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## ***FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK***

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### **Prayer**

In the book of Revelation, a work filled with symbolic language, we find a powerful image in chapter 8.

In chapters 5 through 8, there is a scroll sealed with seven seals which only Jesus is worthy to open. A seal is broken and then something happens- some action or event.

In chapter 8, the last seal is broken and the action takes place in Heaven. At first there is silence, and then we have symbolism which comes from Temple worship. A messenger of God is given a “censer” which is a kind of scoop or bowl. Incense is placed in the censer along with fire (hot coals) from the altar of God. This of course makes smoke. The messenger then hurls the smoking, burning censer at the earth. The result is that the earth is shaken.

And here’s the point of this image and the heart of the symbolism: we’re told one extra ingredient is mixed with the incense- the prayers of the people of God. The fire is from God, the prayers are from the people. And mixed together, the world is shaken. No wonder the early Christians were so convinced that prayer is the privilege and obligation of the Church, but also that prayer makes a difference!

There are many opportunities to live out our calling to pray.

Pray **Individually**. At home, at work, while driving. Be a person of prayer. Our church office sends out a prayer list every week by email. If you’re not getting it, please let the church office know.

Pray in **Groups**. Join your voice with others in calling to the One who sits on the throne.

Every Wednesday morning at 9 AM, there are two groups who meet for prayer. Women meet in the prayer room just down the carpet from the main office. Men meet in the Conference Room down the uncarpeted hall of the office wing.

And there are still other groups, classes and meetings where prayer happens.

There are also city gatherings. An ecumenical prayer group with people from churches all across the Crestview area meets to pray. They are called the **Crestview Prayer Network**. We advertise their meetings in our bulletin. Currently they meet at lunch at a restaurant on the first Wednesday of the month.

The first Thursday in May (May 2) has been set aside as the **National Day of Prayer**. There will be a city-wide prayer event on that day where pastors from around Crestview will lift up prayers. This year it will be held at the gazebo near the Courthouse in downtown Crestview at 6 PM. You may wish to bring your own seating.

Furthermore, as we’ve done for the last few years, our **Main Sanctuary** will be open for prayer on the National Day of Prayer. This is a come-and-go time for people to pray. Stations will be set up around the Sanctuary providing prompts for prayer. Start at the altar and then moved around the Sanctuary. The Main Sanctuary will be open from 9:30 AM until 3 PM.

Mayor Whitten invites our citizens to a the **Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast** on May 30 from 7:30 – 9 AM (doors open at 7). People have graciously donated to make the event possible. Because seating is limited, reservations are required by calling 850-682-3812. Special guest speaker will be Clint Purvis, the Florida State University Team Chaplain.

### **AEC Conference**

The Alabama Emerald Coast Annual Conference will hold its annual meeting on May 5-7 at Crosspoint Church in Niceville. Pastor Ronnie and Margaret Larson will be representing you. Pray for the Conference and for the delegates we will elect to attend the first world gathering of the Global Methodist Church in San Jose, Costa Rica in September.

So, I encourage you to find ways to partner with God Almighty and each other to shake the world.

### **Exploring Membership Class**



The next class for those who are interested in learning more about the First Methodist Church and what it means to be a full member will be held on Sunday, May 19 at 3 pm. This is a class led by the pastor and lasts 60-90 minutes. If you are interested in learning more about our church, check the box on your Grace Note and sign up for the class.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Meals With Jesus  
Wednesdays, May 1, 8, 15, & 22  
6:00-7:30



Kids are invited to join us for dinner as we learn about the people Jesus shared meals with.

Children (preschool- 5th grade) may be dropped off on Kids Street at 6:00 p.m. We will have dinner, a devotion, make a craft, and play games.

(Nursery and dinner will be provided for children under the age of 4 if parents are participating in church programming.)

**We have a new Wednesday night program on Kid's St. in May.**

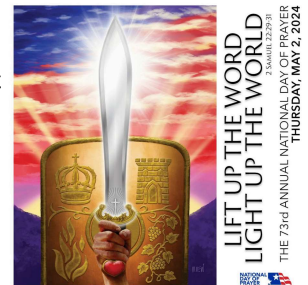
**WE'RE SO EXCITED!**

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### **National Day of Prayer**

Our Main Sanctuary will be open to our community from 9:30AM-3:00PM on **Thursday, May 2** for National Day of Prayer. All are welcome to walk the prayer stations around the Main Sanctuary or to sit in meditation. Please join us as we lift up our country and each other in prayer.

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance." -Psalm 33:12*



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### **Annual Conference**

Pastor Ronnie and Margaret Larson will be representing us at Annual Conference on Monday & Tuesday, **May 6 & 7** at Crosspoint Methodist in Niceville.



**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH

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### **CommUNITY Dinner**

Our Soup Kitchen Soup-ers will be cooking up a Memorial Day inspired CommUNITY Dinner on **Wednesday, May 15** that will include include smoked chicken, baked beans and potato salad. Hotdogs for the kids are also on the menu! A donation box will be set out to help cover the cost of the meal.

All proceeds will go towards our Soup Kitchen Ministry and their purchase of a new freezer. Please bring a desert to share if you are able. Youth, Kids St. and Chancel Choir will meet at usual. Dinner will begin being served at 5:30PM, the Church Council will begin at 6:30PM.



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### [Pentecost Sunday](#)

Pentecost Sunday is on **May 19!**  
We're asking everyone to wear red on this very special Sunday when we honor the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us, our constant friend and the third person in the Trinity.



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### [Church Office Closure](#)

Our church office will be closed on **Monday, May 27** in observance of Memorial Day.



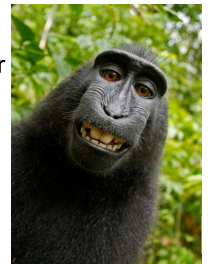
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## **MINISTRY UPDATES**

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### [Wesleyan Child Care Center](#)

Our VPK classes embarked on a delightful journey to the local zoo, where nature's wonders unfolded before their innocent eyes. Amidst the vibrant tapestry of creation, they marveled at God's diverse creatures, each a testament to His boundless creativity. From the majestic lions to the playful monkeys, every encounter sparked awe and wonder, reminding us of the beauty and intricacy of God's handiwork. As they giggled with delight and asked curious questions, their hearts were filled with gratitude for the precious gift of life bestowed upon them. Through this enriching experience, they not only learned about the marvels of the animal kingdom but also embraced the profound truth of God's love manifested in all living things.  
-Osa Bell, WCCC Director



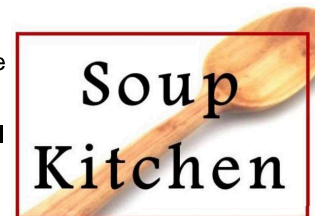
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### [Soup Kitchen](#)

Spring is here and Summer is right around the corner! First Methodist Church Crestview Soupers have prepared hot homemade nutritious meals for those who are hungry each week, for the last 17 years! We are so so grateful for your continued support so we may help our community both young and old who are hungry and need our help. 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, every week. Wish to be a volunteer, contact Deb Lubas 401-742-4898. Wish to donate, please contact the church office.

We also ask that you come out to support the **COMMUNITY DINNER** Soup Kitchen hosted meal 15 May 2024. The dinner theme is Memorial Day Picnic. The proceeds will go to the Soup Kitchen fund to feed the hungry. Desserts are also welcome.

Respectfully, Deb Lubas / First Methodist Soup Kitchen Coordinator  
Cell: 401-742-4898 / Email: [greenhalghdj@cox.net](mailto:greenhalghdj@cox.net)



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### [Yarn Ministry](#)

We are so thankful to Mike & Marianne Peyton and the Gentiva Foundation for their donation to our Yarn Ministry. Many shawls and blankets were lovingly made & donated to Emerald Coast Hospice, of which Mike is a chaplain. What a wonderful honor to be chosen as the recipient for this extraordinary gift! We are praying for ways to use it to further our reach for the Kingdom and encourage our members. Thank you! Yarnies will meet on Tuesdays, **May 14 & 28** 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*



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### **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, May 1** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown. Come pray for your hometown!



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## **CALENDARS**

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### **May Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists**

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

##### Greeters

May 5- Alesha & Robert Dabbs

May 12- Melanie & Gary Zick

May 19- Cynthia & John Leitschuck

May 26- Maryrose & Lowell Scott

##### Ushers

May- Mike Roy & Walt Harkness

#### **Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM**

Greeters & Ushers: Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1. Allen Bell 2. Aimee Keller 3. Nell Sutherland 4. Jody Woodward

#### **Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM**

##### Greeters and Side Aisle Ushers

May 5- Steve and Kathy Fowler

May 12- Eddie and Jayne Hager

May 19- Tom and Edie Giovanini

May 26- Glenda McMasters and Jamie Davis

##### Ushers

May 5- Tom Giovanini and Tom Saunders

May 12- Dax Reeves and Burt Colt

May 19- Eddie Hager and Steve Fowler

May 26- Dax Reeves and Rollin Anderson

##### Office Door Greeter

May 5- Connie Stapp

May 12- Gary Johnson

May 19- Margaret Larson

May 26- Corolla Anderson

##### Lock Doors and Turn Out Lights

May 5- Tom Giovanini

May 12- Eddie Hager

May 19- Margaret Larson

May 26- Dax Reeves

##### Liturgists

May 5- Scott Sallberg

May 12- Thomas Raiche

May 19- Paul Adams

May 26- Sara Fordyce

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## **Important Dates In May**

May 1- 'Meals with Jesus' begins tonight on Kids St! See above promotion for more info, Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza  
May 2- National Day of Prayer / Sanctuary Open 9:30AM-3:30PM  
May 3- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Asbury Rm/CRC  
May 5- Youth Committee 12:15PM Youth Rm, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212  
May 5 thru 7- Annual Conference at Crosspoint Methodist in Niceville  
May 12- Sr. Recognition Sunday, Mothers Day  
May 13- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
May 14- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
May 15- CommUNITY Dinner hosted by FMC Youth  
May 19- Pentecost Sunday- **WEAR RED!**, Children's Committee 12:15PM Kids St.  
May 20- May Newsletter Deadline  
May 26- Happy Birthday Pastor Ronnie!  
May 27- Memorial Day- Church Office Closed  
May 28- 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](http://firstcrestview.com) calendar for any updates or changes

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## **Looking Ahead To June**

June 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza  
June 7- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Asbury Rm/CRC  
June 10- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
June 11- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm, Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
June 18- Missions 6:30PM Rm 213  
June 24- May Newsletter Deadline  
June 25- 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](http://firstcrestview.com) calendar for any updates or changes

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## **A MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

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### ***Prayer for this Mother's day for all those who we 'mother'.***

"Dear God, we bring before you all those who we mother.  
For our children, God-children, nieces and nephews, and others.  
For all those who look up to us, who learn from us, who rely on us.  
We place all of these precious lives into your hands.  
You knitted them together in their mothers wombs.  
May they be held by you, protected by you,  
blessed by you, loved by you.  
We pray that they will grow in faith and in love,  
that they will seek after peace and justice,  
that they will become wise and kind.  
Amen."

*'Do everything in love.' 1 Corinthians 16:14*

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## **FIRST METHODIST CHURCH INFO**

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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 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 Monday, May 27,  
in observance of Memorial Day.**

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### **First Methodist Staff Contacts**

#### Staff:

Pastor - Pastor Ronnie Bearden  
[dronbearden@hotmail.com](mailto:dronbearden@hotmail.com)  
Church Administrator - Angie Arnold  
[firstcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:firstcrestview@gmail.com)  
Church Secretary - Cathrin Owens  
[office.firstcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:office.firstcrestview@gmail.com)  
Children's Ministry-  
[kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com),  
Family Discipleship-  
[fmsmallgroups@gmail.com](mailto:fmsmallgroups@gmail.com)  
Youth Ministry - Paul Adams  
[firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com](mailto:firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com)  
Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward  
[fmfacilities599@gmail.com](mailto:fmfacilities599@gmail.com)  
Custodian - Jody Waddell  
[fmcustodian@gmail.com](mailto:fmcustodian@gmail.com)  
Music, Contemporary - Calli McGraw  
[calli.mcgraw@gmail.com](mailto:calli.mcgraw@gmail.com)  
Music, Traditional - Kevin Lusk  
Organist - Leon Curenton  
Wesleyan Child Care Center - Osa Bell / Director  
[wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com)

#### Ministry Addresses:

Soup Kitchen- Deb Lubas, [fmsoupkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:fmsoupkitchen@gmail.com)  
Women's Service Group- [wsgcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:wsgcrestview@gmail.com)  
8th Avenue Men- Jody Woodward  
[8thavemethodistmen@gmail.com](mailto:8thavemethodistmen@gmail.com)

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### **First Methodist Church**

599 Eighth Ave, Crestview, FL 32536, 850-682-8994

*For all the latest from FMC please visit:*

Website & calendar: [firstcrestview.com](http://firstcrestview.com)

App store: FirstCrestview

