

# The Messenger

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VOLUME XXXIV  
NUMBER 10

March 7, 2018

## First United Methodist Church

### From the Mail . . .



Words cannot adequately express our heartfelt appreciation to our church family for your thoughts, prayers, and comfort through your words and deeds during this time of great loss for our family. Your outpouring of love has been amazing and humbling and for that we are eternally grateful. From the food you brought to our home and served to our family in the Fellowship Hall, to your visits, to the truly meaningful service in our sanctuary, you have brought us a comfort only a family of God can bring.

Love,  
Mary Jean and Ang Schramm  
Tressa and Chad Roten,  
Mason, Rylee, and Josie Lee

### LENTEN READINGS OF THE WEEK

Pastor Alan has a blog offering a Bible reading plan through the Gospel of Mark during Lent. Visit his blog at [www.alancassady.com](http://www.alancassady.com).

### EASTER EGG HUNT



Saturday, March 31  
4:00 p.m.

We are accepting donations of plastic eggs, bags of individually wrapped candy, monetary donations for our Easter Egg Hunt. You may bring them to the church office or leave them in the collection box in the education building. Our Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 31, at 4:00 p.m. at Fendall Hall. We will also enjoy a picnic after the hunt. The church will provide chicken fingers and drinks, so please bring a blanket on which to sit and items to share with others according to the first letter of your last name. A-L: Desserts and M-Z: Side Dishes.

### VBS Planning Meeting

Anyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School this summer is asked to attend a planning meeting on Sunday, March 18th, at 12:00 noon (following worship).

### Easter Lilies

If you would like to place a lily on the cross or a potted lily in the sanctuary this Easter, please visit [www.fumceufaula.org/easterlily](http://www.fumceufaula.org/easterlily) or complete a paper order form and submit it to the church office. The order deadline is Wednesday, March 21.



We offer our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to:

- ▶ Toni Davidson and family following the death of her brother, **Fred Williams**, and
- ▶ the family of **Louise Trammell**.

Please pray for God's peace & comfort to surround these families.

### UMCOR Sunday

On Sunday, March 11, you will be invited to make an offering to support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This yearly offering covers operating expenses so that 100% of all other contributions during the year will go directly to the projects that donors specify.



### Early Response Training

UMCOR Early Response Team Training will be held at FUMC on Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. If you would like the opportunity to help others in times of crisis and natural disaster, please visit [www.fumceufaula.org/earlyresponse](http://www.fumceufaula.org/earlyresponse) to register by Saturday, March 10.

## March 11 Volunteers

### ► Acolyte

11:00 – Brooke Mitchell

### ► Sacristy Prayer Leaders

8:30 – Alice Kay Shoemaker

11:00 – Britt Washington

### ► Ushers

8:30 – Nick & Heather Smith

11:00 – John Howard, Ang Schramm  
Richard Wingate  
Lance Abbott

### ► Lay Readers

8:30 – Brenda Parker

11:00 – Roy Crow

### ► Greeters

8:30 – Bob Powers

11:00 – Pierce & Cindy Hodnette

### ► Children's Church

11:00 – Chris Coates

### ► Elevate Supper

6:10 – Dee Miller, Denise Padgett

## Calendar of Events

### ► Sunday, March 11

Worship	8:30
Sunday School	9:45
Worship	11:00
Courageous Conversation	2:30
Elevate	5:30

### ► Monday, March 12

Missions team	11:00
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### ► Tuesday, March 13

Worship Team	9:00
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### ► Wednesday, March 14

Children's Choirs	4:30
Supper	5:30
Bible Study (adults)	5:45
Elevate Next Level (youth)	6:00
Handbells	6:00
Spring Choir/Chancel Choir	7:00

### ► Saturday, March 17

Early Response Training	9:00
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Hey FUMC Family!

I don't have an *Elevate Top 5* this week. I really just want to share with you all something that's been on my heart and mind. I don't do this often, and we'll get back to our regularly scheduled Top 5 next week, I promise.

At Elevate we've been talking a lot about *habits* lately. A couple weeks ago we even said that we are the summation of our habits. To say it another way, the actions we repeat in our life make up who we are. There's something about our nature that makes it so hard to break a bad habit or start a good habit, but the inverse of this is just the opposite, isn't it? How easy is it to let ourselves slip out of a good habit we have? And how easy is it to pick up something we really have no business doing? We know this is true, and Paul knew it too. In Romans (7:15) he writes, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do. Instead I do what I hate." Paul



tells us that he had the same struggles we have. The things that we *know* are good for us are often the hardest to do. I've never thought, "Man I sure feel worse because of all this healthy food I'm eating." Or, "Spending time with God today really ruined my day!" Those things sound ridiculous to say. But we (or at least I) say them with our actions all the time. We know spending time with God is a good thing for us to do, but it's often the *hardest* thing to do. Like Paul, what we *know* we need to do, we often times don't do. The habits we know we need to start, we neglect.

Sometimes we think we just need a jump start. And we do that sort of thing in church life all the time. Christmas. Easter. A summer mission trip. IMPACT Weekend. You get the picture. There are times in the year when you get a spiritual jump start. And that's awesome! But it's so easy to let that jump start fade. It's so easy for the emotions of the big events, the big seasons, and the big trips to fade.

That's because the big-time growth is in the little things (our habits). The big events, and seasons, and trips can push us and grow us but the good stuff...the best stuff...so often happened in the stuff we view as "small." It's the time we spend with God each day. It's the time with our church family each Sunday. It's youth group on Sunday nights. We grow and move forward when those things we view as small and almost take for granted become habits that are rhythms for our lives.

So my encouragement for you is to look at the habits you see as small or even take for granted in your spiritual life (Bible reading, prayer, church, youth group, etc.) and spend some time working on the small stuff. The growth is in the habits. The growth is in the small stuff.

God looks good on you—  
Britt



# THE PASTOR'S PAGE

## Suffering

Few of us experience suffering in the western world. Most of the problems would be the kinds of things only those in the first-world would experience. For example, diseases that come from the abundance of food available to us, power outages after storms, broken-down cars, or cell phone that don't work. We do understand the suffering that comes from a devastating illness of the violent death of a loved one, or the loss of a job.

One of the things the Bible is clear about is the presence of suffering in our world. We see it everywhere. From starving children in Africa, a disease in South America or natural disasters, suffering is everywhere.

So, what do we do about it? Most people would rather avoid it. Some, however, look past the hardship and try to alleviate the suffering of others. Still, others try not to waste the experience of pain and learn from it.

Sunday, we will look at what the cross can teach us about suffering in our world. Is there any meaning to it, can it have a purpose, and what can we do about it?

I hope you will join us for this sobering look at the harsh side of life.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Alan

## Courageous Conversations

Bishop David Graves encourages you to participate in the *Courageous Conversation* to be held at FUMC on Sunday, March 11, from 2:30–5:30 p.m. Ours is one of twenty-seven such conversations to be held throughout the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

*Courageous Conversations* will allow us to share Christ-honoring time together regarding human sexuality and the United Methodist Church. You can learn more about the project by visiting [www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/courageous-conversations-overview](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/courageous-conversations-overview).



3/11/18 sermon

# The Cross

## Suffering

Hebrews 2:8b-11, 14-15

## Prayer List

### ▶ New concerns:

The Louise Trammell family  
The Fred Williams family  
Carol Calton

### ▶ Deployed Overseas:

Logan Bargewell

### ▶ Continue to pray for:

\*Josh Jones  
Mitzi Tzerman  
Dave Allen  
\*Jane Pody  
Jim Roberts  
George Williams  
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:

Names remain for 4 weeks unless requested to remain.

\* denotes church members.

## A Look at March 4

Sunday School .....	83
8:30 Worship .....	37
11:00 Worship .....	105
Total Worship .....	142
Offering received .....	\$11,759
YTD received .....	\$91,610
BTT balance .....	\$277,041

## Birthdays

Friday, March 9

▶ Arnie Meagher

Saturday, March 10

▶ Doug Purcell

Monday, March 12

▶ Julia Davidson  
Shannon Rasberry

Tuesday, March 13

▶ Janet Wills

Wednesday, March 14

▶ Virginia Clark  
Jimmy Lockwood

Thursday, March 15

▶ Carly Wilbourne



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*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.*



**Be on time for church Sunday!**



## May we borrow your very special pictures??

In our preparation for our patriotic program on May 16, we are planning a segment dedicated to those who fought in any of our wars who are no longer living. This includes those who were both killed during their deployment and those who died since.

We would like to project these pictures while the music is presented. It is our thought that we use pictures of family members who attend First United Methodist Church as well as the family members of singers in the patriotic choir who actually attend other churches.

If you would like for your loved one's picture to be a part of this presentation, please bring a picture enclosed in an envelope to the church office. On the envelope, we would like the person's name as it would be shown, in what war they fought, and the family of which the person is a member. You could even include "brother of \_\_\_\_\_, sister of \_\_\_\_\_, father of \_\_\_\_\_," etc. We plan to scan these pictures and give them back within a week's time. We will be very careful with your pictures. If the picture is in a frame which cannot be opened, we will try to scan it in the frame but can't promise that it will come out well.

The cutoff date for bringing your pictures is Monday, April 9. We would like to have a good response as we would like to honor the memory of those deserving people. Thank you for your anticipated help.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday.

God bless,

Billy

## Recharge Menu

Wednesday, March 14  
Pork Chops, Green Beans  
Rice & Gravy  
Rolls, Dessert

\$5 adults \$4 children  
\$16 max. per household