

# The Hallelujah

Here's the good news!

July 2021



*Mark your  
calendar*

## July at The Galilean Service

- July 4 – Rob Couch
- July 11 – Bill Curtin
- July 18 – Tammy McMillan
- July 25 – Rev. Emily Kincaid

**July 5**

Church Office closed

**July 11**

Welcome Pastor Bill Curtin  
Potluck Following

**July 17**

Men's Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. in the Spirit Center

## WHAT A MONTH!

I don't know about everyone else, but June seemed to be a packed month for my household. We had a family vacation one week, and the next week it felt like we were losing a family member as we celebrated Pastor Nolan's last Sunday with us. We have loved our journey over the past few years with our Foley UMC family and have loved working alongside Pastor Nolan.

I know that change is hard, but I have also found that in seasons of change God does some of His biggest works. I am very excited about where we are as a church. These past five years have seemed like a season of revitalization, but I have found myself wondering what we have been revitalized for if we don't stay focused on where God is leading us. In these past few months we have been talking about these four pillars that God has shown us to be the new foundation of Foley UMC. As we have been starting to see these pillars take shape in the form of Missional Communities we have also seen opportunities to live into these pillars arise.

I am very excited about Pastor Bill starting in July and believe this is the hand of God preparing us to move into an even better season within the life of the church. I want to encourage everyone to start to engage with the missional communities as opportunities keep popping up. I believe the rest of this year is an opportunity for us to strengthen our serving muscles so that we are ready for when God opens new doors for us within the community of Foley, AL.

I am reminded of 1 Peter 1:22 that tells us to "set ourselves apart by our obedience to the truth so that we might have genuine affection for our fellow believers, and love each other deeply and earnestly." As we grow in love and service for each other, we will be better equipped to love and serve all those that God brings into our paths.

I believe Pastor Bill is perfectly suited for this next season and we will see God do amazing things through Bill both in our church and in our community. Please remember to pray for

cont. on p. 2

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## WHAT A MONTH! (CONT. FROM P. 1)



Pastor Bill and each other as we begin this new season at Foley UMC. My prayer is that we all continue to live into the life Jesus has called us to, and begin to live a life with each other and all those around us that reflects the heart Jesus has given each of us. The more we learn to humble ourselves before God, the more we learn to live a life of service to others, the more we will see God do greater things than we could ever imagine.

Pastor John

P.S. Feel free to contact me anytime at [jsimonson@foleyumc.org](mailto:jsimonson@foleyumc.org) if you have any questions or if you would like help figuring out your place of service here at Foley UMC.

## MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

*"May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen."* - 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

My life and the lives of my family will never be the same because of the time we have spent together. You have been a conduit of God's grace in my life. You have demonstrated God's love to my family, and you have persevered for God's desires in amazing ways. Thank you for letting yourself be used by God in big ways!

"Thank you" doesn't seem adequate to express our gratitude for the way you have celebrated our season in Foley and sent us off. From gifts, calls, notes, and kind words to a wonderful churchwide Buc-ee's themed celebration, you outdid yourselves to show your love to all five Donalds. Thank you so much for a wonderful sendoff!

As our paths diverge to new chapters, I will hold you all in my heart and prayers. I will eagerly watch and wait to hear of God's next great chapter for Foley UMC, and I will look forward to the day our paths cross again!

Godspeed!

# SANCTUARY REMODEL PROJECT ON THE HOMESTRETCH!

Pentecost Sunday was a wonderful day for Foley United Methodist Church. The church family acted in great unity through the sanctuary offering, celebrated God's faithfulness through the last five years of revitalization and stepped confidently into God's future for the church!

To complete all the work inside the sanctuary, we needed approximately \$50,000. We have now received more than \$55,000! This generosity allowed the Church Council to approve the final work to be done in the sanctuary. As soon as this work is completed, we will move the 8:00 and 11:00 services back to the sanctuary. Hopefully, this will be by the end of this month or early next month.

To finish all the extras and things outside of the sanctuary room (new piano, new hymnals and Bibles, new furnishings for narthex and new Connection Room off the narthex, pedestal for bell, new sign, etc.), we needed an additional \$20,000 beyond the \$50,000 mentioned above. On Pentecost Sunday, we learned of an estate gift that the church will receive this fall. This gift will provide the balance of funds to finish everything else related to the sanctuary renovation project. As soon as the gift arrives, Church Council will approve the remaining work and finish the project.

Your commitment and participation in finishing the sanctuary project is a great investment in the future of Foley UMC. While we all enjoy returning to the familiar place we know for worship, the refurbished sanctuary will be a wonderful modern traditional worship space for a whole new generation of people to encounter the Lord in powerful ways. Thank you for helping create space for God to work through your generosity!

If you have questions regarding the sanctuary project, please contact Ann Johnson, Chris Kelley, or AJ Joellenbeck.





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## UMW RUTH CIRCLE AT DUMAS WESLEY



A group from the Ruth Circle of Foley United Methodist Women visited the Dumas Wesley Center in Mobile. The Center is a mission, established in 1904 to accommodate the families of the Cotton Mill Community. Today it is still a vibrant part of community of Creighton meeting the needs of the community. They serve families of all ages with youth programs, ASAP program for older adults, a food pantry

and a resale store. They are very proud of the Sybil Smith Family Village housing 17 families of women who have for some reason lost their home. The families live there until the mother has found a job and has saved the money to get into an apartment or house where they can restart their independent life. The Ruth Circle collects bathroom items for the Sybil Smith Family village to help refurnish an apartment as one family leaves and another moves in. If you are interested in belonging to the Ruth Circle, please call Lynne Cabaniss, 251-967-3296. She will gladly pass along a contribution to the Dumas Wesley Community if you would like to help with their program.



Don't miss Pastor Bill Curtin's first Sunday on July 11. We will have one service at 10:30 and will have a potluck lunch immediately following. The church will provide fried chicken and ham.



# MOVING TOWARD NORMAL?

We know things are not quite normal, but it does seem that we have begun moving toward normal, or at least a new normal. We are seeing increased attendance in our in-person worship services and in KidsQuest. Groups are meeting with increased frequency on campus. At this writing there is a scheduled meeting to discuss resuming the First Friday Fish Fry as early as this August.

With all of these things taking place, the need for greeters, ushers, KidsQuest workers, sound crew workers has escalated.

You will see more opportunities for service in the coming days as our Missional Communities step into action (see the Discipleship Opportunities Survey, for example). Watch for detailed information coming soon.

In the meantime, we need the positions at right immediately:



**Greeters**--contact John Simonson at  
[jsimonson@foleyumc.org](mailto:jsimonson@foleyumc.org)

**Ushers**--contact John Simonson at  
[jsimonson@foleyumc.org](mailto:jsimonson@foleyumc.org)

**KidsQuest Workers**--contact Debbie Wiist at [debwiist@gmail.com](mailto:debwiist@gmail.com)

**Sound Crew Workers**--contact Kate Norris at [katelnorris@gmail.com](mailto:katelnorris@gmail.com) or  
Chris Kelley at [ckelley@foleyumc.org](mailto:ckelley@foleyumc.org)

THEN THE KING WILL REPLY TO THEM, 'I ASSURE YOU THAT WHEN YOU HAVE  
DONE IT FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE,  
YOU HAVE DONE IT FOR ME.' MATTHEW 25:40 CEB

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



07/02 Pat Rhodes  
07/04 Barbara Sechrest  
07/04 Sam Lewellen  
07/06 Casey Lane  
07/09 Janice Childress  
07/10 Richard Arp  
07/10 James Borchardt  
07/10 Woody Marshall  
07/10 John Simonson  
07/11 Howard Dawson  
07/11 Dianne Rippetoe



07/13 Holden Cook  
07/14 Gail Edmonson  
07/15 Anna Lathrop  
07/15 Lily Stiffler  
07/15 Ryan Stiffler  
07/15 Paige Evans  
07/16 Drew Cole  
07/16 Gary Kobylski  
07/16 Thomas Kuhl  
07/16 Donna Schoen  
07/16 Caleb Yaeger

07/17 Donna Owens  
07/17 Kelly Varvi  
07/17 Laura Wright  
07/19 Katie Cargle  
07/23 Cheryl Gilbert  
07/25 Cyle Wiist  
07/27 Maureen Rhodes  
07/28 Mary Allison  
07/30 Craig Schoen  
07/31 Marti Messick

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Pam Yaeger  
Joan Hand  
James and Judy Jackson  
Liz Kinsey  
Shannon Deas  
Debbie Johnson  
T.J. Brooks  
Martha Curtis



Mary Lou Berg  
Linda Radcliffe  
Maranie Adams  
Emery Martini  
Lynn Ainsworth  
Margie Kennedy  
Barbara Beam  
Sheila Schoen

## A WARM FOLEY WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!



Melanie Brown  
Hazel Morrison  
Richard and Deborah Phillips  
Charles and Amber Weber  
Vincent and Laura Wright

# DISCIPLESHIP UPDATES

The Discipleship Missional Community has been meeting for several months in response to the churchwide survey and prayer retreat in 2020 identifying discipleship as the number one area of focus that we believe God is calling us to at Foley UMC. We want to share with you a few thoughts that have emerged as we have met:

- Our understanding of discipleship can be summarized as "becoming more like Jesus and encouraging others to become more like Jesus".
- We firmly believe that if transformational discipleship is a priority at Foley UMC, we will see the other missional communities grow and flourish as a result of transformed lives.
- Our five year goal is to expand our community of Spirit-led disciples who join God on His mission of ongoing spiritual transformation.
- In order to foster a culture of discipleship at Foley UMC and in our community, we need you! We want everyone (literally everyone!) to be a Spirit-led disciple and we need leaders and facilitators to help make that happen.

Our goal is to introduce some opportunities and resources this fall and some in January. We have a tentative five year plan that includes opportunities for transformational discipleship for all:

- those who have never been part of the church and have questions
- new Christians wanting to grow and understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus
- those who have been deeply immersed in discipleship for many years

Our plan includes opportunities for children, youth, and adults and for those both inside and outside of the church. This is a monumental task and will only be possible with your involvement and willingness to serve. Training will be provided in any circumstance that it is needed.

If you have led or taught small group studies/classes in the past and may be interested in or planning on doing so in the future, please complete the survey that was sent out in your e-news. If you have never led or taught, but think you may be interested in leading or facilitating a discipleship group/class, we would LOVE for you to complete the survey as well..

The survey does not obligate you, but it provides the Discipleship Missional Community with information to begin putting together an array of opportunities for our church and community.



To complete the survey, follow the link in your recent Wednesday e-news or go to [foleyumc.org/discipleship](https://foleyumc.org/discipleship). Paper copies are available in the church office.





The Chancel Choir will practice on Monday, July 12 and Monday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m. If you have questions about choir or are interested in joining, contact Chris Kelley at [ckelley@foleyumc.org](mailto:ckelley@foleyumc.org).



IT'S BACK! Join us for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, July 17 at 8:00 a.m. in the Spirit Center with Pastor Bill Curtin as the speaker. We have not had a Men's Breakfast since before Covid restrictions were put in place! We are excited to get together! Pass the word. Invite a friend!



Please note that the Cares and Concerns phone line is no longer active, but the Care Team is! Michelle Stracener has gracefully taken Terry Collings' position on the Care Team. Please email any cares and concerns to [care@foleyumc.org](mailto:care@foleyumc.org).



Please note that the church office will be closed on July 5 for Independence Day. Normal operating hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are closed from 12-1 p.m. for lunch and closed on Fridays. The office phone number is 251-943-4393 and email is [office@foleyumc.org](mailto:office@foleyumc.org).



# KIDS MISSIONAL COMMUNITY



We are thankful for the Kids Missional Community and volunteers who loved children of Foley at Vacation Bible School at Heritage Park in June.

We had around forty kids registered for our Discovery on Adventure Island VBS!



KidsQuest needs volunteers for Sunday mornings. Many of our families have begun returning to in-person worship and our KidsQuest is hopping! Please contact Debbie Wiist at [debwiist@gmail.com](mailto:debwiist@gmail.com) if you can serve on a rotating basis in our Sunday morning kids ministry! You will be blessed!





# Foley United Methodist Church

Reaching Up. Reaching In. Reaching Out.

915 N. Pine Street  
Foley, AL 36535  
251-943-4393

We will have one service  
at 10:30 on July 11 to  
welcome our new pastor,  
Bill Curtin

