

Schedule of Activities

Sunday, January 13

Worship in Sanctuary 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
 Childrens Worship begins in Sanctuary 8:30 a.m.
 Children, 3 yrs.-3rd Grade, Purple Rm
 Children picked up in Kids Hub
 Communion in the Chapel 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:40 a.m.
 Adult Choir rehearsal 10:15 a.m.
 Worship in Sanctuary 10:45 a.m.
 Children's Worship begins in Sanctuary 10:45 a.m.
 Children, 3 yrs.-3rd Grade, Purple Rm
 Children are picked up in Kids Hub
 Shepherd's Table, Fellowship Hall 11:30 a.m.
 Youth UMYF 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 14

CaringPlace, Perritt Room 10:00 a.m.
 Finance Committee, N312 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 15

Vivian Davis Bible Study, History Rm 12:00 Noon
 Emmaus Cluster, McDowell Hall 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 16

Wednesday Alive Meal, McDowell Hall 5:00 p.m.
 Wesley Ringers Handbell practice 5:00 p.m.
 Youth, UMYF, 3rd floor 5:30 p.m.
 Children meet in Kids Hub on 2R 6:00 p.m.
 Adult Choir practice 6:00 p.m.
 "A Disciple's Path", Sonshine Class 6:00 p.m.
 Women's Class by Patricia Shirer, "He Speaks To Me", N312 6:00 p.m.
 "Simon Peter" by Adam Hamilton, Norton Class 6:00 p.m.
 Children's Pick Up, Kids Hub 7:20 p.m.

Thursday, January 17

Men's Prayer Meeting, Chapel 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 19

Marriage Retreat, McDowell Hall 9:30 a.m.
 Emmaus Agape Party, Atrium 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 10th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Leadership Training will be provided for all elected leaders of Florence First UMC. We will spend the first hour all together hearing from Dale Cohen and Lisa Keys-Mathews about the leadership opportunities facing our congregation. The last two hours will be specific training for the Program Committees (Children's Council, Communications and Technology, Discipleship, Evangelism, Mission, Worship, and Youth Council). Gifted leaders from across the North Alabama Conference will be present to lead the training. Administrative Committees will be trained at a later date; however, members of the Administrative Committees will be invited to participate in one of the Program Committee training sessions.

First United Methodist Messenger (USPS 070-860) published weekly by First United Methodist Church, 415 North Seminary Street, Florence, AL 35630. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, AL. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *First United Methodist Messenger*, 415 North Seminary Street, Florence, AL 35630. Vol. 48 Issue 1

Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in honor or in memory of loved ones, please call the church office, 256-764-5072, to reserve the following Sundays:
 February 10, 24 March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Sunday Flowers

The flowers on the altar will be in honor of Sam Beadle for his 40th Birthday by Greg & Martha

P.S. He loves to receive cards in the mail!!!
 (1017 Willingham Road, Florence 35630)

Sunday Worship Service

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Reverend Dale Cohen
"Preparing For Discernment"
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

8:30 Music - David Phillips and Ernie Fite
 10:45 Music - Adult Choir

11:30 a.m.
Shepherd's Table in Fellowship Hall

Messenger

First United Methodist Church

Florence, Alabama

Wednesday Alive for 2019!

Wednesday Alive Classes and Meal

We need four (4) volunteers to help serve, call Terry Stubblefield at 256-764-5072.

Menu for January 16: Pulled Pork, Potato Salad, Slaw, Bread, Sauce, and Apple Cobbler.

\$7:00 for Adults; \$4.00 for child (6-12 years old); \$20.00 max per household.

Call for reservations, 256-764-5072, mark it on the Sunday Attendance Pad or email michele@fumcflorence.org by Monday Noon.

Classes:

Young Married and Singles Class - "A Disciple's Path", Taught by Rev. Dale Cohen

Women's Class - "He Speaks To Me" by Priscilla Shirer, Taught by Sarah Haggstrom & Lisa Keys-Mathews

Pastor's Class - "Simon Peter" by Adam Hamilton, Taught by Rev. Dr. Terry Stubblefield

If you want to lead a class, contact Terry Stubblefield, call 256-764-5072.



Marriage Retreat

We, First United Methodist Church, have been invited to join in with Trinity United Methodist Church for their Marriage Retreat. Save the date for Trinity's Marriage Retreat **From This Day Forward** on the weekend of January 19, 2019. Couples of all ages will gather together to learn, laugh and spend some time as couples in picturesque Florence, AL. Our large group learning time on Saturday will be held at Florence FUMC and led by a licensed marriage counselor (Monica Harbarger, United Counseling) with time set aside to talk one on one with your spouse and plan a fun date or two. To register, fill out our online form (<http://www.trinitybirmingham.com/adults/from-this-day-forward-marriage-retreat-2019/>) and pay the \$40/couple registration fee by check or PayPal. ~Eleanor Haggstrom Christiansen, Director of Children & Family Ministries Trinity United Methodist Church, Homewood

Sunday, January 20 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

We will host a Dialogue Session for our congregation on the Council of Bishops' Commission on the Way Forward Report to be presented to the called UMC General Conference in February 2019. We will review the three primary plans to be presented to the General Conference, followed by time for discussion and dialogue about these plans and their potential impact on us as a local church. All are invited to come in a spirit of cooperation and fellowship as we explore the challenges that lie ahead for us as a denomination.



KNOWN MEMBERS IN HOSPITALS

Recently Dismissed - Louise Putteet to Mitchell -Hollingsworth Rehab.; Jackie Zettle to Renaissance of Florence

Sympathy

The ministers and congregation wish to express their sympathy to:

Taska Haraway, upon the death of her mother, Claudia Travis;
Michael Carr, upon the death of his Grandfather, George Scofield;
Betty Johnson, upon the death of her brother, Joseph Early;
Danny Verderber, upon the death of his sister, Tracy Lynn Kelly.

The Sonshine Class is welcoming new members!

If you are not already part of a Sunday School class or small group, we invite you to check us out! Starting Sunday, January 13 we will begin a study called "Animate Faith: Seven big conversations about Faith". It is a seven week adult study that imaginatively explores central topics of Christianity. The Sonshine Class has been meeting together for approximately 10 years and is made up of singles and couples from late 20's to early 40's. We'd love for you to join us in our faith journey! *We meet Sundays at 9:45 am in Room N306.* Please contact Ann Cohen for more information. email: annhillcohen@gmail.com ~ call or text: 256.508.9097



Consider This...

God's New Thing

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19, NRSV)

January 1st marked six months that I have been the Senior Pastor here at Florence First UMC. Terry Stubblefield and I consider it a privilege to get to serve in this amazing church. Over the past six months, we have invested much time in learning and understanding the "what," "how," and "why" of all we do as a church. We've also spent some time trying to understand the overall culture of the congregation and how we think we can best add value to the many great ministries and missions provided by First UMC. We have specifically noted the challenges and opportunities that exist as well.

On Friday, January 11th and Saturday, January 12th, our new Long-Range Planning Team will meet to lay the groundwork for discerning God's vision for our congregation. This is just the beginning step that will eventually involve the entire congregation; however, as I stated when we gathered for the State of the Church Meeting, time is of the essence. I expect us to move as quickly as possible and as slowly as needed. We want to discover God's rhythm for setting the course our congregation will pursue.

The Long-Range Planning Team is comprised of the following people: Mary Armstrong, Emily Brown, Argie Campbell, Michael Carr, Mark Custer, Lindsey Davis, Calvin Durham, Sarah Haggstrom, Gary Jester, Josh Kennedy, Lisa Keys-Mathews, and Steve White. Terry Stubblefield and I will serve as ex officio members. We have invited Ron Martoia to serve as our process consultant. Ron is the person who presented at the State of the Church meeting last November.

The prophet Isaiah challenged the Israelites, who were steeped in their long-standing traditions, to watch for the "new thing" God intended to do in their midst. God's new thing is nothing to be feared. It won't radically alter the mission to which we have been called. Our mission is and always will be "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." As we go through this process and more narrowly define our identity and calling as a church, it will challenge us to grow in our faith. Increasing our faith will enable us to respond to the new ways we are called to fulfill our core mission.

Please be in prayer for us as we begin this exciting journey. Feel free to talk with any of the folks serving on the team to get updates about how our work is progressing. ~Dale Cohen

Church Office:

Phone: 256-764-5072

Fax: 256-766-2421

fumcflo@fumcflorence.org

Rev. Dale Cohen - ext. 101
Senior Minister
dcohen@umcna.org

Dr. Terry Stubblefield - ext. 102
Associate Minister
drstubb@bellsouth.net

Amy Beard - ext. 125
CLC Director
clcdir@fumcflorence.org

Lee Michael - ext. 103
Youth Minister
jamesleemichael@gmail.com

Whitney Michael - ext. 112
Director of Children's Ministries
childrens@fumcflorence.org

Linda May - ext. 116
Music Coordinator
lindamay@yahoo.com

Michele Linder - ext. 100
Pastoral Administrative Assistant
michele@fumcflorence.org

Vivian Gallegos - ext. 104
Financial Manager
finmgr@fumcflorence.org

Mary Tidwell - ext. 105
Publications Secretary
mary@fumcflorence.org

Day School Director
Director - ext. 113
dayschool2@fumcflorence.org
256-766-2472

Congregational Care Line
careline@fumcflorence.org
256-764-7813

Homepage
www.fumcflorence.org

Memorials and Honorariums

Gifts to the Building Fund

In memory of **Dr. Fred J. McCallum** by Mr. & Mrs. William Ventress, Jr.
In honor of **Mrs. Ruth McCallum** by Mr. & Mrs. William Ventress, Jr.

Gifts to Rebecca's Table Fund

In memory of **Claudia Travis** by Greg & Martha Beadle
In memory of **Bram O'Steen and Brian Haddock** by Dixie Carter
In honor of **Becky & Carter Norvell; Teresa & Chip Rasch; Jeannie & Mims Rogers; Becky & Prueit Mauldin; Johnnye & Sam Rice; and Bettye & Bill Jeffery** by Dixie Carter

Gifts to the Mary Jen Crane Scholarship Fund

In memory of **Mary Jen Crane and Bill Fite** by Ralph & Ginny Green
In honor of **Emie Fite** by Ralph & Ginny Green

Gifts to Shepherd's Table Fund

In memory of **David Mussleman, Dawn Clement, Bob Bradley, Sarah Carter, Bram O'Steen, and Billy Elkins** by Butch & Lindsey Davis

Gifts to the General Fund

In memory of **David Collier, David Mussleman, Pat Thompson, and Jack Denton** by Mitch & Mary Lee Dobbins

Gifts to Camp Wesley

In memory of **Pat Thompson** by UMW Circle 6
In honor of **Wannell Scott** by UMW Circle 6

Gifts to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In honor of **Reverend Dale Cohen and Reverend Dr. Terry Stubblefield** by Preuit & Becky Mauldin
In memory of **David Mussleman and Bram O'Steen** by Preuit & Becky Mauldin



January Birthdays

1 - Ian Crane	12 - Kacie Bretherick	22 - Debbie Mudler
Bradley Dorin	Melinda Moore	Jo Redd
Monica Hunt	Randy Nash	24 - Sandi Sorellini
3 - Anabel Braziel	Noel Perritt	Phyllis Shoemaker
Gary Hill	Megan Smith-	25 - Don Trowbridge
Steve Morrow	Keenum	26 - Jennifer Barney
Sam Rice	13 - Glenn O'Steen	Brantley Holt
4 - Dalton Blalock	14 - Alicia Billings	Mary Moore
Rebecca Davis	15 - Hank Friday	Will Poovey
Melanie Hawk	Hamp Moore	27 - Henry Merry
5 - Ashley Beadle	Mary Ellen Rutledge	28 - Jessica Shook
6 - Janna Childers	Dot Scott	Nancy Trowbridge
Kay Davis	Carson Traylor	Vicki Watson
Pat Painter	16 - Rhonda Dorin	29 - Haley Grissett
8 - Macy Malone	Bill Nunnely	Nathan Grissett
Elizabeth Wright	Elisabeth Thomas	Sydney Grissett
9 - Julia Boughner	Annaleshia Williams	Mike Lewey
Sophia Jeffery	17 - Banks Beadle	Bob Torbert
Jeannie Rogers	Lottie Carpenter	30 - Mary Lee
Pat Willingham	Louise Putteet	Dobbins
11 - Sam Beadle	19 - Elizabeth Livingston	31 - Megan Glasgow
Kelly Bruce	Brooks Moore	Jenny McKinney
Lee Scott	Todd Scarborough	

Children's News

Wednesday Night Classes will focus on the Creation Story all the way up to Ash Wednesday. No classes on Ash Wednesday, March 6. There will be nursery available for that service.

*On January 20, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Dialogue Session on the Way Forward Report, there will be a nursery available.

Record of Attendance

Morning Worship 381
Sunday School 142
01/09/2019