



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Holidays

Christmas is coming! The celebration of the birth of our Lord is always a high and holy time in the life of the church. There are many events happening in this season, so be sure to keep up to date with the bulletin and the church app.

And please remember that this is a great time for evangelism. You have neighbors and friends who don't go to church anywhere, but might consider visiting in this season if invited. It's a great season to welcome someone new.

In particular, remember these special services:

Dec 17 There will be a special choir presentation at the 8:30 and 11 services with no preaching. The middle service at 9:45 will have preaching. So in the past, a few people have attended two services.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Instead of having 5 worship services that day, we will have three. We will have one combined morning worship service at 10:30 AM. We will host our two traditional candlelight Christmas Eve services. The main service will be at 6 PM and then we will host our "Almost Midnight Service" at 11 PM.

At these evening services, we will receive our White Christmas offering for the Methodist Children's Home/Embrace Florida Kids.

Dec 31. On Sunday, New Year's Eve, we will follow our regular schedule with three worship services.

Small Groups in January

We have some great small group and study opportunities in January. You can go to the church website for more information: <https://firstcrestview.com>

Wednesdays at 6 PM.

In the Footsteps of Paul, Led by Ed Hager

Sharing Your Faith, Led by David Ordonez

The Book of Matthew, Led by Susan Hill

REFIT: Christian Fitness for Women - Carrie Prescott

Tuesdays at 10 AM

God's Word and Me led Pastor Ronnie Bearden

This is the same study I have offered on Wednesday Nights in the past, but wanted to offer it for people who don't drive at night.



Youth Helpers Needed

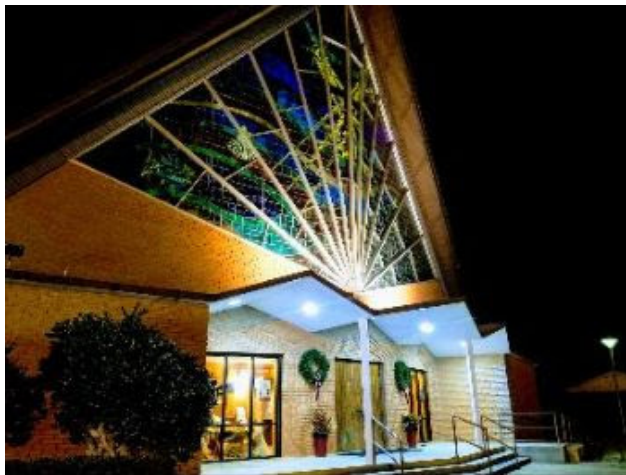
We are in need of at least two to four folks who will help support the Youth Program. Paul Adams does a great job leading and teaching our youth, but he needs help. The most important assistance is a ministry of presence. Our Safe Sanctuary policy is that a leader should not be alone with vulnerable persons (like children or youth). This is for everyone's protection and is a wise policy. But what that means, is there may be times when a meeting might have to be canceled if there are no other adults who can be present. We would obviously hate for that to happen.

Volunteers need to pass a common background check and if you are new to our church, you must have worshiped here for six months. Volunteers can also help with planning events and supporting brother Paul. If you can help out, please speak to Pastor Ronnie, Paul Adams or call the church office.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Holy Communion Services

Sunday, December 24 / Main Sanctuary

Combined Worship Service (FB Live) at 10:30AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at

6:00PM (FB Live) & 11:00PM

*Our 6:00PM & 11:00PM Christmas Eve services are family friendly, therefore nursery & Kids Street programs will be unavailable.

White Christmas / Embrace Florida Kids

Our Christmas Eve offering will go toward Embrace Florida Kids

'White Christmas' campaign which provides homes, healing,
and hope for vulnerable children & families.

December 29, 2023

Regularly scheduled worship services at 8:30AM in Christ Chapel,
9:45AM contemporary in the Crossroads Center
and 11:00AM traditional service in the Main Sanctuary.

Angel Tree Ornaments

We invite everyone to donate an ornament (unbreakable) to hang on our Angel Tree in the Cafe Area of The Crossroads Center through Christmas. What a wonderful way to greet all who enter The CRC, with the good news of Jesus' birth!

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." -Luke 2:13-14



Poinsettia Orders

We will be collecting orders for poinsettias in honor or in memory of a loved one! You can place an order from **Nov 26 - Dec 10** by completing a poinsettia envelope order form to include your payment. Envelopes will be placed at the entrance to each service. You will also be able to download an order form from the website at firstcrestview.com and return it to the church office. A special Christmas day bulletin insert will list all who purchased a poinsettia and who is being honored/remembered.

Poinsettias will be ready to pick up after any of the Christmas Eve worship services, which will be held at 10:30AM, 6:00PM and 11:00PM in the Main Sanctuary on Dec 24. Poinsettias will be \$15 each and all proceeds will go to Pastor Kris and his ministry in Poland.



Family Gingerbread House Decorating

Bring the family on Saturday, **December 9** at 9:45AM for a morning of gingerbread, snacks & Christmas fun in the Crossroads Center! Donations of small candy are appreciated and can be dropped off in the church office on Sundays and during normal work hours during the week.



8th Avenue Methodist Men's Christmas Party

Men's Christmas party will be held Monday, **December 11** at 6:00PM in the Crossroads Center. Tickets are 15\$ ea. & are being sold through Dec 3. Please see a men's group member or pop into the church office for your tickets. Childcare ages 3-8 available and can be reserved by calling the church office. Please bring a canned good to donate to the Benevolence Pantry.



[Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata & Preaching Service](#)

Join us on Sunday, **December 17** in our Main Sanctuary at 8:30AM & 11:00AM for our wonderful Christmas Cantata (no sermon). Preaching Service with Pastor Ronnie will be held at 9:45AM in the Crossroads Center.



[Church Office Holiday Schedule](#)

Our church office will be closed from **December 21- January 1**. We will reopen for the New Year on Jan 2, 2024. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your FMC staff!



MINISTRY UPDATES

[Wesleyan Child Care Center](#)

Our WCCC families sent a big wagon full of love up to our Benevolence Pantry this month for Thanksgiving. What a blessing this is to our community!
-Osa Bell, WCCC Director



[Youth Ministry](#)

2023 is coming to an end!
I can't believe how fast this year has gone by. Our youth have done a TON this year between Discovery Weekend, our Summer Trip to Camp Baldwin, our studies in the Gospel of John, the Book of Exodus and the Book of Acts. We got to serve at the Soup Kitchen three times this year and had a wonderful Harvest Festival and Friendsgiving Feast. Our last meeting of 2023 will be on December 13th. We will have our annual Christmas Celebration that Wednesday from 5:30-7:30pm. We will be signing Christmas cards and celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior! Happy Birthday, Jesus! We will not meet again until Wednesday, January 10th. That means that there will be NO youth on December 20th, 27th, or January 3rd. Also, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, our youth will be participating in the yearly Christmas Parade that takes place in downtown Crestview. We will have a float in the parade and our youth will be passing out candy and church information to the community of Crestview. This parade is on Saturday, December 2nd and starts at 5:30pm. Please come out to support our youth and church! Thank you to every person who has dedicated time and/or finances to this group of youth. Your prayers, love, and support truly make a difference. I am blessed to be able to lead and serve such an amazing group of young people. Please pray that they continue to grow closer to Christ each and everyday, and pray that God continues to equip me to be a good leader and example. 2024 is right around the corner! When it's time to give you another update, we will already be in the new year! Until then, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, FMC family!



Thank you to all who support this youth program and if you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to Paul Adams at firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com.
-Paul Adams

Soup Kitchen Holiday Schedule

Our Soup Kitchen Ministry will continue to serve our community faithfully over Thanksgiving & Christmas!

We're looking for extra Soupers (volunteers) to help out on these special Saturdays, **Nov 25** and **Dec 23 & 30**, from 9:30AM-12:30PM.

Please contact Deb Lubas at 401-742-4898 if you or your group would like to be placed on the schedule!

Soup Kitchen gives a special thank to First Methodist Church Yarnies and outside organizations that are volunteering their time and yarn to keep those in need warm. Santa's elves are working around the clock to bring us handmade hats and scarfs for our hungry Soup Kitchen guests during the Winter months.

Soup Kitchen has a special request, looking for contributions that would go towards a freezer. We are receiving meat donations from grocery stores and with the holidays coming up we have more freezer storage needs. All donations go through the First Methodist Church office.



Yarn Ministry

Merry Christmas from the Yarn Ministry!

Yarnies will meet on Tuesday, **December 12** at 6:00PM in Rm 213 (Yarnia) for their very merry Yarnie Christmas party. Please bring an ornament to exchange and a gift for the door prize table.

We will meet again in the New Year, on Jan 9. Have a blessed Christmas and we thank you for your continued support of our ministry!

-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, December 6**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!



CALENDARS

December Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

Dec 3- John & Cynthia Leitschuck

Dec 10- Debbie Watson

Dec 17- Mike & Betsy Roy

Dec 31- Lowell & Mary Rose Scott

Ushers:

Dec- Debbie Watson & Jacob Dabbs

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. Jody Woodward 5. Dan Taylor

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters:

December 3- Glenda McMasters and Jamie Davis

December 10- Steve and Kathy Fowler

December 17- Tom and Edie Giovanini

December 24- 10:30 am Edie Giovanini and Corolla Anderson

6 pm- Jim and Pam Hight

11 pm- Edie Giovanini and Corolla Anderson

December 31- Rollin and Corolla Anderson

Office Door Greeters:

December 3- Connie Stapp

December 10- Connie Stapp

December 17- Connie Stapp

December 24- 10:30 am- Gary Johnson

December 31- Gary Johnson

Ushers:

December 3- Tom Saunders and Eddie Hager

December 10- Dax Reeves and Burt Colt

December 17- 11am- Dax Reeves and Eddie Hager

December 24- 10:30- Rollin Anderson and Tom Giovanni

6 pm- Dax Reeves and Tom Saunders

11 pm- Rollin Anderson and Tom Giovanini

December 31- Dax Reeves and Burt Colt

Side Aisle Ushers:

December 3- Glenda McMasters and Jamie Davis

December 10- Steve and Kathy Fowler

December 17- Tom and Edie Giovanini

December 24- 10:30am- Edie Giovanini and Corolla Anderson

6pm- Jim and Pam Hight

11pm- Edie Giovanini

December 31- Rollin and Corolla Anderson

Choir Usher- Jim Hight

Lock Doors:

December 3- Eddie Hager

December 10- Burt Colt

December 17- Dax Reeves

December 24- Margaret Larson

December 31- Tom Giovanini

Please call Rollin or Corolla Anderson if you need to change anything.

Home phone 850-306-1103 or cell phone- 570-854-5058

Liturgists:

Dec 3- Mike Steen

Dec 10- Kathy McKinley

Dec 17- Paul Adams

Dec 24: 10:30- Scott Sallberg, 6:00- TBD, 11:00- Paul Adams

Dec 31- Mike Steen

Important Dates in December

Dec 1- Women's Service Group 10-12:00PM Asbury Rm/CRC
Dec 3- Gift Drop Off in CRC for Benevolence Ministry Christmas Program
Dec 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, Youth Christmas Party 5:00-8:00PM in the Youth RM
Dec 9- Kid's St Gingerbread Event 9:45AM-11:00AM Wesley Hall
Dec 11- 8th Ave Methodist Men Christmas Party 6:00PM CRC (see above article for more info)
Dec 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM
Dec 17- Cantata 8:30AM & 11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary, Preaching Service with Pastor Ronnie at 9:45AM in the CRC
Dec 21- Church office closed for Christmas holiday
Dec 24- 10:30AM combined service in Main Sanctuary, 6:00PM & 11:00PM services in the Main Sanctuary.
Dec 31- Usual 3 worship services.
Jan 2, 2024- Church offices reopens.

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

Looking Ahead to January 2024

Jan 2- Church office opens for the New Year!
Jan 3- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Jan 5- Women's Service Group 10-12:00PM Asbury Rm/CRC
Jan 7- Youth 12:15PM Conf Rm
Jan 8- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Jan 9- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM
Jan 10- Winter Small Groups Begin
Jan 14- Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
Jan 15- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Church Office Closed
Jan 17- CommUNITY Dinner/ Chili Cook Off 5:30PM CRC, Church Council 6:30PM CRC
Jan 21- Kids Committee 12:15PM Kid's St.
Jan 22- Feb Newsletter Deadline
Jan 23- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM

**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 CHRISTMAS REFLECTION



You gave your all to the world
in the bleakness of that stable.
Love was born that day
Pure love
Undiluted
Poured out for all
who call on Your name
Such Grace

Undeserved
deserves a response
in the life that we lead.
Forgive our ingratitude
for all you have done,
draw us to your Word,
give us a new song to sing,
that will resonate throughout this world.
And begin with us today.
Amen

[-faithandworship.com](http://faithandworship.com)
