

Wait Upon the Lord

I don't know if this was my mother's life verse but it was certainly one of her favorite verses in the Old Testament. The prophet Isaiah writes, "But those who wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31). To wait upon the Lord means to trust Him during the process even when things are not going as quickly as you would like. To wait upon the Lord means to place your hope in Him, and believe that He is at work even when nothing seems to be getting done. To wait upon the Lord means to be patient even when you think something needs to be accomplished.

Waiting is still difficult. Because we expect everything to be at our fingertips the moment, we have the desire for it. It is the world that we have grown accustom to and it is addicting. We live in a world of high-speed access, where we can retrieve our emails, text messages, phone calls, and downloads instantly. Our attitude is, "I want it and I want it now!"

Yet God still finds ways of making us wait. We wait for the water to boil. We wait for the coffee maker to make a pot of coffee. We wait for someone to get out of the bathroom. We wait in the drive-thru at McDonalds. We wait in line at Wal-Mart. We wait for our dinner to come to the table at a restaurant. We wait for a baby or grandbaby to be born. We wait for our kids to grow up. Then we wait for the kids and grandkids to come see us. Others are waiting for a spiritual breakthrough where God will open their eyes.

Waiting is the embodiment of faith. In Hebrews 11:13 we are reminded that faith involves trust in God's promise even if the promises of God are fulfilled long after we are gone. The writer says, "These all died in faith without having received the promises, but they saw them from a distance." Faith and waiting go hand in hand.

Are you struggling with a lack of faith? That's OK. It doesn't take much faith to get God's attention. Jesus encouraged his frustrated followers this way: **"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you"** (Matthew 17:20). Most of us try to grow a forest in one day. Jesus, however, invites you to begin with a tiny seed. Watch it grow and wait for it to become all that you dreamed it would be.

What are you waiting on God for this year? Take time, right now, to reflect on the fact that God's timing is quite different from ours. Jesus gives us the assurance and joy that He will break through at just the right time. Are you willing to plant that seed of faith and wait upon the Lord? Even if nothing seems to be appearing on the horizon today, just wait! God always keeps his promises, even to those who have little faith. Just wait. Encourage someone you know who is weary of waiting. Remind them of God's promises.

May God bless you and your family during the month of February as you wait upon the Lord.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt

February 14 will be a very special day as we celebrate Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday worship.



Come to our FLC from 5:15—6 p.m. as our fabulous kitchen crew is preparing a wonderful meal filled with lots of love/ After the meal we will go over to our Sanctuary at 6 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday Worship. (No Bible Study)

What is Ash Wednesday, Lent and why does it matter? Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed as the first day of Lent. Many Christians attend special Ash Wednesday church services, at which churchgoers receive ash on their foreheads as a sign of repentance. Lent is the 40 day period from Ash Wednesday to Easter and is a season of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.





February

Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:
February 4—Communion
February 11—Sam & Susan Legvold
February 18—(Available—call the church office)
February 28—Lisa and Maggie VanWagner

Altar Flowers 2024.

Contact the church office to reserve your special dates. Dates are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thank you for providing fresh flowers each Sunday that add so much to our worship experience.



The following dates are still available:

February 18, April 28, May 19 & 26,
June 23 & 30, September 29, October 27



DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BOOKS TO THE LIBRARY!

Update from the church library:

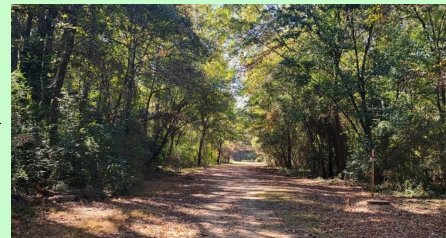
The library volunteers are back and hard at work organizing our new church library! They hope the library will serve as a vital resource to help all of us grow in relationship with Jesus and each other. We are especially excited to have a growing children's section. **DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!** If you would like to contribute your time and talents to this important ministry, we would love to see you each Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. No experience required!!!!!! Join the Library Volunteers TODAY!

TRAILS TEMPLE MINISTRY

February's Trail Walk will be February 17 at 8:30 a.m. at AUM Red Trail. It is about 2 miles long and beautiful! Meet Randy at the church at 8:00 a.m. if you want to caravan. **We are looking for a good crowd!**



It's a beautiful trail!



Thank you to everyone who has participated in our ***New Church Pictorial!***



February 4 is the date for last names N-Z. If you haven't had a chance to have your photos made, please plan on coming February 4. You can also Call **Barry Chrietzberg** and make an appointment at his studio. **We want everyone to be included!**

VERY IMPORTANT!

If you have changed your contact information, please update with the church office or with the pictorial volunteers asap so that we have the correct information for our new pictorial.



February always brings more conversations than usual about what it should look like to care for others in all areas of life, which means this month is always a prime opportunity to dive even deeper into what God and His Word says it should look like to love Him, ourselves, and others each day! In addition to discussing how to find our true identity and life's purpose by pursuing a relationship with God this month, we will celebrate God's sacrificial and unconditional love at our annual Agape Day Party, continue reflecting on that love and our hearts as Lent starts, spending time making memories together in His creation on a hike, and showing His love to others by helping with a Parent's Night Out!

This Month's Continued Discussion Focus:

Does life ever feel like a never-ending waiting game? When you think about the person you're becoming and what your future holds, do you ever just want to skip ahead in your story to see how it all turns out, who you'll become, what you'll do, or what kind of difference you'll make? This month we'll talk about and explore together all the questions, fear, frustration, and excitement that thinking about our futures can bring. As we explore passages from Ecclesiastes, Revelation, and more; we'll discover four truths about what God has in store for us: **we're all a work in progress, your purpose is to be like Jesus, God's plans for you are good, and your next step is to get closer to God.**

May, graduation, and Senior Sunday will also be here before we know it! If you would like your graduating senior to be recognized and celebrated by the student ministry, or know of a graduating senior who is part of our church family and should be recognized, let me know at jamie@firstwetumpka.com **by April 7th, 2024!**

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 the email address listed 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





This month, we are starting our new series, Gear Up: An Adventure in Kindness. We will be learning all about Kindness. God showed kindness by sending Jesus for us—even when we didn't deserve it. Because of God's love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God and how much God loves them. Not only did Jesus model kindness, but He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated.

Monthly Bible verse:

“You are God’s chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don’t be proud. Be gentle and patient.”
Colossians 3:12

Monthly virtue:

Kindness: Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

February will be an exciting month for our children's program. We will be going on a hike down the new bird trail, having our annual Valentine's Day party, and hosting a parent's night out. I am looking forward to all the fun and memories to be had with our kids.

As always, I want to thank our amazing volunteers for all their work and the love they give to all the kids each and every day. You all are amazing.

**Blessings,
Mrs. Ashley**



Senior Adult Ministry

It has been so cold. We have all been hibernating, but unlike the animals that hibernate we have been filling ourselves with nice warm food. So you better watch out, fasting maybe in your future. Always remember you can experience all four seasons in one week in Alabama so always be prepared!

February brings Valentines and Mardi Gras on the same day this year and the **Keenagers will be starting a day ahead on Tuesday, February 13 at 12 noon in the family life center.** We will kickstart this day with a wonderful soup and sandwich lunch with lots of fancy desserts. Then we will enjoy a game of trivia led by Debbie Callahan. You can dress for your favorite day (Valentine's or Mardi Gras) if you would like to.

Our January planning day was a success. We planned menus for our luncheons here at the church and picked some places to go on our day trips to eat. We would also like to do an outreach to the Wetumpka Gardens in the coming year. If you have any ideas of things we could do with them or if you are interested in participating or maybe sponsoring an activity please let me know. Watch for details to be posted on the church website and in the bulletin. Please mark your calendars for these dates and attend if you can.

Thanks in advance to everyone that will be making this a great year. Cooks, planners, decorating, cleaners and bus drivers just to name a few. Everyone that supports the Keenagers group will enjoy serving the Lord and serving and supporting each other.

An umbrella cannot stop the rain, but it allows us to stand in the rain. Faith in God may not remove our trials, but it gives us strength to overcome them.



I always believe, Gloria (334) 312-1764




KEENAGERS

FEBRUARY . 13TH. 12 NOON FLC

Soup, sandwiches &

Fancy deserts

Dress for your favorite day

if you want to 

we will play a trivia game for fun

DID YOU KNOW?

- You or your child can legally buy drugs at your neighborhood convenient store with no age limit?
- Drug distributors are actively targeting YOUR children and grandchildren?
- Often, drug overdoses are not intentional?
- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.
- Fentanyl was responsible for nearly 70% of drug overdose deaths in 2022.
- In 2022, fentanyl was responsible for 23 times more deaths than reported in 2013, a period of less than ten years.

Report: Centers for Disease Control

•IN ALABAMA

- Statewide in 2021 there were 1,400 drug overdose deaths.
- In 2023 in just the 3 counties of Elmore, Montgomery and Autauga counties there were 1,251 drug overdose deaths.

From Alabama State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System

FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE and CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:

- ***Drug overdose deaths are up 30% year-over-year.***
- ***Drug overdoses have killed almost a million people since 1999.***
- ***In 2023 the overdose death rate topped 112,000 in a 12 month period for the first time.***
- ***In the U.S. a drug death happens every 4 1/2 minutes!***

*Thank you for your continued support of Fresh Start Ministry!
Paul Henderson is now a Certified Faith-Based Support Specialist and Fresh Start Ministry is a Certified Court Referral Advocate. Everyone is welcome to participate in Fresh Start Ministry—meetings held each Monday from 6—8 p.m. in the FLC.*



**ATTENTION PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS,
TEACHERS, AND
EVERYONE WHO
CARES ABOUT OUR
CHILDREN AND
YOUTH!!!**

**Fresh Start Ministry of
First Methodist Wetumpka is
sponsoring a COMMUNITY-WIDE
EDUCATION EVENT to hear how
drugs are destroying our families
and learn some basic strategies that
might just save the life of someone
you know and love.**

**Thursday, February 15 at 6 p.m.
Family Life Center**

***Everyone is Welcome and Encouraged to participate.
Please help us get the word out to our Community!***

Parents' Night Out

Register Online



A Night of Childcare

- Has it been forever since you have gotten to unwind and relax?
- Can you benefit from a KID-FREE evening?
- Do you and your spouse need a date night?

We are providing a night of childcare for you to just relax or possibly go on a date. Parenting is hard and as a church, we want to partner with our parents. We believe pouring into our parents and marriage is a significant way to do that. When you drop your kids off, we will give you some ways to relax and 2-3 good questions to ask on your date.

Feb. 23
5-8 pm in
the FLC

Pizza,
Games, Craft,
& More!

1 Child \$10
2+ \$20

*Kids 6mo. to
6th grade



FIRST METHODIST
CHURCH WETUMPKA



Great things happen in small groups:

- Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
(NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES!)
- Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday after school activities for children and youth.
- Wednesday evening Bible study at 6:00 p.m.
- Prayer Shawl on Fridays at 10:00 a.m.
- Sisters in Service (SIS) each 4th Monday at 1 p.m.
- Fresh Start Ministry each Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Watch your email and Sunday Bulletin for more ways to participate!



SAVE THE DATE!!!! VBS is June 2-5, 2024!!!!



Attention Graduating High School Seniors of the Class of 2024.

May and graduation will be here before we know it. If you, or you know of a graduating high school senior, please have them contact Jamie at Jamie@wetumpka.com so they can participate and be celebrated in our Senior Sunday. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS APRIL 7.**

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study meets each Thursday morning at 7 a.m. at Burger King. Open to all men so please invite your friends to join us!



READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: February

- ☐ 1 Ex. 25-26 Ps. 14 Matt. 23
- ☐ 2 Ex. 27-28 Prov. 14 Matt. 24
- ☐ 3 Ex. 29-30 Ps. 15 Matt. 25
- ☐ 4 Ex. 31-32 Prov. 15 Matt. 26
- ☐ 5 Reflect on God as Lord of All
- ☐ 6 Ex. 33-34 Ps. 16 Matt. 27
- ☐ 7 Ex. 35-36 Prov. 16 Matt. 28
- ☐ 8 Ex. 37-38 Ps. 17 Mark 1
- ☐ 9 Ex. 39-40 Prov. 17 Mark 2
- ☐ 10 Lev. 1-3 Ps. 18 Mark 3-4
- ☐ 11 Lev. 4-5 Prov. 18 Mark 5
- ☐ 12 Reflect on God as Counselor
- ☐ 13 Lev. 6-7 Ps. 19 Mark 6
- ☐ 14 Lev. 8-10 Prov. 19 Mark 7
- ☐ 15 Lev. 11-12 Ps. 20 Mark 8
- ☐ 16 Lev. 13-15 Prov. 20 Mark 9
- ☐ 17 Lev. 16-17 Ps. 21 Mark 10
- ☐ 18 Lev. 18-20 Prov. 21 Mark 11
- ☐ 19 Reflect on God as Faithful
- ☐ 20 Lev. 21-22 Ps. 22 Mark 12
- ☐ 21 Lev. 23-25 Prov. 22 Mark 13
- ☐ 22 Lev. 26-27 Ps. 23 Mark 14
- ☐ 23 Num. 1-3 Prov. 23 Mark 15
- ☐ 24 Num. 4-6 Ps. 24 Mark 16
- ☐ 25 Num. 7-9 Prov. 24 Luke 1
- ☐ 26 Reflect on God as Author
- ☐ 27 Num. 10-12 Ps. 25 Luke 2
- ☐ 28 Num. 13-15 Prov. 25 Luke 3



02/01	Diane	Tyler	02/16	Kimberly	Kolendar
02/01	Damon	Abernethy	02/18	Caroline	Macon
02/03	Beth	Coleman	02/18	Spencer	Coleman
02/03	Sanford	Brannan	02/22	Asenath	Coker
02/04	Diane	Lockwood	02/23	Jo	Glenn
02/06	Lynnes	Justiss	02/23	Joseph	Macon
02/10	Sonya	Arnold	02/23	Jacob	Macon
02/12	Sally	Blackwell	02/25	Ted	Watts
02/12	Michelle	Abernathy	02/26	Celestra	Rowell
02/13	Jenni	Greenlee	02/26	Mariella	Easterling
02/15	Susan	Legvold	02/27	Ronald	Lee



Feb 7 Lee & Janice Cash
Feb 14 Hilton & Barbara Knight

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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 Wetumpka, AL 36092
 Phone: 334-567-7865
 Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com
 Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

February 2024



IN THIS ISSUE:

- From our Pastor
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group
- Serving Our Community



FEBRUARY at First Methodist Church Wetumpka is filled with exciting events that you and your family will want to be a part of!
Take a look inside for all the details...



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

Support Group

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each **MONDAY** in the **FLC**. Children's activities 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.**

