

## A Word From Our Pastor...

Sometimes we forget that God created us for something better than wandering aimlessly through life. God created us for a purpose and that purpose is fulfilled when we embrace the spiritual gifts that he has given each of us. When we discover these gifts, we find our true joy and place in life where we can serve God with gratitude.

There's a famous scene in the movie *Chariots of Fire* where future Olympian Eric Liddell feels a tension between his chance to be an Olympic runner and his calling to be a missionary in China. Eventually, he tells his sister he will go to the Olympics and then to the mission field, because both honor God. "God made me for a purpose, for China," Liddell says, "But he also made me fast, and when I run, I feel his pleasure. To give that up would be to hold him in contempt." Liddell's quote reminds us that all gifts and talents are given by God to glorify him. Paul writes, "So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." So, whatever we are doing (provided it is not a sinful activity), we serve God by doing it well and for his glory.

The Bible also makes it clear that we do not own our gifts. We are fearfully and wonderfully made by God, according to plans he laid out before we were born, to glorify him forever. In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus reminds us that the Master gave "to each according to his own ability." The fact that the master owns the money and gets the results of their investments; highlights who is in control. This parable should encourage us and challenge us to take what God has given us and invest it in the kingdom of God. Because there is great reward waiting for those who serve God well with what He has given them.

In the parable Jesus is not talking about money, he's talking about stewardship and preparedness. Jesus is delegating to his disciples the responsibility of caring for his kingdom. Jesus impresses upon them the weight of that responsibility and the consequences of neglecting to understand and apply his instructions. The foundation of the parable really begins with verse 13: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." This is the reason that it is a parable about stewardship and preparedness—because eventually, Jesus is coming back.

I hope you can see the parallels. Jesus came to earth, called his disciples, entrusted them with the message of the gospel, and departed when he ascended back to heaven. By the way, verse 19 completes this snapshot: "After a long time, the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them." This verse is a reminder that one day Jesus will come back and each of us will have to give an account. This is one of the main truths in this story. The parable of the talents is a reminder that Jesus is coming back and we have some work to do. If you look closely enough, you may find yourself in this story.

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

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



## Welcome Back Everyone!

We hope that you were able to enjoy a nice break, catch your breath, and you're ready to get settled in to the month of August.

Here we go.....



**Saturday, August 2 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

**Our community back-to-school Touch a Truck Block Party!** There will be trucks, food, fun and lots of giveaways. Everyone is welcome! **Admission is FREE but we are asking for donations of school supplies.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THE DAY OF THE EVENT:**

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Setup/cleanup           | Parking                 |
| Registration table      | Hand out food           |
| Crowd Control for train | Trucks/vehicles         |
| Bounce house            | Nurse/First Aid station |

**Please see Ashley of Jamie if you're interested in volunteering!**





Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

August 3—Communion  
 August 10—William & Ashley Cousins  
 August 17—Frances Borders  
 August 24—Carl & Sharon Bledsoe  
 August 31—Judi Daniels

## KITCHEN AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

and anyone interested in joining this wonderful ministry...it's very important to attend an Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, August 6 at Noon in our FLC (lunch provided) to get ready to resume our ministry. Volunteers may participate in either/both of our Sunday and Wednesday meal prep and delivery or choose to serve as a substitute. If you have any questions please give Janice Whorton a call at 334/782-2707 or call the church office.



Mark your calendars...

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT KICK OFF IS AUGUST 20...**



We're kicking off our Wednesday activities with an old-fashioned fish fry! **Join us from 5:15—6 p.m. in the FLC on August 20 for a delicious plate of fish, hushpuppies and all the trimmings!** Our Wednesday evening meals are free for everyone to enjoy, but donations are VERY much appreciated so that we can continue to serve amazing meals. Come early and enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal before Bible study.

### Here's what else is beginning on the August 20...

The children and youth will resume bus pickup from school at 3 p.m. followed by fun and Bible study.

### Two Adult Bible Studies will begin.

Brother Matt will be teaching a new study, *"Life Lessons from Romans"* by Max Lucado. Books will be handed out the first night of class. Class meets upstairs in the Cornerstone Classroom at 6 p.m.

Have you ever wondered about why we do certain liturgies in our Sunday worship? Jennifer Daniels will be leading a study in *"The Apostles' Creed"*, why we recite it and more importantly what each line of it means? Class will meet in the Church Library at 6 p.m.

## Join us each week for...

### **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) (Beginning August 20)
- 3 p.m.—Children & Youth bus pickup
- 5:15—6 p.m.—Come enjoy a meal & fellowship
- 6 p.m.—Adult Bible studies
- 6 p.m.—Chancel Choir Practice

### **THURSDAY:**

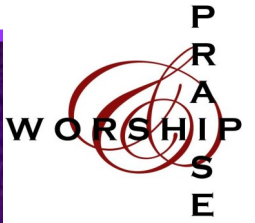
Men's Breakfast & Bible Study  
 7 a.m. at Burger King

### **FRIDAY:**

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

**Keenagers** will meet on August 12.  
 (See details in this newsletter)

**SIS** (Sisters In Service) will meet on August 25.







Throughout the month, we will take a closer look at the origins of our faith! Kids are concrete thinkers, and while faith comes easily to some, others struggle to believe in a God they can't see with their own eyes. That's why it's so important to help kids understand that faith in God isn't a "blind leap." We may not be able to see God with our physical eyes, but we can see the countless things that God has done and the promises that God has fulfilled.

### Memory Verse

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see."  
Hebrews 11:1

### Virtue

Faith: Trusting in what you can not see because of what you can see

As the summer break comes to a close, we are gearing up to start a new school year. The Bridge will officially kick off on August 20th, and I am looking forward to seeing all of the kids back on Wednesday afternoons. **If you are interested in volunteering for this year's Bridge program, please let me know so we can get you plugged in!**

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley







August is here! I am so excited to see how God continues to move in and through the lives of our students and student ministry as school starts back, the Bridge (our afterschool ministry on Wednesdays) kicks off on the 20<sup>th</sup>, we get to have a blast and continue building relationships at a pool party and other regular weekly hangouts, use our time and talents to show the love of Christ to our community by helping at the Touch A Truck event, and more! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your continued investment in the lives of our students through encouragement, prayer, volunteering, and donations of any kind! We all are so blessed to be part of this church family!

### This Month's Series: Restart

In a video game, you expect to face challenges and make mistakes, but there's always a way out. If things get too difficult, you can turn it off and start over. In real life, it's not so easy for us to recover from mistakes or start over when we face challenges, but Jesus gives us a chance to restart— no matter how difficult our circumstances. This month we'll look at and discuss a few people from the Old and New Testament who needed God's help to give them a restart. From their stories, we'll discover four promises from God we can trust: **when we feel like a failure, God helps us restart**, and at times in our lives, **when we feel overwhelmed, God takes care of us**. If you ever **feel stuck, God gives you guidance**, and if you ever **feel unwanted, God says you belong**.

For all the other exciting weekly hangouts and community-building events happening this month, please check out our page on the church's website, and/or contact me at [jamie@wetumpkafirst.com](mailto: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



Going to camp is so fun...







# WHAT ARE MY... Spiritual Gifts?

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

The Bible speaks of "spiritual gifts," as 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 direction in discovering your spiritual gifts, Brother Matt has a guide that can help. Ask for a copy today!

## *Praise and Worship and Baptisms at Camp...*





# Senior Adult *Ministry*

Keenagers enjoyed a break in July but we are ready to kickoff August with a yummy **Fresh Vegetable Lunch** on **Tuesday, August 12 at 11:45 a.m.** in our **Family Life Center**. Everyone is invited to participate!

**Vegetable Lunch! YUM!**



*(Please note: Gloria is quick to remember each of us when we are not feeling well, so, please remember her in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from recent back surgery. We are hoping by August 12 she will be able to join us).*

**Always believe,  
Gloria 334-312-1764**



*What an awesome time of food and fellowship at the Cornerstone Sunday School Class Hot dog/Ice cream Social on July 20! What better time to enjoy ice cream right?!?*







## THE BRIDGE

**Empowering Students to Connect  
in Christ and Community**

### GET INVOLVED!

Make an eternal impact in the lives of kids and youth by volunteering at our Wednesday after school program! We are looking for:

- Church Bus Drivers / Riders  
No CDL required • Only needed to pickup kids after school
- Small Group Leaders / Class Helpers
- Food Donations (Snacks, Baked Goods, etc.)
- Elective Leaders (Crafts, Games, Music, etc.)
- Help with Homework (Kids / Youth)
- Behind the Scenes Help (Organization, Decorations, Shopping, Paperwork, etc.)



See Ashley or Jamie to  
volunteer, or learn more at  
[www.wetumpkafirst.com/bridge](http://www.wetumpkafirst.com/bridge).



### *Urgent Need on Wednesday afternoons...*

We are excited that we have a ministry where we can offer school age children the opportunity to come to church on Wednesdays!!! **We are in immediate need of bus drivers.** Bus Drivers are only needed to pick up kids from school (2 p.m.—3:15 p.m.) and transport them to the church. No CDL required. Our insurance requires that you are insurable under your own personal vehicle and under the age of 75. Because the children are involved a background check will be done through Ministry Safe at no cost to you.

**We are also looking for more teachers/helpers for our after school program, The Bridge.** **If you can only volunteer on a part-time basis, it would be a great help.**

If you're interested in impacting the lives of our kids on Wednesday afternoons, contact Ashley, Jamie, or the church office right away as our Wednesdays resume on August 20.



### **ANNOUNCING SOMETHING NEW COMING SOON...**

Watch your bulletin and emails for exciting details of a NEW Young Adult Couples/Single Adults Sunday School Class and a College and Career Class coming soon!

### **STAY CONNECTED...**

**Reminders, announcements and prayer requests are shared through our church email.**

So don't forget to update the church office with any changes in your email address. Also please update any changes in your mailing address or phone number.





## READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR



1 Isaiah 60 – 63  
2 Isaiah 64 – 66  
3 Jeremiah 1 – 3  
4 Jeremiah 4 – 5  
5 Jeremiah 6 – 8  
6 Jeremiah 9 – 11  
7 Jeremiah 12 – 14  
8 Jeremiah 15 – 17  
9 Jeremiah 18 – 21  
10 Jeremiah 22 – 24  
11 Jeremiah 25 – 27  
12 Jeremiah 28 – 30  
13 Jeremiah 31 – 32  
14 Jeremiah 33 – 36  
15 Jeremiah 37 – 39  
16 Jeremiah 40 – 43  
17 Jeremiah 44 – 46  
18 Jeremiah 47 – 48  
19 Jeremiah 49  
20 Jeremiah 50

## August

21 Jeremiah 51 – 52  
22 Lamentations 1 – 2  
23 Lamentations 3 – 5  
24 Ezekiel 1 – 4  
25 Ezekiel 5 – 8  
26 Ezekiel 9 – 12  
27 Ezekiel 13 – 15  
28 Ezekiel 16 – 17  
29 Ezekiel 18 – 20  
30 Ezekiel 21 – 22  
31 Ezekiel 23 – 24

### Support Group

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each **MONDAY** in the FLC. 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.



|       |           |           |       |         |          |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|----------|
| 08/01 | Ed        | Hughes    | 08/19 | Lynda   | Fain     |
| 08/05 | Bruce     | Barber    | 08/19 | Carrie  | Carden   |
| 08/07 | Gigi      | Hankins   | 08/21 | Chris   | Goll     |
| 08/09 | Lynda     | Estabrook | 08/21 | Mack    | Caton    |
| 08/09 | Ricky     | Roberts   | 08/23 | Penni   | Buckelew |
| 08/11 | Rick      | Tyler     | 08/26 | Joyce   | Carter   |
| 08/12 | Lee       | Macon     | 08/26 | Vickie  | Logan    |
| 08/13 | Linda     | Prine     | 08/27 | Ashley  | Gilliand |
| 08/14 | Sophie    | Arant     | 08/28 | Lee     | Cash     |
| 08/15 | Cornbread | Al Frith  | 08/28 | Joe     | McDonald |
| 08/15 | Holly     | Chatman   | 08/31 | Shelton | Prine    |
| 08/16 | Mark      | Jennings  | 08/31 | Kelly   | Roth     |
| 08/17 | Sherry    | Braddam   | 08/31 | Andrea  | Farquhar |
| 08/17 | Allannah  | Tindal    |       |         |          |
| 08/17 | Earl      | Singleton |       |         |          |



|       |                       |       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 08/04 | Ted & Frances Watts   | 08/11 | Ben & Rachel Williams |
| 08/04 | Jerry & Kathy Willis  | 08/27 | Trip & Mary Weldon    |
| 08/07 | Mack & Teresa Caton   | 08/28 | Bruce & Marilyn Knapp |
| 08/10 | Johnny & Joyce Carter | 08/31 | Mac & Mary Patchel    |

*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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## August 2025



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- From our Pastor
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- New events for August
- Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group
- Pictures, pictures, pictures!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR  
**A PLACE  
TO SERVE?**

### Good News!!!!

This issue of our church newsletter is full of **NEW Opportunities** to participate and to volunteer!!!  
**Check it out...**



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