



The Americus FMC Bulletin

February 22, 2026

GIVING IT UP! GIVING UP CONTROL

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

During our Lenten season this year, I will be preaching a series on “Giving it up” to encourage us to reflect and adjust our life toward God. The goal of this series is to lead us toward a deeper relationship with God through Christ, so we can be better disciples and a better person to those around us.

1. Compare and contrast these passages. Discuss your thoughts on how they are different and how reading them together may deepen our understanding of living for God.
2. What does it mean to give up control, especially in terms of our relationship with God?
3. What are key steps to releasing control and letting God take control?
4. Why is giving up control so hard for us?
Is giving up control the same as giving up?
5. Where have you seen the most growth in your life recently?
6. Where have you struggled the most in your life?
Explain how you believe surrendering to God will help you overcome your struggle.

God bless,
Daryl

Americus First Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Daryl Brown.....	Senior Minister.....	pastordaryl@fmcamericus.org
Sam Morris.....	Worship Arts Director / Church Administrator.....	smorris@fmcamericus.org
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First Methodist Church of Americus

Worship 11:00 am
February 22, 2026
1st Sunday in Lent

WORSHIP	Sam Morris
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	(#35 OGRP)
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	(#47 OGRP)
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881	Rev. Daryl Brown
GLORIA PATRI #71.....	Sam Morris
PRELUDE	Suzanne Unger
PASTORAL PRAYER.....	Rev. Daryl Brown
ANTHEM	Chancel Choir
The Old Rugged Cross	(arr. Mary McDonald)
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Sam Morris
OFFERTORY	Suzanne Unger
DOXOLOGY #95.....	Sam Morris
SERMON SERIES	Rev. Daryl Brown
	<i>GIVING IT UP!</i>
	Giving Up Control
	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
	Matthew 4:1-11
WORSHIP	Sam Morris
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	(#241 OGRP)
BENEDICTION	Rev. Daryl Brown
POSTLUDE.....	Suzanne Unger
	Media: Bob Slenker
	Greeter: Janis Webb; Willie Maxwell

Ushers: Ginger Starlin (Captain), Jan Bird, Karen Austin,
Nancy Jones, Mara Durham, Judy Tott, Beth NeSmith,
Jean Buchanan, Lisa Simpson, Sandra McNeill,
Meagan Speegle, Lydia Ann Fowler, Penny Bolin,
Pam Smith, MaryLen Walker

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

February 22, 2026 - 9:00AM - Social Hall

GIVING IT UP!

GIVING UP CONTROL

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

Rev. Daryl Brown

This Week's Worship

John Cook, Rebecca Ferguson,
Rev. Daryl Brown, Paul Farr

Media & Sound

Camille Cochran

Greeters

Sheryl Rush; Mary Nell Rush

Gifts in Memory of

Johnny Burnette

From

Janis Bird

Janis Webb

Jim & Jean Buchanan

Marice Richardson

From

Angelyn Tripp

Esther Beaushaw

From

Angelyn Tripp

Sue Freshwater

Jim Haddock

From

Sue Freshwater

Edith West

Angelyn Tripp

Jan Bird

Janis Webb

Need Some Help?

The men of First Methodist Church are available to assist with small jobs for anyone in our congregation who may need a helping hand.

The church office maintains a list of volunteers who are ready to serve. To make a request, please contact the church office at 229-924-3169.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
— Galatians 6:2

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Cuyler Barr, Holly Roquemore Bickel, Jim Bolin, Alice Buchanan Brown, Christina Brown, Mary Tom Byram, Diane Corning, The Family of Mary Comer, Evelyn Dean, Trey Dixon, Lyn Dozier, Tripp Duncan, Sharon Dutton, Betty Ellis, Waylon English, Anne Gilfoil, The Family of Jim Haddock, Melanie Hahn, Janice Haugabook, Steve Hudson, Marcia Johnson, Nick Klein, Lynne Knecht, Floyd Martin, Tyler Mazey, Brooks Starlin Mechler, Christian, Robert & Jennifer Parks, Lutrelle Perry, Joyce Perry, Gene Pierce, Gayle Price, The Family of William Rambo, Chris Revell, Gene Richardson, George Roquemore, Jennifer Sizemore, Susanne Stanfield, Caden Stone, Martha Shiver Stupe, Connor Taylor, Landon Thorpe, Terry Thorpe, Emily Waller, Morgan Whaley, Rick Whaley, Patsy Whitaker, Karen Willis, Carolyn Wright, Kathleen Wright



This week our theme is circus! Registration is going well. We will be calling children from our waiting list this week for any available spots. We would love to have some people come visit or read to our kiddos. Please reach out if interested! We hope everyone has a blessed week!

Waiting List Registration: February 23rd-27th

Public Registration: March 2nd-6th

Thank you to the Sheffield/Wooten class
for providing us with a wonderful lunch!



CONFIRMATION CLASS

WHEN: SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M.

WHERE: YOUTH FOUNDRY

LEADERS: BETH NESMITH & BETH CARROLL

ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AS WE CONTINUE TO

GROW IN FAITH AND DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S WORD

"YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH." —

PSALM 119:105

Youth & College Ministry

*Sunday Gathering

Join us Sundays at 10:00 AM in the Foundry

*Bible Study

Wednesdays, 6:00–7:00 PM in the Foundry

Bring a friend — snacks provided!

*Awakening Collegiate Fellowship (ACF)

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the FMC Foundry

*Women's Small Group Meeting (ACF)

Wednesdays at 4:00 pm in FMC Foundry



Please Join Us in the Parlor

Monday, February 23rd
at 10am



All Women Are Welcome!



A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

1529

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

We think of Martin Luther as a great reformer, Bible translator, political leader, fiery preacher, and theologian. But he was also a musician, having been born in an area of Germany known for its music. There in his little Thuringian village, young Martin grew up listening to his mother sing. He joined a boys' choir that sang at weddings and funerals. He became proficient with the flute (recorder), and his volcanic emotions often erupted in song.

When the Protestant Reformation began, Luther was determined to restore worship to the German Church. He worked with skilled musicians to create new music for Christians, to be sung in the vernacular. He helped revive congregational singing and wrote a number of hymns.

Often he "borrowed" popular secular melodies for his hymns, though occasionally a tune brought criticism and he was "compelled to let the devil have it back again" because it was too closely associated with bars and taverns.

In the forward of the book, Luther once wrote: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Luther's most famous hymn is "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott," – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Based on Psalm 46, it reflects Luther's awareness of our intense struggle with Satan. In difficulty and danger, Luther would often resort to this song, saying to his associate, "Come, Philipp, let us sing the 46th Psalm."

This is a difficult hymn to translate because the original German is so vivid. At least 80 English versions are available. The most popular in America was done by Frederic Henry Hodge. But an older version appeared in the Pennsylvania Lutheran Church book of 1868:

*A mighty fortress is our God, | A trusty Shied and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need, | That hath us now o'ertaken.*

The British version of "A Mighty Fortress" is Thomas Carlyle's translation:
*A safe stronghold our God is still, | A trusty shield and weapon;
He'll help us clear from all the ill | That hath us now o'ertaken*



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given with a loving heart in memory of Fred Simpson by Lisa Simpson.

"Those we love remain with us forever, for love leaves a memory no one can take away." — **Romans 8:38–39**





Events This Week

Sunday, February 22nd

9:00 am	Early Worship in the Social Hall
10:00 am-12:00 pm	Infant Nursery in the Sanctuary Building
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
1:00 pm	Mary Comer Visitation
2:00 pm	Mary Comer Funeral in the Sanctuary

Monday, February 23rd

10:00 am	WSC Ellis Lanier Circle Meeting in the Parlor
11:00 am	Ministry Staff Meeting in Pastor's Office
1:30 pm	Safe Sanctuaries Meeting in the Coffee Café

Tuesday, February 24th

8:00 am	Red Roosters Reunion Group in the Coffee Café
2:15 pm	Worship Arts Committee Meeting in the Music Suite
5:30 pm	Hand Bell Rehearsal in the Music Suite
5:45 pm	ACF Meeting in the Social Hall

Wednesday, February 25th

3:30 pm	Stitches in the Parlor
4:00 pm	ACF Women's Small Group in the Youth Foundry
4:30 pm	Butterfly Reunion Group in the Coffee Café
5:15 pm	Family Night Supper in the Social Hall
6:00 pm	Adult Bible Study in the Social Hall
6:00 pm	Children's Activities in God's Playhouse
6:00 pm	Youth Bible Study Meeting in the Foundry
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal in the Music Suite

Friday, February 27th

Office Closed

Saturday, February 28th

8:00 am	Pheasant Hunt at Lorac Farms
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Upcoming Events

March 2nd at 5:30 pm, Missions Committee Meeting in the Coffee Café

March 9th at 5:30 pm, Trustee Meeting in the Coffee Café

March 11th 1:30-3:30 pm, Needlepoint class in the Social Hall.

Total Sunday Worship Attendance for February 15th: 245

OUR RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship	58	11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship ...	107
Sunday School.....	80	Lenten Week Activities	172

Giving as of February 15th:

Budget Giving This Week.....	\$ 13,200.33
YTD Budget Giving	\$ 84,210.01
YTD Budget Expenditures	\$ 111,735.43