



Oxford First UMC Welcomes New Pastor: Rev. Sapada Thomas



On Sunday, July 1st a new era begins as Oxford First UMC welcomes its new pastor, Rev. Sapada Thomas. He was born and raised in Ripley, MS as a member of Moses Chapel United Methodist Church. As a youth there, he was an active member of the choir, youth ministry, Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) president, worship leader, and member of other various ministries. At a

young age he sensed God had a higher calling on his life.

In 1994 he married Amy Luster. After marriage, they both joined First Evangelical Baptist Church (FEBC), in Ripley MS where they became active member immediately. However, Rev. Thomas began to get inspiration and a sense of a Divine calling on his life from getting deeper in the Word of God and experiencing God on a deeper level. He was ordained a Deacon of FEBC in March 1996. Continuing to experience a higher calling, he surrendered into preaching ministry in December 1996. He preached his first sermon and was licensed to preach as a minister in March 1997 at FEBC. The sermon was entitled, "The Lost and Found". He was later ordained to pastoral ministry at FEBC and pastored his first church, St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church in Tishomingo, MS in 1999.

Although a Baptist pastor, he was more familiar with the structure and dynamics of

the United Methodist Church. Therefore, God lead him to return to the United Methodist Church in 2001 where he once again became a member of Moses Chapel U.M. Church. He led and/or assisted various ministries of Moses Chapel U.M. Church from 2001 to 2004 while going through the United Methodist candidacy for ministry process for ministers. He was then appointed as pastor of Mt. Moriah United Methodist Church in Corinth, MS. He served Mt. Moriah from 2004 to 2010. While at Mt. Moriah, he was able to provide positive leadership and grow the church spiritually through preaching and teaching, started a youth dance team (that grew to approximately 20 people), and becoming more active in the community.

After serving at Mt. Moriah, he was appointed as an associate pastor to First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Tupelo, MS. As a full-time associate pastor, his primary responsibilities were to lead a contemporary worship service of Tupelo FUMC, called The Invitation; promote and organized the mission ministry, preaching/teaching, prayer ministry, pastoral care and other responsibility designed by the senior pastor. He also assisted with youth ministry leading on and off campus retreats, mission trips, worship, and small groups. Rev. Thomas served Tupelo FUMC from 2010 to 2015. While leading the mission ministry, he effectively organized and led multiple mission trips to Tegucigalpa, Honduras where they built homes, fed communities, and provided school uniforms and supplies to many Honduran children. He has also

traveled to Africa, preaching and teaching, at various Nigerian churches.

Rev. Thomas is also an educated man. He received his Associates of Arts degree from Northeast Mississippi Community College (Booneville, MS) in Psychology in 2001. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Rust College (Holly Springs, MS) in Sociology in 2005, where he graduated *Summa Cum Laude*. Lastly, he further his preparation for Christian ministry by earning his Masters of Divinity degree from Memphis Theological Seminary (Memphis, TN) in 2015, where he graduated *Magna Cum Laude* and received the Hoyt Hickman award of excellence in worship liturgy. He is currently employed as a Mental Health Technician at North Mississippi State Hospital in Tupelo, MS and the very proud pastor of Oxford First United Methodist Church in Oxford, MS.

Rev. Thomas loves preaching and teaching God's Word. He loves leading and engaging in corporate and individual worship. His favorite scripture is JEREMIAH 29:11, which says, "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." He has been married to the beautiful, Amy Luster Thomas for 24 years. They have three children: Antonio, Khadijah, and DeVonte'. They also have four grandchildren: A'myleion, Antieona, Khadence, and Khamyah. His family loves worshiping and serving God with all their heart, mind, and soul. It is an honor and privilege to serve and minister at Oxford First United Methodist Church!!!!

Vacation Bible School 2018



Monday, July 23rd
through
Thursday, July 26th

6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Plan to join us for 4 days of fun, games, food, laughter, learning and fellowship. VBS will be held for ALL ages.

There will be a planning meeting on Sunday, July 8th, after morning Worship for anyone wanting to help.

First Sermon & Birthday Celebration



On Sunday, June 24, 2018, Minister Gracie Spearman, (above) as part of the Annual Birthday Celebration, preached her first sermon at Oxford First UMC. The month of January took First Place for table decoration and July raised the most money. Sis. Stella Murray (inset) was Program Coordinator.

Soup for Seniors

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

11:00 A.M.



Janis Blake and Laura Ann Cancer Coordinators

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Fathers of the Year



On Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 17, Oxford First honored our Fathers of the Year, Bro. Fred Spearman (second from left) and Bro. Jimmy McGlawn (right). Also pictured are Elder Christopher C. Diggs (left) and Bro. Kenneth Wortham (third).

Jacob's Ladder

PLACE
STAMP
HERE