

A Word From Our Pastor...

Maintaining Your Balance

I will never forget the earthquake on Diego Garcia in November of 1983. I was in my barracks watching a re-run of the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. I lived in a two-story barracks at the time. The rumble started and it got so loud that you couldn't hear yourself think. I wasn't sure what was going on but when the bed started bouncing, I knew I wasn't going to stay in the barracks. As I headed for the door, I noticed my roommate right behind me. Of course, we were all very calm.

Now I was a little disoriented, but having lived in San Francisco, I knew that running outside was not the best thing to do, but could not remember what I should do. Once I was downstairs standing outside the barracks, I could not maintain my balance. The earthquake, instead of shaking hard like it does in the states, the ground actually "rolled." It was almost like standing on top of the waves on the water. I remember a lot of screaming because it was "Pitch Black" and no one really understood what was happening. The earthquake seemed to go on forever. We were told to go to the center of the island because they were expecting a tidal wave to hit. Fortunately, that never happened.

Life can change in an instant. No matter why the changes occur, it can be disconcerting to feel like the ground is shifting beneath you. Sometimes the changes are small but when big ones come, they can throw you off balance. Maintaining your balance in an earthquake is hard enough but one of our greatest challenges is finding balance in the Christian life. Have you ever noticed that somehow Jesus balanced his life quite well? The demands of his work and ministry left him exhausted at times and yet somehow, he found time to get it all done. Jesus perfectly balanced the demands of life, within the same 24-hour time frame that we have. So how did he maintain a balanced life so perfectly?

His life reveals a number of practical ways that we can achieve balance in the Christian life. First, look to God not to others to determine your priorities. Jesus determined His priorities by spending time with the Father. Consider this passage: "Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. Simon and his companions searched for him; they found him, and said to him, 'Everyone is looking for you.' He said to them, 'Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for'" (Mark 1:35–38).

How could Jesus walk away from needs of the people that only he could meet? Because the Father had different priorities for Jesus than simply a healing ministry. The healing balanced the teaching. Even though the people would have preferred Jesus to choose differently, he determined instead to please the Father. Consequently, Jesus was misunderstood, rejected, even crucified—and yet, he was successful.

Secondly, learn to say no, so you can say yes. Jesus said no, so that he could say yes to what was most important. Only by prioritizing our life from Scripture will we be able to make confident decisions within the overwhelming demands of this world. We can choose many good things but end up missing out on God's best.

Someone once said, "Balance is like a pendulum; it's that brief moment in the middle when you're swinging from one extreme to the other." Part of our pursuit for a balanced life contains the realization that it is never perfectly achieved. The pursuit of a balanced life is the goal. So, don't be frustrated with the constant effort to maintain your balance, you must keep moving.

May God continue to bless you and your family during the month of August as you strive to maintain a balanced Christian life.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



The Global Methodist Church....

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

Mark your calendars for our first General Conference on September 8—9, 2023 at St. James Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Watch for specific details in the church bulletin and via email.

There's lots of NEW information at www.globalmethodist.org. Check it out...

DISAFFILIATION FUND UPDATE:

Thank you for your faithful giving to support our church in the disaffiliation process.

To date, \$37,470 has been donated.

Our target for this fund is \$75,000.

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.

CH_RCH.

Are U missing?

Don't miss a thing that's happening at First Methodist Church!!! Are you connected? Please share your email with us by contacting the church office.



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

- August 6—Communion
- August 13—William & Ashley Cousins
- August 20—Frances Borders
- August 27—Penni Buckelew



CHURCH-WIDE FISH FRY

Wednesday, August 16

6 p.m. in the Family Life Center!!!!

The kitchen crew is providing slaw, cheese grits, dessert and tea while the men cook the fish and hush puppies! It will be a great evening of celebration to kick off the fall and school year.

PLEASE let us know that you are coming so we will know how many to plan for!



Ladies...what if you could Out Live Your Life!?!?

Our next Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, August 23 at 6 p.m.! Please order your workbook and/or the hard back book from Amazon or let the church office know to order yours for you. (Note: You will only need the participant book for the class) The cost of the participant book is \$9 and the book is \$16.50. **If we have a teacher for a morning class we will set that up. If you'd like to teach/co-teach a morning or evening class please let the church office know asap.**

Here's a word from beloved author Max Lucado...

Dear Friend,

May I share a story that is very dear to my heart?

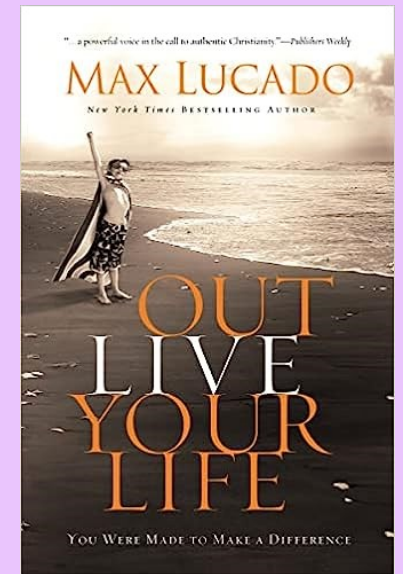
It's a story of hillbillies and simple folk, net casters and tax collectors. A story of a movement that exploded like a just-opened fire hydrant out of Jerusalem and spilled into the ends of the earth: into the streets of Paris, the districts of Rome, and the ports of Athens, Istanbul, Shanghai, and Buenos Aires. A story so mighty, controversial, head spinning, and life changing that two millennia later we wonder:

Might it happen again?

Heaven knows we hope so. These are devastating times: 1.75 billions people are desperately poor; one billion are hungry. Lonely hearts indwell our neighborhoods and attend our schools. In the midst of it all, here we stand: you, me, and our one-of-a-kind lives. We are given a choice...an opportunity to make a big difference during a difficult time. What if we did? What if we rocked the world with hope?

Worth a try, don't you think?

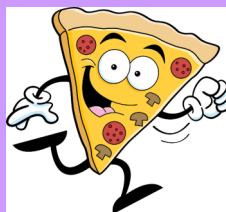
SIGN UP TODAY! CALL OR EMAIL AND LET US KNOW YOU PLAN TO ATTEND!!!!





Wow! Summer is over already?! We had an AMAZING July with super fun activities. The kids visited the Wetumpka Fire Dept. and hand-delivered baked goodies and cards to our hardworking firemen. They loved touring the fire station and seeing the firetrucks. And, well, let's just say our Annual Water Day was a hit with the kids ganging up on me. (They look so innocent, don't they?) Last, but certainly not least, the kids capped off July with a trip to Jasmine Hill Art Studio to paint the night away!

As always, we have some great things planned this month for our kids. **Our Community-wide Back to School Pizza Party will be Wednesday, August 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.** Grab a friend and join us for yummy pizza and a short gospel presentation as we hand out school supplies.



Our Wednesday After-School Children's Ministry Program kicks back off on August 23. We are excited to offer bus pick up from Wetumpka Elementary School, Wetumpka Middle School and Wetumpka High School. (Kids 7th-12th grade will join our youth group.) We would love for your kids to join us for a snack, play time, a large group lesson, small groups according to grade level, and children's choir. Please see me or email me at michelle@firstwetumpka.com to register your kids for this school year or if you would like more information on this wonderful program.

This month our kids will learn about creativity. Creativity is using your imagination to do something new. Our memory verse is *"We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10. Our kids will learn that God created the heavens and the earth and He created us with a purpose. We can use what God gave us to solve problems and use our imagination to honor God.

I am excited to see how God will move in our children's ministry this month. I love your sweet kids to the moon and back!

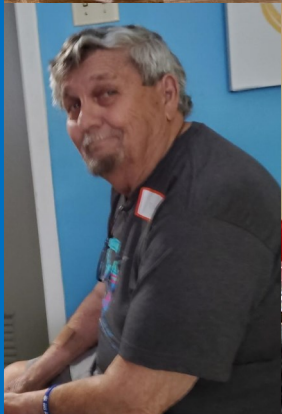
In Him,
Ms. Michelle





**We love and miss you,
"Mr. Dan, the brownie
man!"**

**You and
your
kindness
will be in
our hearts
forever!**





School is back, and I can't wait to see how God keeps speaking into and moving in the lives and hearts of our students like He has over the summer! As they also continue to reach and bring friends to experience His life-changing love, the welcoming warmth and fun of our student ministry family, and the uplifting hearts of our church family for themselves (like this month through our weekly hangouts and events like two churchwide family events and a student ministry pool party/cookout!); we will also delve into a study about spiritual growth titled "Catalyst."

This Month's Discussion Focus:

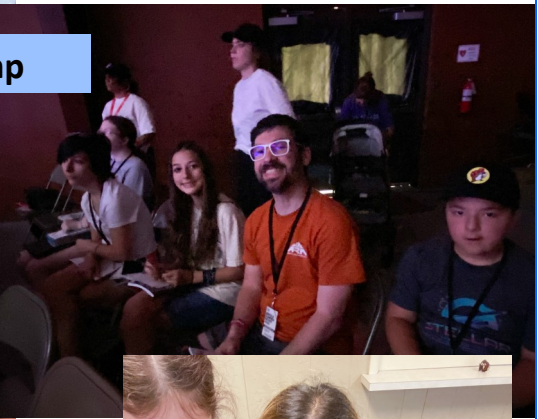
Sometimes the idea of what faith is, or how to get it/more of it, can feel a little hard to grasp. Just like science can help explain so many mysterious and hard-to-grasp things in the world around us, there are answers for many of the mysterious and hard-to-grasp things about faith, too. Science shows us that "catalysts" are interactions that create big changes and transformations. In the same way, scripture shows us certain change-making "catalysts" are necessary for the transformation of our faith and the faith of others. This month we will explore and discuss together the book of Hebrews and see that **faith is a catalyst for action, the faith of others can be a catalyst on our journey, Jesus is the catalyst for a new relationship with God, and we can be a catalyst for change.**

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**



Splash Day!



Senior Adult *Ministry*

August is back to school, and back to doing regular everyday things— some fun, some, I'm not so sure about.

I do know that in July the Keenagers enjoyed a fabulously delicious lunch. There was corn, butter beans, peas and sweet potato casserole just to name a few. And of course there was cornbread and sweet tea. For dessert we had 5 different fruit Cobblers and ice cream. I think we may make this our lunch for each July when all of the wonderful vegetables are ready to be harvested and cooked by some of the best cooks in Elmore County. What do you think about this? Our speaker Mrs. Sarah Debose gave a great ,funny an inspirational talk enjoyed by everyone.



On Tuesday, August the 8, all roads seem to lead to Durbin Farms for lunch and then on to Peach Park for dessert. This is always a great road trip to finish off the summer. **Please call 334/312- 1764 to make your reservations for the bus .**

Some people will also be taking cars It will be a fun time for all and we usually come home with fresh vegetables,

watermelons and fried Peach pies period.

The bus will leave the church at 10:15 a.m. so don't be late.

God hears the prayers of the righteous. By grace through faith in Jesus Christ, that's us, friends. God hasn't saved us so He can ignore us. God saved us so we can enjoy Him. **Proverbs 15: 29**

Always Believe, Gloria (334-312-1764)



Keenagers July Garden Vegetable Luncheon



READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: August

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Isaiah 11	Job 36	Col. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Isaiah 12	Ps. 93	Col. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Isaiah 13	Job 37	Col. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Isaiah 14	Ps. 94	Col. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Isaiah 15	Job 38	1 Thess. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Reflect on God as Father		
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Isaiah 16	Ps. 95	1 Thess. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Isaiah 17	Job 39	1 Thess. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Isaiah 18	Ps. 96	1 Thess. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Isaiah 19	Job 40	1 Thess. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Isaiah 20	Ps. 97	2 Thess. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Isaiah 21	Job 41	2 Thess. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Reflect on God as Light		
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Isaiah 22	Ps. 98	2 Thess. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Isaiah 23	Job 42	1 Tim. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 Isaiah 24	Ps. 99	1 Tim. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Isaiah 25	Song 1:1-7	1 Tim. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Isaiah 26	Ps. 100	1 Tim. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Isaiah 27	Song 1:8-17	1 Tim. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Reflect on God as Truth		
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 Isaiah 28	Ps. 101	1 Tim. 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 22 Isaiah 29	Song 2:1-7	1 Tim. 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 23 Isaiah 30	Ps. 102	2 Tim. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 Isaiah 31	Song 2:8-17	2 Tim. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 25 Isaiah 32	Ps. 103	2 Tim. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26 Isaiah 33	Song 3:1-5	Titus 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 27 Reflect on God as Holy		
<input type="checkbox"/> 28 Isaiah 34	Ps. 104	Titus 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 29 Isaiah 35	Song 3:6-11	Titus 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 Isaiah 36	Ps. 105	Philemon
<input type="checkbox"/> 31 Isaiah 37	Song 4:1-8	Heb. 1

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.



08/05	Bruce Barber	08/17	Allannah Tindal
08/07	J.P. Schroeder	08/17	Earl Singleton
08/07	Gigi Hankins	08/19	Lynda Fain
08/09	Judy Dudley	08/23	Penni Buckelew
08/09	Lynda Estabrook	08/26	Joyce Carter
08/11	Rick Tyler	08/26	Vickie Logan
08/12	Lee Macon	08/27	Ashley Gilliland
08/13	Linda Prine	08/28	Lee Cash
08/13	Caleb Emmons	08/28	Joe McDonald
08/13	Mary Jane Strength	08/29	Linda Roberts
08/14	Sophie Arant	08/30	Ava Glass
08/15	Albert Frith	08/31	Shelton Prine
08/15	Holly Chatman	08/31	Kelly Roth
08/17	Sherry Braddam	08/31	Andrea Farquhar
08/17	Allison Johnston		



Aug 4	Ted & Frances Watts
Aug 4	Jerry & Kathy Willis
Aug 10	Johnny & Joyce Carter
Aug 11	Ben & Rachel Williams
Aug 15	Fred & Carla Enslin
Aug 27	Trip & Mary Weldon
Aug 28	Marilyn & Bruce Knapp
Aug 31	Mac & Mary Patchel

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

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Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com
Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

August 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- News from our Stewardship Team
- It's A Fish Fry! You're Invited!
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group



SUNDAYS:

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

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES START BACK ON AUGUST 23!!!



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