

As we approach Holy Week and prepare to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, let us be reminded of the Passion of Christ. On the night on which he is arrested, Jesus endures the trial of the Sanhedrin. They examine Jesus and determine he deserves to die. They send him to Pontius Pilate. The Roman governor, examines Jesus, and decides he is innocent. So Pilate sends Jesus to be judged by Herod Antipas because as a Galilean he was under his jurisdiction.

Herod was excited at first to see Jesus and hoped Jesus would perform a miracle for him and asked Jesus several questions but Jesus did not answer. Herod then mocked him and sent him back to Pilate after giving him an “elegant” robe to wear. The Jewish leaders and the crowd demand Jesus’ death. Pilate gives them the choice of saving Barabbas, a criminal, or saving Jesus. In response to the screaming mob Pilate sends Jesus out to be crucified.

Once condemned by Pilate, he was flogged before execution. The whole detachment of soldiers were called together and they placed a purple robe on him, put a crown of thorns on his head, and put a rod in his hand. They mocked him by hailing him as “**King of the Jews,**” paying homage and hitting him on the head with the rod. Pilate had Jesus brought out a second time, wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns, in order to appeal his innocence before the crowd saying, “**Here is the man.**” But the priests urged the crowd to demand Jesus' death. Pilate resigned himself to their decision, washing his hands before the people as a sign that Jesus' blood would not be upon him.

Jesus is made to carry His own cross. Upon arriving at Golgotha, Jesus was offered wine laced with myrrh to lessen the pain, but he refused it. Jesus was then crucified. The soldiers divided Jesus' clothes except for one garment for which they cast lots. Some of the crowd taunted Jesus, saying “**He trusts in God; let God deliver him now!**” The crowd hoped that Jesus might perform a miracle to release himself from the cross. He did not!

At midday the sky became dark and the darkness lasted for three hours, until the ninth hour when Jesus cried out, “**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**” A soldier pierced his side with a spear and found Jesus had already died. The centurion standing guard, who had seen Jesus die, declared Jesus to be the innocent Son of God.

Jesus did not endure this suffering for nothing. He endured the cross for you and for me. As Christians, we can have salvation through the finished work of the cross. Jesus left his place of honor and came to earth so that you may have life, and have it to the full. Praise God!

During the month of March, be reminded of the joy of your salvation and the price that Jesus paid. However, and most importantly, let us be reminded to live our lives in a way that brings glory and honor to Jesus our King.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



March at a glance...



- ◆ **March 3— Communion Sunday**
- ◆ **March 7—Children & Youth Ministry sponsor Ministry Safe Training for Volunteers 6 p.m. (Dinner provided)**
- ◆ **March 10—Daylight Savings Time Ends (Spring forward one hour)**
- ◆ **March 12—Keenagers trip to Monroeville (See Senior Adult Ministry page for details)**
- ◆ **March 24**
 - *Palm Sunday—Children process in with palms in our 10 a.m. worship service.
 - *Front lawn at 5 p.m.—Community-wide Jesus is the Light Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ **March 25—Holy Week begins**
 - *S.I.S. meet at 1 p.m. in Wesley Hall (Spring break for Wetumpka schools)
- ◆ **March 27—NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES**
- ◆ **March 28—Tenebrae Service 6 p.m.**
- ◆ **March 29—Cross Walk 11 a.m.**
- ◆ **March 31—EASTER**
 - Easter Sunrise Worship 6:15 a.m.
 - Easter Sunday Worship 8 & 10 a.m.



MARCH

Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

- March 3—Communion
- March 10—Jeanelle Andrews
- March 17—Bruce & Charlotte Barber
- March 24—Palm Sunday
- March 31—Easter Sunday

TRAILS TEMPLE MINISTRY

Our next Trail Walk will be on Saturday, March 16 at Lagoon Park at 8:30 a.m. See you all there!



Donations Needed for our Community-Wide Easter Egg Hunt

We are accepting donations for our Community-wide Easter Egg Hunt here at FMCW on Sunday, March 24 at 5 p.m. Donations will go towards candy, eggs, Frios, food, and supplies for the event!

Donation Items:

- Monetary Donations
- Bags of Candy
- Empty Easter Eggs

Checks, cash, and online gifts are appreciated! Please designate online, check, and cash gifts for the "Egg Hunt." To make an online donation, visit www.wetumpkafirst.com/give. Please make donations by Sunday, March 17 so we can have the best event possible for our community!

Please note: This year we are doing the hunt a little different, so we only need empty plastic eggs!



Spring forward!

March 10

Don't forget to set all of your clocks one hour ahead!

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BOOK DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY!

The JOY Sunday School Class

would like you to know about our class. We're a group of ladies who love Jesus and want others to know the JOY He gives! We are a multigenerational group who share our experiences and learn from our various ages and stages of life. We are studying, "Missing Pieces: Real Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense". Ladies, if you are looking for a class to study the Bible in a joyful atmosphere, please join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. (Room on the left of the front entrance.)



Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God's image, making peace with others should also be a priority for us. That's why we're taking the first three weeks of March to highlight some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world.

Memory Verse:

"If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can."

Romans 12:18

Monthly Virtue:

Peace: Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

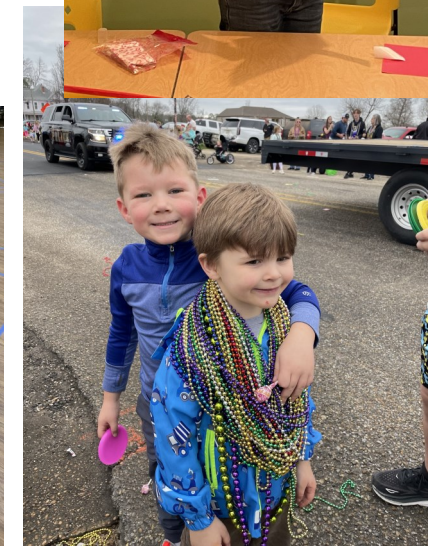
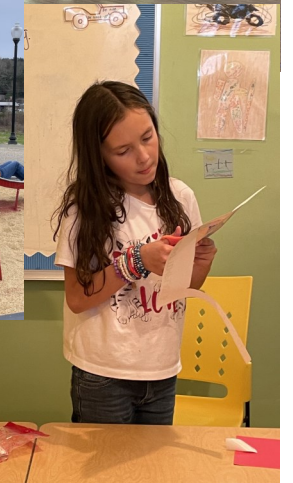
Our afterschool program is being revamped and we are all so excited to introduce the new name to you...

The Bridge

Empowering Students to Connect in Christ and Community.
 With the new name comes new programs and new opportunities for our students to be a part of. Be on the look out for more information on how you can be a part of building our program. We have so many fun things planned for our children this month! We will be having our next family hangout time at Jackson Lake! We will explore the old town of Spectre, see the goats, and have a picnic. During The Bridge, we will have our after-school Easter Party. The biggest event, though, will be our Jesus is the Light Glow Egg Hunt happening on Palm Sunday!

Remember, if you want to stay on top of all of our activities and get our reminders, please be sure to join our Facebook group and sign up for our Remind messages.

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley





While the season of Lent this month continues to help us intently focus on growing more into the likeness of Christ, we are also super excited to celebrate the joy and hope of Easter, discuss what it means for our life and the lives of those around us, and make memories together at all the upcoming events we get to be a part of together! Outside of the always meaningful Holy Week services like Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, and the Cross Walk downtown on Good Friday, we'll also get to help at the exciting Easter Egg hunt and hangout together at Jackson Lake (Spectre), on a hiking trail, at our Easter Party, and at all of our weekly hangouts!

This Month's Discussion Focus:

Before Easter Sunday could happen, Good Friday had to happen first. Before the joy, hope, and light of Jesus' resurrection could be experienced, Jesus and his followers first had to experience some deeply frightening, painful, hopeless, and dark moments. This Easter, whether we feel like we're living in the darkness of Good Friday or the light of Easter Sunday, there's something new Jesus wants to help us discover about his death and resurrection. As we discuss the Gospels together this month, we'll discover Easter isn't just something that happened 2,000 years ago—it's something that's still happening today. We'll see Jesus is with us in the darkness, and Jesus is the light in the darkness.

OTHER NEW AND EXCITING NEWS! Our Wednesday after-school program for students is undergoing a vision, format, and name change! Its new name is The Bridge, and its intentional goal is Empowering Students to Connect in Christ and Community! Be on the lookout for new information about it, and please pray, as you learn about new opportunities to invest in our students, that God will lay on your heart where He wants you to use your time and blessings to be a blessing to them!

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



Senior Adult Ministry

Here we are moving into the third month of 2024, boy time is flying. Easter is the last Sunday in this month. Honor God, and thank him for giving us his son on the cross, every day of your life. **No one can walk with God for you, please don't put it off.**

Our Valentines/Mardi Gras luncheon was quite a day. We had seven great, homemade soups served to us by seven handsome men. Valentines/Mardi Gras decorations were all over the room. Debbie Callahan brought a beautiful Valentines backdrop and Barry Chrietzberg visited with us that day, making pictures for anyone that wanted to snap a photo (Information on where to find photos will come later). Debbie also led us in fun trivia questions. It was a great day filled with great food and great fellowship!

Tuesday March 12, 2024:

This month Keenagers will go on a road trip to Monroeville to tour the historical site of To Kill a Mockingbird. Tickets are \$5. We will eat at David's Catfish House at 11 a.m. **We will leave the church at 8:45 a.m. Please call me at 334/312-1764 asap to save your seat on the bus and to make your reservation for lunch.** This will be a very interesting and fun day!

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day so here is an Irish Blessing for you.

*May you have a world of wishes at your command,
God and his angels close at hand,
Friends and family their love impart,
And an Irish blessing in your heart.*



March will be busy! We have 5 Sundays to show our usual friendly, and welcoming selves.

1. Speak to the other person first.
2. If you don't know them introduce yourself.
3. Always have a smile on your face.
4. Take Will Rogers testimony as your motto {I never met a man I did not like}.
5. Memorize and practice Proverbs 18:24. A man that hath friends must show himself friendly.

Have a great month and participate in all the things your church offers; you will have a blessed life.

Always Believe, Gloria (334/312-1764)

Serving Our Community...

Community Drug Awareness & Education Event held on February 15.

If you were able to come to this very informative meeting, you no doubt left with a ton of knowledge and a sick feeling in your soul. **Please keep those fighting on the front lines in your daily prayers.**

Materials from the meeting are available upon request.



Moving Forward With Strength

The focus of the fall First Methodist Church Wetumpka stewardship emphasis was Moving Forward, Together With Jesus. Friends, thanks to each of you, we're doing it! Two months into 2024, it is with great joy to report that we are indeed moving forward into this year from a position of stewardship strength . . . demonstrating our faithful commitment to participate in God's vision through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

You are a vital part of continuing a remarkable heritage of serving God and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. For more than 205 years, blessings have come through the faithful commitment of our church family to give their time, talents, and treasure out of love for Christ. Even during the exceptional world challenges of the past five years, we thank God for leading our spiritual and numerical growth, and working through us to make a greater impact in our community as servants of Christ.

Certainly, financial generosity is essential to the growth of our mission and ministry outreach. Dennis Fain, our treasurer, provides an overview that reflects the impact of your generosity. *The First Methodist Church Wetumpka has been in a continued growth mode for the last 5 years. This growth is evident in the church's increased outreach to our membership and community. Outreach services require financial commitment from our church family; and, this is evident in that our General Fund budget has trended upward from \$549,339.00 in 2020 to \$628,927.00 for this year 2024. This represents a 14.50% increase in funding our work areas and staff to accomplish God's extensive plan for our church.*

Praise the Lord, our congregation continues to step up to meet financial needs. Gratefully, we received formal pledge commitments from 79 families toward meeting the 2024 General Budget requirements. In addition, we are grateful to another 63 givers who faithfully give to meet the church's financial obligations without making written pledges.

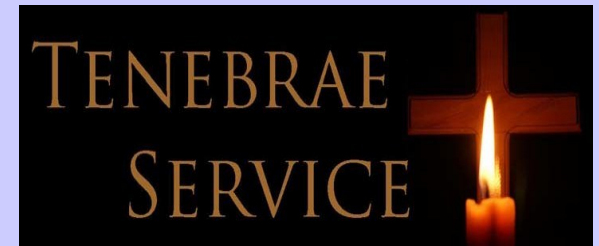
During the past five years, the trustees have been diligent in maintaining our church physical property, including to replace the covering over our beautiful stained-glass windows in the sanctuary and the chapel. Several air conditioning units have also been replaced during this time. Of course, all maintenance items require financial commitments from our church family to help the church remain financially sound and able to cover our expenses. I am happy to say our church financial status is sound, and our general fund collections have increased each year over the last five years. Our church continues to be abundantly blessed.

Together, we are living Ephesians 4:16 - *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.* This is evident as God is working through our good stewardship to change lives . . . through the witness of our worship, study, fellowship, and service. Let's keep doing it!

**Serving Jesus with you,
Your Stewardship Team,
Dennis, Sonya, Andrea, Margie, Matt**



Celebrating Holy Week:



Thursday, March 28 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Tenebrae is a solemn worship service held the day before Good Friday when Jesus was nailed to the cross.

A Tenebrae lesson is shared, as 7 candles are extinguished representing the 7 last words of Jesus on the cross.



On Friday, March 29, make plans now to join us for our Community Cross Walk. Gather at the church flagpole at 11 a.m. for a walk around our downtown area as we stop and pray for our neighbors.



MINISTRY SAFE TRAINING

Important Training Dates:

Thursday, March 7th at 6 pm (dinner provided)

Sunday, April 21st at 11 am (lunch and nursery provided)

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO VOLUNTEERING AT VBS THIS YEAR? PLEASE TAKE NOTE! Our Safe Sanctuary program changed to Ministry Safe with our recent move to the Global Methodist Church. **This informative and insightful TRAINING IS REQUIRED under Ministry Safe for EVERYONE who volunteers with our kids and youth at First Methodist Church Wetumpka. So, whether you are a current volunteer or wish to become a volunteer, make plans now to participate in a Ministry Safe Training either Thursday, March 7 or Sunday, April 21 in the Family Life Center!**

Our goal at FMCW will always be to continue to lovingly and responsibly care for our children and youth to the best of our ability.



Attention High School Seniors 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@wetumpka.com so they can participate and be celebrated in our Senior Sunday. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS APRIL 7.**



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH WETUMPKA

Jesus is the Light
GLOW EGG HUNT

March 24 at 5pm

A FREE community-wide event for birth-6th grade! Get your glow and neon gear and get ready for a new kind of egg hunt! Be sure to bring your Easter baskets!

- Giveaways & Games
- Food & Frios Pops
- Special Kids Message
- Age Appropriate Egg Hunts

306 W. Tuskeena St., Wetumpka, AL 36092
www.wetumpkafirst.com/easter

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: March

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Num. 16-18	Ps. 26	Luke 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Num. 19-21	Prov. 26	Luke 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Num. 22-23	Ps. 27	Luke 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Num. 24-26	Prov. 27	Luke 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Reflect on God as Redeemer		
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Num. 27-29	Ps. 28	Luke 8
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Num. 30-33	Prov. 28	Luke 9
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Num. 34-36	Ps. 29	Luke 10
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Deut. 1-2	Prov. 29	Luke 11
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Deut. 3-4	Ps. 30	Luke 12
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Deut. 5-6	Prov. 30	Luke 13
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Reflect on God as Helper		
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Deut. 7-8	Ps. 31	Luke 14
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Deut. 9-10	Prov. 31	Luke 15
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Deut. 11-12	Ps. 32	Luke 16
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 Deut. 13-14	Eccl. 1:1-11	Luke 17
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Deut. 15-16	Ps. 33	Luke 18
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Deut. 17-18	Eccl. 1:12-18	Luke 19
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Reflect on God as Peace		
<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Deut. 19-20	Ps. 34	Luke 20
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 Deut. 21-22	Eccl. 2:1-17	Luke 21
<input type="checkbox"/> 22 Deut. 23-24	Ps. 35	Luke 22
<input type="checkbox"/> 23 Deut. 25-26	Eccl. 2:18-26	Luke 23
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 Deut. 27-28	Ps. 26	Luke 24
<input type="checkbox"/> 25 Deut. 29-30	Eccl. 3:1-8	John 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 26 Reflect on God as Messiah		
<input type="checkbox"/> 27 Deut. 31-32	Ps. 37	John 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 28 Deut. 33-34	Eccl. 3:9-22	John 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 29 Joshua 1-2	Ps. 38	John 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 Joshua 3-4	Eccl. 4:1-6	John 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 31 Joshua 5-6	Ps. 29	John 6



03/03	Blu	Gilliand	03/19	Ella	Gilliand
03/05	Joshua	Rider	03/19	Emma	Gilliand
03/07	Jonah	Flores	03/19	Pat	Ward
03/10	Ashtin	Arant	03/19	Cindy	Langley
03/14	Susan	Barner	03/22	Alice	Barnhart
03/16	Oliver	Smith	03/22	Eddy	Brantley
03/18	Harley	Rider	03/26	Mardre	Williams
03/18	Andy	Scarborough	03/30	Drew	Glass



03/08	Bill & Barbara Watts
03/16	Bruce & Charlotte Barber

If you are a member of FMCW 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

MARCH 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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are working on completing the pictorial. **Last call for pictures!** If your family calls First Methodist Church Wetumpka home and you are interested in adding you and/or your family to the directory, please call Barry at **567-5381 BEFORE MARCH 8 and make an appointment.**

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.



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

