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**Pastor's Reflection:**

Grace and peace to y'all!

I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to the promise of cooler weather. I think one of God's most profound gifts to us is the changing of the seasons. We get to enter a sort of sacred rhythm as we learn to let go of one season and welcome in a new one.

I usually get a little sad to see whatever season I'm in go. This summer has been so full of adventure and new beginnings, but it's also been marked by that oppressive Alabama heat that makes it hard to breathe. Just the thought of a crisp, cool morning feels like a release from captivity. Lord knows some of us could really use a nice deep breath.

As we lay down our summer fun and rest from our travels, I invite you to settle into this season by considering where it is that God is calling you, take deep breaths, give thanks, and take a risk. Fall always feels like a settling season to me. Things start slowing down and coming into focus for me. Perhaps you have the same experience? I pray that you will welcome this new season of football and harvest and life together as a church.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ENTRANCE**

## GATHERING

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIESBarry Nowlin

## \*INVOCATION CHORUS “*Morning Has Broken” vs1,2,3* UMH 145

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

## OPENING PRAYER In Unison

## \*HYMN OF CELEBRATION *“I Surrender All” vs 1 thru 5* UMH 354

**PROCLAMATION**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Proverbs 31:10-31 Johnny Heilmeier

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Laura Bodenmann

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON James 3:13-4:3, 7-8 Rev. Sarah Jones

SERMON "Striving for Greatness" Rev. Sarah Jones

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles’ Creed UMH 881

\*HYMN OF HOPE *“Close to Thee” vs 1,2,3* UMH 407

ANTHEM *“The Love of Christ”* Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RETURNING GOD’S GIFTS

\*DOXOLOGY *“Give Thanks”*

\*HYMN OF BENEDICTION *“Lord, I Want to be a Christian”* UMH 402

*vs 1,2,3,4*

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Please stand as you are able

**Calendar**

**Today: September 23rd 2018**

Sunday School 8:45 am

Worship 10:00 am

Boondocks (Children’s Church) 10:15 am

Choir Practice 5:00 pm

**Upcoming:**

**Tuesday, September 25th**

Men's Coffee 7:30 am

Fellowship Coffee 9:00 am

**“**Sisters in Christ” 10:00 am

Trustees 6:30 pm

**Sunday, September 30th**

Fellowship Lunch After worship

**Wednesday, October 3rd**

Communication Comm 11:00 am

Fellowship Meal 5:30 pm

Bible Study 6:00 pm

**Thursday, October 4th**

Worship Committee 10:00 am

Finance Committee 6:30 pm

**Monday, October 8th**

Church Council 6:30 pm

**Serving You Today**

Acolytes: Youth Volunteers

Pianist & Choir Director: Laura Bodenmann

Children’s Church: Volunteers

Sound Tech: Volunteers

Nursery: Frances Rios

Ushers: Randy Morgan

Danny Robinson

Greeters: Libby Morgan

Ginger Robinson

Pastor Rev. Sarah Jones

**Flowers:** Joel & Lois Smith

*“In honor of their 66th anniversary”*

**Flowers next week:**

There are open dates in October on the Flower Calendar. You may want to select a special date and put the flowers "in memory or in honor of a special event or person.”



**For Your Daily Prayers**

**New Concerns**

**Bruce Bergey, Baxter Duddy, Geraldine Faust, Kelli Faidley, Curtis Glaize Family, Art Gow Family, Ted Jones, Margaret Moore, Donna Snedeker, Linda Waide, Johnny Wise, Victims of Hurricane Florence;** Mike Armstrong, Carl Callier, Jean Crawford, Ed Estelle, Robert Jones, Peiffer Family, Gary Small, Michael Ussman, Vicki.

**On-going Concerns**

Tina Amenta, Peggy Ashton, Pat Bell, Paul & Grace Bernhard,Nancy Boyer,Susan Brady,Lorrie, Phillip, Greg & Stinson Brock,Emelie Brown, Jackson Campbell, Don & Gloria Coon, Lori Cooper, Barb Derflinger, Barbara Driver, Tamara & Rebecca Espinoza,Don Forrester, Sr., Xander Foy, Steven Garza, Bertie Geci, Jeffrey Gotreaux, Diane White Hartley, Alan Herrington, Ann Holden, David Innocente, Don & Jean Johnson, Harrison Jones, Mark Jones, Lynn Kosick, Paul Lorenc, Jenny Lott, Siggy McCallum, Kim Moore, Brandie Niolon, Smith Paterson, Diane Geci Reitz, Courtney Reynolds, Carol Rupp, Leland Stewart, Evelyn Suprise, John Taylor, Pete & Virginia Totsch, Kara Walker,Jody Ward.

**Other Concerns:**

Military & Families, Government leaders at all levels.

Victims: of injustice,

of natural disasters,

of domestic and child abuse.

**Marlow United Methodist Church**

**16149 CR 9**

**Summerdale, AL 36580**

**251 988 8563** [marlowumc.](http://www.marlowumc.)org facebook.com/marlowumc

**Rev. Sarah Jones – 334-494-6917**

Pastor Sarah’s office hours are:

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am -12:00

**News & Announcements**

**CLAIM STAKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** is starting a new interesting study - *The Screwtape Letters* by CS Lewis. 23. All are invited. We meet at 8:45 am just inside the front door on the left.

***DON’T FORGET*- NEXT SUNDAY- SEPTEMBER 30TH:**

~~The congregation selects the hymn. Please request a hymn for the service by signing up on the colored sheet in the narthex.

~~8:45 am Assembly-the last Sunday of the month. Announcements and birthdays & anniversaries are recognized.

~~Fellowship meal following worship. Please bring a covered dish and stay for lunch. A terrific time to visit with your church family.

**NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY:** Starting October 3rd at 6:00pm. We will be studying the Sermon on the Mount using Stephen Bryant's *The Way of Blessedness.* As we study one of Jesus' most famous sermons we will also be exploring how to order our days in a Christian way. By the end of the eight-week study we will have spent quality time with this challenging sermon and we will have gained the spiritual tools to develop our own personal "Rule of Life." You can purchase your own copy of the book for $10 at amazon.com but don't let that keep you from joining! Scholarships are available for anyone who needs help purchasing a book. See Pastor Sarah for more information. There will be a fellowship meal prior to the study….5:30 pm.

**COMING FUND RAISER EVENT AT OUR CHURCH:** The Sandspur Band will be putting on a concert to benefit our local missions! *Friday, November 9 at 7:00 pm.*

A love offering will be taken. Every member is on the publicity committee….tell your friends & co-workers. Bring a crowd. The band is terrific!

**OUR RIVER CROSSING FOOD PANTRY IS ASKING FOR YOUR HELP IN OUR OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE.** Every year we give thanksgiving meals to neighbors in need. You may donate cash for the turkeys and any food that goes for thanksgiving dinner.

**INTERESTING CONFERENCE EVENTS FOR YOUR ENRICHMENT:**

**~~EARLY RESPONSE TRAINING (ERT)- THIS SATURDAY, SEPT. 29, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.** Volunteers are needed to be prepared for the next disaster. This training covers the essentials of early disaster response. This training is open to all people age 18 and over. The cost of the event is $10 to cover lunch. Please register by Sept. 20 to Kay Lauber- 251-478-3721 or e-mail: [wsumc.ofc@att.net](mailto:wsumc.ofc@att.net)

West Side UM, 269 Mohawk St, Mobile, AL 36606

~~**Sweet Homes for Alabama- a.k.a No More "Shacks" Campaign will be October 10-16, 2018.**ARM staff members, pastors, and community leaders will be living in shacks at Auburn's Wesley Foundation to eliminate substandard housing in Alabama. You can help! Watch for more information next week.

**MARLOW**

UNITED METHODIST

**CHURCH**

**September 23rd, 2018**

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

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***Worship with us, where the river bends and where God is***

***calling us into His mission. We invite you to help us***

***celebrate God's goodness, mercy and grace.***

***Cross over with us as we enter into God's presence. God's plans for us are unimaginable. Come join with us as we experience God's blessings, and He leads us into the future.***