

A Word From Our Pastor...

Surrender

I want to share some truths with you that will prepare you for life and eternal life. What is eternal life? What is everlasting life? It's eternal! It's everlasting! It is forever. When Christ was resurrected, he opened the door for the believer to live forever with him. Some say that death is the end. But for the believer, death is the beginning of life. When Dietrich Bonhoeffer the great theologian and pastor was being led to the gallows he said to the guard, "Life is about to begin for me." Death is not the end of life. Death is the end of suffering, pain, temptation, rejection, and disappointment. We could go through a whole laundry list. Death is the beginning of eternal life. The beginning of life as God intends.

Jesus said, "I'm going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." When you die, they can put your body in a vault but it can't hold you. When Christ comes back, he going to give you a new body. You may ask, "What am I going to look like?" Well, I'm not exactly sure but I can tell you this, you're going to look better than you did this morning.

Whether well-known or unknown, we are no different than any other person on the face of this earth. God's Word tells us that none of us is promised tomorrow. In fact, we do not know what the next breath may bring. In light of the fact, that we may be living in the day before our eternity, we should live our lives each day in such a way that we honor and glorify God.

The key to a victorious Christian living and enjoying the benefits of eternal life is surrender. Nothing is more important than our unconditional surrender to Jesus Christ. If you want to live in a kingdom, you have to surrender to the king. Jesus stressed surrender throughout His life on this earth. As in John 3:16 when He said, "For God so loved the world that he gave." That is surrender! In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed, "Not my will but thine." That is surrender! Prayer is surrender – to the will of God. Ministry is surrender – to the needs of others. Worship is surrender – of the self to God. We come into his house to worship Him. To put Him on the throne. In worship, God is an audience of one. It is not about us; it is about Him. He will either be Lord of all or no Lord at all. Marriage is surrender – to God's plan for two to become one. Work is surrender – so that through honest labor necessary tasks may be done.

Our whole life is one surrender after another. But one thing is clear: yesterday's surrender is not adequate for today's challenges! So daily surrender is necessary! E. Stanley Jones writes, "Jesus is God available. We become available to him through surrender! When I strut, I stumble; when I surrender, I succeed." To be a Christian is to surrender to King Jesus.

May God continue to bless you and your family throughout the month of May.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



**Come help us honor and
celebrate our mothers
on Mother's Day
Sunday, May 11.**

A small token of appreciation will be given to all the mothers in attendance. If you are able to, please bring your mother to church with you so that we can thank her for all that she does!



Mother's Day Blessing

May those with children feel
appreciated,
May those grieving empty arms
be comforted,
May those mourning and missing
the one who gave them life
be wrapped in goodness
and love today.

Tamara Rice



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

May 4—Communion

May 11—Steve Albritton

May 18—Matt & Tammy Albritton

May 25—Reserved

**SENIOR
★ CLASS OF ★
2025**

Come help us honor our high school graduates on Senior Sunday, May 18.

Our seniors this year are Ella Gilliand, Emma Gilliand and Camden Rushing. We are so proud of you!!! Remember, bibles for each graduate are on tables in Wesley Hall. Feel free to highlight a favorite verse for each senior.



Next month - VBS: JUNE 1—4, 2025

VBS TRAINING DAY

MAY 15 at 6 p.m. in the FLC.

A light dinner will be served and child care available. Anyone interested in volunteering with VBS should attend this meeting!

VBS is a great opportunity serve and share the love of Jesus with the kids in our church and community!

There are a number of ways to get involved:

- **Help with Setup, Decorations, and Behind the Scenes**
- **Volunteer for Small Groups, Crafts, Games, Kitchen and Meal Prep, etc.**

It takes all of us to make this event the biggest success possible! Whether you like to be behind the scenes, interacting with others and being more upfront, or a mixture of both, everyone can contribute their God-given skills and talents for VBS!

If you have any questions, or would like to help, please contact Ashley (ashley@wetumpkafirst.com) and attend the training meeting. THANK YOU!

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 9 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



God took the initiative to send Jesus because of our sin. Jesus came so that we could be brought back into a relationship with God, making things right again. When we see a need and choose to do something about it, people can see the reality of God's love for them. Getting started can sometimes seem like the hardest part of meeting a need. But it actually starts before then. First, we have to see the needs around us. Initiative isn't just some practical principle; it's really a spiritual principle that starts with God. God took initiative on our behalf by seeing that our relationship was broken and needed to be fixed. So God sent Jesus to make it right. And because we are made in God's image, we are wired to be able to take initiative and get things done, too.

Memory Verse

"None of you should look out just for your own good.
Each of you should also look out for the good of others."
Philippians 2:4, NIV

Virtue

Initiative: Seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

The Bridge is coming to a close for the school year. We have all had so much fun making memories together. Our end-of-the-year party is on May 21st. Get excited to end the year with Game Day Splash! Speaking of making a splash, save the date for this year's VBS, DEEP Jonah's Journey of Obedience on June 1-4 from 5:30-8 p.m.

Thank you to all our volunteers for making this school year memorable. We could not have pulled off The Bridge without each one of you.

Blessings,
Mrs. Ashley



It's almost time to celebrate our amazing seniors' upcoming academic and life accomplishments!! We are so excited to gather with our whole church family on May 18th during the 10 a.m. worship service to encourage; cheer on; and let our seniors **Camden Rushing, Ella Gilliland, and Emma Gilliland** know we are all here to support them during and beyond this time of excitement, big feelings, and huge transition! If you reach out to or see them before then, let them know you are proud of them and praying for them too. I know it would mean the world to them!

Speaking of exciting transitions, **Promotion Sunday is May 25th!** We can't wait for all the upcoming 7th 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 Series: What If...

Some of the most incredible pieces of art were created when the artist wondered, "What if I ... ?" Their curiosity inspired them to look at what was in front of them to imagine something entirely different. As we grow closer to God, we realize that God asks us to do something similar—to look through the hurt, pain, and evil in the world and wonder what it might look like for things to be different. In this month's series from the New Testament and Prophets, we'll wonder about, discuss, and explore together what it might look like to be a part of making a difference as we explore questions like **what if God wants you to meet someone's needs, rest, help others heal, or make wrong things right?**

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 jamie@wetumpkafirst.com 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 was a blessed, wonderfully joyful time. Spring is here to stay! We had a beautiful spring Easter luncheon. Debbie, Julie, Tonja and Jamie did all of the decorating and it was a lovely place for our luncheon. **Please think about adding the second Tuesday Keenager days to your calendar. You do not have to cook or do anything if you do not want to— it is strictly on a volunteer basis. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the luncheons.**

Because he lives I can face tomorrow, Hallelujah Jesus has risen! Easter is always such a joyful time! He suffered bled and died on the cross to save all of us!

On Tuesday, May 13th Keenagers will be taking a road trip to Montgomery to the White Water Adventures site. I have not seen this in person as I am sure some of you have not either so I thought it might be interesting to see because sometimes on TV we can see events that are happening there. We will eat there so we will only have to get off the bus one time. It would be a lunch probably of sandwiches, etc.

June will be a beach theme lunch so make sure and put a big K on Tuesday the 10th.

*The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said Look the **Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 NIV*

Always Believe, Gloria (334/312-1764)

The sweetest bunny and her helper came to our Keenagers Easter luncheon...



CORNERSTONE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS CHILI COOK-OFF!!!

We had a wonderful chili cook-off at The Waters hosted by John and Scarlotte Holmes!!!

The Chili was all so wonderful we don't know how the judges made their decision.

The contenders were Mark Matthews, Trip Weldon, and Jim Rushing. The winner was.... drum rollllll—Jim!

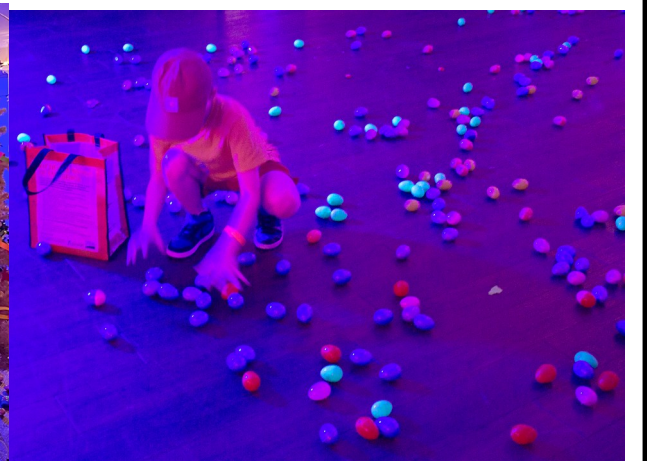
The deserts were out of this world.

We are already looking forward to next year!



Pictures from some of our Easter events...look for more next month!





Palm Sunday...



*An Opportunity to
Serve **Our Church**
and **Community...***

*What are YOU doing
Monday evening?*



Christian Fellowship
Overcoming Problems, Fears,
and/or Addictions

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 with hurts, habits, and hang ups. This program has been proven to be very successful and the group is growing!!!

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

Will you:

- Commit to pray for the group?
- Come help prepare a meal one Monday night?
- Come and just be present on Mondays to offer support to the group?

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.

You can make a REAL difference!

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR



May

1 1 Chronicles 7 – 9	18 Ezra 1 – 4
2 1 Chronicles 10 – 12	19 Ezra 5 – 7
3 1 Chronicles 13 – 16	20 Ezra 8 – 10
4 1 Chronicles 17 – 19	21 Nehemiah 1 – 3
5 1 Chronicles 20 – 23	22 Nehemiah 4 – 7
6 1 Chronicles 24 – 26	23 Nehemiah 8 – 10
7 1 Chronicles 27 – 29	24 Nehemiah 11 – 13
8 2 Chronicles 1 – 4	25 Esther 1 – 5
9 2 Chronicles 5 – 7	26 Esther 6 – 10
10 2 Chronicles 8 – 11	27 Job 1 – 4
11 2 Chronicles 12 – 16	28 Job 5 – 8
12 2 Chronicles 17 – 20	29 Job 9 – 12
13 2 Chronicles 21 – 24	30 Job 13 – 16
14 2 Chronicles 25 – 28	31 Job 17 – 20
15 2 Chronicles 29 – 31	
16 2 Chronicles 32 – 34	
17 2 Chronicles 35 – 36	



05/02	Pearl	Albritton	05/10	Harrison	Smith
05/03	Gloria	Johnson	05/12	Janice	Whorton
05/03	Debbie	Jennings	05/12	Zeb	Pugh
05/04	Annie Pearl	Pugh	05/13	Nancy	Holdbrooks
05/04	Eric	Brent	05/17	Kristy	Graham
05/05	Jamie	Goll	05/18	Larry	Mann
05/06	Mark	Matthews	05/19	Maggie	Van Wagner
05/06	Euriah	Smith	05/29	William	Cousins
05/07	Pamela	Kennedy	05/31	Paul	Henderson



05/09	Ryan & Amanda Pugh
05/13	Ronald & Deanna Nelson
05/21	Dennis & Lynda Fain
05/22	Jerry & Alice Barnhart
05/25	Jimmy & Cheri Martin
05/30	Ronald & Brysene Lee
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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May 2025



IN THIS ISSUE:

- From our Pastor
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Sunday School News
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group
- Pictures, pictures, pictures!

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.



Join us as we
celebrate our
mothers on
Sunday, May 11

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