

From Our Pastor...

Pride Kills

If you live in the South, then you have heard of kudzu. It has been called “the vine that ate the South.” This creeping, climbing perennial vine terrorizes native plants all over the southeastern United States. From the 1930s through the 1950s, the Soil Conservation Service promoted kudzu as a great tool for soil erosion control and it was planted in abundance throughout the south. Little did we know that kudzu is quite a killer, overtaking and growing over anything in its path. The root system of the kudzu vine grows deep. Even if a little is left behind it sprouts again. It can take root in the toughest soil but it flourishes in good soil. Pride is the kudzu of the soul. The danger of pride is that it feeds on goodness. Like kudzu, pride kills.

Pride tells us, “I don’t need God or anyone else’s help. I can handle this on my own.” Actually, no you can’t! We absolutely need God, and we desperately need each other. The Apostle Paul wisely wrote, “we worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3). That is a good definition of humility; putting no confidence in the flesh but rather being “strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might” (Ephesians 6:10). True humility is confidence properly placed in God.

Pride is the original sin of Satan and Satan uses pride to set one person or group against another. Satan’s strategy is always to divide and conquer. However, God “has committed to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19). Consider how Christ broke down the longstanding barrier of racial prejudice between Jew and Gentile. “For Christ is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit” (Ephesians 2: 14, 17-18).



Submit to God
1Peter 2:21

Many times, we deny that there is prejudice or bigotry in our hearts. Yet “nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account” (Hebrews 4:13). If we are wise, we will ask God to shine His light upon our hearts and reveal any area of prejudice. Then for each area of prejudice, superiority, or bigotry that the Lord brings to mind; confess and renounce that prideful sin.

James is helpful here: “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). We submit to God by confessing our sin, then repenting or turning away from that sin. We resist the devil by rejecting his lies. Then we are no longer bound by the power of sin or pride in our lives and are able to walk in God’s truth. But remember like kudzu, pride can creep back into our lives, if we are not careful.

May God continue to reveal himself to you and your family during the month of September.

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. (FLC)

WEDNESDAY:

- Soft Yoga Class 9 a.m. (WH)
- Bus pickup after school 3 p.m.
- Meal 5:15 - 6 p.m. (FLC)
- Children, Youth, adult bible studies 6 - 6:45 p.m.
- 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.
until noon upstairs in Ed. Bldg.

September

Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

September 6—Communion

September 13—Marvin & Jane Salter

September 20 - Neal & Leah Pridgen

September 27 - Jim & Wanda Rushing

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

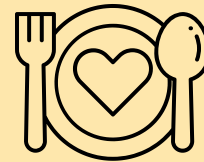


Join us for our next
Coffee & Conversation
on Sunday, Sep. 27
from 8:30—9:30 a.m.
in Wesley Hall hosted
by the New Beginnings
Sunday School.

(Please remember no food
or drinks are allowed in the
Sanctuary at any time.)

Here's what's happening each Wednesday...

Each **WEDNESDAY** activities begin with school bus pickup (Wetumpka Elementary, Middle, and High schools and Redland area schools) followed by snacks, activities, meal and bible lessons.



**FOOD & FELLOWSHIP from 5:15 P.M. - 6 P.M.
in our FLC!**

NEW BIBLE STUDIES from 6-6:45 p.m.

- **LIBRARY:** Brother Matt is teaching, "He Took My Hand", by Rev. Walter Albritton.
- **CORNESTONE CLASSROOM:** Walter Kennedy is teaching, "Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine", by Max Lucado.



Chancel Choir Practice at 6 p.m. in the Chapel.



URGENT NEEDS FOR WEDNESDAYS

Bus riders, Youth Helpers and Kids Helpers!
Contact Mrs. Ashley at Ashley@wetumpkafirst.com
for more details!

URGENT NEED FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS ON SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS.

Contact Mrs. Ashley at Ashley@wetumpkafirst.com
for more details.



Calling all men...

**See Brother Matt to
register before space fills!**

**Friday and Saturday,
October 30 and 31... you're
encouraged to participate in a
Men's Conference at
Camp Chandler.**

**\$100 registration includes
supper, breakfast, snacks and
overnight lodging.**

**Staying overnight and
fellowshipping is encouraged,
but there is special pricing if
you just want to attend the
conference.**

**Pick up a brochure for more
details!**

This month, our series focuses on giving our love to God. We've all seen people who think that nice cars, nice clothes, a nice house, and other expensive things make them a little more important than the rest of us. That's not an attitude God is pleased with. In fact, God says we shouldn't waste our love on this world or the things of this world. We shouldn't love money, possessions, popularity, power, or ANYTHING of this world. God wants ALL of our love — not SOME of our love.

Bible Verse:

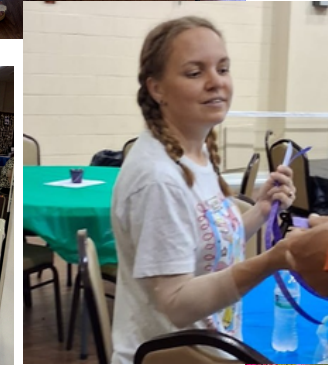
**“Do not love the world or anything in it.
If anyone loves the world, love for the
Father is not in them.”**

1 John 2:15

I'm excited that The Bridge is back! I've missed seeing the kids every week and can't wait for more fun afternoons throughout the school year.

Be on the lookout for details about our upcoming Pumpkin Patch trip in early October — it will be posted on Facebook and in the church bulletin!

**Blessings,
Mrs. Ashley**





We asked for help and YOU answered the call! A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who supported our Touch-a-truck Event! Ashley did a phenomenal job planning and organizing! As we have been reporting we had almost 500 kids and families here and collected two car loads of school supplies! What an amazing event! Enjoy the pics...



Senior Adult Ministry

September is supposed to be the beginning of fall, but Summer is still going strong.

Our August senior adult luncheon was a huge success, especially the fried okra. Beth Roberts presented a great program on pollinators. We had a small selection of plants that can be put out now for next year - the information and flowers she gave us will be very useful.

Remember Tuesday, September 8 is our road trip to the Bright Star Restaurant in Bessemer Alabama.

Buses will leave at 9:30 A.M. sharp. Reservations will be at 11 A.M. The bright star is a very special restaurant and is the longest serving restaurant in Alabama open from 1907 until today. It started out as a 12 seat bar. **From that it grew into a small restaurant and today it is one of the most famous family-owned restaurants with the best food in Alabama.** In 2007 they celebrated their 100 year anniversary. Look up the Bright Star on Google and you will be surprised at the information you will find about them. You will not want to miss this road trip! Sign-up sheets will be in Wesley Hall and at the top of the stairs coming up from the family life Center. The sheets will be taken up after church on Sunday, September 6. If you signed up, but find you cannot go, please let me know as soon as possible. I will need to correct the number for reservations. The food will be great, the fellowship will be wonderful. Let's all go on a joyful drive.

Practice the Pause

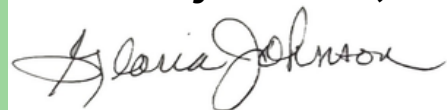
Pause before speaking

Pause before judging

Pause before assuming

A prayerful Pause often makes room for God's wisdom to lead your words.

Always Believe,



Gloria Johnson





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)

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.



Important House of Holidays Information...

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!

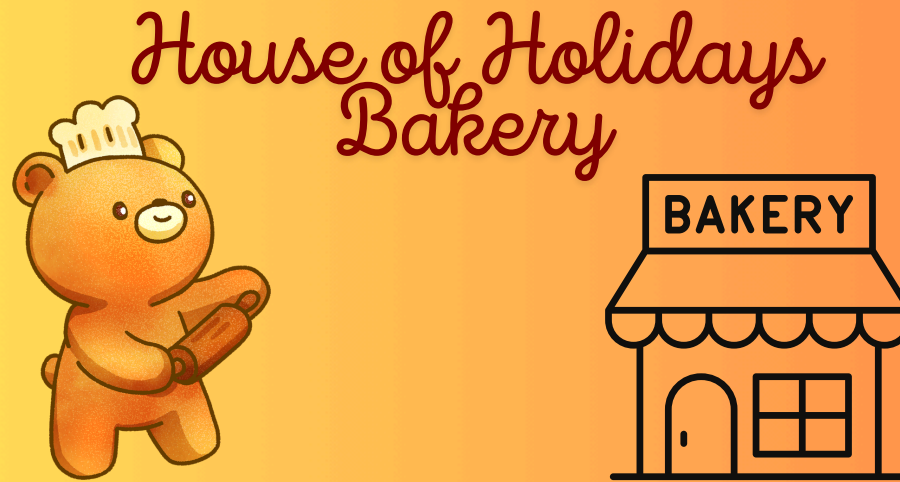
- Baked Goods: Cookies, Cakes, Pies, Bread
 - Homemade Frozen Soups & Casseroles
 - Second Time Around Thrift Style Items
 - Rib Eye Steak Slider Combo

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 from 8am-3pm).
- **Cooks:** If you would like to volunteer to bring frozen soups and casseroles, call Kay Dansby 334-221-3176 or Tonya Turberville 334-730-5227 (deliver to the church Sept. 28-Oct. 2 from 8am-3pm).
- **Second Time Around Donations:** Start saving "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 from 8am-3pm). There will be people here to assist you.

"Excitement is in the Air" as we bring back this beloved church tradition!

CONTACT CAROL (334-322-2866) & CELESTRA (334-301-3920) WITH ANY QUESTIONS AND TO VOLUNTEER!



It's that time of year again, when are asking for your help with donations of baked goods. The bakery will be located in the Family Life Center.

We are asking as usual for cakes, pies, candy, cookies, cupcakes. Signup sheets are on the table in the Education building, Wesley Hall, and in the Sunday School binders for the next few weeks.

Baked items need to be brought to the Family Life Center NO LATER THAN 3 P.M. on Friday, Oct. 2.

Thank you again for your past support. We are looking forward to another successful year at the House of Holidays Bakery.

Any questions or concerns please contact Sandra Hill at 334/546-8735.

The House of Holidays Casseroles & Soups

 Casserole pans, soup containers and labels will be provided in the Family Life Center (FLC).

 Please bring casseroles and soups **frozen** and drop off in the FLC between September 28–October 2.

 Sign-up sheets are located in Wesley Hall and FLC.

♥ *Your kindness makes a difference!* ♥
Every casserole and bowl of soup is more than a meal—it's a blessing to someone in our community.
Thank you for sharing the love of Christ!

Questions: please contact ♥
♥ Tonya Turberville (334) 730-5227
♥ Kay Dansby (344) 221-3176
or Janice Whorton (334) 782-2707

♥ **First Methodist Church Wetumpka**



READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR



September

1 Ezekiel 25 – 27	16 Hosea 10 – 14
2 Ezekiel 28 – 30	17 Joel 1 – 3
3 Ezekiel 31 – 32	18 Amos 1 – 4
4 Ezekiel 33 – 35	19 Amos 5 – 9
5 Ezekiel 36 – 38	20 Obadiah 1
6 Ezekiel 39 – 40	21 Jonah 1 – 4
7 Ezekiel 41 – 43	22 Micah 1 – 4
8 Ezekiel 44 – 46	23 Micah 5 – 7
9 Ezekiel 47 – 48	24 Nahum 1 – 3
10 Daniel 1 – 3	25 Habakkuk 1 – 3
11 Daniel 4 – 5	26 Zephaniah 1 – 3
12 Daniel 6 – 8	27 Haggai 1 – 2
13 Daniel 9 – 12	28 Zechariah 1 – 5
14 Hosea 1 – 4	29 Zechariah 6 – 10
15 Hosea 5 – 9	30 Zechariah 11 – 14

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)



Sep 2 - Tara Dozier	Sep 15 - Tim Lawrence
Sep 9 - Larry Dozier	Sep 15 - Jon Luke Arant
Sep 13 - Ray Daniels	Sep 19 - Leighton Greenlee
Sep 13 - Shelia Sealy	Sep 24 - Sharon Bledsoe
Sep 14 - Sean Rider	Sep 24 - Judi Daniels
Sep 14 - Lou Tatum	Sep 25 - Carl Bledsoe
Sep 14 - Rick Futch	Sep 26 - Fran Chance



Sep 7 - Hughett & Mardre Williams
Sep 16 - Carl & Sharon Bledsoe
Sep 19 - Neal & Leah Pridgen
Sep 29 - Larry & Marilyn Dozier

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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SEPTEMBER 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

- From our Pastor
- Our Children and Senior Adults
- Special events in September
- Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries
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- Fresh Start Support Group
- Pictures, pictures, pictures!



Lots of important House of Holidays information in this newsletter.
Check it out...