

## A Note from our Pastor...

### Pleasing to Him

Jesus said, “The Father has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him” (John 8:29). Do you know the feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction in a job well done. That happens when you give it your all, when you do your very best. My brother Steve and his wife Amy have two boys, Jake and Josh. Steve and Amy are very proud of both of them and all their accomplishments. So, when their oldest son Jake started playing football, they were excited to see what he might achieve on the gridiron. Jake was not only big for his age; he was a good football player, as well. When Jake played, Steve usually stood on the sidelines watching every down. But before each play began, Jake would look to the sidelines to make sure his father was watching him. Jake wanted nothing more than to please his father and Steve would show his approval by celebrating his accomplishments. A child can ask for nothing more than his or her father’s approval and encouragement.

In the gospel of John, Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work” (John 4:34). As Easter People, we know that Jesus completed all the work that his Father sent him to accomplish and he did it well. To finish the work the Father had given him was obviously high on Jesus’ list of urgent goals. We are encouraged by Jesus to finish our work a few chapters later when he says to his disciples, “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4). We all have an allotted time to complete our work here on earth. Are you doing that work?

At the end of his ministry, Jesus reported to his Father, “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do” (John 17:4). When Jesus said this, he could not have meant that his salvation work was complete because his salvation work was finished on the cross. However, it is possible that Jesus meant that he had completed the work of equipping his disciples. Consider this because at the end of his prayer in John 17, Jesus said, “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world” (John 17:18). As followers of Jesus Christ and as sent people, we must do the work of Him who sends us.

Jesus had recreated himself in his disciples. All the gifts and graces that Jesus had, were imparted into his disciples. He was sending them into the world, equipped to continue the work which God the Father had sent him into the world to do. As the Book of Acts reminds us, they did it the same way he had done it. They imitated their Lord.

How about you, are you imitating Jesus? Are you equipping others to do the work of the kingdom? Jesus’ style of equipping is not too complicated to understand but it is costly. Equipping others calls for us to invest time in another person’s life. It requires us to be patient, vulnerable and open with the people we are equipping. It takes an intentional effort on our part to equip a fellow believer for ministry. But the rewards are immeasurable because the next generation will hear the Good News.

During the month of May, let us continue the work God created us to do in ways that are pleasing to the Father and may God continue to bless you and your family.

**In Christ’s arms, Brother Matt**



### **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**Thursday, May 2**

**Gather at Gold Star Park at NOON** for a time of prayer

for all entities of our nation.

This is a very different and critical time in our history!

**Please join us in prayer at this event, in your personal prayer time and visit [nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org) for national events.**



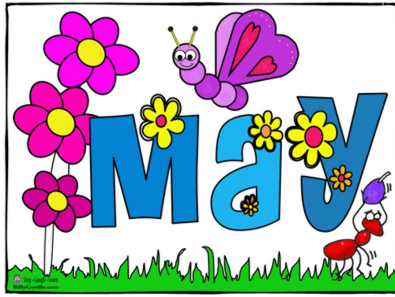
**TIME TO CELEBRATE!!!**

**Sunday, May 5!!!**

**Join us at 10 A.M.** as we celebrate our First Anniversary as part of the Global Methodist Church, Cinco de Mayo and our Hispanic Ministries. Plan to stay after church for an authentic Mexican feast served immediately following worship in the FLC!

**PLEASE NOTE: There will NOT be an 8 a.m. worship service on May 5!**





*Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:*

- May 5—Communion**
- May 12—Steve Albritton**
- May 19—Reserved**
- May 26—Cornerstone Class**



**Please take note:**

Our bus pick up for after school activities will end for this school year on **Wednesday, May 22.**



**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. (Wesley Hall)**
- **Wednesday after school activities for children and youth.**
- **Wednesday evening Bible study at 6:00 p.m. (Library)**
- **Men's Breakfast with Brother Matt**  
(Thursdays 7 a.m. Burger King)
- **Prayer Shawl on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. (Upstairs Ed Bldg)**
- **Sisters in Service (SIS) each 4th Monday at 1 p.m.**  
(Wesley hall)
- **Fresh Start Ministry each Monday at 6:00 p.m. (FLC)**

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

*We will be celebrating and honoring our mothers and those who fill those roles in our lives on Sunday, May 12 in both services.*

*We have a special token of appreciation planned just for you!*



**MEMORIAL DAY**

**REMEMBER OUR  
FALLEN**



**MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024**





Commitment is part of God’s nature and how God interacts with us, keeping promises and putting plans into action. God’s commitment to us is just one of the many reasons we can trust God no matter what. And because God’s promises and plans came true in Jesus, we can be with God forever. We reflect God’s character when we make a plan and stick to it. This month, we’ll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God’s Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout their everyday.

**Monthly Memory Verse:**

*“Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.”*  
1 Timothy 4:8

**Monthly Virtue:**

Commitment: Making a plan and putting it into practice.

I can not believe May is already here. We are kicking off the month with our **Mother’s Day Tea on May 4th**. We are looking forward to showing how much we appreciate our moms and others who step in to fill that role for our kids. The school year is coming to a close, and with that, so is our afterschool program. **We are going to end the year strong with an end-of-the-year Nerf blast party on May 22nd!** Don’t forget VBS is coming up in a month; mark your calendars to be here June 2-5!

Remember to stay up to date on our activities and get our reminders. Please follow our Facebook page, Wetumpka First Kids.

**Blessings,  
Mrs. Ashley**

*Enjoying time with our church family...*





It's time to celebrate our amazing senior's upcoming academic and life accomplishment!! Everything **Gracie Hankins** has achieved in both her personal life and amazing academic career so far is truly incredible, including being awarded the Dean B. Albritton Memorial Scholarship last month; and we are so excited to get to celebrate her on Senior Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>! Let's continue encouraging her, cheering her on, and letting her know her church family is here for support during and beyond this time of excitement, big feelings, and huge transition!

**Speaking of exciting transitions, Promotion Sunday is May 26<sup>th</sup>!** We can't wait for all the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders to be part of the student ministry and see how God continues to transform them into His likeness! We know He will use their gifts and talents to bless the lives of those both inside and outside of it!

**This Month's Discussion Focus:**

The best way to know about someone is to let them tell you who they are. We may think we know who Jesus is, but have we let Him tell us in His own words? What might happen in our lives if we made space for Jesus to speak for Himself instead of just listening to others and/or our own opinions of who we think He is? There are seven times when Jesus directly told his disciples who He was. In these "I am" statements, He shared with them what it meant to follow Him, have His heart for others, and how His followers can strengthen their relationships with Him and with God. Through Jesus' words about Himself, we'll learn and discuss how they can reshape our lives today by seeing that **Jesus is love, is truth, is always with us, and is our savior.**

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 help prepare for an exciting VBS program at the beginning of June and an epic school's out celebration!), 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*

{April showers bring May flowers} This means even after long periods of adversity, good times will follow. God has given us some beautiful flowers for us to enjoy.

In April we had a wonderful bee day luncheon. So sorry for anyone who missed this one. Allison Andrews gave an informative and interesting talk. She brought real honey bees and lots of things made with honey. For lunch we had honey ham and biscuits, honey butter, and lots of great food. It was just a day filled with honey.

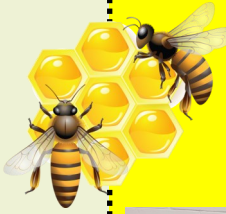
**For May we will be going on a bus trip to Martins Restaurant in Montgomery for lunch. Please sign up or call 334-312-1764 to save your place on the bus.** In my opinion this is one of the best places to eat, and I haven't been in a really long time. So let's load up and go to Martins on **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a great day.

We have lots of homebound, sickness and sorrow in our church at this time. Please always be in prayer for our church and our members.

## **Romans 10:10**

*With the heart one believes resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth we confess resulting in salvation.*

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



**Coming up!!! You will want to mark your calendars now for this Special Sunday!!!**

**Southern gospel singer Ivan Parker will be singing in our 10 a.m. worship (NO 8 a.m. worship) on Sunday, June 23.**



**Ivan Parker** is an American Southern gospel singer. He was raised in Sanford, North Carolina, where his father was a pastor in a Pentecostal church. In 1982, Parker joined the Singing Americans, and in 1983 he became lead vocalist of the Dove Award-winning group the Gold City Quartet. As a member of Gold City, he was named Favorite Lead Vocalist by Singing News from 1988 to 1993, and was named Favorite Male Vocalist from 1989 to 1995 and 1997. He was inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 1993.

In January 1994, Parker began recording as a solo artist, and in 1995 he joined Bill and Gloria Gaither on the "Homecoming" tour. He continued touring with the Gaithers for 16 years. Occasionally, he would sing with tenor Kirk Talley, and pianist/baritone Anthony Burger in a group they called simply The Trio. From 2001 to 2004 and 2006 to 2016, The Singing News named him Favorite Soloist. In 2007 and 2008, he was voted Male Vocalist of the Year in the Singing News Fan Awards.



### **FMC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

A Scholarship Fund has been established through the generosity of an anonymous gift to FMC Wetumpka.

**To apply you must be a member of First Methodist Church or a college student who has transferred his or her letter of membership to another Methodist Church in the city of said college or university.**

Funds can be used for graduate or undergraduate students.

**Applications may be picked up in the church office or ask that one be emailed to you.**

**DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JUNE 15th!**

### **May is Mental Health Awareness Month!**

Did you know approximately 1 in 5 adults in the United States experiences a mental illness and only half of them receive treatment. One in 20 have lived with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression. The average delay between the onset of mental illness symptoms and treatment is 11 years. Half of all mental health disorders show signs prior to the age of 14. Many factors can contribute to mental illness including biological factors, life experiences, and family history. Suicide is the leading cause of death in the United States. There are currently more treatments, services, and community support systems than ever before. If you or a loved one experience a mental illness, do not suffer in silence. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) offers resources for those diagnosed and family members of those affected with mental illness. **The national suicide and crisis lifeline can be reached via text or phone at 988.**

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**Have you checked our NEW Health Information table in the Education Building? It's full of FREE health related tips. You can find a few healthy eating tips and recipes! If you visit our table and don't see a topic that interest you, please let the church office know so that we can reach out and try to make those topics available.**

**Congratulations  
2024 Confirmands:**  
William Araiza and  
Harrison Smith.



**Our Acolytes...**  
If you're interested in  
participating in our  
worship service as  
an acolyte,  
see Mrs. Nell Head  
for details!



*Sharing brotherly love*



**Congratulations  
to our  
Gracie Hankins**  
on all of your  
accomplishments!  
We look forward  
to celebrating you  
on Senior Sunday,  
May 19! We are so  
very proud of you!

*Congratulations to  
Miss Janie Flores  
who won the title of  
Third Grade Beauty  
in the Wetumpka  
Elementary School  
Pageant.*

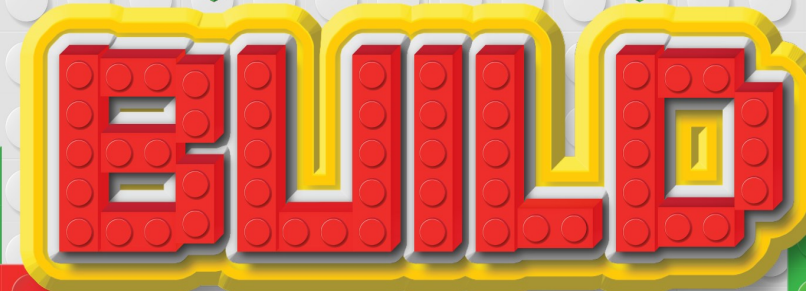


**VBS VOLUNTEERS!!!! Don't forget our Training/  
Organizational Meeting on Thursday, May 2 at  
6 p.m. in the FLC.** A light dinner will be served.  
Please make every effort to be present as we  
continue planning how to Build Our Lives on Jesus!

**VBS 2024!**  
This year  
the theme of  
VBS is  
**Building  
Your Life on  
Jesus!**



**FIRST METHODIST  
CHURCH WETUMPKA**



**BUILD YOUR LIFE ON JESUS**

**JUNE 2-5 • REGISTER NOW!**

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.

*Interested in  
Volunteering for  
VBS?  
Come to our  
planning  
meeting.*

306 W. Tuskeena St., Wetumpka, AL 36092 • [secretary@firstwetumpka.com](mailto:secretary@firstwetumpka.com)

  @wetumpkafirst • (334) 567-7865 • [www.wetumpkafirst.com/vbs](http://www.wetumpkafirst.com/vbs)

**READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: May**

- ☐ 1 1 Sam. 22-24 Ps. 52 Acts 11
- ☐ 2 1 Sam. 25-27 Eccl. 11:1-5 Acts 12
- ☐ 3 1 Sam. 28-29 Ps. 53 Acts 13
- ☐ 4 2 Sam. 1-2 Eccl. 11:6-10 Acts 14
- ☐ 5 2 Sam. 3-4 Ps. 54 Acts 15
- ☐ 6 2 Sam. 5-6 Eccl. 12:1-8 Acts 16
- ☐ 7 Reflect on God as Sovereign
- ☐ 8 2 Sam. 7-8 Ps. 59 Acts 17
- ☐ 9 2 Sam. 9-10 Eccl. 12:9-13 Acts 18
- ☐ 10 2 Sam. 11-12 Ps. 60 Acts 19
- ☐ 11 2 Sam. 13-14 Job 1 Acts 20
- ☐ 12 2 Sam. 15-16 Ps. 61 Acts 21
- ☐ 13 2 Sam. 17-18 Job 2 Acts 22
- ☐ 14 Reflect on God as Shepherd
- ☐ 15 2 Sam. 19-20 Ps. 62 Acts 23
- ☐ 16 2 Sam. 21-22 Job 3 Acts 24
- ☐ 17 2 Sam. 23-24 Ps. 63 Acts 25
- ☐ 18 1 Kings 1-2 Job 4 Acts 26
- ☐ 19 1 Kings 3-4 Ps. 64 Acts 27
- ☐ 20 1 Kings 5-6 Job 5 Acts 28
- ☐ 21 Reflect on God as Hope
- ☐ 22 1 Kings 7-8 Ps. 65 Rom. 1
- ☐ 23 1 Kings 9-10 Job 6 Rom. 2
- ☐ 24 1 Kings 11-12 Ps. 66 Rom. 3
- ☐ 25 1 Kings 13-14 Job 7 Rom. 4
- ☐ 26 1 Kings 15-16 Ps. 67 Rom. 5
- ☐ 27 1 Kings 17-18 Job 8 Rom. 6
- ☐ 28 Reflect on God as Rest
- ☐ 29 1 Kings 19-20 Ps. 68 Rom. 7
- ☐ 30 1 Kings 21-22 Job 9 Rom. 8
- ☐ 31 2 Kings 1-3 Ps. 69 Rom. 9



05/02	Pearl	Albritton	05/12	Janice	Whorton
05/03	Gloria	Johnson	05/12	Zeb	Pugh
05/03	Debbie	Jennings	05/13	Nancy	Holdbrooks
05/04	Annie Pearl	Pugh	05/14	Kristina	Macon
05/04	Eric	Brent	05/18	Larry	Mann
05/05	Jamie	Goll	05/18	Megan	Boles
05/06	Mark	Matthews	05/19	Maggie	Van Wagner
05/06	Euriah	Smith	05/26	Caleb	Jeffers
05/07	Pamela	Kennedy	05/29	William	Cousins
05/10	Harrison	Smith	05/31	Paul	Henderson



05/09	Amanda & Ryan Pugh
05/13	Ronald & Deanna Nelson
05/21	Dennis & Lynda Fain
05/22	Jerry & Alice Barnhart
05/25	Jimmy & Cheri Martin
05/30	Ed & Lou Tatum

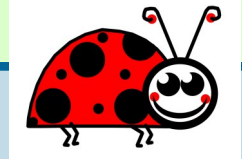
*If you are a member of FMCW and your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please notify the church office so that we can celebrate with you.*



**FIRST NEWS**

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

**MAY 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

**NO 8 A.M. WORSHIP ON MAY 5!!!!**

*It's A Celebration and YOU are Invited!*

**Sunday, May 5 at 10 a.m.**

**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 served immediately following the worship 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

