

COVENANT PRAYER

..... *by*
JOHN WESLEY

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed
God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant
which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

.....
*We pray the Covenant Prayer of John Wesley to remind us
that we are to be willing to be whatever God wants us to be in
order to do His will and accomplish His work.*

proudly
FPFMC ANNOUNCES
THE GRADUATION
of OUR SENIORS
CLASS OF 2026



*Graduate
Sunday*

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
.....
FORT PAYNE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

College Graduates

Scholarship 2026 Recipients

OF
FORT PAYNE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
SCHOLARSHIPS



DR. WILLIAM GIBSON MEMORIAL

MARGO TRAMMELL

TODD W. LEDFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

REESE MCCURDY
SYDNEY NORTHCUTT

JOE STOGNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (MAN WITH A PAN)

JP GROAT

FIRST METHODIST WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP

JOCELYN BURGESS

Lizzi-Kate Wilson, the daughter of Beau and Paige Wilson. She is the older sister of Parker and Colin Wilson. Lizzi-Kate graduated from Northeast Alabama Community College with her Registered Nursing Degree on May 12, 2026. She also graduated from the University of Alabama at Huntsville on May 4, 2026 with her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Following graduation, Lizzi-Kate will begin working full time in the emergency department at DeKalb Regional Medical Center in Fort Payne. She is so excited to serve her wonderful community.



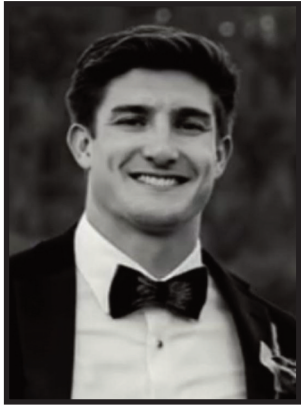
During her time at NACC, Lizzi-Kate was proud to serve as a Presidential Host. She was also Miss NACC 2025. Lizzi-Kate was selected to participate in the Apprenticeship Program at DeKalb Regional. She has worked in the emergency department there for the last two years while obtaining her degrees.

Throughout Lizzi-Kate's time in college, her faith has guided her in all of her pursuits. Lizzi-Kate is so honored to be a part of the Praise Team at First Methodist Church. She also enjoys helping with the Christmas Mission each year. Lizzi-Kate is so thankful for God's many blessings and the support of her church, family, and community.

She is clothed with
strength and dignity;
she can
laugh
at the days to come.

Proverbs 31:25

College Graduates



Lawton Ward is graduating from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Master of Business Administration, concentrating in finance. Following graduation, he will join PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), where he will advise companies on mergers and acquisitions as part of their management consulting practice.

During his time at Georgia Tech, Lawton founded Lovelace Technologies, an AI software company, and established the Georgia Tech Venture Network, connecting students with Atlanta's broader venture capital and private equity community. He was actively involved in student life, serving as Head of the Athletic Committee, Social Chair, and a board member of the Entrepreneurship Club.

Throughout this season, his faith has been a guiding foundation. Lawton is a board member of Purpose on Tap, an Atlanta-based organization that brings men into Christ-centered community and small groups, hosting speakers such as Jeff Foxworthy. He also volunteers regularly with Covenant Community, serving as a cook for men recovering from addiction.

Lawton is grateful for the ways God has guided him and for the support of his family, friends, and church community along the way.

Trust in the *Lord* with all your *heart*
and lean not on your own
understanding;
in all your ways submit to Him,
and *He* will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Jocelyn Jade Burgess

Jocelyn Burgess is the daughter of David and Dana Burgess. She has a younger brother Ronin Burgess. Jocelyn's grandparents are Steve and Regena Cook and Charles and Connie Burgess. Jocelyn is a 2026 graduate of Fort Payne High School. She has participated in the Theatre program her whole high school career and they successfully made it to State competition twice.



Jocelyn was a Peer Helper her sophomore year and a Peer Helper leader her junior and senior year. She actively volunteers to serve at the CAC play's and is an avid participant in Race2Embrace. She was a member of both Key Club and Leo Club. Jocelyn's academic achievements include being a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She has maintained over a 4.0 GPA throughout her high school career while taking honor classes and dual enrollment. She was also selected as an "Outstanding Senior". Jocelyn is an active member of First Methodist Church and is so thankful and blessed to have all the support and love from our First Methodist Church Family.

Jocelyn's favorite bible verse is Ephesians 4:32 NIV
"Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God Forgave you."

Jocelyn will attend Northeast Alabama Community College in the Fall and pursue a degree in Special Education. She has received a scholarship from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama.

James Paul Groat



James Paul Groat (JP) is the son of Lindy and Anthony Vizzinia and the late David Groat. JP is the youngest brother to John-Clayton and Grace Groat, Gracie and Evan McPherson, and Maggie Groat. He is the fun-uncle to Merritt and Millie, and baby Clay. JP has been a faithful and active member of our church helping with local mission outreaches, Back Pack Missions, VBS, Christmas Missions, Recess Outreach, Man with a Pan, serving on the Student Leadership Team and in our church's awesome Youth activities. Being the

youngest of four he has only been left at church a couple of times as a toddler and is so appreciative to all our congregation who has helped raise him.

While attending FPHS he has served Key club, FCA, FBLA, FFA, and was inducted into National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. He was voted Class "Most likely to be a billionaire." He is the Captain of the FPHS golf team and has played with the team since 7th grade. He was the 2025 Smiley Kaufman Champion, a member of the 2025 Alabama Southern Junior Cup Championship Team, and qualified and played in the USGA Junior Amateur at Trinity Forest Golf Club in Texas last summer. He has been named to the Alabama Boys First Team All-State Golf team for 2026. His favorite victory was the 24th Alabama State Match Play Championship last August at Terrapin Hills Country Club he won the championship during the final match taking his semifinal opponent to 21 holes.

JP's life verse is Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

JP is excited to continue his golf career at the University of West Georgia this fall.

College Graduates

Annlee Olivia Tate, daughter of Jeff and Amy Lee Tate, graduated from Wallace State Community College on May 8, 2026 in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program.

Annlee will complete her field work this summer. After that she plans to begin working as an Occupational Therapy Assistant for children with special needs.



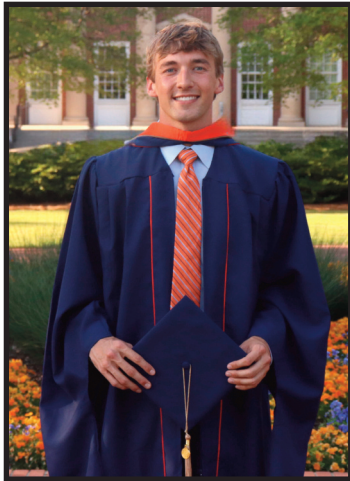
Drew Aaron Taylor, is graduating with a Master of Business Administration from Jacksonville State University in July 2026. He earned his bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Troy University in 2012. He has been attending First United Methodist Church since October 2024.

Drew is the Director of Marketing and Business Development for Complete Care, Inc., and serves the community through Leadership DeKalb County and Fort Payne Main Street.



Though he has completed marathons and ultramarathons, Drew considers his greatest achievement to be his role as husband to Rebekah Moore Taylor and father to Alena and Mattie.

College Graduates



Bryson Lyles, son of Wayne and Brandi Lyles and older brother to Jay Carter, is a 2026 Master of Accountancy graduate from Auburn University, where he has been actively involved across campus through organizations such as Freshman Forum (SGA), Beta Alpha Psi, Harbert College of Business Executive Society, and Delta Sigma Pi.

Bryson earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Accountancy, graduating in December 2024. Additionally, Bryson served as a

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Fundamentals and Managerial Accounting and served as a MAcc Ambassador.

He will begin his full-time career with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as an Assurance Associate in Midtown Atlanta this August and complete CPA licensure.



Rebekah Riddle, daughter of Kristie and Tommy Riddle and older sister to John, graduated Summa Cum Laude from The University of Alabama with a BA in Psychology and minors in Criminal Justice and Human & Family Development.

She will be returning to The University of Alabama in the Fall to pursue a Master's degree in Social Work.

Reese Katherine McCurdy

Reese McCurdy, a 2026 graduate of Fort Payne High School, is the daughter of Bruce and Jennifer McCurdy and sister to Sam McCurdy. During her high school career, Reese has been a dedicated leader and student, serving as President of the National Honor Society, Vice President of the Senior Class, Treasurer of Key Club, and a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Representative. She has also shown strong commitment on the field as Captain of the Varsity Soccer Team.



Beyond school, Reese has been an active member of her church since second grade, where her faith has played a central role in shaping who she is today. Through those years, she has built meaningful relationships and lifelong memories within her church community.

Reese's favorite bible verse is 2 Timothy 1:7

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

After graduation, Reese plans to attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she will major in Public Health and minor in Nutrition. She is excited to pursue a future focused on helping others live healthier lives and making a positive impact in her community.

Sydney Claire Northcutt



Sydney Northcutt is the daughter of Bryan and Claire Northcutt. She is the sister of Isaac, Jones, Lewis and Eli Northcutt. Sydney is a 2026 graduate of Fort Payne High School. She has been very involved in her school and community through Key Club, Peer Helpers, Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Business Leaders of America, and a member of the yearbook staff. She has held a class office the past three years, and served on various leadership teams.

Sydney has had the joy of serving DeKalb Fellowship of Christian as a student intern this past year, and is excited to continue working with them next year. She has been active in the church since her 7th grade year, and has loved every minute of it!

Sydney's favorite bible verse is Acts 20:24

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace".

Upon graduating, Sydney plans to attend Northeast Alabama Community College, and after transfer to Samford University.

College Graduates

Lennon Ibsen, daughter of Drake and Michelle Ibsen, is graduating from Jacksonville State University in July 2026 with her Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science. During her time at Jax State, Lennon was a proud member of the Track and Field team and is thankful for the opportunity to continue competing in the sport she loves while earning her degree. She carries with her not only the discipline of her sport of pole vaulting, but a deeper understanding of perseverance, resilience, and the value of showing up day after day.



Following graduation, Lennon will begin her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. She is honored to walk a path that has been so meaningful to her family, with a heart to serve others in the same way she has seen modeled before her.

Lennon is deeply grateful for the love and support of her family, friends, community, and her church, who have encouraged her every step of the way.

Let your *light shine* before others,
that they may see your *good deeds*
and *glorify* your
Father in Heaven.

Matthew 5:16

College Graduates



Ella Anne Fowler, daughter of J and Gena Fowler and the older sister to Nolan. Ella is the grand-daughter of Bobby and Sharon Jones and Greg and Shirley Fowler.

Ella graduated Cum Laude from Mississippi State University with a B.S. in Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture, with a concentration in Wildlife Veterinary Medicine.

Ella was offered a Mississippi resident position at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, and will start in June on the path to becoming a Mixed Animal veterinarian.



Sarah Baine Genelin, MSN, FNP is celebrating her graduation from Jacksonville State University with a Master of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

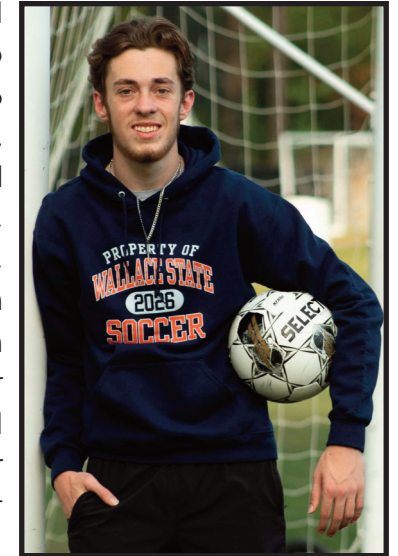
She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UAB. Sarah has served as a pediatric nurse and Charge Nurse at Children's of Alabama and in nursing at DeKalb Regional Medical Center.

Sarah has continued advancing her calling in healthcare while completing her graduate clinical training at Faith Medical Clinic, Fort Payne Pediatrics, and Fort Payne Urgent Care.

Sarah joined Fort Payne First Methodist Church as a child and remains an active member today. She enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and being with her husband, Beau, and their children, Lila and Louie.

John Thomas Riddle

John Riddle is the son of Kristie and Tommy Riddle and younger brother to Rebekah Riddle. John is a 2026 graduate of Fort Payne High School. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National Technical Honor Society, Tech Team, Computer Science Team as well as JROTC his Freshman through Junior year, John played soccer for the Wildcats his Freshman and Sophomore year before playing for Hoover-Vestavia Soccer MLS Next team his final 2 years of high school.



John's favorite bible verse is Matthew 10:39

*"If you cling to your life,
you will lose it;
but if you give up your life for me,
you will find it."*

John plans to continue his education and soccer career in the Fall at Wallace State Community College on a full athletic scholarship. He plans to major in Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering.

Margaret Marie Trammell



Margo Trammell is the daughter of Patrick and Stephanie Trammell. She is the sister of Sophia Trammell, Mary Ellis Trammell, and Patrick Trammell Jr. Margo is a 2026 graduate of Fort Payne High School.

She has been a Varsity Cheerleader and member of the Varsity Track & Field Team for four years. Margo has been very involved in her school and community through Key Club,

Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America, and a member of the yearbook staff.

Margo has been a leader in the school as Varsity Cheerleading Captain, Class Secretary, and the Key Club Senior Representative. Margo has been active in the church since she moved to Fort Payne in third grade and has made many lifelong friendships and memories.

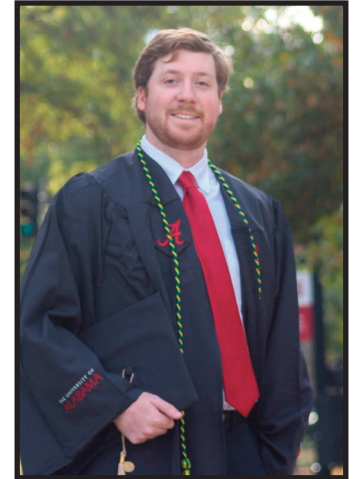
Margo's favorite bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11

*"For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil,
to give you a future and a hope."*

Upon graduating, Margo plans to attend Auburn University and major in Biomedical Sciences.

College Graduates

Will Carter Abbott, son of Allan and Lori Abbott and brother to Brady and Fischer, graduated from the University of Alabama in December 2025.



Sawyer Burt, son of Mike and Heather Burt and brother to Carson and Marleigh, graduated from the Stetson-Hatcher School of Business at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, in December 2025 with a degree in Business Management Administration. He completed his undergraduate studies in an impressive three and a half years.



During his time at Mercer, Sawyer was a four-year member of the Division I, Mercer Bears, football team, where he played tight end. He contributed to back-to-back Southern Conference Championship teams, helping secure titles in both the 2024 and 2025 seasons.

Following graduation, Sawyer plans to pursue a career in business, with a particular interest in construction management.