

The Messenger

101 E. Barbour Street
P. O. Box 72
Eufaula, AL 36072
(334) 687-8227
(334) 687-8285 FAX
fumc@eufaula.rr.com
www.fumceufaula.org

Pastor
Dr. Scott Hohn
Youth/Missions Director
Britt Martin
Music Director
Billy Wilbourne
Office Staff
Jodi Stockberger
Pam Hunter

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First United Methodist Church

Senior Recognition Sunday

May 14

Fate Calton
Lucy Calton
Robert Conniff
Hayley Earle
Hunter Jones
Summer Orr
Pierce Smith



Our high school seniors will be recognized at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 14. They will also be honored at a breakfast prior to the service. Please join us in wishing all the best to these students as they begin the next chapter of their lives!

Prayer Walk / Salad Lunch

As part of our church's "Abundant Health" initiative, the Missions Covenant Team is sponsoring a prayer walk immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on May 21. Everyone is invited. We will leave the church with water bottles in hand, and walk to several downtown locations to pray for specific needs in our community. The 35-minute walk will bring us back to the church for lunch. Each family is asked to bring a big, healthy salad to share. So bring your walking shoes and join us!

Great Party!

All who attended the churchwide birthday party had a good time playing games, reminiscing about birthday experiences, and eating ice cream and cake. Thanks to the chair of the event, Betsy Purcell; Mission Team members Terri Tarquinee, Jerry Stanley and Paul Stanley; and the decorators who transformed the fellowship hall with their seasonal tablescapes: Becky Woodbury, Betty Milldrum, Betsy Purcell, Mary Jean Schramm, Cathie Wilbourne, Mary Ellen Matthias, Lou Martin, Sandra Richards, Karen Bradford, Charlotte Martin and Toni Houston.

The event raised almost \$300 for the Pregnancy Resource Center. Anyone who wishes to add to this amount may send a check made out to the church with "Pregnancy Resource Center" or "PRC" on the memo line. Thank you!

School's Out Swim Party

Wednesday,
May 24
5:30—7:00 p.m.

Eufaula Country Club



Pizza, snacks and drinks will be provided.

From the Mail . . .

Dear FUMC Family,
Thanks for all the cards, calls, visits and gifts that I have received lately. A special thanks to Dr. Hohn for all of his prayerful visits during my recent hospital stay. Hope to see you all again real soon.

In Christ,
Margaret Slade



Church Directory Photos

In an effort to keep our church directory as current as possible, we encourage you to submit your own individual or family photos. Plain backgrounds are preferred.

Our directory includes information about local families who attend FUMC. Please review the directory by visiting our [website](#). (You will need to enter the password wesley2012 when prompted.) Only names and addresses are included unless you have granted permission to publish other information such as phone numbers and email addresses. To update your photo or information, please email fumcpam@eufaula.rr.com.

Also, if you are not included in the directory and would like to be, please contact Pam Hunter.



May 14 Volunteers

► Acolytes

11:00 – Bramlette Gray, Sam Miller

► Sacristy Prayer Leaders

8:30 – Buck Earnest

11:00 – Linda Grice

► Ushers

8:30 – Greg & Virginia Clark

11:00 – Ben Taylor, David Grice,
Alexandra Conniff, Ben Tye

► Lay Readers

8:30 – Buck Earnest

11:00 – Brenda Parker

► Greeters

8:30 – Virginia Ransom

11:00 – Brenda Parker, Linda Grice

► Children's Church

11:00 – Karen Smith

► Elevate Supper

5:30 – No Elevate this week

Calendar of Events

► Sunday, May 14

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Worship | 8:30 |
| Senior Recognition Breakfast | 9:45 |
| Sunday School | 9:45 |
| Worship | 11:00 |
| Hospitality Team | 5:00 |
| No Elevate tonight | |
| Pastor's Bible Study | 6:30 |

► Tuesday, May 16

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Worship Team | 9:00 |
| CARE Team | 4:30 |

► Wednesday, May 17

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Chancel Choir | 7:00 |
|---------------|------|

No Snacks Needed

Since Eagle's Rest Ministries does not meet during the summer, we will suspend snack-collecting until the end of July.

Hey FUMC Family!

I know you're used to me giving you a handy dandy list during my space in our newsletter, but I wanted to offer something different this week. Last week at Elevate we had our parent night. We love to give parents a chance to experience what we do on Sunday nights. (We also shared with parents about our awesome summer plans!) In preparation for this event, I've been thinking a lot about time.

What does the number 936 mean to you? If you're like me, before last week it represented the number of hot wings I'd like to try and eat each month. But now it means something totally different. There are 936 weeks from the time a child is born until they turn 18. That's all! And each of these weeks matter! And each of these weeks are gone once they're gone. To give a little more perspective, there are 364 weeks from the time a child is in 6th grade until they graduate. For you high school parents, there are 208 weeks from 9th grade until graduation.

So my question for you is, what does a week mean to you? Is it time at the ball field? Is it counting down the days until vacation? Is it just trying to make it through? Does one week even matter? The short answer is no. One week doesn't matter. Imagine you're trying to save money and you only do it one time. Or imagine you're trying to get in shape and you go to the gym one time. Or that you decide to eat a donut one time. One of these things wouldn't have much of a positive OR negative impact, but when you do these things over time, the impact becomes great!

Imagine a fraction where both the numerator and the denominator (top and bottom number) is time. We could express this fraction as time over time. When we put time over time we get a bigger impact. I'll say it another way – whatever is important is more important over time. If we love our kids once, it's just a nice memory, but if we love them over the course of 18 years, it creates value and worth for that child. If we bring a child to youth group once, it's a fun game and some silly songs. If we bring a child to youth group over time, it creates a faith-based community that lasts. Our time matters! What we do with it matters! And what we do with our time over time matters for a long time!

That's all for now!

God looks good on you

Britt



We will collect a special offering on Sundays, May 21 and 28. Each church in the Alabama-West Florida Conference is asked to contribute to this missional offering given during Annual Conference (June 4-7). Recipients of this year's offering are local mission agencies within the bounds of our conference: The Ark,

Dumas Wesley Community Center, Mary Ellen's Hearth, Milk and Honey Outreach Ministries, United Methodist Inner City Mission in Mobile, and Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries.



From the Pastor . . .



Dear Friends,

George Herbert was a pastor of a small, rural church in England during the early 1600s. He also was a poet. One of his poems, *Love*, is a conversation that the poet had with God. The poem is based on Luke 12:37, in which Jesus says, "Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when he arrives. I assure you that, when he arrives, he will dress himself to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and wait on them." Jesus refers to a great reversal. Instead of the master being served by the servants, the servants will be served by the master!

Herbert's poem speaks about this unconditional and amazing love of God. I ask you to come join us this Wednesday night (May 10) in our fellowship hall at 6 p.m. for our *Fresh Expressions* worship service where we will celebrate this love of God. This worship service will take place after our last Wednesday night Recharge Supper this spring.

Here is Herbert's poem, which has been a comfort to me and an affirmation of God's unconditional love.

— Scott

*Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lacked anything.*

*"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here":
Love said, "You shall be he."
"I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on thee."
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
"Who made the eyes but I?"*

*"Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame
Go where it doth deserve."
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"
"My dear, then I will serve."
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."
So I did sit and eat.*

CONTACT US

Scott Hohn:

scott@fumceufaula.org

334-363-9109

Britt Martin:

britt@fumceufaula.org

678-953-4602

Prayer List

► New concerns:

*Yamandu Acosta
Rick Stockberger
Gail Sparks

► Continue to pray for:

*Louise Trammell
Alison Haas
Bradley Weaver
Mary Sellers
Linda Dudewicz
Cruz Rios
*Mel Stephenson
*John Hagood
*Louise Britt
*Betty Searcy
Walter Harmer
*John Jenkins
Bobby Gray
Kathy Armstrong
*Taylor Washington
*Jeff Richards
*Brian Devlin-Meagher
Mary Lindsey Hannahan
*Richard Boyette

► Prayer list guidelines:

If you would like to place someone's name on the list, please ask that person's permission before calling the office. Names remain for 4 weeks unless requested to remain. * denotes church members.

A Look at May 7

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday School | |
| 8:30 Worship | 40 |
| 11:00 Worship | 83 |
| Total Worship | 123 |
| Offering received | \$12,912 |
| YTD received | \$182,593 |
| BTT balance | \$385,000 |

Birthdays



Friday, May 12

- ▶ Fate Calton
- ▶ Caryl Munford

Monday, May 15

- ▶ Dan McKenzie

Tuesday, May 16

- ▶ Taylor Abbott
- ▶ Harris Bennett

Thursday, May 18

- ▶ Bankston Jones
- ▶ Ang Schramm

Libba is retiring

The Rev. Libba Stinson, co-pastor of FUMC from 1999-2001, is retiring at Annual Conference this year. Her current church, Grace UMC in Auburn, is compiling a scrapbook to give to her. Anyone who would like to send a brief message to be included in the scrapbook is asked to write it on a card and leave it at the FUMC church office by June 1. If you have a photo to share, please contact Cathie Wilbourne (695-2380) by Tuesday, May 16.

The mission of First United Methodist Church is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our church, community and world.

Fresh EXPRESSIONS

Fresh Expressions is a casual, contemporary worship service held in our fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Our last Fresh Expressions service of the school year is tonight –
Wednesday, May 10**



“He restoreth my soul!”

When you read the phrase above you immediately realize that it is familiar. Then most of us realize that it is from the King James version of Psalm 23. The idea of soul has always fascinated me. From childhood, I was taught that the soul is that part of us that goes on to heaven after we die. Some denominations use the word “spirit” instead. They feel that the soul dies with the body and the spirit goes on to be with God. This was a recent revelation for me. But for the purposes of this “Music Notes,” I am going with the idea that the spirit and the soul are the same. I suppose we could say, “He restoreth my spirit.” It still makes sense to me.

So as the old saying goes...I said all that to say all this....

It really hit me how many hymns talk about the soul in addition to Psalm 23. Think about these hymns: “How Great Thou Art” (Then sings my soul), “Be Still My Soul,” “Tell Out my Soul the Greatness of the Lord,” and “It Is Well With My Soul.” I know that I have told you in a recent newsletter how much I love the phrase, “then sings my soul.” I know so many of you have said how much you love the hymn, “It Is Well With My Soul.” I believe the reason I like these hymns so much is that they talk about something that is with you now that will also be you in eternity. Whether we call this the soul or the spirit, it is still that force that is definitely with us now and will still be there in eternity.

So I get excited about that. This part of us that will live on, that will continue to praise God, that will know our loved ones; that part of us that leave others behind for a short time but welcomes them into eternity in the fullness of time.

I leave you with the final phrases of Psalm 23: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

See you on Sunday. God bless,
Billy