



THE CONNECTION

**July 2023
Newsletter**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Passing Along Thanks

In May, for the week of the National Day of Prayer, we hosted a guided prayer walk through our sanctuary. This was a blessing to many. I even had a Crestview City Council Member who attends another church express gratitude for this ministry. Be sure and join us for this event next year.



Final Disaffiliation Report

As promised, this is the last Disaffiliation Report of mine for the Newsletter.

On June 8, we received the quit claim deed for our property and filed it immediately at the courthouse. This was the very final formal step in Disaffiliation. We are now 100% a Global Methodist Church.

It has been exciting to see the new signs going up around campus for parking and the direction. As I write this, new highway signs and modifications to our large sign out front are being made and will hopefully be installed by about the time you read this. Sadly, the bad storms in mid-June produced winds that were so strong, a few of our new signs were damaged. They are being repaired or replaced.

Please also be in prayer for the churches of the Alabama West Florida Conference who still hope to get out in November (about 50-80). On June 5, the Conference Board of Trustees posted a set of revised policies which, according to one of the progressive leaders of the Conference, makes it "likely that few, if any churches" will now be able to Disaffiliate. This is heartbreaking for those who genuinely want to leave. It is further disappointing that after three years, progressives are changing the rules with only a few months left in the process.

Lastly, the AI-West Florida Conference voted to discontinue the medical supplement that retired pastors receive if those pastors choose to disaffiliate. Their justification was that they have no financial obligation to pastors who leave the UMC (even if those pastors served 40 and 50 years with them). However, please note: all disaffiliating churches paid for that financial obligation- it was one of the fees we and other churches paid. So the AI-West Florida Conference charged churches a fee to leave, and then withdrew part of the reason for the fee- and is keeping the money anyway. This is very unjust and disappointing. To be honest, this has only reinforced why so many people are glad to be moving in a new direction.

A New Future

It is exciting to be a part of the Global Methodist Church now. Our new Conference is called the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference. The boundaries are the same as we had before. Our President Pro Tempore of our Conference is Dr. Lester Spencer. Since new churches are still joining every week, the district lines are still being drawn. In the future, we will announce our Presiding Elder (this is the historic position that eventually became District Superintendent). Our current Bishop is the wonderful Bishop Scott Jones.

If you want to keep up with new information, go to:

<https://aecgmc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/aecgmc>

I'm really looking forward to our convening Conference on Sept 8-9 in Montgomery. Margaret Larson and I will be representing our church.

Ministry Opportunities

We are in need of more volunteers for our Tech Team. We will gladly train people in video or audio (or both- if you are interested). On any given Sunday, it takes about 5 tech volunteers to make our worship and internet streaming possible and our goal is to have a team of volunteers working together to support one another. The leader of the group is Scott Sallberg. Training is provided by Scott and Pastor Ronnie.

We also need helpers to assist in some food distribution that happens on Monday mornings. Donated food is picked up and then distributed to some homes. Bob Winters (11 o'clock service) heads this up. You can speak to him or the church office.

Thank You

And lastly, I want to express my gratitude for your wonderful support of our Church. God is doing great things here. I hope you are as excited as I am about our future. We have a lot of new people, and I know you will do your best to get to know and love them.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to our newest FMC baby!
We celebrate with the Koettters family on the birth of their new baby girl.
Lord, thank You for this beautiful baby.
We are awed by her tiny fingers and sweet cheeks.
In Your tender mercies, watch over her as she grows.
Hold her close to You throughout her life.
Amen.



Community Dinner **All American Summer Shindig**

Join us on Wed, **July 12** at 5:30PM in the Cross Roads Center for our next Community Dinner!



Our theme this year is **America the Beautiful**, so come dressed in your most patriotic outfit of red, white & blue!

Dinner Menu: Hotdogs & chips. **Everyone is asked to bring their favorite summer side dish to share!**

There will be a **Banana Pudding** contest. If you would like to enter, have your banana pudding at the Crossroads Center lobby by 5:00pm. Judging will begin at 5:05pm.

The Contemporary Band will be performing some patriotic arrangements for us to enjoy.

All proceeds from the community dinner will go to support the Contemporary Band to purchase some much-needed equipment.

Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30PM.

Kid's St & Youth activities will begin at 6:00PM.

Church Council begins at 6:30PM.

Please record your grace note with your intended attendance.

A collection box will be in place to help offset the cost of the meal.

Kid's Street Summer Fun

Kid's Street Summer Fun Dates

July 5: No Kid's St activities

July 12: Community Dinner Craft Night

July 19: Zoo Trip for rising 1st - 5th Graders
(9:00AM-12:30PM)

July 26: Back to School Bash & WATER
FUN!

(bring towels and water shoes)

Aug 2: School Preparation / No Kid's Street

Aug 6 / Sunday: Blessing of the Backpacks
& Lunchboxes in all services

August 9: Kid's St Choir practice returns each Wednesday at 6:00PM before
our regular Wednesday night lesson.

September 30: Pumpkins Arrive for Pumpkin Patch! Tentative Date. Mark your
calendar!



Kid's Street Summer Fun Schedule - Wednesday Nights

5:45PM - Kids Night Out Check In
(ages rising K - 5th Grade)

6:00PM - Games & Opening Prayer

6:30PM - Summer Fun Time Activity

7:30PM - Parent Pick-up on Kid's Street

Summer Hiatus

New Bible Studies / Small Groups will
resume on Aug 3.

Chancel Choir's summer break will be
June 7 - Aug 2, with rehearsals resuming on
Aug 9.

Women's Service Group will resume Sept
8.



MINISTRY UPDATES

Wesleyan Child Care Center

Although our students have graduated and are moving
on to kindergarten, our work here at Wesleyan is not
over. During our summer months, we have been very
busy moving every classroom in the school. The floors
have been polished, the walls are getting refreshed
with touch up paint and new bulletin boards, and themes are changing. The
resource room and boy scout room are getting cleaned up and organized for
the new school year. All the cubbies and shelves are getting scrubbed down
and deep cleaned. We are also changing our lunchroom area from



Superheroes to Disney. So much hard work is happening throughout the school all summer long. The school is looking amazing and the hard work really shows the love and dedication our teachers have for our school.

-Osa Bell, WCCC Director

Children's Ministry

VBS was amazing!

We will continue to have summer fun activities through July and are already getting ready for fall. We have so many announcements that there will just be an overview and highlights this month to keep it simple. Please email kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com or check out our website for any questions you have additional details about our programming. Thank you to everyone for your support of our Children's Ministry.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday June 28 : Wednesday Night Summer Fun: Ice Cream Sundae and Movie Night

Wednesday July 5: No Kids Street

Wednesday July 12: Community Dinner Book Fair and Small group sign up. Sign up for the Fall Session Small Group Bible Studies.

Wednesday July 19: Zoo Trip. We would like to see how many are interested in a Zoo trip. We will offer sign up beginning the second week of July and contact those that express an interest.

Wednesday July 26: Back to School Bash / Water Fun. Bring a towel & water shoes!

Wednesday August 2: No Kids Street! Back to school prep night for volunteers & nursery workers.

Sunday August 6: Blessing of the Backpacks! Bring your book bag or lunch box (for Preschool Kids) to the service of your choice and place them on the altar to be prayed over as the new school year begins. We will also say a prayer for our teachers on this day.

Wednesday August 9: Fall Session begins. Kid's St. Choir practice will return each Wednesday at 6:00 PM before our regular Wednesday night lesson.

September 30: Pumpkins Arrive for Pumpkin Patch!! Tentative Date. Mark your calendar!

Youth Ministry

And just like that, we are already over halfway done with 2023! While this year has flown by, the youth have gotten to enjoy many nights of fellowship, Discovery weekend, the Youth Yard Sale, helping out in soup kitchen, and many Sunday morning Bible studies. And our big summer trip is right around the corner!

From July 27th - July 30th, our youth are going to Elberta, Alabama for a weekend-long camp at Camp Baldwin! It is not too late to sign up! If you are a youth or have a youth that is interested in



this trip, reach out to Paul Adams for more information and reservations ASAP. The last day to pay and submit registration is July 9th. This will be a 3 night, 4 day -long trip that will be filled with summer fun and water activities! Also, July 15th is our next soup kitchen! We will be serving from 9am-12pm that Saturday preparing and serving food for those who need it in our community. In September, we are hosting the community dinner! And we have a concert in Destin that we are attending together as a group in August. The exact date is August 5th, and it will cost \$15 per person, not including money for food or souvenirs. So, we have many fun activities and volunteer opportunities coming up in the next few months! I hope everyone is able to participate!

One last reminder that we are on a short break period for youth meets on Wednesday nights. We did not meet for VBS, or the week after. And we also do not meet on July 5th. Our first official meet back is on Wednesday, July 12th. As always, thank you to all who support this youth program through prayer, giving, and service. I am so thankful for this group of kids and it is a blessing to see them grow closer to Christ each week of my life. If you have any questions or suggestions for our youth program, please reach out to me.

-Paul Adams

firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

Adult & Family Ministry

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

We had so many volunteers for VBS. Some were prayer warriors at home, we had decorators, those who supplied food, snacks, and crafts, and more hands-on volunteers than in many years past. One of you made cookies for the group, some made a light dinner for the kids to make sure they went home with full bellies, and some of you spent nights at home helping to prepare for the activities the children attended. I am moved beyond words at your love and care for these children and your dedication to the Children's Ministry. We pray that you someday see the fruit of the seeds planted during this wonderful event. It may take years, but isn't it amazing how many children will be able to drive past our church as adults and say they were loved when they entered our doors.



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.

Fall Session sign up will begin at our Community Dinner on July12th. Please keep a watch in this newsletter and on our website and facebook for more details about this event. Sign up for the Fall Session Small Group Bible Studies.

Pumpkin Patch Reminder

Pumpkins are scheduled to be delivered on September 30th. Please mark your calendar. This is a tentative date and will be confirmed by the patch at a date closer to the event. Start pulling out those pumpkin ingredient recipes. We would love to feature a recipe of the week at our event and could even do a recipe per day if we have enough recipes submitted.

[Soup Kitchen](#)

Did you know that First Methodist Soup Kitchen has been feeding hungry since 2010! Are you interested in serving the hungry in our community? We are always looking for volunteers and have some openings the 4th week. This is such a rewarding opportunity to witness thankful people and families, while you give them food and bless their day. The joy it provides simply makes me tearful to have this opportunity to provide these suffering people relief with our food. That is why the Soup Kitchen Mission is truly Feeding the Hungry Mission. Join us to relieve some of their pain with our nutritional food.



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

We've been feeding hungry since March 10, 2010. Bless you all, Soup Kitchen Coordinator

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

[Soup Kitchen Leader Update](#)

FMC Soup Kitchen Ministry Leader Update

USAF 96th Test Wing 2023 Volunteer of Excellence Awarded was awarded to Debra Lubas, our own FMC Head Souper, who received an Eagle trophy & F16 Service Incentive Flight. The F16 flight was an hour and thirty minutes of maneuvers at super sonic speed.

Congrats, Deb, on your well deserved award!

(Photo was cleared by the Test Wing security.)



[Yarn Ministry](#)

This summer we will be concentrating on children's blankets for our own FMC Kid's St & Wesleyan Child Care Center!

If you're looking for a fun way to make some new friends, learn a new skill and love on our community through yarn- pop into Yarnia and say HEY!

We gladly accept donations of clean yarn.

Please bring donations to the front office during normal business hours.

Yarnies will meet on Tuesdays, **July 11 & 25** 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 Wednesday, **July 5**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!

CALENDARS

July Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

July 2- Gary & Melanie Zick
July 9- John & Cynthia Leitschuck
July 16- Debbie Watson
July 23- Lowell & Maryrose Scott
July 30- Mike & Betsy Roy

Ushers:

July- Gary & Melanie Zick

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

July 2-Eddie & Jayne Hager
July 9- Jim & Pam Hight
July 16-Steve & Kathy Fowler
July 23-David & Pam Ordonez
July 30- Glenda McMasters & Jamie Davis

Office Door Greeters

July 2-Connie Stapp
July 9-Gary Johnson
July 16-Mark Owens
July 23-Gary Johnson
July 30-Connie Stapp

Ushers

July 2-Rollin Anderson & Tom Giovanini
July 9-Tom Saunders & David Ordonez
July 16-Dax Reeves & Eddie Hager
July 23-Tom Saunders & Rollin Anderson

July 30-Dax Reeves & Tom Giovanini

Side Aisle Ushers

July 2-Eddie & Jayne Hager

July 9-Jim & Pam Hight

July 16-Steve & Kathy Fowler

July 23-Edie Giovanini & Dee Stager

July 30- Glenda McMasters & Jamie Davis

Choir - Jim Hight

Liturgists:

July 2-

July 9-Jody Woodward

July 16-Paul Adams

July 23-

July 30-

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

Important Dates In July

July 4- Happy Birthday America! Office is closed so we can celebrate!

July 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, Youth and Kid's Street will not meet

July 9- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212

July 10- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH

July 11- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

July 12- CommUNITY Dinner Summer Shindig & Book Fair, Fall Session Small Group Sign-Up

July 16- Kid's Committee 12:15PM on Kid's St.

July 18- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm, Missions 6:30PM Rm 213

July 24- August Newsletter Deadline

July 25- 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

Loking Ahead To August

Aug 2- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, No Kid's St. 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, Chancel Choir & Kid's St Choir Resume

Aug 14- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH

Aug 21- September Newsletter Deadline

Aug 22- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

Aug 27 through 30- Youth at Camp Baldwin

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

Please see firstcrestview.com for any updates or changes

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION



A Prayer for America

Lord,

We are thankful for the abundant blessings You have bestowed on America. Our forefathers looked to You as Protector, Provider, and the Promise of hope. But we have wandered far from that firm foundation. May we repent for turning our backs on Your faithfulness.

We pray that this great nation will be restored by Your forgiveness.

From bondage, You grant freedom.

Through Your own sacrifice, You offer salvation.

From the state of despair, You offer peace.

From the bounties of Heaven, You have blessed – not because of our goodness – but by Your grace.

You have given us freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth as Your holy Word instructs. May our lives honor You in word and deed. May our nation acknowledge that all good things come from the Father above.

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that our nation should set apart a day for national prayer to confess our sins and transgressions in sorrow, “yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon... announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.”

“We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own... we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us! It behooves us then... to confess our national sins and to pray for

clemency and forgiveness.”

Help us to pray earnestly for our president and leaders who govern, that they will humble themselves and seek Your guidance so that everything we do will shine the light of Your glory in a darkened world.

May our prayers as a people and a nation be heard and blessed *for such a time as this*. We make this plea in faith, believing in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."

1 Timothy 2:1-2

-Franklin Graham

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

Office Closure Tuesday, July 4

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 & Family Discipleship Coordinator -

Angela Long, kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com,
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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