

## *From our Pastor...*

### Until We Meet Again

In the play Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, there is a beautiful line spoken by Juliet as she says good night to Romeo: “Parting is such sweet sorrow.” For this forlorn couple, their sorrowful parting is also “sweet” because it makes them think about the next time they see each other. How powerful is that type of love? To love someone so much that even the idea of being separated brings great sorrow and at the same time great joy; knowing you will be together again.

Such is the love that Jesus showed his disciples when he prays for them as he prepared to leave his earthly ministry. Our Lord’s prayer, found in John 17, is one of the most powerful prayers in all the New Testament. Here we discover the heart of Jesus, as he prays for his disciples before returning to the Father. In the prayer Jesus tells his Father in Heaven that his disciples not only heard and accepted the word, but they also obeyed the word that the Father gave his Son to share.

Jesus says, “I pray for them... for those you have given me, for they are yours.” The disciples believed that Jesus was sent by the Father, that he was the Christ and because they believed, their lives brought him glory. Jesus knew he would leave soon and when he returned to the Father, his disciples would be left behind with no one to defend them. So, he prays for the Father to protect them. He says, “Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me.”

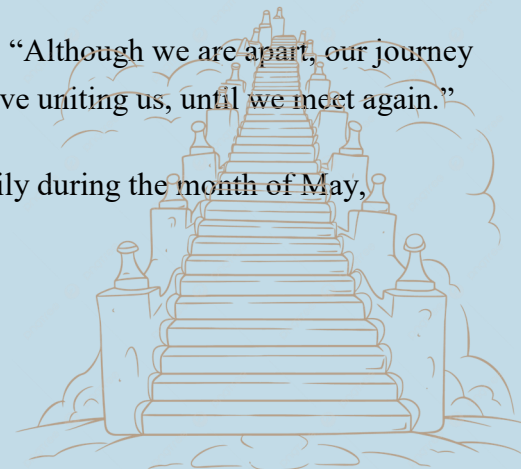
What a great reminder of the power in God’s name and the power of intercessory prayer. Here’s the good news, Jesus lives to intercede for us. He continually prays for our protection and for our unity. Jesus wants us to be one as he and the Father are one. But here’s the twist. Jesus didn’t pray for his disciples to come with him but rather to stay behind. Even though the world hates them and they are not of this world. Jesus leaves them behind so they can be sent into the world. As Jesus was sent into the world by the Father, now Jesus sends his disciples into the world. Why? So, they may have the full measure of Jesus’ joy within them and that they may be truly sanctified.

What about you? Have you heard, accepted and obeyed the word that the Father gave his Son Jesus to share? Do you believe that Jesus was sent by the Father and that he is the Christ? Are you ready to be sent into the world, even though the world hates you? If you are, then you can have the full measure of Jesus’ joy, be truly sanctified, and your life of faith will bring glory to Jesus.

In her poem, Crailin Hardy writes, “Although we are apart, our journey never ends, it continues on with love uniting us, until we meet again.”

May God bless you and your family during the month of May, as we serve Jesus together.

**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 study
- 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

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**Keenagers will meet on May 12**  
**(See details in this newsletter)**

**SIS** (Sisters In Service) **will not**  
**meet in May**

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**WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES -**  
**Last day for school bus pickup**  
**is May 20.**



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

- May 3 - Communion
- May 10 - Steve Albritton
- May 17 - (Available)
- May 24 - (Available)

Would you like to provide fresh flowers in honor of 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...

- June 28,
- July 12 & 19,
- August 23 & 30,
- November 29,
- December 13 & 20.

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Sunday, May 10

We will be Celebrating and Honoring our mothers and those who fill those roles in our lives. A small gift of appreciation will be given to those who are present, so bring your mom (if possible) so we can recognize her.



### Vacation Bible School

May 31—June 3, 2026

5:30—8 p.m.

Theme is "Masterpiece"



*Did YOU know that you are God's Masterpiece? And that He is actively working in your life each and every day?!?*

We are excited that VBS is finally here (woohoo!!!) We are getting prepared with our **VBS PLANNING & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** on Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m. in the FLC. **ALL VOLUNTEERS** (whether you have already signed up or not) **please be present** as we go over material, make plans, and get ready for a wonderful, fun, and inspirational VBS!!! **Dinner & Childcare will be provided.**

Contact Ashley at Ashley@wetumpkafirst.com for more information.



#### SENIOR SUNDAY—May 17

Celebrating the many accomplishments of our 2026 High School Graduates! Congratulations to: Finley Davisson, Thomas Justiss and Harper Macon!



#### IMPORTANT NEWS FROM OUR KITCHEN CREW:

**OUR MOST URGENT NEED is for a volunteer kitchen coordinator**, one who can plan meals, schedule volunteers, assign grocery purchasing, etc. To find out all that is involved in being our volunteer kitchen coordinator, please see one of our amazing kitchen crew members.

As we take some breaks for summer, please pray about joining the kitchen/homebound crew as many helping hands are needed. YOU can decide how much YOU can volunteer according to YOUR personal schedule. Substitute and "as needed help" is also appreciated!

Thank you to our most faithful kitchen crew!



#### PLEASE NOTE:

Our VISIONING and PLANNING MEETING that was scheduled for April 23 will be rescheduled at a later date. We ask that you prayerfully seek God's direction for our church. An immediate prayer need is how to reach the younger generation in our community, as well as "feed" those who are already a part of our church family.



We are excited to have you join in the Celebration of our 3rd Anniversary as part of the Global Methodist Church and to celebrate Cinco-de-Mayo with our Hispanic Ministry on **Sunday, May 3**. A meal will be served in the FLC immediately following the 10 a.m. worship! **EVERYONE is invited!**

## And some gave ALL...

be sure to pray for our heroes' families who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy our freedoms every single day.

HONOR



REMEMBER

*The church offices will be closed on Monday, May 25.*



Join us for our next **Coffee & Conversation** on **Sunday, May 24** 8:30—9:30 a.m. in **Wesley Hall**. *(Please note the time change—so that volunteers are able to get to the service on time).*

*We will be honoring our fallen heroes with a special red, white, and blue theme.*

GLORIFY GOD  
AMONG THE NATIONS

SEEKING HIM  
IN ALL GENERATIONS

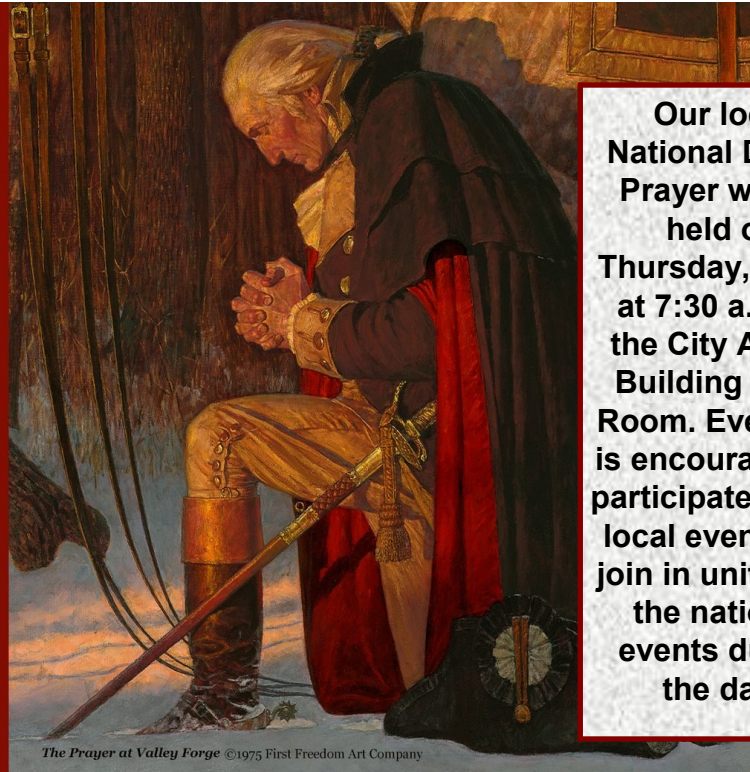
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

75<sup>TH</sup>



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG



*The Prayer at Valley Forge ©1975 First Freedom Art Company*

Our local National Day of Prayer will be held on **Thursday, May 7** at 7:30 a.m. at the **City Admin Building River Room**. **Everyone is encouraged to participate in this local event, and join in unity with the national events during the day.**

## Coming soon...HOUSE of HOLIDAYS...



Are you busy saving those household items for our upcoming House of Holidays?!? And searching your favorite recipes to share with our House of Holidays Bakery? It is Oct. 3 but we all know how time flies. Please be reminded that items can be brought in the week of the event and not before as storage space on our campus is limited. THANK YOU!!!! Contact Celestra Rowell at 334/301-3920 or see Donna Matthews, Tonya Turberville, Mae Friar, Carol Bush, or Sandra Hill with any questions.



Household  
Items





At just fourteen years old, Esther found herself in a unique situation—she was chosen to be part of a contest to become queen. Through a series of events, Esther had a choice: stay silent and stay safe or risk everything to stand up for what was right. With courage in her heart and faith in God, she made her decision—and God honored her bravery!

Our series this month, How to be Brave, will teach kids that being brave isn't about having no fear— it's about trusting God even when we're afraid. When we stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves, we bring honor to God, and He can use our courage to make a difference in the world!

**Memory Verse:**

**“Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.”**

**Joshua 1:9**

With Mother's Day quickly approaching, we want to say thank you to all our motherly figures in our lives with a Mother's Day Tea during the Sunday School hour on May 10. Come by the children's ministry room and celebrate Mother's Day with your little one. The Bridge will come to a close for this school year on May 20. We will celebrate the great year we had with a splash day on the front lawn. Then we will wrap up the month with the start of our VBS: Masterpiece on May 31! I am looking forward to all of the new memories we will make together church family!

**Blessings, Mrs. Ashley**



The Sunday to celebrate our amazing graduating seniors is almost here!! **Finley Davisson, Thomas Justiss, and Harper Macon** will be recognized and celebrated at the 10 a.m. worship service on May 17th! Come show your support and encouragement during this time of excitement, big feelings, and a huge transition, and if you reach out to or see them before then, let them know you are proud of them and praying for them, too. I know it would mean the world to them!

Speaking of exciting transitions, **Promotion Sunday is May 24th!** We can't wait for all the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders to be part of the student ministry and see how God continues to transform them into His likeness. We know He will use their gifts and talents to bless the lives of those both inside and outside of it!

I also want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who supported our church family's students in any way last month during the summer camp fundraiser. We are so blessed by your compassion, encouragement, and excitement to invest in their lives and ongoing transformation into Christ's likeness. We ask that you keep praying not only for those going but for our whole ministry as well, and we cannot wait to see and share how God continues to move!

**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.

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*

Hi everyone. Praying all things are good for all of you. The weather has been perfectly beautiful, but dry. April showers bring more flowers is what they say, but our April has been really dry. God provides beautiful things for us daily even flowers- never fear he is always near.

Our road trip in April to the Triple R Restaurant in Rockford was really delicious, that's all I can say. If you have a chance and missed going with us you should give them a try. We had two buses for this trip thanks to David and Tripp for their safe driving. After lunch we went for dessert at Blue Bell and they never let you down. We also had an extra treat because they were having their marble festival going on and we got to go across the street and see some fascinating marble art being done, and also some great pieces that were finished. It was just a very special day.

**Tuesday, May 12 will be our next delicious luncheon in the family life center at 11:45 a.m.** Delane Poageue will present our program sharing about things we need to think about as we get older. We will also be celebrating the 250th American Anniversary with our decorations of red, white and blue. Come join us for fun and learning! Our main meat dish will be meatloaf provided by Elmore County Office, Alabama Co-Op Ext.

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



## *Have you visited our brand new Good News Garden?*

It's located just outside the church office doors. Our children and youth have enjoyed participating in this project and are eager to share it with you...so go check it out. Who knows, you might even be inspired to bring your favorite painted rocks to add to the garden.



### **Delight In Your Weakness**

*So You Can Find The Strength God Wants To Give You: Devotionals That Will Encourage You to Trust Jesus and Never Lose Heart*

Rev. Walter Albritton's newest book "Delight" is an invitation to sit with a faith-filled friend whose cup overflows. Through stories of lived faith and quiet perseverance, this book offers spiritual nourishment from someone who has truly walked the walk. In every circumstance-joyful or difficult-the light of Christ shines through, reminding readers that delight is not found in ease, but in trust. Come, fill your cup, rest for a while, and let your faith grow.

In this book you will find poetry, many true stories, humor, and good, solid Bible teaching. You will learn more about the author's life, told candidly and with emotion. You will laugh, and you will shed tears. You will marvel at the deep, abiding love of your Heavenly Father and how much Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, suffered for you on the cross. You will learn how you can find strength and power in your weakness!

**Order your copy of Brother Walter's book at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)**

**READING THE BIBLE  
THROUGH IN A YEAR**



**MAY**

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 1 Chronicles 7 – 9    | 16 2 Chronicles 32 – 34 |
| 2 1 Chronicles 10 – 12  | 17 2 Chronicles 35 – 36 |
| 3 1 Chronicles 13 – 16  | 18 Ezra 1 – 4           |
| 4 1 Chronicles 17 – 19  | 19 Ezra 5 – 7           |
| 5 1 Chronicles 20 – 23  | 20 Ezra 8 – 10          |
| 6 1 Chronicles 24 – 26  | 21 Nehemiah 1 – 3       |
| 7 1 Chronicles 27 – 29  | 22 Nehemiah 4 – 7       |
| 8 2 Chronicles 1 – 4    | 23 Nehemiah 8 – 10      |
| 9 2 Chronicles 5 – 7    | 24 Nehemiah 11 – 13     |
| 10 2 Chronicles 8 – 11  | 25 Esther 1 – 5         |
| 11 2 Chronicles 12 – 16 | 26 Esther 6 – 10        |
| 12 2 Chronicles 17 – 20 | 27 Job 1 – 4            |
| 13 2 Chronicles 21 – 24 | 28 Job 5 – 8            |
| 14 2 Chronicles 25 – 28 | 29 Job 9 – 12           |
| 15 2 Chronicles 29 – 31 | 30 Job 13 – 16          |
|                         | 31 Job 17 – 20          |

**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.



|       |             |           |       |          |            |
|-------|-------------|-----------|-------|----------|------------|
| 05/02 | Pearl       | Albritton | 05/10 | Harrison | Smith      |
| 05/03 | Gloria      | Johnson   | 05/12 | Janice   | Whorton    |
| 05/03 | Debbie      | Jennings  | 05/12 | Zeb      | Pugh       |
| 05/04 | Annie Pearl | Pugh      | 05/13 | Nancy    | Holdbrooks |
| 05/04 | Eric        | Brent     | 05/17 | Kristy   | Graham     |
| 05/05 | Jamie       | Goll      | 05/18 | Larry    | Mann       |
| 05/06 | Mark        | Matthews  | 05/19 | Maggie   | Van Wagner |
| 05/06 | Euriah      | Smith     | 05/29 | William  | Cousins    |
| 05/07 | Pamela      | Kennedy   | 05/31 | Paul     | Henderson  |



|       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
| 05/09 | Ryan & Amanda Pugh     |
| 05/13 | Ronald & Deanna Nelson |
| 05/21 | Dennis & Lynda Fain    |
| 05/22 | Jerry & Alice Barnhart |
| 05/25 | Jimmy & Cheri Martin   |
| 05/30 | Ronald & Brysene Lee   |
| 05/30 | Ed & Lou Tatum         |

*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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**May 2026**



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