

Lester's Chapel Quarterly

Keeping you up-to-date on everything

Lester's Chapel

Homecoming 2018

For many, Homecoming typically summons memories of bonfires, mums, and football. However, when that homecoming is for church, it summons much richer memories. Church homecoming is the opportunity to return to our "home church." This may have been the church where we spent our childhood, or maybe where our second family gathered. It was the place where we laughed, cried, and listened to the Word. Whatever "home church" means to each person, it usually involves a wealth of special memories that bring on a sweet smile.

This is no different for Lester's Chapel United Methodist Church. The little country church was built in 1888 by a community that longed to worship Christ. The church has embraced and raised many generations as they followed a spiritual path and grew in their faith. People from all over return on the second Sunday of September each year to reunite with many they have not seen in years. They come and reminisce over barbecue. They catch up over potato salad. They laugh over peach cobbler. The traditions of this special church are important but none more so than Homecoming.

Homecoming 2018 will be no different. We will come together on Sunday, September 9th to celebrate 130 years of our church family. We will kick off the festivities with a Tail Gate party Saturday, September 8th at 3:00 pm. Come join us for fun, family, and football! Then on Sunday, all are welcome to join us at 10:00 for our Homecoming Service, followed by some of the best food a person will find on this side of the Mississippi River!

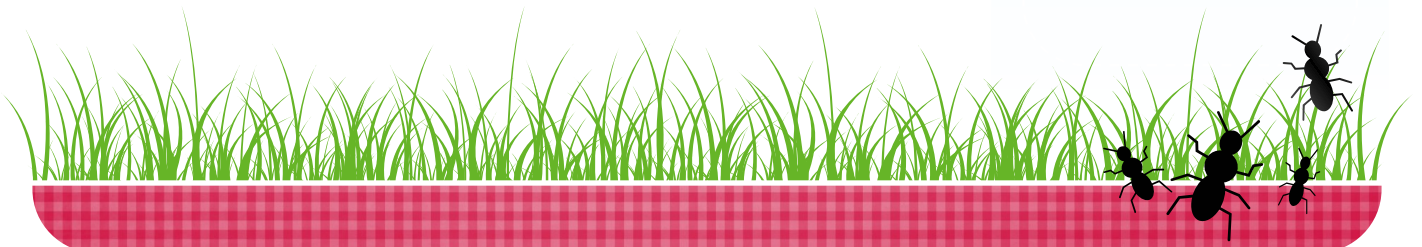
For Our Fathers

~ A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society. – Billy Graham

We would like to honor all of our fathers at Lester's Chapel. Each of these men have nurtured us on our path.

Upcoming Events

- Game Night June 23, 5:30pm
- Star Wars Night July 21, 5:30pm
- Bible Study Potluck every third Sunday of the month
- Homecoming Church Service and Potluck Sunday, Sep. 9th, 10am
- Homecoming Tailgate/Grill-out Saturday, Sep. 8th, 3pm. Food, fun and football!



Member Spotlight



Dr. Joseph Thornton, III is starting his 37th year leading Lester's Chapel, setting a record for the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC. He was assigned when he arrived in Jackson as Headmaster of the Episcopal Day School in 1982. "My first impressions were most positive in that I know about the needs of rural churches. My favorable impressions grew year by year, and my fondest memories are embedded in the love that the church members have for each other, for us, and also that we have for them." Dr. Joe is the keystone of our church and what makes Lester's Chapel so unique and special.

130 Years Strong

Lester's Chapel United Methodist Church officially became a church in 1888. However, more than likely, the church was meeting sometime earlier under the belief that "For where two or three gathers together in My name, there am I with them." The congregation likely started during "camp meetings" and met in the homes of the members. It was not until William Still Lester donated the property where the original 30'x40' church was built, which is the central portion of today's sanctuary.

With an established "church home", members gathered around a wood burning stove that stood in the middle of the room. They met in Sunday school classes that were separated by sheets. Twice a month the traveling preacher would hold service in the cozy room, and the congregation grew in their Faith and Fellowship in this humble dwelling.

Fast forward to 2018, 130 years later, and the church has grown. The original building was expanded over the years to include Sunday School rooms that have doors instead of sheets, modern heating and cooling, and a fellowship hall. Our numbers have ebbed and flowed as time has passed, but the concept of faith and fellowship have remained as strong as ever. Whether our numbers have us bursting at the seams or making a scant joyful noise, we maintain our beloved tradition of opening our hearts, minds, and doors to all who seek to expand their Faith.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this letter, let us know!

Contact Us

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