

## FROM OUR PASTOR

### Treasures in Heaven

Jesus said in the gospel of Matthew, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:19, 20). What does that mean for us in these days? How can we appropriate this principle into our lives?

I love the story of Alexander the Great as he was nearing the end of his life. On his death bed he called his generals and said to them, "I have three wishes." First, he wanted his physicians to carry his coffin. Secondly, he wanted his gold, silver and precious stones thrown on the pathway leading to the gravesite. Lastly, he wanted both his hands dangling out of his coffin. One brave soul asked him, "O king, tell us why you make such strange wishes?"

His response was, "I want my physicians to carry my coffin to remind people that no doctor on this earth can really save a person from the clutches of death. I want my gold, silver and other riches thrown on the pathway to tell people that not even a fraction of my gold will come with me. And I want my hands dangling out of the coffin, to let people know that I came empty handed into this world and empty handed I go out of this world".

The Bible mentions that rewards await the believer who serves the Lord faithfully in this world. A “great” reward is promised to those who are persecuted for Jesus’ sake and various crowns are also mentioned. Jesus says that He will bring these rewards with Him when He returns. How do we prioritize our lives so that we can receive these rewards one day? We treasure the Lord Jesus most of all.

*(Continued in the next column)*

When Jesus is our treasure, we will commit our resources—our money, our time, our talents—to His work in this world. Our motivation for what we do is important. Paul encourages servants that God has an eternal reward for those who are motivated to serve Christ: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3:23–24).

When we live sacrificially for Jesus’ sake and serve Him by serving the body of Christ, we store up treasures in heaven. Even seemingly small acts of service do not go unnoticed by God. Think of what Jesus said, “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward” (Matthew 10:42). Mother Teresa said, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

What a great idea for our church family at First Methodist to focus on during the month of September. As we treasure Jesus in our lives, we can do all things for him with great love.

**In Christ’s arms,  
Brother Matt**

### **Attention Men:**

*THURSDAY’S MEN’S BREAKFAST WITH BROTHER MATT is not meeting right now. Stay tuned for a resume date. Remember to pray for your brothers in Christ. Proverbs 27:17 “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”*

## WORSHIP UPDATE:

Dear Church Family,

As I continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and after consulting with physicians in our area, the upsurge in COVID cases is troubling. In the last 13 days, Elmore County has recorded over 1,000 new cases. Based on this information, we will postpone restarting our Wednesday night services and the early service on Sunday morning.

On Sunday, August 29, we reopened the Family Life Center for worship, while Wesley Hall and the sanctuary will continue to be open for worship. You may also worship with us on-line via our website or our Facebook page. I encourage everyone to wear a mask in worship for the month of September, as a “precaution prompted by love.” Hopefully, this will reduce the chances of even one of our Brothers or Sisters in Christ from contracting COVID.

In Christ’s arms, Brother Matt



**Thank you for providing beautiful  
Altar Flowers this month:**

**September 5—Holy Communion**

**September 12—Sara Kirby**

**September 19—Jim & Wanda Rushing**

**September 26—Phil & Marilee Tankersley**



**September is here!**

This month our kids are learning about initiative seeing what needs to be done and doing it. One of the Bible characters they will get to know more about is Nehemiah. Do you remember what Nehemiah and his men built? **Our memory verse comes from Colossians 3:23. "Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord."** How can you encourage your kids to work as if they are working for the Lord? We encourage you to help your child learn the memory verse each month. When they recite it, they get a prize.

**Don't forget our kids have Word & Table the second Sunday of each month with Brother Matt.** This is a special time of communion with Brother Matt during our Sunday School hour. We'd love to have your kids join us!



**We thank you for praying for our precious kids.** If you would like a list of our kids' names, I'll be happy to get one to you. Your prayers, smiles, and encouragement mean so much to them. They love knowing that they are such an important part of our church family.

**In Him,  
Ms. Michelle**



If your faith in God was a muscle, how fit would it be? Just like your body, if you want a faith that is strong, growing, and capable of carrying you through difficult challenges and parts of life, you're going to need to develop and use it continually. It might be fun. It might be challenging. It will definitely be worthwhile, though! This month we'll explore together four ways we can strengthen our faith from Paul, the author of the book of Romans, and a man whose life was completely transformed by Jesus. Thanks to Paul's words, we know we can develop our faith by **making a commitment, starting something new, and letting something go.** We can even grow our faith for more powerful use in the future **after we've failed!**

For all the exciting, super fun, and community building 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.

Please 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!

**In Him,  
Jamie**



**OCTOBER 16th, SATURDAY!  
8 a.m.-1p.m.  
"HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS"  
in our Family Life Center.**

Remember:

- Start baking
- Doing your art and crafts
- Gathering items for 2nd time around, and
- Making yummy frozen soups.

I can't wait to start doing my part.... and then eat a delicious Ribeye steak sandwich for lunch! **IT IS A BIG DAY FOR OUR CHURCH...**



**Trip to LAUREL MISSISSIPPI.** November 9 -10. We will be staying at Hampton Inn Suites. **WE ALREADY HAVE ONE BUS FULL, SO NOW LET'S FILL UP THE SECOND BUS!!!!!! GIVE ME A RING AND I WILL ADD YOU TO THE LIST.** We should have a great time!!! Celestra 334-301 3920.

**CHRISTMAS KEENAGE LUNCHEON...  
DECEMBER 7th!**

**In His love,  
Celestra**





## Moving Closer to A DVD Ministry for Our Homebound



After months and months of unavoidable delays, we are finally moving to the next step of developing an active DVD Ministry. A DVD Ministry will deliver recorded discs of our worship services to homebound folks who can't attend worship services with us and can't connect to our services online or on their phones.

We became aware of this critical congregational need this past winter. While it is great that we have the technology to provide streaming and online services, it is totally unacceptable to have people who not only can't return to in-church services, they have no way to electronically access our worship services. There have been a series of hurdles to leap as we addressed the issues to develop this new ministry. Overcoming each challenge has been a testament to how much our individual and collective giving matters . . . the giving of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

A team of volunteer callers identified the names of folks who wanted to participate in a DVD Ministry. As per request, we will purchase DVD players for those folks who do not have players or need old outdated ones replaced. Some folks will need assistance to operate them, and we have members who have volunteered to assist in this matter. We also discovered that we needed special equipment to actually implement the recording and make copies of the DVD discs. Our talented technology team identified what we needed and ordered it. Then came the delivery delays. In these uncertain times, such delays were not uncommon. Good news: the equipment has arrived and training is in process!

Celestra Rowell, our Senior Adult Services Director, is contacting those who originally requested to participate in receiving the discs and determine their equipment needs. If you or someone you know wants to be added to this list, please contact Celestra or let someone at the church office know of your wishes. There have been quite a number of hiccups since the beginning of this process, and we deeply appreciate your continued patience as we address other details for this ministry to become reality. That said, this will be another meaningful way for us to share our worship services and strengthen our connection with homebound citizens. To God be the glory!

Together, we serve God, Your Stewardship Team



**Our church family is growing!!!**  
**Would you like to come love on our babies and toddlers?**  
**Let Mrs. Barbara or Mrs. Becky know or call the church office if you are willing to share Jesus' love with our precious children ages birth—3 years during Sunday School and/or Worship Services (8:45 a.m.—11 a.m.)**



**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.



**New Ladies Bible Study begins Thursday, September 9th!!!**  
**Elijah, Fire and Faith by Priscilla Shirer will begin on Thursday, September 9th!** Morning Class will meet at 10 a.m. and Evening Class will meet at 6 p.m. and continue each Thursday for approximately 7 weeks. Haven't signed up yet? No problem. Study books can be ordered at Amazon or Christian Book Distributors. **Please let the church office know you will join us so we can properly prepare!**



## **Trails Temple Ministry**

We've canceled our organized walks until further notice but everyone is encouraged to keep walking in your safe (and hopefully cooler) zones.

### Reading the Bible Through—September

|   |               |           |
|---|---------------|-----------|
| □ 1 Isaiah 38                           | Ps. 105:23-45 | Heb. 2    |
| □ 2 Isaiah 39                           | Song 4:9-16   | Heb. 3    |
| □ 3 <b>Reflect on God as Deliverer</b>  |               |           |
| □ 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 <b>Reflect on God as Protector</b> |               |           |
| □ 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 <b>Reflect on God as Eternal</b>   |               |           |
| □ 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 <b>Reflect on God's Kindness</b>   |               |           |
| □ 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  |



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



|       |                           |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 09/03 | Dan & Diane Lockwood      |
| 09/07 | Hughett & Mardre Williams |
| 09/16 | Carl & Sharon Bledsoe     |
| 09/19 | Neal & Leah Pridgen       |
| 09/29 | 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.



# FIRST NEWS

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Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

## September 2021

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- From Our Pastor
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- DVD Ministry
- Ladies Bible Study News
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group

### UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS:

Don't forget to pick up your **FREE COPY** of the September/October Upper Room Devotional. They are available on the tables in the foyer or ask that one be mailed to you.




Connect with us any time on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and our website at @WetumpkaFirst and www.WetumpkaFirst.com



### Support Group

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



## Being Good Stewards of Our Church Mission

Matthew 28:18 reveals The Great Commission. Jesus gave his disciples the authority "to go forth and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit." Through our church mission statement, we share how our church family declares to fulfil The Great Commission for the transformation of the world.

*With a heart for Jesus Christ, First United Methodist Church of Wetumpka comes together as a family of God. Our purpose is to welcome and win our community to Jesus Christ. By encouraging spiritual growth, and fostering Christian fellowship, we give glory and praise to our God.*

Through the ages, faithful FUMC brothers and sisters have assured this mission is a living expression of their commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus for each other, for our community and beyond. Today, you and I continue this legacy. We demonstrate that we are stewards of this mission when we enthusiastically participate in the life of our congregation through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Fall is traditionally a season of new, exciting opportunities for us to come together, welcome others, encourage spiritual growth, foster and enjoy supportive Christian fellowship . . . and, in all things give glory and praise to our awesome God. While virus concerns are creating some challenges, please know that all safety protocols are being observed; watch announcements for a schedule of upcoming events and activities. Dennis Fain, our Treasurer, gratefully reports that our congregation's financial giving remains steady; praise God, your giving matters for our life-changing ministries to unfold into the lives of God's children of all ages and at all stages of life.

Thank you for earnestly praying for the Lord to lead your participation in the life of our church family. As the Body of Christ, we are each an essential part of the whole Body. We belong to each other! We can each be a prayer warrior for each other, our community and beyond. We can each be present for someone who needs us to be there for them - a family member, a neighbor, someone who just needs you to be there. We can each seek to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and be a witness of His saving grace. And, no matter the status of our financial resources, whatever we prayerfully give to the Lord He multiplies for the benefit of others and our blessing. If we are willing to be led by God, He will use our time, talents, and treasure to advance His kingdom. Bottomline: your giving matters. Thank you for giving to the Lord.

Serving the Lord with you,  
Margie Roate, Stewardship Ministry Team



*An important message for those who have registered for "Moving Forward Gathering 2021" from Rev. Lester Spencer at St. James UMC:*

Thank you for registering to attend the Moving Forward Gathering 2021. **Unfortunately we are going to have to reschedule our gathering to the Spring of 2022, due to a rapid increase in the Delta variant of Covid 19 cases in our area.**

We feel it is the wise thing to do to protect everyone involved and attending. We appreciate all you registering and we will keep you posted as we schedule the future date! Our speakers are all committed to joining us on the new date in 2022. We plan to have it after the Commission on GC decides and announces the plans for GC 2022. Stay tuned!