

A Word From Our Pastor...

In watching the 2024 Olympics recently and listening to the back stories of some of the athletes. I discovered that some of these athletes prepared all their lives for a routine, or a swim, or a race that lasted only a few minutes. They devoted their entire life for a single performance. They pursued a dream of excellence in their particular event. We pursue what we love.

In 1670, Blaise Pascal published *Pensées*. In that book, he has a quote: “What else does this craving, this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there, the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself.” If we do not pursue God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, we will still try to fill that void, that only God can fill, with things that will never satisfy. We pursue what we love and so does God.

David writes in the last verse of the 23rd Psalm, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” The Hebrew word for follow can also be translated pursue. Even though you may not realize it yet, God’s goodness and mercy is pursuing you at this very moment. Even though God is a consuming fire because of the Lord’s great love for you, you are not consumed.

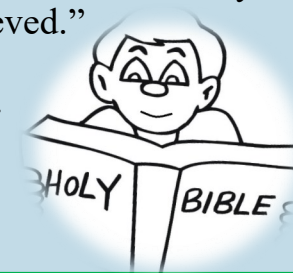
God is patient with everyone, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. That’s why God sent his son Jesus to this earth to save us from sin. But without Jesus, the darkness of sin and death spreads out to consume us. Without Jesus, we will face the just wrath and anger of God because of our sin. And without Jesus, life is hopeless and despair is our daily portion.

How desperately have you been avoiding God lately? How hurried has your life become? Without Jesus you will never know the privilege of being a child of God. You will never know what you could have been with Jesus in your life. Maybe it’s time to slow down and allow God’s pursuing grace to capture your heart. God’s grace is everlasting; it sustains our redeemed spirit, so that, nothing can keep us away from him, except our unwilling heart.

From the cross of Christ (God’s beloved son), flow the rivers of grace to you and me. It paid for our sin; it washes us white as snow. It regenerates our hearts; strengthens our weak flesh. It creates in us a love for him; inflames our passion to serve him. It saturates our entire spirit; making every act, every thought and every word sacred. And his grace teaches us a little more each day about his immeasurable love. John Newton said it best, “How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.”

During the month of October before life gets too hurried; allow God’s goodness and mercy to catch up with you. Open your hearts and receive the love of the Father, through Jesus his son. My prayer for you and your family is to pursue the ONE who is pursuing you.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

To find out more about the First Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church that just took place in Costa Rica, visit sotheworldwillknow.org or globalmethodist.org

Our First Annual Ministry Fair was held Sunday, September 29.

We are a very busy church whether ministering inside our campus walls or serving out in our community. We hope that you took advantage of this opportunity to see the various ministries up close and that you will consider volunteering in those areas you are most passionate about.

***First Methodist Wetumpka....
Reaching our Community
for Christ!***



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

October 6—Communion

October 13—Celestra Rowell

October 20—Andy & Alice Scarborough

October 27—Diane Lockwood



Sisters In Service meet each fourth Monday of the month at 1 p.m. in Wesley Hall.

Sisters In Service support many local causes throughout our community. Our SIS ladies are busy now with the Isaiah 58 Project. Over night bags are packed for the women being released from Tutwiler Prison. To learn more about this ministry or about other projects, plan to attend the next meeting on Monday, October 28!
Everyone is welcome!!!!

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE...

SUNDAY:

Early Worship 8 a.m. (Chapel)
Sunday School 9 a.m. (Ed Bldg)
Late Church 10 a.m. (Sanctuary)

MONDAY:

Fresh Start Recovery Meets
from 6—8 p.m. in the Family Life Center

TUESDAY: Library committee meets

WEDNESDAY:

- Bus pick up after school
- The Bridge (children and youth activities)
- Delicious meal (5:15—6 p.m.)
- Adult Bible study 6 p.m.
- Choir Practice 6 p.m. in Chapel

THURSDAY:

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7 a.m. at Burger King

FRIDAY:

Prayer Shawl meets from 10 a.m.—12 noon upstairs in Education Bldg

Keenagers meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. (Watch for details)

SIS (Sisters In Service) meets 4th Monday monthly at 1 p.m. in Wesley Hall

United Appeal Fund Raiser



It's Fall once again and with fall comes cooler weather, football season, Thanksgiving and **the United Appeal Fund Raiser.**

For those of you who may not know the Finance Committee is required to have an annual fund raiser in order for First Methodist Church to keep our Sales Tax Exempt status with the state. The proceeds from the fund raiser benefits The Elmore County Food Pantry and our church.

In lieu of serving a meal this year we have decided to have a Bake Sale just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The bake sale will be Sunday November 24th immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service in Wesley Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to get your homemade desserts for Thanksgiving and support the United Appeal and help our church.



If you would like to bake something, please call the church office at 334/567-7865, email Sonya Arnold at arnoldsonya1946@gmail.com or look for sign up sheets in Wesley Hall. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

*Mark your calendars now for **Sunday, November 24th** immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service.*



There are a lot of choices that we need to make in life. Some of those choices can help us grow and shape us positively. Others can pull us in different directions, leaving us struggling to figure out which choice is best. What do we do when we're confronted with all of these choices? Do we rush ahead? Or do we pause and let God lead us toward the best way to act? Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. It's one of the ways we can tell that God is transforming our lives and that we're growing in our faith. Thankfully, we don't have to find self-control on our own. When we follow Jesus, God's Spirit is with us and helps us make the wise choice.

Memory Verse:

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3

Virtue:

Self-Control: Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to.

We have a ton of activities coming up this month. Our Pumpkin patch field trip is on **October 13th**. We also have our fall festival on **October 26th**. Don't forget to swing by and see us at our table during Candy Crawl on **October 28th**. During The Bridge, we will celebrate the season on **October 30th** with a Fall Ball complete with pumpkin carving, fall games, and fall-themed snacks!

I also want to thank all our volunteers for making The Bridge successful, as we started meeting again this last month. You are all amazing, and I look forward to seeing what God does in the future as our ministry grows.

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley





Fall is officially here, and October always brings so many exciting ways for our whole church family to continue building a richer and brighter life together as we have a blast using our talents, gifts, and time to show the life-changing, hope-bringing, and heart-healing love of Christ to our surrounding community! From the Fall Festival on our campus, to prepping the candy bags for and being at the city's candy crawl, to all the upcoming weekly hangouts and events (like our student and children's ministry family time together at the pumpkin patch and Gourd Games!), I can't wait to see how God continues to move in and through our student ministry and whole church family!

We are also incredibly blessed to have a church family who loves its students so deeply and wants to pour into and invest in their lives and ongoing transformation into Christ's likeness, and we wanted to say a huge "thank you!" to everyone who bought things from, or donated in any way to, our winter camp fundraiser last month!! You all are so amazing!

This Month's Series: God's Wisdom on Our Worth and Design for Our Relationships

Whether our students are getting answers and drawing conclusions about the worth of being single and what healthy dating relationships and meaningful friendships look like from others around them, movies they watch, music they listen to, celebrities they follow, church messages, or personal experiences; there's so much more room to let God reset them with new questions that can get them to healthier spiritual places. This month we will explore the genius wisdom and unconditional love of God laid out for us in the Bible on these topics through a lot of laughter, interaction, honesty, and opportunities to reflect. Please continue praying as God moves in their hearts as they consider trading in whatever answers they've been living with for something healthier as they learn what it looks like to ask some new questions and operate out of a life-long relationship with Jesus!

For all the other exciting weekly hangouts and community-building events happening this month, check out our page on the church's website, and/or contact me at the e-mail 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

Cooler weather makes some people happier, and fall is on the way, although it is 90 degrees outside. Be ready to see pumpkins galore and maybe even more.

The September road trip up to The Botanic Opelika was a huge success. The flowers and the place was beautiful, the food was wonderful, and many bought things to bring home with them surprise, surprise. I was unable to attend as were some others, so we may have to do it again. Celestra (our pro at Keenagers) was a wonderful hostess in my place and thanks to Sanford for driving.

On Tuesday, October 8 we will be here at home in the family life center for our Military Day Luncheon. We will have a wonderful picnic-style lunch; fried chicken, potato salad, and wonderful trimmings! We celebrate ALL branches of our military. We would like to thank all of our church members that served in the military at this luncheon. I would like all of you to send a picture of you, preferably in military clothes to put on display that day. Thanks in advance for your help—please start sending or bringing your photos by the church now and please make sure your name is somewhere on the pictures. You may bring your pictures to Charlotte in the office or if you bring them on Sunday morning put them on the round table in Wesley Hall and I will pick them up there. We will need help decorating as some of my usual helpers are not feeling up to par. I have lots of things that can be used so give me a call if you could help out that day.

On Tuesday, November 12 we will be touring part of Troy University in Troy and we'll be eating at Sisters Restaurant. I have not eaten there but some say it will be worth the trip just to eat at this restaurant.

On Tuesday, December 10 we will have our Christmas luncheon in the family life center. This year's theme is Come to the Manger.

Well, get prepared for the busy season that is upon us, but never forget Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior. We serve him every day in every way.

Always Believe, Gloria (334/312-1764)

Don't forget your pictures to share...





You're invited...

*to First Methodist Wetumpka's
Community Fall Festival
on Saturday, October 26
from 5—7 p.m.*

There'll be a ton of fun things to do.
Fun games, food, face painting, cake
walk, and so much more!!!!

Dress up in your favorite costumes—
we do ask that you not dress in anything
too scary so we don't scare the littles.

It's a family affair...bring the whole family!

CANDY DONATIONS

For Fall Festival (Oct. 26) and
Coosa Candy Crawl (Oct. 28)

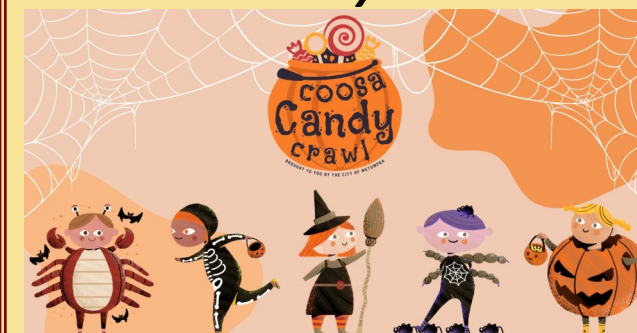
We are accepting **individually wrapped
candy and monetary donations** for the
Fall Festival and Coosa Candy Crawl!

Please drop candy donations in marked
boxes. Checks, cash, and online gifts are
appreciated! To make an online donation,
visit www.wetumpkafirst.com/give. Please
designate online, check, and cash gifts for
the "Fall Festival."

THANK YOU!



In Our Community...



MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

The Coosa Candy Crawl will be in a
new location this year—at the Wetumpka
Sports Complex, conveniently located
behind the home side of the stadium.
It's going to be a spooktacular time!!!

Event Highlights:

- Bounce Houses & Face Painting:
The fun starts at 4:00 P.M. with
exciting bounce houses and creative
face painting that will get everyone into
the Fall spirit.
- **Candy Crawl: From 6:00—8:00 P.M.,**
join in as children make their way
through tables hosted by local
sponsors, collecting sweet treats and
goodies along the way.

Don't miss out on this festive and sweet
event that promises fun for the whole
family!

**BE SURE TO VISIT OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH TABLES.**



ACOLYTE TRAINING & MEETING

Sunday, October 20
right after
10 a.m. worship.

Bishop Alfred Kalemba
returns on Sunday,
October 20 and will be
sharing an update on all that
is happening in their ministry
in Zambia.



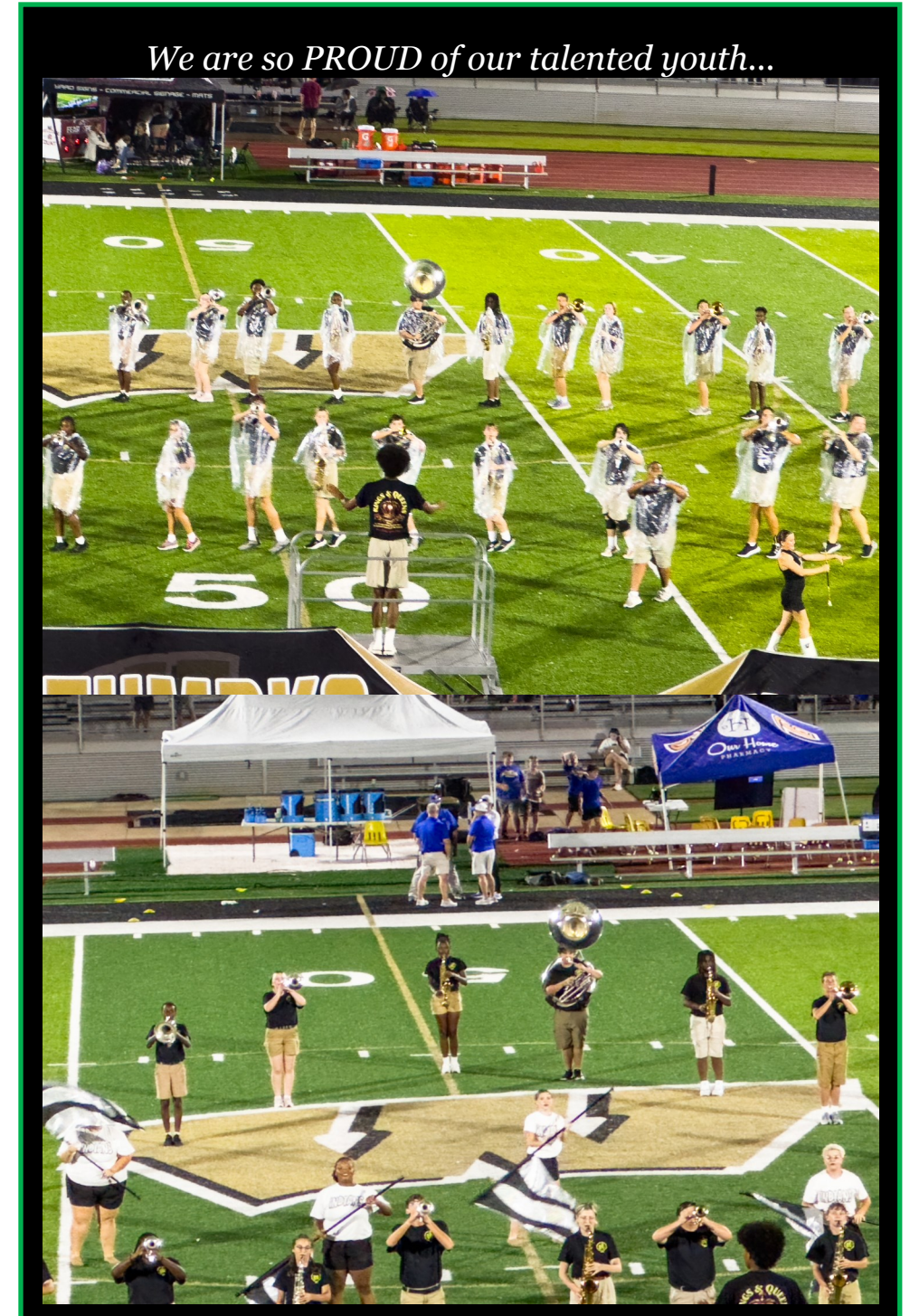
WHAT ARE MY... Spiritual Gifts?

*What are my spiritual gifts,
and how do I understand
and implement them?*

The Bible speaks of "spiritual
gifts," ways in which God has
uniquely made you for his
grand purposes.

And when you come to know your
gifts better, you draw closer to
God as you exercise and grow
those gifts.

If you would like some help
discovering your spiritual gifts,
Brother Matt has a guide that can
help. Ask for a copy today!



READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: October

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Reflect on God's Goodness		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Isaiah 64	Ps. 119:9-16	1 John 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Isaiah 65	Ps. 119:17-24	1 John 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Isaiah 66	Ps. 119:25-32	1 John 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Jer. 1-2	Ps. 119:33-40	1 John 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Jer. 3-4	Ps. 119:41-48	2 John
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Jer. 5-6	Ps. 119:49-56	3 John
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Reflect on God's Patience		
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Jer. 7-8	Ps. 119:57-64	Jude
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Jer. 9-10	Ps. 119:65-72	Rev. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Jer. 11-12	Ps. 119:73-80	Rev. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Jer. 13-14	Ps. 119:81-88	Rev. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Jer. 15-16	Ps. 119:89-96	Rev. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Jer. 17-18	Ps. 119:97-104	Rev. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Reflect on God's Generosity		
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 Jer. 19-20	Ps. 119:105-112	Rev. 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Jer. 21-22	Ps. 110:113-120	Rev. 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Jer. 23-24	Ps. 119:121-128	Rev. 8
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Jer. 25-26	Prov. 1	Rev. 9
<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Jer. 27-28	Ps. 119:129-136	Rev. 10
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 Jer. 29-30	Prov. 2	Rev. 11
<input type="checkbox"/> 22 Reflect on God's Compassion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 23 Jer. 31-32	Ps. 119:137-144	Rev. 12
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 Jer. 33-34	Prov. 3	Rev. 13
<input type="checkbox"/> 25 Jer. 35-36	Ps. 119:145-152	Rev. 14
<input type="checkbox"/> 26 Jer. 37-38	Prov. 4	Rev. 15
<input type="checkbox"/> 27 Jer. 39-40	Ps. 119:153-160	Rev. 16
<input type="checkbox"/> 28 Jer. 41-42	Prov. 5	Rev. 17
<input type="checkbox"/> 29 Reflect on God's Wisdom		
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 Jer. 43-44	Ps. 119:161-168	Rev. 18
<input type="checkbox"/> 31 Jer. 45-46	Prov. 6	Rev. 19

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 contact Paul Henderson at 334-201-5428.**



10/01	Nikole	Tyler	10/15	Everlynn	Smith
10/01	Gary	Barnes	10/17	Marilyn	Knapp
10/01	Kevin	Stanley	10/17	Savannah	Brent
10/02	Julianne	Hawkins	10/18	Kathy	Willis
10/03	Jim	Rushing	10/20	Earl	Gillian
10/03	Bonnie	Hall	10/21	Elizabeth	Gillian
10/03	Monica	Henderson	10/22	Jane	Salter
10/06	Alice	Scarborough	10/22	Faith	Wheat
10/08	Jimmy	Martin	10/23	Jamie	Farquhar
10/08	Hope	Sanders	10/23	Christopher	Dozier
10/09	Andrew	Stieb	10/25	Carol	Hickman
10/10	Tammy	Albritton	10/27	Dennis	Fain
10/11	Heidi	Kolendar	10/27	Joyce	Richardson
10/13	Cheri	Martin	10/28	Bill	Watts
10/13	Julian	Koenig	10/31	Tracy	Barnes



Oct 5	Matt & Tammy Albritton
Oct 9	Alvin & Pat Ward
Oct 15	Christopher & Tara Dozier
Oct 21	Fred & Charlene Lovelace III
Oct 27	Eric & Katie Brent
Oct 27	William & Ashley Cousins
Oct 28	Frank & Nancy Vawter

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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OCTOBER 2024



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Look inside for fun activities...



Connect with us any time on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and our website at [@WetumpkaFirst](https://www.WetumpkaFirst.com) and www.WetumpkaFirst.com