

From Our Pastor...

Overwhelmed By Life?



Have you been struggling recently (physically, emotionally, spiritually, or financially)? Do you sense that life is harder now than it was twenty years ago? Have your relationships with others been strained lately? Does the sense of dread that something is about to happen, or break loose, occur more often? Do you battle with mixed emotions of anxiety, enthusiasm, and uncertainty? If so, you are not alone!

We all go through periods of doubt which affect how we live. You are not working out as often as you once were. You are not thinking about nutrition when you sit down to eat. You are not trying to strengthen your relationships. You are not staying in God's word on a daily basis. You are just trying to hang on!

Jesus knew you would have such days. He knew you would sometimes feel overwhelmed by life. He knew you would have days struggling with the simplest of tasks, when the troubles of this world seemed insurmountable. This is exactly why he said to his disciples, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b). The Christian life is embracing God's promises because the One who promises is faithful.

In our walk with Christ, we need to keep going, keep loving, keep serving, keep obeying—until we have all that God has promised. We do not have it all, yet. In fact, we don't have even the smallest fraction of it. There is so much more to come. So, press on and walk in faith and someday God will fulfill all He has promised. Until then, let your faith be strengthened by reflecting on some of the precious promises of God.

The first promise, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God" (1 Corinthians 2:9-10). God knows exactly what you are going through right now. God knows every detail of your life; nothing escapes him. He knows exactly what you need, and he will supply it for you. In other words, the best is yet to come!

Here is the second promise, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:3-4). Not only will God supply everything we need in this life, he has given us bright hope for tomorrow. When you make these truths your own, they will become intensely personal, incredibly practical, and profoundly reliable. Then depending on how your day is going; you will rediscover, in a deeper way, just how true God's promises really are!

Ponder one more great promise: "Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath" (Hebrews 6:17). God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. God pledged them to us so that we can clearly know his purpose. God created the world and all that is in it for His own glory. You and I were created to glorify God with our mind, heart, and will. With our mind we can know God and be known by him; with our heart we can love God and others; and with our will we can choose to obey God.

God's faithfulness demonstrates his glory, his love, his grace, his mercy, his wisdom, his power, and his goodness. God is inviting you to take hold of this hope today. Then once you take hold of this hope, it will be an anchor for your soul, firm and secure. Go ahead—take hold of God's promises today! May God bless you and your family during the month of August.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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)
- Chancel Choir Practice—6 p.m.

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 Tuesday,
August 11 at 11:45 a.m. in the
FLC.**

**SIS (Sisters In Service) will meet
on Monday, August 24 at 1 p.m.
in Wesley Hall.**



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

August 2—Communion

August 9—William & Ashley Cousins

August 16—Frances Borders

August 23—Scarlotte Holmes

August 30—(available)

A reminder to please take the beautiful flowers with you to enjoy following the 10 a.m. worship service.



Join us for our next
Coffee & Conversation
on Sunday, August 23
8:30—9:30 a.m.
in Wesley Hall.
(Please remember no
food or drinks are
allowed in the
Sanctuary at any time.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS on August 8 in order to pull off our Annual Touch-A-Truck Community Event from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Can you spare an hour or two to help out???? This event is **TOTALLY** a kid favorite and always brings a lot of participation from our community. And, we are able to collect needed school supplies through our admission cost of a donated school supply. **Contact Mrs. Ashley (ashley@wetumpkafirst.com) to volunteer. (Or reply to this email). Volunteers are needed for Setup, Cleanup, Registration table, Hand out food, Train ride, Crowd control, Parking, Bounce House, First Aid Station, etc. And you get to be the first to see all the really cool vehicles on display!!!**

You are invited to Touch a Truck at First Methodist Church Wetumpka! This is a great chance to explore your child's favorite big trucks and vehicles, including an ambulance, firetruck, police car, wrecker, vintage vehicles, motorcycles, and more! There will be lots of trucks and vehicles to touch and look at, a train ride, bounce house, food for the family, giveaways, and fun! The cost to attend is just a school supply donation to benefit our local Elmore County schools.

WELCOME BACK!

**FOOD & FELLOWSHIP!!!
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
5:00 P.M. in our FLC!**

We are excited to announce our first Wednesday Night back after summer break! Gather with us to enjoy a time of delicious food and fellowship with our church family and celebrate our newly organized fabulous kitchen crew.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
Activities begin with school bus pickup (Wetumpka Elementary, Middle, and High schools and Redland area schools), and our amazing kitchen crew will serve a fantastic meal for us from 5:15 - 6 p.m. Watch for details of new bible studies to begin soon.

Jesus was the ultimate "Transformer." Everywhere He went, lives were changed — everyone He touched was transformed by His Almighty power. The question was never whether someone would be transformed, but how. From Lazarus to the Rich Young Ruler, from Thomas to the Samaritan Woman — each was completely transformed by Jesus. Through this series, children will discover that if they let Jesus lead and guide their lives, they too can be completely transformed.

Memory Verse

“When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come.

The old is gone! The new is here!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

A new school year is beginning, and with it, The Bridge returns on August 26th! I'm excited to see what this year holds and how God will use our talents to guide the next generation.

Join us for two kickoff events: Touch-a-Truck on August 8th, where we'll collect school supplies for local schools, and a Welcome Dinner on August 19th, launching our Wednesday night suppers.

The Bridge needs your guidance, support, and inspiration. We're seeking dedicated volunteers for Wednesday afternoons and evenings to help shape the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and creators. Whether you can give a few hours a week or a couple of hours a month, your time can change a child's life. We need group mentors, activity teachers (games, art, Bible), bus drivers, and bus riders. Please pray about it — and if your heart points you toward helping, come talk to me about how you can get involved.

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley



It has been such a blessing and joy to be part of the First Methodist Church Wetumpka family over the last 8 years. Andrea and I can't thank you enough for all the love and support poured into our lives, the countless laughs and memories we've shared, and all the ways you've welcomed us in and made us feel like we truly belong. Walking alongside you in this journey of growing increasingly into Christ's likeness as we share His love with everyone we can has been such a gift as our lives have grown together with yours in ways we will never forget.

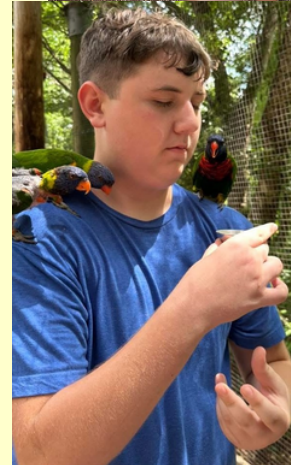
As we step into this next chapter with hearts full of gratitude and looking forward to what God has in store for both this church family and ourselves, we know whatever He brings will be in His perfect timing and love as we all continue seeking out His heart (Romans 8:28). We'll treasure the friendships we've made here forever. They mean more to us than we could ever express.

From the bottom of our hearts again, thank you.

"Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you."

2 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)

In Him, Jamie



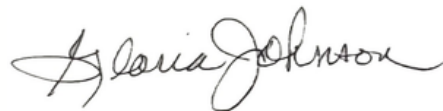
Senior Adult *Ministry*

July was a hot and sometimes rainy month. We celebrated the 250th anniversary of our freedom. It was a wonderful feeling to know that we do still have freedom in the United States. Lots of us went to the mountains, beach, watch ballgames, or were on the road to see beautiful America. It was a good month. We pray for the people that are getting too much rain, or fires, or earthquakes. We are so blessed at this time to be free of nature's wrath, but it can always come to us.

Tuesday, August 11 at 11:45 a.m. in the family life center Keenagers will be having a vegetable lunch. Everyone come and enjoy the wonderful home-cooked vegetables and desserts. Our own Beth Roberts will be our guest speaker. She will talk to us about plants and she might even bring a couple of examples of good ones from Petals of the Past, a wonderful nursery at Jemison, Alabama, where she works a couple of days a week. This will be a very interesting day!!!

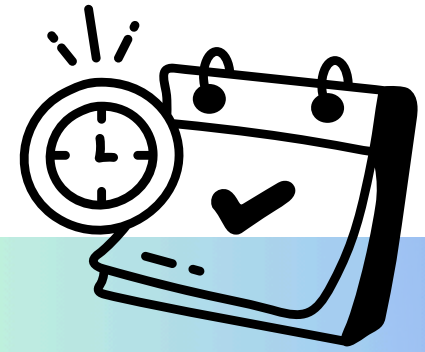
In September, we will travel to Bessemer, Alabama. We will be going to the famous Bright Star Restaurant for lunch. The Bright Star is Alabama's oldest continuously operated restaurant founded in 1907. Mark your calendar for this day to join us for a wonderful road trip!

Always Believe.



Gloria Johnson

Resist the urge to merely *endure*. Instead, ask God how you can *invest* in the season He has you in, and *trust* He has a plan even in the waiting.



Calling all men...

SAVE THE DATE!

**Friday and Saturday,
October 30 and 31... you're
encouraged to participate in a
Men's Conference at
Mulder Church here in
Wetumpka.**

**Mark the date on your calendars
now and watch for more details
and registration information
coming soon!**



THE BRIDGE

As a new school year begins,
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
EACH WEDNESDAYS
IN THESE AREAS:

- Bus drivers (2:15-3:15 p.m.)
- Bus riders (2:15-3:15 p.m.)
- Mentor/helpers
- Elective teachers
- Shoppers
- Provide Snacks
- Party day helpers

Contact Mrs. Ashley at
ashley@wetumpkafirst.com
for more details
and to sign up!
(See details in this newsletter)

Trails Temple Ministry

The Trails Temple Ministry of First Methodist Church of Wetumpka meets monthly at different locations in and around Wetumpka, as well as an occasional “road trip.” We generally meet around 8 a.m. or 9 a.m.; have a short devotional, and walk approximately 2-3 miles, depending on the weather and landscape where we’re walking. Everyone walks at their own pace...some like to walk fast, and some prefer to enjoy a more leisurely pace to enjoy the scenery! So far this year, we have been to Ft. Toulouse; Swayback Trail; Lanark Nature Center; The Riverwalk in Wetumpka; The John B. Scott Forever Wild Trail at Lake Martin; Lagoon Park Trails; Wind Creek State Park on Lake Martin; and most recently, Jordan’s Journey Trail at Lake Jordan. We have anywhere from 5 to 15 people, and we enjoy a fun time of fellowship, exercise, worship, and sometimes – there’s food involved! **Why don’t you come join us August 22nd when we plan to make a road trip up to Chewacla State Park in Auburn!** Please contact Wanda Rushing, 334/318-3380, wandarushing55@yahoo.com for more information and to be added to our contact list!



Serving our community...



YOU ARE WELCOME HERE is the rally cry from our local Fresh Start Recovery Ministry leaders **Paul and Monica Henderson** (pictured above).

Addiction affects individuals, families, and communities across our nation, and every person deserves the opportunity to pursue recovery. Faith communities such as First Methodst Church Wetumpka, play a vital role in the journey toward a holistic model of care by offering hope, reducing isolation, supporting families, and connecting individuals with recovery services and other local resources.

Our FRESH START MINISTRIES meet each Monday from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Family Life Center. What happens at a Fresh Start meeting?

Come each week at 6 p.m. to offer Praise & Worship, enjoy a home-cooked meal and join in a time of sharing from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Ask about opportunities for recovery and employment. Come and show support for those who are struggling. **Everyone is welcome!**



Loading up supplies collected during our VBS Fundraiser for the Humane Society of Elmore County.



Our HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS is closer than ever!
On SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 our FLC will be filled with exciting items for sale, yummy baked goods, delicious frozen casseroles and soups, a hot lunch and many other goodies! Be saving those yard sale items now to bring the week of the sale.

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR

August



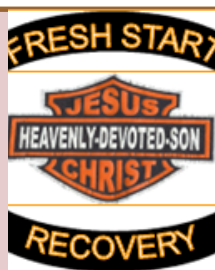
1 Isaiah 60 – 63
2 Isaiah 64 – 66
3 Jeremiah 1 – 3
4 Jeremiah 4 – 5
5 Jeremiah 6 – 8
6 Jeremiah 9 – 11
7 Jeremiah 12 – 14
8 Jeremiah 15 – 17
9 Jeremiah 18 – 21
10 Jeremiah 22 – 24
11 Jeremiah 25 – 27
12 Jeremiah 28 – 30
13 Jeremiah 31 – 32
14 Jeremiah 33 – 36
15 Jeremiah 37 – 39

16 Jeremiah 40 – 43
17 Jeremiah 44 – 46
18 Jeremiah 47 – 48
19 Jeremiah 49
20 Jeremiah 50
21 Jeremiah 51 – 52
22 Lamentations 1 – 2
23 Lamentations 3 – 5
24 Ezekiel 1 – 4
25 Ezekiel 5 – 8
26 Ezekiel 9 – 12
27 Ezekiel 13 – 15
28 Ezekiel 16 – 17
29 Ezekiel 18 – 20
30 Ezekiel 21 – 22
31 Ezekiel 23 – 24

FRESH START Support Group

meets at 6 p.m. each

MONDAY 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.**
(See the article in this newsletter)



08/05 Bruce Barber	08/19 Lynda Fain
08/07 Gigi Hankins	08/19 Danielle Carden
08/09 Lynda Estabrook	08/21 Chris Goll
08/09 Ricky Roberts	08/21 Mack Caton
08/11 Rick Tyler	08/23 Penni Buckelew
08/12 Thomas Macon	08/25 Doug Smith
08/13 Linda Prine	08/26 Joyce Carter
08/14 Sophie Arant	08/26 Vickie Logan
08/15 Cornbread (Al Frith)	08/27 Ashley Gilliland
08/15 Holly Chatman	08/28 Lee Cash
08/16 Mark Jennings	08/28 Joe McDonald
08/17 Sherry Braddam	08/31 Shelton Prine
08/17 Allanah Tindal	08/31 Kelly Roth
08/17 Earl Singleton	08/31 Andrea Farquhar



08/04 Ted & Frances Watts
 08/04 Jerry & Kathy Willis
 08/07 Mack & Teresa Caton
 08/10 Johnny & Joyce Carter
 08/27 Trip & Mary Weldon
 08/28 Bruce & Marilyn Knapp

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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AUGUST 2026



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- Special events in August
- Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries
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- Pictures, pictures, pictures!



We are kicking off our first Wednesday back with a Welcome Back Food & Fellowship on August 19...Bus pick up begins August 26.
 See all the details in this newsletter!