

A Word From Our Pastor...



Jesus

Focus on Jesus!

Someone who knows me very well asked me the other day, ‘Are you okay? You look tired.’ I gave the standard answer that we Christians give at church sometimes, when someone asks us that type of question, ‘I’m fine.’ As I walked away I asked myself, ‘Do I look that downcast?’ I even looked at my reflection in the glass door, as I walked into my office. After unlocking my door and turning on the lights, I sat down at my desk and realized that I was exhausted (physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually). I thought to myself, ‘what a predicament to be in for a preacher.’

Sometimes in life we find ourselves in dark places that leave us terrified and exhausted. We don’t know which way to turn. We are confused and we need someone to rescue us from this dark place. Then I ran across this verse from Isaiah 41:10, ‘Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.’ Wow, thank you Lord because that was exactly what I needed to hear in that moment.

Even in our darkest hour we are not alone. We don’t have to be afraid or fearful because our God is right there with us; to comfort us, to strengthen us and to help us. When we hold strong to our faith, God will guide us out of our darkness and trouble. He will provide the light and the victorious hand to lead us to safety. All we have to do is focus on Jesus and not our situation.

Ultimately, these experiences make us stronger (physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually). Especially, when we remember that our strength lies in the God who can deliver us from these momentary troubles. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, ‘For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.’

In the coming weeks, you may find yourself in a similar predicament. Remember your mind is the greatest gift God has given you and it ought to be devoted entirely to Him. You should seek to bring ‘every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 10:5). This will be one of the greatest assets of your faith when a time of trial comes. Then your faith and the Spirit of God will work together. The greater our faith and love for God, the greater our obedience will be. Remember whose you are and whom you serve. Thank God, for another day of life and the strength to serve others even when it isn’t easy.

May God bless you and your family during the month of July, as we focus on Jesus!

In Christ’s arms, Brother Matt

DISAFFILIATION FUND UPDATE:

Thank you for your faithful giving to support our church in the disaffiliation process. To date, **\$36,835.00** has been donated. The campaign will continue until the end of the year.

Welcome

to the Global Methodist Church...

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

With humility, hope and joy, the 17 member body known as the Transitional Leadership Council announced the official launch of the Global Methodist Church as of May 1, 2022. Thousands of Methodist clergy and laity from around the world worked together to lay the groundwork for a new, theologically conservative Methodist denomination steeped in the great ecumenical and evangelical confessions of the Christian faith. We envision a church filled with a warm hearted, Wesleyan expression of that faith that is dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed. From its official launch date the Global Methodist Church will be a church in transition as it prepares for its convening **General Conference on September 8—9, 2023**. During the transitional period, the Global Methodist Church will operate under a Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline. In time the Global Methodist Church firmly believes it will have local churches in countries all around the world.

There’s lots of NEW information at
www.globalmethodist.org.



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

- July 2—Communion
- July 9—Larry & Sandra Hill
- July 23—Eddie Brantley
- July 30—Shelton & Linda Prine



Ladies...

a Bible Study will begin soon! If you'd like to teach/co-teach a class please let the church office know. *Stay tuned for more details...*



Have a happy and safe July 4th! Please note that the church offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

SUNDAYS:

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



Our NURSERY (located on the first floor in the Education Building) is available for both services.

WEDNESDAYS:

Please take note: There will be **NO Wednesday Night Activities** and **NO meals served in the month of July** to give our kitchen crew a time to rest up for our **BIG KICK OFF in AUGUST!!!!** (Homebound meals will continue through the summer).

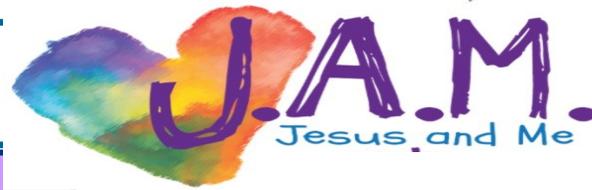
CHILDREN & YOUTH—look for announcements in the Children's Ministry and 1335 Youth Ministry sections and the church bulletin for fun activities in July.

DID YOU KNOW?

Edward Rutledge was the youngest person to sign the Declaration of Independence at 26 years old, while **Benjamin Franklin** was the oldest at 70 years old.

One World Trade Center was designed to pay tribute to American history's independence. One World Trade Center in New York City is remarkable and meaningful to the United States of America for a variety of reasons. However, you might not know that its most outstanding feature (its height) was designed to pay tribute to the year that America received its independence from Great Britain. The tower is exactly 1,776 feet tall to represent the year 1776.





Happy July! Summer is here and we have some fantastic things planned for our kids, including awesome field trips and activities! If you are not a part of our Remind text group, be sure to get plugged in today. **Text "@6df6h" to 81010 to join our group so your kids don't miss out on the fun!** Be sure to mark these activities on your calendar and RSVP to me if your child is coming.

Tuesday, July 11- Field trip to Wetumpka Fire Dept. (Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m.) We will bring our wonderful firefighters baked goodies and handmade cards. Then, we will get to see the firetrucks!

Wednesday, July 19- Annual Water Day! Be at the church front lawn at 6:00 p.m. We will have water guns, sponges, and water balls as we play on the front lawn. Dress code details will be sent via Remind closer to time. Be sure to bring a towel and get ready to get soaked!

Tuesday, July 25-Jasmine Hill Art Studio! We will meet at the art studio to paint from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cost is \$23/person. Parents/Grandparents are welcome to join in the fun. Please RSVP and turn in the money to me by Sunday, July 16.

This month our kids will continue learning about faith. Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see. **Our memory verse is "God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift." Ephesians 2:8.** Our kids will learn that salvation is God's gift to everyone. They will study the story of Paul and Silas being thrown in prison, Paul being shipwrecked, how our faith is stronger together as the church, and how God makes everything right in the end.

VBS was a huge success! The kids had a blast learning how to let Jesus' light shine! Most importantly, we had **18 kids give their heart to Jesus.** Over \$275 was raised for the Gideons, which helps them continue to give Bibles and hope to people around the world. A BIG thank you to the 55 volunteers that gave their time, talents, and gifts to VBS. You all rock!

I am so grateful for the privilege of helping your kids learn about God and His goodness. Let's have a great rest of the summer!

In Him, Ms. Michelle

More VBS pictures on pages 6 & 7



Our awesome VOLUNTEERS!



Our fabulous KITCHEN CREW



Our talented KIDS



Mr. Larry & Mr. Dan giving out bibles



June was so full of laughter; great memories; student ministry fam bonding with old and new friends; and God working in powerful and freeing ways in so many of our students' lives!! How amazing is that?! God is honoring your prayers, support, and direct encouragement in so many ways, and thank you for being such encouraging and loving examples of Christ's love! We are so blessed by each and every one of you!

I also can't wait to see how He keeps speaking to their hearts this month as students continue to reach and bring new friends to experience His life-changing love, our church family, and our student ministry family for themselves through upcoming hangouts, events (Red/White/Blue taste test, Movie Night, Open House Hangout, etc.), and this month's new study series titled "Please Explain."

This Month's Discussion Focus:

When we face a problem, situation, or idea we're struggling to understand, it always helps to know someone we trust can explain it to us. When Jesus was here on earth, He spent a lot of time helping his followers understand some pretty hard-to-understand ideas about God. One of the ways Jesus often made complicated ideas simpler was by explaining them through stories and metaphors, which we call parables. This month we'll explore and discuss together four of the parables Jesus told his followers to explain four important truths about God. These parables help us see that **God's words are a firm foundation, in God's kingdom, everyone belongs, God's words invite a response, and that God's kingdom is always growing.**

For all the other exciting, weekly, and community building things happening this month, 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



Senior Adult Ministry

Keenagers get ready to start again. We rested in June, and now on to July and the rest of the year.

Let's get cooking!!! Everyone remember that Tuesday, July the 11th at noon in the family life center we will be having a vegetable garden luncheon and I need all cooks on deck. Call me at 334/312-1764 and let me know which vegetable or cobbler you will be making for this great lunch. Vegetables, cornbread, cobblers and tea are on the menu for that day. And I for one cannot wait.



If you do not know what Keenagers is all about, and would like to know call me at 334/312-1764 or stop by my office on any Wednesday between 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. I would love to talk with you.

On another note, the first person that is not on staff that calls me and tells me what was on the bulletin board in the hall across from the children's Sunday school class near the church office there will be \$2 on Charlotte's desk for you. The other Sunday I was standing in the hall as everyone was going to the family life center for lunch and I did not notice one person looking at the bulletin board. I always try to make this bulletin board and the one in the family life center and Wesley Hall attractive and interesting. You would be surprised how many people say I didn't know anything about the lunch or going out somewhere to eat. I put signs everywhere and it is also on the church website and in our newsletter. If there is a better way to make sure you know what is happening - please let me know.

Second Timothy 4: 5

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Always Believe, Gloria (334-312-1764)

CONGRATULATIONS...

Susan Barner is no stranger to Edgewood Academy. She has spent most of her life in the school and is now Head of School.



Gracie Hankins won the title of Elmore County Distinguished Young Woman for 2024.

She will represent us in the statewide program on January 19 - 20, 2024 at Frazer Church. We'd love for anyone wanting to go and support her there to join us!

Vacation Bible School

June 4-6!!!
We learned how to
Shine a light on Jesus' love!





READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: JULY

- ☐ 1 2 Chron. 22-24 Job 23 2 Cor. 4
- ☐ 2 Reflect on God as Everlasting
- ☐ 3 Ezra 1-2 Ps. 81 2 Cor. 5
- ☐ 4 Ezra 3-4 Job 24 2 Cor. 6
- ☐ 5 Ezra 5-6 Ps. 82 2 Cor. 7
- ☐ 6 Ezra 7-8 Job 25 2 Cor. 8
- ☐ 7 Ezra 9-10 Ps. 83 2 Cor. 9
- ☐ 8 Neh. 1-3 Job 26 2 Cor. 10
- ☐ 9 Reflect on God as Refuge
- ☐ 10 Neh. 4-5 Ps. 84 2 Cor. 11
- ☐ 11 Neh. 6-7 Job 27 2 Cor. 12
- ☐ 12 Neh. 8-10 Ps. 85 2 Cor. 13
- ☐ 13 Neh. 11-13 Job 28 Gal. 1
- ☐ 14 Esther 1-2 Ps. 86 Gal. 2
- ☐ 15 Esther 3-4 Job 29 Gal. 3
- ☐ 16 Reflect on God as Victor
- ☐ 17 Esther 5-6 Ps. 87 Gal. 4
- ☐ 18 Esther 7-8 Job 30 Gal. 5
- ☐ 19 Esther 9-10 Ps. 88 Gal. 6
- ☐ 20 Isaiah 1 Job 31 Eph. 1
- ☐ 21 Isaiah 2 Ps. 89:1-26 Eph. 2
- ☐ 22 Isaiah 3 Job 32 Eph. 3
- ☐ 23 Reflect on God as High Priest
- ☐ 24 Isaiah 4 Ps. 89:27-52 Eph. 4
- ☐ 25 Isaiah 5 Job 33 Eph. 5
- ☐ 26 Isaiah 6 Ps. 90 Eph. 6
- ☐ 27 Isaiah 7 Job 34 Phil. 1
- ☐ 28 Isaiah 8 Ps. 91 Phil. 2
- ☐ 29 Isaiah 9 Job 35 Phil. 3
- ☐ 30 Reflect on God as Humble
- ☐ 31 Isaiah 10 Ps. 92 Phil. 4

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.



07/03	Ashley	Cousins	07/19	Jerry	Willis
07/03	Mitchell	Helton	07/19	William	Araiza
07/05	Rick	Beauchamp	07/21	Hubert	Staley
07/05	John	Carter	07/21	Rachel	Williams
07/06	Gwen	Ellis	07/21	Kim	Cossey
07/06	Frank	Vawter	07/21	Margaret	Horton
07/07	Shawn	Hubbard	07/22	Maggie	Smith
07/08	Avery	Johnston	07/22	Jennie	Payne
07/09	Marvin	Salter	07/24	Susan	Barnes
07/13	Pat	Hobbie	07/26	Larry	Hill
07/14	Mary Katherine	Macon	07/27	Sam	Wheat
07/15	Eli	Williams	07/27	Patricia	Singleton
07/15	Donald	West	07/28	Deanna	Nelson
07/16	Cindy	Rouse	07/28	Joshua	Macon
07/17	Sara (Tyler)	Britton	07/29	Hilda	Kelly
07/18	Ann	Lambert	07/29	Ben	Williams
07/18	Marilyn	Dozier			
07/18	Lyn	McDonald			



07/07	Paul & Monica Henderson
07/16	Larry & Sandra Hill
07/17	Guy & Cindy Jones
07/18	Leighton & Jenni Greenlee
07/20	Barry & Sally Blackwell
07/21	Spencer J & Beth Coleman
07/23	Gary & Debbie Barnes

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



FIRST NEWS

306 W. Tuskeena Street

Wetumpka, AL 36092

Phone: 334-567-7865

Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com

Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

July 2023



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- News from our Stewardship Team
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Happy Independence
Day America!



Check out
the fun pics
of VBS...



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