

FROM OUR PASTOR

What's Love Got to Do with It?

Several places in the Bible we are asked this question: "What does God require of his people?" The answer is, **"to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul"**. So, what's love got to do with it? Love is the glue that holds everything else together. Without love there is no motivation to do the other things.

So where does this love come from? Paul reminds us that we are dealing with a supernatural love—a love that is **"poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit"** (Romans 5:5). In other words, until you enter into a right relationship with God you do not know God's love and you cannot love God the way he wants you to love him.

As we know, man's love is centered on himself; when he finds something attractive; he loves it and wants it. Supernatural love has quite a different emphasis. It has the ability to love the unlovely and unattractive. We see this quality in the way God loved us, because **"God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us"** (Romans 5:8). He loved us while we were still his enemies, while we were still physically, spiritually, and morally unattractive to him. Once the Holy Spirit begins to reveal this supernatural love to us, we too can begin to love others the way God loves them.

Most of us want our relationships to be better. The problem is we do not want to change; we want to get some sort of change out of the other person.

(Continued in the next column)

However, at this point, we run into an interesting Biblical truth—God never asks us to change another person, only to stay yielded to him. So that, he might use that person to bring about some change in us.

So, if you really want change in any relationship, you have to ask yourself this question: Am I willing to ask God to change my own heart and actions first? It is amazing the changes that can occur in a relationship when the other person sees that you are willing to forgive, repent, and love them for who they are. Isn't that how God first loved you?

During the month of April, stay yielded to God and share his love with everyone you meet.

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



MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH BROTHER MATT

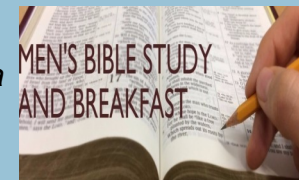
Calling all Men to join us for fellowship every Thursday morning at 6 a.m. We gather at the Burger King on 231 in Wetumpka for Prayer and a short devotion. Come join this small group; you will be glad you did.

It was so good to start back on March 18, 2021 after not meeting since last December. Due to Covid, we had to meet outside at Goldstar Park until it got too cold.

Why 6 A.M. you may ask? This time makes it work for those of us that have a job to report to; and for those of us who are retired, most of us are up early anyway! If you get up early for this fellowship, I promise it will make Your Day Better!

"As Iron Sharpens Iron, so a Friend sharpens a Friend".
Proverbs 27:17.

Ted Watts, Sr



Thank you to all my church family for your prayers and concerns during my immobility. My knees and feet are improving and I am able to take daily walks again with the help of a cane. I'm praising the Lord for continued healing! Nancy Holdbrooks

Thank you if you said a prayer, offered your help, brought food, or made a visit. Each of these works has given us peace and comfort during the illness of my dad. We know he is living with God and is peacefully at rest. Mabrey and Charlotte Whetstone



Thank you for providing beautiful Altar Flowers:

- April 4—Communion & Easter
- April 11—Carol Turner
- April 18—Shelton & Linda Prine
- April 25—Barry & Sally Blackwell

Our Church Nursery is open and our awesome workers look forward to sharing Jesus' love with your precious children ages birth—3 during Sunday School and Worship Services (8:45—11 a.m.) 😊



Hello April! This month our precious kids will be learning about peace, which is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument. Our memory verse comes from Romans 14:19. *"So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another."* What are some ways you can work toward showing others peace?

Our volunteers and I are absolutely loving having our kids back in Children's Church during the worship hour. For those of you new to our church, Children's Church is for ages 4 years old -12 years old and takes place every Sunday EXCEPT the first Sunday of the month (due to communion). Our kids have a fun time of fellowship and learning more about God's Word. (Nursery is available for ages birth -3 years old.)

A BIG congrats to Mallory Glass for completing Confirmation Class. You did an amazing job, Mallory! We all are so proud of you!



**In Him,
Ms. Michelle**

Happy Easter! Our amazing, loving, life-giving Savior lives and has made a way for us to choose His inspired and guided love, joy, compassion, and hope every day!

Waiting is inevitable. It could mean something everyday like a stadium is at capacity or something you really wanted is out of stock. It could also involve more serious things like waiting for test results or waiting on help while making a big decision. Abraham and Sarah. Paul and Silas. Saul and David. David and Goliath. Their stories all have something to teach us this month about the seasons of life when we feel waitlisted in some way. **God has a plan, but we might have to wait for it.** And, while we're waiting, **God is faithful, listening,** and wants you to **not give up**—because **God doesn't give up on you.**



This month, in addition to our regular, weekly hangouts, we are also helping celebrate the new confirmands and upcoming 7th graders as they finish confirmation and take their church covenant vows!! We are so excited to welcome them to the student ministry soon, see how God will continue to grow them more into His likeness, and watch with excitement how they'll enrich our church through the gifts and talents He's given them! We'll also have another event this month to highlight some current students' God given skills and talents to have fun, grow even closer as a group, and glorify God together!:)

Thank you again for being such a kind and caring church family by continuing to support your student ministry through prayers, kind words, and continued generosity!! You all have, in so many ways, used your blessings to truly bless others!

For all the exciting things happening every week as we continue to seek God's wisdom on how He is calling us to move through these uncharted waters, 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! Also don't miss out on tips and tools in our e-mails for growing a relationship with God personally and as a family! If you aren't on the list, please let me know, because we'd love to do all we can to help you and your family grow more and more into His loving likeness!

**In Him,
Jamie**

Our Savannah Trip is planned for September 27th—October 1st.

We are still looking for more people to sign up and go on this great trip.

We already have a good number going, but more people, more fun....You still have plenty of time to sign-up. **BUT DON'T WAIT !!!!** Call Sandra at 334-546-8735 or Celestra at 334-301-3920.

PRAYER SHAWL is continuing to meet each Friday at 10 a.m. upstairs in the Cornerstone room for now. We are cleaning up our Prayer Shawl room and hope to move back in the room soon. We ALL are enjoying the fellowship, laughter and time with God. We love celebrating Birthdays. It is a good time for all of us.

Mark your calendars for HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS OCTOBER 16th from 8a.m.until 1 p.m. (Saturday only) Don't forget the good baker you are and sign up to bake something. Also we need soups, art and crafts and all those "quality" items in your house that you want to put in Second Time Around. We will also have lunch. We are looking for your help and contributions. We need you, you and you...call Celestra at 334- 301-3920.

Jesus Christ, I put my trust in you. Forgive my sins. Wash me clean, and make me new. Thank you for the hope I find in you and for helping me to see the love of God. I wish to live as your disciple. Help me to follow you. Use me to do your will and your work in this world-to restore your garden. And when this life is over, may I forever be with you.

AMEN AND AMEN

**In His Love,
Celestra**

A RE-CONNECTION BLESSING JUST FOR YOU

From Your First United Methodist Church
Family

Are you missing worship services and want to re-connect with your Church family? We miss you, too! Good news! Not all of our congregation have the equipment to watch services on a computer or cell phone, so we are developing a DVD ministry to deliver the Sunday worship service on a DVD disc to you.

Do you currently have a DVD player connected to your television? If yes, is it easy for you to operate? With your permission, if you don't have a DVD player or it is complicated, we want to deliver a new one to your home. Using Covid-19 safety precautions, we can have someone come look at your television to see if we can add a new, easy-to-operate DVD player. If you can't operate it and don't have someone who can help, we'll get someone to help. Once set up, each week we will deliver a DVD disc with the worship service on it for you to see on your television. The next week, we will deliver a new DVD disc and pick up the one from the previous week.

If you are interested in this DVD ministry, please call the church (334) 567-7865, Celestra Rowell (334) 301-3920, or Margie Roate (217) 242-1019. We will get the ball rolling, but please be patient while we work out the details.



Sisters In Service has been able to meet monthly due to the hospitality of two of our members. Keeping safe distancing in mind, we have met at Bonnie Hall's home and at Cathy Giseler's home. They offer a large open area for us to gather until we can once again meet at our church. However, not all of our members have been able to attend due to health issues making them more vulnerable to the virus. We hope and pray we will all soon be able to meet in Wesley Hall again.



Alice Barnhart,
President



We can't wait!!!

Our new Ladies Bible Study begins:

Tuesday, April 6 at 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 8 at 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 8 at 6 p.m.

All classes are in the Family Life Center.

If you haven't already signed up it isn't too late to join us! Just order your book, "Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream and join us!



TRAILS TEMPLE
MINISTRY

Trails Temple Ministry

Hello Trails Temple
walkers!!!

Just a reminder that we have
a trail walk scheduled for

**April 10 at Jordan's Journey on Lake Jordan
at 9 A.M.** If you don't want to walk, join Sharon for some fishing on the "fishers only" (no boats) dock.

It's a beautiful trail following Jordan's shoreline with a pavilion for a stop for a devotional along the way.

Afterward, for those (like myself) who love a good "mud bug" boil, Montgomery's annual Autism Crawfish Boil is on at The Biscuits River-walk stadium for pick up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$33 gets you a bag with 3 pounds of crawfish, 2 ears of corn, sausage, garlic, it's always good and for a good cause. Tickets are for sale on Autism Mudbug Facebook page. Order early!

I suspect we can find a beautiful site along the Alabama River to sit and enjoy fellowship and food after picking up our bags.

We look forward to a big spring crowd for this walk!

Blessings,
Carl

Reading the Bible Through –April

- ☐ 1 Joshua 7-8 Eccl. 4:7-16 John 7
- ☐ **2 Reflect on God as Friend**
- ☐ 3 Joshua 9-10 Ps. 40 John 8
- ☐ 4 Joshua 11-12 Eccl. 5:1-9 John 9
- ☐ 5 Joshua 13-14 Ps. 41 John 10
- ☐ 6 Joshua 15-16 Eccl. 5:10-20 John 11
- ☐ 7 Joshua 17--18 Ps. 42 John 12
- ☐ 8 Joshua 19-20 Eccl. 6:1-6 John 13
- ☐ **9 Reflect on God as Lion and Lamb**
- ☐ 10 Joshua 21-22 Ps. 43 John 14
- ☐ 11 Joshua 23-24 Eccl. 6:7-12 John 15
- ☐ 12 Judges 1-3 Ps. 44 John 16
- ☐ 13 Judges 4-6 Eccl. 7:1-13 John 17
- ☐ 14 Judges 7-9 Ps. 45 John 18
- ☐ 15 Judges 10-12 Eccl. 7:14-29 John 19
- ☐ **16 Reflect on God as Love**
- ☐ 17 Judges 13-15 Ps. 46 John 20
- ☐ 18 Judges 16-18 Eccl. 8-1-9 John 21
- ☐ 19 Judges 19-21 Ps. 47 Acts 1
- ☐ 20 Ruth 1-2 Eccl. 8:10-17 Acts 2
- ☐ 21 Ruth 3-4 Ps. 48 Acts 3
- ☐ 22 1 Sam. 1-3 Eccl. 9:1-10 Acts 4
- ☐ **23 Reflect on God as Capable**
- ☐ 24 1 Sam. 4-6 Ps. 49 Acts 5
- ☐ 25 1 Sam. 7-9 Eccl. 9:11-18 Acts 6
- ☐ 26 1 Sam. 10-12 Ps. 50 Acts 7
- ☐ 27 1 Sam. 13-15 Eccl. 10:1-11 Acts 8
- ☐ 28 1 Sam. 16-18 Ps. 51 Acts 9
- ☐ 29 1 Sam. 19-21 Eccl. 10:12-20 Acts 10
- ☐ **30 Reflect on God as Strength**



04/01	Sandra Hill	04/14	Carson Turner
04/05	Carol Bush	04/14	Richard Knighton
04/08	Shirley Brannan	04/18	Anna Spears
04/08	Hilton Knight	04/25	Brian Justiss
04/08	Judy Price	04/26	Charlotte Barber
04/10	Tim Emmons	04/28	Debbie Barnes
04/11	Charlotte Whetstone	04/30	Misty Macon
04/11	Kenzie Johnston		



4.16	Sam & Susan Legvold
4.17	Cal & Lynda Estabrook
4.18	Grady & Celestra Rowell
4.19	Clayton & Martha Hutsler
4.21	Mark & Cindy Langley
4.22	Jim & Wanda Rushing
4.26	Earl & Elizabeth Gillian
4.27	Rick & Diane Tyler
4.28	Mark & Donna Matthews

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

April 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ From Our Pastor
- ◇ Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- ◇ Birthdays & Anniversaries
- ◇ Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- ◇ Be Renewed Update
- ◇ New Ladies Bible Study
- ◇ Fresh Start Support Group


 **Sunday, April 4—Sunrise Service**
GOLD STAR PARK 6:30 a.m.
 * * * * *

Sunday, April 4
Easter Worship 10 a.m.




Support Group

Fresh Start meets in Wesley Hall at 6 p.m. each **MONDAY**. 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.



CONNECT WITH US

Find us online
 @WetumpkaFirst and
 www.WetumpkaFirst.com



How do you love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?

When we focused on being renewed, I was often reminded of a powerful, memorable Mark 12:29-31 message I heard from a pastor whose name I have long forgotten. He connected heart with sympathy . . . soul with empathy . . . mind with asking what can I do . . . and, strength with just doing it. Here's one way God leads me to apply that Scripture to my life.

When I hear someone talk about a loved one dealing with chronic dementia, my initial response is one of a prayerful heart of sympathy. Oh my, what a challenging disease with no cure! How awful that the number with the disease is increasing significantly throughout society! Then, my soul of empathy responds; after all, my husband had an eight-year journey through Alzheimer's. I totally relate to the exhausting, heartbreaking journey the patient, the entire family, and friends experience, as the patient's world gets smaller, their memories dim, and the ability to do simple tasks decreases. Yet, there is a critical need to sustain the patient's dignity and to cherish the patient whose life is exceedingly more than the disease. Thus, my personal experiences ignite my mind to ask what can I do to help the patient or support the caregivers. What is their most urgent need? Information about the disease? Someone to physically be there to lend help, run an errand, or give the caregiver a break? Then, I pray for the willingness and strength to "just do it"- do something that brings a moment of joy to the patient or a moment of encouragement and hope for the caregiver. Through caring action, I love my neighbor as I know God loves me.

Look among our church family and you will see lots of people prayerfully applying this Scripture, with their time, talents, and treasure. Those with grateful hearts sharing whatever they can . . . those recovering from addictions . . . widows and widowers . . . single parents . . . those who have gone through divorce . . . those who have experienced the death of a child . . . those who have lost jobs . . . those who struggle with anxiety and depression . . . and so many other conditions. We know "in ALL things God works for good for those who love Him." Yes, God works through us to turn our pain, grief, or whatever we are going through into His healing hope to experience joy in ways we never anticipated possible - for others and for ourselves - to His honor and glory. How is God renewing and leading you to apply Mark 12:29-31? Please contact me at (217) 242-1019 and share your witness.

Serving God with you,
Margie Roate and Your Stewardship Team



THURSDAY, APRIL 1—TENEBRAE SERVICE 6 P.M.



**SUNDAY, APRIL 4—SUNRISE SERVICE GOLD STAR PARK
AMPHITHEATER 6:30 A.M.**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 4
EASTER WORSHIP
&
CELEBRATION
10 A.M.**

