

A Word From Our Pastor...

During my time at Asbury Theological Seminary, I wrote many papers but the paper that stood out was on the history of prayer in the Christian tradition. The prayer most often used down through the ages was the Lord's Prayer. It was quite clear that God's people received their spiritual direction from this prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a summary of the Gospel and it is the most memorized, quoted, and sung by the church. It was also the focal point of prayer for the early church fathers.

John Wesley said, "**God will do nothing but in answer to prayer. Whether we think of, or speak to God, whether we act or suffer for him, all is prayer, when we have no other object than his love, and the desire of pleasing him. Proceed with much prayer, and your way will be made plain.**" Prayer helps us to stay on the path marked out for us by God.

Recently, I ran across a prayer guide for the Lord's Prayer by pastor and author, Rev. Dr. Terry Teykl. He breaks down the Lord's Prayer for daily use, along with a Scripture reference, for you to pray through. As you pray through the following prayer points, invite the presence of the Lord into your prayer time. As you pray allow time to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. Then, consider what action steps you might take in response to the Lord's leading. Repeat this prayer pattern weekly for the month. **Remember, prayer changes everything!**

Sunday: Pray—'Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.'

Praise Him for He is a good Father. (Psalm 145:9)

Pray that God's name would be revered and honored in Sunday morning worship and that the Name of Jesus is lifted high.

Pray that we speak the Name of Jesus often and in awe. (Hebrews. 1:1-4)

Monday: Pray—'Thy kingdom come,'

Pray for your local schools (administrators, teachers & students), city leaders, and first responders.

Pray for God's authority over the crime and illegal activities in your city. (1 Corinthians 15:33)

Tuesday: Pray—'thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

Pray for those who are the lost, to be set free to be saved and to find a church family. (2 Peter 3:9)

Pray that we will see glimpses of heaven here on earth.

Wednesday: Pray—'Give us this day our daily bread.'

Pray for the needs of the poor, homebound and oppressed people in our communities and the world.

Pray expectantly that God would meet their needs.

Give thanks for God's bountiful goodness. (Psalm 100)

Thursday: Pray—'And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

Pray that we will repent of our sins. (1 John 1:9)

Pray that we will repent of our attitudes of pride.

Pray that we will forgive others.

Friday: Pray—'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

Pray that we are not led into selfish gain, self-deception, lust, unbelief, judgmental attitudes, or greed.

Pray for protection from evil, especially for our pastors and church leaders. (Psalm 91)

Saturday: Pray—'For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.'

Pray that we are filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)

Pray that God's power is made manifest and His glory revealed in our lives and in our church. (Luke 9:1-2)

'This, then, is how you should pray.'

May God bless you and your family during the month of September, as we turn to God in prayer and practice the principles of prayer.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt





Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

- September 3: Communion
- September 10: Marvin & Jane Salter
- September 17: Jim & Wanda Rushing
- September 24: Ray & Judi Daniels

Now is a great time to participate in our **Wednesday Night Activities!!!**

Children and Youth - Bus pickup from the Wetumpka Schools 3:00 p.m.

Delicious meal served by our fabulous kitchen crew from 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

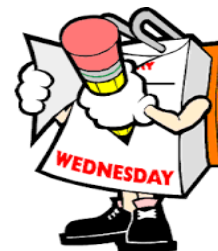
Beginning at 6:00 p.m.

• New Bible Study

Outlive Your Life by Max Lucado study meets in the Cornerstone Classroom upstairs in the Education Bldg.

• Brother Matt is teaching a NEW study on Life Lessons from the Book of James. Class meets in the Church Library.

• Add your voice to our Chancel Choir! Choir Practice in the Chapel



First Methodist Wetumpka Staff:



We are here to serve you and with you! How can we help you?

Church Office Hours:

Administrative Assistant/Secretary (Charlotte)

Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com

Phone: 334/567-7865

Monday—Thursday

8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

(Office closed on Friday)

Financial Secretary: (Sonya)

Email: arnoldsonya1946@gmail.com

Phone: 334/567-7865

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday 8 a.m. until noon.

Children's Director: (Michelle)

Email: Michelle@firstwetumpka.com

Monday 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Tuesday 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Wednesday 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Thursday 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Youth Director: (Jamie)

Email: Jamie@firstwetumpka.com

Tuesday 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Wednesday 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Sr. Adult Director (Keenagers): (Gloria)

Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.



Have more 2024 calendars than you need?

Sisters In Service is once again collecting unneeded 2024 calendars for Wetumpka Health & Rehab and our assisted living facility. The residents really enjoy having their own calendar each year. There will be a container near the church office and one in Wesley Hall.

We thank you very much for your generosity!!

Alice Barnhart,
SIS President



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry on Fridays from 10 a.m. until 12 noon upstairs in the Education Building. Bring your crafting projects with you or just come for the sweet fellowship. **Have you seen all the cute beaded items the ministry has been working on—great items for your holiday shopping.** Donations for these items are appreciated!

Welcome



Welcome.....John Albritton!

We have another friendly face in our Audio Visual Department! Be sure to stop by, say hello and welcome John to our family. He will be in the back corner working away on Sundays!



Happy September! **BIG NEWS!** Our Wednesday After-School Children's Ministry Program has kicked back off and we are having a blast. If you haven't registered your kids, now is the time! We 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 Bible lesson, small group activities 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.

Upcoming Event:
Community-Wide
Fall Festival on
Wednesday, October 25.



Grab your friends and come join us for an evening full of games and LOTS of candy! More details coming soon.

This month our kids will learn that friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care. They will learn the importance of choosing their friends carefully. They will also hear the stories of David and Mephibosheth and Barnabas and Saul. Our memory verse is *"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes"*. Proverbs 17:17.

As always, thank you for giving me the privilege of being an important part of your kids' lives. Each child is such a blessing to me!

In Him, Ms. Michelle





Pray Unceasingly for Our Church

As the Fall season unfolds,
 let's unite our unceasing prayers
 for each other
 and for our ministry plans now
 and for the coming year.
 Let's ask the Holy Spirit to ignite our
 fire to joyfully make disciples of
 Jesus Christ who worship passionately,
 love extravagantly, and witness boldly.
 Let's ask the Lord to lead us individually
 and as a church family to increase the
 good stewardship of our prayers,
 presence, gifts, service, and witness
 . . . as we continue moving forward
 with Jesus.

DISAFFILIATION FUND UPDATE:

Thank you for your faithful giving to support our church in the disaffiliation process. To date, **\$40,120** 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! Donations will be received until the end of the year. **Thank you to those who have already given.**

The Global Methodist Church....

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

“OFFER THEM CHRIST”

We want to personally invite you to join us for the Celebration Launch of the Alabama Emerald Coast

Conference of the Global Methodist Church!

This will be an historic gathering as it will be our very first Annual Conference. *It will*

be held at Saint James Global Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama on Friday and Saturday, September 8 and 9!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8:

Clergy sessions are held from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

At 6 p.m. EVERYONE is invited to a Celebration Worship Service in Worship Center followed by an ice cream social in Lobby and Café'.

CONGRATULATIONS JAMIE!

On SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 at 1:15 p.m. our Youth Director Jamie Farquhar will be one of the ordinands in the Service of Ordination.

Following the service there will be a reception in honor of the ordinands. Be sure to plan to come and help us celebrate this wonderful accomplishment in Jamie and Andrea's lives.



In Our Community...

BEAT the STREETS

2nd Annual Event downtown Wetumpka
Goldstar Park

**Saturday, September 30, 2023
 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.**

There will be FREE food, live music, live testimonies and more!
 This event helps to provide meals, clothing, education and rehabilitation costs for those struggling with addiction. (Beat the Streets works alongside our Fresh Start Ministry). **THANK YOU** for your support!



We have recently replaced the UMC hymnals with “Our Great Redeemer’s Praise”. You are welcome to take old hymnals FREE of charge. Call the church

office asap if you’re interested.
PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE: Last day to get your hymnal is September 30!



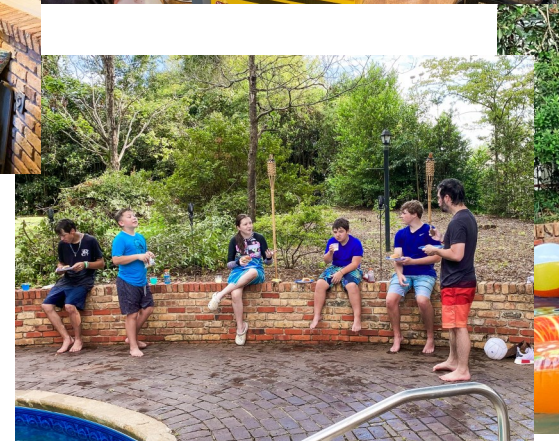
Wasn't last month so much fun?! Our whole church family and student ministry got to show God's love and light to our surrounding community and one another as we hung out on and off campus! Let's keep that energy going this month as we prayerfully seek and look for new ways to support and encourage our community and one another in His likeness inside and outside our building's walls! I'd love to hear what God is laying on your heart and your ideas. Also don't forget about our Cardboard Wars Lock-In, off campus House Paint Party, and all our weekly community and faith building hangouts this month (including our new series about God centered friendships titled "Real")! For additional details on how to join in the fun or send me ideas, talk to me and/or contact me through my email below!

This Month's Discussion Focus:

It's easy to spot a fake friend (and even easier to *be* a fake friend at times), but what's not-so-easy is figuring out how to make and keep friendships that are real. Maybe it's just easier to keep our friendships on the surface. Maybe we've never seen real friendship in real life before so we don't know how one works. Maybe we just don't actually know anyone we trust enough to be real with. These days, when "friends" are just a click or a follow away, it's more important than ever to figure out what true friendship really looks like. This month we will explore and discuss together the words and stories of Jesus, the disciples, Paul, Timothy, David, and Jeremiah to help us understand what authentic, meaningful, supportive, and life-giving friendship can and should look like in God's will, wisdom, and design for them. Together, we'll discover that real friends **choose each other wisely, show each other grace, comfort each other, and help each other grow.**

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 at jamie@firstwetumpka.com 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*

Our road trip in August was so much fun (LOL) I think we should try for another one in **September**. We will go to the Auburn Opelika area and eat somewhere and on the way home we will stop by the new Buc-ee's. Surely the weather will cooperate with us this time and not be quite so hot.

In October we will have a hobo lunch that should be lots of fun so hope to see you there.

In November we're going on another road trip somewhere neat to eat.

In December we will be having a birthday party for Jesus luncheon.

Stay cool and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
First Corinthians 13:3-4

Always Believe, Gloria (334-312-1764)

On another note, I will be in my office or at the church from 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Please feel free to stop by or call me any time.



TEMPLE TRAILS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 10 right after the late service in the Sanctuary.

Anyone interested in helping make plans for our group to get up and get out walking again is welcome to attend this brief meeting! *With the fall will come cooler weather—so let's plan when we want to get out there again!*



**TRAILS TEMPLE
MINISTRY**

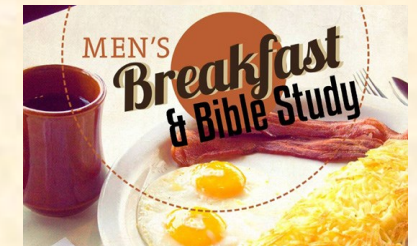


Don't forget that the **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday, September 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Wesley Hall. **Hughett Williams is the leader and discusses a new and interesting topic each week!** You are sure to be blessed! Coffee and light refreshments served!
Bring a friend.

ACOLYTES MEETING—

Sunday, September 17 right after late church in the Sanctuary. Please see Mrs. Nell Head or email her at nhead@elmore.rr.com if you are interested.

acolyte
ministry



Calling ALL men... join us each Thursday morning at 7 a.m. at Burger King for a short devotion, breakfast and wonderful fellowship!
Invite a friend!!!



READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: September

- ☐ 1 Isaiah 38 Ps. 105:23-45 Heb. 2
- ☐ 2 Isaiah 39 Song 4:9-16 Heb. 3
- ☐ 3 **Reflect on God as Deliverer**
- ☐ 4 Isaiah 40 Ps. 106:1-24 Heb. 4
- ☐ 5 Isaiah 41 Song 5:1-8 Heb. 5
- ☐ 6 Isaiah 42 Ps. 106:25-48 Heb. 6
- ☐ 7 Isaiah 43 Song 5:9-16 Heb. 7
- ☐ 8 Isaiah 44 Ps. 107:1-23 Heb. 8
- ☐ 9 Isaiah 45 Song 6:1-5 Heb. 9
- ☐ 10 **Reflect on God as Protector**
- ☐ 11 Isaiah 46 Ps. 107:24-43 Heb. 10
- ☐ 12 Isaiah 47 Song 6:6-13 Heb. 11
- ☐ 13 Isaiah 48 Ps. 108 Heb. 12
- ☐ 14 Isaiah 49 Song 7:1-5 Heb. 13
- ☐ 15 Isaiah 50 Ps. 109 James 1
- ☐ 16 Isaiah 51 Song 7:6-13 James 2
- ☐ 17 **Reflect on God as Eternal**
- ☐ 18 Isaiah 52 Ps. 110 James 3
- ☐ 19 Isaiah 53 Song 8:1-7 James 4
- ☐ 20 Isaiah 54 Ps. 111 James 5
- ☐ 21 Isaiah 55 Song 8:8-14 1 Peter 1
- ☐ 22 Isaiah 56 Ps. 112 1 Peter 2
- ☐ 23 Isaiah 57 Ps. 113 1 Peter 3
- ☐ 24 **Reflect on God's Kindness**
- ☐ 25 Isaiah 58 Ps. 114 1 Peter 4
- ☐ 24 Isaiah 59 Ps. 115 1 Peter 5
- ☐ 27 Isaiah 60 Ps. 116 2 Peter 1
- ☐ 28 Isaiah 61 Ps. 117 2 Peter 2
- ☐ 29 Isaiah 62 Ps. 118 2 Peter 3
- ☐ 30 Isaiah 63 Ps. 119:1-8 1 John 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.



09/01	Laurie	Hutchinson	09/17	Bill	Lambert
09/04	Wayne	Nixon	09/19	Leighton	Greenlee
09/04	Christina	Knuckles	09/21	Barbara	Knight
09/07	Rebekah	Williams	09/22	Carla	Enslin
09/09	Larry	Dozier	09/22	Carey	Hawkins
09/13	Ray	Daniels	09/24	Sharon	Bledsoe
09/14	Sean	Rider	09/24	Judi	Daniels
09/14	Louise	Tatum	09/25	Carl	Bledsoe
09/14	Rick	Futch	09/25	Miranda	Abernethy
09/15	Tim	Lawrence	09/26	Fran	Chance
09/15	Jon Luke	Arant	09/26	Anna	Knuckles
			09/27	Harper	Macon



09/07	Hughett & Mardre Williams
09/16	Carl & Sharon Bledsoe
09/17	Neal & Leah Pridgen
09/29	Larry & Marilyn Dozier

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.



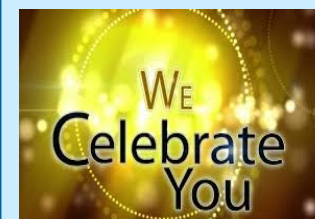
FIRST NEWS

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September 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

- From our Pastor
- Meet Our Staff
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- News from our Stewardship Team
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group
- In Our Community



Save the Date...

Sunday, October 29!

ONE Worship service

at 10 a.m.

We will be celebrating

Pastor Appreciation with a covered dish

luncheon honoring Brother Matt and

Tammy! Watch for more details...



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