



THE CONNECTION
June 2023
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

New Beginnings

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated our Covenant Renewal Sunday as we transition to the Global Methodist Church. This service was held on May 21.

We had a wonderful combined service with 240 in attendance and more watching online. That day, we baptized 4 people. What was a bit interesting was that all three methods were used. I baptized two by what is commonly called sprinkling (even though it's not really sprinkles- I use a handful of water). One was baptized by pouring and one by immersion that afternoon. These all made a profession of faith.

We also had 18 people become full members on May 21 and one transfer of membership. It was an exciting day!

But not everyone wanting to join could attend that service. Because of surgeries or out-of-town trips, some will join later. At present, I'm expecting that



within a month or so of becoming a Global Methodist Church we will have had 25-30 people become full members. These are exciting days.

This is also a great time to invite your friends, neighbors, and people you meet to join us in worship. And remember, as I share every summer, be on the lookout for people moving into your neighborhood. Greet them, bless them, love them and invite them to worship.

Disaffiliation Report

I hope this is the second to last report of this nature I make. On May 7, our church was approved for Disaffiliation by a vote of 444 yes to 118 no in the AL-W Fla Conference. It was a day of mixed emotions as a total of 240 churches have left, but that hurdle is crossed. We are now a part of the new Alabama Emerald Coast Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

We have also paid our Disaffiliation fee to the Conference. At present there is only one last step, and that will be the final reception of documents back to us. I look forward to reporting back to you that we are totally finished one day soon.

On Another Disaffiliation Front...

Rev. Dr. Patrick Quinn is one of our own. He is the grandson of Bob Allen. He pastors a young and vibrant church in Montgomery which felt led to Disaffiliate. Money was tight, but they were prepared for their given fee amount. But then the Conference Board of Trustees doubled the number. Some will agree with the Trustees, some will not (I do not). You can read their need for a miracle here: <http://centuryproject.org/uncategorized/a-shocking-response/>

Our church Administrative Board made a decision to support this church with a gift. My wife and I have also made a gift to them- and I ask you to pray about making a gift as well.

Stewardship

I've had a few people engage in stewardship-type conversations with me lately. Some people in our church have been so very upset through the years by the actions and causes the United Methodist Church supports that they absolutely refused to give to it. Consequently, they found other ways to give and honor God with their gifts.

Please rest assured that those days are now over. No money from this church supports any UMC cause unless we were to specifically choose to do so (like making a gift to UMCOR after a hurricane). Therefore, it is my hope that people will feel more positive about honoring the Lord with their giving through the regular budget to meet the needs of ongoing ministry here.

My Personal Goal

This is also a good time to share a personal goal with you that ties all of these subjects together. I've shared this privately with a few people but now share it publicly with you.

It is my personal goal to have this church be debt free by the time I retire as your pastor.

We just took a loan for \$150,000 to cover the cost of Disaffiliation (your personal contributions lowered how much we needed- thank you). We expect to have this paid off in 5 years (hopefully less!).

Our mortgage on the Crossroads Center is now down to just under \$290,000. I think the original cost of the building years ago was about 2 million, and we have come so far in reducing this debt. When these debts are paid off, the ministry strength of this church will dramatically increase. Gifts may be made to this indebtedness, as well as remembering the church in your will.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

HEARTFELT THANKS

We want to thank everyone for the calls, thoughts, kind words, cards, flowers, and prayers in the passing of my father Jerry L. Parker, Sr.

It has been a long 2 plus years, but he is home at last with the Lord and my mother, his wife of 66 yrs who left us unexpectedly December 2020.

We love our Church family and are thankful for the members and staff.

Again, thanks and God Bless,
-Pam and Bill Myers



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introducing Jody Waddell!

We have a new FMC team member! We're excited to introduce you to our new custodian, Jody Waddell! Jody & her husband Michael have lived here in Crestview for 11 years and have one dog, Chewbacca, and one cat, Oreo. Jody grew up in Texas and loves cooking & preserving, gardening and drawing.



"Everyone has been so welcoming and kind, the communication is great!" Jody shared.

If you see Jody on campus give her a wave and a warm FMC welcome!

Pentecost Sunday

Wear
RED
for

Pentecost Sunday
on May 28!



Don't Forget Sunday School!

Summer is almost here- don't forget your Sunday School Class! If you're not plugged in, well, this is the perfect time to start.

We have classes for every age:

Kids:

Nursery / 6 weeks - 3 yrs / 8:00, 9:45 & 11:00AM

Sunday school / PreK - 5th grade / 9:45AM

Children's Church / PreK - 5th grade / 11:00AM

Youth:

6-12th grade / 9:45AM & 11:00AM in the Youth Room

Adults:

9:45AM

Agape Pilgrims / Rm 212 on the Breezeway

Messengers / Main Campus Fellowship Hall

Vines & Branches / Online & in the CRC Rm 409

11:00AM

F.I.S.H. (Friends in Service to Him) CRC Rm 409



Kid's Street Summer Fun

Keep an eye out on Facebook & our email announcement each week for summer fun activities each Wednesday night at 6:30PM beginning **May 31!** Bingo Night, Movie Night, Domino Night are all returning this summer- see you there!



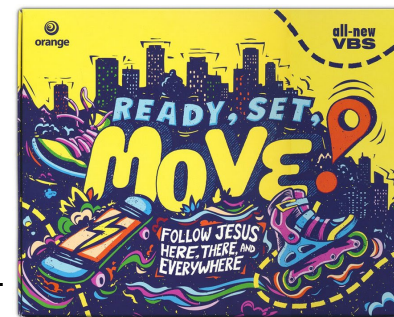
Vacation Bible School Donations

Pick up a tag or 2... 3 or maybe even 4!
We are collecting donations at the Crossroads Center VBS table, so stop on by.
For more info please see Angela Long on Kids St.



Vacation Bible School

VBS Registration is open!
Dates this year are **June 19 - June 23**.
We have a day program for the preschool ages 3 to 5 years old
AND an evening program for K to rising 5th graders!
Vist firstcrestview.com for more info and to sign up.



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.



Fundraiser for Pastor Kris Update

Our silent auction and Community Dinner raised over \$3,000 for Pastor Kris, his churches and outreach ministry to Ukrainian refugees! Way to be the blessing, First Methodist!

Dziękuję!

(That's thank you in the Polish language.)



MINISTRY UPDATES

Children's Ministry

VBS Dates are June 19 to June 23. We will have a day session for preschool age children and evening session for K to 5th graders. Registration is now open at fumcrestview.com. for the Preschool session and K to 5th Grade session.

We are excited to announce that this year we will serve a light meal during our evening snack time to help out with the late night requests for a second meal when your children get home!



Summer Fun: Keep an eye out on Facebook and in our email announcement each week for summer fun activities. Bingo Night, Movie Night, Domino Night are all returning this summer! We can not wait to have fun and fellowship with you. We want our children to really get to know each other so that when we ask them to pray for each other and with each other it has more meaning and they truly understand what it feels like to be a part of a strong church family. We will praise, play, and grow in our walk with God the entire summer!

Upcoming events:

Last Day of School for Kids - May 29, 2023

Kids Day movie time - May 31, 2023 - More details to follow. Instead of going off campus, we have decided to just do a movie night outside with popcorn for the Kids as our Summer Kick Off and to wish those promoting to youth a farewell.

Kids Street Summer Fun begins on May 31, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Promotion Sunday - June 4, 2023 9:45 AM Service

-Angela Long / Family Discipleship Coordinator

kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com , fmsmallgroups@gmail.com

Youth Ministry

2023 has been a great year for our youth! We completed the Gospel of John and have made it halfway through the book of Exodus. The youth continue to read aloud and ask lots of great questions about the scripture that we read.

This year we have accomplished quite a bit! For starters, back in February, we had our Youth Yard Sale, which was a huge success! We hosted the last Soup Kitchen in April, and in that same month had our annual Discovery Weekend, which was a tremendous event.

This past month, we had Senior Night and Graduation Sunday. This was a time to celebrate all of our graduating seniors who are moving onto college or their next phase of life. You might see a few of them around the church here and there for the next couple of months, but come this fall, many of them will be gone and off to college! Be sure to congratulate them or give them some kind words if you happen to run into to any of them before August, and please pray



for them. As many of you know, college can be a very challenging and tempting time. Let's pray that our seniors put on the full armor of God and stay close to Him no matter what crosses their path! Pray also that those who move away to college find a good, bible-believing church to attend while they are gone from home.

As for upcoming events there are three main things: VBS is Monday, June 19th through Friday, June 23rd. If you are a youth and are interested in volunteering, you need to sign-up soon. For more information on VBS and volunteering for it, please reach out to Angela Long. Next, we have another Soup Kitchen coming up quickly. We had to swap with the 8th Ave Methodist Men due to our Camp Baldwin trip at the end of the month. Our next Soup Kitchen day is Saturday, July 15th! And two weeks after that is our summer trip to Camp Baldwin (July 27th - July 30th,) information and registration for this trip is located in the youth room. Deadline for sign-up and payment is July 9th. Please be sure to have your documents and payment turned in before then. If payment for this trip is an issue, please reach out to Paul Adams for information on scholarships or volunteering opportunities to help cover the cost.

As always, thank you to all who support this youth group. Whether it be through giving, praying or volunteering, your help is treasured and goes a long way.

-Paul Adams

firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

Adult & Family Ministry

VBS Supply needs: It's not too late to pick up a VBS needs card in the entry way of the Crossroads Center and entry of the main sanctuary. There is a date on the back of each card that will let you know when we need the items. Also, if you are interested in helping to prepare a light meal at snack time please contact Angela Long at the church office.



We need volunteers for Vacation Bible School, June 19 to June 23, 2023. You can help us by leading an activity or a group, helping out in the kitchen, preparing crafts and activities prior to the big day, or volunteering to prepare or sponsor a light meal for the children. Contact Angela Long to sign up or for more details. Kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com

Wednesday Night. Bible Study Groups: Many of our Wednesday night groups will break for the summer and return for the Fall Session in August. Registration for the Fall Session will begin in July with a book fair and all new studies. Please get with your leader if you are in a study to confirm your summer study session.

Volunteers are always needed during the summer on Kids Street. We try to have Summer Fun activities each week and would love to take some off campus trips. Volunteers are needed to make this happen.

Don't forget to make Sunday School a part of your Sunday morning routine. If you attend the 8:30 or 11:00 Service we have a Sunday school that meets at 9:45. If you attend the 9:45 AM service there is a Sunday School class that meets at 11:00 AM. That extra fellowship time and time studying The word can make a difference in your week and relationship with God and your church family.

Our Summer quarter of Sunday School begins on June 4th. If you have been waiting to join a Sunday School class this would be the perfect time. Check out our webpage on firstcrestview.com for all small group and Sunday School opportunities.

-Angela Long, Family Discipleship Coordinator
kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com
fmsmallgroups@gmail.com

Soup Kitchen

- Looking for volunteers to pick up food donations at designated stores for the Youth Ministry Soup Kitchen week, 5th Saturday of the month. Please contact Deb 401-742-4898.

- If you are looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity, help us on Saturdays, 9am to noontime. Please contact Deb for Saturday assignment opportunities and scheduled training at 401-742-4898.

- Looking to recycle for your plastic grocery bags and help save our planet? Please consider donating them to our Soup Kitchen Mission. We use the plastic grocery bags to package each person's food at the Soup Kitchen. Drop them off at the Soup Kitchen or hand them to Deb at church, contemporary 9:45 am on Sundays.

New volunteers are always welcome!

We need your support to continue helping the hungry in our community.

For more information, please contact our Coordinator, Deb Lubas.

Donations, please contact the front office.

Bless you all,

-FUMC 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.

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, **June 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 Wednesday, **June 7**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!

CALENDARS

June Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

June 4- Debby Watson
June 11-Mike & Betsy Roy
June 18- Kit Callahan
June 25- Alesha & Robert Dabbs

Ushers:

June- Jacob Dabbs & Deb Watson

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

June 4- Tom & Edie Giovanini
June 11-Glenda McMasters & Jamie Davis
June 18- Margaret Larson & Judy Beard
June 25- Edie Giovanini & Bobbi Burton

Office Door Greeters

June 4- Gary Johnson
June 11- Corolla Anderson
June 18- Connie Stapp
June 25- Connie Stapp

Ushers

June 4- Dave Ordonez & Rollin Anderson
June 11- Burt Colt & Tom Saunders
June 18- Dax Reeves & Tom Giovanini
June 25- Burt Colt & Tom Saunders

Side Aisle Ushers

June 4- Tom & Edie Giovanini
June 11- Glenda McMasters & Jamie Davis
June 18- Margaret Larson & Judy Beard
June 25- Edie Giovanini & Bobbi Burton

Choir - Jim Hight

Liturgists:

June 4- Mike Steen
June 11- Jody Woodward
June 18- Paul Adams
June 25- Claudia Creamer

Important Dates In June

June 2- Women's Service Group will not meet June, July or August. Next Meeting will be September 8.

June 7- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza

June 12- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH

June 13- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

June 12 thru 15- VBS Decorating Week

June 19 thru 23- VBS Week

June 21- Kids St & Youth at VBS

June 25- VBS Sunday at our 9:45AM The Well worship service

June 19- June Newsletter Deadline

June 27- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

June 28- No Youth

**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 July

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

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

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

***“The godly walk with integrity;
blessed are their children who follow them.”
-Proverbs 20:7***

Father's Day is a great opportunity to remember and celebrate the fathers and father figures who have impacted our lives and helped mold us into the people God created us to be.

Being a father is not an easy job. Just the word “father” can be synonymous with many duties our society places upon fathers such as leader, protector, and guide. However, these burdens placed upon fathers is not what God says is most important.

Proverbs 20:7 reminds us that it is truly the integrity of a man that blesses his children. Integrity is taught by the way one lives, modeling wisdom in both words and actions.

Integrity has everything to do with one's character and principles, living out qualities like honesty, responsibility, accountability, loyalty, and trustfulness. This integrity is what blesses children as they grow up, watching and learning.

Has there been a father or father figure that displayed integrity for you during your lifetime? If so, celebrate that this Father's Day. Not everyone can answer yes to this question though and if this is you, it could make for a more difficult day.

The good news is that whether your father was the greatest or fell short, you can always count on God, our Father, who we know possesses all of those qualities – honesty, responsibility, accountability, loyalty, and

trustfulness. Our heavenly Father embraces us as His own with unconditional love and that is something to celebrate .

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
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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