

A Word From Our Pastor...

God Never Changes

The cold months of winter are upon us. We received a dusting of snow in our area a few days ago. For the people of this area that is enough to make us stay home and off the roads. We are not used to this type of weather. Perhaps God gave us this time of the year, just for its beauty. A beauty that we can enjoy from inside our cozy homes, next to a roaring fire, drinking hot chocolate, and eating chili, all while looking out the window at its beauty.

As we enjoy this season, we are reminded of God's provision. Moses tells us that God provides for us year-round: "If you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today-- to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul—then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them."

Even in this dormant season, the Lord desires that we worship Him. In all seasons, we should rejoice and celebrate in what God is doing. I am reminded of another celebration that took place many years ago. In 1 Chronicles 29, David reminds us that "the people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD, and King David was filled with joy. Then David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly: 'O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised forever and ever! Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things.'"

There is no generation of God's people, least of all our own, who can afford to avoid the issue of giving to the kingdom work of our Lord. Although so much has changed in our world, since the days of Moses and King David, the challenge is still before us. "Who then will offer willingly?" For the work of God, for the benefit of His church which, is His people. Are we prepared to give back the riches that God has given us? Are we prepared to give our whole heart to this endeavor?

As we give freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord, He promises to bless us even more abundantly and we will be filled with constant joy. David recognized that all things come from the Lord, knowing this, he gave himself back to God in true, sincere, consecration: "All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent." As God's people, so must we. O Lord keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep our hearts loyal to you. In all things and in all seasons may God be praised forever.

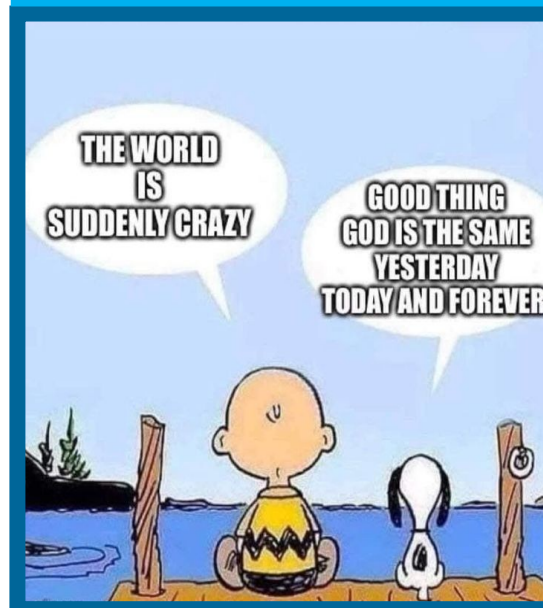
Even as nature changes all around us, God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
May God bless you and your family in the month of February.

In Christ's arms, Brother Matt

HELP WANTED:



We are looking for a few people who would like to form a group who are willing to call and check on others periodically. We want to have an opportunity to help with any needs our church family might have and add those to our prayer list as appropriate. **If you're interested please contact the church office.**



February

Thank you for providing beautiful altar flowers:

February 2—Communion Sunday

February 9—Sonya Arnold

February 16—Barry & Sally Blackwell

February 23—Maggie/Lisa Van Wagner



Sisters In Service

Ladies, if you enjoy serving your community, Sisters In Service is **READY** to welcome you!! We meet once a month, on the 4th Monday, in Wesley Hall at 1 P.M. Come and see!!

Next meeting: February 24 at 1 p.m.

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

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

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



Our Wednesday activities have resumed with bus pickup, children and youth activities, a delicious meal, adult bible study and choir practice!

Brother Matt is teaching a new bible study, "The Gospel of John".

The group meets in the Cornerstone Classroom at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. Class officially began January 29 so it's not too late to participate.



STAY CONNECTED...

Don't forget to update the church office with any changes in your email address, mailing address or phone number.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every Friday at 10 a.m. upstairs in the Education Building. Everyone is welcome!

2025 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

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

Available dates are:

- March 9, 23, 30
- May 25
- June 29
- July 13
- August 10, 24
- September 21, 28
- October 12, 26
- November 30
- December 21, 28

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



February always brings more conversations than usual about what it should look like to care for others in all areas of life, which makes this month a prime opportunity to dive even deeper into what God and His Word says it should look like to love Him, ourselves, and others each day. In addition to these conversations, this month we are celebrating God's sacrificial and unconditional love with a devotion, games, and gifts to give to others at our annual Agape Day Party while continuing to make awesome memories and growing together during all our weekly hangouts and a Fun City family trip with the children's ministry!

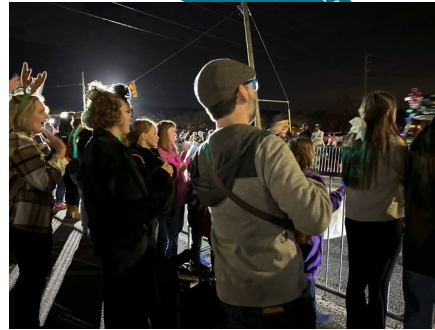
This Month's Series: Rhythm

While growing in our faith can sometimes feel difficult to measure, the right daily rhythms can help us keep moving in the right direction. This month we'll explore and discuss passages of Scripture from the Gospels, epistles, and Psalms to help us develop spiritual rhythms that help us grow more into His likeness each day. Together, we'll be challenged to create more predictable patterns in four key ways: by creating **rhythms for spending time with God**, **using our gifts**, **sharing our stories**, and **spending time with others**.

May, graduation, and Senior Sunday will also 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 know in person or at jamie@wetumpkafirst.com by **April 6th!**

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 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 ★ CLASS OF ★ 2025

Senior Sunday Announcement:
Attention Graduating High School Seniors of the Class of 2025. May and graduation will be here before we know it. If you, or you know of a graduating high school senior, please have them contact Jamie at jamie@wetumpkafirst.com so they can participate and be celebrated in our Senior Sunday celebration. DEADLINE IS APRIL 6.





Have you ever thought about what makes you, you? We all have different backgrounds, families, or favorite colors. We all enjoy different sports, foods, vacations, and have different friends and experiences in life. Even twins have different fingerprints! Together, all of those pieces make up who we are. But we can't understand who we are and what we were created to do without understanding how God sees us. Every single one of us was created in the image of God. But even as image bearers, we were created as unique. There is only one you, and this month we have the chance to explore how God can use the ways we were created to make a difference.

Memory Verse

“How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.”
Psalm 139:14

Virtue

Uniqueness: Learning more about yourself so you can make a difference.



February brings many new opportunities to connect and make memories together. **We will be having our Valentine's Day party on February 12th during The Bridge. We will also be taking a trip to Fun City in Montgomery on February 16th.** If you would like to stay up to date on all the activities we are doing, please join our Remind (Text @6df6h to 81010) or join our Facebook group (Wetumpka First Kids).

Blessings, Mrs. Ashley



Senior Adult Ministry

January has really been cold but it is warm inside by the fire. There are some who have a hard time when it's cold, so please pray for anyone who needs help in keeping warm. The snow was fun for lots of folks even at the beach, lol, but at my house we had a short flurry and then it was gone just like the month of January.

Thanks to all that came out to the Keenagers Planning Meeting. It was a very good meeting and there was lots of planning going on. Places to go, luncheons at church, themes and food. If you were not there and would like to help in some way give me a call at 334/312-1764.

Yoga classes were mentioned and everyone jumped on the bandwagon! Our meeting was on Tuesday and Wednesday morning we had a class. **Soft yoga class will be every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM in Wesley Hall.** I call it a soft yoga because everything will be done in chairs. I think everyone should be able to do this soft yoga. Come on out and see what we are doing; it is open to everyone. Yoga is good for the body and mind, and balance.

On Tuesday February the 11th we will be going to Montgomery for a Valentine's Lunch. We will be eating at The House Restaurant inside the Renaissance Hotel. Sign up sheets will be in the regular places, up the stairs from the family life center and the round table in Wesley Hall. Sign up as soon as possible so we will know if we need 2 buses. **The sign up sheets will be taken up Sunday February 9th.** Remember 15 people per bus counting the driver, so get your seat reserved as soon as possible. **IMPORTANT!** Even if you are taking your car, PLEASE put "car" by your name so we will have a count for the restaurant, thank you. **Hope to see you on Tuesday, February 11th at 10:45 a.m. to ride the bus, don't be late.**

In March we will have a Leprechaun/Irish Lunch, in the family life center. Join us on Tuesday, March 11th for this lunch....wear your green and gold for this happy day. And while you are thinking about it, go to your calendar now and mark every second Tuesday with a big "K". This will help you to remember you're going to Keenagers on that day each month.

Do not forget we always need volunteers so let anyone know if God has called you to be a volunteer. There are many places that you could help out tremendously. **And also remember that Ashley needs volunteers on Wednesday afternoon and night.** Our children are our future church, so pray about it and talk to Ashley to see how you could fit it in your schedule. You never know how or when you could be a blessing to others young or old.

Always Believe, Gloria (334/312-1764)

2025 is the year to get healthier!

Be sure to join us each week at 10 a.m. on Wednesday mornings in Wesley Hall for soft yoga. It's fun and beneficial!

***You're invited to
our Keenager's Senior Adult Ministry***

VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, February 11...Please sign up –
even if you're meeting us there.
Bus leaves the church at 10:45 a.m.**



Tuesday, March 11 in our FLC!



Health & Wellness



Health & Wellness Opportunities at First Methodist Church Wetumpka!

You probably have heard about the display of Health & Wellness materials in the Education Building hallway, and perhaps you have found some information to be very helpful. If you didn't see a topic that you would like to know more about, please let the church office know and we will do our best to find some materials on your interested topics. ALL MATERIALS ARE FREE so check it out if you haven't already! *(Side note: Our member, Hope Sanders, RN, is also a Certified Health and Wellness Coach and is available for one on one coaching! Check with her if you're interested. The first consultation is free. Call the church office for her phone number)*



Maybe you've been at the church and have heard some unusual knocking, bumping and occasional grunting (lol). That might just be our pickleball players! For some time a small group has been learning how to play pickleball. If you've been in our FLC you might have noticed the pickleball net. It is played similar to tennis or badminton. **Pickleball** is a racket or paddle sport in which two players (singles) or four players (doubles) use a smooth-faced paddle to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball over a 34-inch-high (0.86 m) net until one side is unable to return the ball or commits a rule infraction. Pickleball is played indoors and outdoors. You are invited to participate. Check with the church office for availability of the court. There are also outside pickleball courts around the area.

Looking for a little less strenuous activity? How about Chair Yoga (sometimes referred to as soft yoga)?

Gloria Johnson and Celestra Rowell have began a group chair yoga class that meets at 10 a.m. each Wednesday in Wesley Hall. Barbara Watts instructs us in the exercises! Chair yoga is a gentle form of exercise and relaxation applied specifically with the intention of improving health. This may involve meditation, breathing exercises, gentle stretches and a great opportunity to get some exercise in without a strenuous activity. Also, you know that where Gloria and Celestra are, there is going to be fun and laughter involved.



Stay tuned for more opportunities to get healthier...

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH: February

- 1 Leviticus 14 – 15
- 2 Leviticus 16 – 18
- 3 Leviticus 19 – 21
- 4 Leviticus 22 – 23
- 5 Leviticus 24 – 25
- 6 Leviticus 26 – 27
- 7 Numbers 1 – 2
- 8 Numbers 3 – 4
- 9 Numbers 5 – 6
- 10 Numbers 7
- 11 Numbers 8 – 10
- 12 Numbers 11 – 13
- 13 Numbers 14 – 15
- 14 Numbers 16 – 18
- 15 Numbers 19 – 21
- 16 Numbers 22 – 24
- 17 Numbers 25 – 26
- 18 Numbers 27 – 29
- 19 Numbers 30 – 32
- 20 Numbers 33 – 36
- 21 Deuteronomy 1 – 2
- 22 Deuteronomy 3 – 4
- 23 Deuteronomy 5 – 8
- 24 Deuteronomy 9 – 11
- 25 Deuteronomy 12 – 15
- 26 Deuteronomy 16 – 19
- 27 Deuteronomy 20 – 22
- 28 Deuteronomy 23 – 25

We are excited to continue a new yearly Bible reading plan this month from Dr. David Jeremiah.

Please let the church office know what you think of this new reading plan...

Support Group

Fresh Start meets at 6 p.m. each **MONDAY** in the FLC. If you know someone 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.



02/01	Damon	Abernethy	02/16	Kimberly	Kolendar
02/01	Diane	Tyler	02/18	Spencer	Coleman
02/03	Beth	Coleman	02/18	Lisa	Hughes
02/03	Sanford	Brannan	02/22	Asenath	Coker
02/04	Diane	Lockwood	02/23	Jo	Glenn
02/06	Lynnes	Justiss	02/23	Tim	Henson
02/10	Sonya	Arnold	02/25	Ted	Watts
02/12	Michelle	Abernathy	02/26	Mariella	Easterling
02/12	Sally	Blackwell	02/26	Celestra	Rowell
02/13	Jenni	Greenlee	02/26	Ethan	Williams
02/13	Larry	Barnes	02/27	Ronald	Lee
02/15	Susan	Legvold			



02/07 Lee & Janice Cash

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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FEBRUARY 2025

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*"My command is this, that you love one another as I have loved you".
 John 15: 12*



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