

From our Pastor...

Chasing a Dream



As the world watches athletes chase gold on the ice and on the slopes during this Winter Olympics. We realize the love they have for their sport is only matched by their determination. As they chase their dreams, their passions burn within them. Passion and dreams are the twin flames that ignite the human spirit, pushing us to reach for the stars and embrace the depths of our emotions. From the tender flutter of a first love to the relentless pursuit of a lifelong ambition, these athletes have long captured the essence of these powerful forces through their performances.

They remind us that if we embrace our passions and nurture our dreams, we can unlock the true potential within ourselves. They remind us to keep the flame of passion alive and chase our dreams with unwavering determination. They remind us that no matter how young or how old we are, there is still a fire that burns within each of us.

How many of you would like to be on fire for the Lord once again? How many of you would like to feel a new energy rise up in your souls for the Lord? We have been saved to soar like eagles, not crawl like crickets. As Christians, we choose whether to run in victory or roll over in defeat.

God has given us some basic principles to help us embrace our passions and nurture our dreams. First, we must know who we are. In 1 John 3:1, it says, “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” We are related to the Creator of the world and He loves and cherishes us even though we continue to sin against Him.

Secondly, as God’s children, we are free from condemnation. In Romans 8:1-2 it says, “Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life has made me free from the law of sin and death.” We need to remind ourselves daily of who we are and what we have in Christ.

This is the key to living a passionate life for our Lord. T.D Jakes said, “It’s your passion that empowers you to be able to do that thing you were created to do.” To feel the passion for Christ; we must first be in love with our Savior, surrendered and wholly His. Then we must be involved with others who are already passionate for the Lord. That is Christian fellowship, by the way. But as we involve ourselves within the church and with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, there is something else we must do. We must get involved with daily worship and praise.

We will never feel the true joy of Godly passion without immersing ourselves in His word and without getting into the habit of praising Him for everything He has done for us. If we have no time to do this, we will certainly have no time to be a follower of Jesus. Achieving big dreams and living a passionate life for Jesus, requires sacrifice, perseverance, and heart. So, no matter how young or how old you are, keep dreaming.

May God bless you and your family during the month of March as you embrace your passions and nurture your dreams.

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)

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

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

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



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

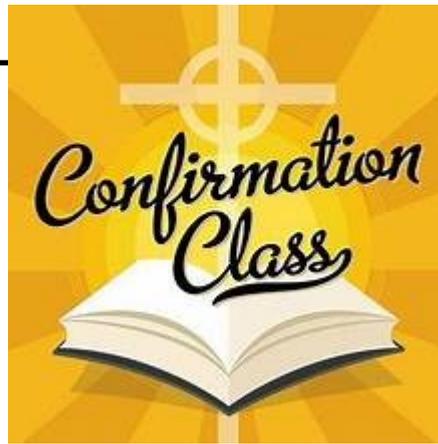
- March 1—Communion
- March 8—Bruce & Charlotte Barber
- March 15—Hannah Vawter
- March 22—Walter & Pam Kennedy
- March 29—Palm Sunday



Last month's PARENTS NIGHT OUT was a huge success!!! Thank you for entrusting your children to us, and we hope that you had a great evening celebrating Valentine's day. To our amazing volunteers and those who contributed food, craft supplies, money, time and effort— A HUGE THANK YOU!!!!



SAVE THE DATE.....
Vacation Bible School
May 31—June 3, 2026!
Theme is "Masterpiece"



Don't forget, if you have a 6th grader, confirmation starts on March 1 and will be every Sunday after service through March 15th. Confirmation Sunday is on Easter! We would love to have all of our 6th graders attend. Contact Ahsley (Ashley@wetumpkafirst.com) or Jamie (Jamie@wetumpkafirst.com) for more information.



A COMMUNITY EVENT...

Fisherman heads up...
You're invited to an evening with **HANK PARKER!** Thursday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetumpka Civic Center, presented by First Methodist Church Wetumpka and The City of Wetumpka. **Tickets are FREE, but you MUST HAVE A TICKET TO GET IN. See Brother Matt to get your free tickets. (Hurry...they're going fast!)**



THANK YOU to those who've stepped up and joined our Kitchen Team! You are making a difference. **Our Kitchen Crew is still in need of helping hands.** See one of our valued Kitchen Team Members or call the church office if you're interested in joining the team on Wednesdays.



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!



Easter is the most significant celebration in Christianity, yet millions of people still question, "Is Jesus really alive?" Throughout history, some have believed that Jesus' resurrection was just a myth or a trick. But the truth is Jesus was dead... and now He is Alive! This month, kids will actively engage in discovering the truth for themselves and, once they do, they'll never forget it: Jesus is alive, and that changes everything!

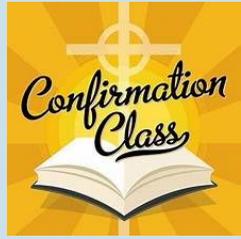
Memory Verse:

**I am the Living One. I was dead. But now look!
I am alive for ever and ever!
And I hold the keys to Death and Hell.
Revelation 1:18**

We have so many fun things planned for our children this month!

- We will be having our next family hangout on March 15th at Fun City! During The Bridge,
- We will have our after-school Easter Party on April 1st.
- The biggest event, though, will be our Glow Egg Hunt happening on Palm Sunday, March 29th!

Don't forget, if you have a 6th grader, confirmation starts on March 1 and will be every Sunday after service through March 15th. Confirmation Sunday is on Easter! We would love to have all of our 6th graders attend.



Remember, if you want to stay on top of all of our activities and get our reminders, please be sure to join our Facebook group and Church center groups!





As we continue to reflect on growing more into God's likeness every day during Lent, we'll have some incredible opportunities this month to share the gospel and His love and joy with others through our church family Easter Egg Hunt, with one another during weekly times together and group events like Fun City, and with church family members we care about and look out for through Ministry Safe training. Life groups are meeting, and confirmation kicks off this month, too! How awesome is it that we get to be part of what God wants to do in and through our church?!

This Month's Series: The Making Of

Good movies capture our imaginations and transport us to other worlds. As we watch our favorite movies, we may not realize all the work, edits, and rewrites that went into making the cinematic masterpiece. The same is true of our faith as well. We might expect our relationship with God to look like a finished product, but really, our faith and relationship with God are still in the making. Through exploring and discussing the Gospels and Epistles together, we'll be reminded of what can happen when we invest in spiritual formation. We'll see how **spending time with God can make us more like Jesus** and how, **when we face temptation, we can ask God for help**. We'll also discover how, **with God, difficult moments can help our character grow** and how **we grow when we make things right 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*

Keenagers had a sweet lunch celebration in February at the House Restaurant in downtown Montgomery. There were around 25 people and we all enjoyed the day. David Turberville was initiated as a new bus driver and he did a great job!

Now we will March Into the Month of March with a luncheon in the Family Life Center at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10th. We will have a wonderful program by Valorie Castaneda with her live bird demonstration and information. Don't miss this interesting talk on birds. How many chances do we get to see live birds up close... come one, come all for a Christ-filled day.

April will see us on a road trip to the Triple R Restaurant in Rockford, Alabama. When we are filled up, we will get on the bus and head for Blue Bell! Every one loves going there so sign up for this trip to save your seat on the bus. Sign up sheets will be in their regular places and they will be taken up after late church service on the 12th of April. It is very important that I know if we will need one or two buses and drivers. **It is not always easy to get the second driver, so if you are under the age of 75, have a valid driver's license and insurance and want to sign up to be a driver, let the church office know...** hope to see you soon.

Always believe,
Gloria (334/312-1764)



Don't you agree that **ALTAR FLOWERS** add so much beauty to our worship services each **Sunday**. We still have quite a few open dates if you'd like to provide fresh flowers in honor or in loving memory of someone. Or, no designation is necessary, just let the church office know which date you want to choose.

Coming up soon... April 12 & 26, May 17, 24 & 31, June 28. Other dates are July 12 & 19, August 23 & 30, October 11, November 29 and December 13 & 20. **Contact the church office to reserve your special dates! Thank you.**

Have you noticed our beautiful **NEW** cross on the lawn near our Family Life Center? Thank you to the Houlton's for this amazing cross just in time to be adorned with our purple cloth signifying Lent.





We are having such a good time gathering for fellowship, hot coffee and breakfast each 4th Sunday! If you haven't joined in you're missing a great opportunity to catch up with your friends at First Methodist.

Several have asked if they could bring something to share on our C&C Sundays, or if their Sunday School Class could sponsor a Sunday—absolutely! *(If you are bringing something could you please let Charlotte in the church office know so that we can plan accordingly).*

PLEASE BE REMINDED that NO FOOD or DRINK is allowed in the Sanctuary at ANY TIME.

Join us for our next Coffee & Conversation on Sunday, March 22 8:30—9:45 a.m. in Wesley Hall.



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!



MinistrySafe[®]

Volunteer Training Renewal

For VBS volunteers and those
who work with kids & youth

Training Date:

Thursday, March 19th at 6 pm • Dinner and nursery provided
Please RSVP to Ashley or Jamie

Ministry Safe training is required every two years (and background checks are required every three years). If you did this training in 2024, you will need to attend this training! For more information, contact Ashley or Jamie.

EASTER EGG HUNT

March 29th @ 5pm

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
Indoor GLOW Egg Hunts
Games & Activities • Giveaways
Food • Frios Pops

Egg Hunt Donations

We are accepting monetary donations for our community-wide Easter Egg Hunt! Donations will go towards candy, eggs, Frios, food, and supplies for the event!

Other Donations Needed:

- Bags of Individually Wrapped Candy
- Filled Easter Eggs

**READING THE BIBLE
THROUGH IN A YEAR**



MARCH

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Deuteronomy 26 – 27 | 16 Judges 9 – 10 |
| 2 Deuteronomy 28 – 29 | 17 Judges 11 – 13 |
| 3 Deuteronomy 30 – 32 | 18 Judges 14 – 16 |
| 4 Deuteronomy 33 – 34 | 19 Judges 17 – 19 |
| 5 Joshua 1 – 4 | 20 Judges 20 – 21 |
| 6 Joshua 5 – 7 | 21 Ruth 1 – 4 |
| 7 Joshua 8 – 10 | 22 1 Samuel 1 – 3 |
| 8 Joshua 11 – 13 | 23 1 Samuel 4 – 7 |
| 9 Joshua 14 – 17 | 24 1 Samuel 8 – 12 |
| 10 Joshua 18 – 20 | 25 1 Samuel 13 – 14 |
| 11 Joshua 21 – 22 | 26 1 Samuel 15 – 16 |
| 12 Joshua 23 – 24 | 27 1 Samuel 17 – 18 |
| 13 Judges 1 – 3 | 28 1 Samuel 19 – 21 |
| 14 Judges 4 – 5 | 29 1 Samuel 22 – 24 |
| 15 Judges 6 – 8 | 30 1 Samuel 25 – 27 |
| | 31 1 Samuel 28 – 31 |

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.



03/03	Blu	Gilliand	03/18	Harley	Arnette
03/05	Joshua	Rider	03/18	Andy	Scarborough
03/07	Jonah	Flores	03/19	Ella	Gilliand
03/08	David	Turberville	03/19	Emma	Gilliand
03/10	Ashtin	Arant	03/19	Pat	Ward
03/13	Courtney	Cobb	03/19	Cindy	Langley
03/14	Susan	Barner	03/22	Alice	Barnhart
03/16	Oliver	Smith	03/26	Mardre	Williams
03/17	Thad	Hankins			
03/17	Teresa	Caton			

Happy Anniversary

03/08	Bill & Barbara Watts
03/16	Bruce & Charlotte Barber

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

306 W. Tuskeena Street
Wetumpka, AL 36092
Phone: 334-567-7865
Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com
Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

March 2026



IN THIS ISSUE:

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

**GLOW IN
THE DARK**



EGG HUNT

**FREE Community
Glow Egg Hunt
on Palm Sunday,
March 29th!
The fun begins at
5 p.m.!**
*See page 7 for
more exciting
details...*



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