



***THE
CONNECTION***
**September 2025
Newsletter**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Youth and Associate Pastor Update

We are thankful that David Smith has volunteered to lead the youth on Wednesday nights until the time that we acquire an Associate Pastor. A person or two wondered if the entire youth program was on hold- and nothing could be farther from the truth. Thank you David and all the volunteers who love our youth and give of themselves for the Kingdom of God.



Please pray for the Staff Parish Relations Committee as they seek to fill this important position. We will be moving from a part-time youth director to a full-time Associate Pastor.

It has been many years since we had an Associate Pastor but the SPR Committee believes the time is right to add this staffing position. This person's duties will include leading the Youth as well as assisting in various other areas of the church including pastoral care.

Opportunities to Serve

I always enjoy leading our Exploring Membership class for people who are interested in learning more about our church and what it means to be a full member.

By the way, the next class is Sunday, September 28 at 3 pm in the Crossroads Center.

One of the things I cover in that class is ways that people can get involved in serving in the church. We believe that every person who is able should volunteer and look for ways to serve. These include physically demanding tasks (like helping with the grounds-keeping in the summer heat) to things that are physically easy- but important, none the less.

I like to tell the class the story of Mr. Troy Thurmond. He was a petite man with serious lung problems and who always had an oxygen bottle with him. Before he passed away, while there were many things he could not do, he gave of

himself to sharpen pencils. To many people, this would seem like an insignificant job, but (as I say in my class) they don't get sharpened by fairies at night! Someone has to do it- and Troy gave of his time to make it happen.

So here is the list I present to the class of broad areas where people could volunteer their time in the life of the church- serving others in the Kingdom.

Ushering or Greeting

Administrative committees (finance, trustees, missions, etc)

Office help- stuff envelopes, answer phones, substitute

Soup kitchen

Benevolence ministry and Food Pantry

Helping open or lock buildings

Sharpen pencils

Cut grass, edging, trimming & yard work

Weeding prayer garden

Worship Technology: sound system, video system (need 5 tech people each Sunday)

Children's Ministry (Sunday mornings & Wednesday nights)

Nursery workers- we have paid staff, but sometimes need helpers.

Youth Ministry (Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights)

(Anyone working with Children or Youth must attend 6 months, pass background check)

Men's group / 8th Ave Methodist Men

Women's group / Women's Service Group

Prayer groups on Wednesday mornings

Wednesday night Community Dinners setting up, cleaning

Teachers for Sunday school and small groups

Visiting shut-ins

Preparing and serving food for funerals.

Repairs at church, painting. (The needs are huge in a facility like ours.)

Mission Team repairs at people's houses here or other states in disasters

Yarn Ministry- knitting & crocheting for needs in our church and community

Photography of events

Clean and straighten up after Worship

Providing meals for funerals

And this is not a complete list but rather broad areas where someone might serve.

If you see an area where you would like to help, please call the church office at 850-682-2018.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Office Closure

Our church office will be closed on **Monday, Sept 1** in observance of Labor Day.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
-Matthew 11:28



Women's Service Group

We are back from summer and ready to go for our first meeting on **Fri, Sept 5** at 10:00AM in the CRC. All women are welcome!



Handbell Choir

Our Handbell Choir is ready to roll back onto our weekly schedule beginning **Tues, Sept 9** at 6:00PM in the Bell Room which is located behind the Main Sanctuary on the pulpit side. If this is a ministry you'd like to jump into WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!



Missions Fair

FMC is a very active church with a lot of ministries/missions that have an impact on our church family AND in our Community. **Sun, Sept 14 & Wed, Sept 17** have been set aside to make people aware of our missions/ministries. Come peruse our tables and get plugged in!



CommUNITY Dinner & Church Council

Join us on **Wed, Sept 17** in the CRC for an evening of fun & fellowship! Serving begins at 5:30PM. Menu is: Chicken and Rice Casserole, carrot salad, hot roll. Please bring a dessert to share if you are able.

All proceeds will go towards our Missions Ministry.

But wait... there's MORE!

Children & Youth programs start at 6:00PM!

Please stay for Church Council - it begins at 6:30PM!

Round 2 of our Stained Glass auction is taking place!

Sign up for our Yarn Ministry's annual giveaway!

Bring your stuffed Operation Christmas Child shoebox!

(Shoebox Blessing will take place at 9:45 The Well on Sun, Sept 21.)



Stained Glass Auction

We will be holding a sealed bid auction **Sun, Sept 14 through Wed Sept 17**. You may fill out a bid sheet for a piece and drop it in the box for that piece. All pieces are numbered. No one will see bids until the boxes are opened, and bids sorted.

The Trustees have placed a minimum bid on each piece. You may bid any time between Sunday Sept. 14 through Wednesday Sept. 17 at the CommUNITY Dinner. During office hours (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday) bring bids to the office (you may also call Angie Arnold, Church Administrator). Bidding stops at 6:30 after the dinner, when our Administrative Council meets. Only one bid is necessary, but if you decide you want to increase your bid, you may add another bid. Whoever has the highest bid will win. You do not need to be present to win. If you are not at the Council meeting, we will contact you. We will have photos of each piece on our website & FB. You may also examine each piece in the Crossroads Center on Sunday and Wednesday Evening. If you would like to examine a piece during office hours Mon-Wed, please come by the office.





Summer Project 2025 Wrap-up: Operation Christmas Child

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

Our Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Blessing will take place
at 9:45AM/The Well at the CRC on **Sun, Sept 21.**

What a wonderful response to our FMC Summer Missions Project.

We're so excited to bless our boxes and send them on their way
around the world to children needing to be blessed!

MINISTRY UPDATES

Generosity Matters / Finance Committee

Generosity Matters: monthly insights from your
Finance Committee.

HUGE PRAISE #1: Our Change for Change Debt
Reduction campaign brought in \$11,000!!! This was
applied to our outstanding disaffiliation loan
balance and puts us a GIANT step forward in our debt elimination mission!



Thank YOU for participating!

HUGE PRAISE #2: Session 1 of “Living a Generous Life: Faith & Finances” was held on August 5 and we had over 30 people in attendance. Thank you to all who came to support the event. We hope you walked away with some helpful information. Keep your eyes peeled for additional sessions in the future.

Lastly, here are a few thoughts on budgeting and tithing. Scripture often speaks of offering the “first fruits” of our labor (Proverbs 3:9). In practical terms, this means setting aside our tithe before we pay bills or spend on ourselves. It reframes tithing not as “what’s left over,” but as an act of trust that God will provide for our needs when we honor Him first.

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). A budget is like a mirror for the heart—it reveals what we value most. When we take a good look at where our money goes, we can quickly see what we love and where we place our trust. This can be both convicting and inspiring, especially when we align our spending with our values.

A budget is simply a plan for how we will steward what God has entrusted to us. Just like prayer and Bible study, it can become a spiritual discipline. When we budget, we remind ourselves that every dollar has a purpose and that our giving is not an afterthought—it’s built into the very structure of our lives. If you have no idea where to start when it comes to budgeting, here are some great resources to consider:

- <https://www.crown.org/all-resources/spending-budget-guides/>
- Here are some great thought provoking reads: Redeeming Money (Paul Tripp), The Money Challenge
- (Art Rainer), and The Treasure Principle (Randy Alcorn)

Blessings to you!

-Sara Fordyce / Chairperson for our Finance Committee

Missions

We are so looking forward to our Missions Fair this month! The Fair gives our ministries/missions the opportunity to show what God has led us to do to support our community, our church and church family. This is a busy church, and I thank God for the blessings of each of the ministries/missions that show His love through them.

This year we added the Mission of Operation Christmas Child as a summer project and the response has been overwhelming. Thank you, Marianne Peyton, for bringing this mission back to us and for providing the extra goodies to put in the shoe boxes. We need the boxes back by Community Dinner on Sept 17. The blessing of all the boxes will be on Sunday, Sept 21, during the 9:45 service. Thank you everyone who filled a box that will



bring joy to a child somewhere in this world.

The Democratic Republic of Congo mission to support DRC pastors is going well. This is an ongoing mission, so keep on checking your \$dollar bills for the #7 and turn them in so we can continue to help those pastors in DRC. (we will take any other dollar too!).

You, Church Family, continue to amaze me in your support of Missions. You always step up when we need anything. Thank you for being God's servants in this way and for showing your love for God, our church and its missions.

Blessings

-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. Each of your donations and support keep us sustainable 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. Sixteen years strong, feeding our community in need.



Those of you with fruit trees, please consider sharing your fruit abundance when harvested, we will include them in our weekly meals. Some of our community chicken farmers periodically share their eggs which make awesome casseroles which are enjoyed by our community in need.

Thank you for your gently used grocery bags, we use them weekly.

With Fall/Winter around the corner, we'll be back to handing out socks and gloves which helps to keep people in need warmer while Yarnies share their labors of love with handmade hats this year.

Thanksgiving and Christmas/Hanukkah meals are already being planned by our Souper Chef Steve. These special holiday meals are planned to be served 22 Nov 2025 and 27 Dec 2025.

Many of you like to volunteer during those events and share your handmade desserts with our community in need.

Are you curious as to why volunteers choose to serve in the Soup Kitchen Mission? Here is the scoop from one of our volunteers.

Pam Ordenez, shared "Why do I volunteer? When Jesus walked this Earth, he was asked by his disciples, "What is the greatest commandment? In response He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Our Lord's life was a life of instruction and service to others. If we are to be like him, we too should be in service to others. The soup kitchen ministry is an easy and excellent way to be of service to others. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet and serve with like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ while touching the lives of others in our community."



Requesting your prayers of healing for our Soup Kitchen volunteers Kit, Bonnie,

and Robert.

- 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 fruit or eggs please place them in the Soup Kitchen refrigerator and text me at 401-742-4898. Want to donate socks or grocery bags please leave them on the Soup Kitchen counter and text me at 401-742-4898.
- Want to donate to First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission? Contact the office at 850-682-2018 with Soup Kitchen indicated on the envelope or NOTES section.
- 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

The 'BER months are finally here!!!

And it may be still steamy outside, but in my heart it is Autumn and I am ready for some cozy in my life!

We're continuing to crank out scarves for our very special Kid's St. Christmas program in December. If you knit, weave, or crochet, we would love any extra help in this project!

JOIN US on **Sept 9 & 23** at 6:00PM in Rm. 213 aka Yarnia.

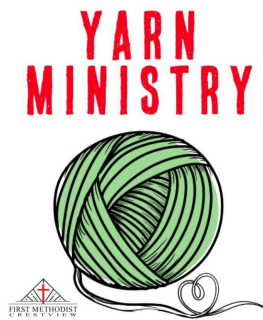
And because this month has 5 Tuesdays we will meet at Panera's on Tues, **Sept 30** at 6:00PM.

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 **Sept 3** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.

Come pray for your hometown!



CALENDARS

September Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters

Sept 7- Debbie Watson

Sept 14- Terry & Gail Laskaskie

Sept 21- Mike & Betsy Roy

Sept 28- Kaleb & Lindsey Reynolds

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

Greeter and Side Aisles

9/7- Steve and Kathy Fowler

9/14- Ed and Joanne Guzowski

9/21- Eddie and Jayne Hager

9/28- Tom and Edie Giovanini

Ushers

9/7- Tom Giovanini and Eddie Hager

9/14- Burt Colt and Tom Saunders

9/21- Tom Giovanini and Dax Reeves

9/28- Burt Colt and Tom Saunders

Office

9/7 - 9/28 Jim Hight

Lights, Doors and Lock

9/7- Dax Reeves

9/14- David Ordonez

9/21- Dax Reeves

9/28- David Ordonez

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

Important Dates in September

Sept 1- Office closed in observance of Labor Day

Sept 3- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza

Sept 5- Women's Service Group is Back! 10:00AM CRC

Sept 6- Memorial for Maryrose Scott: Main Sanctuary;

10:00AM Visitation, 11:00 Service
Sept 8- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Sept 9- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Hand Bells are back! 6:00PM Bell Rm
Sept 13- Memorial for Ginny Esmonde: Main Sanctuary;
10:00AM Visitation, 11:00 Service
Prep for Mission Fair 1-3:00PM CRC
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 212
Sept 17- CommUNITY Dinner 5:30 PM CRC
Church Council 6:30PM CRC
Mission Fair Wrap-Up
Stained Glass Auction Round 2
Drop off Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes
Sept 20- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC
Sept 21- Operation Christmas Child Schoebox Blessing 9:45AM / The Well
CRC
Sept 22- October Newsletter Deadline
Sept 23- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Sept 28- Exploring Membership Class 3:00PM CRC (Childcare provided!
Please notate your grace note or call the church office if you are needing it.)
Sept 30- Yarnies at Panera's 6:00PM

**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 October

Oct 1-Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Oct 3- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC
Oct 5- Long Range Planning 3:00PM CRC
Oct 13- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Oct 14- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm
Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Oct 18- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC
Oct 20- November Newsletter Deadline
Oct 21- Mission Committee 6:30PM Rm 213
Oct 28- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Oct 29- Kid's St. Fall Festival

**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



September

Blessing of Change and Letting Go

Change is natural if not always smooth as we move from one phase of life to another. The month of September brings us a change of seasons: The warmth of summer gives way to mornings with a touch of chill in the air; the evenings come earlier as the days shorten in the rhythm of the season.

Change means letting go and accepting what will come: we must allow the comfortable to be replaced by new urgencies. Without the season of fall, summer's growth would never become the harvest; it is now time for seeds to begin the process for the next life cycle.

A Time for Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:3-8

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and a time for peace.

<https://catholicrurallife.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 Labor Day / Sept 1

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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