

ANNISTON FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ANNISTONFIRST.INFO • 256.236.5605
1400 Noble Street • Anniston, Alabama 36201

Setbacks Are Not the Last Word

I have been thinking about Joseph lately. Not my husband, Joseph, but Joseph in the Bible. We are introduced to Joseph in Genesis 37. Joseph was his father's favorite child which created a contentious relationship with his eleven brothers. In an act of sibling rivalry gone horribly wrong, those brothers actually sell him into slavery and tell their father Joseph is dead!

Purchased by Pharaoh's chief officer, Potiphar, Joseph works hard and finds favor in Potiphar's eyes. Joseph becomes his trusted assistant for the household (think head butler in an old stately manor) UNTIL . . . Potiphar's wife makes a pass at him. When he declines her offer, she lies and says that he was the one who initiated the advances. Potiphar believes his wife and throws Joseph into jail.

While in jail, Joseph meets the chief wine steward from Pharaoh's household, imprisoned for displeasing the king. Joseph knows the wine steward will soon be back in favor with his boss and asks to remember him when he is released. Yet, the wine steward forgets about Joseph for two years.

Finally, the wine steward remembers him! Pharaoh brings Joseph into his service, and he once again gains favor with his employer. Genesis 41: 25 says, "Then Joseph assumed control of the land of Egypt." When his brothers come begging for help during a famine, Joseph is in the position to help not only his family, but his entire country.

Joseph had a lot of ups and downs, progress and setbacks, in his life. He started as a favored child and became a slave. He was a trusted household manager who was not trusted and became jailed. Yet, in the end, he makes one more rise to a position of influence and purpose. Joseph sure was an overcomer of setbacks!



Tammy Jackson
Senior Pastor

**“
Remember
you are
loved by
God and
supported
by your
brothers
and sisters
in Christ.**

”

continued →

I guess Joseph has been on my mind because of the COVID situation. Last month, I declared that I was finished with writing newsletter articles about COVID, and yet, here we are. The setbacks just keep coming! In 2020, I thought we would be worshipping in our sanctuaries again by Easter. We were not. I thought the summer heat would kill COVID. Yet, summer ended and COVID was still with us. And after Thanksgiving. And after Christmas. And after Easter 2021. And now. Setback after setback after setback.

Are you weary? Are you discouraged? Let me encourage you: Just like Joseph, our story is not over! No matter how many setbacks we experience, setbacks do not get the final word. At least twelve times, from Genesis to Hebrews in Scripture, God says, "I will not leave or abandon you."

Hang in here! Remember you are loved by God and supported by your brothers and sisters in Christ. Be gentle with yourself. Cry when you must, sigh as often as needed, but keep hope alive.

Praying Grace and Peace for us all,
Pastor Tammy



CAMP LEE FALL FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021
1-6 PM

\$5 ENTRY FEE. 3 & UNDER FREE.
ART. MUSIC. FOOD. SHOPS. GAMES.

Camp Lee needs volunteers!

If you are interested in volunteering at the fall festival,
contact Camp Lee at (256) 499-6160 or [click here to sign-up!](#)

Congregational Care



Rev. Kyle Bryan
Associate Pastor
kyle@annistonfirst.info
256.453.8453

Church, you are a prophetic presence in Anniston and Calhoun County! One of my favorite Old Testament theologians is Walter Brueggeman who describes prophetic ministry as the “nurturing, nourishing, and evoking of a consciousness and perception alternative to the consciousness and perception of the dominant culture around us.” To care for those among us who are vulnerable when the dominant and prevailing culture around us fails to value them is a profoundly prophetic act. Our dominant culture does not encourage masks or caution during worship amidst the second wave of a pandemic proving to be more deadly for children, unvaccinated persons, and individuals with co-morbidities. Anytime individuals or communities of faith prioritize the care of others over and above prevailing notions of convenience and preference, they stand within the prophetic tradition that Jesus embodies. Your willingness to relocate worship to Camp Lee is both a prophetic act for our community to witness and an act of congregational care. Prioritizing the health and well-being of others is a mark of spiritual maturity and a sign of God’s love residing in you.

But being prophetic is exhausting, so we are continuing to identify creative ways to support you spiritually. As we renew our emphasis on congregational care, our visits, phone calls, cards, and text messages with you will increase. Each week our clergy, staff, and lay leadership identify members of our congregation in need. While we recognize that many of us are still leery of physical contact from others due to COVID-19, our clergy are vaccinated and we want to be there for you when you need us. Each Monday, you should receive an email listing prayer concerns, and there is a link in the email to submit a prayer concern that should be added to the list. Our clergy and staff pray for each one of these requests every week before we begin our staff meeting. Please don’t hesitate to add these persons to your prayer and devotional time.

As our congregation and community continue to navigate the Delta variant COVID-19 surge, we are committed to providing you with the best congregational care that we can. We are here to guide you through this unprecedented time as we faithfully follow God, care for one another, and witness to our community.



IGNITE
• STUDENT MINISTRIES •

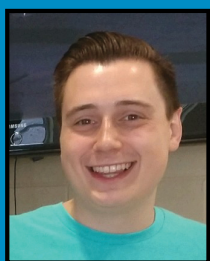
Fall is well underway for our youth ministry. We kicked off the fall semester with our children's ministry at Camp Lee, and we have responded to the surge in Covid-19 by continuing to meet with added precautions such as masking. As always, we can use your support by providing a meal for MYF. In a recent student feedback night, our youth expressed that a homemade meal is one of the best parts of MYF. Of course they were quick to say the lessons are important too! If you would like to provide a meal for MYF, you can sign up at the following QR code:



We are excited for Wesley Wednesdays to start back with Wednesday night activities returning in September! Wesley Wednesdays takes a similar approach to Confirmation, but it extends the learning and formation within our Wesleyan tradition and makes it a weekly emphasis for members of our student ministry. Kids learn about the history and guiding principles of our congregation, denomination, and Methodism the world over.

Students loved this in the 2019/2020 school year, and I am excited that this vital part of our ministry will return soon. Finally, we are beginning to plan a fun lock-in on October 2, 2021. I am excited for all God has in store for our student ministry this fall! Thank you all for your ongoing support of the youth ministry.

Peace of Christ,
Rev. Davis Johnson



Davis Johnson

Associate Pastor

of Youth Ministries & Congregational Care

davis@annistonfirst.info

or 615-686-3313

Handbells, Choirs, & More!



Matt Headley

Director of Music &
Worship Arts

**Handbells &
Children's Choir
4:00 PM**

**Virtual Choir
Rehearsal
6:00 PM**

**Praise Team
6:30 PM**

MUSIC
at
*Anniston
First*



<https://rb.gy/xtowwy>

Handbell rehearsals begin this month Wednesday September 8 at 4pm in the Sanctuary!

This will be my directorial debut with a handbell choir. In our staff meetings this week, I announced that I have enrolled in a handbell class to learn more

about directing them. One of our staff members burst into laughter, declaring they were not prepared for the revelation that such a thing existed.

I confess, I have graduated to a new level of church music nerddom. Handbell choirs are almost exclusively found in churches, but they are a great way to engage practically anyone in a physically engaging corporate act of **AWESOMENESS.**

Because handbell rehearsals will happen concurrently with Louise Ballenger's **Children's Choir** (4:00 pm in the Asbury music room), parents of young children are being encouraged to join us!

Choir rehearsals enjoyed a successful start rehearsing on Zoom last month. Blair Callaway and I have been working with some generous technical assistance from participants of our church to create a safe and effective rehearsal environment. Our choir will incorporate outdoor rehearsals as circumstances permit and are planning to join in leading worship in the near future.

The Praise Team, now under Jason Wright's leadership, will continue rehearsing on Wednesday nights, with the intent of creating occasional Sunday rehearsals to **include more musicians** in leading worship.

Please contact me, Jason, or Louise if you would like to participate in the choir, bells, band or other ensembles! And if you would like to participate in our worship planning as part of our **"Work of the People"** initiative, (see the August Newsletter), please let me know!

Yours in Christ,
Matt Headley

Wednesday Night Schedule

4:00PM

- Children’s Choir with **Ms. Louise Ballenger**
- Wesley Bells in the Sanctuary **with Matt Headley**
- Origins with **Pastor Tammy** B102

5:00PM

Dinner in the Bridge

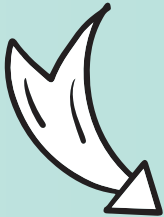
6:00PM

- Virtual Chancel Choir with **Matt Headley**
 - Origins with **Pastor Tammy** B102
 - Saving Grace **with Stephen & Mary** B203
 - Children’s F.U.S.E with **Mrs. Emmalie**
- in Wesley Children’s Area
- Ignite Youth with **Pastor Davis**
- in the Youth Gathering area

6:30PM

- Praise Band Band with **Jason Wright**
- in the Sanctuary

What’s Happenin’
on Wednesdays?
Starting in September 8



Wednesday Night Meals

Weekly Per Person.....\$10.00
Weekly Per Family Max.....\$25.00

Save with a Pre-Paid Meal Plan!
Save \$40.00 per person and \$55.00 per family
when you prepay for your 14 Fall Wednesday Night Meals!

Per Person.....\$100.00 Per Family.....\$295.00

Wednesday night reservations and payments can be
made online at **annistonfirst.info/meals** and payments with
cash or card can be made in person.

Any proceeds support our Shepherd’s Table feeding ministry on Sunday mornings.



**Scan to make reservations & pay
for Wednesday night meals.**



**Louise
Ballenger**



**Matt
Headley**



**Emmalie
Whitney**



**Rev. Davis
Johnson**



**Jason
Wright**



**Rev. Tammy
Jackson**



**Rev. Kyle
Bryan**



**Stephen
LaFollette**



**Mary
Larson**

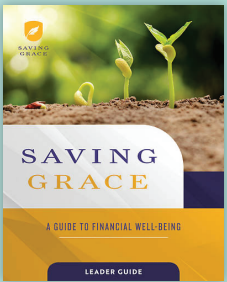


in Bridge 102
with Pastor Tammy



**Scan to signup
for classes.**

Origins explores the first eleven chapters of Genesis, which are foundational to the Bible and undergird much of our theology today. Join Pastor Tammy beginning Wednesday, September 8 at 4:00 & 6:00 PM following Wednesday night supper in Bridge 102.



**Saving Grace in Bridge 203
with Stephen LaFollette & Mary Larson**

Money...is it good or is it bad? How do we, as people of faith, create healthy relationships with money and possessions? *Saving Grace* provides the text and tools you need to address the topics of saving, earning, giving, spending, and debt, along with helpful strategies for achieving a sustainable financial life. This six-part study is based on Wesleyan values and helps you reach personal financial goals as well as address life concerns. Starting Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00PM following Wednesday night supper in Bridge 102.



Emmalie Whitney-
Children's Director
childrensdirector@annistonfirst.info
256-499-1282

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS!**



**FUSE CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY**



**FALL
2021**



**Ages
Birth-Pre K**

4:00-8:30 PM

Wesley Hall



**Grades
PreK-5th**

4:00-5:00
(PreK & K will
dismiss at 4:45)

**Wesley Hall
Choir Room**



**Family
Meal
Time**

5:00-6:00 PM

**The
Bridge**



**FUSE
Bible
Study**

**Grades
PreK-3rd**

6:00-7:00 PM

Wesley Hall



**SPARK
Jr.
UMYF**

**Grades
4th & 5th**

6:00-7:00 PM

Wesley Hall

ANNISTON FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR 2021

Each year the Scholarship Committee of Anniston First reviews applications for financial aid for undergraduate degrees and for graduate ministerial degrees. The amount of funding varies from year to year because of the annual interest generated in each of three scholarship funds.

The **Consolidated Scholarship Fund** is designated for undergraduate degrees. Funding is based on the data furnished by the applicants concerning their financial need, their high school/college grades, their church affiliation and involvement, their volunteer work, other scholarships obtained, and their faith statement.

Undergraduate Recipients are:

Darionta Bell	Campbellsville University
Summer Booth	University of Alabama
Elliott Hamilton	University of Alabama/Birmingham
Shelley Phillips	University of Alabama/Huntsville
Coren Pool	University of Alabama/Birmingham

Our church has two other scholarships designated for seminary students. **The Battle/-Candler Seminary Scholarship Fund** assists ministerial students attending Candler School of Theology at Emory University. The **Seminary Scholarship Fund** assists ministerial students who attend other Methodist seminaries. Funding is based on data supplied by the applicants concerning their financial need, graduate school grades, demonstrated progress toward degree completion, and church affiliation.

Funds for all scholarships are always sent directly to the colleges and universities designated by the students.

Higher education is extremely expensive. Please consider making a financial contribution to the Consolidated Scholarship Fund. Your contribution would enable the Scholarship Committee to offer assistance to those undergraduate students who need financial aid to attend a college or university.

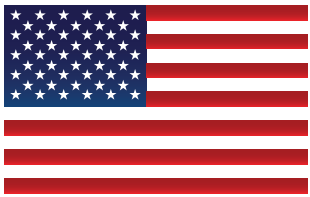
Your contributions to the Seminary Scholarship Fund and the Battle/Candler Scholarship Fund would greatly assist the ministerial students attain advanced degrees.

Please consider helping students obtain an education with your financial gifts. An **honorarium or a memorial gift** designated to a scholarship fund---Consolidated Scholarship Fund, Seminary Scholarship Fund, or Battle/Candler Seminary Scholarship Fund---will provide much needed financial aid to students.

Lasting legacies can be designated to any scholarship fund through estate planning.

The Scholarship Committee consists of Martha Merrill (chair), Mary Eloise Leake, Becky Fearon, Sarah Sloan, Becky Ledford, and Bill Jackson.

REMEMBER OUR MILITARY



Andrew & Elizabeth Collins, Zach St. Clair, Trey Chandler, Dann Robertson. If you know of others, please call the church office at 256-236-5605.

Special Gifts

Camp Lee

In memory of Don Frazier, given by Nancy J. Payne.

Meals on Wheels

In memory of Don Frazier, given by Dan and Becky Brown.

Memorial Fund

In memory of Alan Haynes, given by Ed and Rita Bailey.

Shepherd's Table

In memory of Walton Phillips, given by Steve Wells and Jane Wilson, Margery Whitlock, Tom and Carolyn Smith, Rosemary Hollingsworth, Mickey and Sara Starling, and Nancy J. Payne.

In memory of Don Frazier, given by Margery Whitlock, Tom and Carolyn Smith, and William and Emily Robinson.

In memory of Gibson Coleman, given by Margery Whitlock.

In memory of Daniel Clonts, given by Margery Whitlock.

In memory of Edward Mallory (Teddy) McLaughlin on the July 11 anniversary of his death, given by cousins Peter and Janice Reilly, Bethesda, Md.

Like What You See?

Now to Make More Ministry Moments

Your giving and generosity make the ministries at AFUMC and our partner agencies possible. Please consider making a contribution to AFUMC or one of our ministries and increase our ability to offer God's grace to those in our community.



Options for Giving to Anniston First

Online: Using the camera on your smartphone, scan the QR code below and select the notification link that appears on your screen

Text To Give: Text "AnnistonFirst" to 73256. Then follow the prompts. The first time you use a specific credit card or debit card, you will need to input that information. If you use this method, the church absorbs the credit or debit card discounts and fees.



By Mail: Anniston First United Methodist Church • P. O. Box 1789, Anniston, AL 36202.

The Plate is back: Place your offering in the offering plate as it comes by during worship.

SAVE THE DATE

- Sept. 1: Virtual Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM
Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM
- Sept. 5: Shepherds Table at 8:30 AM
Worship at Camp Lee
at Martha's Chapel at 9:00 AM
- Sept. 8: Handbells & Children's Choir 4:00 PM
Origins Class 4:00 PM B102
Wednesday Night Meal 5:00 PM
Virtual Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM
Origins Class 6:00 PM B102
Saving Grace Class 6:00 PM B203
Praise Team 6:30 PM
- Sept. 12: Shepherds Table at 8:30 AM
Worship at Camp Lee
at Martha's Chapel at 9:00 AM
- Sept. 15: Handbells & Children's Choir 4:00 PM
Origins Class 4:00 PM B102
Wednesday Night Meal 5:00 PM
Virtual Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM
Origins Class 6:00 PM B102
Saving Grace Class 6:00 PM B203
Praise Team 6:30 PM
- Sept. 16: Virtual NAMI Mental Health Support
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Sept. 19: Shepherds Table at 8:30 AM
Worship at Camp Lee
at Martha's Chapel at 9:00 AM
- Sept. 22: Handbells & Children's Choir 4:00 PM
Origins Class 4:00 PM B102
Wednesday Night Meal 5:00 PM
Virtual Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM
Origins Class 6:00 PM B102
Saving Grace Class 6:00 PM B203
Praise Team 6:30 PM
- Sept. 26: Shepherds Table at 8:30 AM
Worship at Camp Lee
at Martha's Chapel at 9:00 AM
Administrative Board 4:00 pm, Chapel
- Sept. 29: Handbells & Children's Choir 4:00 PM
Origins Class 4:00 PM B102
Wednesday Night Meal 5:00 PM
Virtual Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM
Origins Class 6:00 PM B102
Saving Grace Class 6:00 PM B203
Praise Team 6:30 PM

www.annistonfirst.info

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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