

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**The Spirit Helps**

“...the Spirit helps us in our weakness...” Romans 8:26 (NRSV)

One of the biggest deceptions people relentlessly pursue is that of success in independence. I imagine most parents have witnessed this in their small children. One day something they have always done with mommy or daddy suddenly changes. Something snaps and they want to do it on their own. Whether it is stacking the blocks, eating with a spoon, or some other simple task, somewhere along the way most children eventually want you to leave them alone and let them prove that they can do it all by themselves.

Our American heritage pushes this narrative even further. We tell our children that if they work hard they can grow up to be whatever they want to be. We push them toward independence. Last week, I heard a grandparent speaking of a grandchild who has graduated from college, gained employment, and felt the need to cut up the grandparents’ credit card he had held for some time to help him with various expenses through the years. It was a young adult version of “I can do this by myself”. It is important to raise our children to take responsibility for themselves. But there is a difference between taking responsibility and pushing away the resources that are designed to help us along the way.

Today is Confirmation Sunday. Confirmation is an important step along the journey to “spiritual” adulthood. It has been a joy this year to teach the class. Ema Cherai, Emma Knight, and T. J. Daniel have engaged deeply with me as we learned about God’s grace and salvation, the history of the church, and the background and polity of the United Methodist Church. We have emphasized that God’s grace calls us, justifies us, and sanctifies us. We have learned that the church has been through good times and bad throughout the years. Most importantly, we have made it clear that being a Christian is not something we do alone, but something we do together with the church.

But even the church itself is not enough to help us on the journey if we try to do it of our own power. Most people I know aren’t sure how the Holy Spirit works. And even those who think they know deeply respect the mystery of how God’s Spirit moves. We know that through the Holy Spirit, God is present with us in the world today. It is because of the wonderful gift at Pentecost that we do not have to live the Christian life of our own power.

Confirmation is a moment in which these young men and women are taking a step toward a grown-up faith of their own. They will profess Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. But I hope not only these confirmands, but also all of us will understand that even at our best, we are weak before the Lord. We need each other AND we need the power of the Holy Spirit to have the courage, capability, and confidence to live boldly for Christ. The decision to follow Jesus and to do as He would do is often the hardest and most difficult choice to make. It will regularly lead us to places others will not dare to go. It will not only call us to meekness and humility, but it will also call us to stand firm in our convictions and to do what is right even in the face of disagreement. And we cannot do it alone.

So the good news today is that the Spirit will help us. Let us be a church that will admit we cannot do it alone. Holy Spirit, come!

In Christ,



**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Children’s Ministry Director .....Lindsey Fossa  
 Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris  
 Church Administrator ..... Susan Snider  
 Contemporary Music Director ..... Kayla Moss  
 Custodians .....Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb  
 Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel  
 Media & Communications .....Dawn Wilson  
 Music Director .....Bob Lee  
 Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin  
 Pastor..... Tony G. Crosby

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mildred Rodgers’ birthday by Rev. & Mrs. Tim Paulk.

**CONTACT US**

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 Pastor (706) 329-2484  
 Church Office (706) 322-6973  
 www.epworthumc.com

**THIS COMING WEEK & BEYOND**

**Sunday, May 20**

Confirmation Sunday (11:00 service only)  
 12:00 noon VBS & Safe Sanctuary Meeting

**Monday, May 21**

6:30 p.m. Growing Christians UMW Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved

**Tuesday, May 22**

7:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved-Elections  
 6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting  
 6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting

**Wednesday, May 23**

6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal  
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 24**

12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting

**Sunday, May 27**

8:00 a.m. Graduates Breakfast  
 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

**Monday, May 28**

Office Closed - Memorial Day

**Tuesday, May 29**

5:00 p.m. Feeding Our Neighbors @ Rose Hill  
 6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Reachers UMW Meeting

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

### **The Children's Class**

Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Margaret Gosden

### **The Youth Class**

6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kristii Daniel

### **The Friendship Class**

Study: Remembering with Joy  
Teacher: Rev. Tim Paulk

### **The Genesis Class**

Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...  
Teacher: Leslie Morris

### **The Joy Class**

Study: O Say Can You See?  
Teacher: Class

### **The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class**

Study: Genesis 20  
Teacher: Bobby Smith

### **The New Connections Class**

Study: 40 Days of Community  
Teacher: Doug Franks

### **The Pathfinders Class**

Study: Wired Word  
Teacher: Suzy Revell

### **The Questors Class**

Study: Job  
Teacher: Glenn Griffin

### **The Seekers Class**

Study: Wired Word  
Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

## THANK YOU

Our family would like to thank you for the prayers, love, and donations you have poured over us during this difficult time of losing Ryan and Beau Rabon. We will continue to trust in God and praise him, for we have seen an overabundance of blessings in this tragedy. Please pray that we will have continued peace and strength in the months to come. With love,  
The Smith/Rabon/Borum Families

## MEMORIAM

Tree of Life leaf in memory of Bob Nellums by Janie, Dana, John Nellums, Shelley Newman, Allison Sparks and Families.

## THOSE WHO SERVE

**MAY 20, 2018**

### **9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Greeter: Anne Wilson  
Usher: Jimmy Bridges  
Acolyte: Usher  
Children's Church: Becky Britton

### **11:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Greeter: Maxine Willis  
Ushers: David Hay, Fraser Wooldridge  
Acolyte: Ema Cherai, C. S. DiSimone  
Children's Church: Becky Britton  
Nursery Volunteer: Lillian Wooldridge  
Financial Secretary: Lillian Wooldridge  
Turn Key: James Johnson

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

May 13, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$3,238.00
Received To Date:	\$99,531.19
Needed To Date:	\$120,571.72
Building Fund:	\$0.00

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Sunday School	63
Worship: 9 a.m.	51
Worship: 11 a.m.	<u>73</u>
	124

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### **Youth & Children Sunday School Classes -**

For a great lesson and wonderful fellowship in a Safe Sanctuaries approved environment, classes are by age/grade beginning at 10 a.m.

### **Confirmation Sunday -** May 20, at the 11 a.m.

worship service.

### **Youth Meeting -** Tuesday, May 22, at

6:30 p.m., in the youth room.

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is given to Jerry Williams and the family of Lou Williams, who passed away on Thursday, May 10.

## MISSIONS

**May Mission Focus -** The Mission Committee is asking for monetary donations to support the 2018 youth mission trip to Indianapolis, IN. Mark your offering envelope "Youth missions."

### **South GA Annual Conference Special**

**Offering -** Abundant Health: Gifts of Hope. See the insert in this Sunday's bulletin. Donations will be collected until Sunday, May 27. Mark your offering envelope "Hope."

### **Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill UMC -**

We will provide supper on Tuesday, May 29. Preparations will begin at 5:00 p.m.; serving at 5:45 p.m. If you want more information about serving or helping to prepare the meal, contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton.

### **Bench Project from Recycled Plastic -**

Collect clean and free-of-metal caps and lids to obtain a bench for the playground. We are now collecting to make a second park bench. Place them in the container on the Mission Cart or in the kitchen. Thanks to all who participate.

**Epworth To-Do List -** The Trustees have a list of projects needing attention posted on the information board. If you are interested or have the needed skills, contact John Daniel.

### **Wynnton Neighborhood Network April**

**2018 Report -** We served 1,132 bags of food to 297 families which included 269 children. We helped 49 families with utilities and spent \$3,300.50. Thank you to all of our congregations for your incredible generosity in donating food, money and time!

**A Taste of Epworth Cookbooks -** Pick up your copy(s) from the welcome center for \$5 each. Proceeds support missions. They make great gifts.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**VBS Volunteer & Safe Sanctuary Meeting -** this Sunday, May 20, following the 11:00 a.m. service. Please join us if you are interested in volunteering with our children or youth to discuss VBS plans and annual Safe Sanctuary training. Lunch provided. Questions, see Lindsey Fossa.

**Summer Sermon Series -** Our sermons will be themed around "Our Favorite Bible Verse." We are asking everyone to share a verse or two from the Bible that has really helped you through a difficult time or has given you wisdom or guidance through the years. You can submit verses using the bulletin inserts on Sunday mornings or by visiting our website. Let's learn together how God's word is leading us.

**Fellowship Hall Reserved -** Monday evening, May 21, through Tuesday, May 22, for a community elections site.

**AA Support Group Meeting -** every Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m., in the Questors classroom.

**Growing Christians UMW Meeting -** Monday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Questors classroom.

**Prayer Team Meeting -** Thursdays at noon at Margaret Gosden's home.

**Graduate Breakfast -** Sunday, May 27, at 8:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall. All graduates and their families are invited. Please RSVP for breakfast by calling the church office by Monday, May 21. Sponsored by the UMM.

**Office Closed -** Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day.

**Reachers UMW Meeting -** Tuesday, May 29, at 7 p.m., in the Questors classroom.

## EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

### Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kitty Crockett
Sibyl Wells	Keri McElvey	Shackelford Family	Kernodle Family
Judy Scanling	Barbara Watson	Joe Flynn	Lillian Wooldridge
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh	Glenn Griffin	Daniel Family
Anne Wilson	Jimmy Bridges	Rabon Family	

### Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Miranda "Randy" Jones	Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires
Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill
Kim Jordan	Kristy Stier	Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman
Amanda Hay	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin
Luby Family	Henry Dunn	Adams Family	Ellen Pilgreen
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Al Fohan	Mark Oliver	Charles Holmes
Dana Thurston	Stan Hames	Hattie Campbell	

### Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman
River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert, Jan Sanders	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

*(Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!)*

*If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office  
or leave a note with updates. Help us minister effectively by  
calling the church office about yourself or a family member. Thank you for your help.*

## 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL OFFERING

# abundant health

## GIFTS OF HOPE

Our congregation is being asked to join with other congregations across the South Georgia Annual Conference to provide gifts of hope through the Abundant Health Initiative. Our gifts of hope will enrich the lives of people in our own backyard and around the world. Together we can make a huge impact to provide abundant health and hope! Learn more at [www.sgaumc.org/giftsofhope](http://www.sgaumc.org/giftsofhope).



Providing hope through: water filters, smokeless stoves, fortified peanut meal nutrition, health care packages, at-risk youth prevention, or special relief for South Georgia clergy.



PROVIDING HEALTH AND HOPE  
ONE GIFT AT A TIME.