

From Our Pastor

A Frustrating Life

DOES LIFE get frustrating sometimes? Do you ever wonder, ‘Why do my plans always fail? Why is my life in such a downward spiral? Why do I seem so troubled? Why does it always happen to me?’ Well, you are not the only one. All of us go through those dark valleys – those times when the storm **clouds** are overhead blocking out the sunshine.

When we are going through those difficult times in life, it is comforting to know that there is someone who understands. Someone who knows what we are going through and can turn it around. Someone who knows how to help us deal with the things we struggle with and the things that trouble us. Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Jesus is the one who can still our troubled waters. He is the one who can restore our weary souls. He is the one who can deliver us from evil. Jesus is the one who is always walking into our lives when everybody else is walking out. He is our anchor in the storm. He is that sure and present help in trouble. He is our refuge and strength.

So why is life frustrating? Let me ask you this: Whose plan are you working? God’s or yours? God said to Jeremiah, “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11). When our relationship with God is right, then we are better able to understand and work His plans for our life.

(Continued on the next page)

Here is the Good News, “The LORD Almighty has sworn, ‘Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen’” (Isaiah 14:24). God’s plans are sure. Put your works in the hands of the Lord and your purposes will be made certain.

May God bless you and your family during the month of March, as you work God’s plan for your life.

In Christ’s arms,
Matt

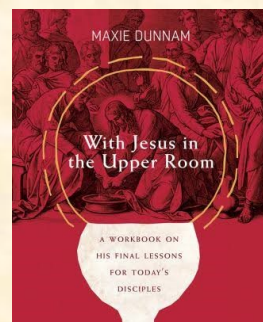
The Lord of Hosts
has sworn, saying,
"Surely, as
I have
have thought,
so it shall come
to pass
and as I have
purposed,
so shall it
stand."

Isaiah 14:24



Join Brother Matt in a study for Lent, “*With Jesus in the Upper Room*” by Maxie Dunnam, beginning Wednesday, March 13th at 6 p.m. 2nd floor Ed Building Cornerstone classroom.

Lent is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death.



It corresponds to Jesus' time in the Upper Room. This study will help us in times of self-examination, difficulty, and dryness and invite us to make our hearts ready for remembering anew Jesus' death and resurrection.

Be sure to notify the church office to sign up and reserve your book.



Please accept my sincere appreciation for your prayers, meals, and notes of sympathy remembering Marilyn. We often shared memories of our times with you all, and I treasure your love and caring for my family. Fred Zeigler.



Not participating in Sunday School yet?

Then you’re missing out on wonderful class discussions, the comradery of the members, and growing your faith. Sunday School is neatly tucked between early and late worship services at 9:20 a.m. so join us. Classes are described on our website under “Ministries”.

The classes change from time to time. If you’d like to learn about a different topic that is offered please let us know.

See you on Sunday!!!!

*Save
the
Date*

*Sunday, April 7
from 2– 4 p.m.
Special Celebration!
Details coming soon...*



Wow! We had such a fun February! We had 20 awesome kids join in Jesus Crew's Pizza & Painting night. We also celebrated with another pizza party because the 4th-6th graders memorized the Old Testament Books of the Bible. Our sixth graders served the pizza to the other kids to exercise serving others. Confirmation class has officially started for our sixth graders, and they are having fun while getting prepared for moving up into the youth group.

Our next Jesus Crew will be Sunday, March 10 at 5:30 pm. Come join us and bring a friend! We are sure to have a good time! **Our Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 14** right after the Relay for Life luncheon. You can help by donating pre-filled eggs for our kids to hunt. They can be found at Wal-Mart, Amazon, and most drug stores.

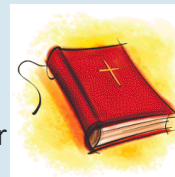


Be sure to mark your calendars for **VBS! It will be Sunday, June 23- Wednesday, June 26 from 5:30-8:00.** Invite your neighbors, friends, and friends of friends! You get the picture! If you would like to serve during VBS, come see me! In Him,
Michelle



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

The Bible. We all know reading it is important, but, if we're honest, many of us probably don't give it the time or attention we know we should. Sometimes we may avoid Scripture because it seems boring, confusing, or irrelevant. Other times we may avoid it because we feel it's too time-consuming, inconvenient, or maybe even convicting. So how do we go about changing those feelings and perceptions of God's revealed word and heart to us?



This month the 1136 Student Ministry, as we start to reflect on how to grow closer to God during the season of Lent, will be exploring a series together called "Sincerely, God" that will address these attitudes towards reading the Bible. We will discover and unpack together that it is not just another book, but a love letter from God to us, a source of guidance that you can always trust, a personal invitation from God to know and build a relationship with Him, and something that is meant to be lived out every day (not just read)!

For those who haven't yet, please continue to bring me, Jamie, your school, sport, performance, lunch, and any other schedule or event notice you may have. I and the rest of our student ministry volunteers are so amazingly proud of your God given talents and gifts, and we want to not only get to know you better but also support and celebrate you using those abilities for God's glory as well!
Jamie

Senior Adult Ministry

The Senior Adult Committee met on Thursday, February 28th for our yearly planning. A calendar full of great events will be published soon!



For March we will be taking a trip to Priester's in Ft. Deposit and tour some "treasures" in Greenville. It should be a fun day trip. The time and date will be announced soon in the Sunday Bulletin.

Many of us "oldies" have been visited with sinus problems, coughing and sneezing, so we are all looking for springtime!!!!!! According to my calendar March 20th is the first day of Spring and on March 10th the time changes, so Spring Forward!!!!!!!!!!



There are a lot of changes for us to keep up with, so jot down these dates on your calendar.

Blessings, Celestra

PICTORIAL PICTURES WILL BE MADE:

March 10 (Last names A—I)

March 17 (Last names J—Q)

March 24 (Last names R—Z)

If you can't come on your designated Sunday, come either Sunday.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY!



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 Prayer Shawl 10 am	2
3	4	5 Tuesday Bible study 9:30 am	6 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 6 pm in the Sanctuary Meal 5:15	7 Breakfast w/ Preacher BK 6 am <i>Fresh Start 6 pm</i>	8 Prayer Shawl 10 am	9
10 Fellowship Breakfast 7:15 Jesus Crew 5:30 <i>(Pictures taken A—I)</i> 😊	11	12 Tuesday Bible study 9:30 am	13 Meal 5:15 Bible study/activities New Lent Study be- gins w/Brother Matt	14 Breakfast w/ Preacher BK 6 am <i>Fresh Start 6 pm</i>	15 Prayer Shawl 10 am	16
17 Pictures taken (J-Q) 😊	18	19 Tuesday Bible study 9:30 am	20 Meal 5:15 Bible study/activities New Lent Study w/ Brother Matt	21 Breakfast w/ Preacher BK 6 am <i>Fresh Start 6 pm</i>	22 Prayer Shawl 10 am	23
24 Pictures taken (R-Z) 😊	25	26 NO Tuesday Bible study today. See you next week!	27 NO Wednesday activities due to spring break	28 Breakfast w/ Preacher BK 6 am <i>Fresh Start 6 pm</i>	29 Prayer Shawl 10 am	30
31 5th Sunday Celebration Comb SS & Worship FLC						

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!!!



Join us for
Sunday School
at 9:20 a.m.
each week!
*We'll help you find
the right class for
you!*

Join us each Wednesday:

Children's Ministry: 3 pm
Meal Served: 5:15 pm
Youth: 5:30 pm
Choir Practice: 6 pm
Adult Bible Studies: 6 pm





Do we have your current email address?

Much of the communication between the church and the congregation and between Sunday School groups is done through email. **Please** contact the church office to update your email address...don't miss important announcements and reminders.

Coming next month...



The River Region celebrates 200 YEARS OF METHODISM!!!

Special guests speakers each Sunday....You don't want to miss a Sunday!!! Watch for more details!

Mark your calendars for these important events...

Thursday, April 4—*Grounds Committee Work Day*
8:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 14—*Relay for Life Spaghetti Fund-raiser after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.*

Sunday, April 14—*Easter Egg Hunt for the children following the spaghetti luncheon*

Sunday, April 21—*Easter Sunday*

Sunday, April 21—*Confirmation Sunday*

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.



3	Blu	Gilliand	20	Tabathia	Ivey
5	Josh	Rider	20	Sacha	McMillian
8	Shay	Hubbard	21	Monica	Foster
10	Ashtin	Arant	22	Alice	Barnhart
14	Susan	Montgomery	22	Eddy	Brantley
17	Joe	Kelly	22	Armani	Hunt
18	Tra	Cosby	23	Alan	Roberts
18	Harley	Rider	26	TJ	Anthony
18	Andy	Scarborough	26	Mardre	Williams
19	Ella	Gilliand	27	Jessie	Messer
19	Emma	Gilliand			
19	Pat	Ward			



12	Harlice & Sara	Kirby
16	Wayne & Betty	Nixon
24	Lee & Misty	Macon

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please notify the church office so that we can celebrate with you.



FIRST NEWS

Phone: 334-567-7865
Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com
Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

WETUMPKA

MARCH 2019

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PICTORIAL PICTURES TAKEN THIS MONTH!!!



Have your pictures made on :

- Sunday, March 10 (Last names A – I)
- Sunday, March 17 (Last names J – Q)
- Sunday, March 24 (Last names R – Z)

More details inside...

A Stewardship Reflection: Benefits of Putting Your Heart into Your Estate Plan



Dennis Fain, Bob Reneau and I provided an estate planning program for Keenagers last month. We are grateful for the positive response, and we'll be glad to come to other groups in our church who request our service. Preparing an estate plan is one of the best things you can do for yourself and your loved ones. You can have peace of mind to have confidence that your wishes will be implemented....in life and death. Furthermore, your family and friends will not have to make tough, stressful decisions during a difficult time. One keenager responded, "We also need to review our plans occasionally to see if changes are needed."

Bob shared impactful, real-life examples of the benefits of planning and what can happen if we don't plan. He prepared a helpful two-page questions and answers document; copies are available on the information table down the hallway outside the church office. Questions addressed include: What happens if you die without a Will? What comprises your probate Estate? What is a General and Durable Power of Attorney and do I need one? What is an Advanced Directive for Health Care, and do I need one? What do I need to do to prepare a Last Will and Testament, a General and Power of Attorney, or an Advanced Directive for Health Care? How do I make certain that all of my final expenses will be paid? What are common problems facing most people in regard to Estate Planning?

Dennis shared meaningful ways you can also glorify God through your estate plan by including your First United Methodist Church in your current giving plans and through your Will. He conveyed heart-warming stories of faithful members whose witness of faith in their Will continues the work of our church in sharing Christ's love and transforming the world. We will share some of these examples in future articles.

While stuff is just stuff, we have a heart full of memories, joy and hard work in a lot of our stuff. Through our Will, we can remember those who are dear to our hearts, including our church. Assuring you have a Will is the last way in which you can demonstrate faithful stewardship of the resources with which God has blessed you.

For more information, please call me, Margie Roate, (217) 242-1019.

It's time!!!! OUR FIRST PICTURES WILL BE TAKEN NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 10th!!!

Here's how it will work:

Chrietzberg Photography will be set up at the church on Sunday, March 10th, 17th, and 24th. Your family is assigned a Sunday to have your family photograph made based on your last name. On that Sunday when you come to church go to Wesley Hall for a brief and quick family photo. Chrietzberg Photography will be available for family photographs before/after the Early Worship Service, before/after Sunday School and before/after the Late Worship service.

THERE IS NO CHARGE to the family to have photographs taken and included in the directory.

You will not have to return to view proofs or place orders. If you wish to view or order your family photos, they will be available on line for you to view/order. Our new directory will help us get to know one another better and will also be a wonderful gift for new members. Directories become treasured keepsakes, capturing this present time in our church's history, and in our families' lives. **Please participate in this project! The directory will not be complete without YOU!**

PHOTOGRAPHY DATES:

Sunday, March 10 (Last names A – I)

Sunday, March 17 (Last names J – Q)

Sunday, March 24 (Last names R – Z)

Times to be photographed:

Before early church 8:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Before Sunday School 8:15 – 9:15 a.m.

Before late church 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

After late church 11:30 a.m.



Please note: If you can't come on the Sunday designated, come either Sunday. Have questions? Contact Nell Head at 334/320-7208.