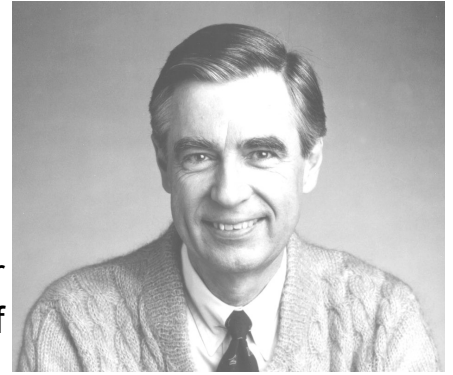


# Brundidge United Methodist Church

December 2019

## Simple and Essential: “Respect One Another”

The latest movie with actor Tom Hanks portraying Mister Fred Rogers prompts us all to recall our memories of watching “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” on Public TV.



Many were quick to dismiss Mister Rogers as too simple and they had more mature things to do other than view his program. To be honest my brother and I started watching the program to make fun of him. First, we realized we like the music. The man on the piano was good, Johnny Costa, a great jazz musician. “It’s just a children’s program so who cares about the quality of the music?” Fred Rogers and Johnny Costa did and their commitment sought to make it the best. Mister Rogers often had guests that talked about the importance of music and he encouraged the young folks to learn how to play an instrument.

Second, the message of every show was uplifting and gave useful sound advice to improve your self-image. Mister Rogers wanted you to know that you were special to him, there was nobody else like you, and he felt happy to be able to call you his friend. That can preach for every child of God. God created every person with a unique personality, with gifts, and a purpose in His plan for serving the spiritual needs of all humanity. “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:3-6)

It was no coincidence that Mister Rogers’ programs often echoed the Scripture’s teachings. He was a Presbyterian minister. Every episode of Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood was really a creative wonderful 30 minute children’s sermon.

Some of the songs that Fred Rogers composed were “You Are Pretty,” “Look and Listen,” “I’m Proud of You,” “Be Brave, Be Strong,” “I’m Still Myself Inside,” “I Like Someone Who Looks Like You,” “Won’t You Be My Neighbor,” and many more empowering songs to shape good character.

Fred Rogers treated everyone, especially children, with respect. He saw the present value of every person and fantastic possibilities for their future. So, I think we can take that lesson to our hearts. Remember Matthew 7:12? The Golden Rule: “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

**Think Eternal and Tend to Your Soul.....Rev Ed**



*Loving  
Father,*

help us remember

the **birth of Jesus**

that we may share in

the *song of the angels,*

the gladness of the shepherds,

and the *worship of the wise men.*

Close the door of hate and

*open the door of love* all over the

world. Let kindness come with every gift and

good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from

evil by the *blessing which Christ brings,* and teach us

to *be merry with clear hearts.* May the Christmas morning

make us happy to be *Thy children,* and the Christmas

evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

*forgiving and forgiven,*

for Jesus' sake.

Amen.



[www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)



I frequently remind everyone about this great resource provided by our denomination that is often overlooked. Go to your computer's search end and type in [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) to find a wealth of material to help church leaders, teachers and preachers.

New church leaders and committee members can type in the search box on [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) their position. It will give a description of the duties and responsibilities of your position as a trustee, finance committee, Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) and so forth. You will also find videos about church history, holidays, and other topics.

### **What is the current state of “The United Methodist Church?”**

People inquire because they have not heard anything lately. Some even think that everything must have been resolved since it is quiet. Well, the division over doctrine is still just as serious as the day after the ugly Special Conference 2019 in Saint Louis. I will say that prayers continue on all levels among bishops, clergy, and laity. The more stringent prohibitions against homosexual marriage ceremonies by clergy and the disqualification of clergy candidates who are practicing homosexuals seeking ordination take effect January 1, 2020. We will have to see what happens then: compliance, defiance or departure. An exit plan will be available for congregations and conferences. The next regular General Conference will be in May 2020 in Minneapolis.

So, what do we do now? Submit to the authority of Christ, obey the Lord's commands, and pray. The local church is more important than the district, conference and denomination. Our minds and hearts will not be paralyzed with anxiety, anger or fear. Jesus may return before the next General Conference, so make the most of each day for Jesus, you, others and Brundidge UMC.

We are members of the “best” annual conference of the United Methodist Denomination in the United States. The Alabama-West Florida Conference is blessed with qualified leaders who seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We have a tradition of togetherness that cannot be easily shaken by any crisis. We know who is in charge: JESUS. Bishop David Graves is planning a special one day annual conference session to respond to the outcome of the General Conference 2020. The AWF Conference continues to put forth a stellar example of how an annual conference should respond to the current situation. I pray that Christian maturity and gracious generosity prevail in future meetings. Amen.



**Saturday, December 7th**

**11 a.m. until 1 p.m.**

Enjoy the best buffet of the season sponsored by our United Methodist Women. Just \$8 per adult, \$4 for children, and \$8 for takeout. This event funds various mission programs.

**2019 Children and Youth Christmas Program  
& White Christmas Offering**

**Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m.**

Following the program we have a **Birthday Party for Jesus!**  
Please bring a finger food and come join the celebration!

We encourage all youth and children in the church  
(whether you come regularly or not) to participate.

*In Loving Memory Of*

**In Memory of Hilda Fannin**

Lawrence & Sara Bowden- Prayer Cushions

**In Memory of Liz Ann Harbuck**

Jimmy Hollis– Operation Christmas Child

**In Memory of Mary Galloway Taylor**

Jimmy Hollis– Operation Christmas Child

**In Memory of Mark Butler**

Jimmy Hollis– Operation Christmas Child

**In Memory of Our Parents**

Frank & Wynnette Fryer– Building Fund

**In Memory of Jeanette Caldwell**

**& John L. Fryer**

Elisa McLean– Building Fund



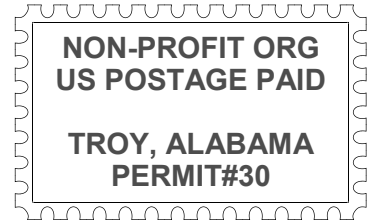
**December Birthdays**



Joanne Dickert-1<sup>st</sup>, Will Keenan-1<sup>st</sup>, Jimmy Barron- 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hannah Galloway- 6<sup>th</sup>, Mary Adams- 6<sup>th</sup>,  
Cindy Barron- 8<sup>th</sup>, Andrew McCoy-10<sup>th</sup>, Donald Armstrong-10<sup>th</sup>, John Ramage-10<sup>th</sup>, James Jordan-13<sup>th</sup>,  
Missy Ramage-14<sup>th</sup>, Jon Adams-19<sup>th</sup>, Larry Webb-19<sup>th</sup>, Laura Hixon-22<sup>nd</sup>, Jay Taylor-22<sup>nd</sup>,  
Blake Dickert Rohdes-25<sup>th</sup>, Don Price-27<sup>th</sup>, Steve Barron-28<sup>th</sup>, Vicki Dickert-29<sup>th</sup>, Hank Strother-29<sup>th</sup>,  
Richard Chapman-29<sup>th</sup>, Shirley Chapman-29<sup>th</sup>, Abbie Dickert-29<sup>th</sup>

**Brundidge United Methodist Church  
140 North Main St.  
Brundidge, AL 36010**

**Address Service Requested**



## Smiles From Mrs. Sara

- 1.) What do you get when you cross a monkey and a peach?
- 2.) Why do monkeys not play cards in the jungle?
- 3.) Why is it so easy for an elephant to get a job?
- 4.) What do you call a deer with no eyes?
- 5.) What do you call a cow that is afraid of everything?



**Genesis 21:6**

**Answers: 1.) an Ape-ricot 2.) Because there are too many cheeters. 3.) Because they work for peanuts. 4.) No eye deer 5.) A cow-ard**