

## From our Pastor...



### *Lord, Have Mercy on Me!*

The phrase “Lord, have mercy on me” is a heartfelt plea for compassion and forgiveness. It is prominently featured in Psalm 51, where King David expresses his deep remorse for his sins. This Psalm begins with a request for mercy based on God’s unfailing love and compassion, asking him to “blot out my transgressions” and “cleanse me from sin.” It is an acknowledgment of human fallibility and a plea for divine grace.

When blind Bartimaeus on the roadside heard that Jesus was passing by, he could not be silenced. “Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’ Jesus said, ‘Go, your faith has healed you.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.” (Mark 10:48-52)

Bartimaeus was a poor blind man. He was not a man of social standing or importance to society. Many people probably thought that Jesus would not bother with him. However, Jesus had time for Bartimaeus and Jesus called him to come closer. Even though Jesus was on his final journey from Jericho to Jerusalem when he met Bartimaeus, Jesus still made time for him. After their encounter, Jesus would go on to Calvary and make the greatest sacrifice of all time.

We can always speak to Jesus about our troubles and difficulties. He will always listen to us. He will always have time for us. Who then was that blind beggar Jesus met on the road to Jerusalem but each of us. We are all blind and begging in our own ways, crippled by emotions, pride, tragedy, a fainting heart, doubt or sin. At times, we seem surrounded by darkness unable to see. We grope in the dark trying to find our way in this world, crying out to Jesus, “Lord, have mercy on me!”

In my lifetime, I cannot even begin to remember how many times I have cried out to Jesus, “Lord, have mercy on me!” But every time Jesus has stopped and asked me, “What do you want me to do for you?” God’s Word reminds us, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)

During this Lenten Season be reminded that Jesus is ready to listen to you and help you to see him more clearly. Jesus is able to help you deal with your problems. Whatever the difficulties may be, speak to Jesus. Even if someone tries to stop you, cry out to Jesus, “Lord, have mercy on me!”

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

**In Christ’s arms, Brother Matt**

### **SUNDAY:**

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

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### **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  
6 p.m.—Food Meets Faith Bible  
Study in the church library

### **FRIDAY:**

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

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**Keenagers will meet on Feb. 10.**  
**(See details in this newsletter)**

**SIS (Sisters In Service) will meet**  
**on February 23 at 1 p.m. in**  
**Wesley Hall.**



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

February 1—Communion

February 8—Reserved

February 15—Sonya Arnold

February 22—(available)



**PARENTS NIGHT OUT!!!**

**Have you signed up?**

**Saturday, February 14 from 5-8 p.m.**

**in the FLC.** There will be a ton of games, food, and fun. Be on the lookout for more information!



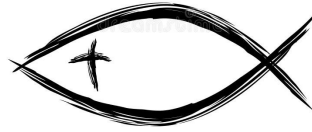
**SAVE THE DATE.....**

**Vacation Bible School**

**May 31—June 3, 2026!**

**Theme is "Masterpiece"**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
First Day of Lent



Join us on Wednesday, February 18 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the 40-day Lenten season— a time in which Christians are called to prayer, fasting, and repentance before celebrating Easter.

The children, youth, and adults will be participating in the Ash Wednesday worship, so the adult bible studies will not meet.

**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](mailto:jamie@wetumpkafirst.com) by April 12th!



Our Kitchen Crew is still in **URGENT NEED** of helping hands on Wednesdays for homebound prep and dinner. Please consider volunteering. Contact the church office or one of our kitchen crew members.

**BIBLE STUDIES ON WEDNESDAYS:**

- Brother Matt is teaching "*Life Lessons from John*" at 6 p.m. in the Cornerstone Classroom.
- Jennifer Daniels is teaching a Lenten bible study at 6 p.m. in the church library.

**BIBLE STUDY ON THURSDAYS:**

- Tea for Three- "*Food Meets Faith*" meets in the church library at 6 p.m. ([Must sign up before Feb. 5 to begin the class](#)—contact [secretary@firstwetumpka.com](mailto:secretary@firstwetumpka.com))

**Coffee & Conversation  
Sunday, February 22...**



It's so cold, so what is better than a hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate? Throw in some yummy breakfasts treats and we're ready for an awesome time of fellowship with our church family. We'll gather each 4th Sunday in Wesley Hall from 8:30—9:45 a.m. worship.

**Coffee and Conversation!**  
**See YOU next time...**

When we meet someone for the first time, we go through the standard getting to know you questions: Where are you from? Where do you go to school? What grade are you in? What are some of your favorite things? At their core, these questions are a socially acceptable attempt to get to the heart of who someone is and determine whether they click with you. It provides an opportunity to decide whether that person is a passing acquaintance or a life-changing staple within your life. Our series this month provides kids with the opportunity to ask, “Who is Jesus?” He is the exact likeness of God- the physical representation of God on Earth. As a child and later as an adult, Jesus shows us what God is like. Our series will help us understand Jesus and who He is. The more we know Him, the more we know God, and the more we are drawn to Him.

### Memory Verse

**“The Son is the exact likeness of God, who can’t be seen. The Son is first, and he is over all creation.”  
Colossians 1: 15**



**Save the Dates!!!** This month, we will celebrate Valentine's Day with our party on February 11 during The Bridge. On Valentine's Day, February 14th, we will be having a Parents' Night Out with a ton of games, food, and fun. Watch for more details...

If you would like to stay up to date with everything happening with FMC Kids, join our church center group and follow us on Facebook!

**Blessings, Mrs. Ashley**





While we had such an amazing time last month (especially at winter camp at Blue Lake- thank you again for everyone who helped make that happen and prayed for us!!), this month will be full of blessings and amazing time spent together volunteering at Parent's Night Out, having a blast at an Art and Games Hangout and Agape Day Party celebrating God's unconditional and sacrificial love for us, and preparing our hearts for the Lenten season.

May and graduation 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, please let me know in person or at the email listed below by April 12<sup>th</sup>!

#### This Month's Continuing 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](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**



# Senior Adult Ministry

Christmas was like a summer's day, but the end of January and it appears the first of February - winter is hitting us really hard. I pray all of you are safe, well, and warm.

Our January Keenagers Planning meeting was very good. Thanks to those who attended. Very soon we will have a print out so that everyone can see our plans for the year.

## **On Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> we will go to The House Restaurant in Montgomery.**

We went there for Valentine's lunch last year and everyone had such a great time we decided to do it again. The bus will leave church at 10:15 a.m. Signup sheets will be in their usual places. They will be taken up Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February after church. Last year we had two buses and some cars so if we need 2 buses I need to know as soon as possible.

Let's Have  
**Lunch  
TOGETHER**

**Our Keenagers Luncheon on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> will be about birds.** Valerie Castanza will be giving our program and will have some birds with her. Be sure to come to this lunch and program - it will be a fantastic and interesting day.

*I cannot brag about my love for God because I feel him daily,  
But I can brag about his love for me because it never fails.*

Always believe,  
Gloria (334/312-1764)



America is in the midst of an acute alcohol and drug addiction crisis. Life-saving medicines and psychological interventions are important components of rescue and recovery. Along with the body and the mind, the spirit is also a central part of the continuum of addiction health care. Based on reviews of extensive evidence-based research on addiction, it is clear that religion and spirituality—commonly referred to collectively as faith—are exceptionally powerful, integral, and indispensable resources in substance abuse prevention and recovery. This body of research shows that the efficacy of faith includes not only the behaviors people engage in (or don't engage in) because of their faith and the support people find in belonging to faith communities, but also people's religious and spiritual beliefs themselves.

## **How can WE make a difference?**

**On Monday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m. our Fresh Start Recovery Ministry meets in the FLC. The group provides a warm meal and a safe place for all people who are struggling. This program has been proven to be very successful and the group is growing!**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED & APPRECIATED!**

**Come and be blessed by 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.**



*An outreach ministry of First Methodist Church Wetumpka*

# Life Groups

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

Recently you've heard a lot about Life Groups.

## What is the Purpose of a Life Group?

Life Groups choose to meet for Fellowship and Bible study outside of Wednesdays and Sundays. Life groups bring people together with like interests and passions. God created us to live in community with one another to experience the full life he has in store for us.

Life groups provide:

1. A place to **CONNECT** with others.
2. A place to **PROTECT** each other.
3. An opportunity to **GROW** together.

We look forward to getting our Life Groups organized and growing! Several people have already signed up to participate in various groups. Groups will be contacted about a time for a first gathering of your group soon!

It's never too late to join a Life Group!



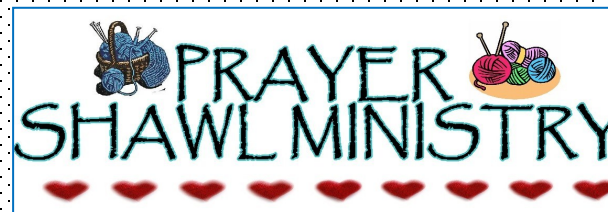
*If you missed seeing the complete list of Life Group offerings, contact the church office to get a copy.*

*In addition to getting connected with our New Life Groups here are some of our other ongoing opportunities to grow and fellowship...*

Meets each  
Wednesday  
at 9 a.m. in  
Wesley Hall.



Meets each Thursday at 7 a.m. at  
Burger King. Men—invite someone!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets  
every Friday at 10 a.m. upstairs in  
the Education Building.  
**Everyone is welcome!**



## IT'S PICKLEBALL TIME!!!

In our FLC you've probably noticed the pickleball net. It is played similar to tennis or badminton. **Pickleball** is a racket or paddle sport in which two players (singles) or four players (doubles) use a smooth-faced paddle to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball over a 34-inch-high (0.86 m) net until one side is unable to return the ball or commits a rule infraction. Pickleball is played indoors and outdoors. You are invited to participate. **Check with the church office for availability of the court. There are also outside pickleball courts around the area.**



## **Sisters In Service**

*Ladies, if you enjoy serving your community, Sisters In Service is **READY** to welcome you!! We meet once a month, on the 4th Monday, in Wesley Hall at 1 P.M. We'd love to have you participate!!*



**Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve  
First Methodist Church Wetumpka**

Since 1837, our historic congregation has gathered where people were welcomed to worship God and departed to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ. 306 West Tuskeena Street became our sacred space in 1853. Today, we continue the stewardship commitment of generations before us, who assured that our sanctuary and facilities were kept safe, secure, and well-maintained for worship, study, fellowship, and service to extend far beyond our walls. Several critical capital projects are urgently needed this calendar year and require money over and above our general fund budget, which includes routine maintenance and improvements:

<b>Elevator Repair.....</b>	<b>\$ 12,000</b>
<b>Roofs on Education Bdg &amp; Chapel.....</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>Resurface &amp; stripe parking lot.....</b>	<b>23,000</b>
<b>Contingency.....</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Total Capital Fund Goal .....</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

**Capital Amt Received, as of 01/18/2026.....\$ 30,728.00**

Praise the Lord, our congregation faithfully responds to Luke 12:48, “to whom much is given, much is required.” Faithfully, we give as God calls us to meet general operating needs and beyond. Faithfully, we totally trust God to multiply our blessings to meet the needs of others, while meeting our own needs. In 2026, we are daring to dream even bigger dreams and asking God to continue our numerical growth, spiritual growth, and community outreach - seeking more ways to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Friends, 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 – and to God always the glory! Please designate specific fund you wish to direct your gift – Capital, General, or Other. For questions, you may contact Sonya Arnold, Financial Secretary (334) 567-7865 .

**SAVE THE DATE FOR “HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS”  
OCT. 3RD FROM 8AM-1PM!**



# HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS

**The “House of Holidays” is here again on a  
smaller scale in the Family Life Center!**

- **Baked Goods: Cookies, Cakes, Pies, Bread**
  - **Homemade Frozen Soups & Casseroles**
  - **Second Time Around Thrift Style Items**
    - **Rib Eye Steak Slider Combo**

## **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

- **Bakers: If you would like to volunteer to bake cakes, cookies, pies, or breads, call Sandra Hill 334-546-8735 or Mae Friar 334-549-1260 (delivery to the church on Friday, Oct. 2nd).**
- **Cooks: If you would like to volunteer to bring frozen soups and casseroles, call Donna Matthews 334-850-4255 or Tonya Turberville 334-730-5227 (deliver to the church Sept. 28-Oct. 2).**
- **Second Time Around Donations: Start saving all your “stuff you want to get rid of” (no clothes or shoes). Contact Carol Bush 334-322-2866 or Celestra Rowell 334-301-3920 with any questions about items to donate and “big stuff”. “All the Second Time Around” items are to be delivered Monday-Friday (Sept. 28-Oct. 2). There will be people here to assist you.**

**“Excitement is in the Air” as we bring back this  
beloved church tradition!**

## READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR



### FEBRUARY

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Leviticus 14 – 15 | 16 Numbers 22 – 24     |
| 2 Leviticus 16 – 18 | 17 Numbers 25 – 26     |
| 3 Leviticus 19 – 21 | 18 Numbers 27 – 29     |
| 4 Leviticus 22 – 23 | 19 Numbers 30 – 32     |
| 5 Leviticus 24 – 25 | 20 Numbers 33 – 36     |
| 6 Leviticus 26 – 27 | 21 Deuteronomy 1 – 2   |
| 7 Numbers 1 – 2     | 22 Deuteronomy 3 – 4   |
| 8 Numbers 3 – 4     | 23 Deuteronomy 5 – 8   |
| 9 Numbers 5 – 6 1   | 24 Deuteronomy 9 – 11  |
| 10 Numbers 7        | 25 Deuteronomy 12 – 15 |
| 11 Numbers 8 – 10   | 26 Deuteronomy 16 – 18 |
| 12 Numbers 11 – 13  | 27 Deuteronomy 19 – 20 |
| 13 Numbers 14 – 15  | 28 Deuteronomy 21 – 23 |
| 14 Numbers 16 – 18  |                        |
| 15 Numbers 19 – 21  |                        |

### 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.



02/01	Diane	Tyler	02/18	Caroline	Macon
02/03	Beth	Coleman	02/18	Spencer	Coleman
02/03	Sanford	Brannan	02/18	Lisa	Hughes
02/10	Sonya	Arnold	02/22	Asenath	Coker
02/12	Sally	Blackwell	02/22	Tom	Salter
02/13	Jenni	Greenlee	02/23	Jo	Glenn
02/13	Larry	Barnes	02/23	Tim	Henson
02/15	Susan	Legvold	02/25	Ted	Watts
02/16	Kimberly	Kolendar	02/26	Celestra	Rowell
			02/26	Mariella	Easterling
			02/27	Ronald	Lee



02/10 David & Tonya Turberville

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.

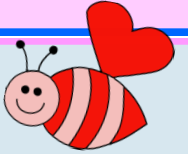


## FIRST NEWS

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Wetumpka, AL 36092  
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Website: [www.wetumpkafirst.com](http://www.wetumpkafirst.com)

## FEBRUARY 2026

### IN THIS ISSUE:



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



February begins the season of Lent.  
Join us on  
Wednesday, Feb. 18  
at 6 p.m. in the  
Sanctuary for our  
Ash Wednesday  
worship.



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)