

From Our Pastor

Awaiting Advent

The psalmist David writes, “Wait for the LORD; be strong and courageous. Wait for the LORD” (Psalm 27:14). What's the longest you've had to wait for something? I imagine almost everyone has a memory of Christmas Eve as a child; squeezing your eyes shut, trying with all your might to go to sleep on Christmas Eve. For those of you with traditional parents, you knew that even opening one present before Christmas morning was out of the question, so you counted sheep and waited.

Waiting is still difficult. We expect everything to be at our fingertips the moment we have the desire for it. It's the world we live in and it's addicting. We live in a world of downloads, high-speed email, on demand movies, and fast food. Yet God finds ways of making us wait.

Waiting and faith go hand-in-hand. We wait for the baby we have dreamed we would hold in our arms. We wait for a prodigal to come to the end of them self and return home. We wait for the phone call from the doctor's office telling us the tests were negative. We wait for a spiritual breakthrough that will open our eyes to a deeper understanding of God. Waiting is the embodiment of faith. Advent is about faith and waiting. *(Continued next column)*



What are you waiting on God for this year? Remember the years of silence as God's people waited for the Messiah. Take time, right now, to reflect on the fact that God's timing is quite different from ours. The story of Jesus birth gives us assurance and joy because even though the waiting lingered, God broke through at just the right time. He sent us a living hope in his son Jesus and filled us with joy and peace.

Advent is a great time to exercise your faith because God always keeps his promises.

Just wait. Jesus encouraged his followers this way: “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20).

During Advent have faith that God will break through at just the right time for you, for your family, and for your church in the coming year.

May God bless you and your family during the month of December.

In Christ's arms, **Brother Matt**



Dear Church Family,
Thank you does not seem adequate to express my gratitude to all of you for your love and support during Bill's recent surgery and recovery. The phone calls, cards and food were very comforting and so appreciated. I felt the presence of God through each one of you. What a blessing for me to be a part of First Wetumpka church family. Blessings & love to all, Sonya Arnold

Thank you for your love and support during my surgeries and recoveries. The phone calls, cards, gifts, and food were very comforting and very much appreciated. It's a blessing for me to be a part of our church family. God bless, *Jeanelle Andrews*

A wonderful thank you to our Altar Guild who decorated our church so beautifully—ushering in the Christmas spirit.

Take a minute to gaze into the Chrismon tree in the Chapel. The Chrismon class under the direction of Judy Dudley did a superb job creating and repairing the intricate ornaments for this year's tree. Do you know what all the symbols represent?



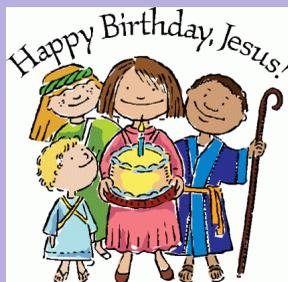


We are so excited to study compassion this month. Your kids are learning that compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need. God did something about our greatest need by sending us His son, Jesus. I can't think of better example of compassion, can you?

Don't miss events:



Come join us for **Word & Table** next Sunday, December 9 with Brother Matt. This is a special time of communion and a short lesson with our pastor.



Birthday party for Jesus Wednesday, Dec. 12 during Children's Ministry in the Family Life Center. Kids of ALL ages welcome! We will have birthday cake, snacks, balloons, and lots of FUN! Come join us!

Don't forget: The Children's Choir will be singing in the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on December 23rd.

Ms. Michelle



For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:36

Before mentioning the other exciting things going on this month, I wanted to personally thank everyone from the bottom of my heart who has already been supporting the student ministry with your amazing time, talents, and gifts. I am so thrilled to meet all of you who answered His call to come alongside the student ministry by marking it on your Every Member in Ministry form! It is only as the complete body of Christ that we can operate fully as He intends. I can't wait to see what amazing things He has in store as we partner in ministry together.

With so many spiritually rich church traditions and symbols woven into the Christmas and Advent seasons, this month the 1136 Student Ministry will be exploring the meanings behind the decorations, time frames, rituals, and themes of these seasons while, more importantly, learning how they can teach us more about who Christ is and how to grow in deeper relationship with Him!

During this season of celebration, we will also have a couple of really fun events!

**Thankfulness Exchange – Dec 2nd @ 4:00pm
&
Christmas Party! – Dec 16th @ 5:30pm**

I can't wait to see everyone at the weekly gatherings and events! Bring a friend to share in all the fun we'll be having, and keep watching our website and social media formats for updates! Merry Christmas!!!
Jamie



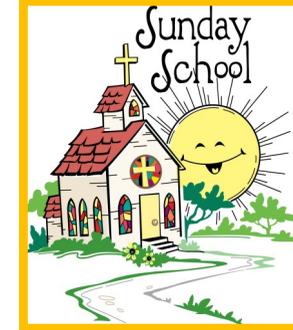
Finally, November 12th arrived and all 27 of us got on the BIG BLACK BUS and on our way to "NASHVILLE" . We first had a guided tour of downtown Nashville. We experienced a ride on the DELTA FLATBOATS inside the beautiful OPRYLAND HOTEL. We enjoyed a Dinner show at the Grand Ole Opry. On Tuesday we had a guided tour of beautiful BELLE MEADE PLANTATION and then enjoyed a Dinner and a show at the fabulous NASHVILLE NIGHTLIFE DINNER THEATER. Shopped and ate in downtown Nashville and then someone sees a sign "BUY 1 PAIR OF BOOTS- GET 2 FREE", needless to say I have never seen so many boots in my life - ended up some how with 4 pair of boots and I am not sure who paid!!!! It was fun watching, but for sure there are 4 new pair of boots walking around the Church on Sundays. One night after a dinner, ,we were leaving and "Gloria" got on the wrong bus - she was on the Florida bus, thank goodness we found her and got her back on our bus..... There was so much fun and laughter on the trip. Of all things, our leader Sandra Hill made sure that we took all of our "STUFF" that belong to us off the bus when we departed in Wetumpka, guess who left some "stuff" on the bus—SANDRA HILL. She had to call our wonderful bus driver, Douglas and pick it up from him later in Atlanta. All went well and it was a joyous trip for everyone. Must not forget, we ate and ate and ate!!!!!!



KEENAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
Tuesday, December 4th at 12 noon.
Delicious meal, fun game and then delivering Christmas flowers to our shut-ins. Please come for the luncheon, fellowship, and take the time to visit someone.

Our December calendar is getting busy, but please take the time to savor the moment and enjoy. It has been a busy year for the Seniors and we look forward to year 2019!!!!

Have a Blessed Christmas Season,
Celestra



Join us for
Sunday
School at
9:20 a.m.
each
week!

YUMMY PANCAKE SUPPER
December 2 at 6 p.m.
All donations go to support
FUMC local missions.

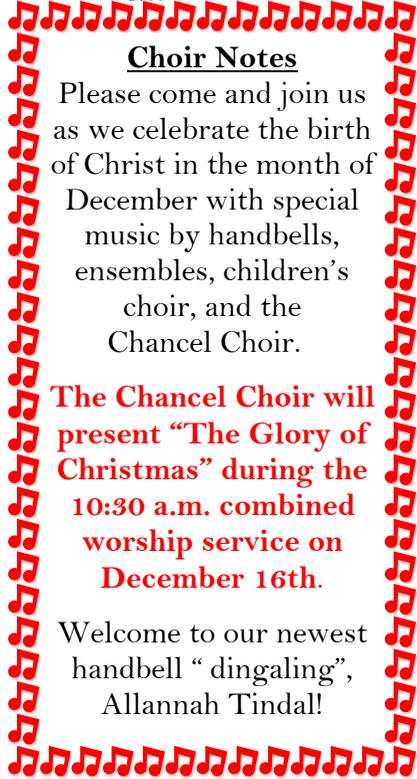


Choir Notes

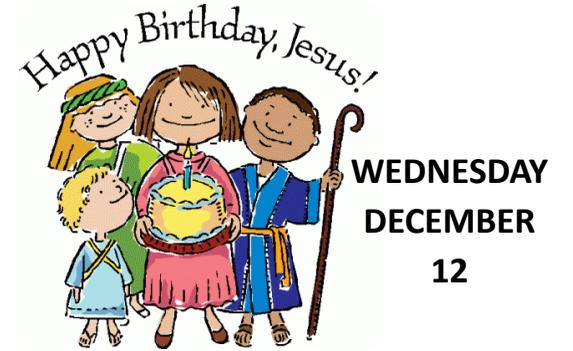
Please come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ in the month of December with special music by handbells, ensembles, children's choir, and the Chancel Choir.

The Chancel Choir will present "The Glory of Christmas" during the 10:30 a.m. combined worship service on December 16th.

Welcome to our newest handbell "dingaling", Allannah Tindal!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Pancake supper 6 pm FLC for local missions	3	4 Tuesday Bible study 9:30 am Keenagers Christmas Luncheon	5 Meal 5:15 Bible study/activities	6	7	8 Christmas on the Coosa events downtown/parade 2 pm
9	10	11 Tuesday Bible study 9:30 am	12 Happy Birthday Jesus Party 3:45 pm!!!	13 SPRC Meeting 6 pm in the library	14 Live Nativity downtown 6-8 pm	15
16 Combined worship 10:30 Chancel Choir Christmas	17	18 NO Tuesday Bible study	19 Meal 5:15 Bible study/act Deadline Angel Tree gifts	20	21	22 Distribution of Angel Tree gifts
23 Special songs by Children's Choir	24 Christmas Eve Communion Offices closed	25 Merry Christmas	26 No Wednesday Activities	27	28	29
30 Rev. Walter Albritton preaching	31 NEW YEARS EVE					



The Angel Tree will be set up in Wesley Hall beginning Sunday, December 2. . Please pick your angels following the 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. worship services.

Simply choose your angel off the tree and go shopping! Please bring your purchased gifts to Wesley Hall NO LATER than Wednesday, December 19.

See Nancy Holdbrooks, Michelle, or Jamie if you have any questions on how you can show Jesus' love to our kids!

And, don't forget to pray for our kids and their families too!

Thank you for having a generous heart!

Sunday Morning Worship Services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Be sure to check out the Youth and Children's ministry pages for event details!!!

Recently some of us took a look at one of the great traditions in many churches, purchasing poinsettias in honor or in memory of our loved ones and friends. This year we have decided to make our donations to the United Methodist Children's Home. Our gifts can make a difference in the life of a child. We hope you will agree! Envelopes with designation forms are available in the church bulletin and on the hallway tables. To be included in the listing in our December 23rd Sunday bulletin, please make your donations no later than Dec. 20. White Christmas gifts will be consecrated at our Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service. To learn more about the Children's Home visit their website at <https://www.umch.net/>. *(Donations accepted through Dec. 31)*



- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Julie Lawrence | 21 Sara Edwards |
| 2 Sharon Riordan | 21 Geraldine Perkins |
| 3 Natali McCord | 21 Delandus Smoke |
| 4 Mary Weldon | 22 Janet Barrett |
| 5 Clay Hutsler | 22 Christopher Boston |
| 5 Aubrey Sansone | 22 Edward Tatum |
| 6 Deborah Jenkins | 23 Matt Albritton |
| 8 Len Hall | 23 Janice Cash |
| 9 David Burnett | 25 Natalie Perkins |
| 18 Deborah Callahan | 27 T.J. Gates |
| 18 Amber Voss | 28 Gloria Johnston |
| 19 Polly Freeman | 28 Hughett Williams |



- | |
|------------------------------|
| 2 Tim & Julie Lawrence |
| 5 Richard & Ann Knighton |
| 17 Shelton & Linda Prine |
| 18 Jd & Pat Hobbie |
| 19 David & Susan Barnes |
| 28 Blu & Ashley Gilliland |
| 28 Phil & Marilee Tankersley |

If 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

December 2018

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Coming next month...Our men will resume meeting for BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP each second Sunday of the month beginning in January. **Men—mark your calendars for January 13 at 7:15 a.m.** Invite someone to come with you!

Support Group

Fresh Start Recovery Group meets each Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Our goal is to help in overcoming problems, fears, and/or addictions. For more information, please contact Paul Henderson at 334-201-5428.



The Chancel Choir will present "The Glory of Christmas" during the 10:30 a.m. COMBINED worship service on December 16th.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ during the month of December with special music by hand bells, ensembles, children's choir, and the Chancel Choir.