



THE HERALD

April 30, 2025

Volume 57, Number 16

Greetings Church Family,

The year was 2008. I was 21 and nearly a year into my first tenure as a youth minister in a local Southern Baptist Church. I was initially brought on to the ministry staff as a Youth Pastor, but upon discovering that I was not married, the title was changed to “Youth Leader,” because according to I Timothy 3:2, a “pastor” MUST be the “husband of one wife.”

MISSION

*To Make Disciples
of
Jesus Christ*

To say that my time at that church was tumultuous would be a gross understatement! I served a church that just couldn’t get out of their own way. I learned more than I ever wanted to know about the “soft white underbelly” of church politics. I was immature, lacking in confidence, spiritually shallow, and somewhat unsure in my own calling, so serving a church with a plethora of its own issues only made matters worse.

VISION

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

Near the end of my time there, I was invited by a friend to come and be a part of a Discovery Weekend at a local United Methodist Church. Now, prior to that weekend, I had very little experience with the United Methodist Church other than attending with my grandmother from time to time, so, as you can imagine, for a staunch Southern Baptist as myself, this was a bit outside of my comfort zone. Nevertheless, I accepted the invitation to serve as a “speaker” and “table leader” and invited my own youth group at my church to be a part of the weekend as well.

Unfortunately, when my pastor and deacons found out that I was going to be a part of this Discovery Weekend AND that I had invited our youth group to be a part of it, they were very upset with me and strongly urged the parents of my students not to allow their children to go because the experience at the United Methodist Church might be “confusing” for them. You see, the pastor of the United Methodist Church was a woman! Talk about someone who was definitely not the “husband of one wife!” My pastor advised me to decline the invitation, but I didn’t! I went! And my life was changed forever!

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

I must say, for a bunch of so-called backward, hell-bound heretics, I had never experienced such love, grace, and mercy as I did in that United Methodist Church that weekend. I came in letting everyone know that I was a Baptist, but no one was fazed; I was accepted for who I was, even by their pastor, Deborah, who was not “the husband of one wife.” She is a kind, loving, and holy woman of God, who has undoubtedly been called to serve and lead Christ’s Church...regardless of whether I believed her calling was valid or not!

Throughout that weekend, I felt God’s Spirit with me in a way that I never experienced before! I felt myself being “cautiously revived.” In other words, God was doing a great work in my life, but I found myself clinging to my own pre-conceived notions of God, and this experience wasn’t fitting into my own understanding of God. I fought it, but somehow, I grew. Then, on the last night, the table was set for Holy Communion, and I was invited to come and receive the blessed gift of God’s grace. I sat in that pew and wrestled with my thoughts, “You’re not worthy to take communion! There’s no way you should receive communion from a woman! Why are they calling this communion? Don’t they know this is the Lord’s Supper!?”

In a decision that changed the entire course of my life, I got up made my way to the altar to receive. I had to watch those in front of me in line, because I had no idea what I was doing! Pastor Deborah saw me and smiled. She pinched off a piece of bread, but before she could place it in my hand, I whispered, “Are you sure I can have this? I am Baptist, you know!” She assuredly whispered back, “Corey, at God’s table, EVERYONE is welcome! This is the body of Christ!”

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE).

THOSE SERVING

FINANCIAL

May

**Bill Layton
Jack Livingston
Carolyn Rodgers**

WORSHIP SERVICE

SOUND SYSTEM/
AUDIO VISUAL

**Byron Burton
Kameron Brown**

Pastor Deborah may not have been the “husband of one wife,” but in her reassuring response and affirming words at Christ’s table, she delivered the greatest sermon I had ever heard.

For me, Discovery is a place of belonging! It’s a long table with a great feast, and everyone who hungers and thirsts has a seat at that table! And now, 17 years later, I find myself in Pastor Deborah’s shoes, extending Christ’s invitation to the table of grace to those who are hungry and thirsty!

I invite you to join me in prayer for this Discovery Weekend?

Lord, As Discovery Weekend approaches, we seek your guidance and inspiration. May this time of fellowship and reflection open the hearts and minds of our students and volunteers to your presence in their lives. Lead them in deepening their understanding of your great love and purpose for their lives.

Lord, help us to connect with one another, share our stories, and discover the gifts You have bestowed upon us. May this weekend strengthen our faith, reignite our passions, and empower us to serve our community with grace and compassion.

In Your holy name, we pray, Amen.

Grace & Peace,



Pastor Corey



Unity Youth

ALL THINGS YOUTH!!

It is certainly an exciting time in the life of our UnityYouth! As the school year comes to a very welcome conclusion, schedules are packed full. I am so proud of our Youth who prioritize their spiritual growth and Church commitment. Chandler Hurt did an amazing job preaching the Easter Sunrise Service. His sermon would be called, ‘The stone was rolled away’, and he related how the eternal life giving resurrection of Jesus saved us all but Christ also rolls many stones away in our daily life freeing us from pain, hardship, and self.

This past Sunday, we had our final Confirmation Class before celebrating these young believers on May 18th at the 10am Service. It has been a 9 months journey through scripture, Methodist heritage, and faith development and they are Ready! My heart almost burst when Corey blessed the elements and allowed our most senior Youth to serve Holy Communion to the Journey Affirmation students. Our Youth Seniors will also be recognized on May 18th. Blessings upon Blessings. And overall, the Youth have really enjoyed these Spring days as we settle into the White House and fellowship on the Church Grounds.

AND NOW...the event of the YEAR...DISCOVERY WEEKEND is just days away. Thank you to all who have volunteered as chaperones, group leaders, meal teams, and helpers - your service is paramount to any success. Join us for the Saturday night Prayer Service at 7pm and the Sunday Service at 10am and stop by anytime to witness, worship, and pray! Stop by the dedicated Prayer Chapel upstairs that Ms Robin has designed! Thank you for your continued prayers, donations, snacks/drinks, and letters of encouragement for the student attendees. There is still time to register so keep inviting students in grades 6 - 12. Let’s GO!!

Blessings, Hardin

WEEK ENDED

April 27, 2025
1,071

Worship Attendance

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

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



02 Andy Crockett
02 Celia Venable
02 Steve Screws
03 Brian Wallingsford
04 Gillian Beth Head
05 Phyllis Kirby
06 Glenda Beard
06 William Holland
07 Meg Chapman
07 James Suggs
08 Travis Hensley
08 Rachel Turner
08 David Latham
09 Tommy Cassaboon
09 Mike Talley
10 Kate Coleman
10 Jane Doss



10 James Bryant Green
10 River Stembriage
11 Joe Bailer
11 Zanna Boles
11 Jenni Carter
11 Finch Foster
12 Blake Bryant
13 Colin Miller
15 Paula Butler
15 Sharon Lee Taylor
16 Leah Trinity Taylor
16 Mike Cousins
17 Susan Bare
17 Chandley Hamm
18 Anita Hall
20 Amelia Brickley
21 Tiffany Bridges

21 Maddox Hamm
22 Charley Champagne
22 Vonda Proctor
23 Toby Dykes
24 Brent Blackwood
24 Marsha McGahey
24 Anna Doss
25 Joe Ashmore
26 Ben Beasley
27 Lynn Johnson
27 Avril Hambrick
27 Liam Baker
28 Parker Bell
28 Will Coleman
29 John Turner
31 Clay Bailey

May Anniversaries



*Labron & Sara Anderton
Joe & Melissa Bailer
Ron & Myra Bailey
Chris & Amy Cameron
Blake & Anna Holly
Jack & Sue Livingston
Hank & Louise Moghani
Whitt & Savannah Turner
Tony & Tracy Wallingsford*



MEMORIALS

CHOIR FUND

In Memory of **Annie Lee Cayley
& Charles Cayley**
By Chris & Amy Cameron

In Memory of **Nancy Helms**
By Chris & Amy Cameron

In Memory of **Vesta Lou Skelton**
By Chris & Amy Cameron

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of **Tom & Linda
Bonner**
By Chris & Amy Cameron

In Memory of **Dean Woodall & Brian
Woodall**
By Chris & Amy Cameron

In Memory of **Arlene & Norman
Grede**
By Chris & Amy Cameron

In Memory of **Bob Word**
By Chris & Amy Cameron

HONORARIUMS

CAPITAL FUND

In Honor of **Jack Livingston** in
recognition of his years as a
practicing attorney & faithful
service to First United Methodist
Church
By Larry Ward

YOUTH FUND

In Honor of **the Youth**
By Jerry & Robin Kirkland

In Honor of **Graduates
& Confirmands**
By UMW

MAY 2025

Sunday

8:45a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Worship Service
5:30-7p.m. Kids/Youth

Monday

6:15pm Step Study Grp-2nd Fl

Tuesday

Wednesday







1pm Nourish One Child-FC-
5:30-7p Youth small group
No kids activities in May
6pm Voice of Heart Adults Class

Thursday

9:30am Caring Card Group

Friday

Saturday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		THIS MONTH!! SCHOOL'S OUT FOR <i>Summer</i> 		<i>1</i> 9:30am Caring Card Ministry 6-8pm MVP @ Fellowship Campus	<i>2</i> DISCOVERY WEEKEND	<i>3</i> DISCOVERY WEEKEND
<i>4</i> 8:45 SS Class 10am Worship w/ communion Sanctuary <i>No evening youth/kids</i> DISCOVERY WEEKEND	<i>5</i>  5:30-7pm TaiChi @ Fellowship	<i>6</i> 10a AGAPE Circle-FH 6-8pm Com. Band-FC	<i>7</i> 1pm NOC @FC-FH 5:30-7pm Youth No evening Kids 5:30-7pm Tai Chi-FC 6pm Voice of Heart	<i>8</i> 9:30am Caring Card Ministry 6-8pm MVP @ Fellowship Campus	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY 8:45 SS Class 10am Worship <i>No evening youth/kids</i>	<i>12</i> 5:30-7pm TaiChi @ Fellowship	<i>13</i> 9am Quilters—FH 5:15pm Finance-Chapel 6-8pm Com. Band-FC	<i>14</i> 1pm <u>LAST NOC</u> @FC 5:30-7pm Youth No evening Kids 5:30-7pm Tai Chi-FC 6pm Voice of Heart	<i>15</i> 9:30am Caring Card Ministry 6-8pm MVP @ Fellowship Campus	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 8:45 SS Class 10am Worship 5:30-7pm youth/kids End-School year party	<i>19</i> 5:30-7pm TaiChi @ Fellowship	<i>20</i> 5pm-NOC Patio Picnic @ Carlton's Home 6-8pm Com. Band-FC	<i>21</i> NO NOC 5:30-7pm Youth No evening Kids 5:30-7pm Tai Chi-FC 6pm Voice of Heart	<i>22</i> Last Day School 9:30am Caring Card Ministry 6-8pm MVP @ Fellowship Campus	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Pick up your UMM pre-ordered Boston Butts \$40
<i>25</i> 8:45 SS Class 10am Worship 5:30-7pm youth/kids	<i>26</i>  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<i>27</i> 6-8pm Com. Band-FC	<i>28</i> ANNUAL CONF NO NOC 5:30-7pm Youth No evening Kids 5:30-7pm Tai Chi-FC 6pm Voice of Heart	<i>29</i> ANNUAL CONF 9:30am Caring Card Ministry 6-8pm MVP @ Fellowship Campus	<i>30</i> ANNUAL CONF	<i>31</i> ANNUAL CONF 12-4pm MVP @ FC

Confirmation Student Leaders, Ashlee Dunsmore & Hunter Hilliard serving Communion to the Journey Affirmation students.



Attention ALL CHURCH MEMBERS -

Your copy of the **United Methodist Church Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions 2010/2024** is available for free.

- 1) Go to: **COKESBURY.COM**
- 2) Scroll down to the bottom of the web site to **Cokesbury Services**
- 3) Third item under **Cokesbury Services** - click on Book of Discipline & Bool of Resolutions (Free Versions)
- 4) **Scroll down** one item to: FREE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

The pages you may be most interested in is the LOCAL CHURCH pages 201-299. You can also print these pages.

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	Shannon Hurt
Linda Bray	Jerry Kirkland
Amanda P. Bryars	Barbara Partin
Nancy Campbell	Kay & Skip Rogers
Mary K. Carlton	Ann R. Sanders
Maria Copeland	Molly Sellers
Johnny Crabtree	Pat Smith
Ralph & Libby	Gary Stewart
Franklin	Tal Thomas
Annie Ruth Fossett	Tony Wallingsford
Angie Gant	Tracy Wallingsford
Nancy Graham	Linette & Keith
Alex Holder	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 Flournoy
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



Limrock United Methodist Church

On the corner:
CR 30 & CR 119
5903 Co. Road 30
Woodville, AL 35776

Southern Gospel Singing
First Saturday each month
Featuring

Southern Gospel Singers/
Artists/Stylists
Mixed Trio
From Huntsville, Alabama

TRINITY
Saturday May 3rd @ 7PM



May 2-4
Pinhoti Trail, Talladega National Forest

Be sure to remember Emily Brickley especially on the Weekend of **May 2-4** as she takes on this year's **Trailblaze Challenge**. In addition to the physical challenge, she has committed herself & successfully raised the critical funds necessary for **Make-A-Wish** to grant the one true wish for an eligible child with a critical illness.

Thank you for your support. Let's continue to lift Emily up in prayers on this important journey which ultimately helps the children in need and their families.

The **Agape Circle** will meet **Tuesday May 6TH at 10:00 AM** in the fellowship hall for our monthly meeting. Debra Brickley will bring the devotion and Mary K Carlton has the program. The program this month is the foreign exchange students. This is always a very interesting program. Hope to see each on you on the 6TH.



-NOURISH ONE CHILD DATES-

April 30th Regular Packing Date
May 7th Regular Packing Date
May 14th **LAST** Packing for School Year

Tuesday, May 20th- Patio Picnic at the Carlton's Home @ 5pm—
1030 Peninsula Drive

Summer: Beginning June 4-25—led by Trinity Baptist Church

Beginning July 2nd - led by Calvary Baptist Church

3rd Sunday of Easter, May 4 **DISCOVERY WEEKEND concludes**

8:45am Sunday School
10:00am Youth led **Worship**—Sanctuary
No 1st Kids/Youth Evening Activities

Monday, May 5

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

Tuesday, May 6

10:00am UMW AGAPE Circle @ Fellowship Hall
6-8:00pm Community Band @ Fellowship Campus

Wednesday, May 7

1:00pm **Nourish One Child** @ Fellowship Campus
4:45pm Choir Practice @ Choir Room
5:30-7pm **Youth** small group @ FH
5:30-7pm Tai Chi Lessons @ Fellowship Campus

Thursday, May 8

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

Friday, May 9 –

Saturday, May 10 -

4th Sunday of Easter, May 11

8:45am Sunday School
10:00am Youth led **Worship**
Sanctuary
No 1st Kids/Youth Evening Activities



Remembering the Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13