



# Chickasaw METHODIST CHURCH

# AUG 2024



Chickasaw Diners



Ageless Adventures



Sgt. John Young, MPD  
Co-founder of  
Men United Against  
Violence



Men's Club



Gatorade and Freeze Pops for our  
City Maintenance Workers



Ladies' Night Out



Back to School Bash



# PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

REV. DAVE RHODES



## Appreciated, But Not Joined In.

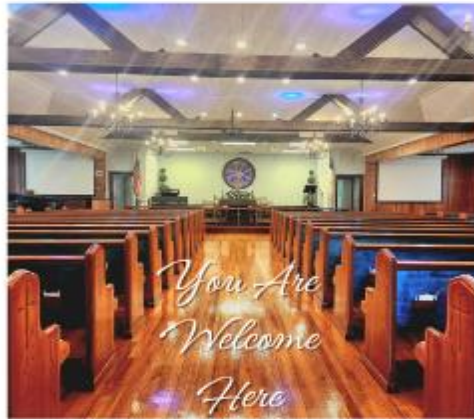
*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42*

Let's face it, Americans struggle to make commitments in our day and age. It is sad that I have observed that even Christians that I know won't make commitments to relationships. We at Chickasaw Methodist Church are a committed group of people. Just this Saturday, we joined with people from other churches to serve our community in Christian love. I have lost count of how many years that we have done the "Back To School Bash." This year's event was truly a wonderful time where families from our community enjoyed being in our community. Then, on Sunday, a committed army of people showed up to serve in many different roles so that we had a glorious time of learning, fellowship and spiritual worship. This morning, I had the privilege of helping deliver the energy drinks and freezer pops to our city employees and trustees as they work out in the Alabama heat. While we were delivering love to the city employees another group of Christian Servants were delivering love to provide lunch for the Chickasaw High School Marching Band who were training at the band camp.

Just this week, I talked to two different people about how much they appreciated our church. I had the same thought that I have had 1000 times before, "If we are so great, why don't you join the team?" I believe that Chickasaw Methodist Church is an amazingly unique church!

We blend an intense love for our community that is inspired by vital Holy Spirit Christianity while at the same time nurturing very deep relationships of people that come from a diverse set of backgrounds. Most churches can't say they accomplish all four of these realities.

I know I can't cure America's commitment anxiety. I do know that as people see other people enthusiastically engaging in an activity, they feel drawn towards that activity.



So, what can we do? Let's be committed! Let's be committed with enthusiasm! The Second Chapter of Acts church grew quickly "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:47. Acts 2:42-47 lists our seven commitments that the early church lived into. I have recreated that list of seven for our church into a list of ten commitments. I shared these 10 commitments with our Vision Leadership Team and our staff this week and asked them to pray about the list that I believe God has given me.

I am seeking guidance and accountability from these two leadership groups in our church before I share them with the whole church. Very soon and with great enthusiasm, I will share these commitments with everyone in our family.

The first thing that we need to do is for us to organize ourselves for committed and enthusiastic ministry. As the world outside the church sees us in committed ministry together, they will come to one of two conclusions. One we are different and to be avoided or that we have a good thing going and they should join us. We seek to reach both groups. One may be easier to reach, but we will seek to reach both groups. I heard it said long ago that "intense commitment is either compelling or repelling" I don't remember who said that, but I believe that he/she was correct.

Let's be faithful to what God has called us to. Let's do the work of doing it in an organized manner by joining the ministry team that fits each of us the best and our lives will be changed by God as we seek to impact the world. Please join us for our ministry fair on August 11th so that everyone of us can see where God wanting to use us in ministry.

God Bless,

*Brother Dave*  
SENIOR PASTOR



# August 2024 Back to SCHOOL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4				1	2	3
<b>Promotion Sunday and Back2School Blessing</b> 12pm Chickasaw Diners 1:00pm Baby Shower 4pm Community Prayer Gathering	5	6  <b>Mike's Food Pantry</b> 3pm - 5pm  <b>Choir Practice</b> 6:30pm	7	8	9 <b>Youth Move Up Lock-In</b>  	10
11  <b>Ministry Fair</b> following service	12	13 <b>Ageless Adventures</b> 9:00am  	14  <b>Choir Practice</b> 6:30pm	15	16	17 <b>Ladies' Breakfast</b> 9:00am  
18 <b>Men's Club</b> 7:30am  	19	20  <b>Mike's Food Pantry</b> 3pm - 5pm	21  <b>"Nacho" Average Family Game Night</b> 5:30pm <b>Choir Practice</b> 7:00pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28  <b>Family Dinner @ 5:30pm with Worship Service following Choir Practice 7:00pm</b>	29		

**Please be with us on Sunday Mornings if you are able.**

**9:00am** Coffee & Fellowship    **9:30am** Sunday School    **10:30am** Worship Service

Check out our Events Page(s) and our website [www.chickasawmethodist.com](http://www.chickasawmethodist.com) for more information/details for the above mentioned events/activities.



# GNEX GENERATION

Connecting the Next Generation to Christ

Chickasaw  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Longwood Building Relationships Serving the World



**"We will not hide them from their children, but tell them to the coming generation, the glorious deeds of the Lord and His might, and the wonders that He has done."**

Psalm 78:4



~ Jennifer Barnes,  
Next Generation  
Chairperson



~ Noah Morgan  
Youth Ministry  
Co-Leader

The signs are all around us. Our camp weeks are now sweet memories. We are about to have our last Deep Dive youth summer Bible study. Prayers and plans have shifted to "Back-to-School" events. Another summer is ending, and a new school year is upon us! Please join us in prayer and preparation as we seek the Lord to help us in the coming months of new transitions! Here are some of the specific areas to include in your prayers:

- We are actively searching for a new ministry leader for our kids and youth. If you know someone with a heart for Next Generation Ministry (Cradle to College/Career), please encourage them to talk to Jennifer or Brother Dave about opportunities to be part of all that God is doing in and through our church!
- Promotion Sunday and Back to School Blessings will be on August 4th - we have some sweet kids leaving the preschool/nursery area for Kids 4 Christ and some leaving Kids 4 Christ and making the big leap to Youth. Please pray for these transitions and exciting faith milestones to go well for our kids and their families!
- August will have some important Inter-generational faith building and memory making opportunities! We will have Family Game Night on August 21st and a special Worship and Prayer Service on August 28th.





# August Events

CHECK FOR DETAILS OR CHANGES ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.CHICKASAWMETHODIST.COM](http://WWW.CHICKASAWMETHODIST.COM)



## MOVIN' ON UP PROMOTION SUNDAY & BACK2SCHOOL BLESSING

Sunday, August 4th, during the worship service, we will be celebrating our children growing up and moving from the Nursery to Kids4Christ and from Kids4Christ to Youth.

We will also be praying for our children, teachers, school staff and administrators. Children are encouraged to bring their back pack or favorite school item to be prayed over for a safe and exciting return to school.

## COMMUNITY PRAYER GATHERING

Then, Sunday, August 4th, at 4:00pm, we are encouraging everyone to help fill up our bus as we gather to pray for our schools. We will meet at the church at 3:45pm, in the 2nd street parking lot, to load the bus and then head over to the Central Office where we will meet with other churches within the Christian Community and go to each school and pray over that school. Please let Dave Rhodes and/or Jennifer Barnes if you can go to this gathering.



Outreach Ministry  
Mission Ministry  
R.O.W Ministry  
Children's Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Nursery  
Senior Adult Ministry  
Social Media Ministry  
Worship Ministry  
Hospitality Ministry  
Shut In Ministry  
Prayer Ministry  
First Impression Ministry (Greeters)

## MINISTRY FAIR

### LAYING UP YOUR TREASURE

Can you picture yourself winning an all-expense-paid trip to a beautiful tropical resort? Crystal clear water, sandy beaches, and colorful sunsets. But here's the catch: You can't take ANYTHING with you. No luggage, no carry-ons, nothing. A beach vacation with no sunscreen, no beach towel, no snorkel, and no flip-flops. But wait, you might think, I will pack all my vacation gear in a box and ship it ahead of me to the resort. When I arrive, my beach supplies will already be there.

Our journey on earth is similar; when we leave, we take nothing with us. Jesus taught about sending treasure ahead.

**Matthew 6:19-21** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

On August 11, the VLT will host a ministry team fair. We want every member to have a place of service, every member in a ministry. We have urgent need in children's ministry at this time. Please consider prayerfully where you might serve. Which ministry team fits you? Sincerely, Terry Smallwood Chairman VLT

# August Events Cont



## THE ERAS LOCK-IN

Friday, August 9th, 7:00pm to 7:00am. We will welcome our newest youth group members - our rising 6th graders- by staying up all night together! It will be a night filled with worship, food, games, and making fun memories as our rising high school seniors move into leadership roles! Please be in prayer for this important ministry milestone event!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK!

### "NACHO" AVERAGE FAMILY GAME NIGHT

We have a special night planned for our entire church family! EVERYONE is invited on Wednesday, August 21, at 5:30 pm for dinner and fun! Did you know we have an international chess champion in our midst? Come and learn some tips and tricks of the game during the board game portion of our "Nacho Average Game Night!" And then stay for a generational trivia game! How well do you know YOUR generation? Come and test your generational trivia knowledge and win prizes for your team!



### FAMILY DINNER WITH WORSHIP SERVICE

Everyone is invited to dinner on Wednesday, August 28th, at 5:30pm. Tom Williams will be entertaining us with Cajun Comedy during dinner, followed by an intimate evening of worship through music and prayer. Come with an open heart, expecting a move from God.

# SAVE THE DATE



ROW officially returns September 4th. Dinner will start at 5:30pm. There will be a number of Adult Bible Studies available for those interested, Children, Youth, & Choir practice.





- Did you know that there is research conducted by the Fuller Institute that shows the consistent presence of FIVE unrelated adults in a child/teenager's life - showing up for them, learning about who they are, taking an active interest in their lives and dreams- is what makes the difference in whether they will continue in the Christian faith?

It is so reassuring to see so many caring adults being present in so many ways in the lives of our kids and teenagers! Thank you for all the ways you are helping to ensure they are developing a faith that will be part of who they are for the rest of their lives!

As our Vision Leadership Team is working intentionally to incorporate ways to encourage young families to find and become part of our church, it is important that we can articulate "why" the local church is so important. There are so many things competing for people's time and attention!

When we look at the systematic issues facing our kids (and society in general) - a loss of meaning and purpose, along with loneliness and disconnection - the local church provides a sense of belonging, purpose, and a source of discovering gifts and talents.

And of course, at the heart of it all is the primary "why" for the importance of being part of a local church: the Psalmist's powerful reminder in Psalm 78. We have a responsibility to the Next Generation of Christ's Church to continue to tell them about the Lord and all that He has done for us!

~Mallory Barnes  
Children's Summer  
Helper



~Mia Thomas  
Children's Summer  
Helper





# Thank you to our July Volunteers!

## Look Who is Volunteering this Month!

### Sunday August 4th

**Nursery:** Robin Lee

**Counters:** Gary Smallwood & TBD

**Ushers:** Doc Greene, Greg Green

**Greeters:** Bobby Smallwood, Margaret Sorenson, Brenda Weeks, Linda Lyles

**Building Steward:** Doc Greene & Dave Rhodes

**Communion:** Steve & Cheryl Reeves, and Rob & Robyn Warren

### Sunday August 11th

**Nursery:** Babe McGrew

**Counters:** Gayle Cawthon, Karen Wells

**Ushers:** Gary Smallwood, Bobby Smallwood

**Greeters:** Bobby Smallwood, Dennis McCann, Linda Lyles

**Building Steward:** Doc Greene & Dave Rhodes

### Sunday August 18th (Men's Club)

**Nursery:** Lynn Lankford

**Counters:** Bobbie Spencer & Coy Hughey

**Ushers:** Jim Trout & TBD

**Greeters:** Bobby Smallwood, Margaret Sorenson, Brenda Weeks, Linda Lyles

**Building Steward:** Doc Greene & Dave Rhodes

### Sunday August 25th

**Nursery:** Karen Wells

**Counters:** Doc Greene and Sheri Greene

**Ushers:** Steve Reeves & Bryan McGrew

**Greeters:** Bobby Smallwood, Dennis McCann, Linda Lyles

**Building Steward:** Doc Greene & Dave Rhodes

**How could you serve our church?**

## Chickasaw Diners

August 4th @ 12pm

Chickasaw Diners will be getting together for lunch on August 4th at Sweeties here in Chickasaw. If you are interested in going to lunch and getting to better know your brothers and sisters in Christ while eating great food, please reach out to Brent Middleton or Phil King for more details regarding Chickasaw Diners.

(251)979-8077 (Brent)

(251)285-8325 (Phil)

## Baby Shower

August 4th @ 1pm

Cheyenne Coaker Ferrell (Bobbie Spencer's Granddaughter & Chris Coaker's Daughter) August 4th, 2024 @ 1pm Here in the Fellowship Hall. Cheyenne is currently registered at Amazon and Walmart.

## Mike's Food Pantry

August 6th & 20th @ 3-5pm

Mike's Food Pantry is on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 3-5pm. Feel free to make non-perishable food item donations at anytime. Please let Tina Johnson know if you would like to serve in Mike's Food Pantry on the Tuesday give outs. All help is appreciated!

## Ageless Asventures

August 13th @ 9:00am

Our Ageless Adventurers will be leaving the church at 9:00am for Gulfport, MS where we will tour TrainTastic, the World's Largest Model Railroad Museum. Please be prepared to give Barbara you \$10 for the museum as you get on the bus. If you would like to go, please call Barbara Pulliam at 251-457-2339.

## Ladies Breakfast

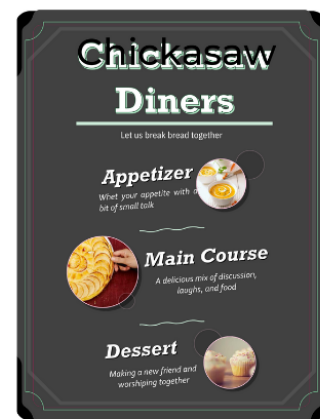
August 17th @ 9am

Every 3rd Saturday of the month is the Ladies' Breakfast, held in our fellowship hall at 9am. They always have wonderful food and a very touching devotion. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Men's Club

August 18th @ 7:30am

Please Join our Men on the 3rd Sunday of the month, August 18th @ 7:30am for a delicious hot breakfast and time of fellowship. Our Men's Club is a very involved group of men from our church and they are so happy to have guests and potential members.







# Church News

by: Rev. Dave Rhodes

When people work and dream together, it is a glorious reality to behold. The people of our church are working and dreaming together to bring us into an incredible August which will lead to an amazing September. We have a lot to be enthusiastic about as a church. Our Vision Leadership Team has met, prayed, and listened together as we have sought God's best leadership as we move into the next few months and on into next year.

One of the most impactful creations coming out of our VLT huddles this summer is the creation of our ministry teams. On August 11th, we will be having a "ministry fair" in our fellowship hall after the worship service. A ministry fair is an event where everyone gets to see the ministries of our church, what they do, and who is involved. The goal of this event is to have everyone find a ministry of our church to serve in and be blessed by. Please be with us on August 11th and plan to stay 30 minutes after the service to make a commitment to a ministry.

Many people have asked when will R.O.W. Dinners start again. Please mark your calendars that on August 21st, we will begin R.O.W. Dinners again with "Nacho Your Average Game Night." We are going to have a great time and even learn some game strategies that will give us an edge in games in the future. Then, on the 28th, we will have supper with some comedy and then go to the sanctuary for a relaxed yet engaged worship time. We have experienced some very spiritually intense times of worship at weeknight worship services over the years. We will have the full R.O.W. experience on September 4th.

Then in September, we will roll into a powerful time of church life through the launching of four new small groups. There is still a lot of organizational work being done in creating these four (maybe more) new small groups at our church. So right now, we can't fully announce them. You will be hearing a great deal about them as the month of August rolls by.

An obvious question comes to mind with announcements like these, "What about the existing ministries of our church, are they going to continue?" The answer to that question is a resounding YES! Just this past weekend, we loved our community at our Back to School Bash. Mike's Food Pantry is continuing with great enthusiasm, a new shipment of food is arriving here in just a few days. Every Wednesday our worship leaders are working hard to be prepared for Sunday mornings. YES, we are continuing to embrace our church's existing ministries. What is really exciting is that our existing ministries will only grow stronger with the organizational structure of ministry teams coming into play. Let's love each other and pray for each other, God has great days ahead for us!

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## Thank You Note to the Church

The family of Mary Todd are so grateful and so humbled by the love, kindness, and support we have received from Pastor Dave Rhodes and everyone at Chickasaw Methodist Church. Thank you to the wonderful ladies who provided the meal after the service. Thank you all for your calls, cards, flowers, visits, and for your continued prayers. We have been very blessed by your outpouring of love.

Sincerely,

Mary Todd's family



# Worship Ministry



*"Let Everything that has breath praise the Lord!"*

Psalm 150:6

We introduced a new song a few weeks ago called Praise! It is one of my favorite songs right now because it talks about praising God no matter what situation we find ourselves in. It is easy to praise God when the blessings are flowing....it is difficult to praise Him when life is very hard. This song is a great reminder to praise Him in all circumstances.

*I'll praise in the valley  
Praise on the mountain  
I'll praise when I'm sure  
Praise when I'm doubting  
I'll praise when outnumbered  
Praise when surrounded  
'Cause praise is the water  
My enemies drown in*

*(CHORUS)  
As long as I'm breathing  
I've got a reason to  
Praise the Lord  
Oh, my soul  
Praise the Lord  
Oh, my soul*

*I'll praise when I feel it  
And I'll praise when I don't  
I'll praise 'cause I know  
You're still in control  
Because my praise is a weapon  
It's more than a sound  
Oh, my praise is the shout  
That brings Jericho down*

*I won't be quiet, my God is alive  
So how could I keep it inside?  
Praise the Lord  
Oh, my soul*

*(BRIDGE)  
I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign  
Praise 'cause You reign  
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave  
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful  
Praise 'cause You're true  
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You!*

What a great reminder that we need to praise Him for who He is, not for what He does for us!

~ Angie Middleton,  
Worship Leader



# EMBRACE ALABAMA KIDS

## Mission Moments Spotlight: Embrace Alabama Kids Babies First Home

Located in Mobile, Babies First is a place of acceptance and love for teen moms and babies. It's a place where adverse circumstances meet God's grace. Babies First provides teen mothers who have experienced neglect, abuse, and abandonment with love, acceptance, and stability.

We were asked by Embrace Alabama Kids if we had Children and Youth that could help with showcasing the Babies First Home. So, a number of our Youth and Children were filmed in the promotional video. also, please see the other pictures on the Youth and Kids4Christ Pages. Our Children and Youth had a great time!

We, as a church, give to Embrace Alabama Kids every year for their White Christmas Campaign. They are able to help so many families with your gifts every year.



For more information on this Ministry/ Mission,  
please visit:

<https://embracealkids.org/babies-first/>