

## A Word From Our Pastor...

### Set Apart

What does it mean to be set apart by God? When a person places their faith in Jesus Christ and becomes a believer, he or she is sanctified—that is, set apart for God’s purpose. Unlike salvation, which takes place in a single moment, sanctification is a lifelong process. When we allow the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to work in our life, God sanctifies us into His likeness. In other words, we increasingly mature in our faith.

Paul explained God’s purpose for believers this way: “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29). Our character, our conduct, and our conversation should be reflections of Christ. Thankfully, we have been given the Holy Spirit, who works through God’s Word to renew our minds. But we must cooperate in the sanctification process by filling our minds with Scripture. It has been said that, ‘The Bible is God’s living word for our daily living.’ We need it just like the air we breathe.

The Lord shows you how to think and act so you can “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1). We are different than the rest of the world because we are a sanctified people. We are separated from what is unholy and called to be holy. So, what are some distinguishing marks that separate us from the world?

First, you are acceptable. Eugene Petersen paraphrases "You are the ones chosen by God . . . from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted" (1 Peter 2:9,10). Most of us spend our entire lives trying to earn acceptance. Even with our character flaws, shortcomings, insecurities, and immaturity, God accepts us, just the way we are. But He loves us enough to not let us stay that way.

Secondly, you are valuable. How much do you think you are worth? I am not talking about your net-worth; I am talking about your self-worth. We should never confuse valuables with the value of a person. So, how does God determine value? The Bible says, "You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him" (1 Cor. 7:23 NIV). God exchanged his own Son for you. The cross proves your value. Jesus gave his life for you. To Jesus, we are the most precious treasure in the entire world.

Lastly, you are capable. Now that may sound a little intimidating to you. But as a believer in Jesus Christ, you are part of “a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9). So, what are the benefits of being part of this priesthood? Well, you have direct access to God. You have the right to go directly to God with your prayer concerns, your supplications, and your confessions. We can experience the power and presence of God directly.

You also have a responsibility to minister to the needs of other people. Every Christian is a minister. God says that you and I have been gifted for ministry to serve other people. We are "God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for us" (1 Peter 2:9). We are agents of God. We speak to God for people. This is our ministry of prayer, especially intercession. We also speak to people for God. This is our ministry of witnessing; sharing our transformation story with others.

Knowing who God has set you apart to be, will empower you to be all that you can be for Jesus and his kingdom. If you ask Jesus, he will tell you. You are accepted, you are valued, and you are capable. What more could you want? May God continue to bless you and your family during the month of October.

In Christ’s arms, Brother Matt



***Sunday, October 29!***  
***ONE Worship Service***  
***at 10 a.m.***

***We will be celebrating Pastor Appreciation Day as a church family with a covered dish luncheon honoring Brother Matt and Tammy! Bring your yummy dishes to share...the meat and tea will be provided.***

***There will be a basket for your notes of appreciation. If you feel led to share your thanks through monetary means, Brother Matt and Tammy have asked that those be directed to the FMC Disaffiliation Fund.***

***FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY...***

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 at 6 P.M.**

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to hear missionaries to Africa and long-time friends of the Albritton Family, **Dr. Rev. Alfred and Muembe Kalembo** speak.





**Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:**

- October 1: Communion**
- October 8: Joy Class**
- October 15: Alice Scarborough**
- October 22: Eddie Brantley**
- October 29: Guy & Cindy Jones**



**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



**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!



**TRAILS TEMPLE**  
MINISTRY

Hi everyone! We will have our first hike of the fall on October 14. Our hike will leave the church parking lot at 8 am. Length of hike will be between 2 1/2 and 5 miles. At the half way point you can turn and go back to the church. This will be a "prayer walk" around Wetumpka.

**We are looking for volunteers:**

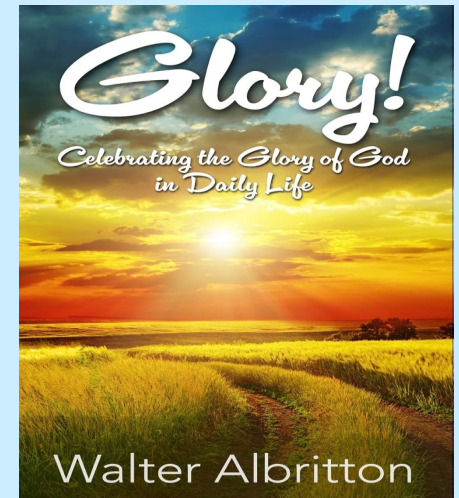
- **Church Historian**
- **Membership Secretary**
- **Missions/Evangelism Coordinator**

**If you are interested in finding out more about these ministries or any of our various ministries, contact the church office.**

***This Just In...***

With his usual wit and charm, Brother Walter Albritton captures the essence of what it means to celebrate the glory of God... every day. One reason this book is so powerful is that anyone that knows Walter knows that "Glory" is his favorite word. **GLORY!** Walter Albritton's sixth "last book" is special as it focuses on how years ago, Walter began saying, and sometimes shouting, "**GLORY!**" It has been a spontaneous expression of his joy about what he saw or felt God was doing. It is an emotional response to the power, love and presence of God. It springs from his heart much like some people will shout "Amen" or "Hallelujah" or like the Marines will shout "Oorah." So in that sense, when Walter shouts "**GLORY**" he is simply praising God – with great joy in these many short stories.

**Get your copy today at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).**





Hey Pumpkin! We have a TON of fun activities planned for the kiddos this month! Mark your calendars because we will be making some great memories.

**Sunday, October 22:**

- Kids sing in the late service. Come join us as our children's choir makes a joyful noise!
- Pizza party at church immediately following the late service AND a trip to Cornfield County Farms Pumpkin Patch
- Deadline to turn in pumpkins for Pumpkin Decorating Contest (See more details below.)

**Wednesday, October 25!!!**



**Community-Wide Fall Festival!** Grab your friends and come join us from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for an evening full of games, fellowship, and LOTS of candy! We are excited to invite your kids to join our **"Happy Pumpkin Painting Contest!"** They can show their artistic talents as they paint a pumpkin from home.

- The pumpkins will be displayed at our Fall Festival and can be taken home that evening after the event.
- We ask that the kids do not carve the pumpkins so they will last longer.
- Please have your child write his/her name on the bottom of the pumpkin with a Sharpie.
- No scary decorations please.
- All kids who participate will receive a special award for entering the contest.

This month our kids will learn that integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do. They will learn the importance of being truthful at all times. Our kids will hear the story of Naaman and Elisha's servant and the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. **Our memory verse is "Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught."** Proverbs 10:9

I thank God everyday for the privilege of ministering to your kids. Each child is such a blessing to me!

In Him, Ms. Michelle

*Wrapped candy donations for the Community Fall Festival and Coosa Candy Crawl are appreciated!*





**Moving Forward**  
*Together with Jesus*

### Prepare to Welcome God's Vision

Praise the Lord for the amazing way our First Methodist Church family has launched an exciting fall season of ministries, all to the glory of God. A crucial part of the last quarter of each calendar year is to fervently pray and prepare for the next calendar year. We intentionally reinforce our commitment to be good stewards of all the resources God provides. Each area of ministry is praying for the wisdom to develop 2024 plans that are within God's vision for us to move forward together with Jesus.

**Our fall stewardship emphasis will begin Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and continue throughout November.** Through worship, study, fellowship, and service, we will ask the Lord to lead each one of us to participate in God's vision through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

**Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> will be an All-Saints Celebration,** a time to honor and give thanks for beloved members of our congregation who died in the past year. We will also recall and give thanks for all those saints who trusted God to establish our historic congregation in 1819, and those who continued to faithfully build this church on the foundation of God's Word.

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> will be Celebration Sunday,** a meaningful time in which we will consecrate our 2024 Declarations of Giving and acknowledge the exceeding joy of working as partners with each other and with God to do his will. May the Holy Spirit ignite our fire to joyfully make disciples of Jesus Christ, who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. Friends, great things are still to come!

**Serving Jesus with you,  
Your Stewardship Team**

### **Global Methodist Church....**

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

***“OFFER THEM CHRIST” was the theme as we gathered at St. James Church in Montgomery for a historic gathering on September 8 and 9, celebrating our very First GMC Annual Conference and what a time we had worshipping and fellowshiping together! To see the recap of the conference go to the website listed below.***

***There's lots of NEW information at [www.globalmethodist.org](http://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, \$45,820 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.**

**Want to volunteer in the church's many ministries, but not sure what your God-given talents and gifts are?** We can offer guidance discerning your spiritual Gifts. See Brother Matt or one of our staff members to pick up your guidebook, *“Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts”*. First Methodist Wetumpka continues to grow and with that growth comes the need for more volunteers. Our desire is that every member of our church family find their place of service. What great ideas we gleaned from our Visioning Meeting recently!!! We are hard at work behind the scenes to make those ideas a reality. **So, WE NEED YOU!!!!** Pray, and ask God what He would have you do for Him.



WHAT ARE MY...  
**Spiritual Gifts?**



October always brings so many exciting ways for our whole church family to continue deepening connections with one another as we have a blast using our talents, gifts, and time to show the life changing, hope bringing, and heart healing love of Christ to our local community! From the fall festival on our campus grounds to the candy crawl downtown to all the upcoming parties and hangouts (like our student ministry time together at the pumpkin patch and our month long fall taste test showdown!), I can't wait to see how God continues to move in and through our student ministry and whole church family. For additional details on how to join in the student ministry fun or send me ideas, talk to me and/or contact me through my email below!

#### **This Month's Discussion Focus:**

We make exchanges all the time. Whether we're shopping, texting, or waving to someone we don't know passing by, most of the exchanges we make aren't very memorable. The exchanges that stick with us, though, are ones we have with people who impact our lives for the better. Maybe you've exchanged meaningful advice, wisdom, or encouragement with your friends, family members, heroes, coaches, pastors, or younger people you've invested in. Those exchanges are what this month's series is all about. Together we'll explore and discuss some advice the apostle Paul gave to Timothy, a guy he was mentoring, because we can learn from Paul's wisdom too. Through it we'll see how we can all exchange wisdom with each other (no matter our age) by helping each other **discover our gifts, develop discernment, get equipped, and find strength.**

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](mailto: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

**Please take note:** The Keenagers will meet EVERY SECOND TUESDAY of the month!

September was a great month for FMC Keenagers. The weather cooled off a little and we had a fun trip to Buc-ees In Auburn. We ate at a fantastic Mexican restaurant (Sanford Brannon's suggestion!). He was the driver for this trip. Next we went to Buc-ees, and if you have never been you should go. Lyn & Joe McDonald had the idea of a scavenger hunt, so we went over and made a list of all the things to be found and made a sheet for everyone with pictures of items to be found. 1<sup>st</sup> place, finding all 12 items was Malinda Brannan, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Sanford Brannan, 3<sup>rd</sup> was Cindy & Guy Jones, 4<sup>th</sup> was Lynn Warren and we all had fun. I think we all bought sandwiches to take home for dinner, this day was a winner all around.

October is going to be a treat for all hobos. We will have a HOB0 Lunch. **This lunch will be sponsored by the Elmore County Cattlemen's Association on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the Family Life Center.** So everyone hop on that train for a fun filled day. You may come dressed as a hobo if you like. There will be sign up sheets in Wesley Hall and as you come up the stairs from family life center so please sign up. This will be most helpful in planning the event.



**I need everyone to save your 15 oz cans for me, clean but with labels still on them. There will be a box in Sunday School rooms and Wesley Hall.**

*So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun. Ecclesiastes. 8:15 (NIV)*

The Bible tells us to have fun and enjoy the life God has given us. So I recommend having fun because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life.

**Always Believe, Gloria (334-312-1764)**





**DONATE  
BOOKS  
AND  
BE  
AWESOME**

**Books! Books! Books!!!**

**WE ARE SO EXCITED!!!!**

**Donate Books and/or Your Time to  
Our New Church Library!!!**

**Our library committee is hard at  
work cleaning, separating, and  
organizing our new church library.**

**We welcome any appropriate  
material and especially need kids  
books for our new children's area.  
Contact the church office if you're  
interested in helping with the new  
library!**



**Coming in  
January  
2024—  
Our **New**  
Church  
Pictorial!!!**



**How You can make a REAL difference!**

**On Monday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m. our  
Fresh Start Ministry meets in the FLC. The group  
provides a safe place for all people who are  
struggling. This program has been proven to be  
very successful and the group is growing!  
When asked what is the greatest need in the  
Fresh Start Ministries, Paul Henderson leader of  
the group said volunteers! We need help!!!!**

**Will you:**

- Provide a meal one Monday night,
- Come and just be present on Mondays to offer support to the group,
- Spend time with the children (Some parents wouldn't get to participate without bringing their children).

**You will be so blessed hearing the testimonies of lives forever changed  
through coming to know Jesus Christ and following him! Contact the  
church office or Paul Henderson at 334/201-5428 if you are interested in  
learning more about Fresh Start Ministries.**



**Don't forget that the  
Wednesday Morning  
Bible Study meets each  
Wednesday 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 are served!**

***Bring a friend.***

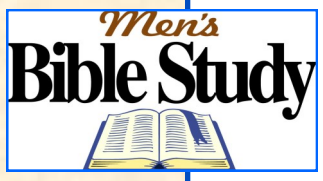
**Not currently participating in a  
Sunday School Class at church?  
Then this invitation is JUST for  
YOU!!!**



**Larry Dozier would like to start a NEW ADULT  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS and he needs YOUR  
input! Come to an organizational meeting on  
Sunday, October 15 at 9 a.m. in the church library**

**and let's see what kind of Bible-based class YOU  
would like to be involved in. Snacks will be enjoyed  
as we chat. **Questions?**  
**Email Larry at donut0949@yahoo.com or give him  
a call at 334-294-6187.****

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



**READING THE BIBLE THROUGH:** October

- ☐ 1 Reflect on God's Goodness
- ☐ 2 Isaiah 64 Ps. 119:9-16 1 John 2
- ☐ 3 Isaiah 65 Ps. 119:17-24 1 John 3
- ☐ 4 Isaiah 66 Ps. 119:25-32 1 John 4
- ☐ 5 Jer. 1-2 Ps. 119:33-40 1 John 5
- ☐ 6 Jer. 3-4 Ps. 119:41-48 2 John
- ☐ 7 Jer. 5-6 Ps. 119:49-56 3 John
- ☐ 8 Reflect on God's Patience
- ☐ 9 Jer. 7-8 Ps. 119:57-64 Jude
- ☐ 10 Jer. 9-10 Ps. 119:65-72 Rev. 1
- ☐ 11 Jer. 11-12 Ps. 119:73-80 Rev. 2
- ☐ 12 Jer. 13-14 Ps. 119:81-88 Rev. 3
- ☐ 13 Jer. 15-16 Ps. 119:89-96 Rev. 4
- ☐ 14 Jer. 17-18 Ps. 119:97-104 Rev. 5
- ☐ 15 Reflect on God's Generosity
- ☐ 16 Jer. 19-20 Ps. 119:105-112 Rev. 6
- ☐ 17 Jer. 21-22 Ps. 110:113-120 Rev. 7
- ☐ 18 Jer. 23-24 Ps. 119:121-128 Rev. 8
- ☐ 19 Jer. 25-26 Prov. 1 Rev. 9
- ☐ 20 Jer. 27-28 Ps. 119:129-136 Rev. 10
- ☐ 21 Jer. 29-30 Prov. 2 Rev. 11
- ☐ 22 Reflect on God's Compassion
- ☐ 23 Jer. 31-32 Ps. 119:137-144 Rev. 12
- ☐ 24 Jer. 33-34 Prov. 3 Rev. 13
- ☐ 25 Jer. 35-36 Ps. 119:145-152 Rev. 14
- ☐ 26 Jer. 37-38 Prov. 4 Rev. 15
- ☐ 27 Jer. 39-40 Ps. 119:153-160 Rev. 16
- ☐ 28 Jer. 41-42 Prov. 5 Rev. 17
- ☐ 29 Reflect on God's Wisdom
- ☐ 30 Jer. 43-44 Ps. 119:161-168 Rev. 18
- ☐ 31 Her. 45-46 Prov. 6 Rev. 19



<b>10/01</b>	Nikole Tyler	<b>10/15</b>	Everlyn Smith
<b>10/01</b>	Gary Barnes	<b>10/17</b>	Marilyn Knapp
<b>10/02</b>	Julianne Hawkins	<b>10/17</b>	Savannah Brent
<b>10/03</b>	Jim Rushing	<b>10/18</b>	Kathy Willis
<b>10/03</b>	Bonnie Hall	<b>10/20</b>	Earl Gillian
<b>10/03</b>	Monica Henderson	<b>10/21</b>	Elizabeth Gillian
<b>10/05</b>	Fred Enslin	<b>10/21</b>	Connie Mann
<b>10/06</b>	Alice Scarborough	<b>10/22</b>	Jane Salter
<b>10/08</b>	Jimmy Martin	<b>10/22</b>	Faith Wheat
<b>10/08</b>	Hope Kirkpatrick	<b>10/22</b>	Grady (Brother) Rowell
<b>10/09</b>	Nevaeh Boles	<b>10/23</b>	Jamie Farquhar
<b>10/10</b>	Tammy Albritton	<b>10/27</b>	Dennis Fain
<b>10/13</b>	Cheri Martin	<b>10/27</b>	Joyce Richardson
		<b>10/28</b>	Bill Watts



<b>10/05</b>	Matt & Tammy Albritton
<b>10/09</b>	Alvin & Pat Ward
<b>10/27</b>	Eric & Katie Brent
<b>10/27</b>	William & Ashley Cousins
<b>10/28</b>	Frank & Nancy Vawter

*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

**October 2023**



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- From our Pastor
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- News from our Stewardship Team
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group
- How to Find Your Place to Serve
- Opportunities to Serve

*Mark you calendars...*

**Sunday, October 29!**

*We will gather as a church family in ONE Worship Service at 10 a.m.*

*celebrating Pastor Appreciation with a covered dish luncheon honoring Brother Matt and Tammy! Details on page 2.*



**Support Group**

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each MONDAY in the FLC. 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 @WetumpkaFirst and www.WetumpkaFirst.com