

### Walking With God

The Apostle John in his third letter wrote, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." To walk in the truth is to walk with God. Have you ever thought about what it must be like to walk with God?

In the Old Testament we discover that: Adam and Eve knew the pleasure of walking with God in the cool of the morning. Enoch knew what it was like to walk faithfully with God. Enoch was such a close friend of God that one day they took a long walk together, and Enoch never came back. Moses walked so closely with God that his face would glow for hours after his encounter. Micah encourages us to walk humbly with your God.

The Christian walk is a dominant image in the New Testament, as well. Jesus said to his disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." The call of Christ for us to follow him is a call for us to walk in his path, and to walk in his way.

Walking was also a favorite image of Paul. He exhorts us to: Walk worthy of our calling. Walk in love. Walk as children of light and to walk carefully. Our walk with God may be the only evidence of the Gospel that some people will see in this world. They will only know us and God in our life by our walk. Brother Lawrence was a 17th century French monk, today he is most commonly remembered for the classic Christian text, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. He wrote: "I walk before God simply, in faith, with humility and with love; and I apply myself diligently to do nothing and think nothing which may displease Him."

What if, by simply following Brother Lawrence's example, we could continually dwell in God's presence? When I think of walking simply before God, I am reminded of what Jesus said, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." To have the faith of a child is to trust and depend on God for everything we need in life.

*(Continued in the next column)*

What if, we could be certain, deep down inside our heart, that God loves us more than anything humanly imaginable? God said, "I have loved you with an everlasting love. That is why I have continued to be faithful to you." Knowing that God loves us should encourage us to walk humbly before our God and to love like He loves.

What if, we realized that all God desires is our faithful attention, so He can share Himself with us? Paul said, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." God's goal for us is that we might be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

This is a great time to think about how you are walking with God. Are you walking simply in faith before God? Are you walking with humility and love? Are you walking in a way that pleases God?

May God continue to bless you and your family during the month of September, as you continue walking with God.

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



**Don't forget to read your Bible daily. Upper Room Devotionals are FREE so stop by the church office and pick one up, or ask that one be mailed to you.**



**Coming soon!**

**On Campus Worship!!!**

The projected date to reopen the church is Sunday, September 20.

We are ready for our "Welcome Home"! Before we reopen we

have to have volunteers to agree

to usher, greet, and be communion stewards, all while continuing to abide by the social distancing guidelines

of our state. Also, we will need to have volunteers to do a quick wipe down of the bathrooms between Sunday

School and church. **We will be announcing a date to train all of our volunteers.** There's lots of details

coming so mark this date on your calendar and stay

tuned for important updates! Online will still be

available for those not quite ready to return.

WEL  
COME  
HOME

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

- 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.
- 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!



Hey, hey awesome parents and kids! I am sooo enjoying seeing all the kids' faces on Sunday mornings at Church in the Park. If you haven't had a chance to come worship with us, I'd love to see you all. The kids seem to enjoy seeing each other too. We even have a short and sweet Children's Minute each Sunday at Gold Star.

Don't forget we have oodles of options for online activities, including Zoom Hangouts every Wednesday from 5:30-6 p.m.



"The So & So Show" is also posted every Wednesday in our Facebook group by 4:00 p.m. to give your kids a fun way to learn the week's Bible story. Last, but certainly not least, the sermon posted on Sunday morning also includes a Children's Minute.



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**



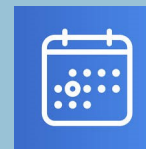
Life hurts sometimes, and I know many of us have experienced that very real fact as of late. Even if you have been blessed enough not to experience distress or hurt lately, we all encounter pain, failure, or loss at some point in life. Sometimes the hurt we feel happens because of something we do, something that is done to us, or something that is no one's fault at all. Together this month we'll explore and discuss how, when life hurts, or goes wrong, or doesn't make sense, these things are true: Jesus can redeem what's gone wrong, God can be trusted, God gives us each other, and God helps us persevere.

School has started back, and your continued generosity and kindness has given our students access to necessary supplies to start back fully prepared! We have such an amazing church family, and they wanted me to tell everyone, "thank you sooooo much!!"

Because we are continuing to be part of each others' lives through online hangouts to keep everyone as safe as possible, our weekly schedule has changed so as many people can participate in them as possible. We will continue meeting together on Zoom, experiencing God's presence as a community, having fun through games and special events, and (most importantly, praying for and 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

How can anyone believe it has been over five months since we have seen Church friends! What changes have we made? What are we doing during the "strange days"? I have reached out to our Senior Adults by telephone calls and by sending cards. Grady says "sometimes he thinks the telephone is glued to my ear", well....

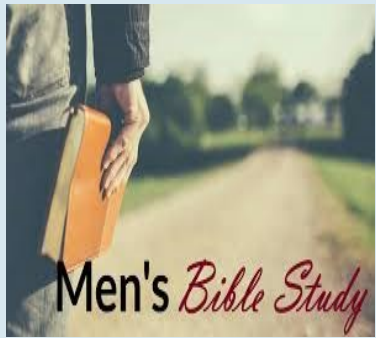
I did go to the beach with some friends this last week for a few days. Let me assure you my car was filled with masks, liquid gel, hand wipes, shields, sanitizing spray, suitcases, bags, groceries, mermaid floats and anything else we thought of. It is amazing the tires did not blow out. We were "beach bums" for a few days and it was good.

While at the beach, I picked up the book "Shelter in God", *Your Refuge in Times of Trouble* written by Dr. David Jeremiah.



Mark Matthews is teaching the book to his Cornerstone Class. It quickly caught my attention with some questions he asks. Why is all this happening? Do I have what it takes to get my family through? When will everything go back to normal as a nation? As a Church? And perhaps the most pressing question of all: Where is God in the midst of these difficult, strange times? HE'S RIGHT HERE...RIGHT NEXT TO ME. AND RIGHT NEXT TO YOU. The same place He always has been and always will be!!! He is a fortress we can run to whenever we feel frustrated, uncertain, or afraid, and He will always be enough. Reading Psalm 121 has also been very comforting.

Be safe, be smart, and know that you are surrounded by God and His love. **In His Light. Celestra**



### **BREAKFAST WITH BROTHER MATT**

Calling all Men-  
Come join us for Fellowship each Thursday Morning at 6 A.M. for coffee, a breakfast snack and a short message by Brother Matt or other

volunteers. We will meet at the Pavilion in Gold Star Park in September or until further notice.

***As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. Proverbs 27:17***



Trails Temple Ministry has taken a hiatus this summer due to the coronavirus and heat. However, Ted and I are in midst of planning a “bring your own transportation” trip to the Lagoon Park trails sometime late September or early fall. Our own Mark Langley has directed the development and

cleared the paths of these well kept trails.

I “think” there is a covered area to eat lunch and fellowship after devotional and lunch and “maybe” we can get Mark to tell us how the trails came to be.

I’ll be contacting everyone (when it cools down a bit) when we will be restarting morning walks at Gold Star Park. Brother Matt can’t wait to get back into his walking program with us.

Hope to see everyone soon!

Blessings,  
Carl

### **A Stewardship Reflection During This Pandemic**

How have the uncertainties during this pandemic influenced your household budget?

For me, this has been a time to review even more closely how I am spending the fixed income I receive. I have also found myself giving thanks even more intentionally for all the ways God is faithfully providing for my essential needs, which extend far beyond financial matters. Have you noticed how God assures us of His faithful commitment to meet us at our moments of need, no matter what is happening in our midst or throughout this broken world. There have been times since March, when I have felt somewhat isolated and disconnected from our amazing church family. Yet, the Lord has always placed someone in my path (Brother Matt, our staff, and others) to ignite the flame of our sacred connection. God’s promises turn my moments of fear and concern about the uncertainty of the future into moments of prayerful reflection about the status of my commitment to God, including my financial giving.

This is generally a time when our church family anticipates the joys of a traditional fall season to lead us into Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is still a time to anticipate the joys the Lord has before us. However, we must embrace the reality that things will be different and allow the Lord to lead us in whatever ways he desires to use us, individually and as a church. Friends, we need renewal. May we open our hearts, souls, minds, and strength to where God is calling us to renew our commitment to the Great Commission.

May a renewal in our hearts draw us even closer to God . . . to renew our commitment to be faithful and generous with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness . . . all to His glory.

**Serving God with you,  
Margie Roate & Your Stewardship Team**

Due to the chaotic events surrounding many police departments in our country, **Sisters In Service** wanted to show our

**thankfulness to the Wetumpka Police force on behalf of FUMC and Wetumpka.** We held an appreciation dinner for them on August 19th, at their new headquarters. Mayor Willis and Brother Matt were both invited to attend. It had to be an informal affair because of the nature of their jobs....shift work. All the officers we were able to speak with were both surprised and pleased. Sisters really enjoyed visiting with and meeting many of the police officers and Chief Benton.

Thank you,  
Alice Barnhart



**Thank You** for your faithfulness

#### **FINANCE TOTALS FOR AUGUST 1–23, 2020**

DATE	Gen Fund	Loose	Other	TOTAL
8:2:2020	\$15,995.00	40.00	13,505.00	29,540.00
8:9:2020	\$12,088.93	40.00	1,937.33	14,066.26
8:16:2020	\$4,423.00	65.00	170.00	4,658.00
8:23:2020	\$4,020.00	60.00	978.32	5,058.32
<i>Online giving total August 1 to date:</i>				5,262.50

## Reading the Bible Through –September

- 1 Isaiah 38 Ps. 105:23-45 Heb. 2
- 2 Isaiah 39 Song 4:9-16 Heb. 3
- **3 Reflect on God as Deliverer**
- 4 Isaiah 40 Ps. 106:1-24 Heb. 4
- 5 Isaiah 41 Song 5:1-8 Heb. 5
- 6 Isaiah 42 Ps. 106:25-48 Heb. 6
- 7 Isaiah 43 Song 5:9-16 Heb. 7
- 8 Isaiah 44 Ps. 107:1-23 Heb. 8
- 9 Isaiah 45 Song 6:1-5 Heb. 9
- **10 Reflect on God as Protector**
- 11 Isaiah 46 Ps. 107:24-43 Heb. 10
- 12 Isaiah 47 Song 6:6-13 Heb. 11
- 13 Isaiah 48 Ps. 108 Heb. 12
- 14 Isaiah 49 Song 7:1-5 Heb. 13
- 15 Isaiah 50 Ps. 109 James 1
- 16 Isaiah 51 Song 7:6-13 James 2
- **17 Reflect on God as Eternal**
- 18 Isaiah 52 Ps. 110 James 3
- 19 Isaiah 53 Song 8:1-7 James 4
- 20 Isaiah 54 Ps. 111 James 5
- 21 Isaiah 55 Song 8:8-14 1 Peter 1
- 22 Isaiah 56 Ps. 112 1 Peter 2
- 23 Isaiah 57 Ps. 113 1 Peter 3
- **24 Reflect on God's Kindness**
- 25 Isaiah 58 Ps. 114 1 Peter 4
- 24 Isaiah 59 Ps. 115 1 Peter 5
- 27 Isaiah 60 Ps. 116 2 Peter 1
- 28 Isaiah 61 Ps. 117 2 Peter 2
- 29 Isaiah 62 Ps. 118 2 Peter 3
- 30 Isaiah 63 Ps. 119:1-8 1 John 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 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.



09/01	Laurie	Hutchinson	09/17	Bill	Lambert
09/02	Donna	Hall	09/19	Landon	Sullivan
09/04	Christina	Knuckles	09/21	Barbara	Knight
09/04	Wayne	Nixon	09/22	Carla	Enslin
09/06	Luke	Justiss	09/22	Carey	Hawkins
09/07	Rebekah	Williams	09/24	Sharon	Bledsoe
09/09	Larry	Dozier	09/25	Carl	Bledsoe
09/09	Wilson	Johnston	09/25	Miranda	Abernethy
09/10	Rebecca	Mobley	09/26	Anna	Knuckles
09/14	Louise	Tatum	09/26	Fran	Chance
09/14	Rick	Futch	09/27	Harper	Macon
09/14	Sean	Rider	09/28	Karen	Reneau
09/15	Jon Luke	Arant			
09/15	Tim	Lawrence			



Sep 3	Dan & Diane Lockwood
Sep 7	Hughett & Mardre Williams
Sep 19	Neal & Leah Pridgen
Sep 29	Larry & Marilyn Dozier

*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.*



UNITED METHODIST  
**WETUMPKA**

# FIRST NEWS

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## September 2020

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