

From Our Pastor

Looking Forward to Easter!

Lent is an important season in the life of the Church and in our lives individually. It is a time of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. As we prepare to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, let us be reminded of the Passion of Christ.



On the night in which he is arrested, Jesus endures the trial of the Sanhedrin. They examine Jesus and determine he deserves to die. They send him to Pontius Pilate. The Roman governor examines Jesus and decides he is innocent. So Pilate sends Jesus to be judged by Herod Antipas. Herod was excited at first to see Jesus and hoped Jesus would perform a miracle for him. He even asked Jesus several questions, but Jesus did not answer. Herod then mocked him and sent him back to Pilate.

Once condemned by Pilate, he was flogged before execution. The whole detachment of soldiers were called together and they placed a purple robe on him, put a crown of thorns on his head, and put a rod in his hand. They mocked him by hailing him as “**King of the Jews.**” Pilate had Jesus brought out a second time—wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns—in order to appeal his innocence before the crowd saying “**Here is the man.**” But the priests urged the crowd to demand Jesus' death. Pilate resigned himself to the decision, washing his hands before the people as a sign that Jesus' blood would not be upon him.

Jesus is made to carry His own cross. Upon arriving at Golgotha, Jesus was offered wine laced with myrrh to lessen the pain, but he refused it. Jesus was then crucified. The soldiers divided Jesus' clothes except for one garment for which they cast lots. Some of the crowd taunted Jesus, saying “**He trusts in God; let God deliver him now!**” They hoped Jesus might perform a miracle to release himself from the cross. He did not!

At midday the sky became dark and the darkness lasted for three hours, until the ninth hour when Jesus cried out, “**My God, why have you forsaken me?**” A soldier pierced his side with a spear and found Jesus had already died. The centurion standing guard, who had seen Jesus die, declared Jesus to be the innocent Son of God.

Jesus did not endure this suffering for nothing. He endured the cross for you and for me. As Christians, we have salvation through the finished work of the cross. Jesus left his place of honor and came to earth so that you may have life, and have it to the full. Praise God!

During the month of April, be reminded of the joy of your salvation and the price that Jesus paid. Then, live your life in a way that brings glory and honor to Jesus our King.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt

ATTENTION WETUMPKA AREA FAMILIES



JOIN US FOR EASTER

APR. 2 EASTER EGG HUNT • 11 AM

APR. 6 TENEBRAE SERVICE • 6 PM

APR. 7 WETUMPKA CROSS WALK • 11 AM

APR. 9 EASTER MORNING • 6:15, 8, & 10 AM

Online and On-Campus

WWW.WETUMPKAFIRST.COM/EASTER

First United Methodist Wetumpka • 306 W. Tuskeena St., Wetumpka, AL 36092

  @wetumpkafirst • (334) 567-7865 • secretary@firstwetumpka.com



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

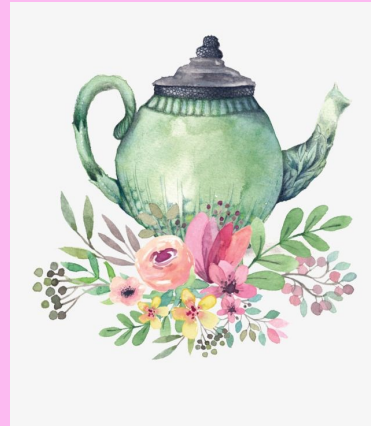
- April 2—Communion/Palm Sunday
- April 9—Easter
- April 16—Shelton & Linda Prine
- April 23—Barry & Sally Blackwell
- April 30—(Available—call the church office)


PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry on Fridays from 10 a.m. until 12 noon upstairs in the Education Building. You can learn a new craft, bring your crafting projects with you, or just come for the sweet fellowship.

CH_RCH.

Are **U** missing?



We're honoring
Sara Tyler & Grady Britton

with a

Bridal Tea

on Sunday, April 30, 2023 in Wesley Hall and you're invited! Ladies (and guys too) stop by any time between 2 and 4 p.m. and help us celebrate this amazing couple!

♦♦♦

Sara and Grady are registered at Amazon and Target.



SUNDAYS:

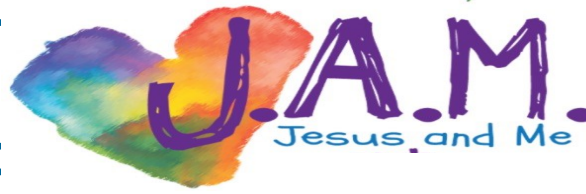
- Sunday Worship 8:00 A.M. (CHAPEL)
- Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
- Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M. (Sanctuary and Wesley Hall)

WEDNESDAYS:

- Wednesday Morning Bible Study in Wesley Hall at 9: 30 a.m.
- Wednesday Night meal 5:15—6 P.M. (FLC)
- Children and Youth After School 3 P.M.
- Choir Practice 6 P.M. (Chapel)
- Verse by Verse Bible Study 6:15 P.M. (Cornerstone Classroom)

Our NURSERY (located on the first floor in the Education Building) is available for all services. Mrs. Becky and Ms. Barbara are the best!!!





We have a great month planned for our kiddos! Lots of fun activities coming up in our children's ministry. **Our Easter party will be on Wednesday, April 5 during our after-school ministry.** The kids will enjoy treats and hear what Easter is really all about! As always, if your kids are too young to attend our regular after-school ministry, we would love for them to join us for this party. Just let me know so we'll have plenty of goodies!



Our next big event is our Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 2 immediately following the late service. Come join us and invite your friends and neighbors for hot dogs and chips in our Family Life Center. A special gospel presentation with resurrection eggs will tell the Easter story in a fun way. We will have lots of eggs (and candy) for the kids so spread the word.

SAVE THE DATE! VBS is Sun, June 4-6 in the evening.



Be sure to mark your calendar so your kids and their friends can be a part of it! If you would like to serve, please see me. We have a spot for you! Our VBS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner/ Training will be Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend so you can hear all about this year's plans.

This month our kids are learning all about humility. Our kids will learn about Jesus washing the disciples' feet, the crucifixion and the resurrection, and being humble like Jesus. We can't wait to get this month started with all these great activities and lessons!

In Him,
Ms. Michelle



Random. Chaotic. Circumstantial. These descriptions could be the way many might describe their current prayer life and spiritual practices. Because of this truth combined with research showing many lifelong patterns and habits develop during the ages we have the joy and privilege of ministering to, as a student ministry we seek out, teach, and try to help students put in place meaningful practices and rhythms that help continually transform them into the likeness of Christ during these formative years. As part of that effort during Lent and the rest of this month, we will continue focusing on Fuller Youth Institute's "Sticky Faith Every Day" series. We are excited to see how it continues to engage both our students and their families and help them reimagine and re-engage spiritual practices as a way to notice God more every day, long beyond the season of Lent (and hopefully for a lifetime)!

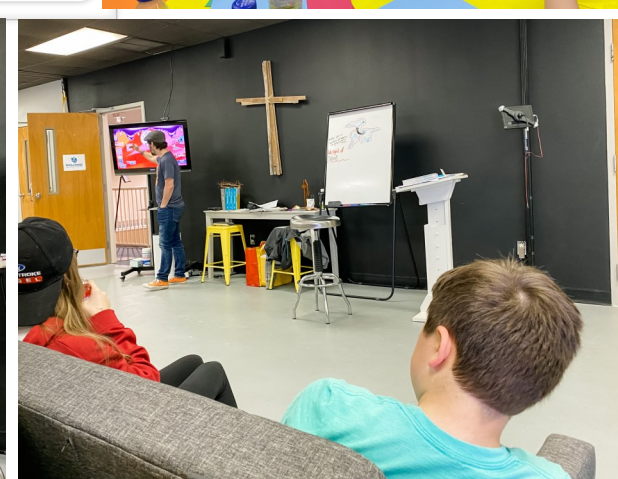


May, graduation, and Senior Sunday will also be here before we know it! If you would like your graduating senior to be recognized and celebrated by the student ministry, or know of a graduating senior who is part of our church family and should be recognized, let me, Jamie, know at jamie@firstwetumpka.com by **April 2, 2023!**

If you are a 7th-12th grader or know a student who is, we'd love for you, or them, to join in all the exciting things coming up and be a part of our student ministry family!

For all the other exciting, weekly, and community building things happening this month (like **filling Easter eggs for, and helping at, the Easter Egg Hunt in addition to having our own awesome Easter party!**), check out our page on the church's website, and/or contact me through the e-mail above if you have any questions! Please make sure you are on our text and e-mail list for all updates and access to other helpful tips, tools, and resources for growing a relationship with God personally and as a family!

In Him, Jamie





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Vacation Bible School is coming soon! June 4th—6th!
VBS Training and Organizational Meeting— Tuesday, April 18th at 6 p.m. in the FLC. If you're interested in helping with VBS, we need you to participate in this very important meeting.

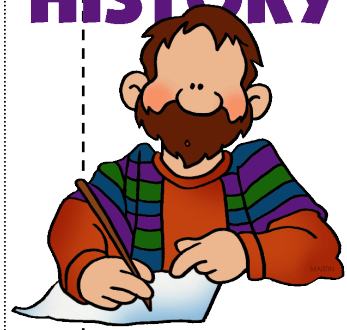
Did you know????

Our church has an **ARCHIVES and HISTORY ROOM** filled with interesting photos from current and past events, memorabilia, and lots of historical facts about the church and the area.

The room is located in the Education Building across from the church office.

We are seeking a volunteer who will continue this amazing ministry, keeping everything fresh and exciting! Be sure to check it out soon!

HISTORY



See page 1 for a list of Holy Week activities.



Our Administrative Board met and voted to create a short-term Disaffiliation Fund, that will run until the end of the year. In order to fund our commitment to disaffiliation, we are inviting you to make a tax deductible donation. Our target for this fund is \$75,000. If we raise the full amount, we'll be able to pay the cost of disaffiliation without having to finance any portion of the cost. Any funds raised that go over the goal, will go back into the General Fund. Your generosity and commitment to this church gives us great hope that we will accomplish this goal together.

If you would like to make a donation to the disaffiliation fund memo your check or envelope **Disaffiliation Fund.** You can also give on-line. Thank you for your commitment to the faithful ministry of this church!

Thank you to those who have already given!



Sanctuary Flowers

Thank you for providing fresh flowers that adds so much to our Sunday worship!

Please contact the church office to reserve one of the following available dates:

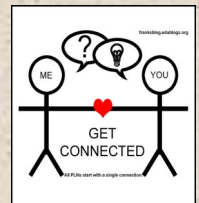
April 30, May 21, September 24
October 22 and December 31

We have a place waiting for YOU!!!

Why be in a small group?

In a small group we

- study the Bible together
- pray for each other
- periodically meet for fellowship outside the church



We are looking forward to having YOU join in a small group:

- **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.**
- **Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Prayer Shawl on Fridays at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Sisters in Service (SIS) each 4th Monday at 1 p.m.**
- **Fresh Start Ministry each Monday at 6:00 p.m.**

Senior Adult *Ministry*

Hi! Praying that this spring time is a life renewal for us all.

If you missed the Saint Patrick's Day bus trip to Opelika to the Irish Pub, you missed a great day. We did not find the little Green Man, but he left us pots of gold at our tables. It was a great day.

Did you know that some flowers are edible? Tuesday April 11 will be our edible flower luncheon at 12 noon in the family life center. John Scott is returning from Mobile to do this special program for us. Hopefully we will eat some flowers and find out more about them at this lunch. I am really excited for the day and pray all of you plan on attending. It will be a one-of-a-kind chance to learn some interesting facts about beautiful flowers.



Notice: Game day will be moved to the third Tuesday of each month.

April game day will be Tuesday, April 18 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch. Tea and dessert will be provided! Come join us for lots of fun and fellowship. You do not have to stay all day and you can leave at any time. Come check it out and see if it is for you.

Mark your calendars now for "Derby Day" on May 16 at noon.

Be getting those derby hats ready for our celebration!



First Corinthians 3:7 NIV

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow.

Always Believe, Gloria



Our Fearless Leader :)



Our Pot of Gold!

Serving our community...

SIS Service Project ends April 2nd!

Sisters In Service is sponsoring a drive for much needed boys clothes for our local Pregnancy Center through April 2nd.

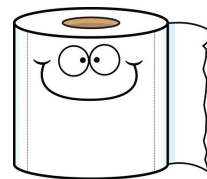


They have NO need for girls clothes or diapers as they have an over abundance. Clothes needed are from newborn to toddler size 4. Clothes can be anything a child would wear during the day, pajamas, booties, socks, shoes, jackets, and hats. Baskets are in Wesley Hall and under the table next to the church office.

Sisters thank you for all your help in these drives. You are **WONDERFUL!**



NEEDED: Boys Clothes size Newborn - Toddler size 4.



Thank you for helping us collect empty toilet tissue paper rolls and paper towel rolls for our **VBS craft projects!**



CONGRATULATIONS to Virginia Vilardi who was awarded the Inaugural Award for Mentoring from the Alabama Academy of Science given in honor of Adriel D. Johnson Sr.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jerry Davisson (and Becky) who was promoted to Air Force Colonel on March 1st!!!

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: April

- ☐ 1 Joshua 7-8 Eccl. 4:7-16 John 7
- ☐ 2 Reflect on God as Friend
- ☐ 3 Joshua 9-10 Ps. 40 John 8
- ☐ 4 Joshua 11-12 Eccl. 5:1-9 John 9
- ☐ 5 Joshua 13-14 Ps. 41 John 10
- ☐ 6 Joshua 15-16 Eccl. 5:10-20 John 11
- ☐ 7 Joshua 17--18 Ps. 42 John 12
- ☐ 8 Joshua 19-20 Eccl. 6:1-6 John 13
- ☐ 9 Reflect on God as Lion and Lamb
- ☐ 10 Joshua 21-22 Ps. 43 John 14
- ☐ 11 Joshua 23-24 Eccl. 6:7-12 John 15
- ☐ 12 Judges 1-3 Ps. 44 John 16
- ☐ 13 Judges 4-6 Eccl. 7:1-13 John 17
- ☐ 14 Judges 7-9 Ps. 45 John 18
- ☐ 15 Judges 10-12 Eccl. 7:14-29 John 19
- ☐ 16 Reflect on God as Love
- ☐ 17 Judges 13-15 Ps. 46 John 20
- ☐ 18 Judges 16-18 Eccl. 8-1-9 John 21
- ☐ 19 Judges 19-21 Ps. 47 Acts 1
- ☐ 20 Ruth 1-2 Eccl. 8:10-17 Acts 2
- ☐ 21 Ruth 3-4 Ps. 48 Acts 3
- ☐ 22 1 Sam. 1-3 Eccl. 9:1-10 Acts 4
- ☐ 23 Reflect on God as Capable
- ☐ 24 1 Sam. 4-6 Ps. 49 Acts 5
- ☐ 25 1 Sam. 7-9 Eccl. 9:11-18 Acts 6
- ☐ 26 1 Sam. 10-12 Ps. 50 Acts 7
- ☐ 27 1 Sam. 13-15 Eccl. 10:1-11 Acts 8
- ☐ 28 1 Sam. 16-18 Ps. 51 Acts 9
- ☐ 29 1 Sam. 19-21 Eccl. 10:12-20 Acts 10
- ☐ 30 Reflect on God as Strength



04/01	Sandra Hill	04/14	Carson Turner
04/05	Carol Bush	04/14	Richard Knighton
04/08	Shirley Brannan	04/18	Anna Spears
04/08	Hilton Knight	04/25	Brian Justiss
04/08	Judy Price	04/25	Lauren Marion
04/08	Billy Greenlee	04/26	Charlotte Barber
04/10	Tim Emmons	04/28	Debbie Barnes
04/11	Charlotte Whetstone	04/30	Misty Macon
04/11	Kenzie Johnston		
04/13	Billy Ray Daniels		
04/13	Guy Jones		



04/06	Ray & Judi Daniels
04/16	Sam & Susan Legvold
04/17	Cal & Lynda Estabrook
04/19	Clayton & Martha Hutsler
04/21	Mark & Cindy Langley
04/22	Jim & Wanda Rushing
04/26	Earl & Elizabeth Gillian
04/27	Rick & Diane Tyler
04/28	Mark & Donna Matthews

If you are a member of FUMC and your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please notify the church office so that we can celebrate with you.



FIRST NEWS

Phone: 334-567-7865

Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com

Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

UNITED METHODIST
WETUMPKA

April 2023



IN THIS ISSUE:

- From our Pastor
- Easter and Holy Week
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- News from our Finance Team
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group



Attention High School Seniors!
SUNDAY, APRIL 2 is the DEADLINE to let Jamie know you want to be included in our Senior Day! Contact him at jamie@firstwetumpka.com.



See page 1 for a listing of dates and times for all of our Easter events!

Support Group

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each **MONDAY** in Wesley Hall.

Children's activities are provided!

If you know someone who is struggling, please let them know that the **Fresh Start**

Recovery Group is here for them. For more information please contact Paul Henderson at 334-201-5428.



Connect with us any time on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and our website at www.WetumpkaFirst.com