

## A Word From Our Pastor...

### Why Do We Pray

In life we face situations that are beyond our control. Things happen to us that leave us wondering, how do I respond? What is my next action step? How do I make sense of all this? We are devastated by unthinkable events like the attack on 9/11 that destroyed so many lives. We are horrified by all the mass shootings and the loss of innocent lives. We are grieved when a loved one passes. We are distressed by the callous actions of our fellow man. We are overwhelmed by the diagnosis from our doctor. Life has a way of bringing us to our knees.

When life brings you to your knees you need an answer now! Who do you turn to in those difficult times? The psalmist reminds us, “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). As Christians we should turn to God. To ‘be still’ is to trust God with your life. When I trust God, I can wait patiently for God to act. It is in that waiting and trusting that God gives us the assurance that He will move mightily in our lives.

Tammy’s recent diagnosis brought us to our knees and we turned to God in prayer. After surviving the blood infection last year, we were now facing a new dilemma. A new opportunity to pray. A new opportunity to trust God. Tammy’s heart valve was damaged and not working properly. On Monday August 19<sup>th</sup> we were in her room, at UAB, waiting for the surgical team to take her down for a pacemaker. Hopefully, to stabilize her heart so she could have the surgery on Friday to repair her damaged valve.

That’s when Dr. Sabouni and his assistant walked into Tammy's room. Dr. Sabouni is usually very controlled with his emotions. But on this occasion, he was all smiles as he sat down in a chair and said, “I have some good news. Based on the tests we ran this morning you don’t need a pacemaker. And the echocardiogram you had two days ago, shows that your valve is functioning normally, much better than it was a month ago. We are going to do a heart catheterization just to verify all of our findings. If it all checks out you can go home today.”

We were expecting Dr. Sabouni to tell us his plan for Tammy's upcoming surgery. But now he is telling us that she does not need the surgery. I said, “We both believe in the power of prayer and this is an answer to prayer.” I barely got the words out because Tammy and I were both crying tears of joy. We could hardly believe what Dr. Sabouni was saying; even though Tammy and I both believe that God is the ultimate heart surgeon. That afternoon as we were driving back to Wetumpka, Tammy said, “God healed my broken heart.” Praise the Lord! Hallelujah and glory!

Why do we pray? Because God’s word tells us to pray. Blessings always follows obedience. Why do we pray for healing? Because when God heals, He is glorified. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave, he told Martha, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God” (John 11:40). To God be the glory!

May God continue to bless you and your family in the month of September, as you turn to Him in prayer.

**In Christ's arms, Brother Matt**

**Let's  
Pray!**



**We're Back!**  
**Join us each  
Wednesday  
for:**

- **Bus pickup from school**
- **Delicious meals prepared by our fabulous kitchen crew, served from 5:15—6 p.m. (FLC)**
- **Children and youth activities (The Bridge)**
- **Brother Matt's adult Bible study in Revelation at 6 p.m.**
- **Choir Practice at 6 p.m. in the Chapel**



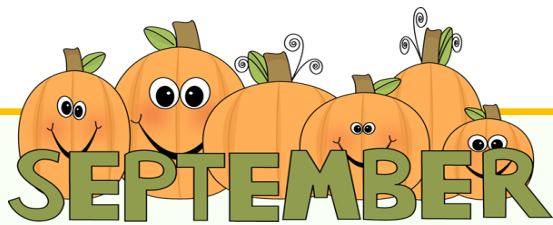
**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH

**“So the World  
Will Know”**

Pray for our  
First Annual Global  
Methodist General  
Conference  
in Costa Rica  
September 20—26!

We are excited to gather clergy and laity from around the world for this historic event, where we will come together to share in fellowship, worship, and decision-making as we shape the future of our denomination.

*To find out more or to follow the conference, visit [sotheworldwillknow.org](http://sotheworldwillknow.org).*



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

- Sep 1—Communion
- Sep 8—Debbie Callahan
- Sep 15—Larry & Sandra Hill
- Sep 22—Jim & Wanda Rushing
- Sep 29—Eddie Brantley



Thank you to everyone who donated to our summer food drive for the Elmore County Food Pantry! Donations can be given to the pantry all year long at their facility at 515 West Boundary Street, Wetumpka, AL 36092

**Coming soon...**

Bake Sale in November sponsored by the Finance Committee to benefit the United Appeal Fund. Watch for more exciting details....



OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE...

- SUNDAY:**  
 Early Worship 8 a.m. (Chapel)  
 Sunday School 9 a.m. (Ed Bldg)  
 Late Church 10 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- MONDAY:**  
 Fresh Start Recovery Meets from 6—8 p.m. in the Family Life Center
- TUESDAY:** Library committee meets
- WEDNESDAY:**
- Bus pick up after school
  - The Bridge (children and youth activities)
  - Delicious meal (5:15—6 p.m.)
  - Adult Bible study 6 p.m.
  - Beginner Sewing Class 6 p.m. (Wesley Hall)
  - Choir Practice 6 p.m. in Chapel
  -
- THURSDAY:**  
 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7 a.m. at Burger King
- FRIDAY:**  
 Prayer Shawl meets from 10 a.m.—12 noon upstairs in Education Bldg
- \*\*\*\*\*
- Keenagers** meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. (Watch for details)  
**SIS** (Sisters In Service) meets 4th Monday monthly at 1 p.m. in Wesley Hall



"We love our Mrs. Becky and Ms. Barbara!!!"

**Our Church NURSERY**  
 (located on the first floor in the Education Building) is available for both worship services and during the Sunday School hour.



**From the pictorial committee:**  
 If you notice an error in the information pages of the directory, please let the church office know asap so it can be corrected/added.

**Pictorials can be picked up during normal church office hours.**

**To order pictures contact Chrietzberg Photography.**



Think back to a time when someone made time for you. Maybe that looked like caring for you when you were sick, teaching you how to tie your shoe, making food for you, or teaching you how to read or learn a new skill. No matter what it is, when people make time for us, it can bring us joy. It's like a light shining on a dark day. Caring for one another isn't always the easy thing to do, but it certainly is what Jesus asks of us. When Jesus gave the command in Matthew 5 to let our light shine, it wasn't just to bring joy into each other's lives but also to bring glory to God. We are reflections of Who God is, and as we "Live Bright" this month, we'll discover exactly how we can shine God's light.

**Monthly Bible Verse:**

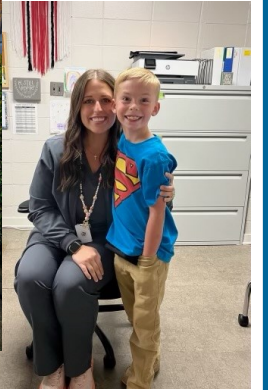
"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your father who is in Heaven." Matthew 5:16

**Monthly Virtue:**

Compassion: Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs.

I am so excited that The Bridge is back! I have missed seeing all the kids' smiling faces every week. I am excited about our new program and all the fun heading our way. In September, we will be getting in the swing of things again. Our new fifth and sixth-grade Sunday school class and Wednesday program, The Arch, are underway. I look forward to creating more memories together this school year and growing as a church family.

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley





School is back in full swing, and we've already made so many new, great memories together during The Bridge (our Wednesday after-school program), at our special events and weekly hangouts, and while using our time and gifts to help one another inside and outside of our student ministry and church family! A student even chose to join the church family on a Sunday morning! God is moving in so many amazing, life-changing ways in our students' hearts, and I hope you will check out our Student Ministry Volunteer and Winter Camp fundraiser table on Wednesdays (in the Family Life Center before dinner) and Sunday mornings (before and after 10am worship) the 8<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of this month to invest in their ongoing transformation into Christ's likeness!

This Month's Series: "Beyond Belief"

The Bible is full of things that some might call almost "beyond belief." Sometimes this might be because they are miraculous — especially the story of Exodus. Like, did God *really* split a whole sea in half, speak to Moses from a burning bush, or rescue all those people from enslavement? Other times, the Bible says things that sound a little too good to be true — like, is God *really* as loving, kind, patient, or powerful as Scripture says? And can God *really* use each of us to do big things in the world? In this month's series from the book of Exodus, we'll explore what the story of Moses and the Israelites can help us discover about doubt and belief. We'll explore together and talk about how, **when you doubt yourself, God can still use you.** We'll also see how, when you doubt God, **it's okay to ask questions,** because **God still offers guidance** and always **takes care of you.**

For all the other exciting weekly hangouts and community-building events happening this month, check out our page on the church's website, and/or contact me at the e-mail address listed above if you have any questions! Please make sure you are on our text and e-mail list for all updates and access to other helpful tips, tools, and resources for growing a relationship with God personally and as a family!

**In Him, Jamie**



# Senior Adult Ministry

July might have been slow but we picked up in August when we went on a roller coaster ride in Sylacauga that we had never seen before. As you can see, unless you go on the bus, you will never know what you may miss. Giovanni's Italian Restaurant served us a wonderful meal and almost everyone had a to go box since our servings were so huge. Next, we went to the Pickle Patch Antique Store to walk off some of that food we ate and yeah, some of us did buy something. Then away we go to the prize...we are now on our way to Bluebell Ice Cream for a bowl of our favorite flavor of ice cream—they are all so good. It is hard to decide so as you might guess some people got more than one bowl, lol, but boy it is good.

There were some new bus riders and I was so happy to see them. We did have one problem. I had to tell someone we did not have any more room on the bus. So sorry that I had to do that, but also so happy that we had that many people wanting to go on our bus trip.

**So from now on, I will be putting sign-up sheets out early to see if we will need to take two buses. But we have to know early so I can get another bus and another bus driver. As you know, bus drivers are in short supply so if you would like to drive the bus or know someone that would, please have them contact the church office to get signed up. You do not have to have a CDL Thank you! I will be picking sign up sheets up on September 8th after church. Our insurance allows 15 people (includes driver) on each bus.**

**Sign up now  
for the  
Auburn  
Botanical  
Gardens  
trip...**



**Genesis 2:8 King James Version**  
*And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; And there he put the man whom he had formed.*

**Always Believe, Gloria (334/312-1764)**

**KEENAGERS—There is a change of plans for the trip on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Our plans have been changed from going to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens to the **Botanical Gardens in Auburn.** This is a smaller place. You can see some lovely gardens and browse through their garden center. Lunch will be eaten at the gardens so in this hot weather, you will only have to get off and on the bus one time. And we have a surprise. Celestra and Wanda will be your guidance for the day. **So be sure and sign up today to save your seat on the bus.**

**DEADLINE: Sign-up sheets will be picked up Sunday after church September 8<sup>th</sup>.** This will be a fun filled day so please join us.





# THE BRIDGE

**Empowering Students to Connect  
in Christ and Community**

## GET INVOLVED!

Make an eternal impact in the lives of kids and youth by volunteering at our Wednesday after school program! We are looking for:

- **Church Bus Drivers / Riders**  
No CDL required • Only needed to pickup kids after school
- **Small Group Leaders / Class Helpers**
- **Food Donations (Snacks, Baked Goods, etc.)**
  - **Elective Leaders (Crafts, Games, Music, etc.)**
- **Help with Homework (Kids / Youth)**
- **Behind the Scenes Help (Organization, Decorations, Shopping, Paperwork, etc.)**



See Ashley or Jamie to volunteer, or learn more at [www.wetumpkafirst.com/bridge](http://www.wetumpkafirst.com/bridge).



*Searching for a place to use your talents and skills? What are you most passionate about? Here are some amazing opportunities to touch lives:*

**URGENT NEEDS:**  
**VOLUNTEERS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL (Children)**  
**THE BRIDGE on WEDNESDAYS**  
**BUS DRIVERS—NO CDL REQUIRED!**

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Wednesday activities including **The Bridge**. This is a great opportunity to use your time and talents to invest in the lives of our amazing kids in a variety of ways. **If you are willing to help in any capacity, please let Ashley or Jamie know!**

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**USHERS** are needed for the 10 a.m. worship service. Do you want to share your beautiful smile and be one of the welcoming faces of our church? Men and women are encouraged to participate! **Contact the church office or Sam Legvold at [sslegvold@hotmail.com](mailto:sslegvold@hotmail.com).**

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*Be sure to participate in our upcoming **Ministry Fair on Sundays, September 22 and 29 to learn more about vital ministries in our church!***

*(See details in our Ministry Fair*

*announcement in this newsletter and upcoming emails)*

## In Our Community...



Now more than ever, support is needed for our local recovery organizations as they work diligently to Beat the Streets!

**Join our Fresh Start Ministry and other vital organizations at Gold Star Park on Saturday, September 14.**

This event showcases the awareness of resources available to those in our community and their families who struggle with drug addiction. The day will include food, dynamic speakers and musicians with a heart for reaching out with Christian love and most of all, hope. Beat the Street is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so all donations are tax deductible.

Outre



## Youth Winter Camp Fundraiser

- Gift Wrap & Accessories • Candles
- Personalized Gifts • Charleston Bags
- Kitchen Essentials • Gourmet Foods

Want to support our students going to camp in January AND get great Christmas gifts, decorations, and wrapping paper?! Now you can! Sundays and Wednesdays from September 8th through the 22nd see Jamie, a youth, visit our table in Wesley Hall (Sundays) or the FLC (Wednesdays), or scan the QR code on this form to place an order. Checks, cash, and cards accepted.



# MINISTRY FAIR

*Celebrate the work of our church!  
Explore opportunities to serve!  
Enjoy fellowship with our family!*

We are so excited to share with our church family all that is happening at First Methodist Church Wetumpka at our **First Annual Ministry Fair—Sundays, September 22 and 29 in Wesley Hall.**

Tables will be set up to showcase our various ministries. Leaders and volunteers will be present to answer any questions you might have. We welcome suggestions on how to make our different outreaches even more effective.

We are a very busy church whether ministering inside our campus walls or serving out in our community. We hope that everyone will take this opportunity to see the various ministries up close and consider signing up to volunteer in those areas you are most passionate about.

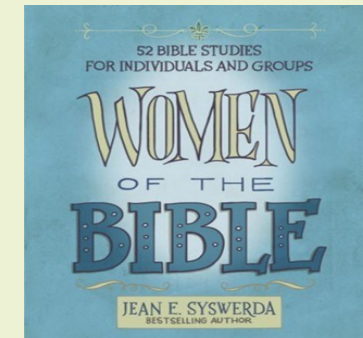
**Reaching our Community for Christ!**



**A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8** at 9 a.m. in the previous Eternal Hearts classroom. Abundant Grace will study *Women of the Bible* by Jean Syswerda (Old and New Testaments). The first lesson will be about Eve. Class will be led by Diane Lockwood and Debbie Jenkins. **Everyone is welcome!**



Focus on 52 female heroes in Scripture, and you'll discover yourself in the process. *Women of the Bible: 52 Bible Studies for Individuals and Groups* is designed especially for those who want to delve more deeply into the lives of women like Ruth, Anna, Esther, Leah, Rachel, Mary, Elizabeth, and other women who encountered the living God. Each timeless biblical story mirrors the challenges and changes today's women face. Through understanding these women's lives, this study will help you discover God in their stories—and yours.



**READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: September**

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

**Support Group**

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each **MONDAY** in the FLC. 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.**



<b>09/01</b>	Laurie	Hutchinson	<b>09/17</b>	Bill	Lambert
<b>09/02</b>	Donna	Hall	<b>09/19</b>	Leighton	Greenlee
<b>09/02</b>	Tara	Dozier	<b>09/21</b>	Barbara	Knight
<b>09/04</b>	Christina	Knuckles	<b>09/23</b>	David	King
<b>09/07</b>	Bekah	Williams	<b>09/24</b>	Sharon	Bledsoe
<b>09/09</b>	Larry	Dozier	<b>09/24</b>	Judi	Daniels
<b>09/13</b>	Ray	Daniels	<b>09/25</b>	Carl	Bledsoe
<b>09/14</b>	Louise	Tatum	<b>09/25</b>	Miranda	Abernethy
<b>09/14</b>	Rick	Futch	<b>09/26</b>	Fran	Chance
<b>09/15</b>	Tim	Lawrence	<b>09/26</b>	Anna	Knuckles
<b>09/15</b>	Jon Luke	Arant			



<b>09/07</b>	Hughett & Mardre Williams
<b>09/16</b>	Carl & Sharon Bledsoe
<b>09/19</b>	Neal & Leah Pridgen
<b>09/29</b>	Larry & Marilyn Dozier
<b>09/30</b>	Ed & Lisa Hughes

*If you are a member of FMCW and your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please notify the church office so that we can celebrate with you.*



**FIRST NEWS**

306 W. Tuskeena Street  
Wetumpka, AL 36092  
Phone: 334-567-7865  
Email: secretary@firstwetumpka.com  
Website: www.wetumpkafirst.com

**SEPTEMBER 2024**



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- From our Pastor
- Our Children, Youth and Senior Adults
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Reading the Bible Through Scriptures
- Fresh Start Support Group
- Serving Our Community
- Pictures, pictures, pictures!



ENJOY THE BREAK

**Note:** The Church Offices will be closed on Monday, Sep. 2.



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