

## FROM OUR PASTOR

### Staying Balanced

In 1986, Tammy and I moved to Pensacola, Florida after I was discharged from the United States Navy. After working in construction for a few months, a job I was not cut out for, I was hired by Burroughs Corporation to work on computers. After just a few weeks on the job we were invited to go canoeing on the Blackwater River.

We got up early on that Saturday morning and were greeted by a beautiful spring day, perfect for canoeing. We were excited to get away from the house and begin our trip down this lazy river. Soon we were drifting down the river. What began as a great adventure quickly turned into a terrifying experience for Tammy and me. While rounding a bend in the river we canoed over some submerged logs and limbs. When we hit one of those obstructions in the water our canoe tipped over and we both went into the water. Maybe next time we will be more balanced. Staying balanced in a canoe is hard enough but one of our greatest challenges is finding balance in the Christian life. Have you ever noticed that somehow Jesus balanced his life quite well? The demands of His work and ministry left Him exhausted at times and yet somehow, He found time to get it all done. Jesus perfectly balanced the demands of life, within the same 24-hour time frame that we have. So how did he balance life so perfectly?

His life reveals a number of practical ways that we can pursue balance in the Christian life. First, look to God not to others to determine your priorities. Jesus determined His priorities by spending time with the Father. Consider this passage: “Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. Simon and his companions searched for Him; they found Him, and said to Him, ‘Everyone is looking for You.’ He said to them, ‘Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for’” (Mark 1:35–38).

How could Jesus walk away from needs that only He could meet? Because the Father had different priorities for Jesus than simply a healing ministry. The healing balanced the teaching. Even though the people would have preferred Jesus to choose differently, He determined instead to please the Father. Consequently, Jesus was misunderstood, rejected, even crucified—and yet, He was successful.

Secondly, learn to say no, so that you can yes. Jesus said no—so that He could say yes to what was most important. Only by garnering our priorities from Scripture will we be able to make confident decisions within the overwhelming demands of this world. We can choose many good things but end up missing out on the best things.

Someone once said, “Balance is like a pendulum; it’s that brief moment in the middle when you’re swinging from one extreme to the other.” Part of our pursuit of balance contains the realization that it is never perfectly achieved. The pursuit of balance is the goal. So don’t be frustrated with the constant effort. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

May God continue to bless you and your family during the month of October as you strive to live a balanced Christian life.

**In Christ’s arms, Brother Matt**

## WORSHIP UPDATE:

### SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10 A.M.

Enjoy in person worship in our Sanctuary, Family Life Center and Wesley Hall. You may also worship with us on-line via our website or our Facebook page.



### COMING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20th!!!

Our Wednesday bus pickup for our kids will resume along with classes for our children and youth.

A light meal will be served at 5:15 p.m. and Brother Matt will lead a Bible study in 1 and 2 Timothy beginning at 6 p.m.

(Note: Karen’s class will not resume at this time).



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

**October 3—Holy Communion**

**October 10—JOY SS Class**

**October 17—Alice Scarborough**

**October 24—Carmine Vilardi**

**October 31—Judy Bianchi**



Whoo hoo! **Our Wednesday after-school ministry program is starting back October 20.** This is an awesome ministry that includes bus pick up, snack, a Bible story, small groups, choir, and dinner. **Parents, please turn in your forms by 10/3 in order for your child to start coming on Wednesdays.** Forms are located in the children's ministry wing hallway and our Sunday School room.

This month our kids are learning about individuality- discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference. Our memory verse comes from Psalm 139:14. *"How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."*

If you are interested in being a substitute bus rider, substitute driver, or substitute children's ministry volunteer on Wednesdays, please see me or email me. We'd love to have you on our team!



**Blessings,**  
**Ms. Michelle**  
michelle @firstwetumpka.com

Many of our favorite movies tell the stories of characters who are on a journey to discover who they are and what they were created to do. The stories in Scripture are like this too, but with one big difference: in the Bible, humans aren't the main characters — God is. In this series, we'll explore the stories of people like Cain and Abel, Elijah, Naomi, Ruth, Esther, and some of the earliest Jesus-followers to help us see that who we are can best be understood in the context of who God is. When we discover who our Creator is, we can better understand who we were created to be. Because of who God is, we can **trust how God has made us**, we can **do difficult things**, we can **embrace the unknown**, and we can **take risks for others**.

Our in person, after school Wednesday hangout is set to start back Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>! For all the details and safety precautions we'll be taking during it to care for one another, along with all the other exciting details our about super fun and community building events and happenings 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**

**HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS**

**HOUSE OF HOLIDAY IS SATURDAY OCTOBER 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Schedule for week October 11 thru 16 in Family Life Center:

Monday - 9a.m. All able/body men meet in Family Life Center to set-up and arrange tables. Get 2nd time around items in Bus barn and bring to Family Life Center.

Tuesday- 9 a.m. All able/body women meet in Family Life Center to begin setting up 2nd time around, art, crafts, soup display, bakery and luncheon.

Wednesday - 9 a.m. Continue getting everything ready. Continue until completed.

Thank all of you for stepping up and saying Yes, and helping. You, you, and you are important to the ministry of this church and we need you to make House of Holidays happen.

**PLEASE ADVERTISE!  
INVITE SOMEONE!  
BRING SOMEONE!  
☺ **OCTOBER 16 IS THE DATE!!!****



**Celestra, Sr Adult Director**

## FUMC Financial Update 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021

We are now 39 weeks into the calendar year 2021 and although things have changed in many ways, I am happy to report that the financial strength of the First United Methodist Church of Wetumpka remains strong. We had strong giving during the month of September to end the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ahead of 2020 giving levels. God has blessed us through His continuing faithfulness to our church. Our congregation has continued to provide financial gifts to enable critical ministry at FUMC to continue even though our worship and ministry has had to change due to the pandemic. Our 2021 General Fund budget is \$555,029.00 and through September 30<sup>th</sup>, we are running \$7,138.01 ahead of meeting that budget. Our overall cash collections for 2021 for the general fund as compared to 2020 are \$20,579.86 ahead or an increase of 5.11% which considering the circumstances, I think is remarkable and is truly a blessing.

The finance committee will be meeting in October to approve a 2022 tentative General Fund budget to present to the Administrative Board for consideration. The budget provides a cost-of-living wage increase to support our pastor and staff during these challenging times, but remains financially responsible in that the final budget is proposed at \$557,076.40 for 2022 reflecting only a 0.00369% increase. As we move into the last quarter of this year, we are thankful for our congregation continuing to faithfully support the ministry outreach of FUMC Wetumpka. We are excited about the prospects of a growing and renewed spirit in our church in 2022. God's abundant faithfulness to us is the foundation on which we will continue to increase our faith. God has great plans for us moving forward - plans that will become reality as he continues to work through us to accomplish exceedingly more than we can imagine or hope.

Serving with you,  
Dennis Fain, Treasurer



### Sisters In Service

has been able to take a deep breath following last year's urgent needs. That is until late August

when we donated \$300.00 to Embrace Alabama Kids for school supplies, to benefit the foster children in their care.

This organization was formerly United Methodist Children's Home. The name change better reflects who they are, it was felt. In September Sisters donated \$500.00 to the Hurricane Ida Relief effort through our AWF Conference. We pray for no further natural disasters, but we stand ready!

**Sisters In Service,  
Alice Barnhart**



**Prayer Shawl meets every Friday  
at 10 a.m. upstairs in our  
Educational Building.**

There is something for everyone to be busy with and enjoy this time together. If you don't knit, crochet etc. just come to enjoy some great fellowship and laughter. Want to know more? Call Celestra at 334-301-3920 for more information.



**The ladies are having a good time  
studying each Thursday morning at  
10 a.m. and each Thursday at 6 p.m.!**

The study is "Elijah, Fire and Faith" by Priscilla Shirer. Priscilla is a very powerful and enthusiastic woman of God. When the 7 week session is completed, another Bible Study can start using the videos and ordering study books for participants. Let Charlotte in the church office know as soon as possible if you are interested.

*(psssst, guys, this would be a great men's study as well).*

### **Trails Temple Ministry**



Now that fall is here and cooler weather is right around the corner we hope to get back to our organized walks. Everyone is encouraged to keep walking!

## Reading the Bible Through—OCTOBER

- ☐ 1 **Reflect on God's Goodness**
- ☐ 2 Isaiah 64 Ps. 119:9-16 1 John 2
- ☐ 3 Isaiah 65 Ps. 119:17-24 1 John 3
- ☐ 4 Isaiah 66 Ps. 119:25-32 1 John 4
- ☐ 5 Jer. 1-2 Ps. 119:33-40 1 John 5
- ☐ 6 Jer. 3-4 Ps. 119:41-48 2 John
- ☐ 7 Jer. 5-6 Ps. 119:49-56 3 John
- ☐ 8 **Reflect on God's Patience**
- ☐ 9 Jer. 7-8 Ps. 119:57-64 Jude
- ☐ 10 Jer. 9-10 Ps. 119:65-72 Rev. 1
- ☐ 11 Jer. 11-12 Ps. 119:73-80 Rev. 2
- ☐ 12 Jer. 13-14 Ps. 119:81-88 Rev. 3
- ☐ 13 Jer. 15-16 Ps. 119:89-96 Rev. 4
- ☐ 14 Jer. 17-18 Ps. 119:97-104 Rev. 5
- ☐ 15 **Reflect on God's Generosity**
- ☐ 16 Jer. 19-20 Ps. 119:105-122 Rev. 6
- ☐ 17 Jer. 21-22 Ps. 110:113-120 Rev. 7
- ☐ 18 Jer. 23-24 Ps. 119:121-128 Rev. 8
- ☐ 19 Jer. 25-26 Prov. 1 Rev. 9
- ☐ 20 Jer. 27-28 Ps. 119:129-136 Rev. 10
- ☐ 21 Jer. 29-30 Prov. 2 Rev. 11
- ☐ 22 **Reflect on God's Compassion**
- ☐ 23 Jer. 31-32 Ps. 119:137-144 Rev. 12
- ☐ 24 Jer. 33-34 Prov. 3 Rev. 13
- ☐ 25 Jer. 35-36 Ps. 119:145-152 Rev. 14
- ☐ 26 Jer. 37-38 Prov. 4 Rev. 15
- ☐ 27 Jer. 39-40 Ps. 119:153-160 Rev. 16
- ☐ 28 Jer. 41-42 Prov. 5 Rev. 17
- ☐ 29 **Reflect on God's Wisdom**
- ☐ 30 Jer. 43-44 Ps. 119:161-168 Rev. 18
- ☐ 31 Her. 45-46 Prov. 6 Rev. 19



10/01	Nikole	Tyler	10/15	Dan	Lockwood
10/01	Betty	Nixon	10/17	John	Scott
10/01	Gary	Barnes	10/18	Kathy	Willis
10/02	Thomas	Justiss	10/20	Earl	Gillian
10/02	Julianne	Hawkins	10/21	Elizabeth	Gillian
10/03	Jim	Rushing	10/21	Connie	Mann
10/03	Bonnie	Hall	10/22	Jane	Salter
10/03	Monica	Henderson	10/22	Faith	Wheat
10/05	Fred	Enslin	10/22	Grady (Brother)	Rowell
10/06	Alice	Scarborough	10/23	Jamie	Farquhar
10/08	Jimmy	Martin	10/25	Carol	Hickman
10/10	Tammy	Albritton	10/26	Gene	Bass
10/13	Cheri	Martin	10/27	Dennis	Fain
10/14	Grady (Brother)	Rowell	10/28	Bill	Watts



- Oct 5 Matt & Tammy Albritton
- Oct 9 Alvin & Pat Ward
- Oct 27 William & Ashley Cousins

*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](mailto:secretary@firstwetumpka.com)

Website: [www.wetumpkafirst.com](http://www.wetumpkafirst.com)

## October 2021

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- From Our Pastor
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Wednesday Night Resumes
- House of Holiday News
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS  
RESUME  
OCTOBER 20TH!

*DETAILS INSIDE.....*



Connect with us any time on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and our website at [@WetumpkaFirst](https://www.WetumpkaFirst.com) and [www.WetumpkaFirst.com](http://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.

