

## A Word From Our Pastor...

### In Christ

To be in Christ, first of all, means that we have a saving relationship with Christ Jesus. We are brought into union and communion with Him in such a way that what is true of Christ becomes true of us. His grace and His resources become our experience and possession. When we read Ephesians, the phrase 'in Him' or 'in Christ' is found no less than 35 times. It says, we were chosen in Christ, we have every spiritual blessing in Christ and we are marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. So, the life of Christ is now in us by virtue of our being in Christ and Christ being in us. The life we now live we live for Christ. His grace, His sufficiency, and the riches of His mercy are now available to us.

How marvelous is the privilege and blessing of being in Christ Jesus! Without Jesus, I am far from God, an outcast stranger to His family. In Jesus, I can boldly approach the throne of God because I am part of the family of God. Without Jesus, I would not dare to even look at God with my guilty eyes. In Jesus, I can gaze upon the Holy God as my Father. Without Jesus, I would keep my tongue quiet, trembling in fear. In Jesus, I can speak to God with words of praise and ask Him for anything in Jesus' name. Without Jesus, the darkness of sin and death spread out to consume me. In Jesus, the light of eternal life and blessing warm my spirit. Without Jesus, life is hopeless and despair is my daily portion. In Jesus, every moment is joyous and I experience hope in my life. Without Jesus, I would face the just wrath and anger of God for my sin. In Jesus, I receive the love of the Father and rest in His gentle arms. Without Jesus, eternal separation and unspeakable anguish await me. In Jesus, I am safe from all harm, forever. Without Jesus, everything I am calls for my punishment and condemnation. In Jesus, everything I am is sanctified and glorifies God. Praise God, for the unspeakable and infinite gift of being in Christ Jesus!

God's plan has not changed. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. Being a witness for Christ in this world brings eternal purpose to all who share their faith. Eddie Fox, the past Director of World Methodist Evangelism once said, "All over the world the 'people called Methodist' followers of Christ Jesus, in the company of the Wesleys, are being called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel so that the world may know Christ Jesus. Praise God that these are not just idle words for you and me but they are our life. To know Christ Jesus and make him known.

May God continue to bless you and your family during the month of November.

**In Christ's arms, Brother Matt**



**It's our Annual United  
Appeal Fundraiser -  
Wednesday, November 8**

during our regular meal  
time from 5:15—6 p.m. in  
the FLC. Come enjoy a  
delicious spaghetti supper.  
Donations appreciated.  
This fundraiser is a  
requirement in order to  
keep our sales tax exempt  
status. **Come early and enjoy a meal  
before Bible Study!**





# November



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

**November 5: Communion**

**November 12: Nell & Tommy Head**

**November 19: Geraldine Perkins**

**November 26: Jennie Payne**

## Sister in Service

will meet early this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Join us

**on Monday, November 13 at 1 p.m. in Wesley Hall.**

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate.



**Did you know that there are people right here in our community who don't have what they need to stay warm this fall and winter season?**

Messy closet? We can help! Harness that crisp, fall energy and go through those closets and toss out (to us) what is no longer needed. We are asking for new socks, new or gently worn shoes and new or gently used coats. **Beginning Wed., November 1** there will be boxes placed throughout the campus to collect donations. Too busy to shop or clean out your closet? Financial donations are very much appreciated, just mark your check "Clothing Drive". It's a great time to truly show our thankfulness for all the blessings we enjoy.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE  
FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE !!!!**

*I was naked and you clothed me;  
I was sick and you visited me;  
I was in prison and you came to me.  
Matthew 25:36*



**Happy Thanksgiving to our Church Family. We will not have a Wednesday morning Bible Study or any evening activities on Wednesday, November 22.**

There are not words big enough.  
There is not a hug strong enough.  
There is not a smile wide enough.  
All I can offer is thank you.  
You are my hero.  
You are in my thoughts.  
You are in my prayers.  
For all you've done, thank you.

***November 11, 2023  
Honoring all who served!  
Thank You!***





Moving Forward  
Together with Jesus

### Church, Let's Keep Moving!

We are 43 weeks into this year and I am happy to report that the financial strength of the First Methodist Church Wetumpka remains strong. Even with extra expenses associated with the disaffiliation that occurred in May, God's faithfulness has blessed our church. And, our congregation has faithfully given financial gifts to enable critical ministries to continue. Our 2023 General Fund budget is \$615,871.00 and through October 22<sup>nd</sup> the general fund collections for this year, as compared to last year at this time, are behind \$2,476.68 or down by 0.51%. Considering that we have already raised \$46,945 towards our disaffiliation fund goal to raise \$75,000.00 before yearend, this is a remarkable blessing. Thanks to all of you for your faithful giving.

The finance committee met on October 18<sup>th</sup> and approved a Proposed General Fund budget for 2024, to be presented in November to the Administrative Board for approval. The proposed 2024 budget provides a 3% cost-of-living wage increase for our pastor and staff. . . provides increased insurance coverage on our physical plant and property, which our church now owns outright. . . provides increased security. . . and provides increased funding in technology and audio-visual areas. The 2024 budget remains financially responsible as it addresses critical ministry areas and is proposed at \$633,152.00, which is a 2.81% increase over 2023. A one-page summary of this Proposed General Fund Budget is available at the church office.

These are hard, uncertain financial times for many. As you look to the new year, please contemplate what God lays on your heart to give. It is not about how much you give but the quality of your giving. Generosity is about **Equal Sacrifice Not Equal Giving**. Jesus looks at our heart when we give.

The upcoming season of Thanksgiving is a perfect time for us to celebrate stewardship in all facets: through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. "Moving Forward, Together with Jesus" is the focus of our Stewardship Emphasis that begins November 1<sup>st</sup>. Moving forward as a family of God, our sole purpose is "to welcome and win our community to Jesus Christ." We know God has great plans for us moving forward - plans that can and will become reality as we trust God to provide.

Serving with you, Dennis Fain, Treasurer

### COMMITMENT SUNDAY CELEBRATION

*We will celebrate Commitment Sunday on November 19 in both services. Please be in prayer about the gifts, service and talents that God is asking you to share in the coming year. Please plan to turn in your pledge cards on this day.*



Moving Forward  
Together with Jesus

*Great things are still to come!*

*Join us in prayer for the vision God has for our church in 2024!*



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Our Lay Leadership Committee is hard at work filling the Class of 2026 officers.** We need 3 persons for each of these committees: Lay Leadership, Board of Trustees, Finance, and Staff Parish Relations Committee. ***Do you feel God is calling you to use your gifts to serve Him in one of these groups?*** If so, contact the church office asap to let them know you're interested. **The Lay Leadership Committee will meet again on November 12.** ***Not sure what your God-given talents and gifts are?*** See Brother Matt or one of our staff members to pick up a guidebook, "Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts". Our desire is that every member of our church family find their place of service. **Pray and ask God where he is leading you to serve.**



Hey hey! We had a FABULOUS October! Be sure to check out our pictures to see all the fun the kids had last month. Here's a few things the kiddos got to enjoy. Ms. Gloria carved a pumpkin while explaining how a pumpkin is like being a Christian. Then, they got to taste roasted pumpkin seeds. Yum! Our kids had a blast singing in big church, eating pizza, and playing at the pumpkin patch all in one day. Whew! Of course, our annual Fall Festival was a huge hit with games, candy, hot dogs, and snow cones. A BIG thank you to all our volunteers who made our fall festival a success.

This month our kids will learn that gratitude is letting others know that you see how they've helped you. They will discover the importance of giving thanks no matter what happens. Our kids will hear the stories of David dancing and the 10 men Jesus healed. Our memory verse comes from Psalm 136:1. "Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever."

Speaking of being grateful, I thank God every day for the gift of being able to spend time with your kids while teaching them about God's love and faithfulness. Each child is a special blessing to me!  
**In Him, Ms. Michelle**







During November many make additional time to focus on the rich blessings God has poured out on us both individually and as a church family this past year, past month, past week, and even just yesterday. What an awesome God we serve together! In that spirit the student ministry will also reflect on and talk about our collective blessings as we use our talents, gifts, and time to in turn bless our community with His grace and love at the Elmore County Food Pantry and one another during our weekly hangouts on and off campus (and at our Give Thanks Mystery Dinner Party)! It's going to be a blast! 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:**

Apologies are hard to give, and sometimes they are hard to receive as well. When you're the one who has hurt someone else, saying you're sorry in a genuine and meaningful way takes work and practice. But when you're the one who's been hurt by someone else, things can be more complicated. What if you don't want to forgive them? What if they don't seem sorry? What if they won't even admit they're wrong? What if they've moved on, but you're still not over it? This month as we explore and discuss stories from the Gospels together, we'll see what it means to truly give (and receive) forgiveness. We'll discover that when you need forgiveness, **it's not enough to just apologize**. And when you've been hurt and need to forgive, we'll explore the importance of **shifting your perspective**, remembering **God forgave first**, and remembering **Jesus knows what it's like to be hurt**.

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*

October was a beautiful month in many ways and the weather was great. We had Alfred and Mumbe' Kalembo and Alfred's sister Catherine from Zambia come and speak to us on a Wednesday night. We had a great time at our hobo lunch, and we had a wonderful covered dish lunch for Pastor Appreciation Day. As you can see all of these events were filled with good food—we really enjoy eating at this church lol. Keenagers were blessed by the Elmore County Cattlemen's Association for furnishing the beef for our wonderful homemade soup (By Donna and Gloria). We ate this vegetable beef soup out of tin cans. It was fun—sorry if you missed it. Some of us dressed as hobos and we had hobo representatives made by Karrie Wheat and a great train picture by Rachel Richardson where the hobos were waiting to board. These props made wonderful additions to our lunch. I gave a talk about hobos then and today. Jamie showed us a short film with some interesting things about the hobos life which everyone enjoyed. Paul Henderson also put in some thoughts on hobos. As I've often said God helps me every day, and I get by with a little help from my friends. It was a great day.

**For November we will go to Sweet Creek Farms for lunch on Tuesday, November the 14th.** We will leave church at 10:15 AM. I need you to sign up so we have seats for everyone. Sign up sheets will be in Wesley hall and on table as you come upstairs from family life center, or call me at 334/312-1764.

I know the sign up sheets can be a pain, but if everyone could get in the habit of looking for them it would be a great help. But you can always call me or the church office.

**Don't forget in December Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> we will have our big Christmas luncheon. It will be a "Happy birthday party for Jesus".**

Many times we think of Thanksgiving Day as the time to be thankful, but the bible reminds us every day is a day of thanksgiving.  
*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. First Thessalonians 5:16-18*

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





**Congratulations to Drew Glass!!!**  
**Drew was named the AASSP**  
**District IV**  
**Principal of the Year!!!!**



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**to our beautiful young**  
**ladies Necole and**  
**Kimberly Kolendar**  
**who won People's**  
**Choice and Christmas**  
**Spirit respectively in**  
**the Christmas on the**  
**Coosa Pageant!**



**We welcomed Alfred & Muumbe' Kalemba and Alfred's sister Catherine on Wednesday, October 4.** They shared their passion and vision to keep helping the people of the very poor country of Zambia and thanked those already partnering and making a difference through their ministry.



**Here are the proposed Projects for Zambia**

1. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Sponsorship - K5 to 7th grade: \$333 per child per year.
  2. OVC Sponsorship- 8th to 12th grade: \$600 per child per year.
  3. Educating Future Leaders (EFL). Our College/University Sponsorship. 3-4 year programs: \$1,500 per year for Tuition, room and board. Medical, Vet and Engineering programs: \$2,000 per year for tuition, room and board.
  4. Wells- \$3,500 per well.
  5. Helping finish the NextGEN Church in Kanyama, Zambia. Need \$5,000
  6. Pastors Bicycle projects. Helping pastor doing their pastoral duties in rural areas. \$200 per bicycle.
  7. Helping Catherine roof her house to rent to support her. Need \$10,000
- Agricultural projects to help Pastors: Seed and Fertilizer support. Need. \$15,000

***If you're interested in supporting any of these projects make your donations out to the church and memo them "Zambia Schools".***



You're invited to participate..  
**Wednesday Morning**  
**Bible Study** meets each  
 Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.  
 in Wesley Hall.

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**Men's Breakfast &**  
**Bible Study** meets each  
 Thursday morning at 7 a.m.  
 at Burger King.



**READING THE BIBLE THROUGH:**

November

- |  |                 |         |
|--|-----------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Jer. 47-48                  | Ps. 119:169-176 | Rev. 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Jer. 49-50                  | Prov. 7         | Rev. 21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Jer. 51-52                  | Ps. 120-121     | Rev. 22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Ezekiel 1-3                 | Prov. 8         | Luke 1  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Reflect on God as Beginning |                 |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Ezekiel 4-6                 | Ps. 122-123     | Luke 2  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Ezekiel 7-9                 | Prov. 9         | Luke 3  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Ezekiel 10-14               | Ps. 124-125     | Luke 4  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Ezekiel 15-18               | Prov. 10        | Luke 5  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Ezekiel 19-22              | Ps. 126-127     | Luke 6  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Ezekiel 23-26              | Prov. 11        | Luke 7  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Reflect on God as Maker    |                 |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Ezekiel 27-29              | Ps. 128-129     | Luke 8  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Ezekiel 30-32              | Prov. 12        | Luke 9  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Ezekiel 33-35              | Ps. 130         | Luke 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Ezekiel 36-38              | Prov. 13        | Luke 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Ezekiel 39-41              | Ps. 131         | Luke 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Ezekiel 42-45              | Prov. 14        | Luke 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Reflect on God as Rock     |                 |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Ezekiel 46-48              | Ps. 132         | Luke 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Dan. 1-2                   | Prov. 15        | Luke 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Dan. 3-4                   | Ps. 133         | Luke 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Dan. 5-6                   | Prov. 16        | Luke 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Dan. 7-8                   | Ps. 134         | Luke 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Dan. 9-10                  | Prov. 17        | Luke 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Reflect on God as Gardener |                 |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Dan. 11-12                 | Ps. 135         | Luke 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Hosea 1-2                  | Prov. 18        | Luke 21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Hosea 3-4                  | Ps. 136         | Luke 22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Hosea 5-6                  | Prov. 19        | Luke 23 |

**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.**



11/03	Lou	Ebrecht	11/14	Bob	Strickland
11/05	Annabelle	Campbell	11/17	Cal	Estabrook
11/06	Donna	Matthews	11/17	Katie	Brent
11/07	Nell	Head	11/19	Bobby	Singleton
11/08	Shelly	Moody	11/20	Wanda	Rushing
11/09	Jeanelle	Andrews	11/20	Camden	Rushing
11/10	Marjorie	Mallard	11/20	Scarlotte	Holmes
11/10	Frances	Watts	11/20	Beth	Roberts
11/10	Jennifer	Daniels	11/22	Alvin	Ward
11/13	Shelia	Wallace	11/23	Jonny	McCune
11/13	John	Holmes	11/23	Hadden	Hutchinson
11/13	Walter	Kennedy	11/27	Leah	Pridgen
			11/30	David	Barnes



11/04	Sanford & Malinda Brannan
11/08	Tim & Kasey Emmons
11/22	Damon & Miranda Abernethy
11/24	Andy & Alice Scarborough
11/30	Bob & Donna Strickland

*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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**November 2023**



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

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- Pictures, pictures, pictures!

**Sunday,  
November 5  
Remember  
to fall back  
1 hour.**



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