



THE CONNECTION
September 2023
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A Calling and a New Day

September will mark the inaugural meeting of the new Alabama Emerald Coast Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Words cannot express how I'm looking forward to this new day. There will be something like 35 people ordained in our new Conference.

Which got me to thinking. This month, I'd like to share something personal.



The year was 1982. In August of that year, I was about to begin my last year of college studying Chemistry.

On July 28, Christian singer, Keith Green, died in a plane crash.

It's rather hard to explain, but I will try. This death hit me hard. I was a fan of Keith's ministry and he had a profound impact upon my life. In the year or two before his death, he sang and preached a lot about being completely sold out to Jesus- especially to reach others for the Kingdom. And now he was dead. That August, I was grieving.... but it was more than that.

A searching and restlessness began to grow inside of me. It was in those weeks that I began to ask myself if I could be content studying chemistry for the rest of my life. I did love it, but the growing answer was, No. I began to feel a Call from God to surrender myself to the ministry full-time, whether mission work, or pastor, or something else.

By early November (so I had been wrestling with this for 3 months), I was convinced this is what God wanted for me. I spoke with my pastor because I needed his recommendation for an intensive 6 week Christian training camp. He said he could recommend me, but if I was serious about what God was doing, then I might consider going to seminary for more in-depth training (3

years instead of 6 weeks). He didn't pressure me. He just asked me to pray about it.

And I did. I sought the face of God, and through a series of amazing events, it became clear that Asbury Seminary is where God wanted me.

Now, I had been preaching a little bit here and there for a few years. I also taught Bible studies and helped at my church. And when I would preach, the older ladies of my church would tell me afterward- "You'll make a fine pastor." And I always answered, "I'm not going to be a pastor. I'm studying chemistry!"

The Sunday night in November, 1982, I told my congregation that God was calling me into the ministry, they all said in essence, "Praise the Lord- but we've know for years."

It just took me a bit longer to figure it out.

That was almost exactly 41 years ago. And I want to say what an honor and privilege it is for me to be in my fifth year of being your pastor.

I love my church.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking For Praise Band Members

We are looking for talented musicians & vocalists who would like to join the FMC Praise Band in leading worship on Sunday mornings at our 9:45AM 'The Well' contemporary service in the Crossroads Center (CRC). If you are interested, please speak with Calli McGraw after the service or leave your information on the sign up sheet in the CRC lobby.



Office Closure

Our church office will be closed on Mon, Sept 4 in observation of Labor Day.



One Blood

The Big Red Bus will be on campus on Sun, Sept 10 from 8:00AM-1:00PM on the side CRC parking lot, 8th Ave & Texas Pkwy. Kick off our Missions Fair week by donating blood and being a blessing to our community in need!



Mission Fair

Our annual Mission Fair is scheduled for Sun, Sept 10 & Wed, Sept 13 (CommUNITY Dinner night). Swing on by the to view displays at the CRC on Sunday morning and again on Wed evening. One Blood's Big Red Bus will be here on Sunday- another great way to give to our community!



Yarn Ministry will will celebrate Missions with a Yarn Blessing on Sunday and will have an item that will be raffled off at CommUNITY Dinner. It's amazing how much we have going on here at First Methodist! FMC Groups: Don't miss out! Sign up for a table by contacting Pam Hight or the office.

CommUNITY Dinner

Our Youth will be hosting CommUNITY Dinner on Wed, Sept 13 with all proceeds going to our Youth Ministry Program. On the menu: **TACOS!** Please bring a dessert to share if you are able. Dinner will be served at 5:30PM at the Crossroads Center. Youth and Kid's St programs will begin at 6:00PM. Choir & Church Council begin at 6:30PM.



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

Wesleyan Child Care Center

Wesleyan has once again started a busy school year! The kids are very excited to have Chapel weekly. We started at "The Beginning" and introduced Genesis 1:1. We learned about Creation and how God is soooo BIG! The children LOOOVE singing praise songs and dancing their wiggles out.

-Osa Bell / WCCC Director



Youth Ministry

To start off this update for FMC Youth, I would like to briefly share about our time at Camp Baldwin. We left the church at the end of last month and stayed for 3 nights in Elberta, Alabama. Upon arrive we were warmly greeted and shown around their beautiful campus. There was never a dull moment! We were busy doing activities from start to finish. Throughout the week, we studied the Psalms together and broke out into small groups to have meaningful discussions about the writings of King David and how they relate to our personal lives today.



The youth grew closer together over this trip and I hope and pray they grew closer to Christ as well. We had an amazing time and I am thankful for the staff at Camp Baldwin! We are planning on going again next year!

This past month was the last month for our graduating seniors. We said goodbye to seven young adults who are now headed off to college and/or starting the next chapter of their lives. Please keep them especially in your prayers. School has started up this past month, which means we are getting back into the swing of things! Please remember that later this month, on September 13th, we are hosting the Community Dinner for the church. We will be serving Tacos with Rice and/or Beans, so youth: please be ready to help as early as you can that day for food preparation and setting up. Church, we ask that you come out that night to support our youth and have a nice meal! At the end of September, (Saturday, September 30th) from 9am-12pm we will be working the soup kitchen. Please come out that morning to get community service hours and more importantly to help the less fortunate in our community. Lastly, on Wednesday nights we have continued to read through Exodus. We should be done by mid-October, where we will then begin our study in the Book of Acts. I am really looking forward to that one!! As always, thank you to all who make this program possible via volunteering, praying, or financial support. We love and appreciate you!

If you have any questions or suggestions for the youth program at this church, please reach out to me, Paul Adams at firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

-Paul Adams

Adult Small Groups

I am the new Adult small group coordinator. We have 3 Sunday School classes at 9:45AM. I am hoping to have at least one at 11:00AM. If you have any ideas for one let me know. If you are willing to be the leader or know someone that would be good as a leader please get in contact with me. The 3 classes on

Wednesdays are going well. I am planning to have more classes available in January but I need your input on what you would like to study.

-Margaret Larson 850-217-6960
bluelakemaggie@gmail.com



Yarn Ministry

Our shelves are crammed and we are prepping for a YARN BLESSING! That's when we lay our offerings on the altar to be blessed. We pray over each item as they are made, we pray over them at our meetings when they are given for donation and then we pray over them at a Yarn Blessing. We give God the glory always and in all ways!

Yarnies will meet on Tuesdays, **Sep 12 & 26** at 6:00PM in Rm 213 (Yarnia)! We will help kick-off Mission Fair week with a Yarn Blessing in all three services on Sunday, Sept 10 followed by an item to be raffled off at the COMMUNITY Dinner.



-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, Sept 6**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!

CALENDARS

August Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

Sept 3- Deb Watson

Sept 10- Lowell & Maryrose Scott

Sept 17- Mike & Betsy Roy
Sept 24- Kit Callahan

Ushers:

September- Robert & Alesha 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:

Sept 3- Eddie and Jayne Hager
Sept 10- Steve and Kathy Fowler
Sept 17- Bobbie Burton and Edie Giovanini
Sept 24- Rollin and Corolla Anderson

Office Door Greeter:

Sept 3- Connie Stapp
Sept 10- Margaret Larson
Sept 17- Connie Stapp
Sept 24- Connie Stapp

Ushers:

Sept 3- Rollin Anderson and Tom Giovanini
Sept 10- Tom Saunders and Dave Ordonez
Sept 17- Eddie Hager and Burt Colt
Sept 24- Dax Reeves and Tom Giovanini

Side Ushers:

Sept 3- Eddie and Jayne Hager
Sept 10- Steve and Kathy Fowler
Sept 17- Bobbie Burton and Edie Giovanini
Sept 24- Rollin Anderson and Julie Fields

Lock Doors:

Sept 3- Rollin Anderson
Sept 10- Margaret Larson
Sept 17- Burt Colt
Sept 24- Tom Giovanini

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:

Sept 3- Mike Steen
Sept 10- Kathy Mckinley
Sept 17- Paul Adams
Sept 24- Scott Sallberg

Important Dates in September

Sept 4- Office closed in observance of Labor Day
Sept 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Sept 8- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Asbury Rm/Crc

Sept 10- One Blood 8:00AM-12:00PM, FMC Mission Fair CRC, Yarn Blessing, Youth 12:15PM Conf Rm, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM 212
Sept 11- 8th St Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Sept 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Sept 13- CommUNITY Dinner & Mission Fair Night CRC
Sept 17- Children's Committee 12:15 Kid's St
Sept 18- October Newsletter Deadline
Sept 19- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm, Missions Rm 6:30PM 213
Sept 24- Long Range Planning 4:00PM Asbury Rm
Sept 26- 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 October

Oct 4- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Oct 6- Women's Service Group 10-12:00PM Asbury Rm/CRC
Oct 8- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm
Oct 9- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Oct 10- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Oct 23- Nov Newsletter Deadline
Oct 24- 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



REWARDS

"Look! I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to repay each person according to what he has done." - Revelation 22:12

In the athletic world, motivation is an often-overlooked ingredient to winning. Games have been won by teams with less ability but with more motivation to go all-out. There is nothing more upsetting than to know you

should have won a game, yet you didn't give it your all. Had you done so, the final score could have been different.

Why is this so upsetting? Because effort is something we all control, whether we give it all or just show up, happy to be there. The best motivation is always to play each game as if it were our last. Just as in life, we as athletes and coaches are not guaranteed another game tomorrow.

The truth in life is that our Head Coach is coming soon, and we are not guaranteed tomorrow. Another fact remains, as Scripture reveals, is that when He comes, He will bring a reward. Will He be bringing something for you? As Christians, we have motivation to live life with urgency; yet, so many teammates live with an apathetic approach to life. They enjoy a nice sermon on Sunday morning, eat lunch with the family, and then go back to doing whatever they want for the remaining 6.5 days in the week.

Today, set yourself apart and commit to FINISHING strong. Many begin the race of life focused on doing much for God. The ones who finish strong, however, are few and far between.

"Father, I want my life to count for something. Help me to be busy doing Your work until You send Your Son, or until You call me home."

-Ben Johnson

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
Office Closure Monday, Sept 4

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-
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Youth Ministry - Paul Adams
firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com
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Custodian - Jody Waddell
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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](#)

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For all the latest from FMC please visit:
Website & calendar: firstcrestview.com
App store: FirstCrestview



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