

FROM OUR PASTOR

A New Chapter

Elton Trueblood famously said, “We live our lives in chapters.” Like Trueblood, I’ve come to realize that our human lives contain different chapters. As with chapters in books, human life is finite. Our lives have a set number of pages and a conclusion, no matter how much we want them to go on. Yet faith assures us that the end of the book is not the end of the story – this is the eternal nature of the human soul and of Jesus Christ. Trueblood beautifully reflected this truth when he wrote: “A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.”



Your life, including your service to God, is like a book. Some chapters are phenomenal and others leave little to be desired. At times, you would like to skip right over the uninspiring chapters. Yet, every day adds a new page to your overall journey. Until the final sentence has been written, there’s still time to change where your journey will end.

As we flip through the pages of our life, we live through an array of emotions, actions, and circumstances. We have our ups and downs. We laugh, we cry, we win, we lose, we falter, and we grow strong. As the story goes, an Italian peasant girl met a monk one day. The holy man lived in a monastery high upon the hill. She said to him, ‘Father, I have always wondered what you men of God do up there in a place that is so close to God? The wise and humble monk replied softly, ‘You want to know what do we, men of God do up there on the mountain? I’ll tell you: We fall down and we get up. We fall down and we get up. We fall down and we get up.’

This is true for everyone. Failure is not falling down but refusing to get up. Peter fell down, but he got up again. He learned his lesson and later warned his fellow believers, ‘Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in your faith’ (1 Peter 5:8, 9). So, when you fall down, don’t stay down, get back up. Remember success consists of getting up just one more time than you fall.

January 2022 starts a new chapter in our lives and the life of our church. As we turn the page and begin a new chapter, let’s ask God to give us a fresh anointing of his precious Holy Spirit. As we are filled with and led by his Holy Spirit, he will remind us of his amazing love and show us the path we are to take.



May God bless you and your family during the month of January.

In Christ’s arms, Brother Matt

January

January 2—Communion

January 9—Jonny McCune

January 16—Available

January 23—Altar Guild

January 30—John & Scarlotte Holmes

Choir Notes



The First Methodist family is excited to announce that Mrs. Gigi Hankins is our new Minister of Music. Gigi grew up in a musical family, with a lifelong love for music. She is a gifted musician, and we are excited about what she will bring to our worship experience here at First Methodist. Please welcome her into our church family.

The Chancel Choir will begin practicing on Wednesday, January 5 at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. We invite you to come and add your voice to our beautiful choir.



Lots of fun activities have been happening in children's ministry! We had a blast at our Birthday Party for Jesus! The kids enjoyed pizza, birthday cake, making a nativity craft, and singing happy birthday to Him!

Our kids also loved going on our annual zoo lights trip together. I think riding the train was the highlight of the visit for them!

We hope everyone had a fabulous Christmas with their families! Thank you to all of you who volunteer to help the kids learn more about God's love for them. We couldn't do ministry without YOU!

Warmly,
Ms. Michelle



With the start of a new year, people usually start thinking about new goals to achieve! Whether your goal is to raise your grades, learn a new skill, change the world, or all of the above, there are things you want to do, accomplish, and become. It's not always easy to achieve our goals or know which ones to even set, though, right? That's why this month we'll explore the story of a guy with a seemingly impossible goal, and the steps he took to make his goal a reality. His name is Nehemiah, and because of his example we can learn a lot about goal-setting, decision-making, leadership, and trusting God. Through Nehemiah's story, we'll see that **big difficulties can inspire God-sized goals, you are designed for God-sized goals, God gives us strength to pursue God-sized goals, and God-sized goals require God-sized gratitude!**

May, graduation, and Senior Sunday will be here before we know it! If you would like your graduating senior to be recognized and celebrated by the student ministry, or know of a graduating senior who is part of our church family and should be recognized, let me, Jamie, know at jamie@firstwetumpka.com **by April 10, 2022!**

For all the exciting, super fun, and community building things happening every week 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

Senior Adult Ministry

Year 2021 is about gone and Senior Adults have not done a lot of things due to Covid. We had plans, just wasn't able to carry through. Although we did have "HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS" which was a great success.

DECEMBER 7th was our first Keenage Luncheon in 2 years and it was a fun time for all, getting together eating good food and sharing with each other. We enjoyed my 3rd cousin, Hunter Goff performing a beautiful Christmas selection of songs. It was a wonderful day. Thank you for coming.

Seems like some books "just jump out at you". "JESUS LISTENS" by Sarah Young, author of "JESUS CALLING", which I have been reading since 2011 was one of those books. In it you will find prayers of peace, joy and hope throughout the book and devotional prayers designed to lead you into deeper, richer, more continual communion with God. I ordered mine from Amazon, but I am sure you can purchase one at downtown book store, "Sweet Home Books" in Wetumpka.

Also Mitch Albom, author of "Tuesday with Morrie" has a new book out, "The Stranger in the Lifeboat". I happened to be watching TV this past week and there was Mitch Albom talking about the book. Of course, I immediately ordered it.

During the month of January, the Senior Adult Committee will meet and make plans for year 2022, so watch the bulletin for more information.

TREAT EVERY ONE WITH POLITENESS AND KINDNESS, NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE NICE, BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE NICE !!!!!!!!

In His Light, Celestra

Thank You For Partnering With God

With joy and gratefulness, our church family steps forth with energized faith into a new year - partnering with God to be vessels of his saving grace, love, strength, comfort, and mercy with each other and our community. Blessings abound amidst our congregation to encourage each other to listen and obey God's call for good stewardship in all areas of our lives through the generosity of our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

On behalf of all the ministries offered by First United Methodist Church of Wetumpka, thank you for declaring your financial faithfulness to God. Thank you for totally trusting God to multiply your generosity to meet the needs of others, as well as to assure your individual needs are met. Also, thank you for seeking the Holy Spirit to lead you to participate in various areas of ministry; thanks to those who have completed the Stewardship of Faithful Service form. Your zest for service is contagious!

The Lord has bold plans for our congregation to grow - in numbers, in Spirit, and through service to our community - all to the honor and glory of God. We are one Body of Christ, and each one of us is an essential part of the Body. May we totally trust God for his perfect timing regarding when and how we each give of ourselves and our resources. May each prayerful gift of our time, talents, and treasure in 2022 be a reflection of our response to God's great, enduring faithfulness to each one of us.

Serving God with you,

Margie Roate and Your Stewardship Team



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF OVER \$2,300 FOR OUR CHILDREN!!!

Your donation will provide them with a home for the holidays—and every day—embracing them in the powerful and unconditional love of God.



Kick off the new year spending time in God's Word...

Pick up your **FREE** copy of the January/February Upper Room Devotional now!

Stop by the foyer table near the church office and pick one up, or ask that one be mailed to you.



Trails Temple Ministry

January 15 we will be hiking at Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail near Lake Martin dam where you will have the opportunity to walk either a leisurely 3 mile hike mostly along the shores of the lake or a two mile hike to the famous Chimney Rock. If enough people sign up we will take a bus. If not we will caravan. It's about a 30 minute ride from the church. We hope to have a large crowd! **Blessings, Carl**



Wednesdays begin January 5th!!!

There's something for everyone so bring the whole family!



- **3 PM** kids have bus pick up from school and children and youth meet.
- **5:15 PM** Meal
- **6 PM** (*Brother Matt's Class has been postponed until after his surgery & recovery*)
- **6:15 PM** The Verse by Verse Bible Study in the [Cornerstone Classroom](#).



Our nursery is available for all services.

So, pack up the family and we'll see you on Wednesday!!!



BLOOM

Our NEW Middle School Girls Sunday School Class is off to a great start! Girls invite your friends to come join us!

Bloom meets at 9 a.m. each Sunday upstairs in the Education Building.

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



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



1/18 Mabrey & Charlotte Whetstone

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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January 2022

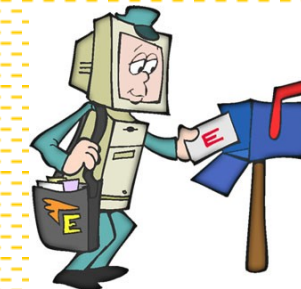
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- Fresh Start Support Group

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.



Do you have a new email address, mailing address or phone number? Please update these with the church office.

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