

A Word From Our Pastor: “The Things of God”

One organization says that the mind is a terrible thing to waste and it is. We waste our minds on filth, on drugs, on alcohol, on Facebook or anything else that keeps us from being focused on the things of God. It has been said that we only use about 10% of our mind. Would you ever consider living in 10% of your house or living on 10% of your income? Probably not, so why waste 90% of your mind.

In Matthew 16 we read, “From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.’”

Prior to this encounter, Jesus asked his disciples, ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Peter gives an A+ answer when he says: ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ From Jesus’ point of view this is a brilliant answer. Peter got it right! Jesus even goes on to say, ‘You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.’ I can’t think of higher praise than this from Jesus. Few places in the Gospels does Jesus lavish such high praise on another person.

I can’t believe any of us would enjoy praise more than when we receive it from a teacher or a mentor. Most people I know really light up when a teacher says, ‘That’s a very good answer,’ or ‘Excellent job, you’ve certainly done your homework.’

Do you remember when someone heaped praise on you this way? If you do then perhaps you can relate to how Peter felt when Jesus, the ultimate teacher, praised him. It was as if Jesus said to him, ‘Peter, come to the head of the class.’ Unfortunately, we all know that Peter’s brilliance was short-lived.

It happened like this, after Peter’s correct answer, Jesus explained exactly what ‘The Messiah, the Son of the living God’ really meant. In fact, Jesus did not exactly tell the gathered disciples, rather: ‘Jesus began to show his disciples.’ Perhaps Jesus even demonstrated what it meant to undergo ‘great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes.’

Apparently, this dose of reality from Jesus was too much for Peter, because that’s when Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. No doubt, Peter had begun to realize not only what was going to happen to Jesus but what was also going to happen to those who follow such a Messiah.

So, what is the reason for Peter’s apparent fall from grace? My best guess is that Peter is not setting his mind on ‘the things of God.’ Jesus’ statement is the fundamental line of the passage and it serves as a warning against double-mindedness. To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be a person without a divided mind. We are as we think. To have a divided mind is to sit on the fence, and fence-sitting creates second-rate disciples. To be a good and faithful disciple, we must make-up our minds about who the Messiah is and then follow Jesus on his terms and not on our terms.

As you continue to follow Jesus on his terms, trust God’s higher purpose and plans for your life. Align your will with his, even if it requires sacrifices and challenges. During the month of November, may God continue to bless you and your family.

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:

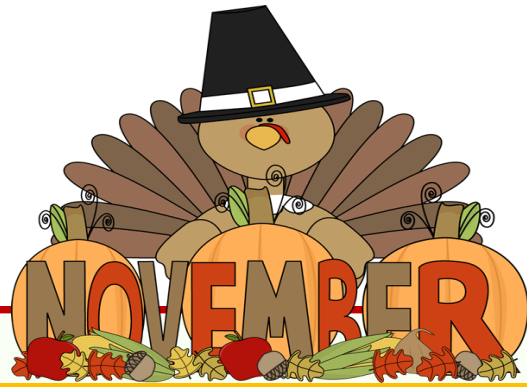
Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study
7 a.m. at Burger King

FRIDAY:

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

**Keenagers will meet on
November 11 (See details in this
newsletter)**

**SIS (Sisters In Service) will meet
on November 17 at The Wharf
at 1:30 p.m.**



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

November 2—Communion

November 9—Celestra Rowell

November 16—Georgette Norman

November 23 -Nell Head

November 30 (Available—call the church office)



NOVEMBER 11, 2025

**We owe so much to our veterans.
Please thank our local veterans when
you see them. To our church family
who are veterans—**

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!

*Please note: The church offices will be
closed on Tuesday, November 11.*



**TRAILS TEMPLE
MINISTRY**

TRAILS TEMPLE MINISTRY

Thanks to all who participated in last month's trail walk. It was a beautiful day and a great walk. The pictures were gorgeous!

**The trail walk this month will be on Saturday,
November 22 at Fort Toulouse at 9 A.M.**

There are a myriad of trails and Fort Toulouse Road itself that can be walked and add up to 6 miles if you like. We will also have a lunch picnic at one of the pavilions about 11 A.M., thanks to a generous donor to our ministry. Please invite your friends to join us on this adventure and, remember, we will need to know as close as possible to an exact count in order to bring the proper amount of food. Email Carl Bledsoe to sign up at pharmcarl@gmail.com



*We are
collecting items
for shoeboxes!*



*Please make
donations by
Nov. 9th!*

Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Join us as we collect toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and more that fit in a shoebox! Drop off locations are available throughout the church. Learn more: www.wetumpkafirst.com/occ

**Everyone is invited to our
Shoebox Packing Party on
Sunday, November 9 right after
the 10 a.m. worship service to
begin getting the boxes ready
for shipment.**

**Shoebox donations will be
accepted through Sunday,
November 16.**

**Our deadline to get them to the
drop off location for transport
is November 24.**





People build their lives on all kinds of stories: Acing every test. Being the funny kid. keeping the peace. Doing enough good things. But every single one of those foundations, alone, will crumble. The only safe story on which to build is the true story of a God who created us and loves us so much that when we turned away, God continued to pursue us. God chose a people and promised through them to bless the whole world. And God fulfilled that promise by sending Jesus to rescue and redeem us. When we begin to understand this story and allow it to inform everything in our lives, we can live from a place of quiet confidence, knowing God is always with us and is able to work every single thing we face into a beautiful pattern for our good.

This month, our series is called Bedrock: Building confidence in God block by block. We're exploring some larger-than-life characters from God's story who lived during the decline of Israel and Judah and the following exile. These individuals chose to—or failed to—place the full weight of their lives on trust in God. Through stories of Elijah, Jonah, Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah, we see how making choices from a foundation of trust changes everything about the way you live.

Memory Verse:

**"Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."
Isaiah 40:31**

Application: Confidence: Living like you believe God is with you.

It's hard to believe that November is already here. November is a time for us to appreciate everything we have and to come together in family and friendship. We will be working with the young adult class to pack boxes for Operation Shoebox on November 9, right after the 10 am service. On November 16, we invite parents to join our parent and young adult class for a potluck right after the service. Children are welcome to stay and join in the fellowship. The children will be having a Friendsgiving on November 19 during The Bridge.

If you have not, please download the Church Center app to get updates on everything that is happening in our children's ministry. And as always, thank you to our amazing volunteers!

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley



During November, God's daily blessings, both big and small, can naturally be on our hearts more often. To help us intentionally reflect on these gifts and continue to grow in gratitude for them, this month we will focus on these personal and collective blessings and how God calls us to use our talents, gifts, and time to bless our church and surrounding community during our weekly lesson series and discussions, our Thanksgiving party, our thankfulness challenge that lasts through Christmas, by helping prepare and pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and more!

This Month's Series: On Repeat

Have you ever found a playlist that felt like it was made exactly for you? When music connects with us, we want to play the songs on repeat because we never get tired of hearing them. When Jesus taught his followers what it looked like to live for God, He wanted them to get that same feeling too. This month, we will explore, discuss, and learn together from the book of Mark how we can make loving like Jesus a daily part of our lives. He shows us that **listening, loving others, caring** for their needs, and offering **encouragement are worth repeating.**

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**



COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL



Our FIRST EVER CHILI COOK-OFF WINNER!!!!
Mardre Williams



Our Adult costume winner... do YOU know this hippie???



Our Teen costume winners!!!!
Finley, Hannah, Joel & Ashley



Our Children costume winners.
(Don't know names)



Senior Adult *Ministry*

Our November 11 outing will be to Sweet Creek Farms for lunch. We will leave at 10:30 a.m. so don't be late if you want to ride the bus. And I promise, signup sheets will be in Wesley Hall and on the table as you come up from the FLC on Sunday, November 9.

Thanksgiving Day is coming with turkey and dressing, potatoes, salads, and all the trimmings. You know every day is a thank-you-day! It is so easy to get involved with our trials. We all have them. Try to remember to be thankful each and every day.

In October, Keenagers went to Prattville and ate at Epicure and Jacks; the food was delicious and everyone had an enjoyable lunch. Our bus drivers were out of pocket but there were plenty of cars. We were so sorry to hear about Joyce's accident and that she couldn't go with us. She is recovering in Wetumpka Health and Rehab now. Everyone please pray for healing and peace for her.

A Call to Repentance: Zephaniah 2: 1-3 (NLT)

Gather together—yes, gather together,
you shameless nation.

Gather before judgment begins,
before your time to repent is blown away like chaff.

Act now, before the fierce fury of the LORD falls
and the terrible day of the LORD's anger begins.

Seek the LORD, all who are humble,
and follow his commands.

Seek to do what is right
and to live humbly.

Perhaps even yet the LORD will protect you—
protect you from his anger on that day of destruction.

Always believe,
Gloria (334/312-1764)

Let's Have
Lunch
TOGETHER





**The Finance Committee announces its
Annual United Appeal Fundraiser on
Sunday, November 23, immediately following
the 10:00 a.m. worship service.**

For those of you who are not familiar with the United Appeal Fund, this is how we are able to have our Sales Tax Exempt Status with the state of Alabama. Each year we are required to have a fundraiser which benefits our two charities, the Elmore County Food Pantry and our Church, specifically the pastor's discretionary fund.

Again this year we have chosen to have a bake sale which was a huge success last year due in part to the wonderful baked goods you so generously provided.

We are asking for your help again this year with the bake sale. In the coming weeks there will be sign up sheets around the campus for you to let us know what goodies you are bringing. **Keep in mind the baked goods must be in disposable containers, packaged, and ready to sell. YOU MAY BRING YOUR PACKAGED BAKED GOODS TO WESLEY HALL ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 BETWEEN 10 A.M. and 12 NOON.**

For more information or questions contact Sonya Arnold at arnoldsonya1946@gmail.com or the church office at 334-567-7865.



**Dream
BIGGER DREAMS**

Dream Bigger Dreams in 2026

***For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11***

Our amazing church family continues to grow numerically, spiritually, and in outreach to the community. This fall, we gratefully celebrate all God is already doing through us and challenge ourselves to Dream Bigger Dreams – dreams aligned with His plans for us - plans that will deepen our faith for today and build the faith of our children to face tomorrow. As Christians, we are called to offer God's love, grace, mercy, and salvation to this broken world fraught with chaos, division, hate, uncertainty, turmoil, outrage, violence, fear, and hopelessness. Clearly, in this turbulent time, people are desperate for hope! In 2026, may we dare to dream bigger dreams to show lasting hope is built on Jesus' blood and righteousness. In 2026, may we anchor God-sized dreams in the knowledge that His vision will surpass all we could ever imagine or understand. May we vow to step boldly and trust totally God's plan and timing to fulfill the dreams He places in our hearts – to impact others and glorify God.

Amidst an uncertain economy and a world that emphasizes scarcity, why would we dare to dream bigger dreams? How can any of our dreams become reality? Without God, we know nothing can happen on our own! We also know the Bible emphasizes God's abundance, which is deep-rooted in spiritual blessings - blessings that are more valuable than wealth and that lead to the joy of giving. As receivers of God's abundance, we are called to share these blessings with others. The Bible instructs us to love and serve our neighbors – to serve all God's children. When we give as we are able of our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, God multiplies our blessings to not only meet our needs, but to also meet the needs of others. Friends, may the Holy Spirit lead us to dream bigger dreams. The need for Jesus is indeed more urgent than ever!

**Serving Jesus with you,
Your Stewardship Team**

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR



NOVEMBER

1 John 1 – 2	16 Acts 12 – 13
2 John 3 – 4	17 Acts 14 – 15
3 John 5 – 6	18 Acts 16 – 17
4 John 7 – 8	19 Acts 18 – 19
5 John 9 – 10	20 Acts 20 – 21
6 John 11 – 12	21 Acts 22 – 23
7 John 13 – 15	22 Acts 24 – 26
8 John 16 – 17	23 Acts 27 – 28
9 John 18 – 19	24 Romans 1 – 3
10 John 20 – 21	25 Romans 4 – 7
11 Acts 1 – 3	26 Romans 8 – 10
12 Acts 4 – 5	27 Romans 11 – 14
13 Acts 6 – 7	28 Romans 15 – 16
14 Acts 8 – 9	29 1 Corinthians 1 – 4
15 Acts 10 – 11	30 1 Corinthians 5 – 9

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.**



11/05	Annabelle	Campbell	11/20	Wanda	Rushing
11/06	Donna	Matthews	11/20	Cam	Rushing
11/07	Nell	Head	11/20	Scarlotte	Holmes
11/10	Marjorie	Mallard	11/20	Beth	Roberts
11/10	Frances	Watts	11/22	Alvin	Ward
11/10	Jennifer	Daniels	11/23	Jonny	McCune
11/13	Ewell	Messer	11/23	Emorett	Smith
11/13	Walter	Kennedy	11/25	Fred	Lovelace III
11/14	Bob	Strickland	11/27	Leah	Pridgen
11/17	Calvin	Estabrook	11/29	Charlene	Lovelace
11/17	Katie	Brent	11/30	David	Barnes
11/19	Bobby	Singleton			



11/04	Sanford & Malinda	Brannan
11/24	Andy & Alice	Scarborough
11/30	Bob & Donna	Strickland

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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November 2025

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- Pictures, pictures, pictures!



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

URGENT NEEDS:

- Bus riders
- Teachers/helpers for Wednesdays & Sundays
- Fresh Start volunteers



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