



FAITH UMC NEWS

July 

Dear Faith Family,

July 1st marks the two year anniversary of us being in ministry together. It has been such an incredible honor to serve alongside the people of Faith. You all welcomed us in with open arms and have loved and supported us without fail. Many times over the last two years I have wondered how I could've been so blessed to have received this appointment. I truly love getting to be your pastor.

We have laughed together, cried together, eaten meals together, prayed together, served together, studied together, and worshiped together. We've shared in triumphs and disappointments; we've been of one accord and we've failed to see eye-to-eye. We've run with some good ideas, and we've run with some ideas that probably needed a little more thought. We have witnessed God do amazing things, and we have faced unprecedented times together.

As we begin our third year of ministry together, I am grateful for the time we've had and hopeful for the future. I believe with all my heart that God has great things in store for us. I also believe that to achieve those things we will have to pray hard, worship hard, and work hard. What I also believe to be true, though, is that all that prayer, all that worship, and all that work isn't really so hard when we all do it together.

The world continues to change, but our mission—God's mission—remains the same. Each of us is invited to join Jesus in the redemptive work He is doing. Each of us has a role to play—a job to do. My constant prayer is that we would willingly and joyfully commit ourselves to that work.

One of my favorite moments in Scripture is when Mordecai challenges Esther to step up, telling her that God has put her in a position "for such a time as this." I believe that God has put each of us right here, right now, for such a time as this. And just as Esther rose to the challenge, I believe we will as well.

Together we can make this next year the biggest blessing this community has had in a long, long time. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ, together we will!

Grace and peace,

Brandon

July Birthdays

- 7/5 Doris McKellar
- 7/6 Shari Tice
- 7/7 Rich Patsios
- 7/10 Callie Ray
- 7/14 Lori Hebson
- 7/14 Teann Yeager
- 7/14 Jamie Musso
- 7/17 Jane Cobb
- 7/19 Marc Strickland
- 7/22 Judi Horn
- 7/24 Jacob Lucia
- 7/28 Norma Jacobs
- 7/28 Dylan Cornelius
- 7/28 Cindi Patsios
- 7/30 Nicole Ennis



August Birthdays

- 8/7 Norman Odeneal
- 8/15 Martha Sargent
- 8/16 Emily Rodgers
- 8/22 Matt Hobby
- 8/20 Cheryl Capouya



We have had the opportunity to partner with The Refuge Church in distributing USDA food boxes to members of our community. This out-reach is scheduled to resume later in July.

The Blessing Box has been a tremendous success in helping families in our area. Please remember to bring your contributions so that we can continue to serve others.



Plans are in the works for a small group Women's Bible Study on the Sermon on the Mount. Details coming soon!



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Church Council meets July 14 @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

North Alabama Annual Conference postponed until September 26 and will have a multi-venue format



Due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in many parts of Alabama, the in-person North Alabama Annual Conference planned for August 16-17, 2020, at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville has been postponed until late September and will have a multi-venue format.

Conference leadership is committed to applying the *Do No Harm* recommendations (www.umcna.org/donoharm) to this year's Annual Conference meeting. The Bishop, Cabinet and Annual Conference Planning Team do not think it will be possible to safely hold a large, in-person gathering of 1,500 people eight weeks from now, knowing that multiple counties within the Conference area have not yet seen an initial two-week decline in coronavirus cases.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett states, "While this second postponement for our Annual Conference meeting is disappointing for all of us, our leadership feels strongly that we must proceed in a manner that prioritizes the health and safety of our Annual Conference members and communities."

Instead of one large gathering, the postponed Annual Conference will be an in-person satellite experience, live-streamed to sites within each District on Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The multiple sites will reduce the number of persons in any one location so that social distancing and other precautions can be better observed. The goal for the 2020 Annual Conference is to do connective work safely with the largest participation possible.

Alabama state law currently allows virtual meetings for business corporations, but not nonprofits. If this changes in the next few weeks, meeting options for the 2020 Annual Conference will expand to allow the possibility of virtual attendance.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett adds, "We will share more details in the near future as satellite sites and the schedule are finalized. Thank you for your patience, resiliency and flexibility in our ever-changing environment."

Periodically, we receive information from organizations that we have reached out to in ministry. This is an update on what is going on with The WellHouse.



22 June 2020

Faith United Methodist Church
7315 Old Springville Road
Pinson, AL 35126

Dear Faith United Methodist Church,

We are reflecting on how different life might look if not for COVID-19, and further on recent events and racial tension. Since inception, The WellHouse is a refuge for those who are treated unjustly, most from childhood. To our knowledge, we have not ever discriminated in whom we serve. Even then, it is incumbent upon us to always be seeking ways to serve more effectively and love more deeply. COVID-19 gave us the opportunity to show our dedication and commitment. Recent race issues provide us with the challenge to examine how we better Love God and Love People. So, while 2020 has been filled with faith building opportunities, we are grateful for the challenges to grow and strengthen an already thriving ministry. We remain grateful for your support of The WellHouse and for the amazing things accomplished so far this year. Your assistance has brought us encouragement in difficult times. Below are some of the exciting things that have occurred or are taking place currently:

Over 30 women received services on The WellHouse campus since January.

WellHouse Child has served 8 under aged trafficked females with off campus services.

We received full funding to build our WellHouse Child home for minors on the current campus. Building should begin in the next few months. We could not be more grateful or excited!

The Rescue Department has been completely revised to better partner with Law Enforcement and others who refer rescued survivors to The WellHouse. We have come to greatly appreciate the amazing work of Trafficking Hope in this area and as partners.

WellHouse Junior Board held a successful Gala and generated record-breaking support.

5 residents are in college and several are working on or have acquired their GED.

A new partnership with Noonday Therapy has begun, allowing for more healing from deep trauma.

ShopWell, our work therapy program for residents, has expanded its product line and its reach, and residents are gaining valuable work experience in the safety of The WellHouse.

Provisions are in place to open our Mobile Classroom, making it easier for residents to reach educational and employment goals.

It is a good day at The WellHouse! As we celebrate all these successes for our residents, we look forward to expanding with a barn and chapel, which will provide much needed space for school study, recreation, exercise, storage, and more.

Thank you again for your support of The WellHouse and for joining alongside us to realize our mission.

Carolyn Potter, CEO

Holly Hyché, Development Director

2020 VIRTUAL VBS



Synchronous Week: July 13-17, 2020

This virtual VBS will be the bee's knees! This year's hive of virtual VBS activity will take place synchronously online on July 13-17 and in backyards across our area. And you'll be snug as a bug (in a rug) to know that all of this opportunity is free to any church or individual who would like to participate! Don't let yourself get too many butterflies in your stomach, because you'll have everything you need to know ahead of time along with videos and written instructions for everything coming in this virtual VBS.

Since this VBS experience will be virtual, it is not limited to your local church, but also to children who live in your household or neighborhood. You are invited to also share it with your grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends' children in other states! The goal of this virtual VBS is to connect to friends across our North Alabama Methodist connection and bee-yond!

Virtual VBS: How It Works

Registration lies within the conference office in order to distribute materials to each participant each day. Churches can promote the link for registration and families can sign up individually. Primary delivery for virtual VBS will be in digital format (for example, via email, sites like YouTube/Vimeo for videos), and participants will get an email each day with the suggested schedule and a list of activities as well as videos that accompany them. There will also be a synchronous worship time together as well on a platform called Church Online, either in the morning or evening (which would be available on demand if missed).

Families can work at their own pace. There is also a possibility that some areas may be able to do a type of backyard activity with some neighbors, for which Safe Sanctuaries guidelines will be provided. There will be activity sheets and videos for each day to do a craft, snack, science experiment, Bible story, game, and service/mission activity. Plus, participants can submit photos of their activities to a specific link to share with others through a video slideshow we hope to show during the synchronous worship! There's even a possibility of kids singing our custom-written theme song and editing it to be a virtual choir for all of the participants to see and to show at Annual Conference.

[Register Now!](#)

<https://na-reg.brtapp.com/2020VirtualVBS>

(Faith is in the Cheaha District)