

## ***Volunteer Reminders***

### **GREETERS & USHERS**

**March 5** Janice Hutton  
**March 12** Carole & Donnie Barron  
**March 19** Betty Kiep  
**March 26** Anita Raby  
**April 2** Steve Turner

### **CONTACT VISITORS**

**March 5** Steve & Paulette Turner  
**March 12** Mae Todd  
**March 19** Betty Kiep  
**March 26** Jean Moore  
**April 2** Carole Barron

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

**March 5** Sandra McDonald  
**March 12** Stan Crockett  
**March 19** Carole Barron  
**March 26** Anita Raby  
**April 2** Sandra McDonald

## ***Volunteer Reminders***

### **TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**March 5** Tom Lewis  
**March 12** Tom Lewis  
**March 19** Tom Lewis  
**March 26** Tom Lewis  
**April 2** Tom Lewis

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If you can't worship with us in person, you can view Pastor Tom's sermon on the website at [cpc-Athens.com](http://cpc-Athens.com).

Session Meeting March 12th, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 11th at 5:00 p.m., please join us for a Spaghetti supper and game night. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board to sign up for what you would like to bring.

We need your favorite spaghetti dish, salads, desserts, breads and drinks.

Also, bring any games or cards that you would like to play. Let's plan on having a fun evening.

# **The Copeland Chimes**

*Seeking, Serving, Sharing Christ*  
March 2023

**Copeland Presbyterian Church**  
27085 Copeland Rd.  
Athens, AL 35613

### **FROM TOM'S DESK**

I'm excited about some of the things happening at Copeland Presbyterian Church this spring. Our Fellowship committee has met and decided to put together a calendar of events for this year. We have had a few events since the pandemic, but this is the first time in a long time that we have gotten back to a regular schedule. One thing that's going to be different is that not all of the events will be potluck. Some of them will be provided meals. The Fellowship committee has put together some fun events, so let's be sure and come to support the good work they're doing.

Three of our youth have been taking our confirmation class and we're going to be offering them the opportunity to join the church Easter weekend. We've also begun Sunday School for our youth.

We're hoping that the choir is going to be singing again on a regular basis. We've talked about doing that. Stay tuned for further developments on that front.

It's a great thing to see our church finally get back to some sense of normalcy. I hope and pray you will come and take advantage of these opportunities.

*Tom*

## **LENT PRAYER FOR STRENGTH & GUIDANCE**

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way.

And guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will and aware of our soul's need.

Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.

Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever.

Source: Alfred the Great, 9th century

## **MISSIONS**

### **Limestone County Churches Involved - LCCI**

The demand for food distribution at LCCI is great, so please continue to donate as you can, whether it be food items or monetary, everything is welcome. Some items needed: instant potatoes, rice, mac & cheese, pancake mix & syrup and bar soap. And remember the homeless with individual size food items that have pop tops.

Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate and designated to go to LCCI.

If you have questions about LCCI, please see Carol Barts.

### **Backpack Project**

We continue to collect individual sized food items for the weekend backpacks. Please place this food in the Fellowship Hall closet. March 20th we will be purchasing gift cards for the families for Spring Break. We have added a couple of new families, so the need is greater. If you'd like to donate to this, please indicate the amount on your check and Stan will take care of it. Thanks to all who have and continue to give. See Carole Barron or Mae Todd.

## **YOUNG DISCIPLIES**

### **PRAYER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Our Father, You are so wonderful and we worship you. You are the source of a river of love and grace that transforms the world. We offer you our young hearts, minds and bodies. Help us to grow in the goodness of your kingdom. May we shine out in times of darkness, Stand safely upon the truth and not be shaken, And see your vision for the world and follow you. Come use our energy to care for the lost. Come take our creativity to meet with the brokenhearted, Come use our youthfulness to bring joy and peace, And your hope to bring light to everyone. Amen.

Read more at: [https://www.living-prayers.com/children/prayer\\_for\\_youth.html](https://www.living-prayers.com/children/prayer_for_youth.html)

**Pastor**

Rev. Tom Lewis

**Session**

**Class of 2023**

Susanne Slaten  
Ed Taylor

**Class of 2024**

Anita Raby  
Sandra McDonald

**Class of 2025**

Carol Barts  
Bill Johnson  
Clerk of Session

**Ministry Team/  
Committee Leaders**

**Building and Grounds**

Ed Taylor

**Children's Mission**

Susanne Slaten

**Christian Education**

Sandra McDonald

**Missions**

Carol Barts

**Outreach/Fellowship**

Susanne Slaten/

**Presbyterian Women**

Susanne Slaten

**Scholarship**

Susanne Slaten

**Security Team**

Bill Johnson

**Stephen Ministry**

Cindy Saseen

**Worship**

Anita Raby

**Birthdays**



- March 5 Lynn Johnson**
- March 13 Emily Joy Johnson**
- March 15 Dot Fogg**
- March 15 Ann Bailey Redmill**
- March 15 Jack Redmill**
- March 18 Brenda Gilmore**
- March 21 Jessica Kiep**
- March 26 Bill Johnson**
- March 29 Ken Turner**

**Anniversaries**



- March 11 Betty & Pete Kiep**
- March 28 Edith & David Howgate**

**STEPHEN MINISTERS**

**A COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO  
HOLIDAYS**

For some people, holidays are about celebrating or enjoying lighthearted times with friends and family. But for those grieving the loss of a spouse or family member, dealing with a divorce or break-up, facing a long-term separation, or otherwise feeling alone, a holiday can have a bitter taste.

**Listen between the lines.** If someone makes a comment about an upcoming holiday that hints at feelings of sadness or negativity, gently and nonjudgmentally follow up. A simple "Tell me more about that" lets them know you're willing to listen.

**Treat the person's feelings seriously.** People may experience a variety of difficult emotions on holidays. Treating their feelings as valid gives them permission to share whatever they need and want to share.

**Avoid clichés.** There are plenty of clichés about holidays, so be on guard. Saying something like "God has someone for you" or "You'll find another" will likely only add to their difficult feelings about the holiday.

**Don't pressure someone to "cheer up."** Trying to push someone to "get into the spirit of the holiday" often leaves them feeling worse and communicates that they shouldn't feel the way they do. Whether someone is sad or lonely, bitter or angry, a better approach is to be a caring, listening presence.

No matter the person's situation, your care can make a real difference. People may not think about those for whom holidays aren't particularly a happy time, so your willingness to relate with compassion may be a welcome surprise for someone expecting to suffer silently. Leaders: *Mae Todd or Cindy Saseen*