

# CORNER CONNECTIONS

## Why did God not answer my prayer?

One of the experiences that challenge every single Christian is when it seems God is silent in answer to our prayers. These are the times when some of our prayers simply aren't working and we want to know why. These are the times God seems like he is a million miles away and our prayers are bouncing off the ceiling. They are the times we have been praying for healing and the healing does not come. Maybe someone we love is rejecting God, no matter how hard we pray.

We all carry the heartbreak of unanswered prayer. Thousands of us carry the heartbreak of unanswered prayer in our hearts. Occasionally, we continue to wonder why God does not respond to our requests, but mostly we just get on with life, brushing our disappointments and questions under the rug, trying to trust in Him regardless. But it truly doesn't have to be like this.

In the face of this experience it is easy for us to believe that there are no answers and that we just have to walk blindly with God. While it is true that there are no easy explanations for the times that God appears to be silent, in the Scriptures we do find answers, indeed good ones, that have helped countless believers for thousands of years to navigate their disappointment with God without losing their faith.

So during January and February I want to explore the mystery of unanswered prayer, as well as many other questions that we face as Christians. My hope is that, in the end, we will all see more clearly how the story of Jesus' passion, abandonment, and eventual resurrection remains the greatest hope for a hurting world.

In Christ,  
Clint

### "Questions That Haunt Us" Series Schedule

Sunday, January 8 - "Where Is God in my Suffering?"

Sunday, January 15 - "Why Did God Not Answer My Prayer?"

Sunday, January 22 - "How can a loving God send people to Hell?"

Sunday, January 29 - "Don't we all have to find truth for ourselves?"

Sunday, February 5 - "Hasn't Christianity been an instrument for oppression?"

Sunday, February 12 - "How can there be just one true religion?"

Sunday, February 19 - "What should I do with my doubts?"



## TALLASSEE MISSION HOUSE

The following is an article I wrote for our church newsletter 5 years ago. I happened upon it recently and thought I would share these words again. They apply just as much today as they did 5 years ago.

**Happy New Year!** Each new year grants us refreshed opportunities to review our life paths. What a perfect time to consider our spiritual walk and the choices we make. Many of us make decisions to increase our prayer time, engage in more bible study, commit to more readily sharing our faith in our daily lives, take a more active role in our church events, increase our financial support to our church, participate in multiple missions outreach, to name a few. Like many other new year's resolutions, our intent is good; but do we really follow through with actions to enhance our spiritual walk? Do I? Do you? Reflecting on these options, how can we make them happen? Thoughts...

**1. Increase our prayer time:** Are you on the FUMC prayer warrior email list? If not, contact the church office and ask to be included. That action alone provides you with prayer needs which might prompt you to increase your praying.

**2. Engage in more bible study:** These studies are available through "Sunday School" classes, Wednesday night studies, ladies circles, and other small group studies. Another option is to check out a book from the church library. Or maybe commit to reading the bible or a devotional each day.

**3. Sharing our faith in our daily lives:** Of course, considering WWJD as we go about our daily activities allows us to share our faith by example. Speaking about our faith takes this to a different level and requires that we make conscious efforts to open doors to spiritual conversation. Simply sharing our church affiliation, perhaps inviting someone to a special service, commenting about a church event, or sharing an inspirational posting on Facebook can open these doors.

**4. Take a more active role in our church events:** Search the weekly church bulletin and the FUMC monthly newsletter for church activities. Review the bulletin boards on the first floor and in fellowship hall. Check out the FUMC website and Facebook pages. Make a commitment to participate in more of the activities listed. Or perhaps even develop new activities that would benefit you and others.

**5. Increase financial support to our church:** Consider paying your tithe via scheduled on-line check payments through your bank. It's easy, plus it's an easy way to never forget a tithe payment when you are absent from church.

**6. Participate in missions:** Keep in the know on missions projects and join in however you can. All of our church small groups are involved in various service ministries. December was busy with service and donations for the Shoe box Ministry, Christmas for Learning Tree residents, Pregnancy Center, House of Love and Mercy, Hospice, to name a few. Jumping to this current year, we now have an ongoing churchwide ministry of the Tallassee Mission House, a ministry in which everyone in our church has an opportunity to be involved in. Are you "on a mission"? How are you showing God's love by being the hands and feet of Jesus?

By, Deb Henning

Happy New Year

May he grant you your heart's desire  
and fulfill all your plans!

Psalms 20:4



## Discernment Team & Church Council on Monday, January 9

Our church leadership has been discerning and exploring how to respond to the ongoing divide of the United Methodist denomination. On Monday, January 9 there will be two important meetings in the Fellowship Hall:

At 5:30 PM the Discernment Team will meet to finalize its recommendation regarding the future direction of our church to the Church Council.

At 6:30 PM the Church Council will receive that recommendation and make a decision what future direction it will recommend to our church at large.

Both of these meetings are open for observers, and you are invited to come and share your thoughts.



## “Radical Hospitality”

A Truly Radical Christmas Market  
BY - Tommy Lawrence, with input from Bob Reed

Tallassee held the annual Christmas Market on December 2 and 3, and our First Methodist study group/family, *Radical*, sponsored a “hospitality tent,” the brainchild of Amy McBroom. The goal was simply to show our community the radical love that Jesus shows us! We offered free refreshments and “Jesus Loves You” magnets, giving away hundreds of homemade cookies and gallons of hot chocolate and coffee! There was even a special appearance by Olaf, the lovable snowman from the movie “Frozen,” who passed out free hugs and posed for pictures. The turnout was amazing, and many folks told us they were blessed by our presence there!



Radical also provided paper and pens, and offered all who stopped by an opportunity for us to pray with them or to submit prayer requests into a collection box. The response to the prayer request box was amazing! We received dozens of prayer requests, and at our regular meeting time on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, *Radical* lifted each of these requests to the Lord. The requests were randomly divided among us, and we took turns going around our classroom, addressing each of our community’s prayer concerns.

All of the members of *Radical* agreed that our Hospitality Tent was a huge success, and we received an indescribable blessing from our follow-up prayer session. We agreed to make the Radical Hospitality Tent an integral and regular part of the Tallassee Christmas Fair from now on.



## Youth

We had a wonderful time on our ski trip this year! Thank you for all of the prayers as we traveled. We grew closer as a group and closer to God while there! Thank you to Jake and Jennifer Crain for chaperoning! We appreciate your love and dedication to our church and our youth group. Youth will resume the first week of January. We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Don't forget about our Children & Youth Facebook Groups:

“FUMC Tallassee Children’s Ministries”

“FUMC Tallassee Youth Parents”

- Info about kids & youth activities • post your questions, get answers
- photos!





## Pics from the Child of Light Program (courtesy of Mr. Bird)

Michael Bird couldn't say it any better. "Child of Light at First United Methodist Church was a wonderful program. Our townspeople received the message in a powerful way through music and drama. Special thanks to Mr. Cunningham, Miss Amanda, Mrs. Hill and all who made this such a blessing tonight."



## JANUARY Birthdays

- 01—Sandra Culp  
Sally Weaver
- 03—Ian Bankester
- 04—Kim Coan-Hancock
- 06—Bob Reed
- 09—Georgia Anne Butler
- 11—Sarah Gilchrist
- 18—Betty Watkins
- 20—Darryl Pendergrass
- 22—Lisa Brooks  
James Holt  
Ian Pendergrass
- 23—Michael Miller
- 24—Kinsley Glasscock
- 26—Beverly Andrews  
Wayne Pressley
- 27—Ray Kirby
- 28—John Stuedeman
- 31—Wendi Bearden  
Carrie Donahey  
Jenna Manning

## JANUARY Anniversaries

- 15—Bobby & Kathy  
Butler
- 24—Steve & Jacque  
Martin
- 26—Dale & Meg Young

*Is your name missing from this list? Let us know!*  
[fumctallasee@gmail.com](mailto:fumctallasee@gmail.com)

Normal schedule starts back January 4, 2023. Below is the new fellowship meal schedule. If you have any changes please contact the church office

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE 2023

- JANUARY 4 - JULIA BURTON
- JANUARY 11 - CLASS 360
- JANUARY 18 - RADICAL GROUP
- JANUARY 25 - ESTELLE LOCKWOOD/WOMEN'S GROUP
- FEBRUARY 8 - MEN'S CLASS
- FEBRUARY 15 - ALLEN COWAN
- FEBRUARY 22 - CHOIR
- MARCH 1 - YOUTH
- MARCH 8 - MISSION HOUSE
- MARCH 15 - CHILDREN (KIDS)
- MARCH 22 - MEN'S CLUB

### Connect With Us

website: [fumctallasee.com](http://fumctallasee.com)

- downloadable audio sermons
- latest announcements
- past newsletters
- online giving
- church calendar
- submit prayer requests

### Facebook Page:

[facebook.com/fumctallasee](https://facebook.com/fumctallasee)

- Livestreamed worship
- videos of past services
- latest news

# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b> Restaurant Supper Club - 5:30 pm	<b>4</b> Wednesday Night Fellowship - 6 pm Meal provided by Julia Burton	<b>5</b> Finance Meeting 6:00 - Church office	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Men's Breakfast 7:00 am, <i>F. Hall</i>	<b>9</b> Woman's Circle 10:00 am, <i>F. Hall</i> Discernment Meeting 5:30 pm, <i>F. Hall</i> Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm, <i>F. Hall</i>	<b>10</b> SPRC Meeting 6:00 pm, Church office	<b>11</b> Wednesday Night Fellowship - 6 pm Meal provided by Class 360	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Crafty Christians 1 - 2:30 pm, <i>F. Hall</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Clergy Consultation 9 am - 1:50 pm Wednesday Night Fellowship - 6 pm Meal provided by Radical Group	<b>19</b> Home Supper Club 6:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Wednesday Night Fellowship - 6 pm Meal provided by Estelle Lockwood/ Women's Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## January Altar Flowers

- 01 - none
- 08 - Keith & Terry Holt
- 15 - OPEN
- 22- Susan Dragone
- 29 - OPEN







## First United Methodist Church, Tallassee

1 Jordan Ave. • PO Box 780147  
Tallassee, AL 36078

**pastor:** Rev. Clint McBroom  
**fumctallassee.com • 334-283-2195**

### **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

8:50 am - contemporary worship  
10 am - Sunday School, **all ages**  
11 am - traditional worship

### **KIDS & YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Sundays - 5 to 6:30 pm  
Wednesdays - 6 to 7:15 pm



**Facebook.com/FUMCTallassee**

The service for the preceding week is broadcast each Sunday at **11 am**. Listen to Clint's daily devotions at **7:15 am** each weekday morning.

