



# January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>New Schedule:</b> Contemporary Service: 9am</p> <p>Sunday School: 10am</p> <p>Traditional Service: 11am</p>			1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3	4
5 12:00pm Chickasaw Diners at Wintzell's	6 VLT Meeting 6pm	7 Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm	8 "Nacho" Average <b>FAMILY GAME NIGHT</b> ALL AGES WELCOME! Learn from an International Chess Champion! Fun! Food! Prizes! Wednesday: January 8th 5:30 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14  Ageless Adventures 9am to Walter Anderson Museum in Ocean Springs, MS	15 5:30pm: ROW 6:00pm: K-5th-Kids4Christ 6-12th grade-NextGen 6:15pm: Adult Bible Study & Choir	16	17	18 Ladies' Breakfast 9:00am
19 Men's Club 7:30am	20  MLK DAY 8am Morning of Service at Community Shelter	21 Mike's Food Pantry 3pm - 5pm	22 5:30pm: ROW 6:00pm: K-5th-Kids4Christ 6-12th grade-NextGen 6:15pm: Adult Bible Study & Choir	23	24	25
26	27	28 Lydia Circle 10:00am	29 5:30pm: ROW 6:00pm: K-5th-Kids4Christ 6-12th grade-NextGen 6:15pm: Adult Bible Study & Choir	30	31	

**LIVE LIFE LOVED**  
  
**& FULLY ALIVE IN '25**

NEW SERVICE TIMES IN 2025:  
9am & 11am



*Join us in 2025  
for new worship  
times!*



**Chickasaw**  
METHODIST CHURCH

*January*  
2025





# PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

God is giving us an opportunity called a new year.

“(Joshua and Caleb said) ‘If the LORD is pleased with us, He will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.’”

Numbers 14:8

The story of God getting His people out of captivity in Egypt is as depressing as it is inspiring. Sure, God does some amazing miracles along the way, but there are so many spiritual failures in the story. I skimmed through Exodus and Numbers this morning. Those two books are volumes one and two of the story of God getting His people out of Egypt. The story of moving forward comes to an abrupt end in Numbers chapter 14. After chapter 14, the people are killing time in the dessert waiting to die off so a new generation can come forth.

I still wrestle with the question of why those people couldn't trust God to move them into the promised land after He had done so much for them by giving them so many miracles. I have analyzed this question from a dozen different angles. I still come back to this answer, although the people were geographically no longer slaves in Egypt, in their minds and hearts they still were slaves.

We aren't looking at a new parcel of land to move into today. What we are looking at is a new parcel of time called a new year. The question that all people are facing at the new year is whether we will let the new year simply happen or will we meet it with purpose. We love new year's resolutions, but they usually are just adding something to our schedules. The fact is, to add something, usually we have to subtract something.

Back to the story in the Book of Numbers. We are like the people of Isreal in that we all have a choice to make. Are we going to move into the new year with faith and accomplish things for God or will the new year just rule over us? There will be challenges facing us in the year to come even if we don't know what they are yet. At our church we are facing the new year with boldness. We are offering a new Sunday morning schedule giving people options in worship styles. We are already looking forward to having a very spiritual Lent Season. Please see the graphic about our church's Lenten Devotional Guide. We are going to have an exciting first Wednesday night on January 8<sup>th</sup>. We are starting a new men's Sunday school class in January as well. Where is God going to use you in His church in the year 2025?

The question of Joshua and Caleb in the verse above still rings out to us as a church as well as for all Christians facing a new year. If we are living out God's will in our lives as individuals and as a church, why won't God give us a victory? We are God's people today and we can get intimidated on what may be in our future. Or we can believe that regardless of what limitations we may face, God can still use our lives to make a difference. The difference comes down to two realities. One, are we approaching life with an attitude of faith? Two, can we change to see that our lives still have meaning even if we don't do all the things we used to? Let's be God's bold people as we move into an unknown future seeking to have God do His transformational work in each of us. Let's live as God's children and not slaves of circumstances.

God Bless

*Brother Dave*

By Rev. Dave Rhodes

# CHURCH NEWS

As we enter into the new year of 2025, I am so grateful for the great work we were able to give to our Lord as a church as well as the great fellowship we had with Him and each other over the past year. We are greeting the new year with boldness in that we are going to have two worship services on Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00. The services will be slightly shorter than an hour so we can have Sunday school at 10:00. I have had a lot of great questions asked of me about details of the plan. We are working hard to make sure all the details are taken care of so both or either of the services will be a rich blessing to whoever attends. The message that I will preach will be the same at both services, but the services will be different in the style of worship. I trust that everyone in our church family will find the one that fits them the best. Please listen to your friends and relatives as they talk about their spiritual lives to see if one of these services may meet their needs and invite them.

One of the concerns that I have heard is that when a person attends one of the services, he isn't going to be able to see the brothers and sisters in the Lord that he loves since they are attending the other service. I jokingly reply, "Just go to both services." That response is good for a laugh. To more seriously answer the question, I want to encourage everyone to find a small group to attend and to join us on Wednesday nights. We call our entire Wednesday night program "R.O.W." We want to help all of us to Reconnect On Wednesday's. Attending Wednesday nights won't ensure that we get to see everyone that we may miss on a Sunday, but the chances are increased of seeing those people. Also, joining a small group helps those who attend to be able to get to know one another on a much deeper level. There are powerful conversations that take place in small groups that can't happen in a one-hour worship service. To help launch into a great R.O.W. experience this year, on January 8<sup>th</sup>, we are going to have a great time with a nacho bar, intergenerational trivia games, and a great game time being taught by our own chess master, Dennis McCann. I hope to see you there.

The way that we are going to have altar flowers is changing with the new year. The Rose Bud Florist has offered us a very discounted rate for flowers every Sunday. We need people to sign up and pay for flowers each Sunday. Please choose a meaningful date in your life and let Angie know which date you want in the year to come. Unfortunately, you can't have the first Sunday in February, I have already reserved that one.

Please notice the calendar and list of events that Angie has so well organized and created in this newsletter. We are continuing on with our church ministries in the month of January. One special event that we are joining in with the City of Chickasaw and the Chickasaw Christian Community is our annual Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The experience of working with other Christians to serve our city is always a blessing to be involved with. As I drive around the city, even years later, I notice projects that were done years ago on MLK Day. Let's be light and salt in our world that needs love so dearly. Please be faithful to consistently pray for our church as we move forward in faith.



# Jennifer Barnes

YOUTH LEADER

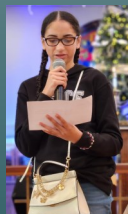
What an incredible December we've had! From hosting the Chickasaw School Christmas Band Concert to being part of the Chickasaw Christmas Parade to Christmas parties and Christmas caroling – our last month of 2024 was nothing short of amazing. Also, because of your generous financial gifts, we were able to bless several struggling families this year with Christmas gifts (and even a Christmas tree!) to ensure they felt loved during this special season!

As we close out the year, it's important to pause and reflect, celebrate, and give thanks for God's faithfulness, which is heard, seen, and felt in so many ways! My heart is filled with gratitude for the support and encouragement our Next Generation Ministry receives all year from our church family! The smiles, conversations, hugs, and prayers that are given are all such a vital part of our children and youth experiencing the love of Jesus through the love of their church home!

The new year is a fresh start, a chance to go deeper in our walk with Christ and to bring His light into the world. Here's what we're excited about for Next Generation Ministry:

- We will start back our Reconnect on Wednesday (ROW) nights on January 8th with an Intergenerational Game Night! Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend! Let's kick-off the ROW season in a fun and exciting way!
- Two worship services begin on January 5th! Sunday School for kids and youth will meet at 10 am upstairs!
- During the 9 am Worship Service, kids up to 2nd grade will be invited to leave during the sermon for their very own Kid's Worship experience! This will be a time for kid focused worship music and a kid focused message!
- Getting ready to serve in new and impactful ways! We will have a volunteer rotation for two Ministry Safe trained volunteers to serve in Kid's Worship each Sunday! We always welcome extra loving hands and hearts on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights!
- We are making plans for VBS!!! Mark your calendars for June 2nd – June 6th! More details to follow!

Let's welcome all that God has for us with hearts full of hope and a passion to grow in faith! It will be an exciting year as we learn together how to Live Loved and Fully Alive in 2025!



# Angie Middleton

WORSHIP LEADER



December was a very exciting month for the Worship Ministry. We welcomed so many people into our church, that are not regular attenders, at the Christmas Musical and Christmas Eve Service. I pray each of them were touched by Jesus in a special way!

We start this new year with new service times and new opportunities:

- We would love to have some new people join our choir this year! Practice will be on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7pm and the choir will be singing in the 11am service each week. Attending practice is required for singing in the choir on Sundays.
- If there is anyone looking for a "behind the scenes" way to serve, please let me or Brent know! We have opportunities open for you to serve in the sound room or helping prepare for each service before they start. Attending a church home is great, but there is nothing like serving in your church! No prior experience necessary!
- We need new volunteers serving on rotation as:
  1. Ushers
  2. Saying the offertory prayer
  3. Helping with communion
  4. Greeters

Please let me know if this something you would like to do! We need your help!

As we move into 2025, let's focus on growing closer to Jesus by spending more time with Him alone, by serving, by worshiping in Spirit and in Truth, by reaching those around us for His glory, and by praying without ceasing every day all day. He is something we can definitely get excited about!

John 15:4-5 "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."




"Nacho" Average  
**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**  
 ALL AGES WELCOME!  
 Learn from an  **International Chess Champion!**  
**Fun! Food! Prizes!**  
**Wednesday January 8th**  
**5:30 pm**




**LIVE LIFE LOVED**  
  
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 NEW SERVICE TIMES IN 2025:  
 9am & 11am



Tuesday, Jan. 14th at 9am:  
 The Ageless Adventures are heading to the Walter Anderson Museum in Ocean Springs, MS  
 Call Barbara Pulliam: 251-457-2339



**NEW SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES COMING IN JANUARY**

1. **\*\*Finding Joy, Part Two\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Michelle Phillips, Wed. 6:15pm
2. **\*\*Going Deeper with Brother Dave\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Dave Rhodes, Wed. 6:15pm
3. **\*\*Men of Valor\*\*** -  
 Teacher: Phil King, Sundays 10am upstairs in Education Building

You are also invited to try our on-going small groups on Sundays at 10am

**The Beckham's Class**  
**The Transitions Class**  
**Ladies' Class**

**MIKE'S FOOD PANTRY**

January 7th and 21st, 3pm—5pm  
 Your donations are greatly appreciated!  
 Please no dented cans or expired food

**Lydia's Circle**

Meets every 4th Tuesday of the month. All ladies are welcome!

**MEN'S CLUB**

Meets every 3rd Sunday of the month at 7:30 am for food and fellowship. All men are welcome!

**LADIES' BREAKFAST**


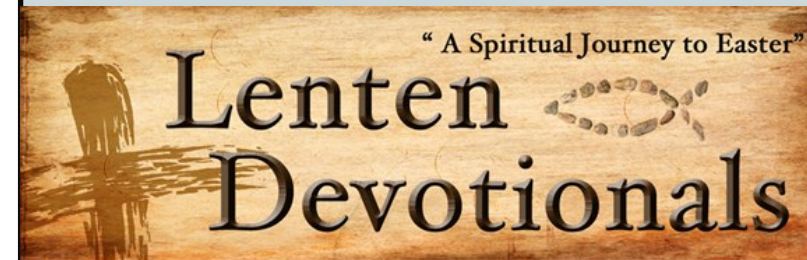
Meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at 9am for food and fellowship. All ladies are welcome!

**CHICKASAW DINERS**

Meet for lunch every 1st Sunday of the month right after the worship service. All are welcome!  
 January—Wintzell's



Please pick a date you'd like to reserve.  
 Early reservations recommended.

**SIGN UP FOR LENT DEVOTIONALS**

As we prepare our hearts for Lent, we're inviting YOU to be part of something special. This year, we're creating a community devotional series to guide us through this season of reflection, prayer, and renewal.

Would you consider writing a short devotional to share with others? Whether it's a Scripture that's impacted your life, a story of God's faithfulness, or an encouragement for this season, your words could be a blessing to so many!

Details:  
 Devotionals should be 300-500 words and include a Scripture reference.  
 Deadline is February 16, 2025  
 email submissions to  
 jennifer.barnes@chickasawmethodist.com

Let's walk this journey together and encourage one another as we prepare for Easter!



*Altar Flowers*

Don't you love our altar flowers each Sunday? Such a symbol of beauty and life!

You have the opportunity to help us continue with this beautiful tradition! For just \$40, you can reserve a special Sunday to provide the altar flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. We will print the memorial/honorarium in the bulletin for the week you are sponsoring.

Please contact the church office to reserve your special week by calling during operating hours or by emailing  
 Angie.Middleton@chickasawmethodist.com

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**

**Morning of Service**

Monday, January 20th  
 8 AM

Community Shelter  
 799 Iroquois St.  
 Chickasaw, AL

Chickasaw Christian Community

