From Our Pastor...

Your Purpose in Life



God has given each of us a purpose in life. He has designed this purpose, individually and uniquely, with each of us in mind. It is our job to discover that purpose and use it for God's glory. It is extremely sad to see a life wasted on pursuing earthly gain or living as though one will live on this earth forever. The wise Solomon reminds us that our life is like a vanishing vapor. For mankind, there is a beginning and an ending. "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Timing is everything. I truly believe that God would love for each of us to surrender our lives to him this very minute. So, he could shower us with the blessings that await those who truly give all they have and all they are to him. But he also knows each of us all too well. He knows that our pride and the cares of this world will often hinder our ability to listen to him and follow through on what he is calling us to do. Sometimes we are just not ready to hear what God has to say. Or we may be ready to hear it but we are not strong enough to act upon it.

There are many occasions in life when answers must come in God's time. God does not always deliver us from financial bondage, from illness, or from tough challenges. Sometimes, God delays his answers. He does this to bring us to a point where we will be humble enough to listen, or we repent and come to him just as we are. There are other times when God allows us to hit rock bottom. He does this so we will know that there is nowhere else to go but up and that God is our only hope.

Often times, God makes us wait simply to show forth his power through our deliverance; "That the works of God should be manifest in us" (John 9:3a). When God's answers are delayed or he says "no" to our request. He does this because it may not be the right thing for us to have in our lives at that time. Or perhaps the waiting will strengthen our faith and mold us into the person he has created us to be. Good friends, we need to remember that God knows what we do not know about the road that lies ahead.

So, God is patient with us! He gives us time to grow. As we come to Christ, he leads us to a place where we begin to see the big picture—his plan for his Church and for us individually. Trust him to lead you to something more glorious and wonderful than you could ever imagine. God has never promised that his purpose for your life would be easy but he does promise it will be worth it in the end.

May God continue to bless you and your family in the month of November, as you grow in grace and embrace his purpose for your life.

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.

November

November 1 - Communion
November 8 - Celestra Rowell
November 15 - Georgette Norman
November 22 - Tommy & Nell Head
November 29 - Jackie Voss

Reminder: Please take the beautiful flowers with you to enjoy following the 10 a.m. worship service.



HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS

Thank you BIG for participating in this beloved tradition!
Together we raised $14,000!!!
All proceeds from the House of Holidays go to support special projects on our campus!

Sunday, November 22

It's a great time of year for a Bake Sale!!!



Each year our church is required to host a fundraising event to be able to keep our sales tax exempt for the state of Alabama. Our Finance Committee sponsors our fundraiser called The United Appeal Fund. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Elmore County Food Pantry and First Methodist Church Pastor Discretionary Fund.

Here's how you can participate:

1) Calling all of our wonderful bakers—please use your talents and share some of your baking magic. Cakes, cookies, cupcakes, pies, etc. are welcome! Sign-up sheets are around the campus or call the church office to let us know what you will be bringing.

2) This is the Sunday before Thanksgiving— a perfect time to purchase yummy desserts for your family Thanksgiving events!

Bring your goodies to Wesley Hall on Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. until noon, or bring them Sunday morning prior to church.

IMPORTANT!!!! Please have them in disposable containers and have them packaged and ready to sell. There will be no time on a busy Sunday morning to package and price items.





VETERANS SUNDAY... November 8
We want to honor our heroes and the courage, sacrifice, and service of those who have defended our country.

If you served and will be present in our worship services, please wear your designations (Uniform, hat, t-shirt, insignias). All veterans present in our services will recieve a small token of appreciation! THANK YOU VETERANS every day for your sacrifices!

Please note: The church offices will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Everywhere you turn, the message seems to be “Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!” But two small words hold real power: “Thank you.” Whether it’s the newest video game or the biggest slice of pie, it’s easy for kids (and grown-ups, too!) to believe life is all about what we can get. God invites us to see it differently. Scripture reminds us that “every good and perfect gift comes from above.” Gratitude is more than good manners; it’s a way of honoring God.

Bible Verse:
“Give praise to the Lord. Make his name known.
Tell the nations what he has done.”
1 Chronicles 16:8

I’m so excited about all the events we have coming up! I can’t wait to see your smiling faces as we celebrate the holidays together.

Dates to Remember:
November 18: Friendsgiving
December 12: Christmas on the Coosa Parade/Fireworks/Hot Cocoa
December 13: Children’s Choir Musical
December 16: Christmas Party during The Bridge

Blessings,
Mrs. Ashley

We all know that loving others is at the heart of Jesus’ teaching. But if we’re honest, living it out is harder than it sounds, especially when life is full and the people around us are difficult to love.

This month, our series explores what love looks like in action. Jesus calls us away from the world’s “me first” mindset and toward his “after you” way of living. Together, we’ll see how Jesus teaches us to notice the needs around us and care for one another. We’ll also discover how God’s Spirit empowers us to serve, and how God invites us to share our joy with others.

I’m so excited for this next chapter in our student ministries! This has been a wonderful challenge for me, and I can’t wait to learn alongside you as we grow in Christ together.

Dates to Remember:
November 1: CAIN concert
November 18: Friendsgiving
December 12: Christmas on the Coosa Parade/Fireworks/Hot Cocoa
December 13: Children’s Choir Musical
December 16: Christmas Party during The Bridge
December 20: Youth Christmas Dinner

Blessings,
Mrs. Ashley

Senior Adult Ministry

Learning about the Poarch Creek Indians

<u>On Tuesday, November 10 we will leave at 10:15 am for a great little jaunt to Catherine's Market near Alex City</u>. There will be something for everyone. There are unique items in the market, deli, from scratch bakery, and coffee shop. This will be a nice little bit of relaxing before Thanksgiving begins. Do not be left behind. It will be a great adventure. **There will be sign-up sheets in Wesley Hall and the table at the top of the stairs from family life center. We have to know how many people are riding the bus and eating so sign up as soon as possible! Thank you.**











Our October Fall luncheon was a huge success and all my love and thanks goes out to the very special friends who took up the reins for me from start to finish. Celestra, Debbie and the knitting group were instrumental in the lead, but there were many others. Thanks to all of you. You are truly the hands and feet of Jesus.

I want to see all of you signed up for the bus trip to Catherine's Market on November 10, 2026. <u>Remember, the bus leaves the church at 10:15 a.m.</u> If you sign up and find you can't make the trip, call me as soon as possible.

<u>Who will we share God's love and comfort with today?</u>

Always Believe,

Gloria Johnson

Gloria Johnson

Welcome

Associate Pastor Brian and Angela!



Angela and I would like to thank everyone for making us feel so welcome during our first few weeks with you. We are looking forward to partnering with all of you here at First Methodist Church Wetumpka and seeing what God will do as we move forward into an incredible future TOGETHER!

Serving Together,
Pastor Brian

Brian was called to ministry at an early age (though he did not realize it then) and he answered that call from God while in college in 1991. He graduated from Huntingdon College in Montgomery in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion. He enlisted in the United States Army for a brief period before heading to seminary. Brian received his Master's degree in Biblical Studies from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1998 and his Doctor of Ministry degree in Theology & Apologetics in 2022 from Liberty University.

During his years of ministry, he served in Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Brian has provided leadership in many areas of ministry such as children ministry, youth, young adults and college, Sunday School, adults, education, small groups, discipleship, outreach, missions, evangelism, college chaplain, pastoral care as well as serving as an Associate Pastor at two different churches and Senior Pastor of two previous churches.



Brian and his wife Angela have been married for 29 years after meeting at Asbury Theological Seminary. They have three grown children and one grandchild. Matthew and his wife Kendall live in Clanton, AL with their 2-year-old son, Silas. Katie Leigh and her husband, Stuart, live in Dallas, TX (and are expecting baby Danny in March 2027). Brian and Angela's youngest son, Joshua, is a junior at Troy University studying Business Marketing. Angela serves as the Middle School Counselor at St. James School in Montgomery.

We are excited about coming to First Methodist Church Wetumpka and being part of the family here.
Let's make much of our GREAT God Together!

Enjoying theFall Festival....





















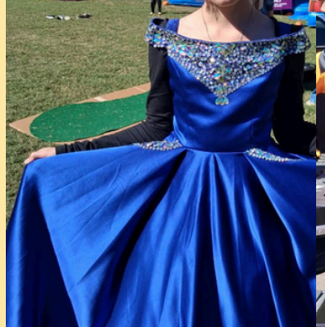
More Fall Festival pics...

















The Cornerstone Class enjoyed a Fall Social at the Farmer's Market on Thursday, October 15!!!!





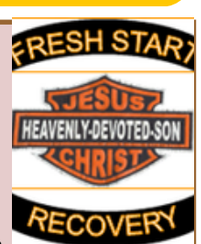


READING THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR



November

1 John 1 – 2
2 John 3 – 4
3 John 5 – 6
4 John 7 – 8
5 John 9 – 10
6 John 11 – 12
7 John 13 – 15
8 John 16 – 17
9 John 18 – 19
10 John 20 – 21
11 Acts 1 – 3
12 Acts 4 – 5
13 Acts 6 – 7
14 Acts 8 – 9
15 Acts 10 – 11
16 Acts 12 – 13
17 Acts 14 – 15
18 Acts 16 – 17
19 Acts 18 – 19
20 Acts 20 – 21
21 Acts 22 – 23
22 Acts 24 – 26
23 Acts 27 – 28
24 Romans 1 – 3
25 Romans 4 – 7
26 Romans 8 – 10
27 Romans 11 – 14
28 Romans 15 – 16
29 1 Corinthians 1 – 4
30 1 Corinthians 5 – 9



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.**

Happy Birthday



11/05	Annabelle	Campbell	**11/17**	Katie	Brent
11/06	Donna	Matthews	**11/19**	Bobby	Singleton
11/07	Nell	Head	**11/20**	Wanda	Rushing
11/10	Marjorie	Mallard	**11/20**	Beth	Roberts
11/10	Frances	Watts	**11/22**	Alvin	Ward
11/10	Jennifer	Daniels	**11/23**	Jonny	McCune
11/11	Sonya	Houlton	**11/23**	Emorett	Smith
11/13	Ewell	Messer	**11/25**	Fred	Lovelace
11/13	Walter	Kennedy	**11/27**	Leah	Pridgen
11/14	Bob	Strickland	**11/29**	Charlene	Lovelace
11/17	Cal	Estabrook	**11/30**	David	Barnes

Happy Anniversary

11/04	Sanford & Malinda Brannan
11/11	Douglas Smith & Sonya Houlton
11/24	Andy & Alice Scarborough
11/30	Bob & Donna Strickland

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

NOVEMBER 2026



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We wish all of our church family a wonderfully blessed Thanksgiving!