

THE HERALD

April 23, 2025

Volume 57, Number 15

Greetings Church Family,

I hope this message finds you well after a beautifully stirring Holy Week and Easter celebration. I am so grateful of the work everyone put into making this special season of our church so incredibly fulfilling and meaningful to so many.

Our partnership with the wonderful people of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church is such a blessing to our church and community with our weekly Lenten Lunches and combined Holy Week observances. We shared sanctuaries, parish halls, and even chancel choirs! I truly believe that we are serving as an excellent example to our community of what Christ-like unity looks and feels like.

I was especially moved during our Maundy Thursday worship at Saint Luke's, as I looked out and saw our two churches washing each other's feet & hands and kneeling together at the altar to receive the Eucharist. I remember thinking to myself in that moment, "THIS! THIS is what it means to BE THE CHURCH!"

We didn't impose our differing theologies upon one another; yet we didn't walk on eggshells around each other either! We were authentically and respectfully ourselves! After all, we must remember that for us, as United Methodists, going to the Episcopal Church is akin to going home to visit our mother. John Wesley surprisingly never pastored a Methodist Church; rather, he remained an Anglican priest throughout his life while initiating the renewal movement within the church that would become known as Methodism.

While we are still on our way to officially being in "Full Communion" with the Episcopal Church, I believe we got a glimpse of how beautiful it will be...and perhaps even a glimpse of that "heavenly banquet" that we mention in our communion liturgies, where ALL are invited, and EVERYONE has a seat at Christ's table to enjoy the abundant and eternal meal of life!

Our week ended with remembering Christ's death on the cross on Good Friday by reading the passion story and stripping our altars as Jesus was stripped of his dignity and executed as a criminal. Our sanctuary took on an eerie tone with black cloths covering the altar table and crosses, symbolizing the darkness that consumed creation when the Light of the World was seemingly snuffed out. Our worship space, like the world, lie in darkness and silence.

Then, we gathered in the church's amphitheater on Sunday morning as the sun peeked over the tree line. The sun giving rise to a new day reminded us that darkness must flee when the light is present. Unity Youth's Chandler Hurt delivered a timely and heartfelt message that the stone that sealed Christ in the darkness of the tomb was rolled away to let the light of the world in.

In addition to that, we gathered for worship in the sanctuary with a packed house, where the silence was broken by 20 children with tambourines...yes, the children were given tambourines...in case you missed it, you should check out the Facebook Live feed! You'll find yourself watching it again and again focusing on a different kid each time. It's gold!

What an awesome week it was!

I hope to see you all again this week at The Table on Wednesday evening at 5:30 and for worship on Sunday morning at 10:00!

Grace & Peace,

MISSION

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ

VISION

We are seeking to reach beyond ourselves by Inviting others to a Life in Jesus, Growing as Disciples, and Caring for People.

MINISTRY TEAM

Every Member

Minister

Pastor

Rev. Corey Burns

Allison Haley

Music

Dr. Amy Holder

Children

Billie Jo Burns
Nursery & Lambs

Dr. Hardin Coleman

Lora Hass

Youth

Joy Overby

Church Administrator

Jane Doss

Pianist

Shirley Rossano

Organist

Susan Kane

Communications Director

Pastor Corey

THOSE SERVING

FINANCIAL

April
David Latham
Debra Barrentine
Blake Wright
Lisa Armstrong

May
Bill Layton
Jack Livingston
Carolyn Rodgers

WORSHIP SERVICE SOUND SYSTEM/ AUDIO VISUAL

> Byron Burton Kameron Brown



WEEK ENDED

April 20, 2025 1,807

Worship Attendance

In person Worship: 10:00am Children, Youth & Family Ministry, & Special Services

UStream Channel (website), Facebookradio, and radio/tv Broadcast.

Unity Youth

Just GO

I am so inspired by the faith of Abraham. His story reminds me of the old saying 'the devil is in the details' because Abraham knew that God was in the calling. God just said go and Abraham said "Let's Go". Now, I know God but I also know me and I'm pretty sure I would have firmly requested a little more info before packing up my family and heading in a direction with no stated destination. Yet, when God says go, our only faithful response is Let's go.

Then, like all of us, Abraham had some challenges along the way. He got it wrong a few times, spiritually stumbled, and pushed his own plan when God required a wait (25 years is a long time of faithful waiting). Sometimes our 'let's go' can turn into an 'oh no'. There are times to be still and wait on God and if constantly going we may miss these moments. God works in the wait.

And then, sometimes our hardest testing with God is when we are called to compromise a blessing. God will test us but the thing to remember is a test is not on new information...a test is about something we have already been taught. God tested Abraham when calling him to bring his promised son for a sacrifice. Abraham got a passing grade as he learned to 'let it go'. We have a hard enough time letting go of pain, hurt, resentments, and harmful addictions...now we come to realize that God might call us to let go of victories and blessings.

Then finally, we can hear from God...'now go'. Walking with God can seem like an extended game of red light - green light. But obeying God is always a process: Let's go, oh no (hold on), let is go, and now go. Listen, learn, and lean in to God's callings. Like Abraham we will sometimes get it wrong but just like for Abraham, God will make it right. God's promises are true, His love is working in your life always, and His faithfulness never falters.

Blessings, Hardin













Children's Midweek Ministry Fun!

















2025 Easter Lily Memorials/Honorariums In Support of the FUMC Youth Ministry

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Arthur Beard By Glenda Beard & Family In Memory of Anna Ruth & Paul Campbell

By Mary & Rick Nixon

In Memory of Janet & Phil Christian

By Hank Frazier

In Memory of Carl & Brenda Clark

By Jason & Tanya Welch

In Memory of Bill & Johnnie Coleman

By Sharon Royal

In Memory of Jane & Paul Conley

By Hank Frazier

In Memory of Laura Christian Cotter

By Hank Frazier

In Memory of Jean Stanley glass

By Stanley Woodall and Diane & Tom McMahon

In Memory of Daniel Hammond

By Shirley Rossano

In Memory of John & Elsie Kane

By Ron & Susan Kane family

In Memory of Ann Livingston

By Steve Livingston

In Memory of Bob & Madolyn Lough

By Ron & Susan Kane family

In Memory of our daughter, Anna Laura Masters

By Jeff & Chris Masters

In Memory of Gerald McCauley

By Ruth & The Children

In Memory of Elizabeth & Victor Nixon

By Mary & Rick Nixon



n Memory of Jim Smith By Jim Smith's family In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. W.D. Stanley

By Stanley Woodall and Diane & Tom McMahon

In Memory of Rena & Raymond Ward

By Larry Ward

In Memory of Brian Woodall

By Stanley Woodall and Diane & Tom McMahon

in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Brooks Woodall

By Stanley Woodall and Diane & Tom McMahon

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. D.P. Woodall

By Stanley Woodall and Diane & Tom McMahon

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of Our Children & Grand Children

By Fred & Martha Welch

In Honor of Dustin Hammond

By Shirley Rossano

In Honor of Jack & Sue Livingston

By Steve Livingston

In Honor of Brandon & Amanda Royal

By Sharon Royal

In Honor of Stephen Royal

By Sharon Royal

In Honor of Ann Smith's family

By Ann Smith

In Honor of Fred & Martha Welch

By Jason & Tanya Welch

Easter Lilies Purchased

By Harvey & Carol Reimer

EASTER with my children!

-Dr. Amy & Children's Ministry Team





PRAYER CONCERNS & PRAISES

Our Youth & Discovery Weekend, Children, UMC Conference, Our Community, Nation/World Community, U.S. Troops, Healthcare & 1st Responders, Schools.

Our Church Family

Mary Ruth Bennett
Linda Bray
Amanda P. Bryars
Nancy Campbell
Mary K. Carlton
Maria Copeland
Johnny Crabtree
Ralph & Libby
Franklin
Annie Ruth Fossett
Angie Gant
Nancy Graham
Alex Holder

Shannon Hurt
Jerry Kirkland
Barbara Partin
Kay & Skip Rogers
Ann R. Sanders
Molly Sellers
Pat Smith
Gary Stewart
Tal Thomas
Tony Wallingsford
Tracy Wallingsford
Linette & Keith
Webb

Margaret Bailey April Ballard Jordan Beebe & Brycen Angie Bledsoe Jocelyn Boles Brother-Anita Tolliver Bob Brune Billy & Brenda Burns Ron Clements Tujuana Coley Mildred L. Cook family Charles Dawson Judy Dawson Allan & Sarita Dozier Wendall Dudley Vera Dunson

Our Church Friends

Barbara Partin's father's family Anne Flournov Kristen & Colby Gann Rev. Roy Hall **Beth Hargrove** Shirl Haswell Randy Hillhouse Caroline Hodges Mary Ann Holland **Judy Hughes** Foster Hunt Glen Jacobs Bill Latham Joan Lee **Bob Leighton family** Levi Lima

Brenda Little family Susan Livingston Macey McCauley Denise Monza Rev. Joy Morgan **Jordon Otinger** Leigha Phillips Holly Sanders & baby **Gail Sherwood** Janet Sprouse Ellen Thomas **Donna Vincent** Lee Ann Walker Kaetlyn Weaver Maurita Wiggins Steve Wilburn **Creed Wooden family**

All our members who are homebound, at assisted living facilities, and nursing homes:

HIGHLANDS

HEALTH & REHAB

Bob Hodges

HUNTSVILLE Faye Berry Joanne Stewart MARYVILLE, TN
Dorothy Hopps

ROSEWOOD MANOR
Kaye Johnson
Virginia Wallingsford

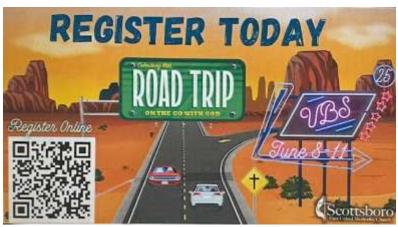
SOUTHERN ESTATES

Shirley Haislip Jo Smith Don Wright HOME
Revia Melton
Marilyn Reed
Mildred Shelton
Martha Lou Wright



Also in May ...

2nd to 4th- Discovery Weekend
6th-Agape Circle in Fellowship Hall
11th-Mother's Day
18th-Children's/Youth End of School Party
22nd-Last School Day for Students
23rd-High School Graduation Day
26th-Memorial Day—Church Office closed
28th-31st - Annual Conference in Birmingham





AUGUST 9, 2025

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 27

8:45am Sunday School

10:00am **Worship**—Sanctuary

5:30-7pm 1st Kids/Youth Evening Activities

Monday, April 28

5:30-7pm Tai Chi lessons @ Fellowship Campus

Tuesday, April 29

6-8:00pm Community Band @ Fellowship Campus

Wednesday, April 30

1:00pm Nourish One Child @ Fellowship Campus

4:45pm Choir Practice @ Choir Room

5:30-7pm **The Table** – meal & small groups @ FH

5:30-7pm Tai Chi Lessons @ Fellowship Campus

Thursday, May 1

9:30am Caring Card Ministry 6-8:00pm Music Valley Playhouse @ Fellowship Campus

Friday, May 2 - Youth DISCOVERY WEEKEND begins

Saturday, May 3-DI SCOVERY WEEKEND

3rd Sunday of Easter, May 4 DISCOVERY WEEKEND concludes

8:45am Sunday School

10:00am Worship—Sanctuary

5:30-7pm 1st Kids/Youth Evening Activities