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***T H E G O O D N E W S L E T T E R***

**First United Methodist Church**

110-114 E. Washington, P. O. Box 1293, Kosciusko, MS 39090

(662) 289-1412 FAX (662) 289-1418 e-mail chur623@bellsouth

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**Learn** the story. **Live** the story. **Tell** the story.


   

 August 2016 Pastor’s Pen

 It is so hard to believe that Denise, Kaelin, Ali Grace and I have been here for a little over one year! The saying is true, “Time flies when you’re having fun!” What an honor it is for us to be your parsonage family and for me to get to be your pastor! When we were first told we were coming to Kosciusko, we had no idea what to expect. We didn’t know for sure where it was, we didn’t know anything about the school system, were not even sure how to get there much less spell it! But after much prayer and discernment, we knew this was where God wanted us to live and raise our family! I cannot praise God enough nor say thank you enough to you for the way you have opened your hearts and lives to my family and me. We have experienced God in this place!

Looking back over the year, we have mourned the loss of loved ones with 10 funerals of members and five of extended family funerals. We have celebrated one marriage and the sacrament of baptism five times! And did you know we have welcomed 28 new members! We have also been in mission and ministry with countless numbers of folks in our church, community and around the world! In the last year, we have paid more of our mission shares than we have been able to pay in a long time! Yes, God is up to something and we are a part of it! Praise God!

My friends, God is not finished with us yet. God is at work in us and through us! Please, see an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and jump in! We need each other; our community needs you, and or church needs you!

Proud to be one of our community pastors and proud to be your pastor.

Bro. Scott and family.

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|  | **A View from the Pew** by Peggy A. Keady **Intentional Living.** In a recent search of materials related to my years of being a School Counselor, I found a resource thatSeemed to be one worth sharing as we approach the beginning of another school year. The items listed below are meant for parents, teachers and anyone who interacts with children. These five core beliefs undergirded my counseling work and my relationships with children.1. Children are remarkable miracles regardless of what we read or may be told.
2. Children have a great love of learning when they come into the world so we need to encourage them in every way we can.]
3. Children thrive with consistency. It gives them a sense of security.
4. Children can easily see through us unless we act in the same way that we speak.
5. Children are born with a great capacity to love. It is their destiny, even as it is the destiny of every human being. Since this is true, we as adults are either helping or hindering children in developing their capacity to love.

 We are instructed by the words of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 18:5-6 to act in the following way:…And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If anyone causes one of those little ones, those who believe in me, to stumble, it would be better to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.These are sobering words indeed!An ancient oriental proverb has this to say: …A child is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.As the redeemed of the Lord, Spirit-filled believers, let us live among our children with great love and joy giving God all the praise! It is so hard to believe that Denise, It **After School News**  |  |

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| “The After School Care Ministry of FUMC is excited to announce that is expanding to include Pre-K students in the program.  Our registration fees are $50 per child.  Tuition is $40/week for first child and $35 per week for second.  Third full-time children are $33.00 per week.  Drop ins are allowed at a fee of $10 per day.  We have a loving, trained staff that includes Marie Ford, Director; Nadine Bain, Mary Helen Horne, Kendra Coleman, Karyme Peralta (youth worker) and Emily Ford (youth worker).We will need several volunteers the first few days of school to assist with the children as the teachers will have to attend training at their respective schools each day. If you are willing to help, call Mary Al Alford.We are grateful for the support our church has provided through the years to his vibrant ministry.  Please keep these students and teachers in your prayers and feel free to let them know if you would like to volunteer or donate items to the program."  **Thank you****A** big FUMC thank you to those who have prepared meals for our homebound members this summer. Caroline Barton, Karen Jones, Andrea Lawrence, Mary Al Alford, Barbara Wasson, Pam Sills, Judy Davis, Ginger Alexander, Betsy Hutchison, Mickey Albin, Lynn Wiggers, Nadine Bain, Kim Crowe, Sarah Bond, Faye and Terry Culpepper, Denise Wright, Kay Dawson, Gail Pettit and Whitney Pettit. This is a wonderful ministry and our homebound brothers and sisters are most grateful. Please contact the church office if you know of someone who needs a meal delivered. Mary Al Alford\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Thank you to all the people in the church for the wonderful Bible and the delicious lunch and gifts! I really appreciate my church family for watching me grown into the person I am today! It really meant a lot to me to be a part of a church like First United Methodist! I might be starting a new journey, but I will never forget my hometown and everyone that has impacted my life throughout the years! **Camille Bishop**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*“Growing up in a warm and wonderful church as FUMC has truly been a blessing to me. The Passion Play, the youth adventures and Bible studies, and the love and support of members will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you so much for the Bible, the Baccalaureate service, and the delicious meal that made my graduation so special.  **Kylie Schuster.****\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*****“Thanks to each of you for your thoughts and prayers. Mama loved her church and Sunday School class. It is such a blessing knowing that she is with our Lord and Savior.”****Joe Carballo****\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*****“A special thank you to Christy and Randolph Cheek, the Joneses, and FUMC members for your participation in the 4th of July parade. The new motto for this church should be, “Call and they will come.”**  **G.G. Holmes of Kosciusko/Attala Partnership****Also Thank You to Carolyn Campbell, Cathy Crossley, and Peggy Keady who graciously “manned” the church office during staff absences.****\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***A  It is so hard to believe speciaAAlso, a special thank you to our own **Nancy Josey** for all of the touch up painting she has done this summer. If you haven’t notice ssummer. Look around; the after school rooms are different, the playground equipment, and even the front doors are just a few of her handiwork. Thank you Nancy for an excellent job. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***The Youth enjoyed Big Stuff this summer. A special thank you to everyone who helped with the fund raisers throughout the year to make this trip possible. Carol Fiedler and Dustin Horne were the chaperones.****Also, the youth blessed the congregation on July 24, with their singing. It was good to see them again in Vesper service on Sunday Night. Good job teenagers.** **Children:** The children have enjoyed many activities this summer from swimming parties to gigantic balloons. “Terrific Tuesdays” ended on July 19. A special thank you to Nadine Bain, Rhonda Gibson, Cheryl Jenkins, Terry Jones, and Lynn Wiggers for all of their help and assistance with the summer programs. Christi and Randolph Cheek made the 4th of July parade exciting with their jeep full of children from the church.Choir and Wednesday activities will resume on August 10.**Nursery Ministry** We would like to increase the number of volunteers. If you would be willing to offer an hour of your time about once a month, your assistance would be very much appreciated. Often, there is a need for a “baby assistant” on a short notice on Sundays. If you would like to cuddle infants, you are needed. Call Terry and she will add you to the rotation. |

We welcome into our church family through infant baptism:

July 3, 2016, Sawyer King Alford,

 son of John Paul and Jana Alford

July 24, 2016, Grant Joseph Carter,

 son of Wes and Katy Carter.

 **MUSIC NOTES FROM PAT**

**Elementary Choir** enjoy these last weeks of summer vacation and get ready to sing, keep the beat, move, dance and worship God together of Wednesday nights after the fellowship meal starting in August. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details.

**Sanctuary Choir** Thank you for your faithfulness throughout the summer in leading music in the morning worship service! We have enjoyed having several new faces in our midst and are grateful to all that you add to our church in serving God. An open invitation is always there for ANYONE who would like to join and make a joyful noise to His name! We will resume Wednesday night rehearsals at 7:00 p.m. on August 10thd.

**Music Helpers:** If you are interested in assisting with any of our children in the music program, see Pat. Would love to have a team that is willing to reach out in God’s love and touch young hearts. Think about it. Pray about it.

**Interested in helping with a Play?**

 **If there is sufficient interest, we are considering doing a Christmas Dinner Theater in December.** Please see Pat if you are interested in helping with props, costumes, coaching dialogue, co-directors or being a cast member. We will need a drama “team” so that the event is do-able and not too heavy of a burden for just one or two leaders. The play would involve about 25-30 adults, youth, and children. The play is entitled

“IN BETHLEHEM INN” and is a load of fun to rehearse and present. It has humor but is also an extremely moving play. Parts do not have to be completely memorized but well read and rehearsed for presentation. Alright, here we go. Let’s see what happens.

 **WOW**

**There will be a new format for the Wednesday night meals starting August 10 with planned menus with 8 different cook teams. Thank you for all the participants willing to serve on these teams. This should be an exciting time for our WOW. Come for the meal at 5:30 and stay for the study, “Five Marks of a Methodist” which is a modern meditation on Wesley’s The Character of a Methodist, starting at 6:00 p.m. led by Bro. Scott.**

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