



THE CONNECTION
August 2023
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our small groups are starting back on August 9. I hope you will consider joining us.

In particular, I will once again be teaching 'The Bible And Me.' In this course we will explore many aspects of the Bible. What is it? How did we get it? How does it work? How does one interpret the Bible? What is its nature and how can I use it- including for personal growth and more specifically, how do I use reference tools? The only textbook for the class will be a Bible (bring one if you have one), but many tools and reference works will also be explored. The primary purposes of the class are a) to understand and grow in love with God's Holy Word and b) to learn to use God's Word that I may grow in faith. The sessions will start at 6 pm and run until 7:30. We meet in the Asbury Room at the Crossroads Center. The course runs from Aug 9 through about November 8.



Many members have already taken this course (and yes, you can take it again if you like). If you have not taken it, I pray that you would consider being a part of this class. The Bible is such a misunderstood and very mysterious book for many people. It is my desire that every church member pass through this course as part of their Discipleship. Hopefully, the Bible will be less mysterious, more familiar and useful, and that it will become an important tool which God can use to shape your life and help you to know Him better.

Let's be honest. The Bible is a big document and there are many challenging aspects about it. Furthermore, we live in a day and age where the Bible and our faith are increasingly under attack. My desire is to better equip you to face

these challenges.

“For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword.”

I want to train you on sword handling.

My Hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

-Pastor Ronnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heartfelt Thanks

Eloise Coker would like to express her appreciation for all of the prayers, cards, food and phone calls during her recent surgery. We love you, Miss Eloise, and pray for your continued healing!



Banana Pudding Contest Winners

And the winners of our July Community Dinner Nanner Puddin' contest are...
First Prize: Rhonda Roussell
2nd Prize: Bunny Orr
3rd Prize: Eddy Hager
Way to go! But to be honest, all Nanner Puddin's are special in our hearts!



Blessing of the Backpacks & Lunchboxes



Bring your backpacks & lunchboxes to be blessed on **Sun, Aug 6** in all worship services! We will have a special time of prayer for our teachers, too.



Fall Small Groups & Bible Studies

Our kick-off is **Wed, Aug 9!**
To see what is offered & to sign up please visit our website at firstcrestview.com



Youth Back-in-School Blowout

Our teens will celebrate the start of a new school year on **Wed, Aug 16** at 6:00PM in the Youth Rm. If you'd like to help with snacks or drinks please see Paul Adams or email him at firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com.



MINISTRY UPDATES

Children's Ministry

Hello from Kids Street!

As many already know, our beloved director Angela Long is headed to begin a new chapter in her life and we know that she will continue to be a blessing wherever she goes.



We, the Children's Committee, wanted to take a quick moment to let our friends, family, and congregation know that you can feel free to reach out to one of us during this time of transition if you have any questions or concerns. There will be some events that may be canceled or postponed but we plan to make sure to update everyone as quickly as possible. We are going to be meeting and communicating with each other frequently and hope that this transition will be a smooth one! If anyone feels led to volunteer with one of

our many events or to help out on Kids Street let us know, we'd love to have you.

We look forward to seeing you and to continue working with the children!
-Jennifer Raiche

Youth Ministry

It has been one hot summer! It's hard to believe there's only another month or two until it's Fall!

This year has been filled with so many good moments in our youth ministry. There has been lots of learning, and lots of fellowship.

We are still working through the book of Exodus, and have only a few more weeks until we are done and then on to the book of Acts!

The youth continue to ask great questions about our readings as we continue to dive deep into scripture every Wednesday night. At the time of this writing, we have not yet gone on our summer trip to Camp Baldwin. It is only a few days away! I can't wait to bring back an update along with many pictures of the fun adventures we will have there. We have 23 youth signed up to go, along with a few adult-volunteers/supervisors.

We have had several church members step up to help car-pool and drive some of the youth there and back. I sure am excited about this trip, and I know the youth are too!

Other than that, please remember that this September we are hosting the community dinner. I would like to have at least 10 youth show up extra early that Wednesday (September 13th) so we can prepare the food and get everything together. Thank you to all who give, pray, and volunteer for this ministry. It means more than you could imagine to these youth. Please reach out to me, Paul Adams, if you have any questions or suggestions about our youth at firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com.

-Paul Adams

firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com



Adult & Family Ministry

Fall Session Small Groups

We are scheduled to have three small groups offered on Wednesday;s, Refit class three times per week, and our God's Time Mom group on Monday mornings during our Fall Session. Pastor Ronnie Bearden and Susan Hill will both return as leaders in the fall and we may have a new leader join our Fall Session as well. Vicky Anchor and Carrie Prescott will continue to take care of our Refit and God's Time group and we welcome anyone that would like to lead a Young Adult and Mens specific bible study.



[Soup Kitchen](#)

For more information on how to volunteer, please contact our Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Deb Lubas at 401-742-4898.

Mathew 25:35 – I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

-Deb Lubas



[Yarn Ministry](#)

This summer we have been sweltering under blankets as we crochet/knit them and consensus is that our summer projects be light and pieced (like granny squares) so we are not under the heavy weight of yarn. And with all of our summer going and doing, small projects or pieces are ready to roll with us at a moment's notice. HAVE YARN WILL TRAVEL!

Yarnies will meet on Tuesdays, **August 8 & 22** at 6:00PM in Rm 213 (Yarnia)! And since this month has 5 Tuesdays, we will meet at Panera's on Tues, August 29 at 6:00PM- bring your project!

-Cathrin Owens

"May the kindness of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

"We look for wool and linen, And work with our hands in delight." Proverbs 31:13



[Crestview Prayer Network](#)

The Crestview Prayer Network meets the first Wednesday of each month to share fellowship and goings-on in the different churches in the North Okaloosa Area.



The next meeting for the Crestview Prayer Network will be **Wed, Aug 2**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!

CALENDARS

[August Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists](#)

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

August 6- Kit Callahan
August 13- Alesha & Robert Dabbs
August 20- Melanie & Gary Zick
August 27- John & Cynthia Leitschuck

Ushers:

August- Bob McCrory and Bill Myers

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Greeters & Ushers: Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1. Allen Bell 2. Dan Taylor 3. Nell Sutherland 4. Ronnie Bearden 5. Dan Taylor

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters:

August 6 -Judy Beard and Glenda McMasters
August 13- Rollin and Corolla Anderson
August 20- Steve and Kathy Fowler
August 27- Tom and Edie Giovanini

Office door greeter:

August 6- Gary Johnson
August 13- Connie Stapp
August 20- Gary Johnson
August 27- Connie Stapp

Ushers:

August 6- Rollin Anderson and Tom Giovanini
August 13- Dax Reeves and David Ordonez
August 20- Burt Colt and Tom Saunders
August 27- Eddie Hager and Dax Reeves

Side Aisle Ushers- Tom and Edie Giovanini

Choir Usher- Jim Hight

**Please call Rollin or Corolla if any changes need to be made on the schedule (850-306-1103 / 570-854-5058).*

Liturgists:

August 6- Scott Sallberg
August 13- Jody Woodward
August 20- Paul Adams
August 27- Mike Steen

Important Dates In August

Aug 2- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, No Kid's St. or Youth activities on this evening
Aug 6- Blessing of the Backpacks & Lunchboxes in all services
Aug 8- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Aug 9- Fall Session Small Groups Begin, Kid's St Choir Resumes 6:00PM on Kid's St
Aug 14- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Aug 16- Youth Back-In-School Blowout at 6:00PM in the Youth Room, Chancel

Choir Rehearsal Dinner (more details to come!)
Aug 20- New Members Class 3:00PM CRC/Asbury Rm
Aug 21- September Newsletter Deadline
Aug 22- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

**FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room*
Please see firstcrestview.com for any updates or changes

Loking Ahead To September

Sept 4- Office is closed in observance of Labor Day
Sept 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Sept 8- Women's Service Group 10-12:00PM in Rm 212
Sept 10- Wesleyan Child Care Sunday at 9:45AM at The Well's worship service in the CRC, Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
Sept 11- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Sept 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Sept 13- CommUNITY Dinner hosted by FMC Youth Group
Sept 17- Kid's Committee 12:15PM on Kid's St.
Sept 19- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm, Missions 6:30PM Rm 213
Sept 18- October Newsletter Deadline
Sept 26- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM in Rm 213

**FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room*
Please see firstcrestview.com calendar for any updates or changes

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION



Back to School Prayer

Heavenly Father,
we thank You for Your never-ending love and blessing.

As this school year begins, bless our children with
success in their studies and activities.
Grant them courage and motivation to do their best at all times.

Fill their hearts with peace so that they can
approach each day with a positive attitude.
Remind them that You are watching over them;
help them to find joy in exploring new and fun activities at school.
That this would be a fruitful year in their lives and
that You draw them closer to You.
Thank you, Lord for this new school year.
In the name of Jesus, amen.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH INFO

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Morning Glory at 8:30AM
Christ Chapel

The Well / Contemporary at 9:45AM
The Crossroads Center / FB Live

Traditions at 11:00AM
Main Sanctuary / FB Live

First Methodist Office Schedule

Mon - Thurs 9:00AM- 4:00PM
Staff Meetings Mondays 9:30-11:30AM
Lunch 12:00-1:00PM

First Methodist Staff Contacts

Staff:

Pastor - Pastor Ronnie Bearden
dronbearden@hotmail.com
Church Administrator - Angie Arnold
firstcrestview@gmail.com
Church Secretary - Cathrin Owens
office.firstcrestview@gmail.com
Children's Ministry-
kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com,
Family Discipleship-
fmsmallgroups@gmail.com
Youth Ministry - Paul Adams
firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward
fmfacilities599@gmail.com
Custodian - Jody Waddell
fmcustodian@gmail.com
Music, Contemporary - Calli McGraw
calli.mcgraw@gmail.com
Music, Traditional - Kevin Lusk
Organist - Leon Curenton
Wesleyan Child Care Center - Osa Bell / Director
wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

Ministry Addresses:

Soup Kitchen- Deb Lubas, fmsoupkitchen@gmail.com
Women's Service Group- wsgcrestview@gmail.com
8th Avenue Men- Jody Woodward
8thavemethodistmen@gmail.com

[First Methodist Church](#)

599 Eighth Ave, Crestview, FL 32536, 850-682-8994
For all the latest from FMC please visit:
Website & calendar: firstcrestview.com
App store: FirstCrestview



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