

THE LINK

TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH LOVE, WORSHIP, SERVICE, AND EVANGELISM

As the New Year began, I got a text from a church member that asked me this: "How can I specifically pray for you for the coming year?" What a great question! To be honest with you, it took me some time to answer, because I tend to have points at which I ask for prayer...not specific, overarching, themes.

What about you? How does your prayer life go? What are you in prayer for? Are you praying? I cannot stress to you the importance behind having a specific time, and even a specific prayer list when we pray. That's why, on the bulletin, we print those we need to be in prayer for. So you can take it home and pray for those who are on the list. As you enter the New Year, and as we embark on fresh ministry together, let's commit ourselves to pray for one another. Let's also commit to pray for the ministry of the church. I was re-reading *Treasures of the Transformed Life* by John Ed Mathison recently, and he recalled how his father (Si Mathison) taught him to pray.

When you fold your hands, your thumb is closest to you, so begin by praying for those closest to you. (Your family, close friends, etc.)

The "pointer" finger is for those who point you to God. Use this finger to pray for those who teach and preach. (Use this finger to pray for Sunday School teachers, me, Rand

with the youth, Kayla with the children, and any others you can think of.)

The next finger is your tallest one. Use this finger to pray for those in high places. (Local and national leaders, as well as the Bishop, and District Superintendent.)

The next one is your weakest finger. Use that one to pray for those who are weak, or those who are (what I call "the dis's"—the disabled, dispossessed, disillusioned, etc.).

Lastly, we have the pinky finger. It's your smallest finger. This one is for you. This is where you ask God to supply your needs.

Ephesians 6:18 says, "¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints."

There are 365 days in a year. If you can pray this prayer 365 times, then you will be changed, the church will be changed, and this community will be changed. Ever wanted to change the world? This is how you do it!

I'm so excited to see what God has in store for Church Street UMC this year!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Lance J. Eiland

Church Street Staff

Rev. Lance J. Eiland

Pastor

Rand Smith

Dir. of Youth Ministries

Kayla Smith

Dir. of Children's Ministries

Gordon Welch

Dir. of Music Ministries

Organist

Kathy Harrison

Secretary

Ann Adams

Financial Secretary

Joy Thompson

Dir. Of Facilities

Lesia Canty

Housekeeper

Michael Steele

Custodian

Contact Information:

Rev. Lance J. Eiland

(334) 296-5095
lance@churchstreetumc
selma.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru
Thursday
8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Friday
8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Music Ministry Notes From Gordon

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we are moving quickly toward another year. 2018 is fast approaching! I once again share the following hymn text by Frances R. Havergal which may serve as an encouragement to you.

*Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.*

I cannot thank everyone who made Christmas 2017 such a wonderful time of worship. From our advent readings/candle-lighting by our "mature" couples, to our Young Musicians sweet anthem singing and bell ringing, to special solos, each Sunday was a very special time of worship. I especially wish to thank our Chancel Choir for the dedication to each service of worship. Their music truly helped us focus on the true meaning of the Christmas season. Their presentation of *Silent Night, Wondrous Sight* on December 17th was a highlight of our Christmas worship. Thank you Chancel Choir for your dedication to the Music Ministry.

I wish to remind parents of children that our Young Musicians choir will be back to Sunday afternoon rehearsals beginning Sunday, January 7th. I am looking forward to leading your child/children in fun music activities each Sunday afternoon. Please commit to having your child attend each and every rehearsal in 2018.

The new year is an excellent time to join the Chancel Choir. The choir will soon begin work on new worship anthems and would welcome male or female voices to the choir. Come visit a 6:00 p.m. Wednesday evening rehearsal and see what a great time we have together.

*Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be.
On earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee.*

*Happy New Year,
Gordon*

★
JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU

The Office Staff would like to thank each and every one of you for the generous Christmas gift which you gave! It is a joy and privilege to serve alongside each of you!

Living Treasures

will meet Thursday, January 18, 2018, at 12:00 noon in Windham Hall. Kristen Jones will be our guest speaker to share her vision to care for the foster children and their families and the development of the Bloom House. The cost of the catered meal is \$6.00 and reservations are not required.

Circle Meetings

Monday, January 8th

Berrey Plant Circle

10:00 am at Cedar Hill

Roberta Sample Circle

6:00 pm at Sherie Sherrer's

Monday, January 15th

Catherine Revel Circle

5:30 pm at Michele McNeill's

Bible Study Groups

The **TUESDAY** Bible Study Group led by Martha Jackson will meet Tuesday, January 9th, at 12:00 noon, in the Old Parsonage to discuss the new study for the new year. Anyone is welcome to attend. Bring a sack lunch.

The **WEDNESDAY** Bible Study Group led by Suzanne Stringer will meet Wednesday, January 10th, at 10:00 am, in the Grist Library. They will be studying the book of John. Anyone is welcome to attend. They meet for about an hour and follow up with lunch at a local restaurant.

Emmaus will meet

Tuesday,

**January 2nd, at 6:30 pm,
in Windham Hall.**

January Meetings

Trustees

Tuesday, January 9th, at 5:00 pm

Finance

Thursday, January 25th,
at 5:00 pm

Church Council

Thursday, January 25th,
at 5:45 pm

All meetings take place in the Grist Library. Please contact the Church Office if you will not be able to attend.

United Methodist Men

will meet Sunday, January 28th, at 8:00 am, in the Old Parsonage. All men of the Church are invited to attend.



We hope you all have a very blessed New Year!

The Church Office, Leika's and Leika's Lambs will be closed Monday, January 1st. Leika's will be closed on January 2nd, as well.

Stewardship November - Month End		Year to Date		<i>Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38 NRSV</i>
Pledge Offering	42,823.67	Total Revenue received		
Non-pledged Contributions	7,455.00	Jan. - Nov. 2017	455,395.00	
Loose Collection	659.15	Total Expenses		
Sunday School	33.00	Jan. - Nov. 2017	<u>508,507.00</u>	
Breakfast	279.00	Excess of Expense		
Capital/Sanctuary Funds	50.00	Over Income		
Windham Hall	<u>0.00</u>	Jan. - Nov. 2017	(53,112.00)	
Total Receipts	51,299.82			
Worship Attendance	112			
Sunday School	76			

**In Christ's Service this Week
December 31, 2017**

Acolytes: Mary Alan Ousley, Anne Frances Pearce, and Sarah Thomas

Nursery Workers: Randy and Cora Smith

Children's Church: Dawn Wendland and Marilou Bearden

Breakfast Cooks: Charles Pollack, James McNeill, Steve Smitherman, Jon Stewart, and Larry Justice

Greeters: Cornerstone Class

Lay Leader: Frank Speed

Ushers: Wayne Vardaman, Captain, Dick Dunaway, Ed Livingston, John Nettles, Tom Lang, Butch Jones, Joe Newton, Scoop Rivers, and Bart Adams

Worship Stewards: Evelyn Register, Cora Smith, and Em Moore

Collection Counters: Linda Haskell and Eleanor Reynolds

Sunday School Superintendent: Leonard Ingram

Sound Technician: Rand Smith

Teams Serving in January

Greeters: Pairs and Spares

Ushers: Leonard Ingram, Captain, Jon Stewart, Milam Turner, III, Dennis Palmer, Dub Deavor, Andy Stewart, James Drinkard, and Chuck Utsey

Worship Stewards: Em Moore and Evelyn Register

Collection Counters: Frank Speed and Jim Sims

College Ministry

Please remember to encourage our college students.

1/1 Ben Jones is a Junior at Auburn University majoring in Pre-Pharmacy. His mentor is Caroline Anderson. His contact information is: 501 Webster Road, Lot 63, Auburn, AL 36832, bjonesball@yahoo.com, (334) 267-1282.

1/8 Anna Kate Mock-Jordan is a Senior at Auburn University majoring in Nursing. Her mentor is Polly Sellier. Her contact information is: 164 East University Drive, Unit J101, Auburn, AL 36832, akm0026@auburn.edu, (334) 407-4197.

1/15 Ali Nettles is a Freshman at Gettysburg College majoring in Political Science. Her mentor is Katie Nichols. Her contact information is: Gettysburg College-CB1956, 300 North Washington Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325-1400, al_pal113@yahoo.com, (334) 878-2546.

1/22 Emily Sherrer is a Freshman at the University of Alabama majoring in Food and Nutrition. Her mentor is Lauren Wendland. Her contact information is: Tutwiler 177213, 1831 University Station, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, eesherrer@crimson.ua.edu.

1/29 Rachael Sherrer is a Third Year Medical Student at UAB. Her mentor is Stacey Adams. Her contact information is: 1508 4th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35233, (334) 407-9678, rsherrer@uab.edu.

Evening Activities will resume Sunday, January 7th. Supper begins at 5:00 pm, served by the Cornerstone Class - Hamburgers, Chips, Peanut butter/jelly sandwiches, and Dessert

5:30 pm - Sonshine Singers (ages 3 - Kindergarten) Miss Katie, Children's Music (1st - 6th Grade) with Mr. G in the Choir Room, Children's Activities with Miss Kayla to follow,

5:30 pm - Youth with Rand in the Harbor - Reading through the New Testament,

5:30 pm - Adults meet with Rev. Lance J. Eiland in Windham Hall to discuss plans for the winter schedule

Youth and College News

January 1, brings about the closure of one year and the beginning of another. Oftentimes, resolutions are made to increase productivity or decrease waistlines. As we all have witnessed, the majority of these resolutions end just as quickly as they began. The rare few that survive the month of January seem to die out somewhere between spring break and summer.

This time, let's do something different. Instead of focusing on time and health management, let us invest for the future, for eternity. Let us commit together to striving for a better understanding of Scripture, more abundant prayer life, and more meaningful worship in our spiritual lives. Parents, let us devote ourselves to the spiritual upbringing of the ones the Lord has placed in our care.

In the end, January 1 is just another day on the calendar and true resolutions are made daily and hourly instead of once a year. Let us not wait for the new year to make a new commitment. Know that there will be slip ups and bombed attempts, but if we decide to follow Christ daily, He brings us back to Him.

Our youth are currently reading through the New Testament. Please encourage them to keep going.

We look forward to growing closer to God and each other through studying His Word, spending time in prayer, and serving others.

In His love,

Rand

Children's Ministry News

As we welcome a new year, we can remember the Christmas message, that GOD IS WITH US! Even though we will put away the Christmas tree, take down the Christmas lights and eat all the Christmas cookies, we do not need to stop being excited about Christmas. We can have Christmas spirit in January, February, March, April... all year long! A new year offers us a chance to grow and do better things than we did the year before. Without Jesus, it is impossible to do better. But Jesus can forgive us of our sins and give us a clean slate, a do-over. When we ask him to forgive us of our sins, it's like he erases it from our lives. This year, we can have a fresh start when we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and live in our hearts.

Thank you to the United Methodist Men for helping to put on Breakfast with Santa. It's such a fun and special event that many families love to come to. It was definitely a great way to get the Christmas holiday festivities going.

I look forward to seeing everyone back on January 7th for Sunday night activities. We will continue to make our way through the Bible learning about God's great love for us.

Don't forget Acolyte Training will be January 21st and 28th, starting at 4:00 p.m. All 4th-12th graders who have not received acolyte training are asked to come.

Confirmation will start January 14th during Sunday School (9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.). All 6th graders are invited to participate. If you would like your child to participate, please contact the church office if you haven't done so yet.

Also as we start the new year, if anyone is looking for a way to get involved and would like to volunteer for Children's Church or to be a nursery worker, please let me or the Church Office know.

Blessings,

Miss Kayla

Thank you to all that purchased CSUMC t-shirts to support Leika's Lambs! Don't forget to come by the Church Office to pick them up. Keep in mind that that the office will be closed January 1 and 15. If you missed the deadline for ordering, there are extra shirts available in Adult S, M, L, XL, for \$22.50.

The January Link submission deadline is Wednesday, January 17th. If you have information for the February calendar, please call the Church Office before then.

Also, if you aren't receiving the Mobile Link, which includes the current week's bulletin and other important news, and would like to do so, please email Kathy at kathy@churchstreetumcselma.org.



e-NEWSLETTER

Clark Elementary

STOCK THE SHELVES

Sponsored by ALL IN SPORTS OUTREACH

ANKLE SOCKS & HYGIENE KITS



Collecting now until Jan 2nd

Drop off at Church Street
United Methodist Church

All In Sports Outreach Collection

Here is an awesome ministry opportunity to be a blessing to others in the Selma community. Please consider donating supplies or financially to partner with us in serving the children at Clark Elementary School.

Hygiene kit items:

- soap
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- wash cloth
- hand towel
- disposable wipes (small size)
- deodorant
- tissues (small size—like you would put in your purse)
- hand sanitizers



As Lance and Liz get ready to welcome their sweet little one, here is a great opportunity to help them out tremendously. They have been signed up on takethemameal.com. This is a simple online tool used to coordinate meals so that they are not getting multiple meals a day. Please go to the website, then type their last name and password into the find box. The password is eiland. After you click on find, the page will be displayed for you to sign up to provide them a meal. Thank you so much for being a blessing to Lance and Liz as they transition into parenthood. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Church Office.

January Communion Offering

*The Communion Offering on Sunday,
January 7th, will be given to
All In Sports Outreach.*

Flowers in the Sanctuary

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone, please contact the Church Office or Joy Beers at 419-9663 for available dates.

PRAYER NEEDS**HOSPITAL:**

David Pearce -
Princeton Baptist Hospi-
tal ICU - 701 Princeton
Avenue SW, Birmingham,
AL 35212

Bob Culpepper -
Grandview

HOMEBOUND:

Barry Blanton
Mary Blanton
June Calame
Jean Johnson
Alma Moore
Ann Pegues
Helen Rogers
Lucille Sellier
Eloise Trammel
James Charles Utsey
Nell Woodward

ONGOING:

Nan Barronton
Alice Gray Butler
Lee Calame

Steve Campbell
Lesia Canty
Mary Elizabeth Chatman
Hermine Cohen
Roger Coleman
Shannon Miller Cook
Sharon Craig
Peggy Cross
Pam Cunningham
Reita Sample Davis
Michelle Dorough
Ann Edwards
Helen Edwards
Sara Elam
Baxter Ellzey
Blake Flanagan
Russ Foster
Kay Friday
Bill Gardner
Dale Gates
Jeanne Green
Ed Greene
Virginia Guarino
Chrissy Harrison
Kathy Casey Hobbs

Claudette Holley
Edith Hughes
Lynda Johnson
Danny Jordan
Faith Lendner
Charles & Martha Maurer
June McLaughlin
Dan Mielke
Anthony Mims
James Morgan
Jane Lyle-Morgan
Doris Moultrie
Emme Nichols
Rex Osburn
Kevin and Connie Parr
Henry Pitts
Anne Porter
Marsha Powe
George Register
Ed Sanderson
Myra Sanderson
John Sherrer
Frances Smith
Keith Stephan - Suzanne
Stringer's son-in-law with

Stage 4 colon cancer
Arthur (Deedle)
Sullivan
Kent Taylor
Richard Trammel
Rex Waldrop
Jean Walker
Ted Waterman
Samantha Wilson
Quintilla Wood
Aubry Wright
Tim & Barbara Young
Marilyn Zeigler
John and Carol Young
(Gwen & Buc Shaw's
friends)

**OUR MILITARY
OUR NATION**

**Please help us update
the prayer list by
calling the church
Office with additions
or deletions**

Church Street United Methodist Church

214 Church Street

Selma, AL 36701

Phone: 334-872-1401

Email: kathy@churchstreetumcselma.org

www.churchstreetumcselma.org

Return Service
Requested

**Breakfast
8:30 a.m.
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Worship Service
10:30 a.m.**

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