

The Man with all the Answers

During these days of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been more than a few people looking for answers to some pretty tough questions. Unfortunately, we have been getting a lot of conflicting answers to our questions. Who you ask usually determines the answer to your question.

Well, who remembers *The Shell Answer Man*? He was a nice-looking, pleasant-sounding fellow who would appear on the TV screen to ask and answer basic questions about driving in general and gasoline in particular. This series of television advertisements ran from the 1960s through the 1990s and was sponsored by Shell Oil corporation.

Everything you always wanted to know about automobiles and its industry, almost.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a Shell Answer Man in your life, right now? Someone you could ask any question and he would have the answer right away. In life we deal with a lot of tough questions and we are hard-pressed at times to come up with adequate answers. I have noticed when people need answers to life's tough questions, they will usually ask someone they look up to or trust. Maybe you are in that position of trust or authority where people think you are the person with all the answers.

A lion was stalking the jungle one day, looking for trouble. After all, he was "The king of the jungle!" He grabbed a passing tiger and growled, "Who's the king of the jungle?" The trembling tiger said, "You are, O lion!" Then he grabbed a passing bear and growled, "Who's the king of the jungle?" The terrified bear said, "You are, O lion!" But when a massive elephant approached, the lion asked the same question, only to be picked up and whirled around several times. Then the poor lion was smashed into a tree. As the lion got up broken and bleeding, he said to the elephant, "Look man, just because you don't know the answer is no reason to get so rough!"

(Continued in the next column)

There are going to be times when you will not have the answer to life's tough questions. It is in those moments that we need to turn to the Man who has all the answers to those tough questions. His name is Jesus. The writer of Hebrews knows this Man Jesus well and knows to turn to him in his time of need. He writes, "Since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

(Hebrews 4:14-16)

During these days of uncertainty, we need to hold on to the faith we profess in Jesus. Never let go. Hold on as tight as you can. If you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot, and keep hanging on. Why? Because in Jesus we have someone we can trust. He has been through what we are going through now, and we can be confident that Jesus understands everything. This is made clear in the previous verse, "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 account." (Hebrews 4:13) For that reason, we can approach God's throne of grace with great confidence; where we will receive mercy and grace and we may even discover some answers to life's questions.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family during the month of August.

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



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

REMEMBER to leave parking spaces for the boats and trailers visiting the park. There is ample parking behind the boat parking and at the courthouse.

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!

➔ See page 3 for more information about Church in the Park.



Bam! August is here! Whether your child is homeschooling, attending in-person school, or schooling online we are praying for him/her and your family! **We will have a special time of prayer for our students and teachers on Sunday, August 9 at Church in the Park.** Come join us each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at Gold Star for a time of fellowship, a sermon, and a short and sweet Children's Minute.

Zoom Hangouts are currently every **Wednesday from 12:00-12:30 p.m.** for our kids, volunteers, and me to catch up and chat. **After school starts back, we will move the time to 5:30-6:00 p.m.** We would LOVE to have your child join us!



We will begin posting the "So & So Show" each Wednesday on our Facebook page at 4:00 p.m. starting August 5. Be sure to tell your kids to tune in and watch the lesson. They absolutely love this wacky show that teaches them about God and His Word.

Please know that I love your child beyond words, and I am praying for you and your family daily!

**In Him,
Michelle**



Do you have any friendships you can really count on and even refer to as your lifelines? God designed us to have friendships we can trust, but God also knew we'd need some help figuring out how to build friendships that are lifelines for each other. During the month of August, we'll look at and discuss the kind of friendship Jesus models for us and calls us to live in to: friendships that **let us be real**, give us **a chance to grow more into Christ's likeness**, give us **a group when we feel alone**, and can even **change the world**.

Based on the students' prayerful consideration the past couple of months about how we can help share God's love with our local area, last month they put God's guidance into action a number of ways! They raised \$220 to give to the Elmore County Food Pantry through attendance and inviting friends to weekly hangouts, made 31 snack kits for a homeless ministry in Montgomery we partnered with (each including a handwritten note of encouragement, prayers for the person receiving it, and our ministry and church name) alongside a donation of hand sanitizer and other items the ministry can use to further spread the love and message of Christ, and two of them even won a Camp Blue Lake support box through daily reading and thinking on how to apply scripture to their life. How awesome are our students?!! They are also continuing to pray and think about other ways to spread Christ's love and grace to our community in the months to come, and they are SO thankful to have an amazing church family who support and help them share Christ's love in ways He lays on their hearts!

School is starting so (because we are currently not meeting in person to try and keep everyone as safe as possible while continually being a part of each other's life through online hangouts) our schedule is changing a little. We will still use the many, many blessings God has given us to continue meeting together, experiencing God's presence as a community, having fun, and (most importantly) encouraging one another as we grow more and more into God's likeness!

Our new schedule is:

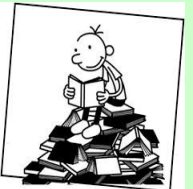
- 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday (of the month):
Fortnite 7:00—8:00 p.m.
- Every Wednesday: Wednesday Night Live 5:30—7:00 p.m.
- Every Sunday: Game & Devo Hangout 5:30—7:00 p.m.
- Weekly: Text notifications, update and follow up group discussion/application email, and online posts

In Him, Jamie

Senior Adult Ministry

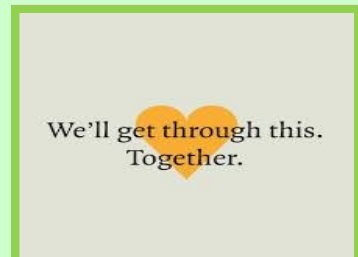
Well, here it is the end of July and I am here at the computer wondering, "What am I going to write to give you some encouraging, uplifting thoughts!"

Max Lucado has written some great books, most of which I have read. I happened to pick up one of his books to reread again, "You'll Get Through This", Hope and help for our turbulent times. We are certainly experiencing those times now. Some of the chapters have very interesting titles like: "Stupid Won't Fix Stupid", "Oh, So This Is Boot Camp", "More Bounce Back Than Bozo", "A Splash of Gratitude with That Attitude, PLEASE", "Keep Calm and Carry On."



In this book, Max offers much needed practical wisdom for those who are facing what seems like impossible obstacles. If you need comfort, encouragement or hope, this book will reveal the faithfulness of God and give faith to believe that "you'll get through this." God is in the business of redeeming the broken. He was then. He is still. Then this is the message we need. "You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for Good. Don't be foolish or naive, but don't despair either. With God's help, you'll get through this."

**Blessings and Prayers to you, you and You,
Celestra**



Giving Thanks With Grateful Hearts

God's faithful outpouring of blessings is the same. . . yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In this uncertain, unusual time, our faithful FUMC family joyfully and gratefully praises God from whom ALL blessings flow! Then. . . through our grateful hearts come acts of the good stewardship of our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to the glory of God. At the core of our good stewardship are the Fruits of the Spirit!

Thank you, Miss Michelle, for your meaningful messages about the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. You challenged all of us to be more aware of how we acquire these fruits and how they demonstrate the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. So, how do we grow these fruits in our lives and what difference do they make in this broken, struggling world.

Pastor and musician, Jamin Bradley writes, ". . . we should understand that if the Holy Spirit is getting his way in our life, we will begin to look and act more like Jesus Himself. As the Spirit grows this fruit in us, our love will clash with the world's hate; joy with the world's depression; peace with the world's violence; patience with the world's need for instant gratification; kindness with the world's rudeness; goodness (perhaps better understood as generosity) with the world's hoarding; faithfulness with the world's inconstancy; gentleness with the world's brashness; and self-control with the world's urge to please every desire. To live like this, we need to let the Spirit of Jesus live vibrantly inside us..." Amen!

Through the faithful stewardship of all the resources God gives us, individually and as a congregation, we continue to be the Church. Although not physically together as much as we wish, our spirits are united in Christ's arms as never before! Brother Matt, our church staff, and many of our congregation continue critical areas of ministry in creative, effective ways, to inspire our growth as disciples. Yes, we are still there for each other...there for our neighbors and beyond...and, there for the least of these.

With grateful hearts, our congregation continues to faithfully demonstrate our financial commitment to FUMC. . . mailing or bringing offerings to the church office or giving online. God multiplies the blessings of our giving, making it possible for us to share His abundance of love, grace, and mercy with even more people. Let's keep giving with grateful hearts.

To God be the glory,
Margie Roate & Your Stewardship Team



YOUR GENEROUS JULY GIVING TOTALS:

	General Fund	Loose Offering	Other	Total
7.05.20	15,491.00	20.00	890.00	6,401.00
7.12.20	9,730.88	70.00	1,065.00	10,865.88
7.19.20	9,506.00	47.00	1,130.00	10,683.00
7.26.20	4,330.00	5.00	889.66	5,224.66

Thank You

Thank You to our church family for the outpouring of prayers and caring wishes during Cal's heart surgery and continuing recovery. The warmth and concern expressed by our FUMC Wetumpka congregation is a wonderful example of Christian Love and the compassionate discipleship of our faith.
Lynda and Cal Estabrook



Even though the trails temple ministry has taken time off from our organized walking program, we encourage everyone to walk for at least 30 minutes at least 3 days a week. We look forward to the introduction of a vaccine later this year so we can load up and hit the trail!



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. Come enjoy great fellowship and help us support Our Pastor.



WE NEED YOUR VIDEOS...Hello everyone!

With the advent of recording Sunday School and Church in the Park, we want to invite anyone who wishes to, to send me a short video with prayer requests, well wishes, and/or encouragement to Brother Matt and the rest of the staff. Also, if you have friends in the church that you have specifically missed mention their name. Please send videos to pharmcarl@gmail.com at your convenience and I'll see that they get posted next week with the Church in the Park presentation. I'll also be at the park beginning around 7:30 and between Sunday School and Church and for a short time after Church to take a video of you and your family if you wish. Remember, God is with us and we will all come out of this pandemic being better, more appreciative, Christians. Blessings, Carl



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER AUGUST 9:
Rev. John Ed Mathison will be preaching at Church in the Park and by video!

Reading the Bible Through in a Year for August:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Isaiah 11	Job 36	Col. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Isaiah 12	Ps. 93	Col. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Isaiah 13	Job 37	Col. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Isaiah 14	Ps. 94	Col. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Isaiah 15	Job 38	1 Thess. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Reflect on God as Father		
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Isaiah 16	Ps. 95	1 Thess. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Isaiah 17	Job 39	1 Thess. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Isaiah 18	Ps. 96	1 Thess. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Isaiah 19	Job 40	1 Thess. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Isaiah 20	Ps. 97	2 Thess. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Isaiah 21	Job 41	2 Thess. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Reflect on God as Light		
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Isaiah 22	Ps. 98	2 Thess. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Isaiah 23	Job 42	1 Tim. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 Isaiah 24	Ps. 99	1 Tim. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Isaiah 25	Song 1:1-7	1 Tim. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Isaiah 26	Ps. 100	1 Tim. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Isaiah 27	Song 1:8-17	1 Tim. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Reflect on God as Truth		
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 Isaiah 28	Ps. 101	1 Tim. 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 22 Isaiah 29	Song 2:1-7	1 Tim. 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 23 Isaiah 30	Ps. 102	2 Tim. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 Isaiah 31	Song 2:8-17	2 Tim. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 25 Isaiah 32	Ps. 103	2 Tim. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26 Isaiah 33	Song 3:1-5	Titus 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 27 Reflect on God as Holy		
<input type="checkbox"/> 28 Isaiah 34	Ps. 104	Titus 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 29 Isaiah 35	Song 3:6-11	Titus 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 Isaiah 36	Ps. 105	Philemon
<input type="checkbox"/> 31 Isaiah 37	Song 4:1-8	Heb. 1

Support Group

IMPORTANT! Fresh Start is currently meeting in the Depot Building behind the church at 6 p.m. each Thursday. If you

know 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.



08/09	Judy	Dudley	08/19	Carrie	Carden
08/09	Lynda	Estabrook	08/19	Lynda	Fain
08/11	Phil	Tankersley	08/23	Penni	Buckelew
08/11	Rick	Tyler	08/25	Marilee	Tankersley
08/12	Lee	Macon	08/26	Joyce	Carter
08/13	Caleb	Emmons	08/26	Vickie	Logan
08/13	Linda	Prine	08/27	Ashley	Gilliand
08/13	Mary Jane	Strength	08/28	Joe	McDonald
08/14	Sophie	Arant	08/28	Lee	Cash
08/15	Albert	Frith	08/29	Jennifer	Hudson
08/17	Allannah	Tindal	08/29	Linda	Roberts
08/17	Allison	Johnston	08/31	Andrea	Farquhar
08/17	Earl	Singleton	08/31	Kelly	Roth
08/17	Sherry	Braddam	08/31	Shelton	Prine



8/4	Ted & Frances Watts
8/4	Jerry & Kathy Willis
8/10	John & Joyce Carter
8/11	Ben & Rachel Williams
8/14	Bob & Karen Reneau
8/15	Fred & Carla Enslin
8/27	Trip & Mary Weldon
8/31	Mac & Mary Patchel

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

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Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com

Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

August 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

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ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING:

Sunday, August 16 at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



There is plenty of room to social distance. Please have a report ready to share with the members detailing what your department has been doing, and have a written report ready to turn in as part of our upcoming Charge Conference (dba).

Find us online @WetumpkaFirst and www.WetumpkaFirst.com

