

THE WHITFIELD



SPIRIT

For Members and Friends of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church
February 12-February 18, 2017

“Love Your Enemies” and “Overcome Evil With Good”

Dear Whitfield family,

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ. Last Sunday, February 5, we gathered to praise and worship God and partake in Holy Communion. We discussed Jesus’ instruction in Matthew 5 to “love your enemies.” Additionally, we discussed Paul’s instruction in Romans 12 to “overcome evil with good.” Following both worship services, individuals shared with me that these discussion topics were helpful to them. Reverend John David Walt, former Dean of the Chapel at Asbury Theological Seminary, shares the following insights on loving our enemies and overcoming evil with good. May they be helpful to you, as well.

When I try to overcome evil with evil, here is the outcome:

- *When I give my enemy a taste of his/her own medicine, I am the one who gets sick.*
- *When I repay bad for bad, I escalate the conflict.*
- *When I retaliate against my enemy by fighting fire with fire, I do irreversible damage and diminish the chances of any productive outcome.*

When I try to overcome evil with good, it leads to a different outcome:

- *When I return good for evil, I avoid the infection brought on by the toxicity of evil.*
- *When I repay bad with good, I create the possibility of de-escalating the conflict.*
- *Responding to evil with good is actually a subversive form of retaliation. It is an offensive tactic in that it has the effect of “heaping burning coals on his/her head.” When your enemy wrongs you and you retaliate, it justifies your enemy by reaffirming his/her decision. When you respond to bad with good, it actually has the effect of “shaming” your enemy. This is what the reference about burning coals means. It can have the effect of causing your enemy to reevaluate his/her decision and changing the outcome altogether.*

Jesus portrayed the ultimate expression of divine love and good in the face of evil. The pure and spotless Lamb journeyed to the cross for all humanity, including you and me. Following the instruction and example of Jesus, may we reject the human response of hate and embrace the divine response of love. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we follow Jesus’ instruction to “love your enemies” and Paul’s instruction to “overcome evil with good.” As a result, may others be blessed and God be glorified!

Carolyn

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:20-21

Weekly Focused Corporate Prayer: Please pray for those who are experiencing feelings of helplessness and hopelessness to seek help from God, our source of help and hope, and others.

When Helping Hurts

A book study "When Helping Hurts," will be offered at Whitfield UMC beginning on Sundays, February 12 through March 26 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm in the church library. This book articulates a biblically based approach to poverty alleviation. You will learn how you can walk with people who are poor in ways that lead to lasting change.

Confirmation Celebration

We will celebrate our Confirmation Class, mentors, and parents during the 10:30 Worship Service on February 12. Our Confirmands are in the process of learning more about their faith, The Church, and their place in our congregation. As they continue with their studies and UMCOR service project, they are preparing to make the decision to become full members of Whitfield UMC. Confirmation Sunday is April 30th!

Please let these young ladies, their families, and their mentors know that you support them through your prayers and words of encouragement.

Emma Duffee - Jannett Baggett, mentor

Gracie Edwards - Jeannie Anderson, mentor

Sarah Blackwell - Marty Lanier, mentor

Confirmation Class Mission Project

Our confirmation class will collect items to prepare the UMCOR Health Kits. See insert in Sunday's Bulletin or the church Office.

Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Susie Peach Class

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, February 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Keystone Class

Attendance February 5, 2017

Sunday School 58 Morning Worship 95

Wednesday Night Dinner

February 15

Menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Cabbage, Corn Muffin & Dessert

Program: TBA



The 2017 Performances of the River Region Sacred Music Festival will be held Saturday, Feb. 18th at 7:00 and Sunday, Feb. 19th at 2:00pm. The free performances will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Prattville and will feature musicians from over a dozen local churches. Director Dr. James Seay, from First United Methodist Church in Montgomery will lead the chorus in an exciting variety of traditional sacred anthems.

UMW Annual Day

The Alabama-West Florida Conference UMW will host their Annual Day February 10 - 11, 2017 at Blue Lake. The theme of the program is "All Lives Matter".

The Memorial Service "Celebration of Life" will be held Friday evening during our Annual Day Program instead of during the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat as it has been in the past.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for February 12 are offered to the Glory of God and in honor of my church family by Norma Prater.



Sunday, February 12

Worship Service	8:15 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Morning Social	10:00 a.m.
Choir Practice	10:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
UMYF	11:30 a.m.
Handbell Practice	4:00 p.m.
Finance Meeting	4:30 p.m.
Church Council	5:30 p.m.

Monday, February 13

Walking Group (M-F)	7:15 a.m.
UPWARD Practice	5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14

Prayer Group	7:15 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study	2:00 p.m.
UPWARD Practice	5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15

Prayer Group	2:30 p.m.
PoP Prayer Group	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Supper Program	5:30 p.m.
Youth Engage	6:15 p.m.
Children's Activities	6:15 p.m.
Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 16

Romans Study (Davis Martin)	10:00 a.m.
Romans Study (Library)	5:30 p.m.

Friday, February 17

Sew n Sews	10:00 a.m.
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Saturday, February 18

UPWARD Basketball	9:00 a.m.
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YOUTH NEWS**Youth Party Was SUPER!!**

Our youth gathered Sunday night for a Super Bowl Party. We had a great time, filled with good food, lots of laughter, and even a little football. We discovered that it was, in fact, Tom Brady, and not Tom Hanks, that lead the Patriots to victory. Thanks to Scott & Amy Blackwell for the great food and planning.

**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart,

You Are In Our Prayers!!

Whitfield Members

Vivian Rogers, Kirk Wood, Peggy Brown, Martha Parker, Henrietta Cusick, Elmer Rogers, Alma Reynolds, Jo Moody, Peter Brambir, Betty Woodson, Libby Richardson, Joan Rodgers, Thursa Brown, John Woodson, Dottie Suber, Charlotte Brambir, Mildred Jones, Betty Fuller, Kay Littlepage, Brownie Brown, Lib Cain, Tom Burns, Caryll Carrick, Elmer Stelk, Eloise Parsons, Bill Fischer, Allison East, Jim Solomon, Edna Kohn, Jim Vice, Helon Haack, Susan Richardson, Helen Maples, Jay Byrd

Home Bound Members (in-town)

Lois Payne, Nealie Pruitt, Emmett Turner, Teresa Chavers, Rubye Solomon, Margaret Deacy, Wayne Read, Delores Dodson, Mitzi Warren

Home Bound Members (out of town)

Elaine McBride, Martha Payne, Juanita Pritchett, Katie Hopper

Friends of Whitfield

Wayne Russell, Verna Stevens, Mary Mellott, Bill Miller, Jeff Varner, Doug Dennis, Sharon Brugh, Margaret Ann Batley, Emma Hope Shaw, Joy Lushington, Marty Trawick, Doug Estes, Dan & Kate Lindsey, Myrtle Knight, Mona Pirsig, Kenneth Means, Mary Ellen Millis, Paul Lanier, Myles Wright, Ashley Dunwoody, Beverly Cornwell, Jean Cantey, Teresa Kempster, Mac Macready, Darlene Fox, JoAnne Westery, Wayne Merritt, Bailey Casteel, Molly Nelson Brantley, Susannah Jones Cleveland, Jerri Reed

Peace for the nations and protection for all those who live and serve in harm's way.

Note: Please submit any names you would like added to the church via telephone (281-2467) or e-mail (whitumc@bellsouth.net) All names submitted are kept on the prayer list for **four weeks** unless otherwise notified. *Those names in Italics are in need of long term prayers.*

Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WHITFIELD STAFF MEMBERS

Pastor

Reverend Carolyn Nelson
cnelson@whitfieldumc.org

Music Director

Angie Mitchell
amitchell@whitfieldumc.org

Youth Director

Beverly Brown
bbrown@whitfieldumc.org

Financial Assistant

Kristi Milano
kmilano@whitfieldumc.org

Nursery Director

Daisy Stelk

Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Andrews
whitumc@bellsouth.net

Program Director

Patty Macready
pmacready@whitfieldumc.org

Organist

Telsie Davis
tdavis@whitfieldumc.org

Kindergarten Director

Jane Ruud
jruud@whitfieldumc.org

Nursery Co-Director

Mary Stone

Custodian

Larry London

Phone: 334-281-2467; **Fax:** 334-281-2698

E-mail: whitumc@bellsouth.net

Church Office Hours:

8:15-12:30 and 1:30-4:15, M-Th

8:15-12:30 p.m. Friday

Sunday Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Worship Assistants - February 12 (2nd Sunday)

Ushers: (8:15) Gene Holsenbeck
(10:30) Ken Carrick, Jim Solomon,
Jeannie Anderson, Brownie Brown

Counters: Steve Duffee,
Carl Stevenson

Van Driver: Pam Merritt

Soundboard: (8:15) Harry Brantley
(10:30) Vic Bradsher

Readers: (8:15) Tommi Holsenbeck
(10:30) Emma Duffee

Children's Worship: Briana Hazen,
Patty Macready