

## A Word From Our Pastor...

### Enjoying God's Presence

There are times in ministry when I am surrounded by the people I serve and I love to be in their presence. In my lifetime, God has blessed me with many friends and I love to be in their presence. God has also blessed me with a beautiful wife, whom I love and I enjoy being in her presence. Then, as you can imagine, there are times when I am all alone or so it seems. Those are the times when I am alone with God and all that I am is laid bare before Him. It is then my opportunity to enjoy those times with God to the fullest measure.

When we enter into a right relationship with God through his son Jesus Christ, then God's Spirit lives within us and we put on the mind of Christ. Then, God removes the scales from our eyes and we begin to see the spiritual things that God reveals to us by his Spirit. Paul writes, "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:14). So, how can we enjoy the presence of God and understand the deeper things of God.

I believe you have to first, eliminate the distractions in your life. Unplug from social media and turn your cell phone off. Find your way to your prayer closet and get alone with God. Those are the times when we have to be quiet and listen to that still small voice of God. During a lecture, E. Stanley Jones once said, "I have what I call the listening post, in the early morning hours, when I say to God have you anything to say to me? One morning, He said, 'Yes, I have this. You are mine. Life is yours.' Oh, I said, please say that again. He said, 'You are mine. Life is yours.' If I belong to Christ, then life belongs to me. I can go out and master it, and conquer it, and rescue some good out of everything that happens. The personality then is affirmed not canceled, affirmed. So, the great problem of life is to get yourself off of your own hands into the hands of God. Yourself on your own hands is a problem and a pain. In the hands of God, it is a possibility and a power."

In the hectic world that we live in, we can easily overlook how God has revealed himself to us, or how God has called us and directed us. In our busy and stressful lives, we often do not consider how God has comforted us, suffered with us, challenged us, or been merciful to us. When we place our lives into the hands of God, and enjoy God's presence, then our life becomes "a possibility and a power." Everything is possible when you believe in the power of God.

As we move into the month of November, this is my prayer for us, "Lord, help us to slow down and enjoy your presence in our life." May God continue to bless you and your family.

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



### Veterans Day Prayer



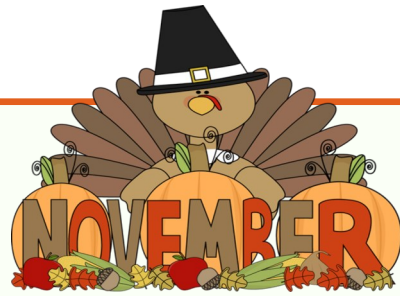
Dear Lord,  
We thank You for the brave men and women who have served our country. Please protect those currently serving, heal the wounds of our veterans, and comfort the families who have lost loved ones. Guide our leaders with wisdom, and let peace reign in our hearts and world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

CoffeeWithStarla.com

**To ALL Veterans and their families...**

**THANK YOU!**



Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

- November 3—Communion**
- November 10—Nell & Tommy Head**
- November 17—Jennie Payne**
- November 24—Virginia Marcus**

**2025 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR**

Thank you for providing fresh flowers each Sunday that add so much beauty to our Sanctuary and our worship services.

Dates on the calendar are on a first-come basis, so choose your special date soon!

Call or email the church office to choose your dates:  
334/567-7865  
secretary@firstwetumpka.com



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.
  - 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

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**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

**Bake Sale**  
**Sunday, November 24**



The Finance Committee is sponsoring a bake sale on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> in Wesley Hall immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

All proceeds will go to The United Appeal Fund. This is a requirement by the State of Alabama in order to keep our sales tax exempt status.



**We will need baked goods donations for this event.** If you haven't signed up yet, there are sign up sheets through out the church or you can call the office and talk to Sonya.

You can bring your goodies to Wesley Hall on Saturday, November 23 from 10 a.m. until noon, or bring them Sunday morning prior to church. **IMPORTANT!!!! Please have them in disposable containers and have them packaged and ready to sell.**

This is the perfect time to get your desserts for Thanksgiving and help our church. The United Appeal Fund benefits The Elmore County Food Pantry and the pastor's discretionary fund. **THANK YOU!**





Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35, NIV) However, sometimes generosity doesn't come naturally to us. We want the newest and best things, or we want everyone to notice what we have. When we really enjoy the things we have, sometimes that makes it harder for us to be willing to share with others. However, with the help of God's Spirit, we can learn that HOW we give is more important than even WHAT we give. It's about our hearts. God showed us the ultimate example of generosity by sending Jesus. This month, we'll take a look at how we can respond by being generous to others.

**Memory Verse**

Every good and perfect gift is from God.  
James 1:17

**Virtue**

Generosity: making someone's day by giving something away.

I can not believe November is already here. During The Bridge, we will have our first Friendsgiving on November 20th. Our children will sing on November 24th during our 10 a.m. service. I know it will be amazing and showcase all of their hard work.

I would also love to take a moment to thank all of the volunteers we have had at events and during The Bridge. We could not do this without you. I love seeing how God is working within our ministry and our church as we continue to grow.

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley





How blessed are we personally, as a student ministry family, as a church family, and as followers of God that He pours out His amazing, life-changing, love-filled blessings into our lives every day?! What an awesome God we serve together! Since November is a time when giving thanks for these blessings is more naturally on our hearts, this month we will even more intentionally focus on and discuss our personal and collective blessings; how God calls us to use our talents, gifts, and time to bless our church and surrounding community with His grace and love like He does with us; and how we can step by step live that out every day with everyone God brings around us.

This Month's Series: God's Wisdom on Our Worth and Design for Relationships

Whether our students are getting answers about the worth of being single, what healthy dating relationships look like, and what meaningful friendships look like from others around them, movies they watch, music they listen to, celebrities they follow, church messages, or personal experiences; there's so much more room to let God reset them with new questions to get them to spiritually healthier places. This month we will continue exploring the genius wisdom and unconditional love God laid out for us in the Bible on these topics through laughter, interaction, honesty, and opportunities to reflect and apply. Please continue praying as God moves in their hearts as they consider trading in whatever answers they've been living with for something healthier as they learn what it looks like to ask some new questions and operate out of a life-long relationship with Jesus!

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 [jamie@wetumpkafirst.com](mailto:jamie@wetumpkafirst.com) 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

Today I am sitting in **PRAYER SHAWL** writing my newsletter. We make all sorts of things. Prayer beads, prayer shawls, sun catchers among other things. You really should check us out, **we meet every Friday at 10:00 A.M. in our room upstairs in the educational building.** We celebrate birthdays—we love ice cream and cake. We enjoy Christian fellowship and doing things for others.

Our Keenagers Military Luncheon was a wonderful meeting and it was such a pleasure to salute all branches of the military that have served their country and us, each day. Our very own Frank Vawter gave an interesting talk about his days in the army. A friend of mine Becky Mack did a beautiful rendition of our flag. She started with the Betsy Ross flag and it's 13 stars and ended with our beautiful flag of today with 50 stars. The food was delicious and shared with many friends. So sorry if you missed this program - it was wonderful.

**Tuesday November the 12<sup>th</sup> we will be on a road trip to Troy University at Troy!** We will visit a museum and see the soldiers, then we will drive around campus and Wanda will point out different things to us. We will eat at Two Sisters that everyone says is the best. **Sign up sheets will be out Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>, they will be picked up after church on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>.** They will be in the usual places on the table as you come up steps from family life center and the round table in Wesley Hall. We can get 15 people per bus so please sign up soon. **The bus will leave church at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, November the 12<sup>th</sup>.**

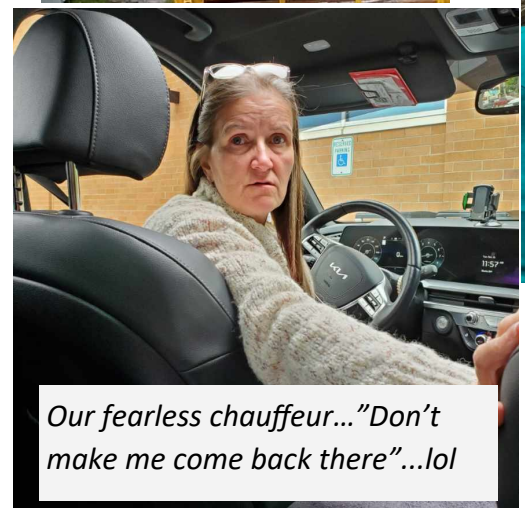
**December the 10<sup>th</sup> we will have our Christmas luncheon in the family life center.** Mark your calendar now! This luncheon will be *"Come to the Manger"*. Jesus will be there and I pray you will also.

**Please note—we call ourselves Keenagers because we are young at heart. Any time you see notices about things we are doing that includes all of you.**

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



**LADIES TRIP TO  
CELEBRATORS  
CONFERENCE IN TN...**



*Our fearless chauffeur..."Don't make me come back there"...lol*

# MISSION ALIVE IN 2025

Our church mission statement to **Worship Passionately - Love Extravagantly - Witness Boldly** are not merely words. We put this mission into action through a full array of ministries that make a significant difference in the lives of our church family and our community. We highlighted numerous areas of ministry offered throughout First Methodist Church Wetumpka during our fall Ministry Fair, many of which were included in an awesome video entitled One Heart – One Mission - All for Christ.

When we each join this church family, we are asked one question. Will you support First Methodist Church Wetumpka with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness? During our Fall Stewardship Emphasis, we will unpack how our collective mission statement is activated through our individual answers to this one question. A crucial part of the last quarter of each calendar year is for us to earnestly pray and prepare for the upcoming year. We intentionally reinforce our commitment to be good stewards of all the resources God provides us, individually and collectively. With joy and thanksgiving, let's celebrate how we will continue to live James 1:22 "to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only."

**Sunday, November 3rd will be an All-Saints Celebration**, a time to honor and give thanks for beloved members of our congregation who died in the past year. We will also recall and give thanks for all those saints who trusted God to establish our historic congregation in 1819.

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> will be Celebration Sunday**, a meaningful time in which we will consecrate our 2025 Estimates of Giving and acknowledge the exceeding joy of working as partners with each other and with God to do His will. We are an amazingly blessed congregation that continues to grow spiritually, numerically, and in our outreach to the community. This is an opportunity for us to not only celebrate all that God has already done through us, but to ask "what more we can do to God's honor and glory?" May our mission be fervently alive in 2025!

**Serving Jesus with you,  
Your Stewardship Team  
Matt, Dennis, Andrea, Sonya, & Margie**

## ***Serving on the mission field...***

**Dr. Rev. Alfred Kalembo** shared with us on Sunday, October 20, updating us on all that is happening in their ministry in Zambia.

Our church has chosen a student to support this year. If you would like to join with us, please make your check payable to FMCW and mark the memo line "Zambia".

Meet our student...

Brenda Mwaanga  
Attending Copperbelt University in  
Kitwe, Zambia.

Major: Banking and Finance.  
Starting Second year on 2nd  
December, 2024.

Daughter of a Pastor in a remote  
village. Her education will change the  
life of her family.

***THANK YOU for your prayers and your  
support of the university staff and  
students! Alfred***



**READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: November**

☐ 1 Jer. 47-48	Ps. 119:169-176	Rev. 20
☐ 2 Jer. 49-50	Prov. 7	Rev. 21
☐ 3 Jer. 51-52	Ps. 120-121	Rev. 22
☐ 4 Ezekiel 1-3	Prov. 8	Luke 1
☐ 5 Reflect on God as Beginning		
☐ 6 Ezekiel 4-6	Ps. 122-123	Luke 2
☐ 7 Ezekiel 7-9	Prov. 9	Luke 3
☐ 8 Ezekiel 10-14	Ps. 124-125	Luke 4
☐ 9 Ezekiel 15-18	Prov. 10	Luke 5
☐ 10 Ezekiel 19-22	Ps. 126-127	Luke 6
☐ 11 Ezekiel 23-26	Prov. 11	Luke 7
☐ 12 Reflect on God as Maker		
☐ 13 Ezekiel 27-29	Ps. 128-129	Luke 8
☐ 14 Ezekiel 30-32	Prov. 12	Luke 9
☐ 15 Ezekiel 33-35	Ps. 130	Luke 10
☐ 16 Ezekiel 36-38	Prov. 13	Luke 11
☐ 17 Ezekiel 39-41	Ps. 131	Luke 12
☐ 18 Ezekiel 42-45	Prov. 14	Luke 13
☐ 19 Reflect on God as Rock		
☐ 20 Ezekiel 46-48	Ps. 132	Luke 14
☐ 21 Dan. 1-2	Prov. 15	Luke 15
☐ 22 Dan. 3-4	Ps. 133	Luke 16
☐ 23 Dan. 5-6	Prov. 16	Luke 17
☐ 24 Dan. 7-8	Ps. 134	Luke 18
☐ 25 Dan. 9-10	Prov. 17	Luke 19
☐ 26 Reflect on God as Gardener		
☐ 27 Dan. 11-12	Ps. 135	Luke 20
☐ 28 Hosea 1-2	Prov. 18	Luke 21
☐ 29 Hosea 3-4	Ps. 136	Luke 22
☐ 30 Hosea 5-6	Prov. 19	Luke 23

**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 contact Paul Henderson at 334-201-5428.**



<b>11/03</b>	Louis	Ebrecht	<b>11/17</b>	Cal	Estabrook
<b>11/05</b>	Annabelle	Campbell	<b>11/17</b>	Katie	Brent
<b>11/06</b>	Donna	Matthews	<b>11/19</b>	Bobby	Singleton
<b>11/07</b>	Nell	Head	<b>11/20</b>	Wanda	Rushing
<b>11/08</b>	Shelly	Moody	<b>11/20</b>	Camden	Rushing
<b>11/09</b>	Jeanelle	Andrews	<b>11/20</b>	Scarlotte	Holmes
<b>11/10</b>	Marjorie	Mallard	<b>11/20</b>	Beth	Roberts
<b>11/10</b>	Frances	Watts	<b>11/22</b>	Alvin	Ward
<b>11/10</b>	Jennifer	Daniels	<b>11/23</b>	Jonny	McCune
<b>11/13</b>	Ewell	Messer	<b>11/23</b>	Hadden	Hutchinson
<b>11/13</b>	Shelia	Wallace	<b>11/25</b>	Fred	Lovelace III
<b>11/13</b>	John	Holmes	<b>11/27</b>	Leah	Pridgen
<b>11/13</b>	Walter	Kennedy	<b>11/29</b>	Charlene	Lovelace
<b>11/14</b>	Bob	Strickland	<b>11/30</b>	David	Barnes



<b>11/04</b>	Sanford & Malinda Brannan
<b>11/08</b>	Tim & Kasey Emmons
<b>11/22</b>	Damon & Miranda Abernethy
<b>11/24</b>	Andy & Alice Scarborough
<b>11/30</b>	Bob & Donna Strickland

*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**

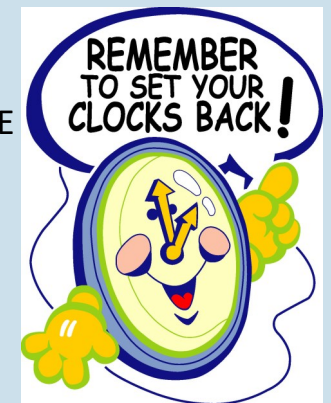
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**NOVEMBER 2024**

*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!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
 ENDS NOVEMBER 3!  
 Remember to turn  
 your clocks  
**BACK one hour.**



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

