



**Our Mission:** *To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

**Our Vision:** *Growing in our relationship with God as we strive to be more like Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. Nurturing our faith through community worship, bible study, and witness (living our faith in community).*

**Core Values:** *Radical Hospitality, Christian Community, and Extravagant Generosity.*



## Join Us and Be Part of Our Church Family

Palm Sunday Service—April 13

Easter Sunrise Service—April 20

6:45 a.m. on the sidewalk at the church

Easter Service—April 20 at 11 a.m.

### Men's Club Meets on April 5

All Men are invited to meet at Jim's at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Plan to attend and bring a friend. Sanctuary.

### Women's Circle

Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 22nd, at 11:30. The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall.

### Wednesday Night Supper

April 2—Bring salad, sandwiches, or desserts to share.

April 9—Chicken casserole, pintos, broccoli salad, fruit and dessert. Call or text Elaine Crouch for reservations. 706-506-7527

April 16—BBQ pork sandwiches, baked beans, slaw, chips, and dessert. Call or text Susan McGinnis for reservation. 706-857-8009.

April 23—Smoked Boston Butt, etc. Call or text Sandy Weaver for reservation. 706-540-7397

We continue to help support our community with resources. Spread the word to caregivers about the meeting on April 1 at 1 p.m.



## **Northwest Georgia Dementia Caregiver Support Groups**

### **Chattooga County (Summerville)**

**1st Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm**

**Summerville First UMC**

**220 W. Washington St., Summerville, GA**

### **Floyd County (Rome)**

**1st Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm**

**Transitions Hospice Care**

**316 E. 7th St., SW, Rome, GA**

**To register for a Support Group:**

**Contact Redonna Branton, CRT, RCP**

**(706) 378 - 2273**

**rbranton@transitionshc.com**

**Build a support system with people who understand.**

Alzheimer's Association® support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for people living with dementia and their care partners to:

- Develop a support system
- Exchange practical information on challenges and possible solutions
- Talk through issues and ways of coping
- Share feelings, needs and concerns
- Learn about community resources



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Backpack Food Packing

April 15 and April 29 at 12:30 in Rome

Chattooga Resource Center Volunteers are needed each Wednesday. Volunteers are welcome anytime between 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Drop by to help for any amount of time that you have available.

### Community Kitchen

#### Thursday, April 24th

Help is needed anytime between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

### Feeding the Hungry

### SFUMC Partners with DFACS In Chattooga County

April needs are spaghetti noodles and sauce, macaroni and cheese, canned meats, peanut butter, and cereal.

### April Flowers

April 6— Available

April 13— Given by Liza Morgan in celebration of Beth Morgan's birthday

April 20— Given by Cheryl Farrar in celebration of Stella Turner's 20th birthday

April 27— Available



# From the Pastor

I sit writing this article planning on going into Walker State prison on Thursday. I truly enjoy my prison ministry. One of the most amazing things is how many men I have actually seen come to Christ. Perhaps I am too flippant about it, but it is true that I have encountered dozens of men on Thursday afternoon, who come in with an attitude and a machismo that says I'm only here for the free cookies. Our ministry is not to convert people or to promote any particular denomination. Our ministry is to let incarcerated men meet Jesus, often for the very first time, and to let them know that God loves them. One of the things we say all of the time is that our motto is listen, listen, love, love.

I literally have lost count of the men who by Saturday afternoon realize for the first time that God actually loves them. God loves them in spite of whatever they've done.

It made me wonder how many of us might actually doubt the fact that God loves us, or at the very least the extent of God's love for us. As a pastor, I've had many people start a conversation like this. Well, I know God loves people. But, you don't know what I've done.

Well, let's look at some of the people Jesus forgave. Jesus forgave Levi, a tax collector. Tax collectors made their living by cheating people, forcing them to pay more taxes than they actually owed and pocketing the difference. We know this tax collector, better by his other name, Matthew, one of the twelve.

Jesus allows a sinful woman to pour perfume on his feet and rub it with her hair. When it is pointed out, Jesus announces that the woman has done good, and his host has neglected his responsibilities of hospitality, and he turns to the woman and forgives her sins.

Jesus forgave, a woman caught in adultery. Not accused, caught. No matter, what else might be true or what facts, her accusers omitted, the woman was guilty of adultery. Jesus forgave her, told her to sin no more and sent her on her way.

Then there's Peter. One of Jesus' closest friends and followers. The man always mentioned first in the three closest disciples, Peter, James, and John. Peter denied, knowing Jesus, he abandoned him. And Jesus forgave him, and restored him to his place in the twelve.

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Jesus forgave, everyone involved in his crucifixion. Asking the father to forgive them, because they did not know what they were doing.

During his crucifixion, the thief to his side, ask Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom. Jesus promised the thief would be with him that very day in paradise.

Saul, who became known better as Paul, was out persecuting followers of Jesus to the point of prison and death. On the road to Damascus. He was knocked from his horse and struck blind, but ultimately he was forgiven, and became the most prolific writer in New Testament history.

I could go on and on and on, but I will finish with this. Moses was a murderer.

God is not looking for a reason to strike us dead. What God is looking for is our willingness to have a relationship with him.

So I would ask you the same question we ask the inmates, are you a friend of God? Is a friend someone who agrees with everything we say and do all the time?

A true friend is someone who wants the best for us. A true friend will call attention when we are about to do something really dumb. A true friend will give us time and space when we need it, but who will also be there with us even when we've made a complete mess of things.

If you just read the description of the people that Jesus forgave, that God forgave, I think it is obvious that God wants to be our friend.

Adam and Eve were created for the express purpose of having companionship with God. Genesis describes God visiting the garden in the cool of the afternoon, walking and talking with his creation. Even when we screwed everything up, God didn't abandon us, he sent Jesus into the world to correct the problem.

Too many heaven bound Christians think that God doesn't care about them at the best. They cannot believe that God sincerely wants to be in friendship with them.

I have a lighthearted expression that I use that says, "I know God loves you, but I'm one of his favorites because he has my picture on his refrigerator." If you know me at all, you know that I do not believe there is anything special about me to attract God in my direction. I am a mess, but the God that I worship and love cares so much about me that I sincerely believe if he had a refrigerator my picture would be on it. I believe he wants to have your picture on his refrigerator too.

None of us are worthy of God's love. But he loves us anyway. Each one of us is a bearer of the image of God, and he takes great joy in seeing how we reflect his image into the world. Would you let go of your pride and accept God's love and friendship?

I can do what I do, because I truly believe in the love of God and his desire to have a relationship with me.

How about you?

In Christ,  
Wes

# Everlasting Ministries



Our Ladies' Circle made prayer quilt squares for girls attending the weekend retreat for Everlasting Ministries. Our friends from Pleasant Grove Baptist set up a hat bar during the retreat. Sandy Weaver helped decorate for the weekend event. The weekend had 4 salvations and 4 rededications to Christ. The Lord is working through our outreach programs. We encourage all ladies to be a part of our group.

# Sew Joyful Ministry

We're excited to begin our first project! We expect to schedule a date in May and welcome anyone interested to attend our sewing session. You don't have to know how to sew (though we are anxious to teach you). There are many tasks involved in the projects including designing, cutting, folding, ironing, and packing to name a few.

Our first project is "Dress a Girl Around the World", a charitable initiative that aims to provide dresses to girls in need across the globe. Visit [www.dressagirlarondtheworld.com](http://www.dressagirlarondtheworld.com) for more information.

You can help financially support SFUMC ministry by SPONSORING A DRESS! Your contribution will go directly towards supplies and shipping here at SFUMC. Help us fill the Fellowship Hall with beautiful dresses by adding your name to a sponsorship card. You can direct questions to either Sarah Moe or Sandy Weaver.





## Hearts of Love Project

The Ladies Circle met in March and worked on a project close to Cheryl Farrar. The hearts were made to family members whose loved ones are at end of life. They offer them a way to remember their loved ones as they say their earthly good-byes.



## April BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS:

04/03 Rebekah Turner  
04/04 Lee Kaylor  
04/05 Adam Smith  
04/08 Milford Morgan  
04/18 John Bailey  
04/18 Beth Morgan  
04/18 Chuck Norton  
04/21 Stella Turner  
04/25 Shirley Fisher  
04/26 Lindsay Sullens  
04/27 Alice Cox  
04/27 Ben Sullens  
04/30 Terri Garnsey

### ANNIVERSARIES

None listed



### Second Annual Joan Jarrett Goodwill Shopping

Several ladies spent the day shopping at Goodwill Stores in northwest Georgia. Many bargains were found and great fellowship shared. Those shopping were, Honey Housch, Rita o'Neal, Elaine Crouch, Avis Snow, Sarah Moe, Cheryl Farrar, Beth Morgan, Liza Morgan, and Cathy Reid.

### Prayer

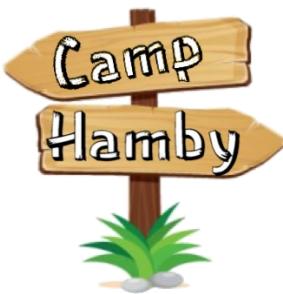
### Concerns

Darby Hall & family, Charlisa Rodgers (much improved), Alice Cox (FALL), Jane McCool, Steve Weaver, Sarah Moe, Gaia Hall, Dossie Privett (thyroid), Terri Garnsey, Dee Slason, Andrea Moe, Lucille Hamby (back at Riverwood), Nancy Lam, Natalie Richards, Brinley Corbin (tumor), Lynne Lee, (Arthritis), Terri Garnsey, Linda Leonard, Ava Hamilton (ear issues), Lainey Williams (Roger & Wynne's granddaughter. COVID)

**LONG TERM** NATALIE BURNLEY (heart), CAROLYN ROGERS (finished chemo), GARY HYLANDER, JIM MEDICI (Dossie's brother), JILL SPEARS (MRI), REBECCA SLASON, JANE STOKES, GAIL ALLEN, CARTER & LINDA BLACK, DIANE FULTON, LUCILLE HAMBY, BEN MCCOOL & FAMILY, JANE MCCOOL, KASSIDY MCCOOL, DIANE MCCONNELL, DOSSIE PRIVETT, JEFFERY FLOYD

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** The family of Ann McCollum, the family of Lonnie Stevens, the family of Joe Dawson, the family of Jack Denny, The family of Dustin Powell, the family of Katie Tucker, the family of Bill Hyden





## Camp Hamby Day

### Camp

The dates for this summer will be June 9-13 and June 16-20. Camp is for kindergarten through 6th grade.

### Financial Report - Jan. 1, 2025 through March 28, 2025

#### Funds Received Actual Expenses Variance

\$28,235	\$33,631	(\$5,396)
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#### **MISSIONS YTD:**

Receipts	Expenditures	Difference \$
\$3,384	\$1,512	\$1,872

*The finance team thanks those who have continued to financially support the church during this past year.*

### **March Offerings:**

March 2	\$3,842
March 9	\$2,204
March 16	\$644
March 23	\$453
March 30	\$290
Total	\$7,433

Backpack Food current balance is \$1,431.



### Church Staff and Contact Info

Pastor, Rev. J. Wesley Privett  
(478) 394-5575

Email: [wes.privett@ngumc.net](mailto:wes.privett@ngumc.net)  
[pastorsfumc1906@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsfumc1906@gmail.com)

Organist, Gene McGinnis

Office Phone 706-857-2057

Pastor's Cell: 478-394-5575

### Soul Sisters at Pleasant Grove Baptist

If you missed hearing Kayla Hartline at our February Circle meeting, you can hear her at Pleasant Grove on the third Thursday of April at 6:30. The church is located on Farmersville Road.

All ladies are invited to attend.