

# Hoover First United Methodist Church



April, 2017

VOL. #37 ISSUE #4

## **Pastor's Article:**

One of the hallmarks of the United Methodist Church is the itinerancy. This comes from the church's beginnings with circuit riders. These horseback riding preachers traveled from church to church in the wilderness to preach the gospel sent by Bishops who appointed them to their circuits. Today, pastors in local churches continue to be appointed by Bishops and are moved from church to church. The average stay for most preachers is about six years. The advantage of this system is that we all remember that it is God's church and not ours—not the preacher's own "kingdom." Preachers are workers in the God's vineyard.

This year is the end of my sixth year as Pastor of Hoover First UMC and at the end of June, I will receive an appointment to a new church as Hoover First receives a new pastor. I am going to Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church north of Hueytown.

Hoover First will welcome Angela Teal as your new pastor. With the change in pastors, there is always a transition. Your new pastor will bring gifts and graces and skills that will strengthen and grow Hoover First. In the coming weeks, you will learn more about her. The Staff Parish Committee will guide this process.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in the process and that God will bless Hoover First as you move into a new era in the life of this congregation. God has great work to do through Hoover First UMC!

*Pastor Rachel*

**Reaching out to all people, inviting them to experience the love of Je-**

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE- April, 2017

8:45 -9:00

Open Prayer in Sanctuary

9:00-9:50

Sunday School (2 adult and children) & Coffee hour

10:00-11:00

Worship in Sanctuary

4:30-6:00

Adult Choir Practice

Ushers: Bruce Huey & James Herron

Lay Reader: Bill Logan

Altar Guild: Worship Committee

Communion Servers: Julie Jefferson & Cherie Huey

Church Attendance: Jane Branch

Trustee Lock up: James Herron

Congregational Care Team: Beverly Thomas

On Call Nursery: Eleanor Talmadge

### *April Birthdays... "Happy Birthday to YOU!"*

<b><i>Kathryn Collier</i></b>	<b><i>April 3</i></b>	<b><i>Barbara Marston</i></b>	<b><i>April 3</i></b>
<b><i>Paul Gourley</i></b>	<b><i>April 8</i></b>	<b><i>Joshua Powell</i></b>	<b><i>April 9</i></b>
<b><i>Matthew Lewis</i></b>	<b><i>April 10</i></b>	<b><i>Joe Allbritton</i></b>	<b><i>April 15</i></b>
<b><i>Tammi Powell</i></b>	<b><i>April 16</i></b>	<b><i>Jean Pemberton</i></b>	<b><i>April 20</i></b>
<b><i>Susan Worthington</i></b>	<b><i>April 26</i></b>		

### *The Staff Who Serve Hoover First*

Rev. Rachel Radeline Gonia, Pastor

You can contact pastor at:

**Church-** 822-8099    **Home/Cell (voice/text)-** 910-5660

**E-mail** - [pastor@hooverfirstumc.org](mailto:pastor@hooverfirstumc.org) or [rgonia@umcna.org](mailto:rgonia@umcna.org)

**Margaret Lotz**-Business Manager [finance@hooverfirstumc.org](mailto:finance@hooverfirstumc.org)

**Susan Worthington**-Director of Hoover First Day School, 979-3543

**Tim Beenken** - Music Director, [musicdir@hooverfirstumc.org](mailto:musicdir@hooverfirstumc.org)

**Connie Logan**-Organist    **Joyce Godwin** - Harpist    **Tammi Powell**, - Pianist/Flautist

**Judy Fenley**-Nursery Attendant

e-mail: [office@hooverfirstumc.org](mailto:office@hooverfirstumc.org)

web site: [www.hooverfirstumc.org](http://www.hooverfirstumc.org)



## Day School News

**WE NEED READERS!!!** The Day School loves when friends from the church come and volunteer to read to our classes. If you would like to come and read to the classes please let Susan know what days you are available. The times are pretty flexible and can usually work around your schedule.

The 4K class will be going on a field trip to the Birmingham Zoo on April 27th!!



### Kid's Corner

Many of our children and youth are involved in sport, drama, music and other activities. Many of these events are free and open to the public. Children/Youth feel loved and cared for when adults show up to support them. This is also a way to communicate to the wider community the love and friendship that we share at Hoover First. If you would like to share times, dates and locations of your child/youth events (school concert, karate match, baseball game, art show, etc.), share this with Pastor Rachel and it will appear here in the newsletter so that others can know about events and attend.

**April 11th**– Bradley has a lacrosse game at 6pm at Oak Mountain School

**April 17th**-- Bradley has a lacrosse game at 6pm at Oak Mountain School

**April 29th**-Jade will be performing with the young voices in Tuscaloosa. More information to follow, please ask parents

### **Cross Decoration**

Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. Please bring flowers from your yard or purchased flowers to decorate our cross for Easter Sunday morning. Everyone is welcome to come and help as we decorate the cross.



### **Pancake Breakfast**

On April 23rd the youth will be providing a pancake breakfast for donations after church! This fund raiser will be to help provide scholarships for children from our church who want to attend camp Sumatanga this summer



### **Online Giving**

**You can now donate through a link at our website! From the homepage of the website, click on the link to the “donations” page. On that page, click on the word “vanco” and you will be taken to the donation page. This is an easy process and you will be prompted to enter information as you go. This is an easy way for you to keep your financial commitment to the church! Please speak with Margaret Lotz, our financial secretary if you have questions about how to give online.**

### **Karaoke machine needed**

Do you have an old karaoke machine or similar machine that has a microphone and amplifier? We are looking for one for the Adult Sunday School room. Talk with Pastor Rachel if you think you might have what we are looking for.

### **Thank you!!**

- **Michael McKay, Wilson Talmadge, Larry Brasher & Skip McKay** for relocating the shed in the parsonage yard. It was made MUCH easier by the use of Skip's tractor!

### **Seniors**

The Seniors will be meeting on April 19th. Lunch will be served. Lunch will be Subway sandwiches, chips, drink and dessert. The cost of lunch will \$8.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Ben Padgett. He will be telling us about plans for an Extended Family Ministry that reaches out to families who have a loved one in the prison system. Come out and join us and learn more about this ministry and spend some time with your friends from church.

### **Shut Ins**

There are a few shut-ins in our congregation who would like to attend church but are no

### **YARD SALE**

Get ready for our Annual Yard Sale!!

It will be held on June 3rd. Preparations for the sale will be the week of May 29th through June 2nd.

Begin getting ready any items you would like to donate to the church for the sale and ask friends and neighbors if they have anything they would like to donate.



### **Financial Update**

Hoover First UMC is always the Little Church Who Could. Despite the fact that we lost the income we were receiving for having a cell tower, Hoover First finished 2016 with only a small shortfall in meeting our expenses. This was covered by reserves we had built up from previous years. As we begin 2017, we are projecting that there could be a deficit of as much as \$30,000 in our income to expenses. Believing that God is at work in our congregation and that we will continue to grow in grace, we do not want to cut any of our budgeted expenses where are already at a "bare bones" level. We have a building that requires upkeep and a staff that we value. Our programs are vital to our life as a congregation. A few years ago, Hoover First was blessed to receive a bequest from Patsy Hunt, a life-long member. For the coming year, the Finance Committee has decided to use some of that large gift to cover our expenses. We know God is growing our congregation, we will grow our income from other sources. Hoover First is a vital congregation who is moving through a period of transition. By the end of 2017, our goal is to grow our church so that we will not have to rely on our reserves. As a part of this congregation, we know that you will prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do to achieve this goal.

### Sunday Schedule

9:00 am            *Sunday School and Coffee Hour*  
10:00 am           *Worship*  
4:30-5:30 pm      *Adult Choir*

### **Blood Pressure Sundays**

Mark your calendars to come to early on the following Sundays to have your blood pressure checked

April 23	May 21
June 11	July 16
August 13	September 17
October 22	November 12
December 10	

### **Holy Week Schedule**

**April 9 – Palm Sunday**

**April 13-- Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m.**

**April 14 –Good Friday Service, 6:30 p.m.**

**April 16 –Easter Sunday**

### Services in April

Lenten Sermon Series: Grace Upon Grace

**April 2    *Communion***  
**Glorifying Grace**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
John 11:1-45 and Ezekiel 37:1-14

**April 9**  
**Grace Unbounded**

**Palm / Passion Sunday**  
Matthew 21:1-11 & Matt 26:14 – 27:66

**April 13    *Communion***  
**Grace for the Day**

**Maundy Thursday , 6:30 p.m.**  
John 13:1-17, 31b - 35

**April 14**  
**Service of Tenebrae**

**Good Friday , 6:30 p.m.**  
John 18:1 – 19:42

**April 16**  
**Everlasting Grace**

**Easter Sunday**  
John 20:1-18

**April 23**  
**Doubting Thomas**

**Second Sunday of Easter**  
John 20:19-31

**April 30**  
**Walk to Emmaus**

**Third Sunday of Easter**  
Luke 24:13-35



# April 2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3 <i>Lenten Study</i> 7pm	4 <i>Lenten Study</i> 1pm	5 <i>Spiritual Gifts</i> 6 pm	6 <i>Worship Team</i> 10:30 am	7	8 <i>Men's Group</i> 8 am
9 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10 <i>Lenten Study</i> 7pm	11 <i>Lenten Study</i> 1pm	12 <i>Spiritual Gifts</i> 6 pm	13 <i>Worship Team</i> 10:30 am <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	14 <i>Good Friday</i> 6:30 pm	15
16 <i>Easter</i> 10:00 am	17	18 <i>Lenten Study</i> 1pm	19 <i>Seniors</i> 11am <i>Spiritual</i>	20 <i>Worship Team</i> 10:30 am	21	22
23 <i>BP Sunday</i> <i>Youth Pancake Breakfast</i> 11am	24	25	26 <i>Spiritual Gifts</i> 6 pm	27 <i>Worship Team</i> 10:30 am	28	29
30 <i>Church Council</i> 3:00 pm						

**Save the Date:  
Homecoming, Sunday, May 7th**

