

From Our Pastor

Are You Ready for Battle?

Some Christians are a little paranoid about evil powers lurking around every corner looking for someone to devour. That is an unfounded fear. Your relationship to demonic powers in the spiritual realm is a lot like your relationship to germs in the physical realm. You know that germs are all around you; in the air, in the water, in your food, in other people, and even in you. But you do not live in constant fear of them. The only appropriate response to the numerous germs around you is to eat the right foods, get plenty of rest, exercise, and keep yourself and your possessions clean. Then your immune system will protect you. However, if you do not believe in germs, you will be less likely to do those things. For instance, before the medical profession discovered the reality and nature of microbes, they saw no need to wear masks, scrub before surgery, or use antibiotics.

It is the same in the spiritual realm. Demons are like little invisible germs looking for someone to infect. We are never told in Scripture to be afraid of them. You just need to be aware of their reality and commit yourself to know the truth and live a righteous life. Remember, the only thing big about a demon is its mouth.

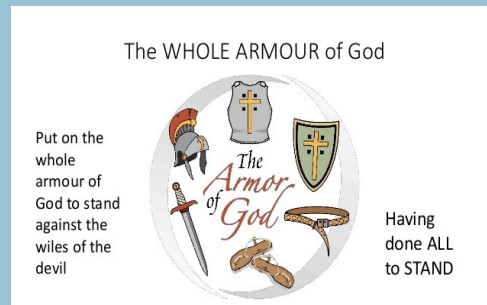
(Continued in the next column)

Demons are habitual liars. Your sanctuary is the position you have in Christ, and in Him, you have all the protection you need.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes the armor of God, which he has provided for our protection. The first thing you should understand about God's protection is that our role is not passive. Notice how often we are commanded to take an active role. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm!

May God continue to bless you and your family during the month of January, as He prepares us to embark on a new and exciting year.

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



On behalf of the Albritton Family thank you so much for your prayers during this difficult time. Your expressions of hope and encouragement helped us to navigate our grief. The flowers were beautiful and the meal was delicious. Thank you again for your love and support. **In Christ's arms, Brother Matt & Mrs. Tammy**

Thank you to my church family for all of your prayers and calls during my hospitalization and continued recovery. I truly believe that the power of prayer has been instrumental in all of my progress and God's hands are truly blessing me. I am happy to report that I am walking again sometimes without the walker and able to do some small tasks. Just getting up and being able to walk and get dressed has me in awe of God's awesome power. Thank you!

Jennifer Hudson

Dear FUMC Friends,
Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, visits and especially the many meals provided during Daddy's illness and his passing. Your kindness has been so appreciated.

Sincerely, **Family of Albert R. Hunt, Jr.**

Dear First United Methodist Church,
We wanted to express our gratitude and appreciation for the kindness of the church family during our mother's, Eloise Wilson, last years. Mother appreciated being included with the meal ministry for shut-ins. She also anticipated and enjoyed the fellowship during the meal delivery. She thoroughly enjoyed the two senior events she attended. I will never forget your kindness.

Sincerely, **Linda Wilson, Jim Wilson**



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an amazing Christmas! Our children's ministry had an awesome time getting together at the zoo for a time of fellowship while enjoying the lights. We rode the train, marveled at Christmas lights, and chatted up a storm.

This month our kids are learning about generosity, which is doing more than is needed. Our memory verse comes from Hebrews 13:16. *"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* What are some ways you can be generous to others this month?

Don't forget Zoom Hangout is each Wednesday from 5:30-6:00 p.m. We'd love to have you join us. The So & So Show is posted every Wednesday in our church Facebook page. The kids love this funny show that includes an awesome Bible Story Time with Kellen.

I hope everyone has a great month. Give your kids a BIG hug from me!

Blessings!
Ms. Michelle



A new year starts this month, and with last year's unpredictability (even though we all know God is still in control despite how things may feel or look from moment to moment) now is a time to renew our strength in Him and collect ourselves to press on towards all the amazing, transformative things He wants to do in both our personal lives and the lives of our community! This month we'll discuss, while seeking God's heart and reading His Word, being renewed through not losing heart, seeing things around us in society more like He does, being dedicated to the things and life He calls us to, and relying on Him to give us the strength to do all of that each day.

We're also kicking off this year with an online team-based competition where people will get to show off talents, find new ones, and perform hilarious tasks to grow closer as a group and win prizes! While we continue to pray for God's guidance and wisdom to keep everyone as safe as possible, we're still going to still have a ton of fun hanging out in different ways online, supporting one another and our community, and journeying through this time together!

Our exercise in daily, intentional gratitude to God will continue through January at each meeting as well. Over the past few months, we've listed and thanked God for over 100 unique things!! How cool is that, and how amazing is our God?!

Thank you again for being such a kind and caring church family and blessing us by continuing to support your student ministry through prayers, kind words, and continued generosity!!

For all the exciting things happening every week during winter, check out the hangout schedule on our page of the church's website, and/or contact me if you have any questions! Make sure you are on our text and e-mail list for updates regarding all things going on with the student ministry! If you aren't, please let me know!

In Him,
Jamie

Senior Adult Ministry

Year 2020, the Senior Adults have missed Keenage Luncheons, Day Trips, and many other activities due to Covid 19. Some members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry mentioned to me that they would like to get together, if possible. I went through all the channels to make sure we would take safe measures for the visit. So on December 15th, Jeanelle, Doretta, Gloria, Margaret, Lynda, Debbie, Judy, Lynn and myself met and all talked at the same time, until we each shared what had gone on in our lives since the last time we met, which was March 13th. Although, we didn't really catch up talking, we did do a lot of "gabbing". Instead of giving presents, we all bought items for The Elmore Food Pantry. It was a wonderful day of seeing each other, some for the first time since March 13th.

We don't know about plans for 2021, but we know God holds those plans and we wait and see. Call someone, or make contact somehow to check up on the many church members who are alone.

God Bless each one of our Special Senior Adults as we look forward to year 2021 and what great things He has in store for us. Looking forward to year 2021! Love each one of you!

God Bless,
Celestra



Buckle Up and Prepare to Be Renewed

It's January, 2021! Our Be Renewed discipleship initiative has launched! What is Be Renewed and why are we doing it? Be Renewed is a discipleship journey to inspire each of us to have:

- a renewed heart.
- a renewed mind to release some of the ways of the past.
- a renewed and unwavering spirit throughout the congregation.
- a renewed hope that God will provide in this next season of ministry.

Clearly, 2020 impacted every area of our lives, personally and as a congregation. Some of our folks still feel isolated and disconnected from their relatives; some feel cutoff from God and their church family. Other factors like family dynamics, medical conditions, and job circumstances have some feeling fearful about their personal future. Some of our people are even concerned about the future of our church. But wait! Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ!

While amazing efforts have been done to keep us connected and to assure outreach ministries continue, our lives are different, and how we move forward will be different. We know God will be with us to overcome whatever is before us to be fruitful for Him. To build on the strength of our faith, we'll need intentional renewal in our hearts to draw us even closer to God - to renew our commitment to be faithful and generous with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Please pray specifically for Be Renewed to penetrate in each of us to bring the personal spiritual renewal that we each need, especially coming off the challenges of 2020. Be Renewed will also better equip us to fully fund our God-inspired vision for 2021: For our congregation to grow numerically, spiritually, and to increase our impact for Jesus in our community. As you know, we did not have a traditional fall stewardship emphasis, and instead did an Affirmation of Giving. We did this so we could purposefully position Be Renewed in January.

So, buckle up and prepare to Be Renewed, as we start the year off right, both personally and as a congregation! God has amazing plans for us! Let's be ready for where He leads us!

To God be the Glory,
Margie Roate and Your Stewardship Team



A Note from our Church Treasurer:

2020 Giving Statements will be mailed out no later January 31, 2021.
Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in 2020!



We are convinced that after the 2021 General Conference a new global Methodist church will come to the forefront. However, we cannot wait until 2021 to figure out how orthodox, evangelical United Methodists will move forward together. That is why the Wesleyan Covenant Association is committed to working on plans for a revitalized 21st century global church that can deliberately and energetically move into the future with confidence. Our plans must uphold the integrity of our belief in the authority of Scripture under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, as well as seek the best framework for a vital, growing church that is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. This planning and preparation will give us *confidence for the future*. **To keep up with all that is going on in The United Methodist Church visit wesleyancovenant.org.**

As we begin
a new year
in 2021,
remember
our HOPE
comes from
the Lord.



Reading the Bible Through –January

- 1 **Reflect on God as Creator**
- 2 Gen. 1-4 Ps. 1 Matt. 1
- 3 Gen. 5-9 Prov. 1 Matt. 2
- 4 Gen. 10-14 Ps. 2 Matt. 3
- 5 Gen. 15-18 Prov. 2 Matt. 4
- 6 Gen. 19-22 Ps. 3 Matt. 5
- 7 Gen. 23-25 Prov. 3 Matt. 6
- 8 **Reflect on God as Healer**
- 9 Gen. 26-27 Ps. 4 Matt. 7
- 10 Gen. 28-31 Prov. 4 Matt. 8
- 11 Gen. 32-34 Ps. 5 Matt. 9
- 12 Gen. 35-37 Prov. 5 Matt. 10
- 13 Gen. 38-42 Ps. 6 Matt. 11
- 14 Gen. 43-44 Prov. 6 Matt. 12
- 15 **Reflect on God as Provider**
- 16 Gen. 45-47 Ps. 7 Matt. 13
- 17 Gen. 48-50 Prov. 7 Matt. 14
- 18 Ex. 1-2 Ps. 8 Matt. 15
- 19 Ex. 3-4 Prov. 8 Matt. 16
- 20 Ex. 5-6 Ps. 9 Matt. 17
- 21 Ex. 7-8 Prov. 9 Matt. 18
- 22 **Reflect on God as Almighty**
- 23 Ex. 9-10 Ps. 10 Matt. 19
- 24 Ex. 11-12 Prov. 10 Matt. 20
- 25 Ex. 13-14 Ps. 11 Matt. 21
- 26 Ex. 15-16 Prov. 11 Matt. 22
- 27 Ex. 17-18 Ps. 12 Matt. 23
- 28 Ex. 19-20 Prov. 12 Matt. 24
- 29 **Reflect on God as Alpha and Omega**
- 30 Ex. 21-22 Ps. 13 Matt. 25
- 31 Ex. 23-24 Prov. 13 Matt. 26

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.



01/05	Bailey	Turner	01/12	Wells	Hutsler
01/05	Bill	Kolendar	01/13	Lynette	Johnston
01/06	Evon	Blake	01/15	Bob	Reneau
01/07	Janie	Flores	01/19	Carol Cash	Turner
01/08	Gerald	Barnhart	01/21	Catherine	Gieseler
01/09	Doretta	Strength	01/25	Rebekah	Scott
01/10	Carolyn	Osborn	01/26	Kaitlyn	Lawrence
01/10	Trip	Weldon	01/28	Bill	Bonner
01/10	Kasey	Emmons	01/28	Sara	Kirby
01/10	Linda	Warren	01/30	Tommy	Head
01/12	Donna	Strickland	01/31	Ann	Knighton
01/12	John	Mann			



01/15	Mabrey & Charlotte Whetstone
01/18	Alan & Linda Roberts

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

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January 2021

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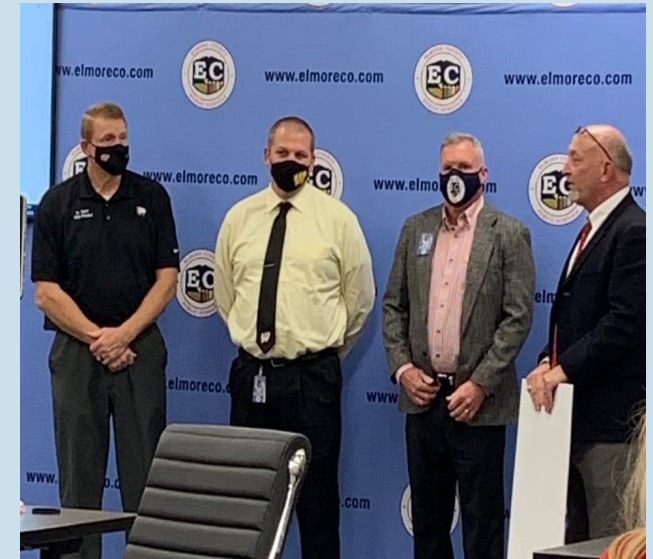


Find us online @WetumpkaFirst and www.WetumpkaFirst.com



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Kimberly Kolendar won 6th place overall and voted MOST PHOTOGENIC in the Christmas on the Coosa Pageant! We are SO PROUD of you Kimberly!!!



Congratulations to **Drew Glass** who won Alabama Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year!!! The kids love you and we do too!!!



Our FUMC Float themed "Keeping Christ in Our Hometown Christmas" won the Coosa Award in the Christmas Parade! Great job **Shelia Wallace** and **Amanda Flores**. Thank you to our special helpers **Travis Weldon**, **Amanda** and **Ryan Pugh**, and **Heidi Sauble**, **Ammon** and the kids!!!

