

A Word From Our Pastor...

You Will Be My Witnesses

When my family lived in Andalusia, Alabama we attended West End Methodist church and our pastor was Rev. Jim Ross. In 1967, when I was ten years old, I joined the church. Leading up to that day, I had many meetings with Brother Jim. Unfortunately, time has stolen much of what was said during those conversations. But what I do remember was Brother Jim spending time with me and helping me to understand the commitment I would be making. I promised to give the church my time, talent, gifts, and service. Since that time, the Church has added "witness" to that solemn promise.

This commitment is our pledge to God and our brothers and sisters in Christ, that we are serious about the work of the church, especially in the area of sharing our faith. Most people have little or no problem with the first four pledges but shy away from witnessing about their faith. For whatever reason, witnessing about their faith is a little awkward. The excuse I hear most often is "I am just not comfortable talking to people about my faith."

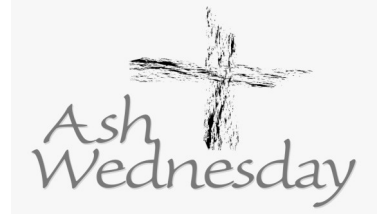
For some people that may be a valid reason not to witness about what Jesus has done in their life. However, Jesus reminds us, "but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:33). This statement alone should motivate us to get out of our comfort zone and share our faith. As Peter exhorts us, "always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

Sharing with people what God has done for us should be one of the greatest joys of our lives. We should jump at the opportunity to let people know how much God cares for them and us. As we share about the relationship, we have with such a loving, forgiving, and merciful God, the Spirit of God works within us. When we share Jesus with people, they are naturally drawn to Him. Jesus said, "when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself" (John 12:32). The name Jesus attracts a person's heart like a magnet attracts steel. If you think about it, the Holy Spirit does all the work. All we have to do is tell the story of how Jesus changed our life.

Those who do not know Jesus, are strangers to the Spirit of Christ. God uses us to communicate the riches of His grace and love to those whose hearts are apathetic. Perhaps the reason you have so much trouble sharing your faith is because you are only talking to people who are believers. Maybe it's time to get outside of your comfort zone and talk to people who don't know Jesus. Be a witness for Jesus!

During the month of March think about how Jesus has changed your life and then tell someone your story. May God continue to bless you and your family.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday.

On Ash Wednesday, clergy use ash to place a mark of the cross on foreheads. The ash is used to represent our humanity "dust to dust" (Genesis 3:19) and to call us into repentance for our sin.

**Ash Wednesday Worship
6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**



**Remember...
time to turn your
clocks *FORWARD*
ONE HOUR
March 9!**

Happy Spring Break

Please take note:

There will not be any Wednesday activities on March 26 due to spring break. The homebound meals will be delivered.



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

March 2—Communion

March 9—Walter & Pam Kennedy

March 16—Bruce & Charlotte Barber

March 23—David & Becky King

March 30—Cornerstone Class

Disaster Relief Training Volunteers Needed!

Central Alabama Disaster Relief, an all volunteer disaster relief organization based in WETUMPKA, is still looking for volunteers to help with its disaster relief efforts in the future. For all those interested, please contact Leighton Greenlee at info@cadrelief.org or give him a call at 512-662-7645.

Sisters In Service

Ladies, if you enjoy serving your community, Sisters In Service is READY to welcome you!! We meet once a month, on the 4th Monday, in Wesley Hall at 1 P.M.

We'd love to have you participate!!

Next meeting: March 24 at 1 p.m.



2025 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

**To provide fresh altar flowers in the church,
this is the procedure:**

1. **Choose an available date** (check with the office)
2. **Choose a florist** (Most often chosen is A Beautiful Creation (514-9579) here in town. Call the church office for alternative florists as they must be on our list to have access to the church and be aware of the specifications of our flower arrangements.
3. **Talk with the florist about the color of flowers, etc. and the amount you wish to spend in the arrangement.**
4. **Pay the florist and they will bring the flowers to the church and place in the fridge for Sunday. They will be placed on the altar for the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services.**
5. **Please take your flowers home with you to enjoy following the 10 a.m. worship service.**

Thank you for providing fresh flowers each Sunday that add so much beauty to our Sanctuary and our worship services.

Available dates are:

**May 25, June 29, July 13, August 24
September 21, 28, October 12, 26
November 30, December 21, 28.**

**Call or email the church office to choose your dates on a first come first served basis:
334/567-7865 or secretary@firstwetumpka.com**

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

WEDNESDAY:

- Soft Yoga class 10 a.m. (WH)
- 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:

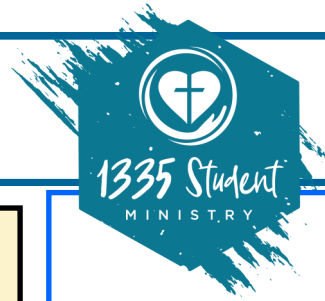
Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7 a.m. at Burger King

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



The introspective, heart-searching season of Lent is here. As we move together toward the triumphant celebration of Easter, we will have a blast during our regular, weekly hangouts and at events like the Mardi Gras parade! We will also show God's love to our church family by helping with a Parents' Night Out and to our larger community by volunteering at the Elmore County Food Pantry as part of our Upside Down Games event! We can't wait to see how God continues to shape us more into His likeness and show His love to others through us this month!

This Month's Series: Justified

Anger is such a big, powerful emotion. About things that matter, our anger can lead us toward action. Anger can even inspire us to make the world a better place! But other times, our anger can lead us to make choices that are harmful to ourselves or others. There's no escaping situations or people who make us angry, but how we respond when we're angry is up to us. This month we'll explore, discuss, and work on applying four passages of Scripture from both the Old and New Testaments that will challenge our view on anger. We'll learn practical skills like **when we feel angry, pause to ask God why**. We'll also see how, **when we're angry, Jesus shows us how to respond**. And in our anger, we'll be challenged to **show grace and not get hurtful**. 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 in person or at jamie@wetumpkafirst.com by **April 6th**!

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 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





Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation, we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.

Memory Verse

Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.
Ecclesiastes 4:9

Virtue

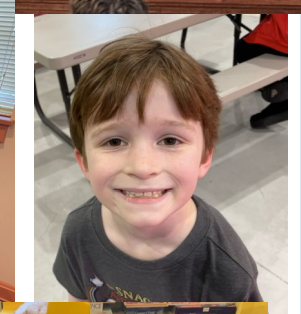
Cooperation: Working together to do more than you can do alone.

I am excited to dive into cooperation this month. We will be playing team-building games throughout the month. We will also be teaming up with parents to give them a much-needed break with our **Parent's Night Out** happening on March 8.

Breakfast

Everyone loves to know they are appreciated and that their contribution is seen! This month, since we are learning all about cooperation, we invite our volunteers to stop by the children's ministry room to grab some breakfast on your way to Sunday School on March 30.

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley



Easter Egg Hunt (5 pm) • April 13

FREE community-wide event on April 13 at 5pm! Our annual Easter Egg Hunt "Jesus Is the Light of the World" is for kids ages birth - 6th grades. Get your glow and neon gear and get ready for a new kind of egg hunt! We will have food, Frios pops, games, a special kids message, and age appropriate Easter egg hunts. Be sure to bring your Easter baskets!

- Egg Hunts
- Games
- Food
- Frios Pops
- Special Kids Message
- Giveaways
- Add this event to your calendar (COMING SOON)



Save the date!

VBS: JUNE 1—4, 2025

JONAH'S JOURNEY OF OBEDIENCE

Senior Adult Ministry

February is a month of love and the greatest comes from the Lord above. Keenagers went to a lovely lunch at the House Restaurant inside the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery. Everyone loved the restaurant. We had 29 people, 2 buses and 2 cars and a special thanks to both Marvin and Sanford for being our great drivers for this day.

Tuesday, March 11th will be our Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon at 11:45 a.m. in the family life center. Everything will be green and gold, including the food. Wear your green and gold St. Patrick's Day attire and join in the fun!!!

Tuesday, April 8th will be our Easter luncheon.
We will enjoy a spring and Easter/ Bunny hopping good time!

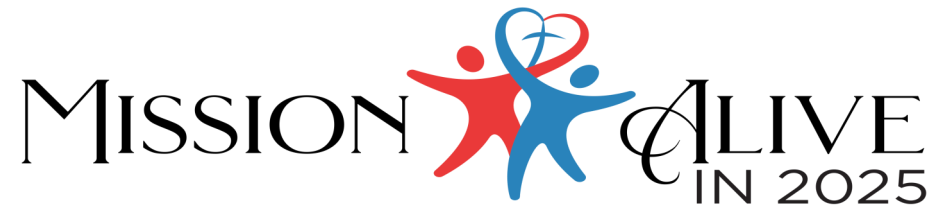
As many of you know I have been really sick for the past month so that's why this newsletter is so short but I am on the mend... see you soon!

I'll write to you next month, same time....*until then be kind.*

Always Believe, Gloria (334/312-1764)

***Tuesday, March 11th
11:45 a.m. in our FLC!
Wear your green and gold!***





Financial Stewardship Update

"Mission Alive in 2025" is the stewardship theme of our First Methodist Church Wetumpka. Praise the Lord, we're moving right along! Our church family continues to enthusiastically serve God through our faithful prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Church family, thank you for all the ways you are giving, as you are able, to the Lord.

Thanks to the solid financial outcome of calendar year 2024 and the collective commitments of our congregation to 2025, we are positioned to meet the funding needs of all areas of our vital servant ministries. May we give thanks for the following update:

2024 General Fund Spending = \$630,640.25. . . . Income = \$643,763.69

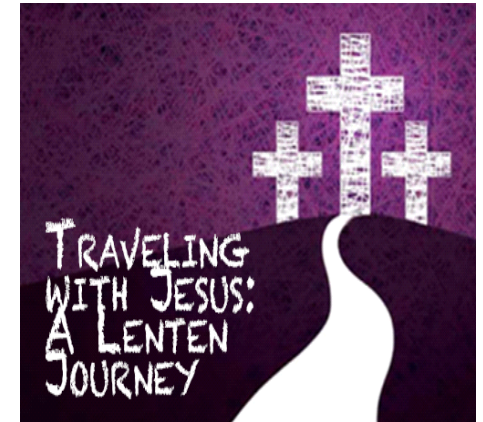
General Fund giving in 2024 increased 7.26% more than 2023. As costs in all areas of ministry have increased, we are blessed that our giving has also trended upward. Thus, our trustees can be diligent in maintaining our facilities, including addressing costly items such as to replace air conditioning units. Yes, we were able to cover our expenses.

2025 General Budget = \$656,871.00. . . . Projected Giving = \$649,599.86

Projected giving is based on the completed pledge cards of 69 givers and the continued faithful giving of 67 givers who did not complete cards, as well as loose plate offerings. God has faithfully led the continuous growth of our congregation spiritually, numerically, and through our community outreach; thus, we are confident He will provide the resources needed to accomplish the work we are called to do to His honor and glory. Yes, we are stepping out in faith!

Our church is financially sound. Quarterly, we will provide you with updates. We will continue our commitment to be good stewards of all the resources entrusted to First Methodist Church Wetumpka. You may contact Dennis Fain, Treasurer, regarding budget matters and Sonya Arnold, Financial Secretary, regarding your confidential financial gifts. Together, we ask the Holy Spirit to keep our mission fervently alive in 2025!

What is the Meaning of Lent?



Lent is a 40-day period leading up to Easter that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The word "lent" comes from the old English word *lencten* which means lengthen - referring to the season of spring and longer daytime. The length of Lent represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and reflection in preparation for observing Good Friday, the death of Jesus, and celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus.

The purpose of Lent is to draw closer to God through prayer, repentance, and self-examination. During Lent, many Christians fast or give up certain indulgences as a form of self-discipline and penance. This may include abstaining from certain foods, activities, or habits.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry.

Matthew 4:1-2

Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper so that when Maundy Thursday (Tenebrae), Good Friday and Easter Sunday come, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing graces God has to offer.

Health & Wellness Opportunities at First Methodist Church Wetumpka!



IT'S PICKLEBALL TIME!!! The pictures show our youth getting in some exercise and practicing teamwork on our pickleball court in the Family Life Center. If you've been in our FLC recently you've probably noticed the pickleball net. It is played similar to tennis or badminton. **Pickleball** is a racket or paddle sport in which two players (singles) or four players (doubles) use a smooth-faced paddle to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball over a 34-inch-high (0.86 m) net until one side is unable to return the ball or commits a rule infraction. Pickleball is played indoors and outdoors. You are invited to participate. **Check with the church office for availability of the court.** **There are also outside pickleball courts around the area.**

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR



March

1 Deuteronomy 26 – 27	16 Judges 9 – 10
2 Deuteronomy 28 – 29	17 Judges 11 – 13
3 Deuteronomy 30 – 32	18 Judges 14 – 16
4 Deuteronomy 33 – 34	19 Judges 17 – 19
5 Joshua 1 – 4	20 Judges 20 – 21
6 Joshua 5 – 7	21 Ruth 1 – 4
7 Joshua 8 – 10	22 1 Samuel 1 – 3
8 Joshua 11-13	23 1 Samuel 4 – 7
9 Joshua 14 – 17	24 1 Samuel 8 – 12
10 Joshua 18 – 20	25 1 Samuel 13 – 14
11 Joshua 21 – 22	26 1 Samuel 15 – 16
12 Joshua 23 – 24	27 1 Samuel 17 – 18
13 Judges 1 – 3	28 1 Samuel 19 – 21
14 Judges 4 – 5	29 1 Samuel 22 – 24
15 Judges 6 – 8	30 1 Samuel 25 – 27
	31 1 Samuel 28 – 31

Support Group

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each **MONDAY** in the FLC. If you know someone 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.



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



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

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

March 2025

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*Lent begins
this month with
ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship on
March 5 at 6 p.m.
in the Sanctuary.*



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

