

# UPCOMING EVENTS

VOLUME XXXIX  
No. 51  
December 17, 2018

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Every Church Member  
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Stacy Ezell  
Student Ministry Director  
Joel Henson, Music Director

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Cody Lawyer, Organist  
Frances Gilmore  
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**OFFICE HOURS:**  
MON., TUES., THUR. 9-4  
WED. 9-2  
FRIDAY: Closed

## Sunday, December 23, 2018

8:30 am Morning Fellowship  
9:00 am Sunday School  
9:45 am Kid's Worship  
10:00 am Morning Worship  
11:00 am Thrive Worship  
6:00 pm Sunday Night Sing-a-long

## Monday, December 24, 2018

6:00pm Thrive Worship  
11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight

service

## Thursday, December 27, 2018

9:00 am Nifty over fifty  
6:00 pm Painting class

## Sunday, December 30, 2018

8:30 am Morning Fellowship  
10:00 Traditional Service (Only)

## Thursday, January 3, 2019

**First United Methodist Church**  
110 Sunset Drive  
Hueytown, Alabama  
(Return Service Requested)

**Non-Profit**  
U.S. Postage Pd.  
Hueytown, Alabama  
Permit No. 205



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Hueytown, Alabama

December 17, 2018

John's Journal

Hello Friends! Well, there's one last full week leading up to Christmas Day. **Let me remind you that this Newsletter will be our last of 2018. The next mailing will be on January 7, 2019!** What a celebratory Advent we have experienced thus far, with Christmas Eve services to come! I want to thank the Children's Ministry team led by Lacie Oden for an exciting and fun Children's Christmas Musical. You all did wonderfully! I also want to thank our Chancel Choir team led by Joel Henson for a beautiful Christmas Contata. It was fabulous, and I'm sure brought great JOY to the hearts of all who were present. Thank You for your dedication.

Below you find some of our key calendar events as we go through both the Christmas Holiday and the New Year holiday here at Hueytown F.U.M.C. Please know that your pastors are available during this time.

### December 2018

\*Church Office Closed Dec. 24-25<sup>th</sup>

\*Church Office Closed Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> Half Day

\*Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Services

at 6:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

\*Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> Worship 10:00 a.m. only-**No Thrive**

### January 2019

\*Church Office Closed Jan. 1

\*Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> Begin Bible Read Through

\*Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> Food Pantry Delivery

\*Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> - Beginning of 21 Days Prayer

\*Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 a.m. Day 1 of 21 Days  
of Prayer, Sanctuary

\***Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 p.m. Board of  
Stewards (Ad Board) in F/H.**

Friends, these are just a few reminders as we finish out 2018 and head into 2019. I want to invite the whole congregation to the January 13, 2019, Board of Stewards meeting. On this day the Vision Team will present Hueytown F.U.M.C.'s proposed New Vision/Mission and Values Statement. Also, on January 13<sup>th</sup>, the Finance Team will present the 2019 Budget. I am very excited about both of these presentations as they capture so much of your asking, your dreams, your wishes, and your hopes that we discussed as I was appointed your new pastor in July 2018. The work of these two teams has been a spiritual labor of love guided by the Holy Spirit. We believe it reflects you, God's people, here at Hueytown F.U.M.C.

It has been a blessed six months serving as your new pastor. I cannot wait to see where God is / where God will lead us in 2019. I can already see folks joining the church, professions of faith in Jesus, baptism in Christ. I believe that our reading of God's word together will open doors of creativity, call to mission, and a sincere invitation to the unchurched; those hurt by the church; and the non-religious families in our community...we want to **Connect** to you...we want to **Celebrate** with you...we want to **Cultivate** our lives in spiritual growth with you...we want to **Contribute** with you in honoring God with our lives.

It is my prayer that whether you are an already active member, inactive, been away for a while, gotten out of the habit of being in the Body of Christ, don't know the new preacher... that I miss you! We miss you! We need you! We hope you need us! I'm sorry if I haven't met you...but it's time WE ALL COME TOGETHER!

You and I are already scheduling things in the New Year...schedule a commitment to yourself to be a part of making Hueytown F.U.M.C. everything God desires it to be...especially His desire for you to be a part of it.  
To Christ Glory, Bro. John V.

To Christ's Glory Bro. John V.

## Attendance & Contributions December 16, 2018

Sunday School	73
Morning Worship	190
Thrive Service	56
Sunday Night	27

Received this Sunday \$6,807.06  
Received for December \$62,047.98

### Newsletter News.....

We want to let everyone know that the Newsletter on December 17, 2018 will be the last Newsletter for 2018. Due to how the Christmas and New Year's Holiday fall the next mailing will take place on January 7, 2019. The December 17th Newsletter will cover church events scheduled from December 17 through January 6, 2019. Thank you for your understanding

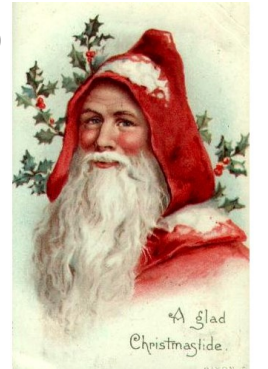
Bro. John V.

Bring the front portion of your Christmas cards to the church office. We will use them to decorate next year's shoe boxes

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to Janie Thornley, Lesa Shafer & family on the recent death of Don Thornley.

### A Good Word For Santa!

Nicholas was born of wealthy parents in A.D. 280 in a small town called Patara in Asia Minor. He lost his parents early by an epidemic, but not before they had instilled in him the gift of faith. Nicholas went to Myra and lived there a life full of sacrifice, love and the spirit of Jesus. Nicholas became so Christ-like that when the town needed a bishop he was elected.



He was imprisoned for his faith by Emperor Diocletian and released later by Emperor Constantine. Stories were told of his generosity and compassion: how he begged for food for the poor, and how he would give girls money so that would have a dowry to get a husband. The story most often repeated was about how he would don a disguise and go out and give gifts to poor children. He gave away everything he had. And in the year 314 he died. But the story of Nicholas has spread around the world. Oh, people have done strange things to him. The poet, Clement Moore, gave him a red nose and eight tiny reindeer. Thomas Nast, the illustrator, made him big and fat and gave him a red suit trimmed by fur. Others have given him names – Belsnickle, Kris Kringle, Santa Claus. But what's important about him is that he had the mind of Christ. Because of his gently selfless love, he touched the whole world. And, the same mind of Christ can be in us at Christmas...

### 21 Days of Prayer

Friends, on January 6, 2019, Hueytown FUMC will start the year 2019 with **21 Days of Prayer**. During this time we will be praying for God's Blessings over the ministries, laity, staff and membership of this great church. There will be more as to the particulars of these **21 Days of Prayer** to come in the next few weeks. Would you join me now in asking God's hand to move upon our great church as we respond to His calling to make disciples in the New Year? Mark your calendars for January 6 to January 30, 2019, as a special time of prayer! More to Come!

Bro. John V.

### Special Prayer Requests:

Johnny Barnes  
Sammy Harless  
Kunath quads  
Abby Allen  
Cameron Mitchell  
Becky Beam  
Joan Verchot  
  
Linda Griggs  
Jimmie Holmes  
Jacob Baker  
Susan Rheuby  
Mary Clyde Moore  
Glen Hooks  
AJ Bishop  
Bernie Finneran  
Ben Abercrombie  
Sandra Bracknell  
Matt Sparks  
Mac & Debbie Hornsby  
James Malone  
Michael Farrington Richards  
John Michael Cunningham  
Wayne Hayes

Remember In Prayer

UMW still has pecan pieces & halves for sale \$12.00.

Dec. 19th Pack The Bags 6-7pm  
Pleasant Ridge Family Life Center  
  
Dec. 18th Discovery 7:00 p.m.  
Faith Joy 10:30  
  
Dec. 24th Thrive @ 6:00 p.m. &  
Traditional @ 11:00 p.m.  
Candle light services &  
Communion.

Around The Corner

### STUDY TOGETHER

Have you ever read through the bible in a year? I'd like to do that with each of you.

If you'll take the challenge, let's read God's word together! You will find in our welcome areas a PINK printout of a One-Year reading plan for us to follow. Anyone who would like to join in, pick up a reading schedule and let's STUDY TOGETHER! It will be fun to hear the talk around the church about what we are reading. Sharing our insights and learning with each other. I look forward to sharing the journey with you!

Blessings, Bro. John V.

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to Ellie Duncan and family in the recent death of her mother, Marcella Haakenson.

### EMMAUS SPONSORED LUNCHEON

January 6, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall. After 10:00 am worship. Bring a dish and join us!