

# The Hallelujah

Here's the good news!

March 2021



*Mark your calendar*

**March 1-31**  
**School Uniform**  
**Drive**  
Details Inside

**March 21**  
**RamCorps**  
10:00 a.m.  
Heritage Park

**March 28-April 4**  
**Holy Week**  
Visit  
[foleyumc.org/holyweek21](http://foleyumc.org/holyweek21)

## THE EMERGING FUTURE IS GETTING CLOSER!

After two years of research, prayer, and discernment, at the end of 2020, we began to turn our focus to the emerging future that God is leading us to at Foley United Methodist Church. We have made a commitment to focus our ministry and efforts on transformational discipleship, serving the kids of Foley, building relationships around the table (and through food), and meeting real life needs of underserved people in our community. The confirmation and doors that are opening as we take our first steps of faith have been remarkable.

Since the fall when we shared the fourfold focus of the church, a group of leaders within the congregation have been hard at work laying the groundwork for years of ministry to come. Our Leader's Journey team which spearheaded the discernment work for the church, assembled four missional communities to serve as leaders and guides to each of the four focus areas of the emerging future. Over the last two months the missional communities have been going through training, working to establish their groups, and planning goals for the first months of work.

In the coming weeks, you will begin to hear of and be invited to join in initiatives and work in each of the four focus areas of the church. There will be ways to serve and care for people. There will be new ways to grow in your own relationship with Jesus, and there will be ways to invest in others to further God's mission. These are exciting days, and as we emerge from the pandemic season, we will be ready to charge full steam ahead into God's emerging future!

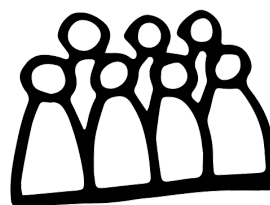


# WORSHIP NOTES

Chris Kelley, Director of Worship

**Preparation with Anticipation.** Ezekiel 38:7 “Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.” For me at this moment in my church life, I am getting ready. We are getting ready for Easter, and I am working alongside many wonderful people to complete the remodel of the Sanctuary. We are seeing wonderful growth in The Well Worship Team. As I have shared with you before, preparation is important. Easter 2020, for me, was unlike any other. I didn’t go to church. I was at home and sang a few songs on Facebook live and then shared a short devotion. It was strange and it was different. Thankfully, with my new church family I will have the opportunity to join all of you in worship on Easter Sunday, and I must tell you that I can’t wait! From now until Holy Week we have lots of wonderful ministry opportunities happening and God is richly blessing. Let us take the month of March to prepare.

Many are fasting on their Lenten Journey and God is reminding us that “Nothing is impossible with God.” Luke 1:37. With preparation comes anticipation. I am anticipating an amazing month of March as we move closer to Easter. Will you join me this month in preparation? Pray as we get ready to be the church and as we make decisions. I am thankful for your encouragement and support! Let’s rock in all that we are doing for the Kingdom. Get ready something amazing is just on the horizon! Are You Ready?



CHANCEL  
CHOIR  
6:00 P.M.  
MONDAY  
EVENING  
REHEARSAL

MARCH DATES FOR  
CHOIR PRACTICE

MARCH 1  
MARCH 15  
MARCH 29



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# NO SHORTCUTS

I love crepe myrtle trees. Like the ones that line the sidewalk in front of the Joy Center, many crepe myrtles that have been well-pruned and maintained can grow into gorgeous trees. The abundant canopy of flowers that emerge at the beginning of summer are one of the indelible images of the South.

We have some neighbors who regularly commit what we jokingly refer to in our house as “crepe murder.” About this time of year, they cut every branch off the tree and leave a spindly tree about five feet tall. The reason for this makes sense. When the tree is sheared off at so many places, it forces rapid growth from every exposed cut. Over the course of the spring, numerous shoots of new growth emerge from the cut off branches producing a huge number of blooms and flowers come the first of summer. It produces quick fruit and flowers, but the growth is a false sign of maturity.

At the beginning of the year, I read a book called *Everyday Supernatural* about growing into a deeper sense of life in God, becoming more aware of the Spirit of God, and participating in God’s powerful movement. I was enamored by the stories of people who were so attuned to the Spirit. It seemed they heard God in crystal clear ways, had experiences of powerful prayer, or hearing a word from God in astounding ways. I began to pray that God would give me these types of experiences in my life. I wanted to know him in these powerful ways. It was as I was praying about this desire that God reminded me of the crepe myrtles. In our relationship with God, we can try and shortcut the growth process, too. We can do all kinds of things to try and force fruit and flower on our time and to match our desires, and while that behavior might make for more blooms on the crepe myrtle in your yard, God wants us to be mature trees. He isn’t interested in fast fruit; God wants the roots to grow deep. In our relationship with God, the way we get an increasing amount of fruit and flowers is by growing to maturity. It is by letting the roots go deep and letting God prune and grow us according to his desires.

Psalms 1 says the genuinely happy person is the person who “loves the Lord’s instruction” and “recites God’s instruction day and night” (v. 2). “They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don’t fade” (v. 3). In John 15, Jesus said you can’t produce fruit “unless you remain in me” (v. 4).

Where do you attempt to shortcut the growing process? Where do you try to get the fruit and the flower without letting the roots grow deep or without letting God prune you? What might God long to do in you, what type of harvest might he want to bring, when you seek growth and roots growing deep in him? As we continue our Lenten journey, how might you join God in growing deep roots. The fruit and flower that come with deep roots will surpass whatever you might force today.





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# REAL LIFE NEEDS: SALLY RECOVERY

Updates by Charlotte Plumb

When flying back from doing mission work in Costa Rica, Charlie Moore of New Hampshire, flew over areas hard hit from Hurricane Katrina. It was at that time God put it in his heart to help those who had lost everything from natural disasters. He created Team Acts 20:35 and he has since worked with thousands of volunteers, young and old, from across the country. He has seen God move in miraculous ways by bringing hope and restoration to families of disasters, and to the volunteers. Charlie states that *"ACTS 20:35 was created by the Love of our God to be a conduit to bring together His people in communion together to show the Love of Christ to a hurting world"*.

In the last week of February, Charlie and his team came to Foley UMC to help repair and rebuild our community. You may have seen some of the team members on our campus. Our KidsQuest kids have been decorating prayer boxes for the team to give to each of the families they are able to help. At our 11:00 service, our church congregation was able to pray over the team as they got ready to go out into the community.

Along with Team Acts 20:35, Just The Crumbs Ministries came to our church to feed the Team members while they were here. Beth Burkes, a retired school teacher from Sumrall, Mississippi, created the ministry to provide help to the helpless, hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, food to the hungry, clothes to the needy, and the love of Christ to all! The Just the Crumbs Ministry was established as a non-profit Ministry in February of 2015. Since that time, they have responded to over 23 natural disasters across the United States. They have provided over 500,000 hot meals to those in need, and those volunteering to serve those in need. They have been able to help build homes in Mississippi and Texas. They have also supplied sheetrock for over 220 homes and 3 churches, and an additional \$500,000 in building supplies. Most

(cont. on page 5)





# REAL LIFE NEEDS: SALLY RECOVERY

(cont. from page 4)

importantly they have spread the Gospel and seen many people come to Christ along the way. They came to our church directly after spending two weeks in Fultondale, AL feeding first responders and city officials who worked long hours with no days off taking care of their city.

Watch for updates next month on the relationships that were established, homes repaired, and hearts healed while these teams worked in our area. We are excited about partnering with these organizations.

Other ministry occurs regularly as a result of your generosity. Recently a family contacted our church for help. Carmen (not her real name) and her 2 teenage girls were forced to leave a bad situation in Florida to move to the Foley area. They had very little furniture, very little food, and very little clothing. We sent out a text to the church's Sally Volunteer group for help.\* Within 24 hours, our church family had filled their pantry, provided clothing, shoes, lamps, rugs, and given them a dining room table to gather at to eat their meals. We received so much food that we were able to deliver a huge box of extra food to Ecumenical Ministries to share with other families in need and a large box of snacks to Florence Mathis Elementary School. The family was so appreciative and so amazed at the generosity of a church family who did not hesitate even one second to help strangers in need.

Please keep these teams and families in your prayers.

\*To be added to the Sally Updates Text Group, text SALLY to 251-333-0515.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

03/02 Ann Johnson  
03/03 Ron Benson  
03/03 Madison Weber  
03/04 Terry Collings  
03/04 Gay Ritch  
03/06 Sandra Roberts  
03/07 Sallie Burch  
03/11 Shirley Carter  
03/11 Bill Maxwell  
03/11 Rosa Porter  
003/12 Linda Radcliffe



03/14 Sandra Maxwell  
03/15 Beth Arp  
03/15 Bill Nassar  
03/15 CJ Oulliber  
03/15 Jason Oulliber  
03/16 Nelson Box  
03/19 Mary Engelman  
03/19 Joan Hand  
03/20 Jerry Lamberson  
03/20 Hazel Morrison

03/21 Norman White  
03/22 Emery Martini  
03/23 Mike Caufield  
03/24 Brodie King  
03/25 Nancy Brown  
03/25 Pauline Staub  
03/29 Ruthie Teagle  
03/30 Randy Harden  
03/30 Lucy Northan  
03/31 Nicholas Reeves

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Condolences to the family  
of Carrielyn Wenzel  
Amanda Grant  
Debbie Johnson  
TJ Brooks

Jack Brasher  
Tony Perry  
Emery Martini  
James and Judy Jackson

Liz Kinsey  
Amanda Grant  
Vivian Dickerson  
Sterling Hill



# REMEMBERING DR. TOM BUTTS

Foley United Methodist Church offers our condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of the Rev. Dr. Tom Butts who died February 15. Dr. Butts served as the pastor of Foley UMC from 1962-66. In his spirited manner, Dr. Butts led Foley UMC on numerous initiatives to reach and serve the greater Foley community. It was under Dr. Butts' leadership that the current sanctuary and original Joy Center building were completed, and the church helped plant the new Methodist church in Gulf Shores. Since his retirement, he has served as the Pastor Emeritus at the Monroeville United Methodist Church.



# SAVE THIS NUMBER! 251-333-0515

You may have noticed that we sometimes send out special text alerts for different reasons-- Sally updates, rain cancellations, milk giveaways, etc. We suggest that you save 251-333-0515 in your phone as **Foley UMC Alerts**. You will be ready next time we give out a key word. such as RAIN (for weather cancellations) or SALLY (for updates on Hurricane Sally needs and opportunities). You won't need to remember the number because it will be saved in your phone! There will be several opportunities coming soon! Listen for announcements! Note: We are unable to receive texts on this number. It is only to send notifications to you.

**ATTENTION! ALL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN! BE SURE TO VISIT [FOLEYUMC.ORG/UMW](https://foleyumc.org/umw) TO SEE THE 2021 BAYPINES ANNUAL DAY VIDEO**

# HOW ARE YOU LIVING A LIFE OF SERVICE?

John Simonson, Associate Pastor

As we have been working our way through the book of Philippians in church, I wonder how you might find yourself being challenged. As we have been learning, this was a letter to the church in Philippi that Paul wrote while he was in jail. He took this opportunity to stress the importance of living out the life of Christ in our own lives. He was telling the church in Philippi that there was no better way to be Jesus to the opposition around them than to become servants even to the point of death, just like Jesus. That begs the question, how are you living a life of service? Maybe you don't even know where to begin to live a life of service. What does service look like? How do you start to become a servant? Service is really about loving those God has put in your life. The first place to start looking for people to serve is in the people in your life. Are there people that you could check in on? Are there people that you could build a relationship where there isn't one? Are there people that you see on a regular basis that you could be intentional about serving and making them more important than yourself? Living a life that reflects a life that Jesus would live if he was living your life requires loving people in your life like Jesus loves them. It means being ready to give up your life for them, and choosing to put them first. In real life terms, it means reminding ourselves to stop thinking we are the only people that matter and that we have all the right answers and everyone else is wrong. The very act of choosing not to argue with someone about how wrong they are, but rather to understand them and where they came from, is a step in the right direction. This might sound like a very big

step for some of you, but there is good news. You are not alone, and you don't have to start in the hardest places. There is one place that we can start practicing how to be servants together. We are planning on being able to start gathering again as a church in the fall. Based on what we are hearing from people who study these things, we might be able to start gathering again in September. I wonder what it will look like if we come back with some new goals as a church. What if one of those goals is to be the best servants in Foley, AL. One of the things we want to start preparing for is being ready to serve everyone who steps foot in our doors. This includes greeting people at the doors, having well trained ushers, trained sound and video workers, and having people serving coffee and smiling. I invite you to become a part of one of these teams. Church is the best place to start practicing on how to serve others. Our church family has been brought together by God and we are called to serve each other as well as our community. If you are breathing and able to read this letter then there is a place for you to serve others at Foley UMC. If all you can do is sit in a chair at the front door and smile at people as they come into church then you are perfectly made for serving others. Serving in the church is the perfect place to start making servanthood a permanent practice in your life. What you will find is that as you serve at the church; serving will spread into all areas of your life.

Please let me know what you can do to help serve others. Below is my contact information.

Phone – 251-228-2063

Email – [jsimonson@foleyumc.org](mailto:jsimonson@foleyumc.org)

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## DISCIPLESHIP TOOLS

**Experiencing Jesus.** In preparation of this Lenten season, I started a new Bible Study last week called *Experiencing Jesus Through Lent* by Jon L Groves. The study focuses on cultivating my relationship with God. On day one of the devotion, the scripture reading came from Philippians 3:10 and focused on the phrase, "I want to know Christ." The study reminded me that in order to cultivate a relationship with Christ, I don't just need to "know about" Christ, I need to "know" Christ. Wow! What an eye-opener to me! I wondered, what can I do to really "know" Christ? My thinking changed a little that morning. Rather than thinking about God every now and then, I have tried to move Him to the front of my mind. I am trying to study Him more, talk to Him more, sing to Him more, and trust Him more. I want to "know" Him, not "know about" Him. My wish for you this Lenten season is that you will get to "know" Christ a little more, too.

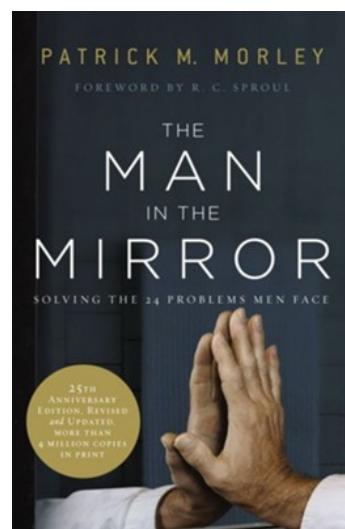
From Kate Norris

**Let Jesus Take Care of Everything.** Jesus promises that all who are heavy laden can come to him and he will give rest (Matthew 11:28), but how do we do that? Do we realize how frequently we pick our worry or burdens back up? As we seek to live our faith out in real ways (and not just as a system of beliefs), we can practice surrendering more and more.

The Surrender Novena is a prayer of surrender written by a Catholic saint Don Dolindo. In it, he voices Jesus challenging us to surrender, and after each challenge of Jesus, we are invited to pray this line: "O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything!" Praying this prayer daily (or even every few hours) becomes a tangible way to put our surrender and trust in action. Scan the QR code on the right or visit [catholicexchange.com/the-surrender-novena-let-jesus-take-care-of-everything](http://catholicexchange.com/the-surrender-novena-let-jesus-take-care-of-everything) to read more about the prayer and see the whole text.

From Pastor Nolan

**Men's Ministry.** The men's group is continuing through Pat Morley's book *Man In The Mirror*. All men of all ages, members or not of FUMC, are welcome to join in the video and discussion each Monday night at 7:00. Contact Shane Ratcliff at 251-975-8337 or [shaneratcliff@gmail.com](mailto:shaneratcliff@gmail.com) for a zoom link.





# Experience Holy Week

March 28-April 4

## MARCH 28 **PALM SUNDAY**

8:00 a.m. Service in person at Heritage Park  
9:30 a.m. Service online from The Well  
11:00 a.m. Service in person in the Spirit Center  
Kids and Youth will wave palms at 8:00 and 11:00.

## MARCH 29 **JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

Online message  
Watch Facebook and YouTube for a video message

## MARCH 30 **JESUS' AUTHORITY**

Online message  
Watch Facebook and YouTube for a video message

## MARCH 31 AT 6:30 P.M. **PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE**

In person in the Spirit Center

## APRIL 1 AT 6:30 P.M. **MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE**

In person in the Spirit Center

## APRIL 2 AT 11:00 P.M. **GOOD FRIDAY MIDNIGHT SERVICE**

In person in The Well

## APRIL 3 **HOLY SATURDAY A DAY OF REFLECTION**

We invite you to remember the death of Christ through your own stillness and quietness on this day

## APRIL 4 **RESURRECTION SUNDAY**

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service in person on campus  
8:00 a.m. Service in person at Heritage Park  
9:30 a.m. Service online from The Well  
11:00 a.m. Service in person in the Spirit Center

VISIT [FOLEYUMC.ORG/HOLYWEEK21](http://FOLEYUMC.ORG/HOLYWEEK21)





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# SANCTUARY RENOVATIONS

## An Update

After a delay following Hurricane Sally, the work on the sanctuary renovation project is moving ahead. Under the faithful leadership of AJ Joellenbeck and Chris Kelley, the renovation plan the Church Council approved last summer is now in full swing. New chairs for the choir loft have been delivered, the new air conditioner is being installed, lighting and sound upgrades are in progress, and it won't be long until fresh paint is on the walls. Our sanctuary has been home to powerful encounters with God over the years, and as we return from the pandemic hiatus, a new 21st century traditional sanctuary will be ready and waiting to welcome a new generation into moments of life-changing worship. Your generosity and faithfulness is making this a reality and is shaping the future of a church that is reaching the next generation in south Baldwin county! Come, Holy Spirit!



## A KEEPSAKE FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The Church Council wants to offer you a keepsake from the old sanctuary. We had hoped to find a church to whom we could give the pews that were removed from the sanctuary, but after numerous inquiries, we have not found a church for them. So, now, the Council is offering them to you—people who know their history and value.

The pews are 13 feet long and can be shortened. If you would like to have a pew to remember how powerfully God has moved and worked in our sanctuary through the years, you are welcome to as many of the 13-foot pews as you would like. There is no charge for them, but the Council would encourage you to contribute to the sanctuary renovation project. (The Council has made other plans for the shorter pews.) If you would like a pew, you need to coordinate with Julie Mullins ([jmullins@foleyumc.org](mailto:jmullins@foleyumc.org)) as soon as possible to let her know how many pews you would like and schedule a time to pick up your pew(s). Beginning April 1, we will dispose of any pews that have not been picked up.

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## UNIFORM DRIVE



The Kids Missional Community of FUMC will be holding a school uniform drive to benefit Foley and Mathis Elementary Schools in our community from March 1 through March 31. Plastic bins for donations will be located behind the Spirit Center for anytime donations and a cart inside the Spirit Center will be available during office hours

These schools have indicated a strong need for new kids socks and underwear, as well as new or gently used collared polo type shirts in both long and short sleeves, The color requirements are navy, white and yellow. New or gently used khaki (tan), navy blue, or blue jean pants are also needed. While a variety of sizes are needed, the schools would appreciate boys and girl sizes of XS, S, M, and YXL for shirts and 5 ,6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14 for pants.

If you would like to donate monetarily for someone to purchase uniforms, please contact anyone on the Kids Missional Community Team: Jenni Simonson, Lyn Bayne, Michelle Stracener, Mary Medbery or Pam Yaeger. Thank you for your willingness to meet the needs of the kids in Foley!

## KIDS CONNECTION

The Foley Kids Connection (formerly Trackers of Truth) needs your help! In an effort to continue to offer a mid week kids program to the children of Foley, more volunteers are needed! We are revamping and revitalizing to offer something new and exciting to the kids and families of Foley in the fall! If you have kids, know kids, or have ever been a kid YOU can help! I am compiling a list of those who would be willing to help in the following ways:

**MUSIC, HOMEWORK/TUTORING, SNACKS AND OR MEALS, CRAFTS, BIBLE STORIES, MENTORING, GAMES/ACTIVITIES , VIRTUALLY AND FINANCIALLY.**

If you are willing to serve in any way, big or small, please contact Pam Yaeger by text at 618-513-1644 so I can add you to my list. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST!**

## LIPSTICK AND ROUGE

We are continuing our efforts to ensure the structure of our buildings to remain strong and sturdy. The roof has been resealed with a brilliant white waterproofing that is guaranteed for 15 years. It is brilliant white to help in cooling the building. We now have gutters that will help prolong the sturdiness and life of our foundation and help keep mold off the bricks. It is now time for the lipstick and rouge.

There are four areas on the north side of the Spirit Center that are being worked on to channel water from the new downspouts away from the building into the parking lot. I am planning to remove all vegetation from those areas and inviting Classes and Life Groups to sponsor an area. A suggestion might be to regrade the areas and put in river rock or decorative rock. If you want greenery, please use big pots and tend them. In the corner by The Well, I have removed the Myrtle that was a future problem to the roof. In that grassy area, I am thinking of putting a couple of picnic tables. I would like some input on whether or not to keep the bushes, add pavers under the table, etc. This area is also up for sponsorship. If you have an idea for an area, we can certainly talk. Contact Bob Schroeder at the church office at 251-943-4393.





# Foley United Methodist Church

Reaching Up. Reaching In. Reaching Out.

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

Visit [foleyumc.org/live](https://foleyumc.org/live) to  
watch recent worship  
services

Visit [foleyumc.org/holyweek21](https://foleyumc.org/holyweek21) for details on Holy Week. You can  
print a flyer to share at [foleyumc.org/resources](https://foleyumc.org/resources).

What does Easter mean?  
**Experience  
Holy Week**  
March 28-April 4

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