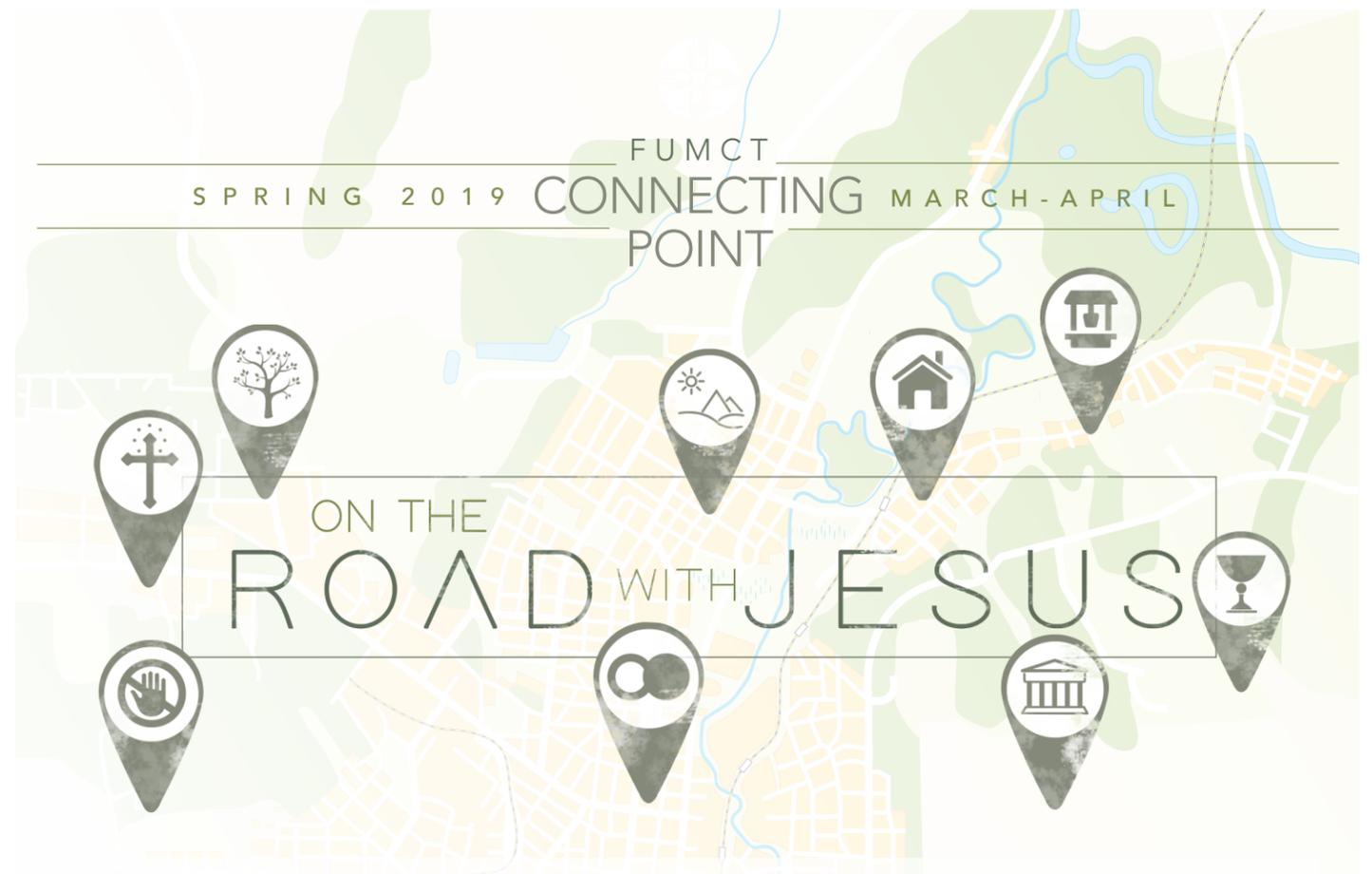
- **If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?**
- **Is there a habit or sin in your life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with your whole heart or loving your neighbor as yourself? How do you address that habit over the next 40 days?**

- **Is there anyone in your life from whom you need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?**
- **What practical steps can I take to carve out time for daily contemplation?**
- **When you wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will you be different?**

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sack-cloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

Join us each week during the Lenten season for a time of worship and reflection.

This material was compiled from writings of Rachel Held Evans.



One of the earliest designations for disciples of Jesus was the title "Followers of the Way." Jesus identified himself as "the way, the truth, and the life." Followers of The Way are in pursuit of truth that leads to life. For the Lenten season, we will be considering what it means to follow Jesus. *Where will following Jesus take us? Who are the people we will meet along the way? What circumstances will we encounter? If we take following Jesus seriously, what impact will it have on our lives?*

We encourage you to use the Lenten season as a time of study and reflection on your life as a disciple. Both the Bridge and Traditions will be preaching of the theme "On the Road with Jesus." During Lent we will be having Wednesday noonday services with different pastors from the community preaching for us. The 40 days of Lent is a great time to study the travel narratives of Jesus which are found in Luke 9:51-19:10. These stories are set on Jesus' journey from the region of Caesarea Philippi in the north to Jerusalem. Much of the preaching text will be taken from these stories.

We want to encourage you to do two other things this Lenten season:

- 1. Sacrifice something for Lent. This is a traditional act of self denial and sacrifice which reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf.**
- 2. Take up something for Lent. A newer tradition is for followers of Jesus to take up a positive habit or virtue or spiritual discipline. Try looking for good in others, being a source of encouragement, tithing throughout Lent.**

Perhaps you will find that these add value to our lives and will want to continue them. Our hope is that two months from now, we all will be better followers of Jesus.



Ken

Ken Dunivant,
Senior Pastor

Holy Week 2019

Palm Sunday, APRIL 14
 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Bridge | Rev. Jesse Tosten
 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Traditions | Dr. Ken Dunivant

CHILDREN'S PALM PROCESSIONAL
 11:00 a.m. in Traditions

EASTER EGG HUNT
 4:00 p.m. at Camp Tuscoba | Preschool-3rd grade

Wednesday, APRIL 17
 Noon | Rev. Sherri Reynolds | Southwest District Superintendent, UMC

Holy Thursday, APRIL 18
 6:30 p.m. Service in Traditions only | Dr. Gorman Houston

Good Friday, APRIL 19
 6:30 p.m. Service in the Bridge only | Rev. Jim Wilson

Easter, APRIL 21
 8:00 a.m. in the Bridge | Rev. Jesse Tosten
 8:00 a.m. in Traditions | Dr. Ken Dunivant
 9:30 a.m. in the Bridge | Rev. Jesse Tosten
 9:30 a.m. in Traditions | Dr. Ken Dunivant
 11:00 a.m. in the Bridge | Rev. Jim Wilson
 11:00 a.m. in Traditions | Dr. Gorman Houston

EASTER SUNDAY BUTTERFLY RELEASE
 Butterflies will be released in the courtyard following each worship service. Please bring your children and stay with them as they release their butterflies.

DEATHS:

- In thanksgiving of her life May H. Prickett of Moundville, Alabama who died on January 3, 2019. Sympathy to Nancy (Pete) Hollis on the death of her mother. Sympathy also to Hannah Hollis on the death of her grandmother.
- In thanksgiving of his life, Arnold Charles Freeman of Tuscaloosa, Alabama who died on December 26, 2018. Sympathy to his wife, Annette Freeman.
- In thanksgiving of her life, Anne "Bunny" McNeff who died on February 13, 2019. Sympathy to her daughters, Dr. Linda McNeff and Dr. Maridy Troy.

SYMPATHY TO FUMCT MEMBERS IN DEATH OF FAMILY:

- Sympathy to Nick (Mary) Posey on the death of his father, Johnny Posey of Byram, Mississippi on December 17, 2018.
- Sympathy to Dana (Butch) Camp on the death of her mother, Carole Harris of Birmingham, Alabama on December 19, 2018.
- Sympathy to Pam Loper on the death of her aunt, Reece Beech of Chatom, Alabama on January 17, 2019.
- Sympathy to Jackie Mason on the death of her husband, Alan Mason of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on January 30, 2019.
- Sympathy to Landon (Ashley) Waid on the death of his grandfather, Carl Whisenhunt of Cordova, Alabama on February 1, 2019. Sympathy also to great grandchildren, Garrett Grace and Liam "Brother" Waid.
- Sympathy to Linda (Jimmy) Shaw on the death of her mother, Ella Faye Hayes of Jasper, Alabama on January 27, 2019.
- Sympathy to David (Liz) Kindred on the death of his grandmother, Christine Kindred of Phenix City, Alabama on January 22, 2019. Sympathy also to great granddaughter, Olivia Kindred.
- Sympathy to Lydia (Michael) Avant on the death of her grandmother, Martha Seabol of San Clemente, California on January 24, 2019. Sympathy also to great-grandchildren, Kennedy, William and Eliza Avant.
- Sympathy to Ted Goode on the death of his father, Edward J. Goode of Oro Valley, Arizona on February 2, 2019.
- Sympathy to Rob (Jennifer) Colburn on the death of his mother, Betty Louise Loe Colburn of Fayette, Alabama on February 5, 2019.
- Sympathy to Paula (Doug) Harless on the death of her father, Curtis Hargrove of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on February 16, 2019. Sympathy also to grandchildren, Lauren (Brian) Hurd, Jeffrey Harless and Julianna Harless.
- Sympathy to Jane (Tommy) McGraw on the death of her mother, Evelyn Bisplinghoff of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on February 12, 2019.
- Sympathy to Nancy Hubbard on the death of her father, Joe E. Evans of Tuscaloosa, on February 21, 2019. Sympathy also to Jeffrey Hubbard and Joseph (Heather) Hubbard on the death of their grandfather.

BIRTHS:

- Congratulations to Kara and Cameron Creel on the birth of their daughter, Susan "Sunny" Josephine Creel on December 31, 2018. Congratulations also to big sister, Lucy Creel.
- Congratulations to Ashley and Chris Majors on the birth of their son, Christopher Case Majors on January 6, 2019. Congratulations also to siblings, Reese and Jackson Majors.
- Congratulations to Sarah Grelle on the birth of her daughter, Anna Grace Grelle on February 13, 2019. Congratulations to grandparents, Ken and Barbara Dunivant.
- Congratulations to Camille and Rob Herndon on the birth of their daughter Frances Griffith Herndon on February 12, 2019. Congratulations also to grandmother, Susan H. Caples.

BAPTISMS:



• Baptism of George Campbell Cornelius with parents Meghan and Kirk Cornelius.

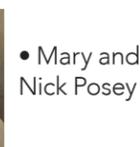
NEW MEMBERS:



• Kate and Gray Garrett with their children, Jane, Rainer, Broox and Virginia Catherine.



• Anna and Michael Crady



• Mary and Nick Posey



• Diane Michel



• Bobby (Robert) Sherrill



• Glenda and Ben Anderson

BUDGET & ATTENDANCE

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 01/31/19

ANTICIPATED INCOME (YTD): \$247,520
 ACTUAL INCOME (YTD): \$186,638
 ORGAN DEBT: \$324,343

ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| DECEMBER 23, 24 & 30 | JANUARY | FEBRUARY 3, 10 & 17 |
| WORSHIP: 2,431 | WORSHIP: 3,102 | WORSHIP: |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL: 331 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: 1515 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: |

THIS IS A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TUSCALOOSA.
 Broadcast & Contact Information
 The Sunday 11:00 AM Traditions Worship Service is broadcast on WACT 1420 AM, 96.9 FM and online.
 Listen to and watch sermons on our website at fumct.org/welcome/listen-to-a-sermon.

Holiday CLOSING

The church office and CAC will be closed **Monday, April 22nd** in observation of Easter. It will reopen for normal business hours **Tuesday, April 23rd.**



Easter Lilies

If you wish to give a Memorial or Honorarium for Easter, please make your check payable to FUMCT or donate online at fumct.org/give and click "Make a Donation". A customary amount would be \$25.

Submit the necessary information by **Sunday, April 14th** to be printed in the Easter Order of Worship on **April 21st.** Anything received after this deadline will be printed at a later date.



UMW Meetings *March-April*

Faith & Friendship Circle | Monday, March 11th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parker Fireside Room

Charlotte Shamblin Bible Study Circle | Monday, March 18th at 10:00 a.m. in the Lee Classroom

Celebration Circle | Monday, March 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the Stabler Conference Room

Faith & Friendship Circle | Monday, April 8th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parker Fireside Room

Celebration Circle | Monday, April 8th at 5:45 p.m. in Parker Fireside Room

Charlotte Shamblin Bible Study Circle | Monday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the Lee Classroom

Wesleyan Circle | Monday, April 15th at 2:00 p.m. in the Parker Fireside Room

Joint UMW Luncheon with Presbyterian Women | Monday, May 6th at 12:00 p.m. in Chitwood Hall

Faith & Friendship Circle | Monday, May 13th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parker Fireside Room

Celebration Circle | Monday, May 13th at 5:45 p.m. in the Stabler Conference Room

Charlotte Shamblin Bible Study Circle | Monday, May 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the Lee Classroom

Wesleyan Circle | Monday, May 20th at 2:00 p.m. in the Parker Fireside Room



Lenten Noontday SERVICES

12:00-1:00 p.m. in Chitwood Hall | Lunch will be served for \$7.00/person

Ash Wednesday, MARCH 6
 Noon | Imposition of Ashes | Dr. Ken Dunivant | Chitwood Hall
 6:00 p.m. | Imposition of Ashes | Dr. Ken Dunivant | Sanctuary

Wednesday, MARCH 13
 Noon | Rev. Michael Bailey | First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, MARCH 20
 Noon | Mr. Kaleb Smith | Northport Baptist Church

Wednesday, MARCH 27
 Noon | Dr. Richard Morgan | New Covenant Baptist Church

Wednesday, APRIL 3
 Noon | Dr. David McGinnis | Christ Episcopal Church

Wednesday, APRIL 10
 Noon | Dr. Thaddeus Steele | Hunter Chapel AME Zion

Wednesday, APRIL 17
 Noon | Rev. Sherri Reynolds | Southwest District Superintendent, UMC

What Is Cultivate?

The purpose of Cultivate is to create a sense of belonging for the women of our church and community where we grow in our faith, prayer life and friendships through studying God's word, serving his people, and shepherding one another along life's journey.

Small Groups

A total of 96 women are meeting together in six different small groups during this semester in Cultivate small groups. Why do women participate in these small groups? Small groups provide support and love in a small circle of women, creating friendships that help meet our basic needs of acceptance, affirmation and accountability. Currently we have Bible study groups and prayer groups. In the future, we hope to offer several special interest groups. These groups may be designed around fitness, food, hobbies, travel or other special interests. If you would be willing to lead one of these groups, please contact Susan Kizziah at susankizziah@gmail.com.

Like and Follow Us on Social Media

Cultivate is on Facebook! Please visit our page at [facebook.com/CultivateFUMCT/](https://www.facebook.com/CultivateFUMCT/) and like us! Additional announcements, updates and other messages are shared on social media.

Join the Serve Team

During the 10 months since Cultivate kicked off in 2018, the Cultivate Serve Team has completed eight service projects ranging from programs at the United Methodist Children's Home to Pack a Purse, which benefited women leaving prison to service projects for clients of Love INC. This small group of women serves as the hands and feet of Christ in activities assisting members of our local community.

2019 Projects & Events

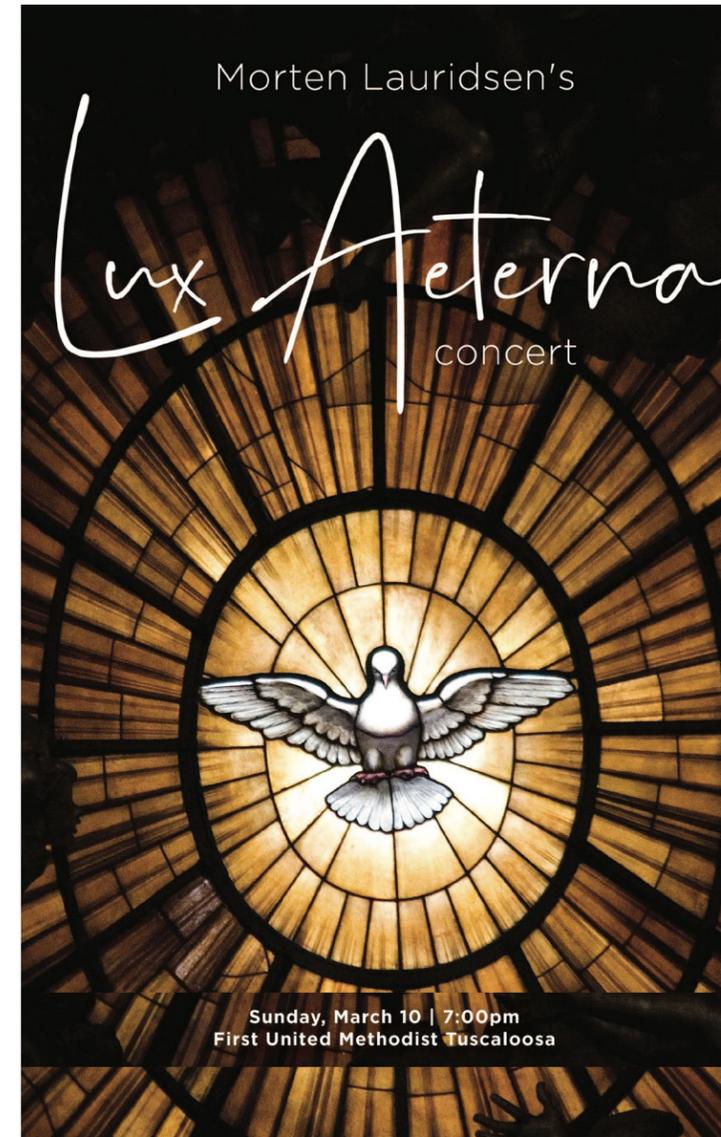
The 2019 projects will begin soon. If you are interested in joining this mission-minded small group, please contact Beth Roberts (bethwinstonroberts@gmail.com) or Erin Tucker (ehtucker2003@yahoo.com).

Summer Events | Summer special events for Cultivate women's ministries will be detailed in the May 2019 Connecting Point.

Save the Date | Cultivate Pop Up Shops will return on **Saturday, October 12, 2019.**



Cultivate
women's
MINISTRY



Morten Lauridsen's
Lux Aeterna
CONCERT FEATURING FUMCT
AND VESTAVIA HILLS CHANCEL CHOIRS

**Sunday, March 10th at 7:00 p.m.
at FUMCT**

The Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church, Tuscaloosa and Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church will join together with an orchestra for a concert on March 10th, in our sanctuary with Dr. Quint Harris conducting. The choirs will be performing Morten Lauridsen's *Lux aeterna*, one of the monuments in the choral/orchestral canon. "Skip" Lauridsen is one of the most substantive and significant composers of this generation, and he was John Ratledge's composition teacher from 1985-1988 at UCLA. Each choir will sing three pieces, and then the choirs will join together to sing Jane Marshall's, *My Eternal King*. The concert will conclude with *Lux aeterna* with the orchestra. The concert is at 7:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The choirs are preparing for the performance of *Lux aeterna* at Carnegie Hall on March 23rd with John Ratledge conducting. It will be an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our choir. Thank you for the outstanding financial support that you have given to our choir for travel expenses to New York. Through the generosity of our church, over \$55,000 has been raised. Thank you!



SENIOR PASTOR TRANSITION

Dr. Ken Dunivant is retiring in June. The Bishop and the Cabinet are considering our next appointment and will announce it in late April. The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is planning an appreciation reception for Ken and Barbara to thank them for 18 years of ministry with us. As with any change, there is anxiety and anticipation. If you want to know more about the appointment process, Mike Case, chairman of SPRC has prepared an informational document about this transition. It is on our website, fumct.org. Click on *media* and then *references*. (fumct.org/media/references)

Many of you have asked what the church plans to do to recognize Ken's long and productive ministry. The SPRC and the Administrative Board will be contacting members soon with ideas.



Jackie Greene led a team of 27 women to Aliceville Federal Correctional Institution to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ on February 21- 24. Members from our church included Susan Kizziah, Mary Meadows, Annette Mills, Alice Sims, Syble McDaniel and Sandy Felkins.

JOIN THE TEAM!

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. is a ministry addressing the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women and children, their families and those who work in the prison environment. Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation chartered in the State of Florida which has become known as Kairos Prison Ministry.

Consider being a part of this incredible ministry. If you are interested in serving on a women's Kairos Ministry Team, please contact Jackie Greene at 205-345-7216 or jackie@fumct.org. The next weekend will take place in August 2019 at the Aliceville Federal Corrections Institution. For more information visit mykairos.org.



ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT KAIROS IS TO SEE THE AMAZEMENT ON THE PARTICIPANTS' FACES WHEN THEY REALIZE JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE PRAYING FOR THEM TO HAVE THE BEST EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE.

—JACKIE GREENE



I LOVE DOING THIS MINISTRY NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD WITH THEM BUT ALSO I LOVE WATCHING HOW THE LORD MOVES IN THEIR LIVES WHILE WE'RE THERE. IT'S HEART WARMING AND LIFE CHANGING. TO HIM BE THE GLORY!

HEART WARMING AND LIFE CHANGING. TO HIM BE THE GLORY!

—ANNETTE MILLS



KAIROS IS A TIME FOR BEING THE TRUE HEART OF CHRIST TO OUR SISTERS IN NEED. THROUGH PRAYER,

TEACHING AND TONS OF AGAPE THESE WOMEN ARE FILLED WITH HOPE THAT ONLY GOD CAN GIVE. IT IS SUCH A BLESSING TO SERVE GOD IN THIS MINISTRY.

—SANDY FELKINS



SERVING ON KAIROS TEAMS IS SUCH A BLESSING-BEING PART OF A MINISTRY THAT HELPS WOMEN WHO ARE INCARCERATED LEARN ABOUT THE LOVE , FORGIVENESS, AND MERCY OFFERED BY JESUS IS LIFE-CHANGING. I'VE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF

WATCHING WOMEN FROM OTHER RELIGIOUS FAITHS MAKE THE DECISION TO BECOME A CHRIST-FOLLOWER. I'VE WITNESSED TRANSFORMATION IN THE LIVES OF WOMEN WHO BELIEVED GOD COULDN'T POSSIBLY FORGIVE THEM. GOD IS PRESENT IN A MIGHTY WAY DURING THESE WEEKENDS. IF YOU DESIRE TO GROW IN YOUR FAITH AND DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, KAIROS IS THE PLACE FOR YOU!

—SUSAN KIZZIAH

get REAL with TEAL

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL CULTIVATE EVENT!
Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
in Chitwood Hall at FUMCT

Get Real with TEAL will provide information for women of all ages about the symptoms and risk factors of ovarian cancer (and other gynecological cancers). Early awareness and diagnosis is essential in saving lives. There is **NO** diagnostic screening test for ovarian cancer. Educate yourself and take action in the fight against ovarian cancer! Hear Guest Speaker, Dr. Kerri Bevis, a Gynecological Oncologist from UAB Hospital and listen to personal faith stories from FUMCT ovarian cancer survivors and caretakers. Contact Melissa Tuten at melissa@fumct.org for childcare.

TAKE EARLY ACTION & LIVE AN OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS EVENT

FACTS ABOUT OVARIAN CANCER

- #1 most common cause of gynecologic cancer deaths
- 5th most common cause of cancer-related deaths in women
- 22,240 new cases will be diagnosed this year
- 70% will suffer a recurrence
- 14,070 women will die of this cancer this year
- Every 24 minutes another woman is diagnosed

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

The Merry Methodists

For years we have had an Adult ministry called *The Merry Methodists*. This ministry ranged from luncheons, plays, museums and day trips. It has been brought to my attention that it is in need of reviving and we need your help. A group of concerned seniors has met to brainstorm and decide what to do. From that meeting we confirmed that the ministry is in need of revamping and energizing. We need to know what you think and where your interest and needs are. So, you are invited to a gathering and encouraged to let others know about it.

So what can you do? First, pray for this endeavor. Second, join us! Third, spread the news and invite others. I am very excited about this ministry and am eager to see where God leads us. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the church on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays.



Rev. Sandy Felkins,
 Director of Congregational Care
sandy@fumct.org

JOIN US FOR A MERRY METHODISTS'

Luncheon & Program

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD

FROM 12:00 TO 2:00 P.M.
in Chitwood Hall at FUMCT

A short program, a survey and lots of fellowship! ALL SENIOR ADULTS ARE INVITED!

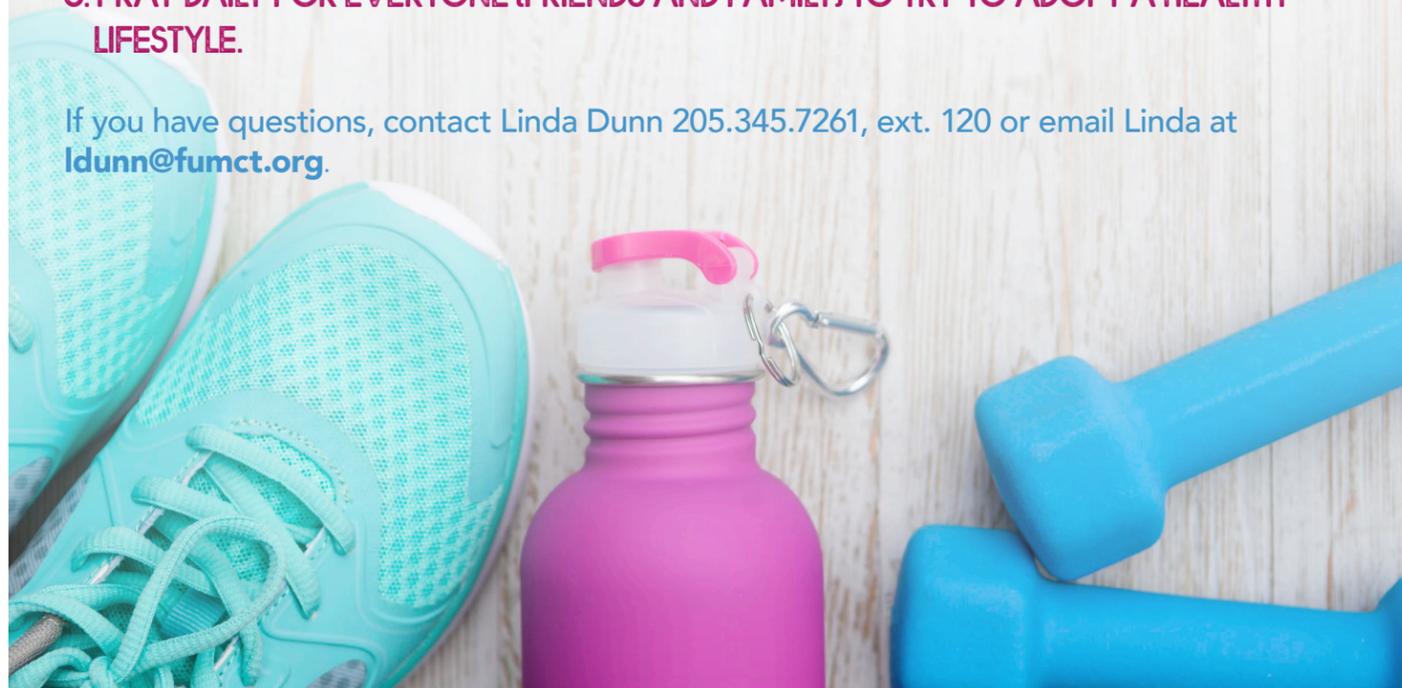
FORTY DAYS OF FITNESS LENT 2019

MAKE A COMMITMENT
DURING LENT TO BE MORE
ACTIVE AND INCORPORATE
A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE!

During Lent (March 6 – April 20) we encourage everyone to participate in exercising at least five days a week for a minimum of 30 minutes each day. By exercising during this time you will prepare yourself spiritually, physically and mentally for Easter. You are on the honor system to keep this exercise program going each week. We will have a sign-up sheet in CAC, or you can email ldunn@fumct.org to add your name to our list for FORTY DAYS OF FITNESS 2019. Put your name on the list, complete the 40 days of fitness activity, and we will give you a certificate of completion! To make your participation successful, we suggest the following:

1. DRINK MORE WATER.
2. HONOR YOUR BODY BY DOING SOME KIND OF EXERCISE A MINIMUM 30 MINUTES, 5 DAYS A WEEK.
3. EAT HEALTHY. EAT MORE LEAN MEATS, FRESH VEGETABLES AND FRUITS, AND AVOID FRIED FOODS, SUGAR AND WHITE FLOUR
4. CALCULATE YOUR (BMI) BODY MASS INDEX. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CAC FOR YOU TO CALCULATE YOUR BMI.
5. FIND A BUDDY TO DO THIS PROGRAM WITH YOU AND MAKE A COMMITMENT.
6. PRAY DAILY FOR EVERYONE (FRIENDS AND FAMILY) TO TRY TO ADOPT A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.

If you have questions, contact Linda Dunn 205.345.7261, ext. 120 or email Linda at ldunn@fumct.org.



ROOTED

New Name!! The *Young Professionals* are now *Rooted*. This group considers itself more than a Sunday school class—it is a Life Group. According to the class leadership, “Rooted describes our class very well.”

“We’re all grounded and down-to-earth people who are rooted in Christ, rooted in friendship and rooted in love.”

When the class formed about 18 months ago, the name *Young Professionals* was a good starting point for them. As they grew together as a group and increased in membership, the name seemed to be limiting. For several weeks, they discussed a descriptive name and a verse that would represent who they are and what they hope to become.

The class meets on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and often has lunch together after church. The women of the class meet on Thursday nights for a Bible study. The men of the class meet on Thursdays too for Christian fellowship. They volunteered at the Phoenix House build and at Homeless Connect. They were involved with building the prize-winning Homecoming float and marched in the parade.

The class is about half singles and about half married. If you enjoy mission work, fun socials and trips and Christian book studies, visit this class. They are planning to study the classic C. S. Lewis’ *Mere Christianity* for their next study. This book explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together and is recognized as one of the most powerful books ever written.

Rooted meets in room 219 in the Hunter Learning Center. For more information, contact Elizabeth Allen at libbyallen614@gmail.com.



FOUNDATIONS

Foundations is a new Sunday school class. It meets in room 308 in the Echols Learning Center. Allison and Josh Thomas and Zoe and William Winston were having dinner together and both couples expressed a desire to start a class that would study the Bible and how those teachings apply to our lives.

Allison and William grew up in FUMCT and brought Josh (from Winfield) and Zoe (from Texas) to the church when they married. Using Colossians 3:12-17 as a guide, they decided to form a class that would “add love which binds all things together” (verse 14) and as they seek to “let the message of Christ dwell among you richly” (verse 16).

The goals set by the leaders include:

- Study of the Bible
- Fellowship outside of class once a month
- Serving others through local missions

The class is open to married couples and singles. They describe themselves as moving into their 30s but not quite settled yet. If you are interested in learning more or joining the group for a social function or for one of their class meetings, contact Allison Thomas at allisonpchandler@gmail.com or 205.242.2190.



HOMELESS CONNECT 2019 STATISTICS



12 SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS GIVEN

13 DRIVER LICENSES ISSUED

26 LEGAL SESSIONS

165 CLIENTS SERVED

THANK YOU TO:

-  100+ CHURCHES AND AGENCIES
-  500+ VOLUNTEERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PROFESSIONALS



MEDICAL EXAMS 48



72 PRESCRIPTIONS



62 EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES



10 VA APPOINTMENTS



44 REHAB INQUIRIES

52 PAIRS OF GLASSES



15 BIRTH CERTIFICATES



21 VACCINATIONS GIVEN

8 CAR SEATS

800+ ARTICLES OF CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES

176 TOOTH EXTRACTIONS



50+ PRAYERS



17 MEDICAL SCREENINGS

40 HAIRCUTS

10 SHOWERS



22 MENTAL HEALTH APPOINTMENTS

15 ADJUSTMENTS



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

NICE TO MEET YOU, AMY THIGPEN!
 Director of Christian Education
amy@fumct.org

We can thank the mild winters in Alabama for bringing Amy Thigpen to Tuscaloosa. "One of the criteria I had for college was a place with warm weather," said Kansas native, Amy. We can also thank an English 101 class for bringing her to First United Methodist Church. "Chris and I met that first semester at UA and married as soon as we both graduated." The Thigpen family are long time members of the church and Amy soon joined too.

Amy is the newly appointed Director of Christian Education, a position that oversees discipleship for all ages—pre-school through adult. She is also working to incorporate new members into the life of the church soon after they join. She most recently served as Director of Children's Ministry.

In this new position, Amy wants to help adult Sunday school classes with curriculum choices and develop a pool of programs and teachers to help classes if their teacher needs a break! She wants to increase the use of technology for all classes and introduce leaders to new ways to teach their classes, using available online resources.

She served a year as a single parent as Chris served at Guantanamo Bay in the Army National Guard. He has always served in either the Air Force or Army National Guard and they have been married 27 years.

Chris now works in Huntsville for a federal judge. Amy travelled to Cuba while he was stationed there but admits that Venice is her favorite place to visit. She has travelled to over 15 countries and has her sights set on the Holy Land for her next adventure.

The Thigpens have four sons: Conner who is 24 and recently married Sarah Beth Patterson. He attended the Air Force Academy and is stationed at Eglin Air Force Base near Destin, FL. Charlie is 22 and is a junior at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He recently got engaged to his high school sweetheart, Skyler Hubbard of Tuscaloosa. John is 19 and is graduating from NorthRidge High School in May. He has several options outstanding for colleges and academies and hopes to make a final decision by April. Andrew, 17 is a junior at NorthRidge and active on the school's wrestling team.

Amy's favorite verse is from the story of Jesus healing the boy with epileptic seizures. The disciples failed to heal the boy and asked Jesus to explain why they couldn't drive out the demon. Jesus answered, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

As Amy takes on the new challenge of Christian Education, we pray that with God's help, nothing will be unattainable; everything will be possible, as she helps us grow to be disciples of Jesus Christ.



EASTER EGG DONATIONS NEEDED | Please donate filled, plastic Easter eggs for our Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Please bring as many filled, sealed eggs as you can by Sunday, April 14. Drop them off in the main office or in the collection basket outside the Bridge. The small group/Sunday school class that donates the most eggs will be recognized in the econnect and receive donuts for their group. Write the name of your group on the donation bag so they can be counted. Thank you for helping the church make this a great event for all of our children.

EVENTS

APRIL 7 | Preschool-5th grade spring musical performance in the Bridge at 11:00 a.m. *The children will be brought to the Bridge from their classrooms.

APRIL 14 | Preschool- 5th grade Palm Parade and singing in Traditions at 11:00 a.m. *Parents must drop their children off in the narthex in the back of the sanctuary by 10:50 a.m. to participate in the Palm Parade.

SPRING FLING AND EASTER EGG HUNT

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14 | Bring your whole family and enjoy an afternoon at Camp Tuscoaba. We will have activities for preschool - 3rd grade children that include inflatables, crafts, games, an egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The camp is located in Northport off of Union Chapel Road between Highway 69 North and Highway 43 North. This will be a great family event.

EASTER | BUTTERFLY RELEASE | Join us in the courtyard after each service to celebrate our risen Lord by releasing a butterfly.



**PALM SUNDAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 14
FROM 4:00-6:00 P.M.
AT CAMP TUSCOBA**

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH | Reception for Families at 10:00 a.m. in the Parker Fireside Room | Baby Recognition in 11:00 a.m. Traditions Worship

We will recognize babies born from January 2018 – December 2018 in the 11:00 a.m. Traditional service. During the reception photos will be made for each family and mailed to you as a keepsake. Moms, dads and siblings are invited to this event.

We are blessed to honor our newest church members and hope to see you April 28th! Please R.S.V.P. to melissa@fumct.org by **April 18th**.

SAVE THE DATE
Vacation Bible Schol 2019 - June 24-27, 2019

This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. Put VBS on your calendar **now!**

Online registration opens **May 1st** for children who turn 3 years old by September 1st through students who have completed 5th grade.

ROAR!
Life is wild * God is good

FOOMACK STUDENT MINISTRY

@bigstuf

JUNE 21-24, 2019, PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

BIGSTUF | It is time to start looking forward to the summer. This year we will be attending BigStuf in Panama City Beach, Florida. There are only a handful of spots remaining so sign up fast! Register at fumct.org/ministries/students.

HOOPS | Another season of Foomack basketball has passed. This year our league had 10 teams with over a 100 students participating. A special thanks to everyone who made this possible. Congratulations to this year's champion, the Bombers, as they defeated the Salamanders in overtime.