



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

There's a lot to report this month!

Youth and Associate Pastor Update

After receiving many resumes and conducting some interviews, our Staff Parish Relations Committee has made a few decisions. First, we are happy to announce that Rev. Kathy McKinley has been hired as our new Associate Pastor. She will start on Sunday October 19 and brings to us over 25 years of ministry experience. She will be assisting in pastoral care and many other ways where she can be a blessing to the church. Her husband Mac is still a member of our church and many of you already know Kathy. She worshiped here and assisted me for about 6 months after she retired from full-time ministry in the UMC. She disaffiliated from the UMC and is now an ordained Elder in our denomination (the Global Methodist Church). She returns to us after serving a church in Milton.



I am very thankful for her ministry because I have called on her a number of times to check on some of you when I was on vacation and could not be with you during a surgery or recovery.

In the future, once she gets settled in, she and I will rotate weeks being the pastor "on call" for Fridays and Saturdays. This will provide a great relief to me since there are weeks and months that are quite a challenge to find time off. As I write this, we have made an offer for the Youth Pastor position and we will let you know more when we can.

Hiring two people was different from our original plan, but during the interview process we liked both candidates so much that we looked for a way to hire both and do so within our SPR budget.

We Continue to Grow

By the time you read this, we will have had another wonderful Exploring Membership class with a great group of people who want to join and be a part of what God is doing here in our Church family.

I'm so thankful to be a part of a church where members show an interest in others and work to get to know them and welcome them. The greetings before the service and the lingering afterward are a blessing to see.

I keep track of the stats for our church because such information is important historically and informationally, but also because each number represents people.

Last year was a relatively stable year of growing 2% in our worship attendance. In the years leading up to that our worship attendance grew 6% and 3%. This year, our attendance is up almost 5%- and that's in spite of having so many funerals this year as well as the normal number of people who sadly move away.

In total, since I arrived over 6 years ago, our worship attendance has grown about 22%- and that's in spite of the chaos from Covid and Disaffiliation. God is good and I am so humbled to serve such a wonderful team of people.

It seems each week I get to see the new faces of first time visitors. Some move on to other churches... but some stay and eventually become a part of our church family.

Part of what got me to thinking about all this was that we recently had a high attendance on a normal Sunday (normal meaning- not Easter, Palm Sunday, Discovery, etc where attendance is always high). On Sept 14, our combined in person and online attendance was 320 (we only count Live viewers for online attendance). I checked the records and it was about 2015 when we had that kind of attendance on a normal Sunday. Keep spreading the word and inviting people!

Congo Missions Giving

I wanted to report that we have given over \$1,800 to the Mission work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Church planting continues at a rapid pace and there is a large move now to train and educate new pastors in order to meet the huge need.

Thank you so much for your faithful support. We are continuing to receive one dollar bills from bank number 7 (and of course receive any other gifts).

Financial Rejoicing

Be sure and read the Finance section of this newsletter for an exciting announcement. We have waited for this day to come!

Thank you for your faithfulness in your giving.

Worship Technology

Several of us have been very busy with video upgrades to the 9:45 service. Those changes will come online very soon and will greatly improve the online stream. I'm thankful for the assistance of Warren Caruso, Chris Woodward, and Jim Hight for the many hours they have put into this project. It was a big task with a lot of the work on tall ladders. I'm also thankful for the donations which made this work possible.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Appreciation Month

Pray for Your Pastor Calendars are available at the entrance of all our worship services! This is a fabulous way to cover Pastor Ronnie and his ministry in prayer.

We will have boxes at the entrance to each service beginning Oct 5 to collect cards and gifts for Pastor Ronnie. A special presentation will be made on Sun, Oct 26 at the 11:00 service.

Join our church staff as we celebrate & appreciate Pastor Ronnie- let's give him all manner of support and love during this special month!



Change of Address for the Thompsons

Please continue to pray for Helen & Bill Thompson as they are adjusting to their new home in Tennessee! Don't you know that they would love to receive greeting cards from us wishing them well and knowing that their church family here is still praying for them? You can write to them at 324 Mt Bethel Rd, Apt #105, Greeneville, TN 37745.



From The Bottom Of My Heart

125 Shoeboxes for our Summer Mission Program! THANKS to all who participated!

ALSO...

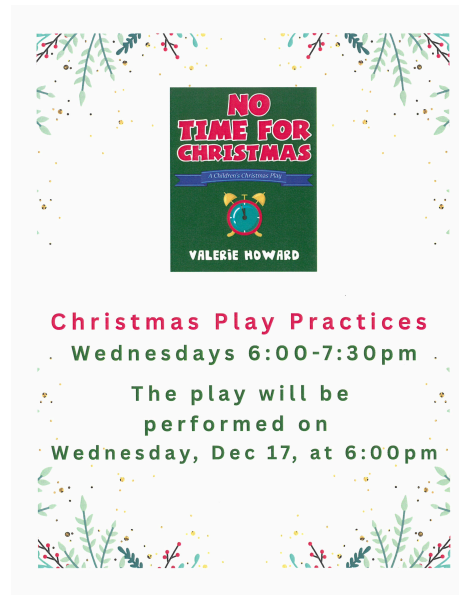
BIG THANKS to all who came out to enjoy our CommUNITY Dinner and to all who helped cook & serve dinner.

EVEN MORE thanks to our Mission leaders for their great tablescapes and showing how we serve our community and the world for God. It was a wonderful Mission Fair and I hope that everyone not only enjoyed it, but also

found new places to plug in to!
-Pam Hight, FMC Mission Chair



Kids Street
Christmas Play Practice



Youth Fireside Fellowship

The youth will have an evening of fun on **Sat, Oct 4** from 4:00-7:30PM at the home of Clay & Kim Johnson. Please see David Smith or call the church office for address and directions.



Kids Street Fall Festival



October 29, 2025

6:00-7:30

Kids Fall Harvest Festival

Join us for pumpkin crafts, snacks,
music, and trick or treating.

Children are encouraged to wear costumes
(nothing scary please).

Children may be dropped off on Kids Street.



We will go trick or
treating at the adult
classrooms and have a
time for music and
praise with the youth.

Fall Festival



MINISTRY UPDATES

Generosity Matters / Finance Committee

PRAISE: Can I get a HALLELUJAH!?!?!?

Our Disaffiliation loan is officially paid off! That's right, zero balance, it is no more! Thank you church family, for your faithful and consistent giving! In your prayer time today, please join me in thanking God for His provision and raising a hallelujah that our church is one HUGE step closer to being completely debt free! Next on the list, our remaining Crossroads Center mortgage balance which is now down to ~\$225k.



REMINDER: ANNOUNCEMENT:

If you are in charge of a ministry area's budget/annual spending, please be aware that the Finance Committee will be voting on the 2026 budget in our November meeting. If you have any questions about your ministry budget, please reach out to the church office and they will connect you with our budget team.

FALL....

First fruits come first...set aside your tithe before anything else. If your spiritual disciplines do not yet include supporting the Kingdom with your finances, my prayer is that you take a step forward this month. God will honor any gift! Tithing should be the first line item in your budget/spending plan.

Align your spending with your values; a budget is a spiritual discipline. Last month's newsletter featured several resources for budgeting. If you don't tell your money where to go, you will quickly be stuck in a position with your money telling you where you can go and what you can or cannot do.

Live within your means so generosity can flow freely. This sounds simple, however, it's one of the most important financial principles to live by. Living beyond your means (out of control debt and spending) creates a terrible spiral of comparison and consumption that results in ruin. Living below your means (spending less than you bring home) is prudent and provides flexibility for financial challenges and opportunities.

Look ahead — save today to prepare for tomorrow's needs and opportunities.

Saving should be the second line item in your budget/spending plan. What percentage of income are you currently saving? Have you ever thought about how much you should be saving? An optimal model includes saving a minimum of 15-20% of gross income. This takes practice and discipline. If it sounds daunting, start small. If your employer offers a group retirement plan, be sure you are enrolled and contributing the minimum necessary to capture their matching (normally, your contribution should be 5-6% of your income, the employer match is often 3-4%).

'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' -*Philippians 1:3-6*

With gratitude, your Finance Committee Chairperson,
Sara Fordyce

Wesleyan Child Care Center

Wesleyan Child Care Center's annual Fall fundraiser was a beautiful reflection of God's provision and the unity of our school family. Through faith, hard work, and the support of our Christ-centered community, we came together to make this event a resounding success. Our families, rooted in love and purpose, helped turn this fundraiser into a blessing that will impact our students for years to come. With grateful hearts, we celebrate raising enough funds for much-needed indoor and outdoor equipment that will enrich our thriving school. This experience reminded us that when we work together in the spirit of Christ, all things are truly possible.

-*Osa Bell / WCCC Director*



Yarn Ministry

Our CommUNITY Dinner/Mission Fair Yarnie Giveaway Winners are:

The rose afghan & chocolates - **Molly Keller!**

The basket o'snacks- **Gaye Helms!**

Shout out to **Joanne Guzowski** for making our giveaways this year! I think everyone can agree that Joanne does a beautiful job on her crochet projects.

We are revving up for the holidays and our hooks & needles are flying!

There's always a seat for you to join us if you're up to having a fun evening with fun folks doing fun things with yarn. (Insert happy face!)

JOIN US on **Oct 14 & 28** 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*

**YARN
MINISTRY**



"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 **Oct 1** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.
Come pray for your hometown!

CALENDARS

October Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters

Oct 5- The Laskaskies
Oct 12- Peg Harkness
Oct 19- The Leitschucks
Oct 26- Debbie Watson

Ushers

David Bloom & Jacob Dabbs

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 and side aisle:

10/5. Steve and Kathy Fowler
10/12. Connie Stapp and Glenda McMasters
10/19. Rollin and Corolla Anderson
10/26. Phillip and Melanie Mathis

Ushers:

10/5. Eddie Hager and Tom Saunders
10/12. Ed Guzowski and Tom Giovanini
10/19. Burt Colt and Dax Reeves
10/26. Burt Colt and Dax Reeves

Office Door:

10/5-10/26 Jim Hight

Lights, Doors and lock up:

10/5. Dax Reeves
10/12. Eddie Hager
10/19. Rollin Anderson
10/26. Phillip Mathis

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

Important Dates In 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

Looking Forward to November

Nov 2- All Saints Sunday
Daylight Savings Time ends
Charge Conf 5-6:30PM First Methodist DeFuniak
Nov 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Youth Trivia Night 6:00PM
Nov 7- Women's Service Group is Back! 10:00AM CRC
Nov 9- Children's Ministry 12:15PM Kids St
Youth 12:00PM Conf Rm
Nov 10- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Nov 11- Veteran's Day / Office closed
Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Nov 12- Youth Friendsgiving
Nov 15- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC
Nov 16- Stained Glass Auction #3 Begins / CRC
Yarn Blessing
Trustees 3:00PM FH
Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
Nov 17- October Newsletter Deadline
Nov 19- CommUNITY Dinner / Benevolence Angel Tree Christmas Kick-Off
Stained Glass Auction #3 Wrap-Up
Church Council 6:30PM CRC
Nov 23- Crestview Community Thanksgiving Service 6:00PM Live Oak Baptist
Nov 25- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Nov 26- No Youth
Nov 27- Happy Thanksgiving! Office closed.
Nov 30- First Sunday of Advent

*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



October

The Lesson of the Candy Corn

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall
accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

Every autumn a fresh crop of candy corn pops up in the stores and reminds us that harvest time is near. Invented in the 1880s, candy corn has been enjoyed for over 130 years. Now that is sweet success!

This seed-shaped confection can become a symbol of God's Word and how He uses us to accomplish His heavenly harvest.

Read the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:8-15).

Jesus wants us to be generous in scattering His seed so that all might have the chance to hear God's Word and the message of salvation.

Now take a look at what each color of the candy corn represents.

White – The tip of the candy corn is pure white and stands for
God the Father who is perfect, holy, and righteous.
The seed is His Word we are to proclaim to others.

Orange – The color orange reminds us of the flames of the Holy Spirit
who appeared on Pentecost.
He enabled the disciples to speak God's Word in many languages.
The large, tapered section of this candy also represents the large harvest field.
There are many who need to hear God's offer of forgiveness.
It is the Holy Spirit who takes the seed of God's Word
and nurtures faith in man's heart.

Yellow – Yellow represents the light of Jesus Christ,
the Word in flesh.
He calls us to be His witnesses.
When we scatter the seed of God's Word, we spread
His light and the message of salvation to the world.
We are the harvest workers as we walk in the light of Christ.

And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to
send out laborers into his harvest (Luke 10:2).

A Symbol of Prayer

As it points upwards, the candy corn also reminds us to pray.
Each time you eat this candy say a prayer and
ask God to bless His Word, the workers, and the harvest.

*Celebrate the Lord is God!
Awesome and wonderful is He.
Never have I needed Your love and forgiveness more than now.
Daily You deliver me from my sin.
You are the Lord of the Harvest who provides all my needs.
Count the many blessings that You bestow.
Open my ears to hear Your Word and my mouth to give You praise.
Rejoice with all who receive Your righteousness
Now and forever. Amen.*

(Lutheran Women in Mission)

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