

A Word From Our Pastor...

The Will of God

You cannot live the Christian life by yourself. The Holy Spirit must live in you and express Himself through you. Living for Christ is a day-by-day experience. It is the will of God that we **walk in daily dependence** upon the **Holy Spirit**. Walking always implies movement, progress, and direction. You are allowing the Holy Spirit to live Christ's life through you.

Paul prays that we his readers will “know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19). It is God's desire that we seek Him for the **fullness** of the Spirit's work in and through our lives. It is a continuous dependence upon the Spirit of God. It is believing in God's faithfulness.

Three wrong responses that undermine the will of God in our lives are **resisting**, **grieving**, and **quenching** the Spirit of the Lord. When Stephen was on trial before the religious leaders of Israel, he preached a powerful sermon declaring the faithfulness of God toward His consistently unfaithful nation. He concluded his message with a pointed, radical, accurate evaluation. “*You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!*” (Acts 7:51).

Here we are given the kind of attitudes that oppose the work of the Spirit. These people were “*stiff-necked*.” They were stubborn and self-willed. They wanted their will, not the will of God. They also had “*uncircumcised hearts and ears*.” They did not allow God to cut away the carnality of their inner being. They would not allow God to speak to them through His messengers. They were self-righteous and self-sufficient. When we conduct ourselves in this same manner, we also are “**resisting the Holy Spirit**.” *We have to embrace the righteousness of Christ and trust in the sufficiency of God.*

When Paul was writing to the church at Ephesus, he commanded them: “**Do not grieve the Holy Spirit**” (Ephesians 4:30). In the next verse he indicated the dispositions that bring grief to the Spirit of God. “*Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*” Yes, the Holy Spirit is a person, not a mere power or influence. He can be saddened by our behavior. When we, God's people, harbor bitterness in our hearts and malicious words in our mouths, then we are “**grieving the Holy Spirit of God**.” We have to let go of the past and free ourselves for joyful obedience.

When Paul wrote to the saints at Thessalonica, he instructed them: “**Do not quench the Spirit**” (Thessalonians 5:19). Just as a fire can be quenched, the promptings of the Holy Spirit can be stifled. As we read the word of God, the Spirit can be stirring a spiritual fire of conviction within us. Will we respond to that heavenly influence, or will we suppress it? When the Lord is igniting a vision of service to Him, will we quench the Holy Spirit, or will we serve the Lord willingly? When the Lord is calling us to intercessory prayer, will we cry out to Him or will we suppress that desire He is kindling? Will we allow the Spirit to blaze within our hearts, or will we “**quench the Spirit?**”

May God continue to bless you and your family during the month of September as you embrace the will of God for your lives.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



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)
- 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

September 9

(See details in this newsletter)

**SIS (Sisters In Service) will meet
on September 22.**



SEPTEMBER

Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

September 7—Communion

September 14—Jim & Wanda Rushing

September 21—Margie Roate

September 28—Carl & Sharon Bledsoe

AVAILABLE DATES COMING UP:

October 26 and November 30.

KITCHEN AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

We kicked off our homebound and Wednesday evening meals on August 20 with a delicious fish fry!



URGENT NEED:

More volunteers for Sunday meal delivery.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please give Janice Whorton a call at 334/782-2707 or call the church office.

We've kicked off our Wednesday activities!

The children and youth have bus pickup from school at 3 p.m. followed by fun, snacks, meal and Bible study.

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 from 5:15—6 p.m. in the FLC and enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal before Bible study.

Two Adult Bible Studies:

Brother Matt is teaching a study, *"Life Lessons from Romans"* by Max Lucado. 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 is 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.

CHOIR PRACTICE AT 6 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL.

**HAPPY LABOR
DAY
MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 1**



TRAILS TEMPLE
MINISTRY

TRAILS TEMPLE MINISTRY Is anyone interested in some "Trail Walks" this fall?" If enough people are interested, we will fire it back up!

Open to all church members and friends!
Join us on monthly trail walks in the area.
The purpose is to:

1. Enjoy God's beautiful creation,
2. Exercise our "temple" and fellowship,
3. Have a very short devotional on completion. It's something anyone can enjoy and it's good for everyone.



Thoughts? Email Carl Bledsoe at pharmcarl@gmail.com to sign up!

We hope to see YOU on the trails!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Annual United

Appeal Bake Sale

Fundraiser immediately

after the 10 a.m. worship service!

Watch for more exciting details...





God has given each of us a key role to play in His story—but that doesn't mean the journey will be easy. As we continue to follow the journey of God's people, we discover that Moses wasn't ready for his leading role; that Joshua and Caleb had to go against the flow; that Rahab put everything on the line for the sake of a God worshiped by her enemies; and that Ruth set aside the safety of home to forge into the unknown. God's people were on the move, but every new step was an act of courage.

While we aren't facing down an Egyptian ruler or setting off for new lands, we still need courage to do difficult things every single day. From speaking up in class to starting a conversation with a new kid to facing a doctor visit, we all need the help of God's Holy Spirit. In fact, courage means trusting God to help us be brave. When we choose to rely on God's help to do something hard, even when we are afraid, others can see God at work—and on the move. It's hard to be brave. But when we look at God's Big Story, we can reflect on how He can help us be brave even when things are scary or hard.

Memory Verse

"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."
Psalm 56:3

I am so excited that The Bridge is back! I have loved seeing all the Kids' smiling faces every week. This year, we are upping the fun with art, games, and Bible time every week! Remember, it is never too late to join the fun. Save the date! Parents' Night Out is back on September 27! Please make sure you are on Church Center to stay in the know on everything happening with the Children's ministry.

As always, I want to say thank you to all of our sweet volunteers who make all of these programs possible. We love you!

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley





Our Touch-A-Truck was a HUGE success!!!



Our Children's and Youth Ministries are providing a night of childcare!

- Has it been forever since you have gotten to unwind and relax?
- Do you and your spouse need a date night?
- Can you benefit from a kid-free evening?

Parenting is hard and as a church, we want to partner with our parents. We believe pouring into our parents and marriage is a significant way to do that. We are providing a night of childcare for you to just relax or possibly go on a date.

Event Details:

This event lasts for 3 hours and provides kids with pizza, dessert, crafts, games, a movie, activities, and more!

- **Who can attend:** Kids 6 months - 6th grade
- **When:** Saturday, September 27th from 5-8 pm
- **Where:** The Family Life Center at First Methodist Church Wetumpka
- **Cost:** This event is free to attend. Donations are appreciated for the Youth Camp Winter Fundraiser.

If you have any questions, please email Ashley, Children's Director, at ashley@wetumpkafirst.com.



This month, we are so blessed with opportunities to continue using our time, talents, and gifts to bless others by helping with Parents' Night Out and preparing for Candy Crawl and Fall Festival in October! We will also get to join with other student ministries to shine the love of Christ to our community at the See You at the Pole prayer rally in addition to making awesome memories and growing in His likeness at all our other weekly hangouts! Please also check out our Student Ministry Winter Camp fundraiser table on Wednesdays (in the Family Life Center before and during dinner) and Sunday mornings (before and after 10am worship) the 10th-24th of this month to learn more about it and invest in their spiritual journey through encouragement, purchasing something, or giving a donation. Thank you as always for all your support and prayers!

This Month's Series: Good Call

Coaches help their teams by guiding them towards good decisions. They create the strategy, put together a game plan, and send their players out to make it happen. Wouldn't it be nice for someone to do that for our decisions? Thankfully, God gives us wisdom and is the best coach possible! This month, we'll look at and discuss Proverbs and the Epistles together as we learn more about the wisdom God offers to make Godly decisions that not only help us but everyone else as well. We'll see that **wise people practice what God has said and share what God has given them.** We'll also look at how the Holy Spirit helps **wise people follow God's guidance** and how **wise people's words show God's love.**

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 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

Hello my Keenagers (Senior Adults). I am really needing to see all of you soon. I had an in-depth back surgery on July 21. Doctor Whisenhunt is awesome. I am healing good but he has not said I can come back to work yet, hope it is soon.

I know Celestra and her crew are filling in for me and that y'all are being served well. It is so nice to have such good working companions that they can just step in and fill your shoes when you aren't there. I do not know if I will be in attendance for the upcoming **Italian Lunch** but I know it will be a good one— **so everyone come out at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, September 9th in the family life center.** Ohhhhhh and I think I heard someone say something about bingo after lunch...that will be great.

I am thankful for all the phone calls, love, prayers and cards I have received, I hold each one in my heart.

There are many in our churches and communities that are sick in some way, touch us all Lord we pray.

So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

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



Youth Winter Camp Fundraiser

- Wrapping Paper • Ornaments • Candles
- Christmas Decorations • Kitchen Essentials
- Cookies, Nuts, and Chocolates • Gifts & more!

Want to invest in our students going to Winter Camp in January?! See Jamie, a youth, visit our table in Wesley Hall (Sundays) or the FLC (Wednesdays) from September 10th through the 24th, or scan the QR code on this form to place an order. Checks, cash, and cards accepted.



IF YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THESE ITEMS, OR WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION IN ADDITION TO PURCHASING THEM, FINANCIAL GIFTS FOR CAMP ARE ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATED!



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.



A GREAT BIG SHOUT OUT to those who've stepped up and are driving our bus to local schools to pick up our children!

In addition to the bus driver, our MINISTRY SAFE GUIDELINES require us to have a RIDER on each bus. A rider will mark the names off as the kids enter the bus to make sure everyone is aboard, and is a second set of eyes on the bus to make sure each child has a safe trip from school to the church. **Time requirement is only one hour each Wednesday from 2:15—3:15 p.m.**

As our Wednesdays grow, 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, that would be so helpful!

Can't be here to participate in our Wednesday activities? Then Sunday mornings is the place to be! Teachers/helpers always needed.

If you're interested in impacting the lives of our kids on SUNDAY MORNINGS OR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS, contact Ashley, Jamie, or the church office right away... THANK YOU!



Begins at 9 a.m. each Sunday!

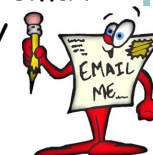
Need help finding a class? Stop by the church office and someone can assist you in finding just the right class for you.

Has the Lord placed it upon your heart to begin a new class to meet a particular need? Contact Brother Matt or call the church office to set up an appointment with Brother Matt.

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



SEPTEMBER

1 Ezekiel 25 – 27	16 Hosea 10 – 14
2 Ezekiel 28 – 30	17 Joel 1 – 3 1
3 Ezekiel 31 – 32	18 Amos 1 – 4
4 Ezekiel 33 – 35	19 Amos 5 – 9
5 Ezekiel 36 – 38	20 Obadiah 1
6 Ezekiel 39 – 40	21 Jonah 1 – 4
7 Ezekiel 41 – 43	22 Micah 1 – 4
8 Ezekiel 44 – 46	23 Micah 5 – 7
9 Ezekiel 47 – 48	24 Nahum 1 – 3
10 Daniel 1 – 3 1	25 Habakkuk 1 – 3
11 Daniel 4 – 5	26 Zephaniah 1 – 3
12 Daniel 6 – 8	27 Haggai 1 – 2
13 Daniel 9 – 12	28 Zechariah 1 – 5
14 Hosea 1 – 4	29 Zechariah 6 – 10
15 Hosea 5 – 9	30 Zechariah 11 – 14

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.**



09/02	Tara	Dozier	09/17	William	Lambert
09/04	Christina	Knuckles	09/19	Leighton	Greenlee
09/07	Bekah	Williams	09/24	Sharon	Bledsoe
09/09	Larry	Dozier	09/24	Judi	Daniels
09/13	Ray	Daniels	09/25	Carl	Bledsoe
09/13	Shelia	Sealy	09/26	Fran	Chance
09/14	Sean	Rider	09/26	Anna	Knuckles
09/14	Lou	Tatum			
09/14	Rick	Futch			
09/15	Tim	Lawrence			
09/15	Jon Luke	Arant			



09/07	Hughett & Mardre Williams
09/16	Carl & Sharon Bledsoe
09/19	Neal & Leah Pridgen
09/29	Larry & Marilyn Dozier
09/30	Ed & Lisa Hughes

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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September 2025



IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
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- 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