



THE CHURCHMAN

Volume 15, Issue 8

August 2020

First United Methodist Church of Atmore

Wait for the Lord

One of the things I have learned during the current COVID-19 pandemic is that our culture has conditioned us to expect instant gratification. When we are unable to get that instant gratification, we find ourselves dazed and confused. We do not understand. We push the button we have pushed in the past expecting to be connected via the airwaves with professional or college sports for our entertainment, but there are none available, at least not until recently. Or we want to attend a live entertainment event, a movie or a play or a concert, but none are being offered. Even things like going to visit a friend on a whim have been severely curtailed.

We find ourselves at a loss for what to do with ourselves. We become anxious and agitated. We have not even been able to gather together for worship with our church family. Nerve wracking is putting it mildly.

In all this, God has put on my mind two of the characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit: patience and self-control. To be honest, our culture encourages us to live in ways that exhibit anything but patience and self-control. Instead of the instant gratification all around us, patience and self-control encourage us to wait.

Scripture has a lot to say about waiting. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" David begins that Psalm in verse one by writing, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" If we replace the word *whom* with the word *what*, we could talk about this Psalm in light of the COVID-19 virus. Yes, we should have a healthy respect for the dangerous nature of the virus. Yes, we should each follow the guidelines given by health officials to help prevent the spread of the virus. For me, following those guidelines is an act of discipleship and demonstrates in a concrete way that we love our neighbor as we love ourselves. However, our healthy fear of the virus does not replace our faith, hope, and trust in God. Perhaps we need to remember that God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts. Neither is God's timing our timing. Sometimes we have to wait for God's timing. The current virus pandemic is likely one of those times. We will need to wait for an unknown period of time for all things virus related to come together so as to allow our wishes for a return to pre-COVID conditions to come true.

When we wait with our faith, hope, and trust firmly in God, Scripture offers us a promise. Isaiah 40:29-31 says, "He gives power to the faint, and

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Established 1886

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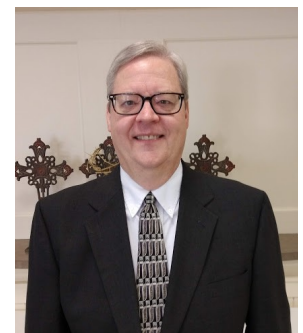
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*Reverend
Andy Gartman*

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strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

As we experience the emotional fallout brought on by the limitations placed on us by the virus pandemic, waiting for the Lord promises us power and strength. We find those as we turn to the inspired words of Holy Scripture for encouragement and comfort. Read your Bible, especially the Psalms and the Gospels, as you wait on the Lord. We also experience the promised power and strength as we actively practice our faith as we wait. There are things we can do, like call or send a card or note to someone God places on our heart, someone who might be lonely or grieving. Perhaps even send a small gift. We all know how to do these kinds of things.

My hope and prayer as the virus pandemic continues is that we will be back together in worship soon. I pray for that to be so every day, as I pray that God will bring an end to the pandemic. Until that happens, I encourage you to practice patience and self-control; to place your faith, hope, and trust in God; and to wait for the Lord.

For God’s mission,
Andy

As the church remains closed for in-person worship, please continue to **join us for online worship**. You can access the church’s **Facebook page** via your computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone. To participate or view the videos go to facebook.com/fumcatmore/

We have been asked how people can continue to give to God through First United Methodist Church since we are not meeting physically for worship. We have formed a new partnership that will help us with that, they are called Gyve. **Gyve** is great because you can **give online** either on your computer or on your phone. They have an app, available from the App Store or Google Play Store, where you can make a one-time gift, set up recurring gifts, track your giving, and even have your spare change on purchases rounded up and given to the church.

You may always give by **mailing a check** to the church at 311 S. Pensacola Ave. Atmore, AL 36502. Whether you give occasionally or consistently, we would ask that you continue to give to God through the church so we can stay strong as a church and continue to be in mission and ministry in ways that make an impact in our community.

Thank you!



Staff-Parish Relations

“Children are a Blessing and a Gift from the Lord.”

Psalms 127:3



Susan H. Smith
Staff-Parish Relations

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee would like to take a moment to thank our Pastor, our Staff, and those Members continuing to volunteer their services to keep things going during these most challenging times. Your hard work and perseverance are very much appreciated. When we resume in-person services and our programs continue, just a reminder that we are still praying for the below positions to be filled. If you would like to help in any capacity with these positions please contact a member of our committee, myself, the church office, or the Pastor:

Youth Leader

Children's Director

Nursery Director

Yours in Christ,
Susan H. Smith
SPRC Chair



As a generous, giving church I wanted to make you aware of an opportunity to give beyond our normal giving to God through the church. **Blue Lake Assembly Grounds** was forced to cancel its entire summer camping program, which left them with a financial shortfall of nearly \$500,000.00. Blue Lake is such a special place in the life of our Annual Conference and it would be a real tragedy if it was forced to close. That is a real possibility if a major portion of the shortfall mentioned above is not remedied.

I'm thankful that our United Methodist Men have already committed to making a contribution to this cause. The church will also make a contribution. Please consider joining these efforts to help keep Blue Lake viable. You can send your gift to the church designated for Blue Lake and it will be combined with the donation of support from the church. Every gift will help. No gift is too large or too small. Our children who enjoy Blue Lake will thank you!

Pastor Andy

Weekly Program Schedule

***Our regular weekly schedule has been suspended during the COVID-19 outbreak. We hope to be able to resume worship and regular activities as soon as safely possible.**



AUGUST CALENDAR NOTES...

August 4 - Lay Leadership Meeting

6 p.m. via Zoom

August 18 - Finance Committee

5:30 p.m. via Zoom

August 25 - Administrative Council

5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Committee members will be sent the Zoom meeting ID #s by email

August 25 - Citywide Elections



**AUGUST 30th
5th SUNDAY
OFFERING
for UMCH**

To my Church Family

Pastor Andy, Ted's memorial service was very special. Thanks for all you've done to help me through this difficult time. Church family, thanks for your prayers, memorials, food, calls, flowers, and cards. I have felt God's love through you.

*In Christ,
JoAnn Presley*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful birthday card. When I feel useless and down, I will look at the card and think of all of you. I miss you. May God Bless You.

*Love,
Ruth Vickery*

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generosity during this special time in my life. I really appreciate it.

*Love,
Bryant Quimby*

*Our Christian love and sympathy
are extended to*

*Carolyn Loggins and family
upon the passing of her husband,
Gary Loggins,
July 21, 2020 in Pensacola*

We are refreshing our friends and family prayer list and started over beginning in June.

If you would like to place the name of a friend or loved one on the prayer list, please contact the church office at 368-8197.

Thank you.



August Anniversaries

August 1	Andy & Patricia Gartman	45 years
August 1	Ralph & Paula Wright	50 years
August 3	Buck & Mary Bess Powell	42 years
August 18	Keith & Patty Castleberry	41 years
August 21	Will & Janice Chapman	49 years



Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please contact the church office - we don't want to leave anyone out! 368-8197

August Birthdays

August 1	Mary Joyner Dean	August 13	Olivia Bryan
August 2	Amy Dean	August 15	Sammy Day
August 2	Bobbie Spears	August 16	Julie Johnson
August 3	Emmy Sasser	August 17	Brooks Brantley
August 3	Renee Wolfe	August 18	Leigh Anne Jones
August 5	Josh Caraway	August 19	Keith Castleberry
August 5	Julia Gibbs	August 24	JoAnn Presley
August 6	Casey McKinnon	August 24	Charlene Scott
August 7	Rachel Brown	August 25	Jocelyn Drew
August 9	Suzanne Barnett	August 25	Nell Kelly
August 9	Judd Coley	August 27	Tripp Cannon
August 11	Martha Henderson	August 27	Gilda Stubben
August 11	Mary Bess Powell	August 30	Alex Jones
August 12	Rene' Godwin	August 31	Will Huskey

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
311 South Pensacola Avenue
Atmore, AL 36502

Return Service Requested

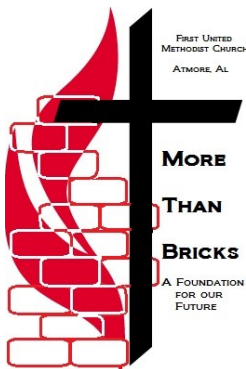


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**First United Methodist Church
of Atmore**

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We're on the Web!
www.fumcatmore.org



MISSION STATEMENT

We are a people bound together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
We are a people bound together by prayer.
Our doors and hearts are open to all who seek spiritual guidance, Biblical knowledge and the Kingdom of God.
Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are committed to serving God through worship and witnessing to our faith with our time, talents and gifts.
With a compassionate spirit, we offer friendship, fellowship, comfort and support to our congregation and community.
As we grow, we will remember the value of each individual, and the importance of each to our congregation.
Aware of the need for innovative ministries, we enthusiastically accept the challenge to promote the growth of Christianity in our community.