



***THE CONNECTION***  
**May 2022**  
**Newsletter**

***From the Pastor's Desk***

I have a lot to share this month.

**New Mission Statement**

Our Long Range Planning leaders will be presenting a new Mission statement for our church at the next Administrative Council meeting.

I had spoken to many people in our church and could not find a single person who knew our previous mission statement by heart even though it is on every Sunday bulletin. Our leaders also found it not very clear and understandable. Therefore, after a wonderful discussion, our Long Range Planning Leaders came up with a new proposed statement.

Our Mission is to:

“Lead people to Jesus through God’s Word and equip them for discipleship.”

We believe this new statement is clear and memorable (even for children).

We wanted to highlight a few key concepts.

**Jesus-** He is the focus of what we do.

**God’s Word-** especially in this day and age of relativism, the Bible should be our foundation. A root issue in the chaos in many churches is an abandonment of Biblical truth.

**Equipping-** Our goal is not entertainment, but the transformation of people. We are called to make disciples and give people tools for making this happen.

A lot of good discussion went into this statement. Many good ideas were presented and it was a challenge to weed things down to a short statement. I believe the end product was a good one and I hope it is adopted.



**Stained Glass Cup Project**

As I write this, we are finishing up orders for the last mug (number 6 in the set). I know that people want to go back and get more of the other mugs- and soon those orders will be opening up.

A few weeks ago, we were able to send Pastor Chris about \$7,500. This came from the cup sales and from donations. He and his churches have been very active in helping Ukrainians fleeing war. Thank you for your support.

**Update on United Methodism**

As promised, I wanted to give you an update on the situation in our denomination.

A few weeks ago, the General Conference committee made the decision to postpone General Conference for a third time and have delayed all matters until 2024 at the next regular session of General Conference. There will be no meeting in 2022 or 2023.

Their reasoning was COVID safety and travel policies. They wanted to “protect and help” especially those living overseas, but the great irony is that a large African delegation strongly urged the committee to proceed with General Conference this year. It is reported

that most of the votes to postpone came from the United States, not overseas. Needless to say, many folks are very disappointed with this decision to postpone yet again (while many were also very happy).

Many feel the best hope and goal was for the General Conference to meet and deal with a plan called the **Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation** for an orderly division of the church. That is now delayed. Consequently, the decision was made by a group of leaders to inaugurate the Global Methodist Church as a new Biblically conservative denomination on May 1 of this year. Thus because of this delay and because the Global Methodist Church is moving forward, there is a growing call for more conservative/Biblical/Traditional churches to look at moving to the Global Methodist Church in the near future. Some of this push is even coming from our own Annual Conference (follow here if you want to learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/wcaawf> )

Will a major movement happen this year? It's too soon to tell.

Our Bishop has prepared some videos dealing with some of these issues. Bishop Graves has provided wonderful leadership during difficult times. While some Bishops around the country have acted in a punitive manner toward conservative churches, Bishop Graves has not. He has stated publicly on many occasions he respects passions on all sides of this debate and he is committed to help each church get to where they want to be. However, he has expressed the desire that the churches of the Alabama-West Florida Conference remain.

<https://www.awfumc.org/newsdetail/16385634>

<https://vimeo.com/692845793/04fd8d804e>

What does this mean for our church in Crestview? At this moment, some information is known and some is still developing.

The 2019 General Conference made a provision for churches that want to leave (or "disaffiliate") and be able to own their property when the dust settles (paragraph 2553 of the Discipline). However, the current process requires fees be paid which include full apportionment payments for two years. It also includes funding our church's contribution to the unfunded liability of pension payments for retired clergy. Just so that I could be accurate if anyone asked, I called the Conference Treasurer the first week of March for our amount. The amount we would have to pay up front is staggering: \$387,079.54 and the deadline for the process to be completed is Dec 31, 2023 (The benefit of passing the Protocol was that these fees would not need to be paid).

Some churches our size have those kinds of donors and financial resources; most others do not.

Some leaders are asserting that other paragraphs in the Discipline allow a congregation to leave. However, none of those procedures have been tried or validated yet. Some petitions will be presented to our Annual Conference this summer to clarify those procedures.

Another short-term uncertainty relates to the entire Annual Conference. After the announcement of General Conference postponement, the Council of Bishops directed several questions to the Judicial Council (our denomination's "supreme court"). Those questions mostly dealt with the possibility of an entire Annual Conference leaving the United Methodist Church. If the Judicial Council rules that it is indeed possible for an entire Annual Conference to withdraw, then it is possible our own Annual Conference may face this decision. This might be a way for the large fees to be avoided which are currently required under paragraph 2553.

Will General Conference bring up and pass the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation? We will now have to wait for May of 2024 to see. I admit that I have mixed emotions, but it seems prudent to me at this time to simply wait for the next Judicial Council rulings and then see what happens at our Annual Conference this summer. In the meantime, we are still operating under a good Book of Discipline- the document which expresses our covenant for our church operations.

However, and to be very clear: as I said in my last message to the congregation, none of this will distract us from preaching the Gospel and offering life and hope to those in need through the ministries of our church. Please continue in prayer for our Bishop, our leaders, and our church.

- *Pastor Ronnie*

Some Internet links:

General Conference Announcement:

<https://bit.ly/3KTajRp>

Protocol for Grace and Reconciliation through Separation: <https://bit.ly/3tn8JRW>

Ala-West Florida chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association:

<https://bit.ly/3JnZ3vP>

Questions submitted by the Bishop re: Annual Conference withdrawal:

<https://bit.ly/3wjQVsP>

The newly forming Global Methodist Church <https://globalmethodist.org/>

Bishop Graves' latest video <https://vimeo.com/692845793/04fd8d804e>

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### *New Sermon Series*

'A Revelation of Worship'

The Sunday after Easter we will embark upon a journey through the book of Revelation to examine the power of worship.

This journey will take us to Pentecost.

Come join us!



### *Discovery Sunday*

Are you ready for Discovery Sunday?

This youth led worship service will be held at the Crossroads Center on Sunday, **May 1** at 9:45AM.



### *Parents Night Out*

Coming to Kids Street on Friday, **May 6!**

We want to show our appreciation for parents by creating opportunities for you to have a night out to relax, go for dinner, or enjoy a few hours to regroup for the week ahead. Pre- Registration is required and available online at [fumcrestview.com](http://fumcrestview.com).

Location: Kid's Street First UMC

Ages - 6 months -- 5th grade

Time – 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

\$5.00 Per child/Max \$20 per family

Drop off begins at 4:50 PM

Meal served at 5:45 PM

Snack served at 6:15 PM



Please bring a labeled snack and/or meal if your child has allergies or specific dietary needs. Notify our staff if there are any foods your child cannot be in contact with (i.e. peanuts, etc).

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### *CommUNITY Dinner*

Our next CommUNITY Dinner planned for Wednesday, **May 11** in The Crossroads Center. FUMC Youth will be hosting a taco bar with all proceeds going to their programs. A donation box will collect dinner offerings. We will also be featuring our Summer Bible Studies with a sign up table and a meet & greet with the teachers. All sorts of Christian reading material will be available for purchase, too

Our schedule for this evening is as follows:

CommUNITY Dinner- 5:30- 6:15PM

Kid's Street- 6:00PM

ReFit- 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall

Church Council- 6:30PM

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### *'Through the Stained Glass' Mug Series*

We have mugs from the whole series that will be available for purchase at our CommUNITY Dinner on Wednesday, **May 11**.

Mug # 5 & #6 will be ready for pick up on this evening also.

All proceeds will go to Pastor Kris in Poland.



### *Mother's Day Tea*

After a 3 year covid delay we are finally able to host our Ladies Tea again!

The date is **Saturday, May 14** from 11:00AM to 12:30PM. Please come join this wonderful event of delicious food, fellowship and enjoyment all provided on a beautifully set table!

Our theme this year is "GOING BEYOND." Our theme scripture is Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Deb Lubas will be our guest speaker. We will have our silent auction and an opportunity for photos to remember all the fun. There will be a kids table with a pirate and mermaid theme, so our boys and girls have something just for them!





As usual, all proceeds go to Pastor Kris Kopacz in Poland. You can expect many pictures of the new chapel in Siemiany and all that Pastor Kris is doing! It is a blessing to be a part of building the only Methodist church in Poland.

All donations are welcome! Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children.

It will be a joy to have this lovely event again!

Hostesses: Susan Hill, Glenda McMasters, Linda biondi, Deb Lubas, Angie Woodward, Susan Smith, Maryrose Scott, Judi Smith, Karen Goode, Jamie Davis, Jennifer & Kim Raiche and Sharon Steen. Hoping to find one more . Thanks so much!

-Susan Hill

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### **Graduation Sunday**

Any graduates in our FUMC family? Email their name, school, and service they attend to [office.fumcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:office.fumcrestview@gmail.com). We can't wait to celebrate with them on Sunday, **May 15!**



### **Wesleyan Child Care Center**

Easter Season was a fun and joyous time here at Wesleyan. Our students not only enjoyed the many Easter Egg Hunts, Easter treats, singing Easter songs, listening to Easter books and doing Easter crafts, but also enjoyed listening to and learning all about the real Easter Story. The students learned that God loved us so much that he sent his son, so that we can have eternal life with him. They learned that Jesus loves us so much that he died for us. And they learned that Jesus rose from the dead and came back to life 3 days later. It is our prayer here at Wesleyan, that our students take all the lessons we teach them and use them in everyday life. Our main goal is for them to know that "Jesus loves them so much!"

-Osa Bell, WCCC Director

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### **Audio Visual News**

If you've been attending service here at First United, then you have probably heard Pastor Ronnie and/or one of the liturgists give thanks for the people working audio and video (A/V) support during Sunday service and more specifically for streaming the video over the internet to places far and wide via Facebook. I'd like to personally thank them as well and I thought that perhaps you'd like to know their names:

Main sanctuary audio: Larry Greene & Burt Colt

Main sanctuary video: Warren Caruso & Scott Sallberg

CRC audio: Lauren Woodward

CRC video: Bruce Valerius & Scott Sallberg

A/V Support Coordinator: Scott Sallberg



I know that it looks like we got it covered, but we could always use more help, and we'd like to have that help already trained up and in place before we need it!  
 So, if you're at all interested, please contact me or Pastor Ronnie and we'll get you all trained up and ready to go!  
 In Christ we serve,  
 -Scott Sallberg

**Childrens Ministry**

**Vacation Bible School MAKE WAVES!**

Registration for Vacation Bible School is now open!

Our dates are **June 20-24** from 6:00-8:30 PM.

We look forward to having more fun with our outdoor activities, snacks, water games, and games as we learn how to *Make Waves* in life & all we do! Ages Rising Kindergarten to 5th grade.

VBS donations are now being taken for anyone that would like to support this program. Thank you to those that have already begun donating.

Please contact Angela Long if you are interested in an option for toddlers during the day.

Registration is open online at [www.fumcrestview.com](http://www.fumcrestview.com).



**Preschool Vacation Bible School**

We are excited to announce that we have limited space open for our Preschool Vacation Bible School scheduled for **June 20-24** from 2:00-3:30 PM.

Come join our WCCC Preschool children for fun!

Registration is open online at [www.fumcrestview.com](http://www.fumcrestview.com)

**Save the Date**

\*Promotion Sunday will be held on Sun, **June 5**.

We will recognize new children that are now attending the nursery class, those moving up to the Preschool Sunday school (age 3), rising Kindergarten students, Rising 3rd grade students, and those promoting to youth.

\*Camp Baldwin: Don't forget we will be attending Camp Baldwin this summer from **July 10-14**. We have several registered and look forward to this fun time together.

\*Kids Day: Held on Wed, **June 8**.

*Registration for Kids Day will open on May 15*

9:00AM - Kids' Day Out Drop off at scheduled location (rising 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

12:30PM – Pick Up at Scheduled location

5:45PM – Kids Night Out Check In begins (ages rising K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

6:00 PM - Games/Opening Prayer

6:30 PM - Summer Fun Time Activity

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

**Kids Street 2021 Summer Fun Schedule**

**SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES**

May 25, 2022 (last day of school)

June 1, 2022 (summer session begins)

June 8, 2022

June 15, 2022

June 22, 2022

June 29, 2022

**Day Program**

Kids Day – Roller world Skating

VBS PREP WEEK

VBS WEEK

Kids Day – Outdoor Games/Picnic (onsite)

**Evening Program**

Movie Night 6:00 -7:30 PM

Bingo Night 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Domino Night 6:00-7:30 PM

VBS PREP WEEK

VBS WEEK

Pizza and PJ's Game and movie

July 6, 2022		Uno and Ice Cream Sundae Night
July 13, 2022– BOOK FAIR/Church Council	SUMMER CAMP WEEK (3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> grade)	Community Dinner- Book Fair- Craft Night (Asbury Room)
July 20, 2022	Kids Day –Emerald Coast Zoo Trip	Favorite Music and Favorite Game
July 27, 2022		Back to School Bash- WATER FUN
August 3, 2022		1 <sup>st</sup> day of school 8/10

*\*Note: Nursery is available in the evening for parents who are involved in a Bible Study*

-Angela Long / FUMC Children's Pastor  
[kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com)

### Adult Discipleship



Spring is here and that means we are in the middle of our Spring session for Sunday school and Small Group Bible Studies. We have a new bible study being led by Melvin Candelario, a newer mom's group that meets each Monday morning, and a new young adult small group that will soon begin going out into the community to go skating, hiking, and create opportunities for something to do together outside of our traditional worship and study times. With such exciting news we sometimes forget to talk about the Sunday school classes that have been going strong for years and our Refit class that allows an opportunity for women to work out, lift up God's name together and grow as a part of our church family.

I was moved to tears at this church on Palm Sunday. Such a turn out of our church, our families, and friends. The Wesleyan Child Care Center painted faces, the mens group helped with set up, cooked food, and cleaned up, the youth helped with games, the church office and nursery staff was in front of and behind the scenes helping lead activities, taking pictures, serving food, taking out trash, and hosting a booth with ducklings and chicks that brought smiles to all. There were so many volunteers who gave of their time and efforts and helped to carry this event. Lastly, the Children's Ministry team was so dedicated to making sure everything went perfectly. I pray you all felt the experience to be as special as I did and that it is another part of our journey and growth as a church family.

Please make time to visit our website or pick up one of our church flyers that outlines all of our small group and service opportunities and activities. As we grow together in praise, worship, and fellowship I pray that this carries over to our community. A wise person once told me, "people do not come to church when you tell them what you are going to do, they come when they hear you talk about what you did at church." My challenge to you is to be here more, join a group, help make more experiences that you can share with others. I am so blessed to be a part of this church and thank you all for the role you serve in our ministry and walk together.

With that said, we are in need of nursery volunteers to rock babies, volunteers for Vacation Bible School, and small group leaders for our Fall Session. If you are interested please call me at the church office or email me at [kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com)

-Angela Long / Family Discipleship Coordinator  
[fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com)

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### First Church Women's Service Group

THANK YOU, FUMC family for your generous support during the Dean's Cakes/Rada Cutlery annual fundraiser! A total of 38 cakes, 11 packages of cookies, and 59 cutlery items were purchased. Wow! The proceeds will allow the Women's Service Group to continue supporting local community organizations that focus on the needs of women and children in our area.



The last meeting of the Women's Service Group before we take a break for Summer will be Friday, **May 6**, in Room 212 on the breezeway. We'll gather at 9:00 for light refreshments, our meeting will begin at 9:30, and we'll be ready to enjoy the rest of our day around 11:00. Come join us if you can! If you have any questions or want to know about how we support our church and our community, please feel free to call the church office, talk with me, or join us for the May meeting.

In His Name,  
-Eileen Kurtz

1 Peter 4:10 - "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

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### Soup Kitchen

Warmer weather is quickly approaching and while many folks are making vacation plans, family reunion plans and stay-cation plans, the FUMC SOUPers are focused on continuing to provide a hot, nutritious meal to anyone in the community who would like to join us. Panera, Publix and Back Home Bakery continue to support us as well with their donations of breads and sweets, and the Soup Kitchen ministry recently received a very generous donation from the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Crestview Lodge #2624. We are so thankful to receive such a bountiful blessing, and it will go far in our mission of feeding our neighbors and our community. If you are interested in becoming a SOUPER, please talk with me! Lots of opportunities to help, have fun, and enjoy fellowship.



In His Name,  
-Eileen Kurtz, Soup Kitchen Coordinator

Matthew 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."

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### Yarn Ministry

What is a prayer shawl exactly?  
Some folks call it a 'Mantle of Caring'.  
Each item made and donated is covered in prayer.  
We ask that in the name of the Father, the Creator; the Savior, the Healer and the Lifter of pain; in the name of the Spirit, the





Comforter and the Sustainer of Life, that each hand made shawl, lapghan, or blanket is created as a mantle of caring, of protection, of strength, of healing and of patience. May each item enfold the one who receives it when they are feeling weak and weary. May it fill their hearts with the tangible touch of love. Amen!

We will meet on Tuesdays, **May 10 & 24** at 6:00PM in Rm 213.

Because we have a 5th Tuesday this month we will also meet at Panera's on **May 31** at 6:00PM.

All interested are welcome!

-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*

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### Crestview Prayer Network

Prayer Network meets **May 4** at David's Catfish House 12 PM.  
Come meet and pray with us.  
All are invited!



-Kathleen Woodward

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### May Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

#### **Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM**

##### Greeters:

May 1- Debbie Watson

May 8- Kit Callahan

May 15- Melanie & Gary Zick

May 22- Maryrose & Lowell Scott

May 29- Betsy & Mike Roy

Ushers: Bob McCrory, Mike Roy

#### **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**

##### Front:

May 1: Viki & Terry Luster

May 8: Glenda McMasters & Dax Reeves

May 15: Edie & Tom Giovanini

May 22: Viki & Terry Luster

May 29: Margaret Larson & Gary Johnson

Ushers: Front - Dax Reeves, Terry Luster

Greeter/Usher - Back: Darrell Smith

Liturgists- May: 8- Lee Thigpen, 15- Paul Adams, 22-Mike Steen

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## *Important Dates In May*

May 1- Youth Discovery Sunday at the 9:45AM The Well service in the CRC, 8:30AM & 11:00AM services as normal, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212  
May 3- Worship 5:30PM Conf Rm  
May 4- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House  
May 5- National Day of Prayer / Prayer Stations in the Main Sanctuary  
May 6- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212, Parent's Night Out 5-8:00PM Kids Street  
May 9- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
May 10- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213  
May 11- CommUNITY Dinner 5:30PM CRC, Church Council 6:30PM CRC  
May 14 Mother's Day Tea 11-12:30PM CRC  
May 15- Graduation Sunday  
May 20- Sr Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH  
May 22- Dana Clah/ Reboot Recovery special guest in all worship services, Children's Committee 12:15PM Kids Street  
May 23- June Newsletter Deadline  
May 24- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213  
May 25- Small Groups Wrap-up  
May 26- Happy Birthday Pastor Ronnie!  
May 30- Office is closed for Memorial Day  
May 31- Yarn Ministry's 5th Sunday out to Panera's 6:00PM

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

Please see <http://fumcrestview.com/calendar-1> for any updates or changes

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## *Looking Ahead to June*

June 3- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM  
June 5- Pentecost Sunday, Kid's Promotion Sunday  
June 12- Missions 5:00PM Rm 212  
June 13- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
June 14- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213  
June 17- Sr Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH  
June 19- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm  
June 20-24 VBS WEEK!!! July Newsletter Deadline  
June 26- VBS Sunday 9:45 The Well service in the CRC / 8:30AM & 11:00AM services as normal  
June 28- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213  
June 29- No Kid's Street or Youth Activities

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

Please see <http://fumcrestview.com/calendar-1> for any updates or changes

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### **Flowers of Spring Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for the wonderful season of spring.  
During this sweet time,  
I ask You for a fresh beginning in each of our hearts.  
Please allow each of us, as Christians,  
to bloom in Your word, just as the flowers are blooming.  
Help us to be witnesses  
whenever there is an opportunity,  
and followers of Your word every day.  
Let our petals continuously grow  
and our leaves steadily extend,  
as we work to gather more and more seedlings  
for Your harvest.  
In Your precious name, I pray.  
Amen.

-Natalie Regoli

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### **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

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### **First United Methodist Office Schedule**

*Mon - Thurs / 9:00AM- 4:00PM*  
*Staff Meetings / Mondays 9:30-11:30AM*  
*Lunch / 12:00-1:00PM*  
*May Office Closure / Memorial Day, Monday, May 30*

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**First United Methodist Church Contacts**

**Staff**

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Music, Traditional / Kevin Lusk  
Organist / Leon Curenton  
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wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

**Ministry Addresses**

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Women's Service Group / Eileen Kurtz wsgcrestview@mail.com  
Soup Kitchen / Eileen Kurtz soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com

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**First United Methodist Church**

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