

**Ministers**  
Every Church Member  
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Senior Pastor  
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Pastoral Care

**Kevin James,**  
THRIVE Worship Director

**Catherine Verciglio**  
Student/Youth Ministries  
Director

**Lacie Oden**  
Children's Director

**Joel Henson,**  
Music Director

**Patti S. Wright,**  
Pianist

**Cody Lawyer,**  
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**CHURCH OFFICE:**  
491-3421

**Prayer Line:**  
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**OFFICE E-MAIL:**  
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**Website:**  
[www.hueytownfirst.com](http://www.hueytownfirst.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
MON., TUES., THUR. 9-4  
WED. 9-2  
FRIDAY: Closed

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021**

**10:00 am** Traditional Service with streaming,

**11:11 am** Thrive Service from the Heritage Sanctuary will be streamed through our church Facebook page.

**6:00 pm** Bible Study (Facebook)

**Monday, Jan. 18, 2021**

**7:00 pm** ALPHA

**Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021**

**10:30 am** FAITH JOY

**6:30 pm** DISCOVERY

**Wednesday Jan. 20, 2021**

**6:30 pm** Bible Study (Facebook)

**7:00 pm** Choir Practice

**Thursday Jan. 21, 2021**

**6:00 pm** Painting Class

**Friday, Jan. 22, 2021**

**Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021**

**8:00 am** Bible Study

**Sermon: "In Whom There is Nothing False"**

**Scripture: John 1:43-51**

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

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



**HUEYTOWN FIRST**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**John's Journal**

**NEWSLETTER**

**January 11, 2021**

Hello Followers of Jesus! I know that I sound like a broken record, but I sincerely continue in prayer that each of you are well, and that each of you are taking all the necessary precautions to stay well in this heightened time of COVID 19 infection. The circle of knowing someone who has had C19, or who has had C19, and or the probability of contracting C19 is and has gotten smaller and smaller. If being the broken record helps keep you safe...then call me the Broken Record!

As I write this week, I am about to embark on a new set of classes offered by the North Alabama Conference in the teaching series called EVOLVE. In 2020 I shared with you all information from classes I took related to the impact/influence that the Pandemic has had on the church. I hope and pray that each of you have felt that you've been kept up to date, and I pray that we've all been open to absorbing just how influential the Pandemic has been on what we have known as "normal" in the church? It is not what we want to hear and it's not what we want to be true, but the Pandemic of COVID 19 escalated what was an exponential downward trend with regard to "in person" worship attendance. The world-wide church has been experiencing dwindling attendance numbers for decades. What does that mean for the church now, and tomorrow?

The future "how we do church" is yet to be fully imagined, but we are sure of two things at this point. Lesson #1...every church has to pivot in taking action to change the things that give them a "do over" that meets church today and tomorrow (i.e. Livestreaming). In other words, change that which you've known needed changed, and what needs to be changed! And Lesson #2...every church, and church member, must buy into an "outward focused" ministry rather than a "take care" of me ethos. In other words, realize that the church is a mission outpost to the needs of the community spiritually, physically, relationally and emotionally. We are conduits of God's love outwardly, informed on what we learn from our intentional spiritual growth on the inside. It's not about us...it's about those brought to Christ!

The pastors, staff and executive laity leadership (SPRC, Trustees, Finance, and Administrative Board Chairpersons, along with the Lay Leader, and a broad scope of other church members) of our great church have been leading toward two areas of "pivot" for Hueytown F.U.M.C. The first has been the development of an organic plan to develop the Westside property owned by the church into a walking track and covered pavilion. Look for a rendering drawing shortly. The second has been an outreach to the young adults of our church from ages 24-50. There are approximately 90 +/- adults and children connected to our great church that we've missed for some time. While COVID 19 has affected this age groups weekly return to the church, we must prepare as though they are already here.

**(continued on insert)**

# Attendance & Contributions

Jan. 10, 2021

Traditional	38
Online	624
Thrive	13
Online	

Received	1/10/21	\$ 9093.00
Total as of	1/10/21	\$ 393,991.56

Sarah Grace Oden  
 Susan Rheuby  
 Tommy Hudson  
 Craig Postovit  
 Jack Moon  
 Sandra Bracknell  
 Joan Verchot  
 Beverly Seale

*Special Prayer Request*

# Memorial & Honorariums

**FOOD PANTRY**-In Memory of Bernie Finneran by Neal & Katherine Beach.

**RED BIRD**-In Memory of Bernie Finneran and Tony Yardley by Cheryl Finch.

**CHILDREN'S DEPT.**- In Honor of Mary Frances Bell and Sarah Grace Oden. In Memory of Tony Yardley by Jack & Nancy Moon.

**BUDGET**- In Memory of Bernie Finneran & Elizabeth Nichols by Jack & Nancy Moon.

**BUDGET**- In Memory of Bernie Finneran by John & Lynda Swiney.

**FOOD PANTRY**- In Memory of Bernie Finneran. Love, Mike & Susan Williams.

**FOOD PANTRY**- In Memory of Bernie Finneran. Love, Jeff & Carolyn Finneran and Tommy & Grace Finneran

**SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW**- In Memory of Esther Towers by Phil and Carolyn Vines

**FOOD PANTRY**- In Honor of Mary Frances Bell by The Hand Bell Choir.

**CHILDREN DEPT.**- In Honor of Lacie Oden and in Memory of Tony Yardley by The Hand Bell Choir.



## Reading Through the Bible 2021

The last couple of years has been fantastic reading through God's Holy Word together. In 2021, we are adding a different component to our study through the bible. Throughout 2021's Reading Through the Bible, we want to have a "recapping" of our weekly reading. What does that mean? On Wednesday nights through 2021, a Livestream recap of the previous week's readings will take place at 6:30 p.m., on the "Hueytown First UMC" Livestream Facebook page.

How it will work: For instance, we start reading on Friday, January 1, 2021. We will read January 1-January 6, 2021, and on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 we will recap Genesis chapters 1-21. On Thursday, January 7, 2020 read January 7-13, 2021, and on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, we will recap Genesis chapters 22-40. As you receive the reading schedule for 2021, you will understand the schedule more clearly.

I look forward to this new opportunity for 2021.

Blessings, Bro. John V.



**Thursday Night Painting Class** will be painting this "Winter red fox". RSVP your spot by calling the church office.

### NEW OFFERING ENVELOPS

Please call the office and let us know where you would like to pick up your new offering envelopes. We can place them in the Church Office, Disciple Room or right outside the Sanctuary.

Please bring to the office any old Christmas cards with a nativity scene. Bro Al Geise is needing them for a project.

### Bridal Tea

Honoring Taylor Cater  
 bride elect of Ryan Durham  
 January 17th 2021  
 2:00-4:00  
 Hueytown First UMC Parlor

The 2021 "Flower sign up poster" is located on the bulletin board just outside the church office for your convenience .

### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

1. Bar Soap

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TITHE

Dear FUMCH,

Thank you for the flowers and wonderful meal after Bernie's funeral. This is such a loving church family. We are very appreciative. Thank you to Bro John for his visit and words of kindness and compassion at the service.

Love,

Family of Bernard Finneran

(continued from cover)

With the outreach that has taken place with our young adults, we as pastors, staff and leadership (listed above) know that we have to make “a necessary change” in our current worship schedule on Sunday mornings in order to effectively reach this younger group. The effectual change needs to create a unity/connectedness across the age spectrum of our church, while at the same time encouraging educational gathering between our Traditional Worship Service and our Modern Worship Service. In other words...bring us together.

On February 21, 2021, the first Sunday of the Lenten Season, we will move our Sunday morning worship times to the following: Traditional Worship 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.; Education Time/Sunday School/Small Groups 10:10 to 11:00 a.m.; and Modern Worship 11:11a.m. – 12:00 Noon. The change in schedule effectively only swaps the current Traditional Worship Time with the current Educational time. Such a change gives our great church the opportunity to offer two worship services with a “Common Education/Sunday School/Small Group” time. The change we are making is a “right time” change that draws us together more than it separates us, which it currently does.

Why is it a good time to make such a change? Because with worship attendance being so drastically affected by COVID 19, this gives us less of an effect related to disruption. While we are sure this won't meet “everyone's” approval, nor align with “everyone's” opinions on the subject, I believe that we as pastors, staff and laity leadership can say with confidence that such a change gives us the greatest chance to restart both Children's and Youth programs on Sunday mornings, and it gives us a great opportunity to reach our young adults and their families.

I know that each of you will support the ministry efforts to reach the younger generation of our church, as well as get our children, youth and families reconnected. I have personally heard so many of you talking and reflecting that you want the leadership to do what it takes to reach a younger generation...this is a start! I as your pastor, and I know the Laity Leadership feels likewise, we cannot be any more thankful that you want this for our great church.

Let us be reminded that our calling from God in 2021 is **A Charge to Keep I (we) Have...it will take all of us...this generation to serve!**

**In Service to Christ,**

**Bro. John V.**