

From Our Pastor

Choose Life

The Covid-19 virus has certainly put a damper on church services. We have had to ‘adapt and overcome,’ as my Marine friends would say. It has not been easy learning a new normal. It has been challenging to continue being the Church. However, we are blessed with so many dedicated and gifted people here at First Methodist. Let me thank you one and all for stepping up and making a difference in our community. By doing your part you are making a big difference in the lives of so many.

On June 14, we began worshipping at Gold Star Park in the amphitheater on Sunday mornings. We have Sunday school at 8 a.m. and worship at 9 a.m. The setting on the river is beautiful and to experience God’s creation in worship is magnificent. It was great being back together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have even had some visitors and walkups. We have missed being with each other and it shows. Like many of you I wanted to run up to everyone and either shake their hand or hung them but we resisted. Hopefully, one day we will be able to better express our love for each other.

On July 2, Tammy and I begin our fourth year of ministry here at First Methodist. Coming here has been such a blessing to us and we are so excited about the future. James Rowe wrote the hymn, *God Holds The Future In His Hands* in the early 20th century and his words fit our situation to a tee. “Dread not the things that are ahead, the burdens great, the sinking sands, the thorns that o’er the path are spread, God holds the future in His hands. God holds the future in His hands and every heart He understands. On Him depend, He is your Friend, He holds the future in His hands. We know not what tomorrow hides, of sun or storm or good or ill; we only know His dear hand guides, and He will be our Father still.”

(Continued in the next column)

What a great way to start the second half of this year by putting our trust and hope in our heavenly father. We don’t need to dread the things that are ahead or worry about what tomorrow holds because God holds us and our future in the cleft of His hands. Our faith in Christ is revealed by the choices we make. We choose to put our eyes on the one who calms the storm and not on the storm. We choose to be filled with and lead by the power of the Holy Spirit. And we choose to depend on Jesus because he is the friend who will not let us down. God told Moses, “See, I set before you today life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

During the month of July I hope that you will choose life. May you and your family love the Lord, listen to his voice and hold fast to him.

**In Christ’s arms,
Brother Matt**



Join Trails Temple Ministry at 8 a.m. at GOLD STAR PARK each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The Trails Temple Ministry continues to walk from 1 to 4 miles every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8 a.m. at Gold Star Park. Come join us for physical and mental health as we exercise and fellowship in safety. We will be complying with the social distancing guidelines. If you’re interested in joining the group, contact Carl Bledsoe at pharmcarl@gmail.com or text him at 334-300-5687. **Everyone is welcome to come and walk!**



**Church in the Park
with First United Methodist Wetumpka is
located at the Gold Star Park Amphitheater
on Sunday mornings.**

Where do I go?:

When you arrive at the Gold Star Park, go towards the boat ramp. Cross the foot bridge to your left. The amphitheater is about 50-yards away after crossing the bridge if you continue walking!

What do I need to know?

- Sunday School, led by Mark Matthews, begins at 8:00 a.m. at the amphitheater.
- Worship, led by Pastor Matt Albritton, begins at 9:00 a.m. at the amphitheater.
- There will be a special Children's Moment message from Michelle (the Children's Director) at 9:00 a.m. Worship.
- Be sure to bring a chair or a cushion.
- We ask that you honor and protect others by: not shaking hands, not hugging or giving high fives, keeping a 6-foot distance from others, and encourage wearing a protective mask.

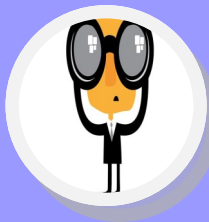
What safety measures are being taken?

- A hand sanitizing station will be available.
- Protective masks will be available.
- We ask that you please practice social distancing by remaining 6-feet away from those not in your inner circle (family). Thank you for protecting others and yourself!



Hello July! I am definitely enjoying seeing my adorable kids faces on Sunday mornings at Church in the Park. If you haven't had a chance to come, I'd love to see you all. We are social distancing and most people are also wearing a mask. Brother Matt brings a great message and the kids get to enjoy a short and sweet Children's Minute. Come join us!

I hope all of our amazing fathers and male role models had a fabulous Father's Day. Kids enjoyed making their list of "Top 10 Things I Love About My Dad." We handed out small poster board, markers, and sticker numbers to make their list colorful! How fun!



Drumroll please! I'm excited to announce we will be adding more online activities for our kids. We will have a few options, including Zoom Hangouts! Stay tuned for more info that will be available on our Facebook page and in upcoming Remind messages.

As always, if there is anything at all I can do for you and your kids, be sure to let me know! Much love!



In Him,
Ms. Michelle



Ava and Mallory creating their Father's Day gift.



Some people love spy stories for the action, gadgets, or disguises, but there's one thing no spy story could do without: an exciting mission. As followers of Jesus, we don't have any gadgets or disguises, but we do have the most exciting and life-changing mission ever! It's our mission to share the good news of Jesus and the love, peace, hope, and joy He can give to the whole world if people listen to and follow Him! This month we'll explore how joining Jesus on His mission isn't easy, but it's the most important and life-fulfilling one ever! It's a mission that requires us to be real, be helpful, be listeners, and be ready.

Last month as a group we discussed what social justice is, talked about many of the issues currently impacting our world and local community, and how God calls us to think about and act regarding those issues and other needs of groups. He points out: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8).

Out of those conversations and prayerfully considering the pressing needs of our community, the students came up with ways we can continue to show Christ's love in meaningful, tangible ways in the midst of COVID-19! How cool is that?! We will be gathering and raising money to donate to the Elmore County Food Pantry, partnering with a ministry in Montgomery to remotely (while on a Zoom call together as a group) make basic hygiene and necessity kits to be handed out to homeless people then ship them to the ministry, and are continuing to pray about and look for other needs we can meet with our unique, God given time, talents, gifts, service, and witness!



Your continued love and generosity has enabled 1335 Student Ministry's to not only reach out and meet needs in the community, but also maintain a weekly schedule to continue to reach students, families, and our community during the COVID-19 precautions! We have multiple weekly meetings and hangouts, play lots of fun games, and have a lot of opportunities to continue to be a part of each others' life every week while growing in our walk with God! **Check out our webpage on the church website for more information about everything happening during the week!**

<https://wetumpkafirst.com/youth-ministry/>
In Him, Jamie

Senior Adult Ministry

Some days it seems like time is flying and some days it is slow! Wonder what YOU have been doing this past month? What is BIG in your life today? Let me see, maybe it goes something like this...get up, make the coffee, drink 2 cups of coffee, eat anything if you can find something, watch news. NO, it is all bad news, so don't watch, walk outside, everything looks fine, go back inside house, (still got pajamas on), maybe play on iPad some, call someone on phone, then look outside again at the sky, trees, and squirrels running everywhere. Then you hear the birds singing. While sitting outside, you stop, and see Gods creation and something inside of you feels calm and peaceful. You can feel His presence just at that moment. Just think, because of Covid 19, we took the time to feel the touch of the "Masters" work.

Afternoon is about the same. You must stay at home as much as you can and wear your mask when going somewhere and stay 6 foot apart! That is and has been the story for the last 3 months. We just learn to enjoy and stay positive.....that is the story for Seniors now.

I did get a new devotional book "**SWEET TEA FOR THE SOUL**" and I want to share several sayings that I liked:

- Good, better, best. Never let it rest, until your good is better and your better is Best!
- Obedience is the fruit of faith.
- NO ONE WILL EVER, EVER LOVE YOU MORE THAN JESUS!!!!!!

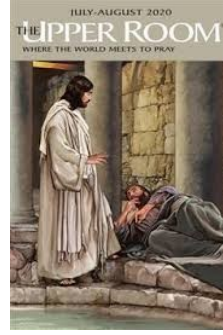


Well, let me close as it is late, late and I must complete this Senior News.

Be Happy, Love, Enjoy, Be Safe, Have a heart like Jesus, and call someone Today.
Celestra

**FREE Upper Room
devotionals for July/
August are available!**

Drop by the church office and pick one up or contact the office to have a copy mailed to you.



We invite all Men to join us each Thursday morning at 6 a.m. at the pavilion in Gold Star Park. We are meeting in a new safe outdoor gathering place.

The Men have restarted their Breakfast with Brother Matt. The early time allows you to participate before starting your day at work, or for the retired guys before you start your Honey Do's. Come hear an inspiring short message by Brother Matt or one of the Men in our group. Come enjoy the Fellowship and help us support Our Pastor.

Have a happy and safe July 4th
and please don't forget to

PRAY FOR THE USA



Sisters In Service met Monday, June 22 for a short business meeting on the LARGE back patio of Bonnie Hall's home. We were all socially distanced

for safety. Having made donations to The Elmore County Food Bank, The Elmore County Humane Society, and UMCOR earlier this Spring, we needed to focus on the other facilities we support. Mary Ellen's Hearth, the Elmore County Pregnancy Center, and once again the Elmore County Food Bank are on the agenda. Unfortunately, People That Care, another part of our support mission is still not able to open. This is because the need there is for folks who are not vulnerable, to sort through the clothing donations and work in the office.

Alice Barnhart, Pres. S.I.S.

Tune in Daily Online

Monday—Friday

Hear an inspiring word from Brother Matt or be encouraged by a wonderful ministry of the church sharing how they are responding to needs during this time.

Saturday—Brother Matt's dad, Rev. Walter Albritton brings our words of inspiration on Saturdays.

Sunday—Worship with us in person at the Church in the Park or online through Facebook or our website. Click on these links: WetumpkaFirst.com/sermons or at Facebook.com/WetumpkaFirst

★ **All sermons and videos can be viewed at any time by going to our website at Wetumpka First United Methodist, then click on sermons.**

Thank You

As many of you know Ed went home to Jesus on April 28, 2020. I want to honor him by saying "thank you" for all that has been done for him and me, and all that is still being done. We are humbled by all the love, prayers, financial support, food, yard cuttings, house cleaning, friendship, phone calls, visits, cards, and all the beautiful words spoken about each of us. The Church (people) and my family are my true support each and every day. You are truly the hands and feet of God. I couldn't do this without each of you. Both of us have been blessed seeing some of our guardian angels in person (some we knew, some we did not). They always appeared when we were unable to carry on without help (Psalm 121- my help comes from the Lord). In Psalm 23 it says my cup runneth over. Well I want you to know ours has been running over for quite some time and is still flowing.

Ed and I are so blessed to be a part of FUMC Wetumpka. I will continue to give as much as I can to uplift Jesus in all that I do. God is an awesome God!

**Love in Christ,
Ed and Gloria Johnson**



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE IN DESPERATE NEED?

We are working diligently to be aware of the needs in our church family and community and will address those needs as resources permit. We are especially concerned about those who are at high risk and shut in. **If you or someone you know might be in need, PLEASE SHARE THAT INFORMATION WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

Reading the Bible Through in a Year for July:

- ☐ 1 2 Chron. 22-24 Job 23 2 Cor. 4
- ☐ 2 **Reflect on God as Everlasting**
- ☐ 3 Ezra 1-2 Ps. 81 2 Cor. 5
- ☐ 4 Ezra 3-4 Job 24 2 Cor. 6
- ☐ 5 Ezra 5-6 Ps. 82 2 Cor. 7
- ☐ 6 Ezra 7-8 Job 25 2 Cor. 8
- ☐ 7 Ezra 9-10 Ps. 83 2 Cor. 9
- ☐ 8 Neh. 1-3 Job 26 2 Cor. 10
- ☐ 9 **Reflect on God as Refuge**
- ☐ 10 Neh. 4-5 Ps. 84 2 Cor. 11
- ☐ 11 Neh. 6-7 Job 27 2 Cor. 12
- ☐ 12 Neh. 8-10 Ps. 85 2 Cor. 13
- ☐ 13 Neh. 11-13 Job 28 Gal. 1
- ☐ 14 Esther 1-2 Ps. 86 Gal. 2
- ☐ 15 Esther 3-4 Job 29 Gal. 3
- ☐ 16 **Reflect on God as Victor**
- ☐ 17 Esther 5-6 Ps. 87 Gal. 4
- ☐ 18 Esther 7-8 Job 30 Gal. 5
- ☐ 19 Esther 9-10 Ps. 88 Gal. 6
- ☐ 20 Isaiah 1 Job 31 Eph. 1
- ☐ 21 Isaiah 2 Ps. 89 :1-26 Eph. 2
- ☐ 22 Isaiah 3 Job 32 Eph. 3
- ☐ 23 **Reflect on God as High Priest**
- ☐ 24 Isaiah 4 Ps. 89:27-52 Eph. 4
- ☐ 25 Isaiah 5 Job 33 Eph. 5
- ☐ 26 Isaiah 6 Ps. 90 Eph. 6
- ☐ 27 Isaiah 7 Job 34 Phil. 1
- ☐ 28 Isaiah 8 Ps. 91 Phil. 2
- ☐ 29 Isaiah 9 Job 35 Phil. 3
- ☐ 30 **Reflect on God as Humble**
- ☐ 31 Isaiah 10 Ps. 92 Phil. 4

Support Group

If you know of someone who is struggling, please let them know that the **Fresh Start Recovery Group** is here for **them**. Our goal is to help in overcoming problems, fears, and/or addictions. For more information, please contact Paul Henderson at 334-201-5428.



07/03	Ashley Cousins	07/19	Jerry Willis
07/03	Damon Patton	07/19	William Araiza
07/05	John Carter	07/21	Hubert Staley
07/05	Rick Beauchamp	07/21	Kim Cossey
07/06	Gwen Ellis	07/21	Margaret Horton
07/07	Shawn Hubbard	07/21	Rachel Williams
07/08	Avery Johnston	07/22	Jennie Payne
07/09	Marvin Salter	07/22	Maggie Smith
07/13	Pat Hobbie	07/24	Susan Barnes
07/14	Mary Catherine Macon	07/26	Larry Hill
07/15	Donald West	07/27	Patricia Singleton
07/15	Eli Williams	07/27	Sam Wheat
07/16	Cindy Rouse	07/28	Deanna Nelson
07/17	Sara Tyler	07/29	Benjamin Williams
07/18	Ann Lambert	07/29	Hilda Kelly
07/18	Lyn McDonald		
07/18	Marilyn Dozier		

Happy Anniversary!!!



- 7 Paul & Monica Henderson
- 16 Larry & Sandra Hill
- 20 Barry & Sally Blackwell
- 21 Spencer & Beth Coleman
- 22 Damon & Jackie Patton
- 23 Gary & Debbie Barnes

If you are a member of FUMC and 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

July 2020

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CHURCH in the PARK
 GOLD STAR PARK AMPHITHEATER • SUNDAYS AT 9 AM
More details inside...

Find us online @WetumpkaFirst and
 www.WetumpkaFirst.com

