

## ***A Note from our Pastor...***

### **In Pursuit of God**

April is the National Month of Hope. Established in 2016 by a non-profit organization called Mothers in Crisis in Tallahassee, Florida. The idea behind it was simply to counteract the difficulties that life brings by dedicating this month and encouraging people to spread hope around the neighborhoods, and communities, and all around the world.

As we begin this second quarter of the year, I am still super excited about what God can and will accomplish through us this year. As I have prayed about the possibilities and talked with different people about how we can accomplish greater things for the glory of God, the number seven keeps coming up.

In the Bible, the number seven is found from beginning to end and has deep spiritual significance. In the Hebrew language seven is the number of completeness and perfection (both physical and spiritual). It derives much of its meaning from being tied directly to God's creation of all things which was completed after seven days (the last day being a day of rest). Our world still operates under this God established system.

Another interesting occurrence is the seventh year or Sabbatical year, during which the fields were to be left fallow and debts released (in Hebrew it is called Shemittah). After a cycle of seven Shemittah's or 49 years, the next year is the year of Jubilee.

As well as giving the people an opportunity to put their faith in God and see it fulfilled, the year-long abstention from farming also allowed them to collectively take a break and focus on higher, more spiritual pursuits. Even today, while the vast majority of Jews and Christians are not involved in farming, the lessons of the Shemittah are still relevant.

These lessons can help us get headed in the direction of spiritual maturity and establish habits that promote spiritual growth: (a) Focus more on our spiritual mission in life, and a little less on our material pursuits. (b) Focus more on why we are needed, and less on what we need. (c) And focus more on our faith in God, and less on our faith in our own talents and abilities.

My hope for each of us this year is that we collectively concentrate more of our attention on the pursuit of God. As I shared recently, remember to dream and imagine what God can do through you for His glory in 2024.

May God continue to bless you and your family during the month of April (the month of hope) and throughout the coming year.

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



### **HOW CAN WE HELP?**

- Have you been visiting for a while and interested in joining the church?
- Are you a recent member wanting to know more information about the church and opportunities to participate and serve?

Contact the church office with your questions or comments.

### **ARE YOU CONNECTED?**

We stay connected with each other during the week through emails. Don't miss important announcements or prayer requests by making sure that the church office has your correct email address.

Call Charlotte at 334/567-7865 or email [secretary@firstwetumpka.com](mailto:secretary@firstwetumpka.com) to share your email address or update the one on file.

### **Do you have:**

- A new email address?
- A new mailing address?
- A new phone/cell phone number?

Please update any changes with the church office.

# April

Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

April 7—Communion

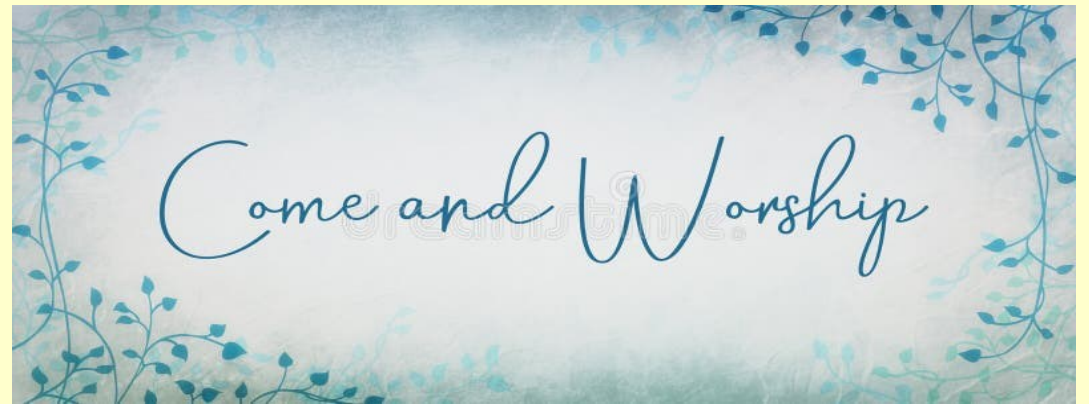
April 14—Shelton & Linda Prine

April 21—Ray & Judi Daniels

April 28—Rick & Diane Tyler

## TRAILS TEMPLE MINISTRY

We are going to Russell Crossroads on Saturday, April 20 at 8:00 AM. Exact location and trail length coming soon!



### SUNDAYS:

- Sunday Worship 8:00 A.M. (CHAPEL)
- Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
- Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M. (Sanctuary and Wesley Hall)

Our NURSERY (located on the first floor in the Education Building) is available for both services.

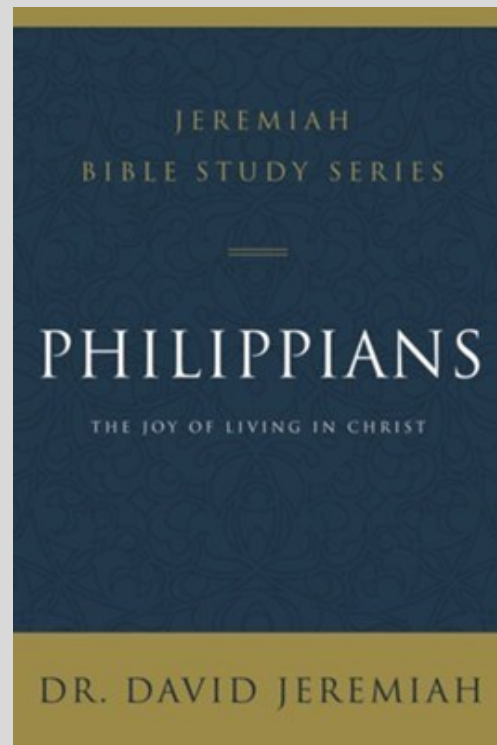
### Great things happen in small groups:

- Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday morning Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday after school activities for children and youth.
- Wednesday evening Bible study at 6:00 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast with Brother Matt (Thursdays 7 a.m. Burger King)
- 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!*

## **NEW** BIBLE STUDY begins Wednesday, **APRIL 3!**

Brother Matt will begin a NEW Bible Study in Philippians by Dr. David Jeremiah. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the church library. Books will be available on the first night of class. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!







Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don't have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what's best for us. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, God sent Jesus at just the right time. Because we're created in God's image, we can reflect God's patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. We can lean on God's Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives. In our series this month, Cookout: It's Worth the Wait, we will explore ways to show patience through God.

**Memory Verse:**

"Wait for the Lord. Be strong, and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord".  
Psalm 27:14

**Monthly Virtue:**

Patience: Waiting until later for what you want now.

Our big family event this month will take place on April 27th. **We will meet at Jackson Lake for a family picnic with the youth ministry.** We will explore the Big Fish movie set, Spectre, and see all the goats roaming the island. We are enjoying getting to spend extra time together in the afternoons during The Bridge!



**Mother's Day Tea**



Also, coming up on May 4, we will be hosting a **Mother's Day Tea!** Be on the lookout for more information.

For anyone who is interested in helping with our Children's ministry and those who are currently helping, **there is a ministry safe training on April 21st, right after service.** We will have lunch and childcare for those who need it.

**Blessings, Mrs. Ashley**







1335 Student  
MINISTRY

**This Month's Discussion Focus:**

Relationships with our families can sometimes feel a little bit like a game night. Sometimes it's fun but other times, we might fight for first place, gang up on each other, betray each other, and walk away with frustration and hurt feelings. Families can be sources of joy and laughter but also stress and tension. But what if our families could be places where we could all help each other win? This month we'll look at and discuss together how the earliest followers of Jesus created a new kind of community as God's family. Through their example, we'll learn that **there is enough when we share what we have, and if there isn't enough, God provides.** We'll also learn that **our actions can speak when words aren't enough, and that God's love is always enough.**

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@wetumpkafirst.com](mailto:jamie@wetumpkafirst.com) **by April 7th, 2024!**

For all the other exciting weekly hangouts and community building, memory making events happening this month (like getting to use our time, talents, and blessings to serve our community at the Elmore County Food Pantry and an awesome picnic hangout at Jackson Lake (Spectre)), 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

**Please Note: Important!**

**Re: May Keenagers trip and lunch**

**Keenagers – I need your input! Would you like to go to the Biblical History Center/Museum in LaGrange GA as our May trip and lunch? It would be \$30 per person plus lunch. Half of the tour money has to be paid when we make reservations. I need to know if this is something we would be interested in doing. Call me at 334/312-1764 as soon as possible and let me know what you think. If we do not wish to do this we will need to plan something else, so please let me know as soon as possible. Also, if we do not have at least 12 people going, (bus holds 15) we will Not make this trip.**

March was a wonderful trip to Monroeville, Alabama.

We had the town historian leading our tour and he was very informative on all things about the town, Harper Lee and her book *To Kill A Mockingbird*.



Stay tuned to see where we will be hitting the road to in May. I hope to see you on our bus where we enjoy loads of wonderful fun and fellowship!!!

First John 1:3

*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his son, Jesus Christ.*

Always Believe, Gloria (334/312-1764)



**In April, we will be celebrating Bee Day on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 in the family life center at 12 noon. Come join us and have a wonderful meal and hear our speaker Allison Andrews from Eclectic. She raises bees and produces honey and other bee products. Some of the foods that will be served will be homemade biscuits, vegetables and desserts just to name a few. Be sure and attend this luncheon for lots of fun and information.**



*It's all about BEES...*



# Youth Summer Camp Fundraiser

GET SOME NEW CHURCH BRANDED ITEMS AND SUPPORT THE YOUTH! TO PLACE AN ORDER, SEE JAMIE OR VISIT OUR TABLE ON SUNDAYS IN WESLEY HALL OR WEDNESDAYS IN THE FLC THROUGHOUT APRIL. CHECKS, CASH, AND CARDS ACCEPTED.

**\$25** Youth XS - Adult 6XL



**\$30**

16.9 OZ MUG



**\$5**

3" WATER RESISTANT STICKERS



**\$5**

IF YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THESE ITEMS, OR WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION IN ADDITION TO PURCHASING THEM, FINANCIAL GIFTS FOR CAMP ARE ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATED!

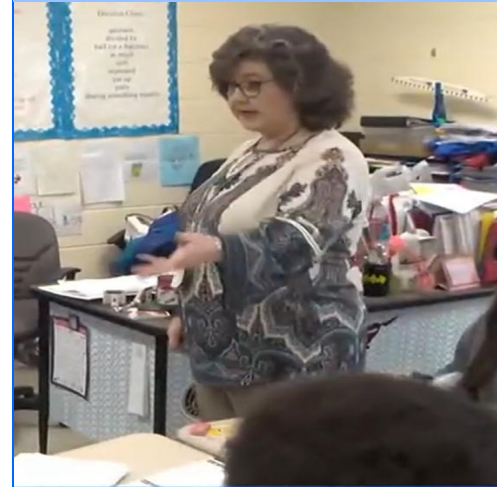


Congratulations to **Annabelle Campbell** for making it into the District 6 Honor Band!

Congratulations to **Camden Rushing** for winning the Christian Character award for his basketball conference!



CONGRATULATIONS to Susan Barnes for winning the WSFA 12 News Class Act Award for 2024!



*Mrs. Susan has been teaching for 37 years!*

**LAST CALL....**

**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@firstwetumpka.com](mailto:Jamie@firstwetumpka.com) so they can participate and be celebrated in our Senior Sunday.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS APRIL 7.**







### Important Training Date:

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

**ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO VOLUNTEERING AT VBS OR WITH OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 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 on 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.

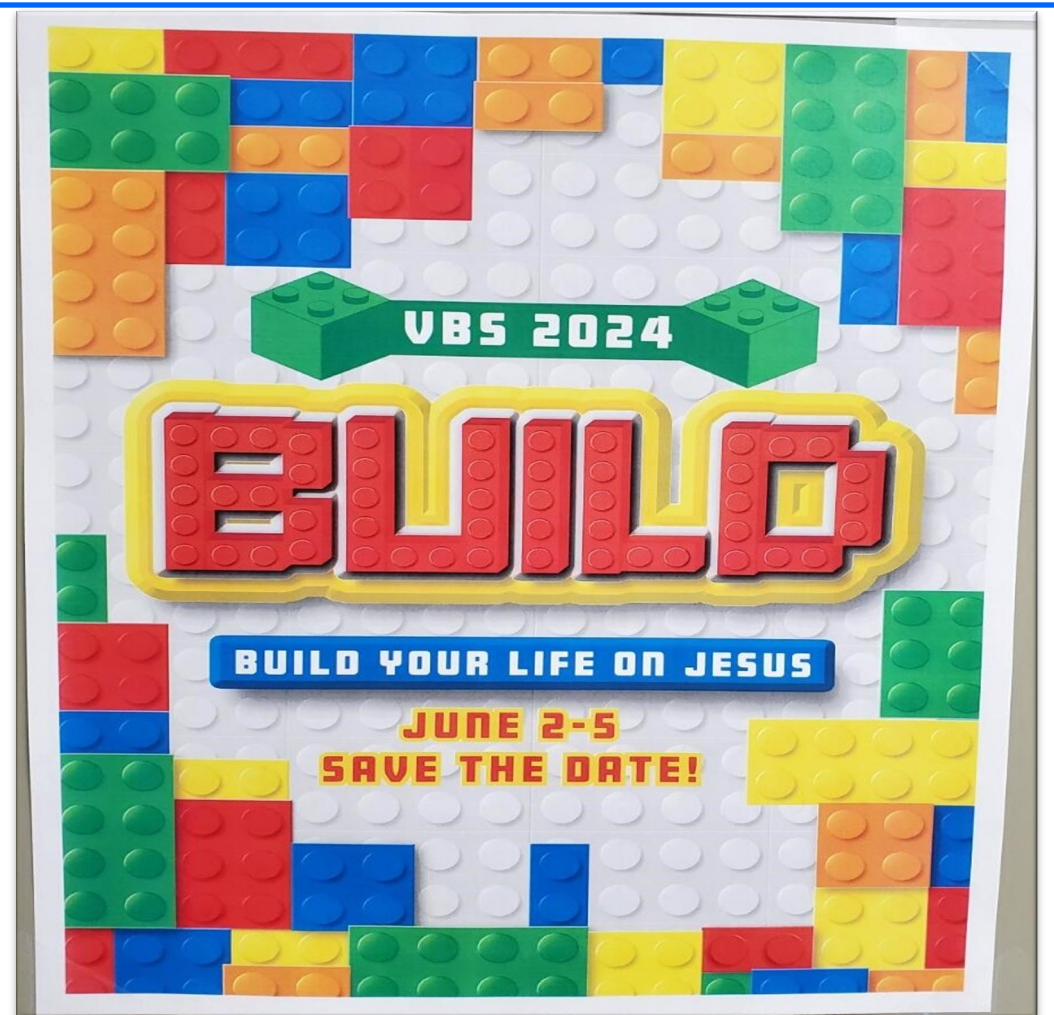
### How You can make a REAL difference!

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! **VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!**

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.



VBS 2024! **This year the theme of VBS is building your life on Jesus!** **Do you have any Lego or Duplo blocks to donate or that we can borrow for crafts, decorations, and games?** Please drop them off in the donation bucket in the Education Building or see Mrs. Ashley!

*Interested in Volunteering for VBS?  
Let Ashley know asap!*



**READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: April**

- ☐ 1 Joshua 7-8      Eccl. 4:7-16    John 7
- ☐ 2 Reflect on God as Friend
- ☐ 3 Joshua 9-10    Ps. 40            John 8
- ☐ 4 Joshua 11-12   Eccl. 5:1-9      John 9
- ☐ 5 Joshua 13-14   Ps. 41            John 10
- ☐ 6 Joshua 15-16   Eccl. 5:10-20   John 11
- ☐ 7 Joshua 17--18   Ps. 42            John 12
- ☐ 8 Joshua 19-20   Eccl. 6:1-6      John 13
- ☐ 9 Reflect on God as Lion and Lamb
- ☐ 10 Joshua 21-22   Ps. 43            John 14
- ☐ 11 Joshua 23-24   Eccl. 6:7-12     John 15
- ☐ 12 Judges 1-3     Ps. 44            John 16
- ☐ 13 Judges 4-6     Eccl. 7:1-13     John 17
- ☐ 14 Judges 7-9     Ps. 45            John 18
- ☐ 15 Judges 10-12   Eccl. 7:14-29   John 19
- ☐ 16 Reflect on God as Love
- ☐ 17 Judges 13-15   Ps. 46            John 20
- ☐ 18 Judges 16-18   Eccl. 8:1-9      John 21
- ☐ 19 Judges 19-21   Ps. 47            Acts 1
- ☐ 20 Ruth 1-2        Eccl. 8:10-17   Acts 2
- ☐ 21 Ruth 3-4        Ps. 48            Acts 3
- ☐ 22 1 Sam. 1-3     Eccl. 9:1-10     Acts 4
- ☐ 23 Reflect on God as Capable
- ☐ 24 1 Sam. 4-6     Ps. 49            Acts 5
- ☐ 25 1 Sam. 7-9     Eccl. 9:11-18   Acts 6
- ☐ 26 1 Sam. 10-12   Ps. 50            Acts 7
- ☐ 27 1 Sam. 13-15   Eccl. 10:1-11   Acts 8
- ☐ 28 1 Sam. 16-18   Ps. 51            Acts 9
- ☐ 29 1 Sam. 19-21   Eccl. 10:12-20   Acts 10
- ☐ 30 Reflect on God as Strength



<b>04/01</b>	Sandra Hill	<b>04/14</b>	Carson Turner
<b>04/03</b>	Lisa Van Wagner	<b>04/14</b>	Richard Knighton
<b>04/05</b>	Carol Bush	<b>04/25</b>	Lauren Marion
<b>04/08</b>	Hilton Knight	<b>04/26</b>	Charlotte Barber
<b>04/08</b>	Judy Price	<b>04/28</b>	Debbie Barnes
<b>04/12</b>	Ryan Smith	<b>04/30</b>	Misty Macon
<b>04/13</b>	Billy Ray Daniels		
<b>04/13</b>	Guy Jones		



<b>04/06</b>	Ray & Judi Daniels
<b>04/16</b>	Sam & Susan Legvold
<b>04/17</b>	Cal & Lynda Estabrook
<b>04/21</b>	Mark & Cindy Langley
<b>04/22</b>	Jim & Wanda Rushing
<b>04/26</b>	Earl & Elizabeth Gillian
<b>04/27</b>	Rick & Diane Tyler
<b>04/28</b>	Mark & Donna Matthews
<b>04/30</b>	Larry & Tracy Barnes

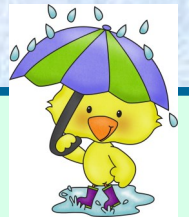
*If you are a member of FMCW and your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please notify the church office so that we can celebrate with you.*



**FIRST NEWS**

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**APRIL 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


**Coming next month...**

**Sunday, May 5 will be a SUPER CELEBRATION** as we celebrate our 1 year anniversary as part of the Global Methodist Church, Cinco de Mayo and the 19th anniversary of our Hispanic Ministry here at First Methodist Church Wetumpka! Authentic Mexican feast immediately following our 10 a.m. service in the FLC!



**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

