

From our Pastor...

Dream Bigger Dreams

In the coming year, our challenge is to Dream Bigger Dreams. God has a dream for your life and a dream for the life of our church. Dreams matter to God. Too often, we let the limitations of our circumstances or the expectations of our world shrink our dreams. But when we open ourselves up to God's vision, we see that His plans for us are far greater than anything we could ever hope for or imagine on our own. I believe God wants us to dream boldly, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

Just like we have dreams for our kids, God has a dream for his children. Do you ever dream? Not just when you sleep, but during the day—imagining the big, perhaps impossible things you would love to see happen in your life or in the life of our church. Some of us have stopped dreaming altogether, deciding that these dreams are much too grand for us to accomplish.

I like the way Henry Blackaby puts it: “When God speaks, it will create a crisis of belief.” Henry made sure to explain that this is not a crisis but a crisis of belief.

It's when God puts something on our hearts that we don't think we can do. Like the kind of assignments God gives in the Bible which, are always beyond what people can do on their own.

God wants to demonstrate His nature, His strength, and His kindness to a watching world. God doesn't just call you to work for Him; He calls you to work with Him!

So, what are we to do? When we reach the stage of hearing from God and we know what He is saying. God has given us a dream but it is God-sized? We say, “I can't do it myself.” And God says, “Exactly!” When our thinking is too small, we have to expand our paradigm. Move outside of our comfort zone (believe and obey) and God will transform our dreams into reality. Most Christians are just one prayer away from God doing a mighty work in them and through them. What has God laid on your heart? Does it seem impossible? When the task seems impossible, we have to remember that all things are possible with God.

May God bless you and your family in the month of January, as you endeavor to dream bigger dreams in 2026.

In Christ's arms, Matt



SUNDAY:

Early Worship 8 a.m. (Chapel)
Sunday School 9 a.m. (Ed Bldg)
Late Church 10 a.m. (Sanctuary)

*Check the bulletin for 2026
start dates for activities!*

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 Jan. 13.
(See details in this newsletter)

**SIS (Sisters In Service) will meet
on January 26 at 1 p.m.**

JANUARY

Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

January 4—Communion

January 11—Jonny McCune

January 18—(available)

January 25—(available)

CELEBRATION



Sunday, January 11
following the 10 a.m. worship service.

We are kicking off the new year with a delicious POT LUCK LUNCHEON and LIFE GROUP FAIR on Sunday, January 11!!!

Church-wide Potluck Luncheon and Introduction to LIFE GROUPS following the 10 a.m. worship in our Family Life Center. We are so excited to begin sharing new opportunities being planned for 2026! Bring your favorite dishes to share. Meat and tea will be provided.



Angel Tree

CHRISTMAS ALIVE PROGRAM

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who participated in our Angel Tree program! We were able to make sure a lot of kids and their families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas!

Angel Number: _____
Age: _____ Gender: ☐ Girl ☐ Boy
Size: ☐ Baby ☐ Child ☐ Teen ☐ Adult
Wish List: _____
(Please purchase 5-6 gifts.)

PLEASE DETACH THIS PORTION AND LEAVE WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE OR SHIP TO: _____

Thank You!
 Angel Number: _____
 Your Name: _____
 Your Phone #: _____



Midweek activities kick off on Wednesday, January 14!!!

Our bus pick up will resume and our meal for the night will be pizza, popcorn, and movie themed snacks! **Movie, pizza, and snacks will start at 5 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to come enjoy gathering together to kick off the new year!

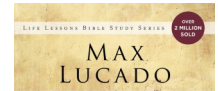
Come Join Our BIBLE STUDY



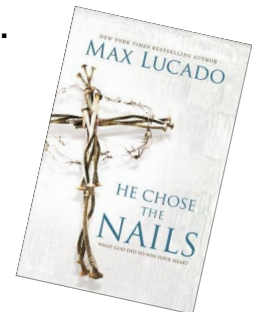
NEW BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21:

•Brother Matt will be teaching, *“Life Lessons from John”* by Max Lucado at 6 p.m. in the Cornerstone Classroom.

•Jennifer Daniels will be teaching a Lenten bible study at 6 p.m. in the church library.



LIFE LESSONS from
JOHN



NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 at 6 p.m.

Charlotte Barber and Kristy Graham will be co-facilitating a bible study *“Food Meets Faith”* by Isabel D. Price. The first night of the study will be an introduction to the class. This study is an invitation from nutritionist Isabel D. Price to look at your body in a whole new way — to look at yourself through God’s eyes, and to learn to trust your journey of healing and better health to Him.





Happy New Year! I have always loved this time of year. The start of a new year is the chance for a fresh start, and I am excited to see what 2026 holds for the children's ministry here at First Methodist Church Wetumpka.

The children's ministry had an amazing December, celebrating Jesus' birthday! We started the season with a trip to see the Montgomery Zoo lights, and then enjoyed Christmas on the Coosa. We watched the parade, which was followed by fellowship on the front lawn to enjoy the fireworks. We had a happy birthday party for Jesus, where we even had a surprise guest. Be sure to see the pictures! As we begin 2026, I look forward to making many more memories together as a church family. **Please mark your calendars, as The Bridge will resume on January 14th with a movie night! *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*** has always been a beloved story of mine, since I was in the third grade and looked forward to listening to my teacher, Mrs. Harp, read aloud to us. I look forward to sitting down and watching the story come to life on the big screen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteers and is here for our kids. Without all of you, this program would not function. I cannot begin to express how thankful I am for all of your hard work with the children's ministry. Your dedication continues to make a difference!

If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer with the children's ministry and make a difference in the lives of the children here at First Methodist Church Wetumpka, please come and see me, and we will find a way for you to become involved!

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley



Happy New Year!

God did so many amazing things in and through the hearts and lives of our student ministry family last year, and we can't wait to see what He has in store this year! Thank you SO MUCH from all of us for your continued prayers and support. God is honoring them all the time, and I know He will continue to through the rest of the Christmas school break, the church-wide movie night on the 14th, as we attend an amazing winter Camp at Blue Lake, and through all our weekly hangouts and ongoing conversations too!

This Month's Series: God's Wisdom on Our Worth and Design for Our Relationships

Whether our students are drawing conclusions about their worth, the worth of being single, and what healthy friendships and dating relationships look like from others around them, movies they watch, music they listen to, social media, celebrities they follow, church messages, or personal experiences; there's so much more room to let God reset them with new questions that can lead them to healthier spiritual places of freedom and peace. This month, we will explore the genius wisdom and love of God laid out in the Bible on these topics through a lot of laughter, conversations, and opportunities to reflect on how to trade in whatever harmful answers they've been living with for something life-giving and ask new questions to center their whole life on a relationship with God.

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

On December 9, 2025 Keenagers had a lunch and the theme was "An Old-fashioned Christmas. The luncheon was so wonderful and really brought back memories of most of our Christmases when we were younger. There was something really good in that room that day. We had our own Santa visit that handed out candy to all the good boys and girls. The real cedar Christmas tree with popcorn strings and real tinsel was so inspiring. There is not enough words to thank everyone for all they did, before, and that day who helped! It truly was a village working together and Jesus surely was present for all to feel his love. Thank you!

On Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 10 a.m. we will have a coffee and planning meeting for Keenagers to discuss what we might do for the coming year. I beg you man or woman come to this meeting and let's plan a great coming year together. This can only happen and be a great year if we get your input. We will not ask you to do anything. You can volunteer to help in any way you want to. Jesus needs you to guide me in what you want Keenagers to do in the future.

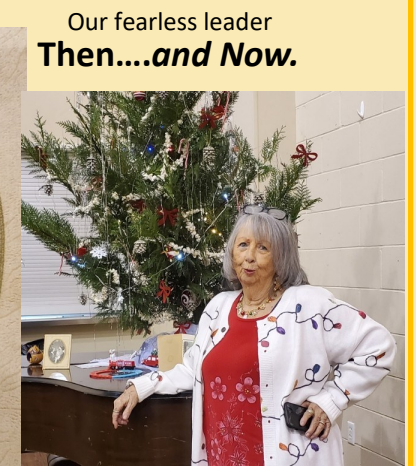
Go to your 2026 calendars and your phone calendars and put a big K on every second Tuesday for next year. Thank you.

Don't wait until you see the sunshine to thank God. Dare to thank him while it is still dark. That's what faith is all about.

**Always believe,
Gloria (334/312-1764)**



The knitting/craft group had a great luncheon at Mary Rudd's home.



Our fearless leader
Then....and Now.

Celebrating A Beautiful Christmas at First Methodist Church Wetumpka...

A great BIG THANK YOU to the ladies who made new costumes for the downtown nativity, and thanks to everyone who participated! It was really cold!





Coffee & Conversation Sunday, January 25...

you're invited to fellowship with our church family in Wesley Hall between the 8 a.m. worship and 10 a.m. worship services.

We had such a good time fellowshiping in our first Coffee and Conversation in December—join us again! We'll have yummy breakfast foods and hot coffee!

Class of 2026

May, graduation, and Senior Sunday will 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 Jamie know in person or at jamie@wetumpkafirst.com by April 12th!



Dream BIGGER DREAMS

Dream Bigger Dreams in 2026

Thank You For Giving to the Lord.

Thank you, friends, for being part of an amazing congregation that faithfully responds to God's call for us to seek more ways to offer the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world in urgent need of his saving grace. Thank you for your response to our fall stewardship emphasis that demonstrates your commitment to give to the Lord, as you are able. Our giving activates our mission through ministries that serve God throughout our community. Together, we partner with God who transforms our dreams into reality – to his honor and glory.

We earnestly seek to be good stewards of all resources entrusted to our church. We're grateful to report that the financial state of our church is strong, which is essential to implementing all areas of ministry. Based on a combination of the 2026 Estimate of Giving Cards and projected on-going giving by those who give but choose not to complete cards, our church treasurer reports confidence that our 2026 General Fund will be met. We thank you for giving faithfully to the general funding of our ministries, as well as to address the critically needed facility projects identified for this year.

May each prayerful gift of your time, talents, and treasure continue to be a reflection of your response to God's enduring faithfulness to you. Thank you for giving to the Lord.

Together, we serve Christ,
Your Stewardship Team

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR



JANUARY

1 Genesis 1 – 4	16 Exodus 1 – 4
2 Genesis 5 – 8	17 Exodus 5 – 7
3 Genesis 9 – 12	18 Exodus 8 – 10
4 Genesis 13 – 17	19 Exodus 11 – 13
5 Genesis 18 – 20	20 Exodus 14 – 16
6 Genesis 21 – 23	21 Exodus 17 – 20
7 Genesis 24 – 25	22 Exodus 21 – 23
8 Genesis 26 – 28	23 Exodus 24 – 27
9 Genesis 29 – 31	24 Exodus 28 – 30
10 Genesis 32 – 35	25 Exodus 31 – 34
11 Genesis 36 – 38	26 Exodus 35 – 37
12 Genesis 39 – 41	27 Exodus 38 – 40
13 Genesis 42 – 43	28 Leviticus 1 – 4
14 Genesis 44 – 46	29 Leviticus 5 – 7
15 Genesis 47 – 50	30 Leviticus 8 – 10
	31 Leviticus 11 – 13

Support Group

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each 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.



01/01	Max	Goll	01/12	John	Mann
01/04	Pierce	Cobb	01/12	Donna	Strickland
01/05	Bill	Kolendar	01/20	Pat	Milner
01/06	Evon	Blake	01/21	Cathy	Gieseler
01/07	Janie	Flores	01/28	Sara	Kirby
01/08	Jerry	Barnhart	01/28	Bill	Bonner
01/09	Doretta	Strength	01/30	Tommy	Head
01/10	Trip	Weldon			
01/10	Linda	Warren			



01/27 Jimmy & Kristy Graham

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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JANUARY 2026



IN THIS ISSUE:

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

An important announcement from our House of Holidays...
we are excited to announce we will have our Annual House of Holidays Fundraiser on Oct. 3! So, be saving those items for our second-time-around showcase! (There isn't anywhere to store these items at church so please don't bring them early)



Connect with us any time on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and our website at @WetumpkaFirst and www.WetumpkaFirst.com