

From Our Pastor

Times of Refreshing

On Sunday February 6, 1763, John Wesley wrote in his journal: “Knowing many were greatly tempted on occasion of these occurrences, I preached on 1 Corinthians 10:13, ‘God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.’ In the evening, we had a love feast, at which many spoke with all simplicity. And their words were like fire. I hardly know when we have had so refreshing a season.” The love feast or Agape meal is a Christian gathering recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the fellowship enjoyed by the family of God. Just as times of refreshing were enjoyed with Jesus and at this gathering almost 260 years ago; I believe that God wants to send times of refreshing into your life today.

I remember working in the hay fields with my grandfather when I was a teenager. Those hot summer days in the middle of the hay field with no shade would drain the life right out of you. Then out of nowhere a cool and gentle breeze would blow and refresh me. In a spiritual sense our lives can be like that hay field. We are hurried by the work, frustrated by coworkers, pressured by deadlines, tempted beyond what we can bear, and pushed to the breaking point to make ends meet. My hope is that you will begin today to pray and ask God to send times of refreshing into your life. If you will humble yourself and pray, God will answer your prayer.

Now imagine what your life will be like after God has answered your prayer and sent times of refreshing into your life. Paul reminds us that our lives are fragile like jars of clay and in these jars of clay ‘we always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body’ (2 Corinthians 4:10). You have been saved so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in your life. Imagine how wonderfully Jesus' life can be revealed in your life once you have been refreshed. Every day the Father is conforming you into the likeness of his Son and with each new day come opportunities to let others see Jesus in you. For some people the only Jesus they will see today, will be in you.

You and I did not do anything to deserve our salvation, but we must do something to exhibit that salvation. Paul is helpful here again, “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). As Christians, we must rise to the occasion to allow our speech, our thinking, and our emotions to be the evidence that God is at work in our lives. It is called the fruit of the Spirit and since we live by the Spirit we need to stay in step with the Spirit.

God will never shield you from the requirements of being His son or daughter. So, do not think it strange when trials come your way—rise to the occasion. Do whatever the trial demands of you. It does not matter how difficult it is or how hot it gets in the hay field, if it gives God the opportunity to reveal the life of Jesus in you. And when necessary, God will send times of refreshing to see you through the trial. May God bless you and your family during the month of August.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt



Please join us each week for:

SUNDAYS:

- Sunday Worship 8:00 A.M. (CHAPEL)
- Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
- Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M. (Sanctuary and Wesley Hall)

WEDNESDAYS: IMPORTANT! Please take note of our new safety protocol - at approximately 6:10 p.m. the Education Building doors will be locked. If you arrive late you will need to knock on the door to be let in. Please try to be on time to avoid disruption of the classes.

- Wednesday Night meal 5:15—6 P.M. (FLC)
- Children and Youth 6 P.M.
- Choir Practice 6 P.M. (Chapel)
- Brother Matt's Discipleship Class 6 P.M. (Library)
- Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:15 P.M. (Cornerstone Classroom)

July 17...Wetumpka, and beyond...

Wasn't it great to hear firsthand how God is moving in uncharted waters using his chosen people!

What a great Message from Taron: "What A Wonderful Phrase", referring to how God gave the Great Commission to ALL Christians. How are YOU spreading the good news? To learn more about the Jordan's ministry, visit www.cciequip.org!





Thank you for providing beautiful flowers for our altar:

- August 7—Holy Communion
- August 14—Date Available
- August 21—Frances Borders
- August 28—Judy Daniels

If you would like to provide flowers on any available date please call the church office.

What are your plans for each Friday?

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry each Friday from 10 a.m. until noon upstairs in the Education Building.

It's ok if you don't knit or crochet (psssst, we have great teachers!), we have beading or just come for the wonderful fellowship! Over the years, many beautiful shawls have been given to those who are struggling. Each time they wrap up in their shawls, they know they are wrapped up in the love of many prayers and most of all the love of Jesus!! Contact Celestra Rowell for more information at 334-301-3920.



WHAT IS HAPPENING WITHIN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH? WHAT DOES DISSAFILIATION REALLY MEAN?

FUMC Wetumpka will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, September 25th at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. This meeting is for informational purposes and intended to give a better understanding of the options for the UMC going forward. At a later date, our District Superintendent will preside over an official meeting with a members only voting. Below are a few good websites that help explain how we got where we are and how to best navigate the road forward. PLEASE take some time to read and study to better understand the transition process and ask questions at the town hall. Feel free to email Brother Matt or the church office with a particular question or specific clarification on a particular concept.?

Wesleyan Covenant Association

https://wesleyancovenant.org/

Good News Magazine

https://goodnewsmag.org

The Confessing Movement

https://confessingumc.org

United Methodist Action

https://theird.org/united-methodist

United Methodist News

newsdesk@umnews.org



August is Back-to-School month...please be in prayer for our students, teachers and all personnel as a new school year begins...see details of our Back-to-School Bash on the back page!



Do you have:

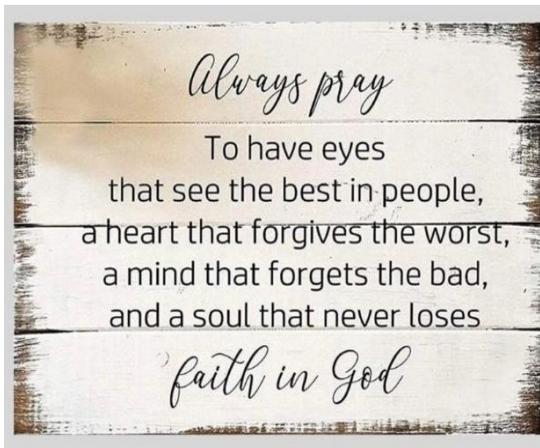
- A new email address?
- A new mailing address?
- A new phone number?

Please update any changes with the church office.

Senior Adult *Ministry*

There was a little girl at a YMCA and one day the Gideon's came to hand out New Testaments and this little girl somehow wound up with two and was so excited because she would have one for herself and one for her Granny. Later she was pretend reading it to her Mom, and this is what she read, "in 1994 the people were not listening, so Jesus had to get up on that cross and now the people listen". She may have learned this lesson at FUMC of Wetumpka, so never let it be said that we do not influence young children, in a special way. I am proud to be a member of FUMC Wetumpka.

Well with that said on Tuesday, July 19th the Keenagers went on a short but sweet road trip. We went to Durbin Farms for lunch, and then moseyed on over to Peach Park for dessert. Pictures will be in History room and next month's newsletter. We had loads of fun!!!



August will be a quiet month but September will be a Tail Gate Lunch so be watching for exciting details!

**Always Believe,
Gloria
334-312-1764**



After getting the third 2023 yearly calendar we did not need, I had an idea for a project my women's group in Michigan did every year. We collected calendars from the congregation and then delivered them to our local nursing home.

The residents were overjoyed because they like a calendar on their walls like we do. Every year they were waiting for us!! Both the assisted living and the nursing home folks thought this was a great idea. **There is a basket to collect the calendars near the church office. We will take any and all 2023 calendars until the end of September to allow any late items to be part of the project. Thank you in advance for your participation!**

**Sisters In Service
Alice Barnhart, Pres. S.I.S.**



THANK YOU to all who shared your military pictures with us in July! It is our honor to celebrate and thank all of our veterans for your service to our country!



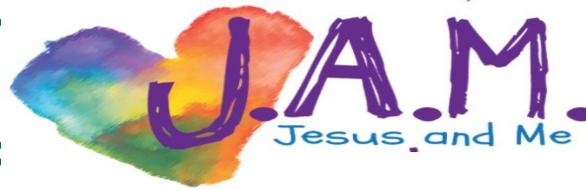
“SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!”

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022
“HOUSE OF HOLIDAYS”
8 a.m. ‘til 1 p.m.**



Bakery, Frozen Soups, Second Time Around, Out of this World Luncheon (menu later). **So start thinking what you can bake, what soups you can make, and getting all that “Stuff” from your house for Second Time Around.** We will pick up, if needed. You may start bringing your “Stuff” to the Church anytime. Once again, we are excited about our 12th Annual House of Holidays. Don't forget we need you, you and you to make this happen, so start thinking what area you would like to work.

Call Celestra at 334-301-3920 to sign up to volunteer!!!



Hey wonderful parents! July was such a fun month in children's ministry! The kids cooled off on a hot day with a water gun war. Some adults and youth joined in the fun, as well! I think it's safe to say we were all drenched! We also enjoyed a fun trip to Skate Zone and had a great time skating and fellowshiping.

This month our kids are preparing to go back to school. (Yes, already!) **We will kick things off in the Family Life Center with A Back to School Bash on Wednesday, August 3 at 5:15 p.m.** Join us for dinner and a great time as we hand out backpacks and enjoy other fun activities!

Our after-school bus pick up starts back on Wednesday, August 24. We will pick up kids from all Wetumpka public schools every Wednesday. Please see me if you would like to register your child. Our Wednesdays are fun-filled afternoons with outside time, snack, a Bible lesson, small groups, and children's choir. We would absolutely LOVE to have your child join us!

We are looking for amazing bus riders, drivers, and children's ministry leaders to serve on a rotating schedule. If you are interested in serving on Wednesday afternoons as a volunteer, please see me or send me an email at michelle@firstwetumpka.com.

In Him,
Ms. Michelle



Reading the Bible Through in a Year—AUGUST

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Isaiah 11	Job 36	Col. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Isaiah 12	Ps. 93	Col. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Isaiah 13	Job 37	Col. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Isaiah 14	Ps. 94	Col. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Isaiah 15	Job 38	1 Thess. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Reflect on God as Father		
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Isaiah 16	Ps. 95	1 Thess. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Isaiah 17	Job 39	1 Thess. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Isaiah 18	Ps. 96	1 Thess. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Isaiah 19	Job 40	1 Thess. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Isaiah 20	Ps. 97	2 Thess. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Isaiah 21	Job 41	2 Thess. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Reflect on God as Light		
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Isaiah 22	Ps. 98	2 Thess. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Isaiah 23	Job 42	1 Tim. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 Isaiah 24	Ps. 99	1 Tim. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Isaiah 25	Song 1:1-7	1 Tim. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Isaiah 26	Ps. 100	1 Tim. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Isaiah 27	Song 1:8-17	1 Tim. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Reflect on God as Truth		
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 Isaiah 28	Ps. 101	1 Tim. 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 22 Isaiah 29	Song 2:1-7	1 Tim. 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 23 Isaiah 30	Ps. 102	2 Tim. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 Isaiah 31	Song 2:8-17	2 Tim. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 25 Isaiah 32	Ps. 103	2 Tim. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26 Isaiah 33	Song 3:1-5	Titus 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 27 Reflect on God as Holy		
<input type="checkbox"/> 28 Isaiah 34	Ps. 104	Titus 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 29 Isaiah 35	Song 3:6-11	Titus 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 Isaiah 36	Ps. 105	Philemon
<input type="checkbox"/> 31 Isaiah 37	Song 4:1-8	Heb. 1

Support Group

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each **MONDAY** in Wesley Hall. Children's activities are provided! If you know someone who is struggling, please let them know that the **Fresh Start Recovery Group** is here for them. For more information please contact Paul Henderson at 334-201-5428.



08/05	Bruce Barber	08/17	Allannah Tindal
08/07	J.P. Schroeder	08/17	Earl Singleton
08/07	Gigi Hankins	08/19	Lynda Fain
08/09	Lynda Estabrook	08/23	Penny Buckelew
08/11	Rick Tyler	08/25	Marilee Tankersley
08/11	Phil Tankersley	08/26	Joyce Carter
08/12	Lee Macon	08/26	Vickie Logan
08/13	Linda Prine	08/27	Ashley Gilliland
08/13	Caleb Emmons	08/28	Lee Cash
08/13	Mary Jane Strength	08/28	Joe McDonald
08/14	Sophie Arant	08/29	Linda Roberts
08/15	Cornbread Al Frith	08/30	Ava Glass
08/15	Charles Stephens, Jr.	08/31	Shelton Prine
08/17	Sherry Braddam	08/31	Kelly Roth
08/17	Allison Johnston	08/31	Andrea Farquhar



8/4	Ted & Frances Watts	8/14	Bob & Karen Reneau
8/4	Jerry & Kathy Willis	8/15	Fred & Carla Enslin
8/10	John & Joyce Carter	8/27	Trip & Mary Weldon
8/11	Ben & Rachel Williams	8/31	Mac & Mary Patchel

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

August 2022

IN THIS ISSUE:

- From our Pastor
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- News From Our Stewardship Team
- Fresh Start Support Group



BUS DRIVERS & RIDERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAYS!

Due to a change in our insurance policy we lost some of our valued drivers. If you have a valid driver's license and insurance and would be interested in joining a rotating schedule of volunteers, see Michelle or Jamie asap.

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

Creating a Culture of Encouragement

The following testimony from Hope Kirkpatrick is one example of how God is working through our faithful church family to create a culture of encouragement that makes a profound difference in sharing the light of Jesus wherever we are. . . at home, at church, at work, or in the community.

Recently, our pastor led a beautiful sermon instructing the congregation on developing a “culture of encouragement” in our church members, which in turn leads to an encouraging church. I am not one who believes in coincidences, but I do believe in “God-incidences”. Therefore, this Spirit-led sermon being preached following a request I received to write a letter regarding how First United Methodist Church of Wetumpka has provided encouragement in my spiritual walk really did not come as big surprise, although it did cause me to send up a quick “I see what you did there” prayer to God.

I stumbled upon our church unintentionally. While strolling through Gold Star Park in the middle of a pandemic, I slowed as I passed a pastor preaching to a congregation that were sitting on rocks placed in a semi-circle I used to play on as a child. The church I had been attending (and if I am being completely honest, that was only sporadically) had switched to a virtual platform. I was falling behind in my Christian walk – as was typical for me during any major life change because I lacked a Christian support system. While still on that morning stroll, I pulled out that smart phone so many of us have glued to us and began to Google. It wasn’t very long before I was able to find out which church that congregation and pastor belong to – and I was thrilled!

As a teenager, I sporadically attended the First United Methodist Church of Eclectic. I became a member there as young adult with my baby and toddler boys. I was saddened that my time at that church came to an end, but it always held a special place in my heart. Since leaving that church, I found myself in numerous other churches of different denominations, but none ever felt like home. I failed to develop friendships within those church walls, always feeling like an outsider. The Sunday following my park stroll and Google find I found myself seated in front of that pastor and being welcomed with so many warm smiles, handshakes, and friendly greetings. I knew then that this church was special.

I admit, I made sporadic appearances during the first year or so of my attendance. I slowly got to know a few members through social media and began attending a Sunday school class after a prayerful encounter at the hospital I was working at. I enjoyed being around Christians who loved God and each other, but my opening up was a slow process. After a painful event in my personal life, I felt more lost than ever. But in the midst of that loss, I made the decision to commit to the church and become a member rather than turn away from God as I have done many times in the past. I chose to commit with service and love, to go “all in” so to speak. That commitment brought on a life change that could have only been made possible by God and a loving church family. As I began to open up to those around me I received something I never expected to receive – acceptance, love, and support.

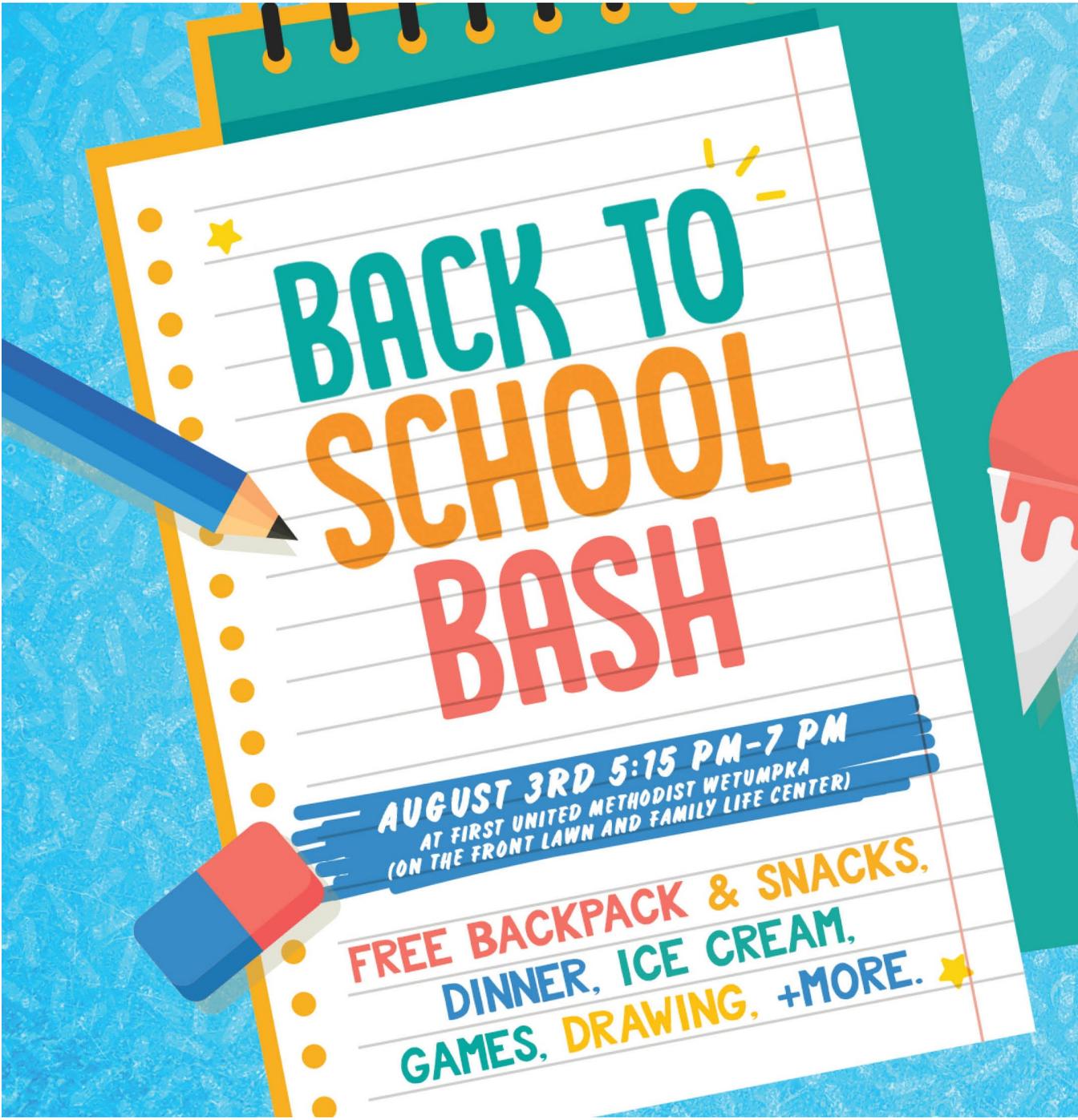
I grew up without Christian leadership in my family, without one-on-one instruction regarding Christianity, and without a lot of love. I met Jesus at a young age, but without much encouragement in my Christian walk, I sought after the world much more than I sought after Jesus. When I finally let myself open up to trust this church, I found myself with something I had always been longing for – a Christian family. I have received so many loving messages, spent time with many people I am proud to call my brothers and sisters, learned from amazing teachers, received gifts and blessings that I will never be able to fully express my gratitude for, ate dinner with people who love me and support me, and have watched my two sons flourish with the guidance and love they have received from each and every person they come in contact with at our church. The encouragement I have received from this church has come in many different forms. The Christian love I am receiving is helping me to discover and walk down the path God has planned for me rather than the one I had planned for me. I am learning that nothing this world could offer can ever compare to the riches and glory that God has in store for me as I continue down this path of discipleship.

Thank you doesn’t even begin to cover the gratitude I feel for each and every one of you. And I hope that if you are reading this and haven’t opened your heart up to Jesus and this church that you do so without fear because your life will be changed, and you will change the lives of others. Thank you, First United Methodist Church of Wetumpka – my brothers and sisters in Christ.
Hope Kirkpatrick

Clearly, our congregation's faithful and generous prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness are glorifying God. Please contact me if you are willing to share your testimony regarding how our amazing church family has encouraged your faith journey.

Serving God with you, Margie Roate and Stewardship Team





BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 3RD 5:15 PM-7 PM
AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST WETUMPKA
(ON THE FRONT LAWN AND FAMILY LIFE CENTER)

**FREE BACKPACK & SNACKS,
DINNER, ICE CREAM,
GAMES, DRAWING, +MORE. ★**

Giveaway Drawing

By attending, you can be entered to win a Family Night Gift Pack that includes a \$50 Pizza Giftcard, Family Devotion, Family Game, and Conversation Starter Cards!

Donations Needed

- Monetary Donations
- Backpacks
- Individually packed snacks & drinks (non-perishable chips, crackers, cookies, juice boxes and pouches, etc.)