

FROM OUR PASTOR

United We Stand

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed for all believers, "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21). To be a follower of Jesus is to live in unity with each other. We were reminded that our unity, is a sign to the world of God's love and our identity in Christ. God's desire is for everyone to live in Christian unity with each other and to have the oneness with him that he had with Jesus.

Before his ascension Jesus instructed the disciples to be united in prayer until they are empowered by the Holy Spirit. "You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:48, 49). The believers gathered together in the Upper Room and experienced an amazing event! Dr. Luke recalls, "They all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14).

God kept His Promise and sent the gift of the Holy Spirit! The followers of Christ were empowered and emboldened to begin the church age, which we are still living in today. Coming together in prayer and unity changed their world and it can change ours because we are still experiencing the power that was released that day.

(Continued in the next column)

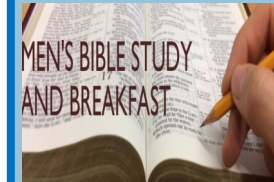
I believe we need to come together again in prayer and unity. God has empowered the Church to call upon Him to heal the sick, to comfort those who have lost loved ones, to guide our leaders, to strengthen our nation and to continue to pray for our first responders, our medical professionals and all those on the front lines. And despite what we have heard from some of national leaders lately, "God is still in control."

If we will come together in prayer and unity, God can and will heal our land, as 2 Chronicles 7:14 promises. "If My People, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

I believe this is what God is calling us to do together. Our situation in this nation cannot be solved by human means alone, we need a divine intervention. We need God to bring our country back, to be a God-fearing Christian nation. God told the Nation of Israel, "I am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior. You are my witnesses declares the Lord, that I am God" (Isaiah 43:11, 12). Jesus told his disciples something remarkably similar, "apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Without God, our nation will also become a byword, a perfect example of what happens when a nation turns away from God.

May God continue to bring us together and unite us, as we endeavor to do His will.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH BROTHER MATT

NOTICE--We are now meeting in the Family Life Center, and not Burger King.

All men of all ages are invited to come enjoy the Fellowship with Your Brothers in Christ. **We meet every Thursday morning at 6 A.M.** so that it does not interfere with the rest of your day. There will be plenty of coffee, a breakfast snack, prayer and a short message of encouragement to Bless your day. There may even be a few adventures shared. Remember PROVERBS 27:17 *As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*



Thank you for providing beautiful Altar Flowers:

May 2—Communion

May 9—Alice & Jerry Barnhart

May 16—Altar Guild

May 23—Still available

May 30—Brother Matt & Tammy

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 May! This month our kids will be learning all about commitment, which is making a plan and putting it into practice. I love our memory verse from 1 Timothy 4:8. It says, *"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come."* Here's some questions you can ask your kids. Are you committed to becoming more godly? What steps are you taking to become closer to God and more like Him?

Our kids had a fabulous time hunting eggs. With the rain, they hunted inside cabinets, under tables, and all the little nooks and crannies. Thank you for ALL of you who donated eggs to our children's ministry! Your generosity is so appreciated!



Don't forget that Bible Story Time With Brother Matt is the **second Sunday of each month at 9:15 a.m.** We'd love for your child to join us for a special time with our pastor as he shares God's Word.

Blessings,
Ms. Michelle

It's time to celebrate our incredible seniors' epic accomplishment!! See the graduation section of this month's newsletter for more details about who our super talented seniors are, and how we will honor all their hard work on May 16th! We are so proud of all they have accomplished and can't wait to encourage and cheer them on during this time of joy, big feelings, and transition!

Also speaking of exciting transitions, **Promotion Sunday is this month on May 23rd! We can't wait for all the upcoming 7th graders to be part of the student ministry** and see how God uses their gifts to enrich the lives of those both inside and outside of it!

This month we'll also talk about how there are opportunities to worship God everywhere but they might be easily missed in a world full of images that show worship being done behind microphones and on stages. While that kind of worship is good, it isn't the only kind of worship we need. The book of Psalms is the theme and guiding voice of our May series, helping us find our own unique anthems to worship God **with all of creation**, while **remembering what God has done, even when it's difficult**, and because **we're God's family**.

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

I cannot believe it is time for another newsletter. I just did April, then Charlotte writes it is time for the May Newsletter...Time is flying toooooo fast.

KEENAGERS TRIP to Savannah, Jekyll Island and Beaufort, SC is September 27-October 1. We have been anxiously waiting for this trip and we need a minimum of 30 people to make this trip. We still need some more people to sign up to make this trip possible, so check with your friends about this trip. Cost is only \$550.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for those going on the trip:

We just got a NEWS RELEASE pertaining to Covid-19. The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a world wide pandemic by the World Health Organization. We understand that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued safety guidelines. Those going on the trip have to review these guidelines.

You must have been vaccinated by COVID-19 (including a second dosage, if required) at least 15 days prior to the departure of the trip and presenting us with a copy (front and back) to the Group Leader who will the submit to Diamond Tours. Wear a face mask if required. You will be required to sign a document requiring your participation on this trip. If you have signed up, you should have already received this document. If you have questions, please contact Sandra Hill at 334-546-8735 or Celestra 334-301-3920. (You may also go on <http://www.CDC.gov> to read these guidelines).

Maybe soon, we can get back to some of our Church activities. Prayer Shawl is back in their room every Friday at 10 a.m.

In His Light, Celestra

Your Giving Matters and Our Good Stewardship is Steadfast

Since March of 2020, our congregation has experienced many changes to assure optimum safety and support for the many ministries that our church provides to the honor and glory of God. It has been amazing, though not unexpected, how faithfully our church family has continued to give financially . . . to give online, to give through the mail, to bring gifts to the church office, or to place gifts in the offering plates as we enter worship. No matter how you choose to give, your giving matters. We include Offering Moments in our weekly worship services to highlight how ministries are made possible through your giving - how we are blessed to be a blessing.

Giving back to God a portion of what is already His is an essential reflection of our faith . . . a reflection of our understanding that all that we are and all that we have come from God. Bottom line: we are stewards of God's creation and all the resources entrusted to us, as individuals and as a congregation.

Our church leaders take seriously a commitment to being good stewards of all the resources you entrust to First United Methodist Church of Wetumpka. In the first 15-week financial summary for this year, Dennis Fain, our church treasurer, reports the following:

We continue to be in a solid financial position to meet the ministry needs before us. Our 2021 General Fund expenses are \$7,909.46 less than amount incurred in 2020; all expenses to date are within the parameters of our 2021 operating budget. Our 2021 General Fund Giving is \$6,301.51 more than this same time period in 2020. On March 31, 2021, our general fund cash balance was enhanced by the fact that during 2020, we were fortunate to receive a Paycheck Protection Program loan through the Small Business Association, as part of the Cares Act for Covid relief; this loan and two Covid Relief Grants were forgiven by the State of Alabama. These funds were critical to cover the extensive, unexpected expenses required to assure ministries could continue during Covid-19 and that safety and cleaning protocols can continue to be met. For example, extraordinary technology equipment was purchased to provide the online and streaming of worship services. Your continued strong giving and these grants have given us the ability to meet the ministry needs going forward.

We are deeply grateful for the deep commitment of our congregation for giving as God calls to give their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. With God as our strength and guide, we are progressing to grow numerically, to grow spiritually, and to grow our community impact.

Together, we serve God,
Your Stewardship Team



Choir Notes

We are starting Chancel Choir back on May 12th at 6 p.m.
We will be singing in the worship service on May 18th.
Come join us and make a joyful noise!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawl meets every Friday at 10 a.m. upstairs in our Educational Building. We knit, crochet, make prayer beads, and put together prayer bead pens. There is something for everyone to be busy with and enjoy this time together. You really can just come to fellowship. Come and See. Want to know more? Call Celestra at 334-301-3920 for more information.



Trails Temple Ministry

Spring has sprung! Now that Covid is on the wane, we are looking to renew our love of nature and our "healthy" body exercise habits to glorify God. We have 2 groups of folks walking at Gold Star Park. Richard and I with our dogs at 8 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, meeting behind City Hall and our ladies at 8:30 a.m. from the same location. Join us and glorify God by taking care of his "Temple".

Secondly, we have been "struggling" to restart our trail walks due to weather and, I hate to say it, lack of enthusiasm to "get back out there". **Let's try again and meet at Jordan's Journey at 9:AM on May 8th.** Come join us and enjoy nature and the fellowship of a fun trail walk. Tony Lowe has been preparing a devotional for 2 months now and it should be great!

Blessings,
Carl



Spending time in God's Word...

Pick up your **FREE** copy of the May/June Upper Room Devotional now!

Upper Room Devotionals are **FREE** so stop by the church office and pick one up, or ask that one be mailed to you.

The new FUMC t-shirts are going fast!!! These are the current amounts and sizes left: 3 medium, 6 large, 4 x large, 2 3 xl and 1 4xl. See Andrea or Jamie to get yours before they are all gone.

Reading the Bible Through—May

□ 1 1 Sam. 22-24	Ps. 52	Acts 11
□ 2 1 Sam. 25-27	Eccl. 11:1-5	Acts 12
□ 3 1 Sam. 28-29	Ps. 53	Acts 13
□ 4 2 Sam. 1-2	Eccl. 11:6-10	Acts 14
□ 5 2 Sam. 3-4	Ps. 54	Acts 15
□ 6 2 Sam. 5-6	Eccl. 12:1-8	Acts 16
□ 7 Reflect on God as Sovereign		
□ 8 2 Sam. 7-8	Ps. 59	Acts 17
□ 9 2 Sam. 9-10	Eccl. 12:9-13	Acts 18
□ 10 2 Sam. 11-12	Ps. 60	Acts 19
□ 11 2 Sam. 13-14	Job 1	Acts 20
□ 12 2 Sam. 15-16	Ps. 61	Acts 21
□ 13 2 Sam. 17-18	Job 2	Acts 22
□ 14 Reflect on God as Shepherd		
□ 15 2 Sam. 19-20	Ps. 62	Acts 23
□ 16 2 Sam. 21-22	Job 3	Acts 24
□ 17 2 Sam. 23-24	Ps. 63	Acts 25
□ 18 1 Kings 1-2	Job 4	Acts 26
□ 19 1 Kings 3-4	Ps. 64	Acts 27
□ 20 1 Kings 5-6	Job 5	Acts 28
□ 21 Reflect on God as Hope		
□ 22 1 Kings 7-8	Ps. 65	Rom. 1
□ 23 1 Kings 9-10	Job 6	Rom. 2
□ 24 1 Kings 11-12	Ps. 66	Rom. 3
□ 25 1 Kings 13-14	Job 7	Rom. 4
□ 26 1 Kings 15-16	Ps. 67	Rom. 5
□ 27 1 Kings 17-18	Job 8	Rom. 6
□ 28 Reflect on God as Rest		
□ 29 1 Kings 19-20	Ps. 68	Rom. 7
□ 30 1 Kings 21-22	Job 9	Rom. 8
□ 31 2 Kings 1-3	Ps. 69	Rom. 9

Support Group

Fresh Start meets at the new Wetumpka Farmers Market 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.



05/03	Dora	Eggert	05/13	Nancy	Holdbrooks
05/03	Gloria	Johnson	05/14	Jonathan	Smith
05/04	Carly	Andrews	05/18	Larry	Mann
05/04	Kristina	Macon	05/19	Maggie	Van Wagner
05/06	Mark	Matthews	05/20	Tony	Lowe
05/10	Harrison	Smith	05/26	Caleb	Jeffers
05/12	Janice	Whorton	05/27	Sue	Moody



9-May	Amanda & Ryan Pugh
13-May	Ronald & Deanna Nelson
21-May	Dennis & Lynda Fain
22-May	Jerry & Alice Barnhart
25-May	Jimmy & Cheri Martin
30-May	Edward & Lou Tatum
30-May	Ronald & Brysene Lee

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

May 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- ◇ Birthdays & Anniversaries
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NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS!!!

Beginning Monday, May 10th, the church office hours will be: Monday—Thursday 8 am until noon. Closed on Friday.

(This is just for the month of May)

Find us online @WetumpkaFirst and www.WetumpkaFirst.com





May 6—National Day of Prayer
May 9—Mother's Day
May 16—Senior Sunday
May 23—Promotion Sunday
May 30—Memorial Day Weekend

NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER



LORD POUR OUT YOUR
LOVE, LIFE, AND
Liberty

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 6, 2021

Meet with our community to pray at Gold Star Park at noon. Brother Matt and others will be praying for our nation and specific prayer concerns.



Join us as we celebrate our mothers and those who love us as mothers on Sunday, May 9, 2021.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4

Promotion Sunday is May 23rd!
Congratulations to all the upcoming 7th graders who will rise to be part of the student ministry!!!



CELEBRATING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

SENIOR SUNDAY—MAY 16

It's time to celebrate our incredible seniors' epic accomplishment!!

On Sunday May 16th we'll be honoring:

Brandon Bowman

Caroline Macon

Katavious (Bookie) Sims

Faith Wheat

from 9:00-9:40 a.m. on the front lawn. We'll have a guest speaker, tables will be socially distanced and grouped according to the seniors' families, and the food will be prepared before hand and served to **the seniors and just their invited close family members** at their tables by fully vaccinated, masked, and gloved volunteers (amongst many other safety precautions and the observance of cross contamination rules). **Afterwards, the whole church family will get to share in recognizing their milestone achievement during the 10:00 a.m. service** with a processional, slideshow, sharing of their future plans, and a prayer of blessing and wisdom for the seniors during this important time of transition! We are so proud of each and every one of them, and, if you see them around the church or would like to reach out to encourage them, make sure to say hi, congratulate them on completing this important stage of their lives, and tell them how proud you are of what they have accomplished!



Congratulations to Trip Weldon!!! Trip will be one of three people (class of 2021) being inducted into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame this September in a ceremony at The Bass Pro Shops Wonders of Wildlife Museum in Springfield Missouri.



CONGRATULATIONS to all of our 2021 College Graduates!!! We are so very proud of you and we will be praying for each of you as you begin your next journey!