




Mary Esther
UMC

June 2018

JAMES 3:17

Upcoming Events

June 2018



Polar BLAST! VBS 2018

Friday June 29th from 5pm-8pm and Saturday June 30th from 10am-1pm we will be having VBS. The theme is Polar Blast. Donations are accepted to help offset cost.

The VBS Planning Committee needs your help to transform the church into a Polar landscape.



Gallon Jugs Needed

collecting empty and cleaned gallon jugs to help decorate for this year's theme of Polar Blast.



Boxes Needed

We need boxes!

All size boxes can be placed in Kids Korner or brought to the office during office hours.

All items donated can be placed in Kids Korner on Sunday mornings or brought to the office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

For questions please contact the office at 850-243-7595 or email us at office@maryestherumc.org



Annual Conference

Will be held June 3rd through June 6th at Frazer United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

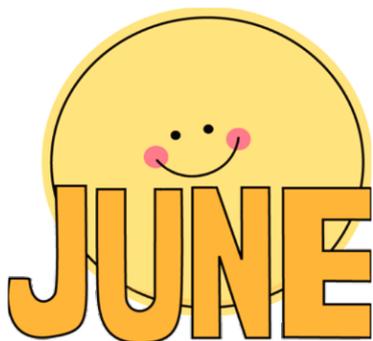


Church Office Closed

The office will be closed on Monday, June 4th due to Annual Conference. The office will open again on Tuesday, June 5th at 9:00 AM.

Month at a Glance

JUNE EVENTS



June 9th

UM Men's Breakfast at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All men invited to attend.

June 14th

The Emmaus Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM

Celebrating Dads

Father's Day will be on Sunday, **June 17th**. Please take the time to honor the Dads within our community.

Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV)

The righteous man walks in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.



The next Café service will be **Sunday, June 24th** at 10:07 AM.

Invite someone to join us for a casual worship experience to share the Gospel in a relaxed coffeehouse atmosphere.



Student Ministry Summer Events

The youth are super excited about heading to Wild Adventures, June 4th-5th.

Through Alabama Rural Ministry (ARM), June 24th – 29th, the youth will help with construction projects for the less fortunate and lead VBS for children.



Summer Break

There are schedule changes during the summer for the following Ministries:

Little Angels Pre-School is closed for the summer. Classes will begin on Monday, August 13th (following the Okaloosa County School Calendar)

ME Moms will not have regular meetings throughout the summer. They will return on Tuesday, September 11th

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will have summer activities but they do not meet weekly at the church until the Fall.

Terrific Tuesday will start again during the 2018-19 school year.

Watch for opportunities to serve and support these important ministries.



A Message from our Finance Chair

Jim Busby III - Part 2 of 4

"God owns Everything, we are simply managers or administrators on his behalf."
-Bill Peel, *Leadership is Stewardship*

Peel suggest that there are four important principles about biblical stewardship we must understand.

The second principle is responsibility.

In explaining responsibility, Peel writes, "Although God gives us all things richly to enjoy, nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us. God owns everything; we're responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, *What about your responsibilities?* Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities."

We are called as God's stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns as his stewards, we are responsible to manage his holdings well and according to his desires and purposes.

Introducing Rev. Dr. Sam Parkes

I grew up in the small town of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee in a Methodist family with deep local roots (my great-grandfather was the preacher in our church in his day). But, my immediate family was not very church-going. During my teen years, my parents tried hard to present themselves and us as a normal family all the while they struggled with substance abuse, addiction, and co-dependency. I needed and prayed for help! Two of my close high school friends invited me to a bible study being led by a local couple. For the first time, I read the Bible and that study group teased out real meaning and understanding! I was hooked! My United Methodist church became an additional family in my life. Not having been baptized as an infant, God baptized me through the church when I was 15. By 16, I was licensed as a lay speaker and preached monthly in various churches in the county. Oh, those poor, poor people!



I received a B.A in Music (Choral Conducting and Voice Performance) from The University of the South at Sewanee, TN in 1988. I soon found my way into Methodist ministry, receiving an appointment as a supply pastor in September 1991 and then as a full-time licensed local pastor in 1992. In 1995, I moved to Atlanta and Candler School of Theology, graduating in 1998 with a M.Div with focus on both preaching and pastoral care. In 1999, I married the Rev. Amy Persons. We met in seminary, were married, and I received my first appointment in this conference to Union Springs, AL. From there I served Capitol Heights UMC, Montgomery from 2002 to 2007. During this time our two children, Will and Harper were born. In 2007, I chose to go part-time and provide care for my young ones while Amy worked full-time. We lived near Andalusia, AL, and I served small membership churches.

In 2009, after a season of discernment and prayer, I accepted an invitation to attend the University of Toronto in pursuit of the Th.D in Homiletics (the academic discipline of preaching and sermoncraft). We moved to Oakville, Ontario where I studied, wrote, researched, wrote, taught preaching, and wrote while enrolled at Emmanuel College, a United Church of Canada seminary. Amy and I made the decision in 2013 to continue to be partners in co-parenting our awesome children, but to do so as single parents. Divorce was a tough season for us all, but God has been good to us as we have moved on in our lives as parents. In 2014, I was appointed to Cloverdale UMC of Dothan, AL. I defended my doctoral thesis in 2015 and graduated from U of T in 2016. In 2015, I initiated a coaching program in preaching called Partners in Preaching here in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Thirty-four pastors have partnered with me since then to improve the ways we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For me, the Church is a "so that" community. We worship God in our sanctuary SO THAT we can know how to worship God out in the world. We receive the body and blood of Jesus in communion SO THAT we can become Christ's body and blood where we live and around the world. We listen to pastors preach God's Word not *in lieu of* our own voices, but SO THAT we have a model for testifying to all what God is doing, right now, among us and in the world. The Church exists to en flesh God's LOVE for the world (John 3:16) and to participate in the LIBERATION (Luke 4:18-20) of God's people from whatever form of death (sin, addiction, financial debt, bad relationships) that binds them. The Word of God longs to take loving residence in the people of Mary Esther United Methodist Church. And Jesus Christ vows to set us and others free from sin, death, hell, and the grave. Can the Good News be any better than that??

My Favorite Things:

- Spending time with Will and Harper
- Cooking, smoking large slabs of meat, baking bread
- Curling up in the recliner with my two tuxedo cats, my small timid dog, and a great book.
- My favorite music - Americana (Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, The Avett Brothers, The Civil Wars, The Lone Bellow, Iris DeMent, Gillian Welch, Allison Krauss, most any Bluegrass and Celtic), Classical (just about anything from the Romantic period), Classic Rock (Queen, the Rolling Stones, the Who, The Eagles, The Beatles, 80's hair bands, R.E.M.), Country (The old and the "alt", George and Tammy, Merle, Dolly, Willie, Waylon, Loretta, Conway), Pop ([okay, it's true confession time...] fun. Nate Ruess, Pink, Imagine Dragons, Green Day, and as embarrassing as it is, I do love some Katy Perry. And Pentatonix.), CCM (Gungor, Selah, Audrey Assad)
- Seeing eyes light up when someone encounters a loving and liberating God!

My Reason for Being Here:

- To listen, love, nourish, serve and lead Mary Esther UMC SO THAT we seek, engage, nurture, and deploy new disciples of Jesus Christ.

My Greatest Struggle:

- Knowing when to shut up!

Pictured:
Harper (left): Age 12
Rev. Dr. Sam Parkes (middle)
Will (right) Age 14



Get INVOLVED!



Mary Esther (ME) Moms

Connecting moms of all ages and stages for adult conversation, friendship, laughter, and support. ME Moms meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Childcare drop off begins at 9:15 AM and the meeting starts at 9:30 AM upstairs.

Summer Break began May 23rd and the group will resume meetings on September 11th.

If you are interested in serving this ministry or knowing more about it contact Monique Cocanougher at snkyneek@cox.net.



Fresh Hope

A Christian, peer-to-peer, support group for those with mental health challenges, and their loved ones. Fresh Hope now meets on the first and third Monday of the month, at 6:30 PM in the Café.



Cub Scout Pack 528

Offered to K-5th Grade. Meets Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

Upcoming Events:

The Pack completed their normal season after graduation and will continue the Summer with special events.



Boy Scout Troop 528

Offered for 6th Grade – 18 Years old. Meets Tuesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

Upcoming Events:

The Troop is looking forward to their Summer Camp now that they have completed their Court of Honor.



Student Ministry

Our Student Ministry meets Sunday's at 5:00 PM in the Café/ Youth Room. Doors open at 4:30 PM. For more information, contact Caleb Bennett at youth@maryestherumc.org

Upcoming Events:

Wild Adventures: June 4th-5th
Alabama Rural Ministry (ARM): June 24th-29th

MINISTRIES



A Mission arm of the church. The group meets the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 AM in the church Fellowship Hall. Group president is George Joseph. Questions? Contact the church office at 850-243-7595.



Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program that helps you heal from the pain of your un-managed hurts, habits, and hang-ups. They meet every Tuesday at 5:30 PM. Questions? Email CR Leadership directly at cr@maryestherumc.org.



- ❖ Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and sings on Sundays at the 10:30 AM worship service.
- ❖ Chalice Praise Band Rehearses Wednesdays at 8:30 PM and sings on Sundays at the 10:30 AM worship service.
- ❖ The Carillon Hand Bell Choir rehearses at 6 PM on Wednesdays.

For more info on how you can get involved with music ministry contact Mike Owenby at worship@maryestherumc.org.



The Stephen Ministry Care Team is concerned with the care of all and they desire to serve both short- and long-term needs. One-on-one conversations are held in strictest confidence.

Contact Kevin Rogers at duckdogers57@gmail.com for help with your care needs.

YOU ARE NEEDED!

We need you to help volunteer throughout our Children's Ministry programming. Specific needs include: teachers for Sunday School; leaders and assistants for Kids Worship; crew leaders for VBS; nursery helpers for child care; and leaders Children's Moment.



Any questions and to sign-up, contact Deanna Yahney at children@maryestherumc.org or call 850-243-7595.

Staff Position

The Mary Esther UMC SPR Committee is still accepting resumes for the position of DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES / CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER. This position is responsible for helping lead youth into a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. This position will include casting vision for the Student Ministry, delivering large group messages, being highly relational, and supporting the entire youth ministry and church with its mission, vision, and strategy. Resumes will be accepted at the church office.

For a complete job listing go to: <https://www.awfumc.org/classifieddetail/11129166>



Mary Esther United Methodist Church

www.maryestherumc.org

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