



***THE  
CONNECTION***  
**July 2025  
Newsletter**

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

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**Camp Meeting Song Requests**

This year we did something different. The congregation made requests in writing.

Not only did this make our worship flow smoother, but the end result is that we received more requests this year than before. This also allowed Kevin to better plan the music.

Thank you!



**Exploring Membership**

Our next Exploring Membership Class will be Sunday, **July 20** at 3 pm in the Crossroads Center, Asbury Room. This meeting is for anyone wishing to learn more about what it means to be a full member of the church.

I had several people who could not attend the June meeting, so if you want to be a part of this one, indicate your desire on your Gracenote and mark the date!

**Video Tech Team Training**

Our previous June training had to be rescheduled (sorry if that inconvenienced anyone).

The next video training will be on Sunday, **July 27** at 3 pm in the main sanctuary balcony. Please make a notation on your Gracenote if you would like to be a part of this next training.

We can also train people in doing audio at a later date.

**Heritage in Stained Glass Coming Soon!**

As I write this, the Trustee Committee will be finalizing the first auction of stained glass pieces. The first of several auctions will be at the July Community Dinner.

Friends, I want to tell you.... The Trustees are going to have a hard time choosing which pieces will be available for July. There are so many choices! We have over 50 pieces already.

Bob McCrory, along with some help from Alesha Dabbs, has been hard at work creating all kinds of stained glass pieces. Every time he brings in a new load of his work, I'm amazed. He has created a few pieces that are stock (meaning they are isolated portions of the stained glass with no changes). However, most of the works are new creations. He is often dissecting a stained glass panel which has broken pieces in it and re-organizing the pieces into new and smaller arrangements. Some of his works include cutting the pieces to new sizes or

shapes. In so doing, lots of tiny shards or fragments are produced. Rather than waste these, he is even making use of the shards trapping them in creative (and safe) ways using epoxy shapes!

Pictured here are just two of the latest pieces.



So listen out for more details to come in the next few days.

The exact details of procedures and photos of the specific July pieces will be advertised soon. The July auction will be sort of a test to see how things go and if any modifications need to be made in procedures. Remember, with so many pieces being available, this process will unfold gradually over time, so if you do not obtain anything in July, more auctions will be coming.

All of the proceeds from this project will go to the Missions Committee for the projects our church supports.

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

*-Pastor Ronnie*

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## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **Office Closure July 3**

Our Office will be closed on Thursday, **July 3**, in observation of Independence Day, July 4.

***Happy Birthday America!***



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### **CommUNITY Dinner**

Our next CommUNITY Dinner will be held on Wed, July 16 at 5:30PM in the Crossroads Center. Our Youth will be hosting with all proceeds going to our youth program. Menu will be a taco bar! Please bring a dessert to share if you are able. We will also be advertising

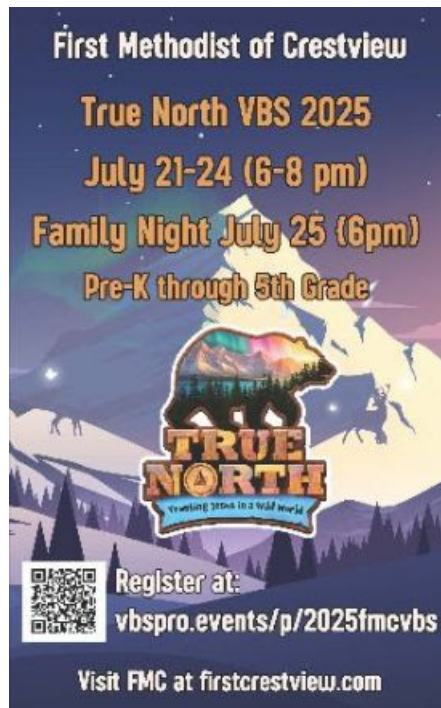


our **Fall Small Groups**- peruse our books and sign up!

Pick up info on **Operation Christmas Child** & a shoebox- it's our FMC Summer Missions Project!

Children & Youth will meet at 6:00PM. Church Council will meet at 6:30PM, directly after dinner.

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**VBS 2025- WE'RE EXCITED!**

See Children's Ministry post below for more info!

**DECORATING PARTY on July 20**, after church.

Please join us for pizza and help us transform the Crossroads Center to an Alaskan Wilderness Adventure!

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**Summer Project 2025: Operation Christmas Child**

Pick up your shoebox & info on

Wed, **July 16** at CommUNITY Dinner!

Bring back your filled shoebox on Wed, **Sept 17** at the next CommUNITY Dinner & Mission Fair!

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**Financial Education Seminar**

The FMC Finance Committee is hosting a multi-session financial education series!

**WHEN:** Tuesday, **August 5**, 2025 at 5:30PM  
**WHERE:** Crossroads Center/Wesley Hall  
**WHAT:** Session 1 of Living a Generous Life: Faith & Finances

Guest Speakers: Terri Turner, Executive Dir. of The Methodist Foundation; Angie Woodward, CPA; Sara Fordyce, Financial Advisor

\*Nursery Provided!

\*Dinner will be catered from Pounders Hawaiian Grill!

\*RSVP at [firstcrestview.com/events](https://firstcrestview.com/events) no later than Monday, July 28 so we can be properly prepared for food and nursery staffing.



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## MINISTRY UPDATES

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### Generosity Matters / Finance Committee

Hi there, sending you thoughts of cool breezes to help carry us through this hot Florida summer! My name is Sara Fordyce, and I volunteer as the Chairperson for our Finance Committee.

For our July edition of Generosity Matters (the little financial corner of the First Methodist Crestview monthly newsletter), I'd like to focus on 3 things (if you haven't already figured me out, I like a good list!):

**1. GRATITUDE:** I believe that positioning our heart from a place of gratitude can do a very good job of changing our attitude! So, before you read any further, I'm challenging you to think of 3 things you are thankful for today...go ahead...I will wait...See, don't you feel better?! Now, I want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to each of you who are already faithfully sharing your treasures (money/moola/dollars, etc) with our church, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

If you have not yet begun the spiritual practice of making regular monetary gifts of tithes and offerings, please prayerfully consider starting. No matter the size of your giving, God loves a cheerful giver and has a magnificent way of multiplying anything we give!

**2. IMPACT IDEAS:** Have you considered ways you can reduce spending and increase your saving (and possibly your giving this month)? Here are a few ideas for ways you can make a financial difference for your household and for our church. \*CHANGE FOR CHANGE: Collect all the coin change your household generates over June and July (let the kiddos decorate a Kleenex box or cereal box to involve them and make it fun), then, donate the change you collect on the first Sunday in August as a designated gift towards our debt reduction. We are committed to getting the church out of debt and believe this could be a small way to get everyone involved. \*Bump your AC up one or two degrees during the heat of the day to reduce energy costs. \*Take time on a Saturday to do a meal plan for the week, and then take an intentional list to the grocery store to cut down on impulse buys...studies show that grocery shopping from a meal plan list will reduce what you spend at the grocery store.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENT:** The Finance Committee is hosting a multi-session series that will be open to everyone. Session 1 of **"Living a Generous Life: Faith & Finances"** will be held in the Crossroads Center on Tuesday, **August 5**, 2025 at 5:30pm. A light dinner will be provided and nursery will be offered. Several guest speakers will share helpful information about faith and finances. Please mark your calendar (8/5/25 @ 5:30pm-CRC) and plan to attend...we can't wait to see you there!

If you have any questions regarding setting up online giving or are looking for



more financial insights, please contact the church office and they will direct your inquiry accordingly.

Blessings to you!

-Sara Fordyce / Chairperson for our Finance Committee

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### Children's Ministry

**Vacation Bible School** will be held **July 21-24, from 6:00-8:00, with family night on July 25, at 6:00.**

True North VBS will guide kids on an Alaskan adventure, pointing them toward Jesus - our True North. We will have evenings full of faith, discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that will lead kids into the wonder of a friendship with Jesus.

It is not too late for kids to sign up to attend or for adults and youth to sign up to help. You can sign up on the church website or by using the QR code found on signs and flyers throughout the church.

**Decorating Party** on **July 20**, after church. Please join us for pizza and help us transform the Crossroads Center to an Alaskan Wilderness Adventure. We hope to see you there!

Please reach out to Vicky Anchor ( [kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com) ) or Angie Woodward if you would like to join our amazing team of volunteers.

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### Youth Ministry

Greetings, Church!

Here is an update on all things Youth at FMC:



-We had a wonderful time at Camp Baldwin, and enjoyed a variety of activities; all the way from going through Challenge Courses in the woods to sharing precious memories by a warm fire, the youth bonded with one another throughout the weekend all while, most importantly, growing deeper in their relationship with Jesus.

-This month, the youth will host the **Community Dinner**, and they will be serving tacos! Be sure to come out and support us as we will be accepting donations for the youth program that night. The youth will be cooking, serving, and cleaning-up after the meal on Wednesday, **July 21** in Wesley Hall.

-**Fireside** at the Arnold's will be on the last Saturday in August: **August 30**, following our volunteering at the **Soup Kitchen** that morning from 9am-12pm. We will all eat together after soup kitchen, and then enjoy a special evening of fellowship at the Arnold's home until around 6pm.

We look forward to all of these opportunities to serve, and had an amazing time at Camp Baldwin this past month.

Thank you to all who have helped FMC youth financially, including through our Youth Yard Sale earlier this year.

We also thank all who have faithfully uplifted us with your prayers; and we ask for special prayers for our seniors who are graduating out of the program and headed to their next chapter in life!

If you have any questions or suggestions for FMC youth, as always, please reach out to me!

In Christ,

-Paul Adams, FMC Youth Director / [firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com](mailto:firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com)

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## Missions

We are busy gearing up for our **Summer Project: Operation Christmas Child!** Operation Christmas Child is a mission that our church participated in for years. This is a program (sponsored by Samaritan's Purse) where boys and girls from all over the world are given a shoebox filled with items from toothbrushes to soccer balls along with "The Greatest Gift" Gospel story book in their language. This is the start of making new disciples for Jesus Christ in countries that may have never heard of Him. What an impact a shoebox has on the world!



This is the perfect summer project! No hustle and bustle of the fall/holiday season. A project well worth the little bit of time and money spent to bring smiles and Jesus to the young. This would be a great group, Sunday School Class or family project. We pray you will be part of this summer project so we can send many boxes to the headquarters in NC.

We will supply the info & the shoeboxes on CommUNITY Dinner night, Wed, Aug 16. Please fill them and bring them back on Sept 17, 2025 at our following CommUNITY Dinner night. For more information contact Marianne Peyton at 850-982-2324 or Pam Hight 850-758-8201. You can also visit the website at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ> for more info and Samaritan's Purse history & operation.

Our **Missions Fair** this year begins on **Sun, Sept 14** & will wrap up on **Wed, Sept 17** (on CommUNITY Dinner night).

Bless you and have a joyful, fun summer!  
-Pam Hight, FMC Mission Chair

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## Soup Kitchen Ministry

THANK ALL OF YOU for your continued support coming out to the Soup Kitchen Spring-Time CommUNITY Dinner! on 24 May 2025. It was such a blessing to have a great turnout for our smoked pulled pork, homemade Brunswick stew, macaroni/cheese, and our famous carrot salad. It is so rewarding when we all come together while sharing in God's blessings and help feed the community. ALL the leftovers from the Soup Kitchen Community Meal went to feed the homeless and needy that following Soup Kitchen Saturday. One way our First Methodist of Crestview SOUPers celebrate giving thanks is through our continued dedication to create homecooked, nutritious meals, serving our community homeless and needy. Our community needs have been growing along with the number of needy families. Our delicious meals are comprised of meat, vegetables, bread, and desserts. All our food is provided by your monetary and community donations.



• Want to join us volunteering for the First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission? We invite you to contact Deb at [greenhalghdj@cox.net](mailto:greenhalghdj@cox.net) or text 401-742-4898.

• Want to donate to First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission? Contact

the office at 850-682-2018, or notate grace notes/checks with 'Soup Kitchen'.

• Please continue to Follow on Facebook @FirstCrestview or our website FirstCrestview.com

Respectfully,

-Deb Lubas, First Methodist of Crestview SOUP Kitchen Coordinator

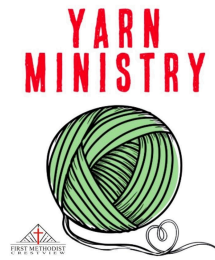
Matthew 25:35- 'I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'

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## Yarn Ministry

While we are in the throes of the heat of Summer- Lord help us- the Yarnies have been tasked to stitch up scarves for our FMC Christmas Children's Pageant AND hats for our Soup Kitchen Ministry AND blankets for our Wesleyan Child Care Center. We also squeeze in donation for Crestview

Pregnancy Center and our local hospice organization. It is a JOY to be involved in so many very worthy ministries! If you are looking for a fun group to hang out with & learn from, and also play with yarn, JOIN US on **July 8 & 22** at 6:00PM in Rm. 213 aka Yarnia. And because July has 5 Tuesdays, we will meet at Panera's at **July 29** at 6:00PM- bring your project! We're looking forward to connecting & reaching out to others to further God's kingdom through loads of yarn and love.



-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**

Learn what is going on in the Crestview Christian community!

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 **July 2** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.  
Come pray for your hometown!



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## **CALENDARS**

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### **August Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists**

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

##### **Greeters**

July 6- Kit Callahan  
July 13- John & Cynthia Leitschuck  
July 20- Debbie Watson  
July 27 Lowell & Maryrose Scott

##### **Ushers**

Dabbs Family

**Liturgists (In Sunday order):** 1 & 3- Alesha Dabbs 2 & 4- Bob McCrory

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

**Greeters & Ushers:** Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

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

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

##### **Greeters & Side Aisles**

7/6. Steve and Kathy Fowler  
7/13. Eddie and Jayne Hager  
7/20. Ed and Joanne Guzowski  
7/27. Edie and Tom Giovanini

##### **Ushers**

7/6. Ed Guzowski and Tom Giovanini  
7/13. Burt Colt and Dax Reeves  
7/20. Tom Saunders and Tom Giovanini  
7/27. Burt Colt and Dax Reeves

##### **Office Door**

7/6. Gary Johnson  
7/13. Glenda McMasters

7/20. Gary Johnson  
7/27. Glenda McMasters

*Lights and Lock Doors*

7/6. Burt Colt and Dax Reeves  
7/13. Burt Colt and Eddie Hager  
7/20. Eddie Hager and Dax Reeves  
7/27. Burt Colt and Dax Reeves

*Liturgists (In Sunday order):* 1.Thomas Raiche 2.Margaret Larson 3. Paul Adams 4. Sara Fordyce 5. Mike Steen

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*Important Dates in July*

July 2- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza  
July 3- Office closed in observance of Independence Day  
July 4- HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!  
July 8- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
July 13- Youth 12:00PM in the Conf Rm  
Children 12:15PM on Kids St  
Trustees 3:00PM in the FH  
Finance 5:00PM in Rm 213  
July 14- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
July 16- CommUNITY Dinner 5:30 PM CRC,  
Sign up for Fall Small Groups,  
Pick up your Operation Christmas Child shoebox,  
Church Council 6:30PM CRC  
July 19- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC  
July 20- Exploring Membership Class 3:00PM CRC  
July 21- August Newsletter Deadline  
July 20- VBS Decorating Party 12:00PM CRC  
July 21-24 VBS 2025 6-8:00PM  
July 22- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
July 25- VBS Family Night 6-8:00PM  
July 27- Video Training 3:00PM Main Sanctuary  
July 29- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Panera's

*\*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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*Important Dates In August*

Aug 3- Long range Planning 3:00PM CRC  
Aug 5- Financial Seminar 5:30-7:30PM CRC  
Aug 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza  
Aug 10- Blessing of the Backpacks  
Aug 11- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
Aug 12- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm  
Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
Aug 13- Small Groups Begin, Chancel Choir Rehearsal Dinner  
Aug 16- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC  
Aug 19- Mission Committee 6:30PM Rm 213  
Aug 25- September Newsletter Deadline  
Aug 26- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
Aug 30- Youth Fireside & Fellowship & Pool Party 1-5:30PM Tilted Bell Farm

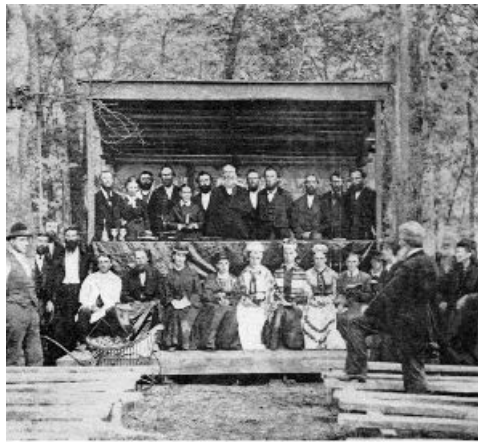
*\*FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room*  
Please see [firstcrestview.com](http://firstcrestview.com) calendar for any updates or changes

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***A MOMENT OF REFLECTION***

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1875 Camp Meeting at Eagle Lake, MN  
Ellen White, James White and Uriah Smith  
at the center of the stage

## Camp Meeting Month

A Methodist camp meeting is a type of outdoor religious revival meeting that was particularly popular during the Second Great Awakening in the 19th century, especially on the American frontier. These gatherings involved intense preaching, communal prayer, and emotional worship, attracting large crowds who camped on-site. While originating with other denominations, camp meetings became strongly associated with Methodism.

A typical camp meeting lasted 8-10 days, sometimes longer. Families would pitch a tent on the grounds and attend preaching, Bible studies, and class meetings throughout the day, and sometimes long into the night.

In the spirit of those long ago Camp Meetings, we honor our Methodist history by singing requested tunes out of our Cokesbury Hymnal during June & July.

The Cokesbury Hymnal, primarily used in rural Methodist churches, is known for its collection of classic American gospel hymns and its focus on promoting moral living. Published initially in 1938, it gained popularity, especially in the South, and remains a cherished hymnal in some congregations.

Happy Camp Meeting month, FMC family!

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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 11:30-12:30PM

Office Closure Independence Day / July 3

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### **First Methodist Staff Contacts**

#### Staff:

Pastor - Pastor Ronnie Bearden, [drronbearden@hotmail.com](mailto:drronbearden@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 - Rikki Ordinario  
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 Methodist Men- David Ordoñez  
[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



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