



THE CONNECTION
October 2023
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

MISSIONS

Our Missions Fair recently prompted a few questions and I wanted to address them. These questions are connected to the ongoing issues in the United Methodist Church and our continued possible connection, since we are now a Global Methodist Church.

The brief current answer to all of these questions is the same: Yes, if we want to. Things may change in the future, but for now: Yes.



Q: Will we continue to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and even go to Baldwin Louisiana for a mission trip to the Sager-Brown warehouse next year.

True, we have separated from the UMC, and there were good reasons to do so. But UMCOR is one of the best parts of the UMC. They provide important disaster relief to hurting people affected by hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc. Their overhead is paid by the apportionments of UMC churches, so gifts to a disaster go toward that disaster.

I plan to attend the mission trip to Sager-Brown next year and we would love to have a full team. We will be organizing and preparing disaster supplies which will assist someone in the future. I hope you will consider joining us so that we have a full team.

Of course, we will want to also support the disaster ministries of our own Alabama Emerald Coast Conference of the Global Methodist Church. They have already responded to the recent hurricane. There will be opportunities in the coming weeks to travel east to hurricane effected areas to do clean up and place tarps on roofs. We did this ministry with the devastation of Hurricane Michael in the Panama City area, and since I have been pastor here, we have

worked in Milton next door and traveled to south Louisiana to assist. If you would be interested in doing hurricane relief, please speak to me and/or Scott Sallberg, our Missions Chairperson.

Q: Will we continue to support Blue Lake Campgrounds in Andalusia since they are UMC? What about the UMC Children's Home?

Actually, as I understand it, Blue Lake Campgrounds are no longer specifically owned by the Alabama West Florida Conference of the UMC. They have become a separate corporation in a similar fashion to what used to be called the United Methodist Children's Home (now called Embrace Florida Kids).

The UM Children's Home has separated their identity as exclusively from the UMC and desires to be connected to other denominations and people. Are they connected to the UMC? Yes. But they are currently actively seeking to be connected to and supported by Global Methodist Churches as well.

Embrace Florida Kids has been undergoing a transformation for decades now. Many of you will remember that it began as an orphanage in Selma. As society changed, their mission changed as well. They have expanded their ministry to support families in crisis, unwed teen parents and young adults, and many other ministries. And by the way, they are currently using the house we own on McLaughlin Street for administrative work.

And yes, we will collect our historic White Christmas Offering for Embrace Florida Kids on Christmas Eve.

Does Blue Lake service the UMC? Sure. But they offer facilities to many others. For example, when I was with the youth last year doing clean-up work at Blue Lake, there were campers from a Baptist Church who were having a retreat.

Such facilities would be available to us if we would like. Furthermore, many of our Emmaus groups still use Blue Lake for their ministry.

Q: Will we continue to support Pastor Kris in Poland since he is UMC?

We can, if we desire- and I suggest we continue to do so at present. Let me explain.

First, the overall liberalism of the United States is not equally found around the world. In the UMC, areas outside the USA are called the Central Conferences. The Central Conferences are (on the whole) much more conservative and Biblically sound. And while I have not personally had a conversation on these matters with Pastor Kris, I do know that generally among nations in that part of the world, Poland is a more conservative country.

Second, the procedures for Disaffiliation were ruled to be different for the Central Conferences- meaning the UMC Judicial Council ruled that paragraph 2553 used for Disaffiliation in the USA did not apply to the Central Conferences.

Thus, while Disaffiliation is winding down in the USA (there are only a few weeks left for USA churches to finish the work), it is only just getting started in the Central Conferences. Theological divisions are happening right now and are growing. Some UMC Central Conferences did not technically "disaffiliate"- they just left the UMC. Bulgaria and Estonia have left. Many have left in the

Philippines. The larger battle now is in Africa which has a huge Methodist presence. Some of the African Bishops and those in high leadership are progressive- but the vast majority of pastors and laity are not. Some are starting to break away.

For example, the Democratic Republic of Congo Methodist churches are breaking away and joining the Global Methodist Church. Our Conference is partnering with them and you will be hearing more about that partnership in the future.

So, this is a rather long answer to say: When it comes to Pastor Kris, we need to be patient and to wait and see what happens. It is too soon to make any judgments about the future. The next UMC General Conference is in a few months (May 2024) and we will see what legislation is passed- and how the Central Conferences react. For now, I will continue to support Pastor Kris and the great work he is doing in Poland, and I encourage our church to join me in that support.

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

Pastor Ronnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Pastor Ronnie,

Thank you for being such a great example of living a life of faith. You're a blessing to our church. Thanks for all the ways you make a difference in our church and community. Thanks for all you do to make our church the encouraging and faith-building place it is!

OCTOBER is Pastor Appreciation Month!

There will be a basket at each service through October for cards and gifts for our pastor. Our staff has a prayer calendar for you to take home on Sun, Oct 1, to make sure that Pastor Ronnie is covered in prayer every day. Calendars are available online at firstcrestview.com, in the church office and at the entrance to each worship service.



From The Bottom Of Our Hearts

Thank you to my sponsor, church family and friends for all you did to

make my Blue Lake Walk to Emmaus #277 amazing.

Thank you for the continuous Prayers, cards and letters of encouragement. They all meant so much to me.

The weekend was FULL of wonderful Christian speakers, delicious meals/snacks and many spiritual experiences. The whole group became sisters and friends.

I was blessed to be part of the Blue Lake Walk to Emmaus #277.

Thank you,

-Corolla Anderson, Blue Lake Walk to Emmaus #277 Table of Sarah



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for joining us Sunday, August 27 for our Anniversary Celebration! Our hearts are truly touched by the outpouring of love we felt.

-Mike & Sharon Steen

Missions Fair & Prayer Shawl Winner

We wrapped up our Missions Fair at our Sept CommUNITY Dinner complete with a drawing for a prayer shawl donated by our Yarn Ministry. Congrats to Jim Keller for the big win!!!

Hopefully you had some time to peruse all the tables in the foyer and found a group that God is leading you to here at FMC. Ministry opportunities are all around us - we're saving you a seat!

If you'd like more info on any of our missions here please visit firstcrestview.com, pick up a newsletter or white trifold at worship service entrances, read your Sunday bulletin, and check back with our FB page often. 1 Chronicles 16:24-25 "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."



Kid's Street Fall Festival

Our Fall Festival will take place on Wed, **Oct 25** at 6:00PM on Kid's St! Age appropriate costumes are encouraged, but please no scary ones. Snacks will be provided. Bring your candy tote for treats as we will parade around the campus stopping at Small Groups, Chancel Choir practice and Youth Rm.



Daily Bread Devotionals

Both regular & large print Daily Bread devotionals are out and can be picked up at the entrance to each worship service.

As always, these devotionals are free of charge, but donations are greatly appreciated. You can use the envelope insert to send Daily Bread your donation which assists their ministry- just make sure you mention Crvw First Methodist in your correspondence!



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, **Nov 17** from 10:00AM-12:00PM in Rm 212. Please drop off donations to the church office.



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

Youth Ministry

Fall is here! It is so hard to believe how fast 2023 has flown by. So far, it has been a wonderful year for our youth, filled with Fellowship and studying the Word of God each time we meet. I am so proud of our youth and their interest in the Bible. It is a blessing to watch young people have legitimate discourse about God's Word. By the middle of this month, we will have finally finished the book of Exodus and moved on to Acts in the New Testament. I know many of our youth are excited to start a new book of the Bible, as am I!



At the end of this month, Wednesday, October 25th, we have our annual Harvest Festival. That will be a time of fellowship where the youth will play games and have the option to dress up in a church appropriate costume of their choice. There will be lots of candy and plenty of fun and games! We are hoping for a big turn-out that night.

Last month, we hosted the September community dinner by serving tacos to the church. Thank you to all who helped make that event a success!! The youth had a wonderful time serving and our church really stepped up with donations this year and gave us enough to completely cover the cost of the meal plus more for future trips and equipment. Thank you so much to all who donated and came out that night in support of our youth!

Lastly, our youth will have the opportunity to attend Cooking, Baking and Sewing classes at no expense through a program that helps youth learn important skills that are no longer being taught in school. Our first meet will be for a cooking class on Saturday, October 28th at 1pm (after soup kitchen) in Fellowship Hall. Deb and Steve Lubis will be hosting these classes. Any interested youth: please reach to Paul Adams to sign up and reserve a spot in the class. Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here in no time. Until then, let's enjoy the weather cooling off and the beautiful Fall nights. If you have any questions or comments about the youth program, please reach out at firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com.

-Paul Adams

Adult Small Groups

As coordinator of Adult Bible Study I am looking for SS leaders at 9.30AM & 11:00AM and Wednesday evening leaders too.

If you feel lead to do this please text me at 850-217-6960 or email bluelakemaggie@gmail.com.

I am hoping to offer at least one new study at 11.00 on Sunday and one more on Wednesday!

-Margaret Larson



Soup Kitchen

Did you know our Soup Kitchen does not serve soup? We serve our nutritious homemade meals consisting of meat, vegetables, and carbohydrates with additional donations of bread and sweets from local artisans. Every Saturday, 52 weeks in the year, even on the holidays. These are delicious meals like your Mama makes.

Over the past year, food costs have spiked over 11%. Do you know that research shows that food insecurity is linked with costly chronic diseases and unfavorable outcomes. (Food Research & Action Center)

HELP US Make a difference by making your donation or by volunteering. Your HELP can SAVE LIVES. Donations – contact the church's front office. Volunteering – contact our Soup Kitchen Coordinator Deb at 401-742-4898.



[Yarn Ministry](#)

Our Yarn Blessing was wonderful! What a great way to clear the shelves and head out the door with our donations. Osa Bell, Wesleyan Child Care Center Director has already picked up blankets for her students to use at nap time.



Our next Yarn Drops will be to Fisher House on Eglin AFB & Emerald Coast Hospice. We will also be sharing our blankets with our Kid's St nursery. Of course, we always save some items for those in need. If you'd like to join the group heading to Eglin, date TBD, let me or Pam know! Also BIG THANKS to Pam Hight and all who have helped organize Yarnia, to Jody Waddell who cleaned our carpet so beautifully, and to Jim Hight who put our new shelves together! The place is shaping up and is looking great! Yarnies will meet on Tuesdays, **October 10 & 24** at 6:00PM in Rm 213 (Yarnia)! We will not meet on the 5th Tues of Oct since it is Halloween.

-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, October 4**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!

CALENDARS

[August Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists](#)

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

October 1- Alesha & Robert Dabbs
October 8- Melanie & Gary Zick
October 15- John & Cynthia Leitschuck
October 22- Lowell & Maryrose Scott
October 29- Debbie Watson

Ushers:

October- David Bloom and Jacob Dabbs

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

October 1- Eddie and Jayne Hager
October 8- Tom and Edie Giovanini
October 15- Judy Beard and Glenda McMasters
October 22- Steve and Kathy Fowler
October 29- Rollin and Corolla Anderson

Office door greeters

October 1- Gary Johnson
October 8- Connie Stapp
October 15- Gary Johnson
October 22- Connie Stapp
October 29- Gary Johnson

Ushers

October 1- Tom Giovanini and Rollin Anderson
October 8- Dax Reeves and David Ordonez
October 15- Burt Colt and Eddie Hager
October 22- Dax Reeves and Tom Saunders
October 29- David Ordonez and Eddie Hager

Side Aisle Ushers

October 1- Eddie and Jayne Hager
October 8- Tom and Edie Giovanini
October 15- Judy Beard and Glenda McMasters
October 22- Steve and Kathy Fowler
October 29- Rollin and Corolla Anderson

Lock doors

October 1- Tom Giovanini
October 8- Rollin Anderson
October 15- Burt Colt
October 22- Margaret Larson
October 29- Eddie Hager

Choir usher- Jim Hight

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

Liturgists:

October 1- Mike Steen
October 8- Kathy McKinley
October 15- Paul Adams
October 22- Scott Sallberg

October 29- TBD

Important Dates in October

Oct- Pastor Appreciation Month!

Oct 4- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza

Oct 6- Women's Service Group 10-12:00PM Asbury Rm/CRC

Oct 9- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH

Oct 10- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

Oct 14- Citywide Men's Breakfast 9:00AM Warrior Hall, CRVW

Oct 23- Nov Newsletter Deadline

Oct 24- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM in Rm 213

Oct 25- Kid's St Harvest Fest 6:00PM Kid's St

**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

Looking Ahead to 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- Acolyte Training, 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

Nov 19- Long Range Planning 4:00PM Asbury Rm

Nov 21- Missions 6:30PM Rm 213

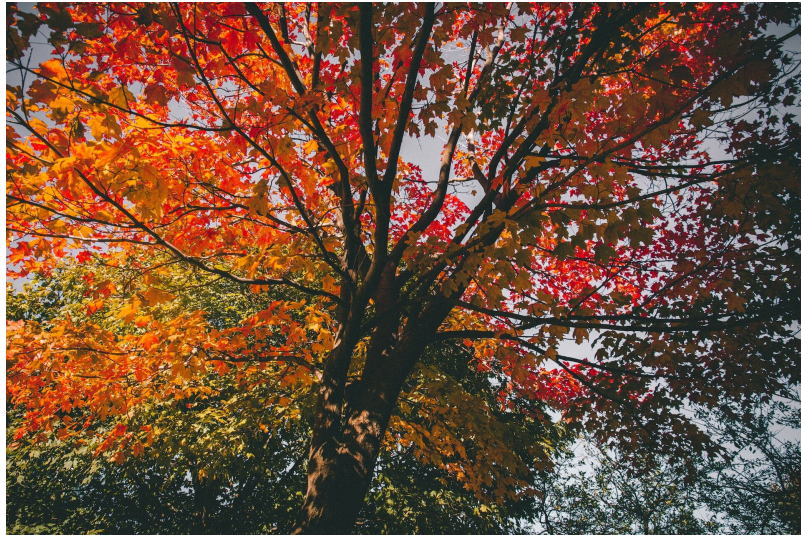
Nov 23- Office Closed for Thanksgiving

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

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION



Autumn

"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming.
See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop,
patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.
You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."
-James 5:7-8

God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn.
We thank you
for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy,
for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist,
for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches,
for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls,
for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children,
for the fall harvest which that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land,
for this change of seasons that reveals the circle of life.
God of all seasons, as you transform the earth, transform us by your
Spirit.

Amen

- Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

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
mfacilities599@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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