



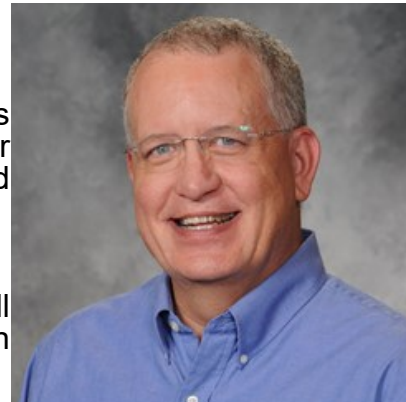
THE
CONNECTION
August 2025
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Small Groups

In just a few weeks, a new round of small groups will start and I highly encourage each one in our church to take this opportunity to get connected and grow deeper. There's something for everyone.

This season we have five groups forming which all meet in the Crossroads Center. Groups begin August 13 and run through about Thanksgiving.



One group will meet on Tuesday mornings, 10 AM, for those who don't drive in the evenings. Eddie Hagar will lead a study of the Life of the Apostle Paul using a video curriculum in the Asbury Room of the Crossroads Center.

The other four classes meet on Wednesday evenings, 6 PM, child care is provided on Kid's Street.

Susan Hill leads a study called: Life Lessons from Ezra and Nehemiah by Max Lucado, in room 402.

Sara Fordyce and Nell Sutherland lead a group for women which will study understanding the God of the Trinity in room 404.

Jody Woodward is leading a class for young adults in which they will study Jesus in the Old Testament, room 403.

And I will once again be leading God's Word and Me in the Asbury Room. This is the same course I have previously taught. My sincere desire is that every person in our church would go through this course to better understand the Bible itself and how we can better use it in our lives. If you have already

taken this course, you may do so again.

If you are reading this by email, simply click on the link below to go to the Small Groups page on our website.

<https://firstcrestview.com/events/wednesday-night-small-groups/2025-08-13>

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

-Pastor Ronnie

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Bottom of My Heart

Big THANKS to our volunteers and to all who donated supplies for VBS 2025! We had such a great time taking on God's great adventure. Over 85 children participated and grew closer to their heavenly Father. Always for His glory! *-Vicky Anchor*



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 no later than Monday, July 28 so we can be properly prepared for food and nursery staffing.

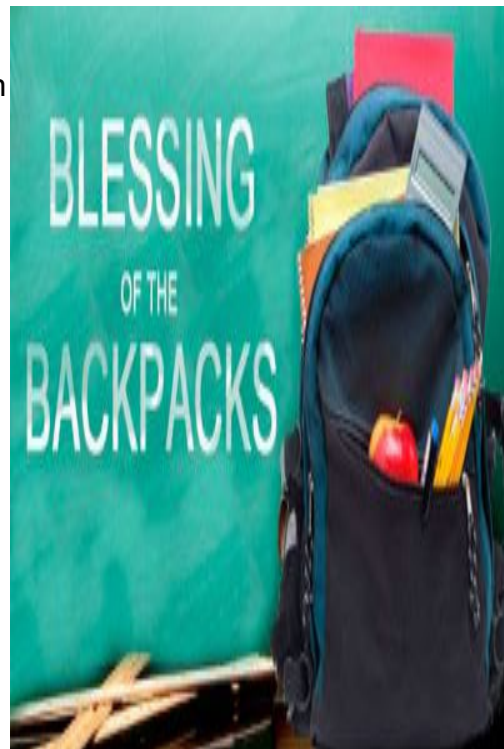
Back to School Bash on Kids St

Join us for our kids back to school bash on Wed, **Aug 6** from 6-7:30PM on Kids St! We will have water play outside so wear your swimsuit under your clothes and bring a towel. We will have games & snacks LOADS of fun!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Blessing of the Backpacks will take place on Sun, **Aug 10** in all worship services! Any and all school faculty and students are welcome to bring their backpack, lunch or tote to the altar and be blessed.



Chancel Choir is Back!

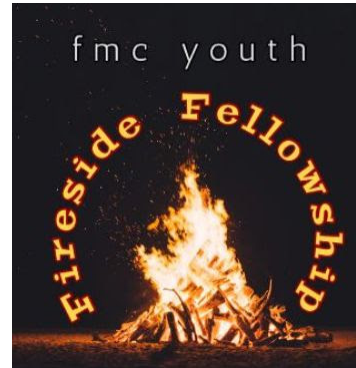
It's time to rev up for another year of Chancel Choir! Rehearsal Dinner will be at Leon Curenton's home on Wed, **Aug 13** at 6:00PM. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

This is the perfect time to join the choir- we'd love to have you!



Fireside Swim & Fellowship

The youth will be ending the summer with a fellowship and pool party at the Tilted Bell Farm on Sat, **Aug 30**. We'll enjoy swimming, games, fellowship with friends, s'mores and hotdogs/hamburgers. Bring your swimsuit & a towel.



Fall Small Groups

FMC Small Groups Fall Schedule
Please join us- we're saving you a seat!

***Tuesday Morning's** at 10am: August 12 to November 4

In the Footsteps of Paul, led by Eddie Hager, CRC / Asbury Rm

***Wednesday Nights** at 6pm: August 13 to November 5

God's Word and Me: Growing in the Bible, led by Pastor Ronnie Bearden, CRC / Asbury Rm.

Life Lessons from Ezra & Nehemiah by Max Lucado led by Susan Hill, CRC / Rm 402

Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament led by Jody Woodward (This is a class for young adults ages 18 to 28 years old.) CRC / Rm 403.

He's Where the Joy Is, led by Sara Fordyce & Nell Sutherland (This is a class for women only.) CRC / Rm 404.

Sign up at: firstcrestview.com/ministries/adults, notate your grace note, call the office at 850-682-2018, or email firstcrestview.com.





Summer Project 2025: Operation Christmas Child

Pick up your shoebox & info in the CRC Lobby or the church office.

Bring back your filled shoebox on Wed, **Sept 17** at

the next CommUNITY Dinner & Mission Fair!

(More shoeboxes have been ordered!

We'll announce when they can be picked up.)

MINISTRY UPDATES

Generosity Matters / Finance Committee

Hi there, sending you thoughts of cool breezes to help carry us through this hot Florida summer and into Back to School season!

My name is Sara Fordyce, and I volunteer as the Chairperson for our Finance Committee.

For our August edition of Generosity Matters (the little financial corner of the First Methodist Crestview monthly newsletter), I'd like to share a few reminders about exciting things happening early in the month of August:

IMPORTANT REMINDER #1: The Finance Committee is hosting a multi-session financial education 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 (Pounders Hawaiian Grill) and nursery will be offered.

Guest Speakers, Terri Turner (Executive Director of the Methodist Foundation



since 1991), Sara Fordyce (Financial Advisor since 2002) and Angie Woodward (CPA since 1998) will be sharing insights about faith and finances.

If you are planning to come, please let the church office know so we can be sure to have enough food and nursery workers.

IMPORTANT REMINDER #2: CHANGE FOR CHANGE: It's not too late to participate in our churchwide endeavor to make a change in our debt balances. We currently have 2 outstanding loan balances. Our disaffiliation loan balance is just under \$88,000 and our Crossroads Center mortgage is just under \$228,000.

We are committed to getting our church out of debt as quickly as possible and believe that a CHANGE FOR CHANGE project is a small way to get everyone involved.

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

Missions

Also the kickoff for our summer project of **"Project Christmas Child"** was a winner. We are really excited to have this mission project again here at FMC. If you haven't gotten your box and information sheets, please stop by the office to pick them up. Return them during the Mission's Fair in September. Contact Pam Hight 850 758-8201 or Marianne Peyton 850 982-2324 if you have any questions.



The Mission's team is so thankful for you, our church family. When we put out a challenge, you are ever ready to take us up on it! Our new mission, the pastor support in the Democratic Republic of Congo has gone well. Keeping track of those dollars with the #7 has proved to be fun and helpful. We were able to send \$1800! So keep on checking your \$ dollar bills and turning them in so we can continue to help those pastors in the Congo.

Bless you!

-Pam Hight, FMC Mission Chair

Soup Kitchen Scoop

THANK ALL OF YOU for continuing to support our Soup Kitchen to provide delicious homemade hot meals each Saturday. Your donations and backing coupled with the nonprofit donations of bread, pastries, and meat allow us to

continue to meet our goal to provide healthy full meal choices for our community in need. We are also thankful for the surprise donations of Girl Scouts cookies which when handed out to the needy were received with pure joy. Sixteen years strong, feeding community members suffering from hardship.



Are you curious as to why volunteers choose to serve in the First Methodist

Soup Kitchen Mission? Here is the scoop from some of our volunteers.

Richard Knight, Soup Kitchen Volunteer shares with us,
"Why do I volunteer in the First Methodist Soup Kitchen? I'm moved by the holy spirit who planted the thought into my soul. James, the brother of Jesus referred to himself as 'bonded servant of God.' His teachings emphasize demonstrating faith through practical deeds and serving others, from works of kindness, such as giving food to someone who is hungry. James proclaimed, 'What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?' That is why I volunteer in the Soup Kitchen."

Kathy Neidig, Soup Kitchen Volunteer shares with us,
"Over the years, I've seen so many people who are needy including my family when I was growing up. For that reason, I believe a helping hand always made things easier. Now as a Soup Kitchen Volunteer, I see more and more people in need and thankfulness. Every little gesture we make for the needy means so much. I go away feeling blessed and feeling thankful for what they have given me in my life. They make me thankful being able to be there to help. They walk away from us, and it gives me a warm and happy feeling knowing I helped them. And it isn't just about what we have done for them providing nutritious meals. There is also the feeling I get knowing Jesus was there with us." Want to join us volunteering for the First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission? We invite you to contact us at 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 your check with Soup Kitchen.

Please continue to Follow on Facebook @FirstCrestview or our website <https://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.

Yarn Ministry

In the throes of Summer, our Yarnies minds are on cooler weather, hooking up scarves, scarves, and MORE SCARVES. What a blessing that they are light, compact, inexpensive to make and very 'tote-able', perfect for these steamy days.

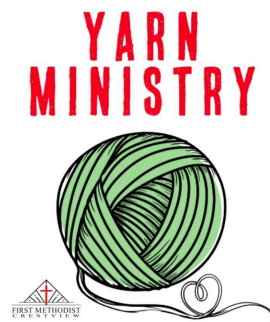
JOIN US on **Aug 12 & 26** at 6:00PM in Rm. 213 aka Yarnia.

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



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 **Aug 6** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.

Come pray for your hometown!



CALENDARS

August Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters

Aug 3- Kit Callahan

Aug 10- Peggy Harkness

Aug 17- Gary Zick

Aug 24- John & Cynthia Leitschuck

Aug 31- Mike & Betsy Roy

Ushers

Bob McCrory, Mike Roy

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

Greeter and side aisles

8/3- Steve and Kathy Fowler

8/10- Eddie and Jayne Hager

8/17- Ed and Joanne Guzowski

8/24- Tom and Edie Giovanini

8/31- Connie Stapp and Glenda McMasters

Ushers

8/3- Tom Giovanini and Ed Guzowski

8/10- Dax Reeves and Tom Saunders

8/17- Burt Colt and Eddie Hager

8/24- Burt Colt and Dax Reeves

8/31- Ed Guzowski and Tom Giovanini

Office door

8/3 - 8/31 Jim Hight

Lights, Door Lock

8/3- David Ordonez

8/10- David Ordonez

8/17- Burt Colt

8/24- Dax Reeves

8/31- Dax Reeves

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

Important Dates In August

Aug 2- Funeral for Barbara Winters 11:00 Main Sanctuary, Visitation 10:00AM
Aug 5- Financial Seminar 5:30-7:30PM CRC
Aug 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, Kid's St Back to School Bash 6:00PM Kids St
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 6:00PM at Leon Curenton's home
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 calendar for any updates or changes

Looking Forward To September

Sept 1- Office closed in observance of Labor Day
Sept 2- Hand Bells are back! 6:00PM Bell Rm
Sept 3- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Sept 5- Women's Service Group is Back! 10:30AM CRC
Sept 8- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Sept 9- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Sept 14- Missions Fair Begins! CRC
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
Sept 17- CommUNITY Dinner 5:30 PM CRC
Mission Fair Wrap-Up
Drop off Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes
Church Council 6:30PM CRC
Sept 20- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC
Sept 22- October Newsletter Deadline
Sept 23- 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 calendar for any updates or changes

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION



A Prayer for Back to School

Dear Lord,

As our students begin a new school year,
I pray that you will keep them in your care.

Send your Spirit to open their minds
to all that is true and beautiful and good

Help them to see the gifts and talents
you have given them and to use them well.
Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom.

Help them to be kind to others
and lead others to be kind to them.

Give their teachers patience and understanding
and help them teach what is just and true.

Send your angels to guide and guard our
children and to keep them from all harm.

Open their young hearts to your presence
and enfold them in your peace and protection.

Hold them in the palm of your hand
and bring them home safely at day's end.

Amen.

(dosp.org)

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 11:30-12:30PM

Office Closure Independence Day / July 3

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, fmsfacilities599@gmail.com
Custodian - Jody Waddell, fmcustodian@gmail.com
Music, Contemporary - Rikki Ordinario
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 Methodist Men- David Ordoñez
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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