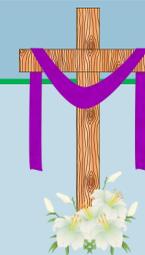


This Easter Choose Jesus!



Every day we are faced with choices and decisions that guide our lives. Some of those decisions are insignificant and trivial, while other decisions are vitally important and potentially life-changing. I like to think of life as just one decision after another. From the most mundane decisions, what kind of deodorant to buy, all the way up to who will I marry? Those choices and decisions are like a tug of war, an exhausting battle between our gut feelings and our reasoned thoughts. Science writer Jonah Lehrer says, "For a longtime people have said that the best way to make a decision is to be rational. And yet, in recent years, scientists have discovered that the rational brain can only take in a few bits of information at any given moment. So, you start giving it too much information and it starts to short-circuit and sputter."

However, even with our limited capability of making decisions, we should never think that we are at a disadvantage. You are not the victim of the world, but rather the master of your own destiny. It is your choices and decisions that determine your destiny. As Christians, the choices and decisions that we make help us to either draw closer to God or they move us further away from God. They help us to embrace our God-given purpose in life or they set us adrift on the waves of this world. These decisions help us to achieve and accomplish great things in our lifetime or they leave us destitute wishing we had taken advantage of lost opportunities.

So, don't let another Easter pass without choosing Jesus! Choosing Jesus this Easter means focusing on love, hope, redemption, and the promise of eternal life. Reflecting on Jesus' love, sacrifice, and resurrection as He overcame sin and death for humanity. Engaging in activities that reflect on Jesus' teachings and sharing a message of hope with others, can deepen your faith during this special time. Set aside time each day during Holy Week to read scripture and pray as a family. Attend the worship services leading up to Easter, including Palm Sunday and the Tenebrae service. Then your hearts will be prepared for the joy and celebration of the Sunrise service on Easter morning and our Easter service at 10 am. This Easter choose Jesus and celebrate the joy of his resurrection and share that joy with others.

My prayer for you and your family during the month of April is you will choose Jesus and allow Him to help you make the choices and decisions that will draw you closer to him. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

**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

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

**Keenagers will meet on April 14
(See details in this newsletter)**

**SIS (Sisters In Service) will meet
on April 27 at 1 p.m. in
Wesley Hall.**



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

April 5 - Easter Sunday

April 12— (Available)

April 19—Shelton & Linda Prine

April 26—Rick & Diane Tyler



ALTAR flowers

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, May 17, 24, 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.



**Invite someone to join us
for our Holy Week
and Easter Worship...**

Thursday, April 2:

Tenebrae Worship at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Friday, April 3:

Community Crosswalk starts at 11 a.m. Meet at the flagpole out front and walk around downtown as we pray for people.



EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 5

Easter Sunrise—6:15 a.m. on the front lawn

Easter Worship—ONE service only at 10 a.m.

Coming NEXT month.....

Vacation Bible School

May 31—June 3, 2026!

Theme is "Masterpiece"



Our Kitchen Crew is doing a phenomenal job serving our meals! However, catered meals are very expensive. Our plan is to get enough extra hands so we can resume preparing our Wednesday evening meals and meals for the homebound. Much needed helping hands will be appreciated! See one of our valued Kitchen Team Members or call the church office if you're interested in joining the team on Wednesdays.



THANK YOU! Because of your generosity we have met our \$50,000 goal for upkeep of our facilities. Together with a very generous \$50,000 match, progress can continue.

ATTENTION 2026 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!



The deadline to sign up to participate in our Senior Sunday activities is Sunday, April 12. Email jamie@wetumpkafirst.com to RSVP.



So many people, including children, walk through life aimlessly and scared. They feel as if they are meant to wander instead of march toward the goal and purpose for their lives.

Often, we ask the question, "God, do you have a plan for me?" Even when we believe that He does, it is not always easy to see it. God has a way of revealing His plan at just the right time and in just the right way. The problem is, we are often not able to trust Him.

In this series, the children will learn from the life of Moses. With every question Moses asks, God shows that He is faithful, patient, and powerful. Even though we may question things in our lives, we can trust God to come through just in time.

Bible Verse:

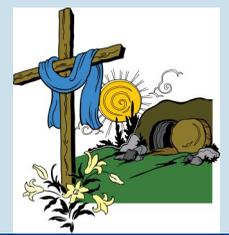
"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

April is a busy month, starting with our

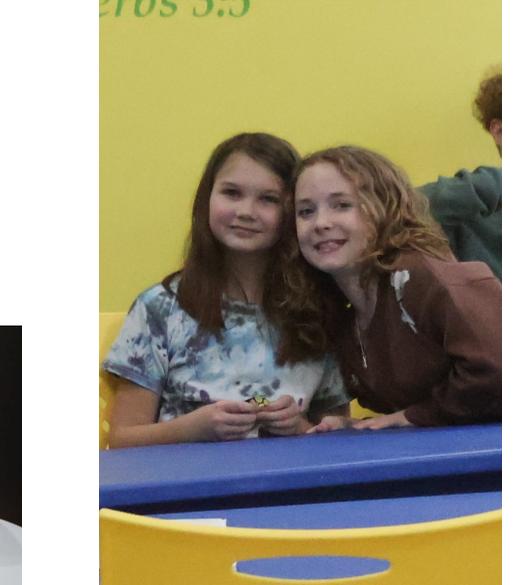
- Easter Party during The Bridge on April 1.
- We have four students being confirmed during the 10 AM Easter Sunday service on April 5.
- Mark your calendars for April 25, when we will travel to Birmingham Zoo to explore their prehistoric safari!

To get the latest updates, please make sure you are on our church center app!



**Blessings,
Mrs. Ashley**

Happy Easter!



As we continue to reflect on our lives in the light of Christ's during holy week, we mourn the need for His death to pay a debt we could not but look forward to celebrating the joy of His resurrection on Easter (and the restoration and new life that happens when we commit our lives to God)! We also get to celebrate this life-changing news at our Easter party, during weekly discussions and hangouts, and by growing deeper connections with our whole church family on a trip to the Birmingham Zoo with the children's ministry!

Summer Camp is also coming up soon (June 15th-20th), so please check out the details in this newsletter on how, in addition to prayer and encouragement, you can invest in the spiritual growth and lives of our students through our fundraiser April 15th-29th!

This Month's Series: *The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith*
Learning the loving truths, wisdom, and nature of God requires a lifetime of learning, loving, and living the scriptures, and requires, at some point, that we really begin to understand where they come from and what they mean. This month, we'll journey through *The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith* and dive into the core beliefs of the Christian faith through rich explanation, great discussion, and engaging videos. As we talk about the answers to important questions about God, His grace will shape and work in our hearts to make us true disciples as we obey and follow His guidance.

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 12th!**

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

We love Him because He loved us first. Easter is coming, Jesus is coming. Jesus hung on the cross, as the only son of God. He bled and died for everyone's sins. Thank you God is not enough, we have to live our life for Him. Serving in our church is one way to do this. We also need to serve our community, that includes everyone that God has created.

Our luncheon in March was a huge success. The food was great, the decorations were beautiful, and the program on birds was very interesting. The live birds were the icing on the cake. Thanks to all who volunteered to all who helped in any way.

Tuesday, April the 14th will be a road trip to Rockford and eat at The Triple R Restaurant. When we finish with lunch, we will head to Sylacauga to **enjoy the best ice cream at Blue Bell Creamery** for a delicious desert. **THE BUS LEAVES CHURCH at 10:15 a.m.** Don't be late, and call if you have a reason you are not going to make it.

Sign up sheets will be in the regular places on the table as you come up from family life center and in Wesley Hall on the round table. Please sign up no later than Sunday, April 12th after late church service. This will be the cutoff time. I have to know how many buses and drivers I will need. Thank you in advance for your help with this!

Join us for fun and serving the Lord as we fellowship together.

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

All about the birds...





We are excited to announce our next Vision and Planning Meeting aimed at growing young families at First Methodist Church Wetumpka.

Grow Young Families

The meeting will focus on discussing ways to support and engage young families within our church and in the community. Your input and participation are valuable to us **We invite everyone that is interested in supporting our mission to attend and share your thoughts.**



Mark your calendars now for our next **VISIONING and PLANNING MEETING** on **THURSDAY, APRIL 23** at 6 P.M. in the FLC.

Dinner will be served and childcare available.
Please RSVP no later than Monday, April 20 so we can plan the meal.



What do you think is the best part of Coffee and Conversation each 4th Sunday? The fellowship, hot coffee or yummy breakfast? If you haven't joined in you're missing a great opportunity to catch up with your friends at First Methodist.

If you, your Sunday School Class or Life Group would like to sponsor a Sunday, just let Charlotte in the church office know so that we can plan accordingly.

Join us for our next **Coffee & Conversation** on **Sunday, April 26** 8:30—9:45 a.m. in Wesley Hall.

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

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!

Cornerstone's SUNDAY POTLUCK

Cornerstone Sunday School class is hosting a special get-together and would be delighted to have you join us. It will be a wonderful time to connect, fellowship and enjoy a good meal.

DATE: Sunday, April 26, 2026
TIME: 11 A.M.
WHERE: Family Life Center

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24-25



YOUTH SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER

- Church Branded Polo, T-shirt, & Mugs
- Everyday Wrapping Paper • Candles
- Kitchen Essentials • Soup & Bread Mixes
- Cookies, Nuts, and Chocolates • Gifts & more!

Want to invest in the spiritual growth of our students going to Summer Camp in June?! See Jamie, a youth, visit our table in Wesley Hall (Sundays) or the FLC (Wednesdays) from April 15th-29th, or scan the QR code on this form to place an order. Checks, cash, and cards accepted.

\$40 Adult XS - 5XL

\$25 Adult XS - 6XL

\$30 16.9 OZ MUG



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! CAMP COSTS \$440 PER STUDENT.

**READING THE BIBLE
THROUGH IN A YEAR**



APRIL

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 2 Samuel 1 – 3 | 16 1 Kings 19 – 20 |
| 2 2 Samuel 4 – 7 | 17 1 Kings 21 – 22 |
| 3 2 Samuel 8 – 11 | 18 2 Kings 1 – 3 |
| 4 2 Samuel 12 – 13 | 19 2 Kings 4 – 5 |
| 5 2 Samuel 14 – 16 | 20 2 Kings 6 – 8 |
| 6 2 Samuel 17 – 19 | 21 2 Kings 9 – 10 |
| 7 2 Samuel 20 – 22 | 22 2 Kings 11 – 13 |
| 8 2 Samuel 23 – 24 | 23 2 Kings 14 – 16 |
| 9 1 Kings 1 – 2 | 24 2 Kings 17 – 18 |
| 10 1 Kings 3 – 5 | 25 2 Kings 19 – 21 |
| 11 1 Kings 6 – 7 | 26 2 Kings 22 – 23 |
| 12 1 Kings 8 – 9 | 27 2 Kings 24 – 25 |
| 13 1 Kings 10 – 12 | 28 1 Chronicles 1 – 2 |
| 14 1 Kings 13 – 15 | 29 1 Chronicles 3 – 4 |
| 15 1 Kings 16 – 18 | 30 1 Chronicles 5 – 6 |

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.



04/01	Sandra Hill	04/13	Billy Ray Daniels
04/03	Lisa Van Wagner	04/13	Guy Jones
04/03	Betty Lee	04/14	Richard Knighton
04/05	Carol Bush	04/26	Rusty Sumpter
04/08	Judy Price Littlefield	04/26	Charlotte Barber
04/08	Billy Greenlee	04/28	Debbie Barnes
04/12	Ryan Smith	04/30	Misty Macon



04/03	Rusty & Julie Sumpter
04/06	Ray & Judi Daniels
04/16	Sam & Susan Legvold
04/17	Cal & Lynda Estabrook
04/21	Mark & Cindy Langley
04/22	Jim & Wanda Rushing
04/26	Earl & Elizabeth Gillian
04/27	Rick & Diane Tyler
04/28	Mark & Donna Matthews
04/30	Larry & Tracy Barnes
04/30	Pierce & Courtney Cobb

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

April 2026



IN THIS ISSUE:

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



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