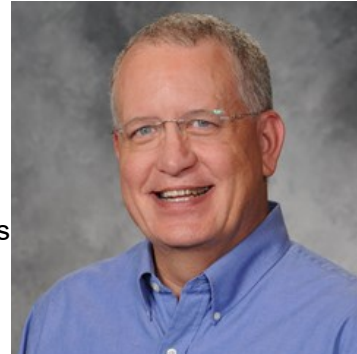




FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Lent

I want to invite you to a special Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 in the main Sanctuary. In the same way that Advent and Christmas are seasons of the church year where we focus on the power and the meaning that God came to us in human flesh (the Incarnation), Lent is the season of the cross- leading to our celebration on Resurrection Sunday. Thus Ash Wednesday marks the start of the season of Lent and our journey to the empty tomb.



A Look Ahead

Resurrection Sunday this year is on the last Sunday in March (March 31). There will be many worship and fellowship opportunities from March 24-29. More details next month.

New Missions Opportunity

The Alabama Emerald Coast Conference of the Global Methodist Church (of which we are a part) has taken on the responsibility of partnering with the Global Methodist churches in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which lies at the equator in central Africa. It's a very large country roughly equal to half the size of the continental USA.

Christianity is experiencing explosive growth in this poor country. In fact, the growth in recent decades across all of Africa has been so dramatic, that it may already be true that there are more Methodists in Africa than the United States. And so with this growth, there is a huge need to support pastors. Our Alabama Emerald Coast Annual Conference last Fall raised \$32,000 to purchase motorcycles for pastors to be able to travel to remote villages. Now, as part of this partnership, each church is asked to support the annual salary of one or more pastors so that they may focus on spreading the Gospel. The annual salary for a village pastor is \$300 and the salary of a city pastor is \$600.

Thank You

I wanted to take a moment and thank you for your faithful giving in 2023. Your stewardship provides wonderful ministry to youth and children as well as three worship services weekly where the Gospel is presented in both worship and classes. Our soup kitchen and benevolence team provide help to those in need. This year we will send a mission team to Baldwin Louisiana to work in the community and for disaster relief. It also provides for the streaming of our worship services which not only touches shut-ins and those unable to attend in our church, but we have several folks in other states who worship with us live every week. We recently had to replace some aging equipment and your giving

made that possible.

Thank you for your faithfulness.
My Hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness.

-Pastor Ronnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heartfelt Thanks

A big thank you to the church and one anonymous donor for the beautiful Heated Cabinet located in the CRC. This purchase has been a huge blessing in support of Bereavement and Community Dinners hosted by 8TH Ave Men's Group, Women's Service Group, and the Youth Group. THANKS FOR THE BLESSING!
Thank you, Edie Giovanini



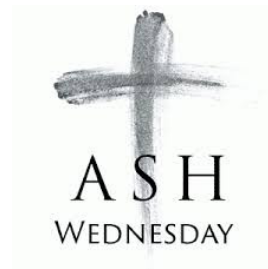
SOUP-er Bowl Sunday

Our Benevolence Soup-er Bowl wagon will be making rounds to all our worship services on Sun, **Feb 11**, to collect cans of soup (meal type, please) to stock our pantry shelves. Our Benevolence Pantry gives out an average of 10 bags full of food every week to members in our community who are in need. Your donations make a difference- thank you!



Ash Wednesday Service

Our special Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:30PM on Wed, **Feb 14** in the Main Sanctuary.



MINISTRY UPDATES

Winter Small Groups Schedule

It's not too late to join!

Click on to our website to sign up: firstcrestview.com

Wednesdays at 6:00PM:

In the Footsteps of Paul, Led by Ed Hager, RM 402 CRC
Sharing Your Faith, Led by David Ordonez, RM 403 CRC

The Book of Matthew, Led by Susan Hill, RM 212
REFIT: Christian Fitness for Women - Carrie Prescott,
CRC

Tuesdays at 10:00AM:

God's Word and Me: Growing in The Bible, led by Pastor
Ronnie Bearden, CRC Asbury Rm



Youth Ministry

We are off to a quick start in 2024!

Our youth helped serve the January Community dinner featuring baked potatoes and a Chili cook-off! Thanks to your donations, we managed to add \$318.68 to our youth funds! This is money that will be used for new youth equipment and/or funding for youth who are unable to afford our Summer Trip or Discovery Weekend. We are continuing through the Book of Acts and should be done around the end of March, when we will then begin our time in the book of Revelation. During the month of February, Pastor Ronnie will be joining our youth to teach a class called "Righteous Relationships." This is a three week course that teaches the youth the importance of having Godly relationships and waiting until marriage for intimacy. We offered this program two years ago, and it will likely be at least another two before we will again. I highly recommend that all youth who are able to attend do. If you have any questions about what exactly will be discussed, please reach out to me at firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com. This class will be during normal youth hours in February (6-7:30pm) on the 7th, 21st, and 28th. The 14th is Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, our youth will be attending the Ash Wednesday service in the main sanctuary.



Another important date coming up is Saturday, February 17th. This is our High-Schoolers only Discovery Planning Lock-in. All high-school aged youth who are interested in helping plan Discovery weekend will need to attend this event. We will meet in the youth room at 3pm to begin planning, the youth will spend the night at the church, and we will dismiss early Sunday morning before the 9:45 service. Discovery Weekend is the first weekend of April, which is Friday, April 5th - Sunday, April 7th. It will be here before you know it, so please mark that weekend on your calendar. Lastly, the official dates for our Summer Trip to Camp Baldwin this year are Thursday, July 25th - Sunday, July 28th. If you have any questions about upcoming events or ways to get involved, please reach out to me.

Thank you to all who came out and supported our youth this past community dinner, and to all who support through prayer and giving. We wouldn't be able to do half of what we do if it wasn't for faithful people in this church who support this program. May God bless you this month of February and we will see you at Ash Wednesday!

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 Ministry

Happy January! First Methodist Church Crestview Soupers have prepared hot homemade nutritious meals for those who are hungry each week, for the last 16 years! We also hand out handmade hats for those who need relief from this cold weather. We are grateful for your continued support so we may help our community (people and families) who are hungry. Because of your support we have children who have a warm meal that would have gone without food on Saturdays. Thank



you for all that you do for us, each and every week. Volunteers contact Deb Lubas 401-742-4898. Donations contact the church office.
-Deb Lubas /Soup Kitchen Coordinator, 401-742-4898

Yarn Ministry

Here we have our Yarnies donating stitched blankets to the Fisher House on Eglin AFB. It's always fun when we deliver items to those who need them most. What a blessing!

If you are looking to get plugged into a fun ministry and to learn to crochet or knit, or use these talents that you already have, we are here for you!

Yarnies will meet on Tuesdays, **Feb 13 & 27** at 6:00PM in Rm 213 (Yarnia).



-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, Feb 7**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!

CALENDARS

February Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

February 4- Gary & Melanie Zick
February 11- John & Cynthia Leitschuck
February 18- Debbie Watson
February 25- Lowell & Maryrose Scott

Ushers:

Feb- Bob McRory & Bill Myers

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Greeters & Ushers: Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1. Allen Bell 3. Nell Sutherland 4. Jody Woodward

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters:

February 4- Steve and Kathy Fowler
February 11- Glenda McMasters and Jamie Davis
February 18- Margaret Larson and Judy Beard
February 25- Eddie Hager and Jayne Hager

Ushers:

February 4- Tom Giovanini and Tom Saunders

February 11- Dax Reeves and Burt Colt
February 18- Dax Reeves and Eddie Hager
February 25- Tom Giovanini and Steve Fowler

Side Aisle Ushers:

February 4- Steve and Kathy Fowler
February 11- Glenda McMasters and Jamie Davis
February 18- Margaret Larson and Judy Beard
February 25- Eddie and Jayne Hager

Office Door Greeter:

February 4- Gary Johnson
February 11- Jayne Hager
February 18- Connie Stapp
February 25- Gary Johnson

Lock Doors & Turn Off Lights

February 4- Burt Colt
February 11- Dax Reeves
February 18- Margaret Larson
February 25- Eddie Hager

Liturgists:

February 4- Mike Steen
February 11- Scott Sallberg
February 18- Paul Adams
February 25- TBD

Important Dates in February

Feb 2- Women's Service Group 10-12:00PM Asbury Rm/CRC
Feb 11- SOUP-er Bowl Sunday!
Feb 12- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Feb 13- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm, Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Feb 14- Ash Wednesday service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary
Feb 19- Staff Retreat / office closed, March newsletter deadline
Feb 20- Missions 6:30PM Rm 213
Feb 27- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

**FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room*

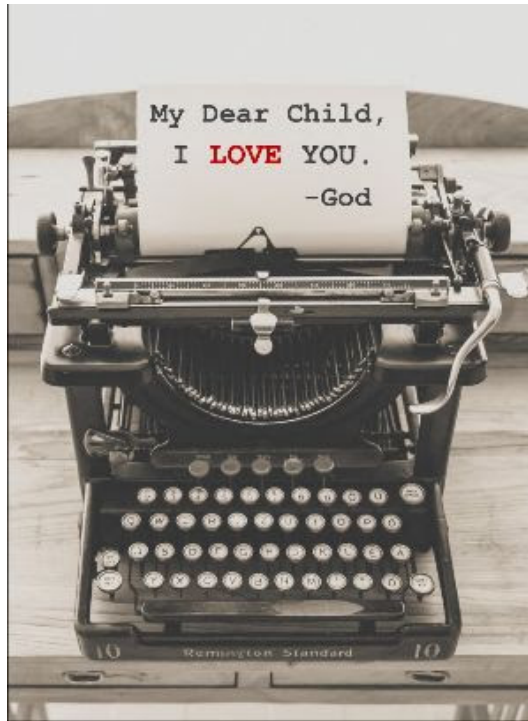
Please see firstcrestview.com for any updates or changes

Looking Ahead To March

March 1- Women's Service Group 10-12:00PM Asbury Rm/CRC
March 2- Love your Church Day! 8:30AM-11:30AM
March 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
March 10- Happy 14th Anniversary to our Soup Kitchen! (3/10/2010), Youth 12:15PM Conf Rm, Daylight Saving Time begins
March 11- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
March 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM
March 13- Spring Small Groups begin
March 17- Kids Committee 12:15PM Kid's St., Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
March 20- CommUNITY Dinner 5:30PM CRC, Church Council 6:30PM CRC
March 24- Palm Sunday Children's Festival
March 25- April Newsletter Deadline
March 28- Maundy Thursday Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary
March 29- Good Friday Tenebrae Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary
March 31- Easter Sunday
April 1- Easter Monday- Church Office Will Be Closed

**FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads*

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION



***“Whoever does not love does not know God,
because God is love.” – 1 John 4:8***

We often think of Valentine’s Day as the day for couples to show their love to one another, but rarely do we use the day to remind us of God’s unmatched love for us, His children. For many single people, Valentine’s Day can be a bitter reminder of their singleness and desire for a relationship. Luckily, God doesn’t leave anyone, single or in a relationship, out of His unending love and grace.

In 1 John 4:8, the author says, “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

God is love itself. We wouldn’t have any conception of “love” at all if it weren’t for God, the definition of love.

God further defines love in the classic 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 passage that reads, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

God describes love in this way, and then tells us that He is love. This further emphasizes that God himself is all of these things.

God is patient and kind. He keeps no record of wrongs. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. God's love is a perfect love that no one on earth could ever emulate.

We often read this 1 Corinthians passage near Valentine's Day or at weddings to remind us what love should look like, but God is the perfect demonstration of it.

John 3:16 says, "for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

He gave up His only son for us. He gave us eternal life because of His great and unmatched love for each of us.

The theologian C.S. Lewis once said, "He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less."

God loves you so much. If you were the only one on earth He still would have sent His son for you.

So this Valentine's Day, remember to set your sights not on earthy relationships, but on the God above who loves far more fully and abundantly than we could ever imagine.

-Allison Richmond

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

The office will be closed on Mon, Feb 19 for our annual Staff Retreat.

First Methodist Staff Contacts

Staff:

Pastor - Pastor Ronnie Bearden
drronbearden@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

