OUR culture has designated Mother's Day as a day to recognize our mothers, to give thanks for them, and to celebrate the extraordinary influence that they have had and continue to have on our lives. In the church, we thank God for Christian mothers who recognize the importance of raising their children under the influence and ministry of Christ's church and who understand the importance of actively growing in their faith.

ON this day we also remember there are many Christian women who do not have children of their own, but who have "mothered" in very special ways, and give thanks for them as well.

WE as a church need to be aware that there are those for whom Mother's Day may be a very difficult time for various reasons and be in prayer for them.

To all of the women of First United Methodist Church,

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Jim
Welcome, Guests, to Americus First United Methodist Church!

We are glad you are here and hope you worship with us again. If you are interested in membership, please contact Rev. Jim Smith at 924-3169.
In Our Thoughts and Prayers
Gale Brown, Beth Carroll, Walt Grant, Steve Griffin, Senora Grimes, Carey Harbuck, Darrel Harbuck, Mary Hunt, Anne Hurst, Jack Partain, Ginger Perkins, Rodney Vance, Hazel Waller, and Julian Webb
The FLOWERS in the Social Hall and the Sanctuary today are placed to the glory of God and in honor of all mothers from the Flower Committee.

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING

Sunday, May 20, at 10:00 a.m. or Wednesday, May 30, 6:00 p.m.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

CURRENT church volunteers and staff who work with children and youth
NEW volunteers who want to work with children and youth
CHURCH MEMBERS who want to learn how Safe Sanctuaries works to protect children and youth

ATTENTION GRADUATES!

If you are graduating from high school, college or university, please contact the church office at 924-3169 or by email at office@fumcamericus.com. We will send you a form to complete. We want to recognize this important achievement!

Mark your calendar

For “Family-style” VBS
June 10-14
Sunday–Thursday
**5:30 p.m.**
Daniel’s Courage In Captivity

WEDNESDAY SUPPER
May 16 TALENT NIGHT
Poppy Seed Chicken, Rice Butter Beans, Salad, Biscuits, Cake

Our Record of Faithfulness Last Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership: 957</th>
<th>Total Worship Attendance: 416</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School Attendance ...... 153</td>
<td>Growth Group Attendance heiß</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 Worship .......... 132</td>
<td>Hispanic Worship Attendance ...... 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 Worship Attendance ...... 166</td>
<td>Hispanic Offering .......................... $818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMYF ........................ 24</td>
<td>Hispanic Offering YTD .............. $10,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benevolent Fund YTD ........ $3,215</td>
<td>Reminder:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Giving ............ $25,990</td>
<td>You may make donations to the church by automatic draft. To do so, just call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Giving YTD ........ $221,100</td>
<td>Melanie in the finance office at 924-3169.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mark Your Calendars Now for
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16
TALENT SHOW / AUCTION
5:45 p.m. in the Social Hall

- The children are providing the talent.
- FUMC’s “Buddy and Betty Crockers” are providing cakes for the auction.
- Youth will be auctioned for specific jobs, such as cleaning or yard work.
- Pioneer Club Graduation
- Cherub and Elementary Choirs will perform.

Proceeds go to support Children’s, Youth and Worship Arts Ministries of FUMC.

FUMC Music Camp
May 29—June 1, 2012
Tuesday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Ages 5K—Grade 6
Sign up by this Sunday, May 13!
Brochures available in the
church office.
Call the office at 924-3169
for more information.
Wednesday, August 15 Performance

BISHOP’S HOUR
Bishop James King Preaching
Sunday, May 20, 2012, at Cordele First UMC
4:00-5:30 p.m.
Leave our parking lot at 3:00 p.m.

Extra copies of the sermon-based questions will be available at the entrances to the Social Hall and the Sanctuary and at the end of the online newsletter. Copies of the sermon are available on the website and on CDs in the church office.

www.afumcyouth.com
Check out the website for photos, videos and info.
facebook: americusfumcyouthgroup

Spring Schedule

May 13: UMYF: After the Yearbook
May 16: McDevotionals
May 16: TALENT NIGHT/AUCTION
May 20: Big Sunday/Graduation Sunday
May 20: Graduation Luncheon at noon
June 17-20: Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Mark 404-406-7730
HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**Sunday, May 13, 2012  MOTHER’S DAY**
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship in Social Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Growth Group in the Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
- 3:30 p.m. Elementary Choir in the Choir Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbells in the Wesley Classroom
- 7:00 p.m. One-Year Celebration in the Hispanic Worship Center

**Monday, May 14, 2012**
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Growth Group at Lisa Whitaker’s home
- 6:30 p.m. Growth Group at Johnny & Rebecca Ferguson’s home
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts at Troop 21 Scout Hut

**Tuesday, May 15, 2012**
- 12:00 noon Young at Hearts Catered Luncheon
- 6:45 p.m. Softball at Blue Field: FUMC vs. R.O.C. (Buena Vista)
- 6:30 p.m. Growth Group at Jim & Diane Smith’s home
- 6:45 p.m. Growth Group in Parlor

**Wednesday, May 16, 2012**
- 7:00 a.m. McDevotionals
- 4:00 p.m. Growth Group in Wesley Classroom
- 4:45 p.m. Elementary Choir
- 5:15 p.m. TALENT SHOW / AUCTION
- 5:45 p.m. Fellowhship Supper
- 5:45 p.m. Growth Group in Sheffield-Wooten Classroom
- 5:45 p.m. Growth Group in Wesley Classroom
- 5:45 p.m. Growth Group in the Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Growth Group at Smitty & Linda Eason’s home
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Hispanic Bible Study

**Thursday, May 17, 2012**
- 8:00 p.m. Softball at Green Field vs Preston Baptist
- 7:00 p.m. Bright Beginnings Preschool End-of-Year Program
- 8:00 pm Softball game at Blue Field: FUMC vs Preston Baptist

**Friday, May 18, 2012**
- Bright Beginnings Preschool Last Day of School Year

**Sunday, May 20, 2012**
- 9:00 a.m. NO WORSHIP SERVICE
- 9:30 a.m. Try Outs for Spend A While on the Nile in the Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Safe Sanctuaries Training in the Social Hall
- 11:00 a.m. COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE—Graduation Sunday
- Noon Graduates’ Luncheon and Program
- 4:30 p.m. Try Outs for Spend A While on the Nile in the Choir Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbells in the Wesley Classroom

**HISPANIC WORSHIP CENTER ONE-YEAR CELEBRATION**
Sunday, May 13, 2012 7:00 p.m.
Everyone is invited to the worship service and reception.
1. List and discuss several things about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman in this passage that are unusual.

2. What do you notice about Jesus' demeanor during this entire encounter?

3. Why did Jesus ask the woman to go get her husband and bring him back?

4. Many today think that Jesus is not concerned about consenting adult sexual behavior. What in this passage indicates otherwise?

5. Do you believe that "the fields around us are ready for harvest"? If so, who are the people around us that make up these fields?

6. Who are some of the "Samaritans" in our midst today?

7. What are some things that we can learn from Jesus' approach in relating to this woman that would be helpful to us in talking to others about Jesus?

CHALLENGE: In the days and weeks ahead, ask the Lord of the harvest to help you build relationships with others through caring, listening, service, and conversation so that you may earn the right to be heard as you tell them about Jesus or issue an invitation to worship, Sunday School, Growth Group or some other gathering of Christians.
2012

May 16, 2012
Talent Show & Auction
6:00—7:00 pm

May 17, 2012
Bright Beginnings
End of Year Program
Social Hall

May 20, 2012
Graduation Sunday

May 20, 2012
Safe Sanctuaries Training
10:00 a.m. Social Hall

May 21-24
Springtime By the Sea
Adult Event
Epworth by the Sea

May 29—June 1
Children’s Music & Arts Week
Tuesday—Friday
9:00 am—2:00 pm

May 30, 2012
Safe Sanctuaries Training
6:00 p.m. Social Hall

June 17-23, 2012
Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

June 22-25, 2012
Generations Together
Grandparents and Elementary Age
Epworth by the Sea

August 15, 2012
First Wednesday Supper of Fall
Spend A While on the Nile
Children’s Musical Performance

June 3-5, 2012
South Georgia United Methodist
Annual Conference
Macon, Georgia

June 10-14, 2012
Vacation Bible School
Sunday — Thursday
5:30p—8:30p

Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 9:00a to 5:00p
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to noon
Friday is
Jim’s, David’s, and Mark’s day off.

Finance Office Hours
Monday - Thursday:
8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
FUMC SPRING 2012 GROWTH GROUPS

Group Donnelly: Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
Church Conference Room
Leader and Host: Mike & Debra Donnelly

Group Warlick: Monday, 6:00 p.m.
Home of Lisa Whitaker
Leader: David Warlick    Host: Lisa Whitaker

Group Ferguson: Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Johnny & Rebecca Ferguson
Leader: Rebecca Ferguson

Group Smith: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Jim & Diane Smith
Leader: Diane Smith    Host: Valerie Duff

Group Arnold: Tuesday, 6:45 p.m.
Church Parlor
Leader: Ricky Arnold

Group Tripp: Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.
Church Conference Room
Leader: Angelyn Tripp Hosts: Jay & Janice Cliett

Group Lowrey: Wednesday, 5:45 p.m.
Church Parlor
Leader: Frank Lowrey

Group Dozier: Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Sheffield-Wootten Class Room
Leader: Lyn Dozier

Group Shealy: Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Church Wesley Classroom
Leader: Mary Lynn Shealy    Host: Mara Durham

Group Perkins: Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Church Conference Room
Leader: Ginger Perkins    Host: Jerry Perkins
Assistants: Keith and Andrea Pinckard

Group Eason: Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Smitty & Linda Eason
Leader and Host: Smitty Eason & Linda Eason