



THE CONNECTION
November 2023
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I am so thankful. My heart is overflowing.

Years ago, I was speaking to a fellow train collector in Pennsylvania. We were talking about trains, but then he said, “Ronnie, my daughter married a pastor. I had no idea what the life of a preacher was like until then.” And he’s right. It’s an unusual and challenging calling.

And I love it. Melanie and I have been in full-time ministry for 36 years. We love people, we love our churches and we love the ministry.



But there are challenges- especially as pastoral care impacts family life. As I look back on my career, I would roughly estimate that 25-40% of all my vacations were cut short, and on rare occasion canceled, because of a death or a major surgery of a church member. Any pastor who does not have an associate pastor (which is the vast majority) has a similar experience.

For me, this is not a complaint. Because I love people and have a deep commitment to my parishioners, I want to be with them in these tough times if there is no one else to help. This was especially a challenge when I had children at home because, while I was a loving and involved father in their lives, they also knew that if it there was a planned family event and someone with cancer was rushed to surgery- I was going to be with the parishioner.

I write all of this for you, not for you to feel sorry, but in order for you to understand how thankful I am here at First Methodist. With about 400 members (and even more when counting constituents), the pastoral care needs of a church our size is large. At any given moment, someone could be having surgery, be in ICU or there could be a death.

And once in a while, there is a strange “perfect storm” of timing. My first year here, I was in Atlanta moving my mother-in-law when we had a death. It was

impossible for me to hop in a car and come home. Many of the staff were also gone and those who were here did a great job coping with the crisis of the funeral with the pastor away.

Melanie and I have a new grand-baby due in the coming months and will be flying up for the delivery- but I am comforted by the fact that pastoral care issues can now be met when I'm away.

I'm so thankful that a few years ago God led Tom and Edie Giovanini back to our church. Tom is a Stephen's Minister. This provides training in pastoral care situations. Tom and Edie work together help me to look after our shut-ins. They call, visit, and have taken communion to them. They have also helped me when I had two surgeries to attend in different hospitals on the same day and could not be in two places at once.

Edie heads up our Bereavement Team and leads a wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers who graciously provide meals after a funeral. Tom and Edie are a great blessing to our church.

I am also thankful for two pastors who are a part of the life of our church who will also be able to assist with pastoral care. For example, if I'm out of town, each of these could conduct a funeral and provide care for a family. You may also see them visiting for a surgery.

Many of you already know Reverend Dr. Mike Peyton. He and his wife Marianne began attending our church in 2022 and joined when we became a Global Methodist Church. Mike is ordained and a retired Navy chaplain. After military service he worked as a Hospice chaplain and pastored churches in Florida. For a long time, he was commuting all the way to Miramar Beach working for hospice, but recently he joined the team of Emerald Coast Hospice here in Crestview.

Mike teaches a Sunday School class in the Asbury Room at the Crossroads Center at 9:45. He then finishes class and rushes to the choir room to join the choir at the 11 o'clock service. He has already preached for me when I was away, so I hope you have gotten to meet him.

More recently, we have welcomed Reverend Kathy McKinley and her husband Mac (Mac is one of our recent new members). They moved to Crestview in 1984 when Mac was stationed at Eglin. Some time later, Kathy felt called into the ministry and served as a United Methodist pastor for 22 years serving churches in Alabama. Kathy retired from the UMC this June and then joined the Global Methodist Church. She was ordained an Elder in the GMC at the first meeting of the new Alabama Emerald Coast Conference and we are excited to have her here.

You are already getting to know Kathy because she is also helping as liturgist on some Sundays, and on those days, I look out and see her greeting people before and after the service.

Being a retired pastor, Kathy has graciously agree to help me with surgeries on Fridays on a rotating basis. Having a true day off is a challenge for a pastor because (as I sometimes lightheartedly say) physicians don't consult the

pastor's schedule when doing surgeries. So Kathy and I have set up alternating Fridays when one of us will be on call for someone having surgery (and other times as needed). This is such a big help to me.

So, I am very grateful for the loving help these people have offered. It's a blessing to both me and the congregation. I am also so grateful for such a wonderful staff. I hope you know, almost any of the office staff would be able to talk and pray with someone who came up to the church during the week.

One last thing. Words cannot express the gratitude Melanie and I feel from Pastor Appreciation month in October. Your gifts, cards, meals, and expressions of love have been tremendous. Melanie and I truly know that we are loved at this church. You are such a blessing.

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness."

Pastor Ronnie

Our FMC Care Team

What a blessing to have
Kathy, Mike, and
Tom & Edie on board
as our Care Team.
We thank them for their servant hearts!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daylight Savings Time

A happy reminder to
set your clocks back one hour
before you go to bed on **Sat, November 4!**



CommUNITY Dinner

Our next CommUNITY Dinner will be held on **Wed, November 8** at the crossroads Center. Serving begins at 5:30PM. Our Children & Youth will begin as usual, 6:00PM. Church Council begins at 6:30PM. Our gracious hosts are the 8th Ave Methodist Men. The menu is chicken casserole, veggies and roll. Please bring a dessert to share if you are able. All proceeds will go towards our Benevolence Ministry Christmas Program.



Angel Tree Ornaments

We invite everyone to donate an ornament (unbreakable) to hang on our Angel Tree in the Cafe Area of The Crossroads Center beginning on Nov 8 at our CommUNITY Dinner **through Dec 24**. What a wonderful way to greet all who enter The CRC, with the good news of Jesus' birth!

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." -Luke 2:13-14



Benevolence Ministry Christmas Program

Our ANGEL TREE will be covered with angels in need of love at our **Wed, November 8** CommUNITY Dinner! Angels are members who are shut-in's and in retirement homes and children in need within our church. Swing by our table on your way in to dinner and we will help register your chosen angel. Thank you for participating in our annual Christmas ministry!



Winter Book Fair & Small Group Sign Up

We will be signing folks up at our Winter Study Groups table at our CommUNITY Dinner night, on **Wed, November 8**, debuting new studies coming out in the New Year. Peruse our offerings and sign up, we're saving you a seat!



Bake Sale

Looking for something delicious? Come to the Women's Group Bake Sale on **Sun, November 12** from 8:00AM-12:30PM in the CRC!



Christmas Cards for Prisoners

We are currently collecting stamps and Christmas cards with no glitter for our Christmas card ministry. Signing party will be held on **Fri, November 17** from 10:00AM-12:00PM in Rm 212. Please drop off donations to the church office.



Poinsettia Orders

We will be collecting orders for poinsettias in honor or in memory of a loved one! You can place an order from **Nov 26 - Dec 10** by completing a poinsettia envelope order form to include your payment. Envelopes will be placed at the entrance to each service. You will also be able to download an order form from the website at firstcrestview.com and return it to the church office.

A special Christmas day bulletin insert will list all who purchased a poinsettia and who is being honored/remembered.

Poinsettias will be ready to pick up after any of the Christmas Eve worship services, which will be held at 10:30AM, 6:00PM and 11:00PM in the Main Sanctuary on Dec 24.

Poinsettias will be \$15 each and all proceeds will go to Pastor Kris in Poland to help with the completion of his new church.



FMC Christmas Event Schedule

Family Gingerbread House Decorating

Sat, Dec 19 at 9:45AM at the CRC. Join us for a morning of gingerbread, snacks & Christmas fun!

8th Ave Methodist Men's Christmas Party

8th Avenue Methodist Men are back with their annual Christmas party!

*Date: December 11

*Time: 6:00PM until 7:30(ish) Doors open at 5:30PM

*Ticket Price: \$15 each

*Tickets are on sale Oct 15- Dec 3.

See any of our Methodist Men to get your ticket or pick up tickets at the church office during normal business hours.

*Meal: turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables and dessert

*Your evening will include: Music, good food, great friends, a year in review and awards. Come enjoy a great evening with your favorite men's group, 8th Ave. Methodist men!

*Childcare will be available for ages 3 yrs to 8. Please call the church office to reserve.

*We are partnering with the Benevolence Ministry and are asking everyone to please bring a pantry item to the dinner with your ticket.

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata & Preaching Service

Sun, Dec 17 / Cantata 8:30AM & 11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary (no sermon). Preaching Service with Pastor Ronnie will be held at 9:45AM in the CRC.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Candlelight & Holy Communion Service

Sun, Dec 24 at 10:30AM, 6:00PM & 11:00PM in the Main Sanctuary.

10:30AM & 6:00PM services will be FB Livestreamed.

*Our 6:00PM & 11:00PM Christmas Eve services are family friendly, therefore nursery & Kids Street programs will be unavailable.



White Christmas / Embrace Florida Kids

Our Christmas Eve offering will go toward Embrace Florida Kids 'White Christmas' campaign which provides homes, healing, and hope for vulnerable children & families.

Christmas Holiday Office Closure

December 21- Jan 1. We will reopen for the New Year on Jan 2, 2024

UMCOR Mission Trip Scheduled

Have you ever thought you would love to go on a mission trip but leaving the good ole U.S.A. was not an option? Then the UMCOR Sager Brown mission trip may just be the ticket for you!

Our 2024 UMCOR Sager Brown mission team is forming now.

Located in Baldwin, Louisiana on the beautiful Bayou Teche, the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot is where teams of volunteers from all over the US come together to prepare relief supplies in response to disasters in the U.S. Opportunities to work on projects out in the local community and there on campus are available as well.

For info on our trip scheduled for **October 6-11, 2024**, contact Pam Hight 850-758-8201 or pjhight51@gmail.com and make sure to stop by the UMCOR table at the Mission Fair!



MINISTRY UPDATES

Wesleyan Child Care Center

October was a busy and fun month for the Wesleyan Child Care Center.

Both the Crestview Police and Crestview Fire Departments visited our school to talk to our students about safety.

We also took our very first field trip of the school year. All our VPK classes, 91 students, 9 teachers and approximately 150 parents, all visited the

Holland Farm Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch in Milton. Everyone had a wonderful time watching our students pick out pumpkins, ride the train, go on a hayride, walk through the corn maze and experience all the other fun activities that the farm provides. What a special treat for everyone to experience.

Every Fall we do a school fundraiser to raise money for playground equipment! This year we chose Kringle Candle Fundraising. All our staff, parents, and families raised a total of \$2,714.05 in profit from our candle and candy sales and private donations! We were able to purchase new outdoor play equipment for our front playground with our earnings. Our school looks extra inviting now and aesthetically pleasing for new students and old alike. We are blessed to have such an amazing staff and school families that participated in this annual



event. Thank you all for making this possible, most importantly the KIDS LOVE IT!

Fall is definitely a fun time of year around our school!

-Osa Bell, WCCC Director

Children's Ministry

Parents' Night Out

Friday, November 17, 2023—6:00-9:00



Wear your most comfortable pajamas and join us for a night of fun with pizza, games, crafts, and a movie.

Ages 6 months – 5th grade

\$10.00 per child — Space is limited.

Signup within the church app (firstcrestview)

or from the website at

www.firstcrestview.com



Youth Ministry

It is so hard to believe that we only have two months left in 2023! What a year it has been for our youth so far! We are excited for more memories and projects before the year comes to and end.

In September, our youth served the soup kitchen and served for our Church's Community Dinner! We had a great turn out at both events and it was a pleasure to get to serve our church and the community of Crestview.

Thank you so much to all who came out in support that night and donated to the youth program. That money will go a long way in providing trips, food, and equipment for the youth.

Also, we have finally finished the book of Exodus! Now, we just started Acts and will likely be in Acts until March of 2024. Then we will begin our studies in the Book of Revelation! There has already been lots of good discussion between the youth in the few weeks that we have started our study in Acts.

We have two more big events this year: Friendsgiving (which is our annual thanksgiving celebration.) We are asking each of the youth to bring in food items so we can have a thanksgiving type meal in the youth room.

And our Christmas celebration: which, this year, we are trying something new!

The youth had an awesome idea to be a part of the Christmas parade downtown! We are going to put together a float and give out candy to the families on Main Street! Until then, we will be accepting any kind of candy



donations. Please bring donations of candy to the youth room or front office. This candy will be given out by our youth during the Christmas parade on Saturday, December 2nd.

We still have a lot of exciting things to look forward to before the year ends! 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

First Methodist Church Soup Kitchen volunteers, as you may be aware, have served homecooked meals for the hungry every Saturday for over 15 years. With the Holidays at our doorstep, for the Thanksgiving weekend you are welcome to join us serve meals that Saturday (25 Nov 2023) to the homeless and hungry.

If you wish to volunteer, contact Deb Lubas at 401-742-4898.

-Deb Lubas, FMC Soup Kitchen Coordinator



Yarn Ministry

We are currently ramping up our hat & scarf efforts to prepare for the cooler weather coming! Please join us if you're interested in this fun ministry! Yarnies will meet on Tuesdays, **November 14 & 23** 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, November 1**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!

CALENDARS

November Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

Nov 5- Mike & Betsy Roy

Nov 12- Kit Callahan

Nov 19- Melanie & Gary Zick

Nov 26- Alesha & Robert Dabbs

Ushers:

November: Mike Roy, Walt Harkness

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. Jody Woodward 5. Dan Taylor

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters

November 5- Glenda McMasters and Jamie Davis

November 12- Steve and Kathy Fowler

November 19- Tom and Edie Giovanini

November 26- Eddie and Jayne Hager

Office Door Greeter

November 5- Connie Stapp

November 12- Gary Johnson

November 19- Gary Johnson

November 26- Connie Stapp

Ushers

November 5- Rollin Anderson and Tom Giovanini

November 12- Dax Reeves and Eddie Hager

November 19- Rollin Anderson and Tom Giovanini

November 26- Dax Reeves and Burt Colt

Side Aisle Ushers

November 5- Glenda McMasters and Jamie Davis

November 12- Steve and Kathy Fowler

November 19- Tom and Edie Giovanini

November 26- Eddie and Jayne Hager

Choir Usher- Jim Hight

Lock Doors

November 5- Tom Giovanini

November 12- Rollin Anderson

November 19- Eddie Hager

November 26- Dax Reeves

Please call Rollin or Corolla Anderson if you need to change anything.
Home phone 850-306-1103 or cell phone- 570-854-5058

Liturgists:

Nov 5- Kathy McKinley

Nov 12-

Nov 19- Paul Adams

Nov 26-

Important Dates in November

Nov 1- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Nov 3- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Asbury Rm/Crc
Nov 5- Daylight Savings Day, All Saints Sunday, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM R 212
Nov 8- Benevolence Christmas Kick-Off CommUNITY Dinner & Church Council, Winter Book Fair & Small Group Sign-up, Angel Tree will be up!
Nov 9- Office closed in observance of Veterans Day
Nov 12- Women's Service Group Bake Sale, Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Children's Committee 12:15PM on Kid's St.
Nov 13- December Newsletter Deadline, 8th St Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Nov 14- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213, Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm
Nov 15- Youth Friendsgiving 5:30-7:30PM Youth Rm
Nov 17- Christmas Cards for Prisoners - 10:00AM Rm 212, Pizza & Pajamas / Parents Night Out 6-9:00PM on Kids St
Nov 19- Long Range Planning 4:00PM Asbury Rm
Nov 21- Missions 6:30PM Rm 213
Nov 23- Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 26- Poinsettia orders begin, Gift Droff Off in CRC for Benevolence Ministry Christmas Program
Nov 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 for any updates or changes

Looking Ahead to December

Dec 1- Women's Service Group 10-12:00PM Asbury Rm/CRC
Dec 3- Gift Drop Off in CRC for Benevolence Ministry Christmas Program
Dec 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, Youth Christmas Party 5:00-8:00PM in the Youth RM
Dec 9- Kid's St Gingerbread Event 9:45AM-11:00AM Wesley Hall
Dec 11- 8th Ave Methodist Men Christmas Party 6:00PM CRC (see above article for more info)
Dec 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM
Dec 17- Cantata 8:30AM & 11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary, Preaching Service with Pastor Ronnie at 9:45AM in the CRC
Dec 21- Church office closed for Christmas holiday
Dec 24- 10:30AM combined service in Main Sanctuary, 6:00PM & 11:00PM services in the Main Sanctuary.
Dec 31- Usual 3 worship services.
Jan 2, 2024- Church offices reopens.

**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



Thanksgiving

For all true words that have been spoken,
For all brave deeds that have been done,
For every loaf in kindness broken,
For every race in valor run,
For martyr lips which have not failed
To give God praise and smile to rest,
For knightly souls which have not quailed
At stubborn strife or lonesome quest;
Lord unto whom we stand in thrall
We give Thee thanks for all, for all.

For each fair field where golden stubble
Hath followed wealth of waving grain;
For every passing wind of trouble
Which bends Thy grass that lifts again;
For gold in mine that men must seek,
For work which bows the sullen knee;
For strength, swift sent to aid the weak,
For love by which we climb to Thee;
Thy freemen, Lord, yet each Thy thrall,
We give Thee praise for all, for all.

– Margaret Sangster

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-
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



*Copyright © *|2023|* *|First Methodist of Crestview|*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

First Methodist of Crestview, 599 8th Ave, Crestview, FL 32536

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list