

# COURAGEOUS conversations

Courageous Conversations are ongoing now in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. These conversations will be held in twenty-seven locations throughout the bounds of the conference. The closest session for our congregation will be at Prattville FUMC on Sunday, March 11, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Bishop David Graves is inviting all to come together for Christ-honoring time together regarding human sexuality and the United Methodist Church. The "Courageous Conversations" project will be used to hold these conversations.

The project is aimed to help the conference move from skepticism to curiosity and even openness to encounter God's grace. Courageous Conversations is a toolbox that local churches can use to inspire and encourage the church and individuals to stay at the table when the anxiety and emotional turmoil is painful. Courageous Conversations introduces a faithful way to listen and learn more about one

another in an appreciative style and in a safe space. Many in our churches are hesitant to engage in such conversations, often viewing them as pointless since "we won't convince anyone to change their opinions" or are fearful of causing further harm to relationships. However, with careful planning and structured dialogue, the aim of Courageous Conversations is **learning**. Adults learn best when they question their assumptions and others' assumptions. Additionally, adults learn best in community; that is, in dialogue with one another.

These structured conversations for learning might be frustrating for some at first. Yet, it is through such courageous conversations that we display our unity to the world.

To register, visit <https://www.awfumc.org/ccregistration>

**9 a.m.**  
Contemporary Service  
**10:05– 10:50 a.m.**  
Sunday School  
**11 a.m.**  
Traditional Service

*(There will be a children's worship experience in each service)*

**NEW**  
**SUNDAY  
SERVICE  
TIMES**

**Starting April  
15th**

# LifeLines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MILLBROOK FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH— MARCH 2018

## Worship Times To Change, But Mission Remains the Same

*"I am grateful for the way our whole congregation has reflected the character of Christ throughout a difficult decision making process."*

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It seems nearly every family in our church has been impacted by the spread of the flu epidemic this winter. I hope and pray you and your family is doing well. The epidemic seemed to make this winter season seem longer than usual. However, the darkness of this winter is surely making the few sunny days we are experiencing richer and more enjoyable. As we begin to leave the dark days of winter, these brief sunny days are marvelous reminders of what is coming down the road, the fullness and beauty of spring: bringing with her all the glories of new life, new growth, new birth and new beginnings.

As a church, we too are moving toward newness as well. On April 15 we will launch our new worship times and new Sunday school classes on Sunday morning, giving us a better opportunity to carry out the mission of our Lord. You can find the new time schedule in the newsletter. So, I want to say a special thank you to our



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## Church Events

March 6– Lenten Lunch

March 8 - Volunteer Day @ W.E.L.C.O.M.E.

March 13– Lenten Lunch

March 15 - Game Night

March 18 – Youth Weekend

March 20– Lenten Lunch

March 24 - United Methodist Men's Yard Sale

March 25– Palm Sunday

March 25 - Two Egg Hunts

March 27 - Lenten Lunch

March 29– Maundy Thursday Service

March 30– Good Friday Service



Birthdays

- 1 Jacki Smith
- 3 Robert Andrews  
Cala Obenauf  
Lauren Cowan
- 5 Weldon Sawyer  
Joe Williams
- 6 Lisa Davis  
Candy Fraley  
Cindy Cauthen
- 7 Jane Hill  
Scott Wilson  
Tyler Rhodes
- 8 Megan Corley
- 10 Ben Kyser  
Jason Williams
- 12 Abigail Gamble
- 13 Jenny Calloway  
Amy Beth Inman
- 14 Steve Griffin  
Lydia Broadway
- 15 Blue Maddalena  
Tiffany Schultz
- 15 Millie Dukes

- 16 Terry Wadsworth  
Kirsten Houston  
Danny Rogers  
Darrell Thomas
- 17 Mitt Houston
- 18 Margaret Myers
- 20 Helyn Traylor  
Candice Clark
- 20 Addison Wright
- 21 Dan Whitehead  
Faye Whitehead
- 23 Joshua Nix  
Corbin Clark  
Carson Johnson
- 25 Mark Miller
- 26 Clayton Powder
- 27 Sandy Wiese

- 28 Pat Williams  
Chad Dean
- 30 Ashley Clark
- 31 Bill Rupinen



1 Peter 5-6  
“Humble yourselves,  
therefore, under God’s  
mighty hand so that he  
may lift you up in due  
time.”

Join us during Lent  
as we fast one meal  
per week. We are  
asking the money  
that would have  
been spent for that  
meal be collected on  
Sundays for  
WELCOME.



Lenten Luncheons

Join us in the Fellowship Hall each Tuesday at Noon for a light lunch and uplifting devotional featuring a guest speaker each week.

Our scheduled speakers are:  
March 6th: Rev. Janet Krantz, Pastor Robinson Springs UMC  
March 13th: Rev. Bobby Ellisor, Pastor Prattville First UMC  
March 20th: Rev. John Brooks, Superintendent Montgomery/Prattville District  
March 27th: Rev. Jerry May, Sr. Pastor Millbrook First UMC.

Anniversaries

- 2 Johnny & Joan Reeder
- 10 Johnny & Pat Moore  
Jim & Jerri Kight
- 16 Henry & Tammy Gibson
- 17 Blue & Alisha Maddalena
- 22 Joe & Cindy Cobb
- 24 Victor & Sharon Tubbs
- 26 Ricky & Jenny Calloway
- 27 Joey & Jacki Smith



Millbrook FUMC Has Active Youth Sunday School Class

Even on a rainy Sunday morning, the youth building was filled with dedicated students anxious to learn about Christ’s death and resurrection.

Rotating teachers lead the class, including Will Bacon, Jessica Burdick, Candace Clark and Beth Aspden. The class, which averages 10-15 students each week, is currently on a series called “March to the Cross.” On Sunday, they were asked about what sacrifices they were willing to give in order to serve God and how a Christian should put their values on giving in Godly terms.

One of the questions Will asked the class was “what is the most precious possession you can give to Christ?” Yourself, of course, was the answer.

Will demonstrated his point on sacrifice by giving each student a box of candy at the beginning of the lesson. Students were told not to open the candy. At the end of the lesson, he offered the students \$1 for

their boxes of candy if they would donate the money to the church. The shopping bag Will brought the candy in once again was filled with candy and many of the students opted to take the money in order to donate it to the church.

The class is one of the ministries of the larger youth program. The youth serve God and the community in a variety of ways, from individual work days to help families in the community to mission trips such as the one planned to Key West summer to aid the victims of hurricane damage. They volunteer to help with Joy for Johnny and many other church and community outreach programs.

A reminder of what Christian life is about is displayed on the walls of the youth building: “Saved People Save People” and “Found People Find People.” These reminders reflect what the youth of our church are all about.

# March 2018@ MFUMC

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 Trustees Meeting	2	3  9:00 am to 1:00 pm UMW Sewing Day  UMM Work Day
4 Communion Sunday Blood Drive  4:00-6:00 pm Grief Share	5 9:30 am Monday Morning Prayer Group 10:30 am Prime Timers 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 6:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Front Porch Grill) <b>Noon-Lenten Lunch</b> 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	7 5:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Children's and Youth Activities 6:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice	8 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Volunteer @ WELCOME  Mission House	9	10
11 Noon UMM Meeting Henrietta Thomas Circle Meet Action Teams 3:00-5:00 4:00-6:00 pm Grief Share <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>	12 9:30 am Monday Morning Prayer Group  6:00 pm Boy Scouts	13 6:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Front Porch Grill)  <b>Noon-Lenten Lunch</b> 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	14 5:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Children's and Youth Activities 6:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	15  6:00 pm to 9:00 pm GAME Night Fellowship Hall	16  Youth-All In Weekend	17  Youth-All In Weekend
18 Youth-All In Weekend   4:00-6:00 pm Grief Share	19 9:30 am Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:00 pm Lillian Hancock  6:00 pm Boy Scouts	20 6:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Front Porch Grill) 9:30 Doris Cobb Circle <b>Noon-Lenten Lunch</b> 1:30 Suzanna Wesley Circle 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm SPRC Committee	21  No Activities due to Spring Break	22	23	24 United Methodist Men's Yard Sale
25-Palm Sunday Noon Emmaus Luncheon (Mission House) 3:00 –5:00 Children's Easter Egg Hunt (Here) 7:00 pm Neon Egg Hunt (Williams Home)	26 9:30 am Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:00 pm Friendship Sunday School Sup- per 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	27 6:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Front Porch Grill) <b>Noon –Lenten Lunch</b> 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Finance Committee	28 5:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Children's and Youth Activities 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice	29  6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	30  6:30 pm Good Friday Service	31





G<sub>2</sub> A<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> E<sub>1</sub> N<sub>1</sub> I<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub> H<sub>4</sub> T<sub>1</sub>

March 15, 2018

*Please join us for great fun!!*

Where: Fellowship Hall (Nursery Provided)

Time: 6—9 p.m.

Cost: \$10 person (Extra donations welcome)

Food: Bring a finger food to share

Proceeds: Flooring

Registration is required, nursery provided

Theme: St. Patrick's Day (Get your green on!)

Contact: Judy May 850-849-9097

Time: 6—9 p.m.

Use this opportunity to get "HIP". Invite someone who does not attend our church to come as your guest. Better yet, pay for an extra person and tell them that you paid for them to come.

*(Not selling tickets, please pay in advance.)*

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Saturday, March 24th

The United Methodist Men (UMM) will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mission House. The money raised will go towards supporting mission projects and maintenance projects that support MFUMC. The UMM will be taking donations beginning Sunday afternoon on March 18<sup>th</sup>. All items donated will be sold or donated at the conclusion of the yard sale. The UMM will accept all items in good condition including furniture, toys, household items, clothes, etc. The UMM will be unable to accept any electronics such as TVs, VCRs, Computer Monitors, etc. as there is a disposal charge associated with these items. Please help support the UMM by donating to this cause. For questions about donations or for additional information about the Yard Sale, please contact Will Bacon at [334-730-8118](tel:334-730-8118)(C) or [334-285-9172](tel:334-285-9172)(H).



## Our Mission To Continue As Transitions Made

*(Continued from page 1)*



Discernment Committee for providing great leadership during this time of transition. The way they conducted their work will have a lasting impact on the Lord's mission to change lives for eternity. They worked hard for several months to gather facts, to listen, to build consensus, and to carefully weigh the consequences of decisions. They were always open to compromise, as we sought to discern the will of God for Millbrook First United Methodist Church for this time and place.

Not only am I proud of the way our Discernment Committee did their work, I am also grateful for the way our whole congregation has reflected the character of Christ throughout a difficult decision making process. The way you respectfully offered input, listened to all points of view, spoke calmly and thoughtfully and your willingness to sacrifice for the sake of the unity of Christ's church has helped to plant seeds of transformation that will have an impact for many years to come.

In the midst of the changes we will go through, I hope we will continue to remind each other of the most important things that will not change. The God we worship and love will never change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Also, in all of our worship services and Sunday school classes, we will continue to stay focused on the same mission we have always had, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And with the help of God's grace we will continue achieve His mission for us by faithfully proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will utilize the gifts and talents God has given His people, by connecting to the Lord through prayer and singing, by receiving the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, and by greeting and welcoming each other with a great spirit of hospitality that the Millbrook family is so well known for.

As we move forward, know I am praying for you as we make these transitions together. And know that my door is always open if you need to talk and pray. Please continue to pray for Judy and me. Your prayers for us mean more than you will ever know. Thank you for your love and support. May these words from

the Apostle Paul lift up your spirit and encourage you.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." I look forward to seeing you this Sunday at the church where God's love is made real.

*Pastor Jerry*

## Sermon Series During Lent

"Can God still use me?" It is a question most of us have asked at some point.

Each of us

have fallen short of perfection and it is tempting to think that we are "unsaveable" because of our failures, or even our fatigue. We presume that God would choose to use the most gifted, handsome, athletic, victorious, and intelligent people for its purposes, But that's not God's way. Your legacy awaits, but it depends on your ability to walk with a limp and allow your hurts to help.



Psalm 119:66

"Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments."



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