



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TUSCALOOSA

800 GREENSBORO AVE
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tuscaloosa, AL
Permit No. 135

SOCIAL MEDIA



WWW.FUMCT.ORG

Scan the code with your mobile device to visit our website.



CONNECTING POINT INFORMATION

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

Editors: Savannah Smith & Hannah Crisp

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.

**WE'RE BRINGING IT BACK,
GOD AT THE BOX OFFICE
BEGINNING JULY 14!**

We all know movies are a cultural force in our society. Whether we watch them in the theater, On Demand, or through Netflix, movies influence how we see the world. Have you ever wondered what God thinks about the movies? Can his truth be found at the theater?

Join us in the Bridge starting **July 14th** as we set aside four Sundays during the summer to look at five different movies through the lens of Scripture. We'll explore what these films have to say about God. We'll talk about the power of love, the gray areas of life, the desire to find truth, cultural shifts, our potential to be both hero and villain, and the drive to survive and more.

We'll align these subjects with Scripture and identify where the beliefs and values of our society intersect with and deviate from God's truth. And yes, there will be Coke and popcorn. See you at the box office!



DR. KEN DUNIVANT
18 YEARS OF MINISTRY

at First United Methodist Church Tuscaloosa

Eighteen years ago, my first Sunday as pastor occurred on the same Sunday as VBS Sunday. The huge crowd was a bit intimidating for me as a new pastor. My desire to be the best local church pastor I can be would be put to the test as I began a new ministry at this wonderful church which was at least twice as large as my previous church. I knew I would have to prove myself again.

In the service that day I was presented "keys to the church" and a new white stole. The stole has always been more than just a liturgical garb representing the color of the season. It is a yoke. The stole is a reminder that I take up a responsibility and that I team up with Jesus to do the work of this church.

What an awesome privilege and responsibility.

With retirement right around the corner I am realizing that my active appointive ministry is coming to an end. I will take off that stole and leave it for the Reverend Doctor Clinton Hubbard. Clinton is an able pastor with a keen mind and a loving heart. He will put on the stole and preach the word. He will administer the sacraments and order the church. He will lead the staff and love all the people of this great congregation. Clinton has all the education that I have. He has all the credentials that I have. God has given him different life experiences that I am sure he will share with you. And I pray that you will let him be your pastor, just as you have allowed me to be your pastor.



The Staff Parish Relations Committee and I have talked about a covenant that expresses our understanding of my relationship to the church in retirement. Because I will no longer be the pastor, I will not participate in sacraments or services of the church. This will allow Clinton the opportunity to know and love you the way I know and love you. I will be one of his cheerleaders encouraging him at every moment. Barbara and I plan to worship with a host of friends around the conference on Sunday mornings so you will not see a lot of us for a while. We want the best for the church and are committed to helping that happen.

Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to share in the life of this congregation through some dramatic times. From 9/11 in my first few months, to the construction projects, to the development of our Global Outreach Plan, to the starting and growing of the Bridge, to the recovery efforts of Katrina and the tornado, to the wonderful celebration of our Bicentennial, it has been my honor to participate with you in God's work in this place.

Thanks to the wonderfully talented and committed staff who serve this congregation. To a person, we are blessed with outstanding people in each position. The staff is like a family to me. I thank them for the work we have done together and for the love we have shared with each other.

I hope you will join us on **June 9th at 10:30 a.m.** as we conclude this chapter of the church's life and of my ministry.

Blessings,

Kenneth A. Dunivant

You're Invited



JOIN US TO HONOR
Barbara and Ken Dunivant
 ON THE OCCASION
 OF HIS RETIREMENT
SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH , 10:30 A.M.
 IN THE SANCTUARY
 RECEPTION FOLLOWING
 IN CHITWOOD HALL

Ken has served this church since 2001. We want to honor his work for the church and thank him for his love and dedication.

In this special service, Ken will preach, we will have music from our choir, as well as special guests, Mabs and James Seay. There will be a few surprises, too. The Bridge and Traditions will worship together in one service in the Sanctuary.

After the service, join us in Chitwood Hall to wish Barbara and Ken the best in retirement.

SUMMER
 AT **FIRST**
CHURCH
 MAY 26TH-AUGUST 4TH
 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. | Traditions and Bridge Worship
 Starting May 26, we will move to the summer worship schedule. Sunday school will be at 9:30 a.m. and worship in the Bridge and Traditions will be at 10:30 a.m. Join us for summer!

MERRY METHODISTS
 Let's Go To The Theater
July 21, 2019
 Shelton State Campus
 presented by Theater Tuscaloosa
 We will leave the church following the 11:00 service. The cost is \$20.00, which includes your ticket and a boxed lunch. Contact Sandy at sandy@fumct.org by **May 26th** to make your reservation.

DEATHS:

- In thanksgiving of her life, Barbara Davis of Tuscaloosa, Alabama who died on March 2, 2019. Sympathy to Alan Davis on the death of his wife.
- In thanksgiving of his life, Richard B. Williams of Tuscaloosa, Alabama who died on March 7, 2019. Sympathy to his wife, Carole Williams.
- In thanksgiving of his life, Robert Eugene "Bobby" Sherrill of Tuscaloosa, Alabama who died on April 8, 2019. Sympathy to his wife, Allison Sherrill and children, Marta (David) Zinkand and Connor Sherrill.
- In thanksgiving of her life, Sherry Earwood Montgomery, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama who died on May 3, 2019.

SYMPATHY TO FUMCT MEMBERS IN DEATH OF FAMILY:

- Sympathy to Nini (Jody) Jobson and Rosa Morrow on the death of their aunt, Eugenia Earle Faison of Arlington, Virginia on February 26, 2019.
- Sympathy to Adam (Betsy) Morrison on the death of his grandmother, Elizabeth Wilson of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on February 12, 2019.
- Sympathy to Lee Scott on the death of his sister-in-law, Myrtle Friday Jones of Northport, Alabama on February 9, 2019.
- Sympathy to Sheryl (Victor) Harper on the death of her mother, Mary Hocutt of Tuscaloosa Alabama on March 11, 2019. Sympathy to grandchildren, Mary Brooke (Jarrod) Wiggins and Blake (Danielle) Harper.
- Sympathy to Brock (Anne) Jones on the death of his father, Fate Watson Jones of Camden, Alabama on March 12, 2019. Sympathy also to grandchildren, Daniel W. Jones, Thornton W. Jones, and Susannah R. Jones.
- Sympathy to Jackie Tucker on the death of her sister, Joyce Mizer of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on April 2, 2019. Sympathy also to Dr. Curtis and Erin Tucker.
- Sympathy to Georgia (Louis) Buettnner on the death of her sister, Helen Young on April 5, 2019.
- Sympathy to Lydia (Michael) Avant on the death of her father, Patrick Seabol of San Clemente, California on April 6, 2019. Sympathy also to grandchildren, Kennedy, William and Eliza Avant.
- Sympathy to Laurie (Darryl) Rogers on the death of her mother, Lucy Montgomery of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on April 8, 2019. Sympathy also to grandchildren, Lucy and Max Rogers.
- Sympathy to Kaleb (Savannah) Smith on the death of his cousin, Millie Drew Kelley of Paulding County Georgia on April 10, 2019.
- Sympathy to Doris (Ron) Townsend on the death of her sister, Louise Nelson on April 19, 2019.
- Sympathy to Elizabeth Smith on the death of her husband, Marcel Smith of Nashville, Tennessee on April 14, 2019.
- Sympathy to Chris (Virginia) Jones on the death of his mother, Doris Jones of Thomasville, Alabama on May 5, 2019. Sympathy also to grandchildren, J.C. and Jessie Katherine Jones.
- Sympathy to Joan (Michael) Robards on the death of her aunt, Chris Maxedon on May 2, 2019. Sympathy also on the death of her cousin, Harold Pryor on May 1, 2019.

BIRTHS:

- Congratulations to Sandy Felkins on the birth of her great grandson, Gunner Owen Bailey, son of Lauren and Brennon Bailey on May 3, 2019.
- Congratulations to Cille and Michael Robards, Jr. on the birth of their daughter, Chappell Lucille Robards, on May 2, 2019. Congratulations to big sister, Betts Robards. Congratulations also to grandparents, Joan and Michael Robards.
- Congratulations to Katherine and Vaughn Gambrell on the birth of their daughter, Grace Louise Gambrell on March 29, 2019. Congratulations also to grandparents, Louise and Jack Gambrell.
- Congratulations to Meagan Thomas and Henry Allen on the birth of their son, Carson McKennon Allen on March 16, 2019. Congratulations also to grandparents, Randy and Lori Allen.
- Congratulations to Danielle and Blake Harper on the birth of their daughter, Elliott Catherine Harper, on March 11, 2019. Congratulations to grandparents, Sheryl and Victor Harper.
- Congratulations to Carol and Ryne Montgomery on the birth of their son, Richard Neal Montgomery, III on February 27, 2019. Congratulations to grandparents, Cindy and Richard Montgomery.
- Congratulations to Katie and Trey Crawford on the birth of their daughter, Czarina Elizabeth Crawford on February 22, 2019. Congratulations to Larry Johnson on the birth of his granddaughter.

BUDGET & ATTENDANCE

| FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 04/30/19 | | ATTENDANCE | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ANTICIPATED INCOME (YTD): | \$789,100 | MARCH | APRIL | MAY 5 & 12 |
| ACTUAL INCOME (YTD): | \$720,537 | WORSHIP: 3,772 | WORSHIP: 4,871 | WORSHIP: 1,522 |
| ORGAN DEBT: | \$315,849 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: 1,680 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: 1,054 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: 639 |

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.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

HONDURAS MISSION TEAM FORMING NOW! | The group will deliver medical/dental care to those in need in Honduras. We can use all skill sets and this is a great first-timer trip! The dates of this team are Sunday, June 30, 2019 – Saturday, July 6, 2019. The estimated costs is \$1,500.00. Contact Joshua Davis at jcd1177@charter.net.

BLOOD DRIVE | Thursday, June 13th from 11 - 5 p.m. in the Church Activity Center | Register at www.redcrossblood.org.

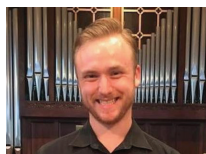
RISE AGAINST HUNGER EVENT SAVE THE DATE! | Saturday, August 10, 2019 | We will be hosting another Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now) event!

HONDURAS CONSTRUCTION TEAM 2020 | We are in the beginning phase of coordinating a construction team

to work in Honduras on the hospital/clinic site! The dates for this team will be January 2020 (2nd or 3rd week) and the costs will be around \$1,500.00. For more information on this team contact Darrell Johnson at dwjohanson96@gmail.com.

MISSION PARKING FUNDRAISING | Each Alabama football season the missions ministry at FUMCT man parking lots and barricades for the University of Alabama. We use the funds raised to offset the costs of each working individuals' mission trip costs. This is the only corporate fundraising we do for individual team members. Contact Todd Zizzi at 205-454-5641 or Joshua Davis at jcd1177@charter.net. We will begin developing our 2019 schedule in July of this year!

NEW MEMBERS:



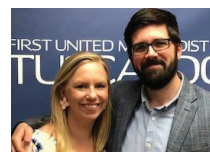
• Jack Skeean



• Lisa and Roy Brashier



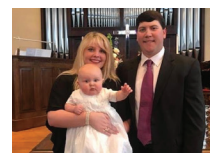
• Victoria Winningham



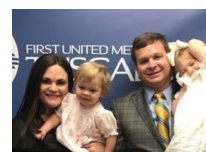
• Allison and Josh Thomas



• Jim and Sara Page with daughters, Elly and Emery Ruth, who was baptized.



• Mary Margaret and Brad Averitt. Whitman Sanders Averitt was baptized.



• Laura Beth and Patrick Agee with daughters Estella Gray and Augusta Barnes Agee who were baptized.

BAPTISMS:



• Tyler Joseph Williams, son of Kineta and Dylan Williams.



• Anderson Cramer Baxter, son of Meredith and Coe Baxter.



• Christine Bailey Golding, daughter of Carolyn and Pete Golding.



• Seaborn Gene Miller, son of Summerann and Hunter Miller.



• Ella James Grelle, daughter of Emily and Jonathon Grelle; granddaughter of Barbara and Ken Dunivant.



• Anna Grace Grelle, daughter of Sarah Grelle and granddaughter of Barbara and Ken Dunivant.

WEDDINGS

- Congratulations to Hillary Burke Cameron and Brian Hallman. They were married on April 6, 2019 in Tuscaloosa.
- Congratulations to Sarah Louise Smith and Dr. Ben Adamczyk who were married on May 11th in Williamstown, MA.

Palm Sunday

Spring Fling AND EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday



get REAL with TEAL

AN OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS EVENT

GET REAL WITH TEAL | On April 27th, 60 women gathered at FUMCT to participate in a program developed by Sandra Reed to provide education about ovarian and gynecological cancers. Stories of inspiration came from Jacque Hydrick, Beth Roberts, Amy Thomas and Sandra Reed. The guest speaker was Dr. Kerri Bevis of UAB who discussed groundbreaking research, general ovarian cancer information, and answered questions from the audience. It was truly an event to remember as we were educated and inspired by these brave women.



CULTIVATE Summer Events:

CULTIVATE RELAXATION *Spa Night*

Need some pampering? Relaxation? Girl time? Come join us for a fun evening with your Cultivate friends. This event is graciously offered just for Cultivate Ministry by our very own Mary Virginia Best, owner of Nancy Taylor Day Spa. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 12

WHERE: Nancy Taylor Day Spa - 1213 McFarland Blvd. N.E. Tuscaloosa, 35406

TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

WHAT: Each participant will receive a brow/lip wax, buff and polish nails, and chair massage.

COST: \$50 per person

EVENT IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 24 WOMEN WHO REGISTER. To register, call Nancy Taylor Day Spa at 205-391-4585.

CULTIVATE CREATIVITY *Art Night*

Join us for a night of fellowship with your Cultivate friends as we unleash our creativity! Learn basic painting and crafting techniques and leave with your very own piece of art!

WHEN: Wednesday, June 19

WHERE: Chitwood Hall at FUMCT

TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



UMW & PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON | The United Methodist Women and the women of First Presbyterian hosted a joint luncheon celebrating Tuscaloosa's bicentennial. Dr. Guy Hubbs, church historian and author presented a program describing the church in the antebellum times in Tuscaloosa.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

UMW BBQ SALE | Benefitting Local Missions | Sold each Sunday, Now - June 16th | Hams \$45/Boston Butts \$35. PICK-UP is June 27th from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at FUMCT portico on Greensboro Ave.

UMW GAME DAY | Saturday, July 13th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Chitwood Hall



You're Invited

WELCOME,
DR. CLINTON AND GLORIA HUBBARD

Join us on Sunday, July 7th
for a joint service welcoming

Gloria and Clinton Hubbard

at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
for Worship and Holy Communion

Reception following in Chitwood Hall

FUMCT MEN

Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

If you are looking for a place of community and service, please join us! Men of all ages are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GRIDIRON Men's Conference | June 14 - 15 in Birmingham

This conference provides an opportunity for us to revitalize and strengthen our spiritual lives with other like-minded men and nationally known speakers. Contact Mike Greene at mjwgreene@icloud.com.

TEMPORARY PRICE DECREASE

ANNOUNCED FOR COLUMBARIUM NICHES

The Columbarium is a wall of niches designed to hold the cremated remains of loved ones. For centuries, cemeteries were located in churchyards. This is still a common practice for rural churches. As time passed and especially in cities, churches could not accommodate the burial sites on their grounds due to the urban development of adjacent property. The columbarium allows the tradition to continue.

The Columbarium and courtyard garden at First United Methodist Church is intended to be a holy place where people can pray and meditate. The statue of Jesus Christ with his arms outstretched and the soft sound of the fountain provide a serene resting place for members who have made this church their home in life and now in death. Life in God's church, with its blessed kinship and comforting community is now and forever, a place of peace beyond all understanding.

The Columbarium is in the courtyard between the main sanctuary and Chitwood Hall. The entrance is from 8th Street.

If you are interested in purchasing a right of inurnment and a niche for you or another eligible person, please ask for an application packet in the church office. Each niche is designed to hold the cremains of two people which makes it an even better investment.

"Most of our children live in other cities and we would like to know they feel no responsibility for maintenance for our place of burial," said Suzanne Crump of the Columbarium Committee.

Eligible persons include church members, spouses of church members, a member's child who dies before his or her 19th birthday and ordained ministers who served the church and their spouses. More information is available in publications that you will receive with your application.

"Every Sunday, I make a point to leave church by that

door," said Connie Coleman of the committee. "I don't have to drive to another place to be near my husband. He's here and so am I." The price of a niche is set annually by the Columbarium Committee and updated on June 1st of this year.

The Committee has announced a temporary price decrease to \$3,250. This is substantially less than typical funeral arrangements which include a burial plot. Your family is only responsible for cremation services and the urns for the ashes. All costs of maintenance and engraving are included in the price set by the committee.

The Columbarium Committee and the Trustees recently approved a payment plan for a niche. You can take up to three (3) years to pay for your niche. More details are available if you are interested in spreading the cost of your niche over time.

If you are interested in a niche, please contact Gina Johnson in the church office at gina@fumct.org or (205) 345-7261 ext. 101. If you are interested in a Funeral Planning Guide or in exploring the costs of a funeral service, please contact Jackie Greene at Jackie@fumct.org or (205) 345-7261 ext. 104.

CLASSES AND COST: There are three classes to choose from - each class is limited to 10 participants so register early! All materials will be provided.

OPTION 1 - Led by Martha Allen, the ladies in this class will use oils to paint an angel. Martha is an active member of FUMCT, mother of our Assistant Pastor Randy Allen, and a professional artist whose amazing oil paintings frequently adorn the walls of our church. Cost - \$30 per person.

OPTION 2 - Led by Ann Foster, the ladies in this class will use acrylics to paint a cross. Ann is an active member of FUMCT, the owner of Brushstrokes in Downtown Northport, and a professional art educator. Cost - \$30 per person.

OPTION 3 - Led by Janice Stewart, the ladies in this class will make decorative wooden crosses (attaching ribbons, beads, and other items). Janice is an active member of FUMCT, leader of small groups for teens and women, and crafter extraordinaire. Cost - \$10 per person.

To register, email Susan Kizziah at susankizziah@gmail.com. Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis using time stamps on emails. Register now before your preferred class is filled! For childcare, contact Melissa Tuten at melissa@fumct.org to register **BY JUNE 12**.

CULTIVATE FELLOWSHIP

Jingle and Mingle: A Christmas in July Party
Join us for a morning of laughter, fellowship and merrymaking at our first ever Jingle and Mingle!

WHEN: Saturday, July 27

WHERE: Chitwood Hall at FUMCT

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

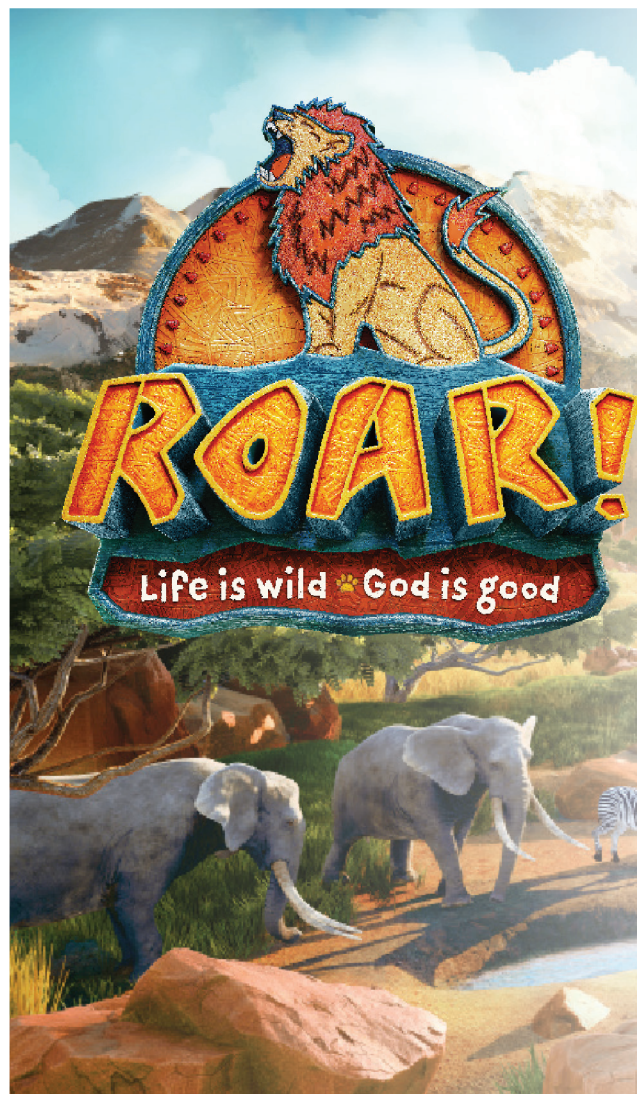
WHAT: The temperatures may be soaring but

the holiday spirit will be in the air. There will be games, contests, food and an opportunity to decorate tabletop Christmas trees that will be used as decorations for the United Methodist Children's Home Foster Children Christmas Breakfast in December. The decorated Christmas trees will then be delivered as Christmas gifts to our nursing home or homebound members of FUMCT. A love offering will be collected to help purchase Christmas gifts for the children and youth in our local United Methodist Children's foster homes. This event is **FREE** and **NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**. Grab some friends and come play with us. We need **YOU** to spread the love of Christmas a little early this year. Childcare is available - contact Melissa Tuten at melissa@fumct.org by **July 24**.

SAVE THE DATE | Pop Up Shops SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

SMALL GROUPS | Cultivate small groups are growing and thriving, and deepening friendships are developing among small group members. Almost 100 women participated in our spring semester small groups. We need more leaders! If you would be willing to lead a small group, please contact Susan Kizziah at susankizziah@gmail.com.

Cultivate
women's
MINISTRY



Vacation Bible School

JUNE 24-27, 2019

5:30-7:30 PM

Register Today

This epic adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. A \$15.00 registration fee will include dinner each night, a t-shirt and a music CD. A digital music download is available for \$7.00. Online registration is open now for children who turn 4 years old by September 1st through students who have completed 5th grade. Family maximum of \$45.

VBS DECORATING NEEDS

The Children's Ministry needs empty toilet paper tubes and paper towel tubes for VBS decorating! Donate in the church office.

Volunteer!

Sign up to volunteer by emailing ali@fumct.org.

REGISTER TODAY!

Register your child at fumct.org/ministries/children. Contact Ali Lindsey at ali@fumct.org for more information.

Sunday Morning VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for loving volunteers to work with the children on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help with preschool Sunday school, please contact Melissa Tuten at melissa@fumct.com. To help with Kindergarten-5th grade, please contact Ali Lindsey at ali@fumct.org.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17



Permanent Discovery

AUGUST 9TH-11TH

REGISTRATION: \$130 FOR 6TH-8TH GRADE STUDENTS

REGISTER NOW AT FUMCT.ORG/MINISTRIES/STUDENTS.

Discovery is a spiritual retreat for 6th, 7th and 8th graders (2019-20) providing an opportunity not only to learn about but also to experience the love of God. Discovery weekend is led by our high school students each year as they build relationships that will last a lifetime. This year, the theme for the annual Discovery weekend is PERMANENT. Our lessons will focus on making marks that can't be erased. The four main parts we will study are the cross, the covenant, the calling and our commitment to Christ. Students will enjoy worship services led by the FOOMACK worship band. The weekend will be packed with games, small groups, prayer, a service for parents and reflection times.



Big Stuf 2019 | Please pray for our students and the adult leaders who are going to BigStuf beach retreat on June 21st-24th in Panama City Beach, FL. The theme for 2019 is Well Known.



COLLIN SETH AGEE



ABIGAIL KATHLEEN ALEXANDER



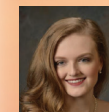
OLIVER CHARLES BAKER, IV



HELEN CLAIRE BRASFIELD



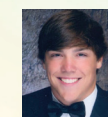
MICHAEL ALLEN CHAMBLISS



ASHTON VICTORIA COCHRAN



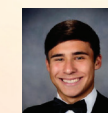
WESLEY HANSFORD COPELAND



DRAKE RUTLEDGE CROSS



WILLIAM BURTON HAMITER



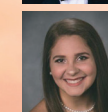
MARK LEO L'ETANG



BRENNON AVERY LAKE



WESLEY EDWARD MOMAN



SARAH ELIZABETH PIERCE



JOHN WINSTON THIGPEN

SENIOR RECOGNITION

Sunday

MAY 5, 2019



AVERY RUTH THOMAS



ETHAN BRYAN SNECKENBERGER



ALLISON ELIZABETH STEGALL



ABIGAIL GRACE WHITMER