



***THE  
CONNECTION***  
**January 2026  
Newsletter**

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

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**From the Pastor's Desk**

**Bible Course Offered- 2026 last regular year**

Many people in our church have taken my Bible course. I have taught the same course every season for a few years now. 2026 will be the last year that I teach this course both sessions (spring and fall). So if you have never taken it, consider doing it this year.



On Tuesday, Jan 27, I will be teaching a course on the Bible called God's Word and Me: Growing in the Bible. Most of our small groups happen on Wednesday evenings, but not all people drive at night. And so this class will be offered on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 AM especially for those who cannot come otherwise. We meet in the big Asbury room in the Crossroads Center (CRC).

This class will cover all topics related to the Bible. How we got it, what do you do with it, how does God use it in our lives, how to interpret the Bible, how to use some important Bible study tools. This class will cover a lot of ground and will take some of the mystery out of the Bible. Furthermore, your understanding and appreciation of the Bible will grow dramatically.

The course runs about 11 classes and people who have already taken it may take it again. Be sure and sign up online here:

<https://firstmethodistchurchofcrestview.breezechms.com/form/69b5834>

Or you can sign up in the CRC lobby and the small groups table.

If you cannot make this class, I'll be offering it again on Wednesday nights starting in August.

My hope is that everyone in the church attends this important class.

**Thank You**

Melanie and I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful church family for the outpouring of love and support you have given us. It is truly and honor to

serve here as partners in ministry with you.

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

*-Pastor Ronnie*

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## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **Thank You!**

Thank you to all who bought gifts for the Angel Tree. I have been handing them out and all the shut-ins have been so grateful to receive something from their church family. A big thank you for the continued support Benevolence has received through out the year.

Your donations of money and groceries have helped us continue to help many families. Most of these people shed tears of gratitude for another month of lights or water when we pay those utility bills.

I have always been impressed at the generosity of my church family, and this year is another great year of giving.

*-Margaret Larson, Benevolence Ministry Team*



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### **CommUNITY DINNER / CHILI COOK OFF**

Anyone can enter their favorite chili for the cook off!

All entries must be in the Crossroads Center & ready to taste at 5:10PM.

We will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners at the Church Council meeting.

*Please bring a desert to share if you are able.*

A donation box will be set out to help cover the cost of the meal.

All proceeds will go towards our 8th Ave Methodist Men missions.

Dinner will begin being served at 5:30PM, the Church Council will begin at 6:30PM.



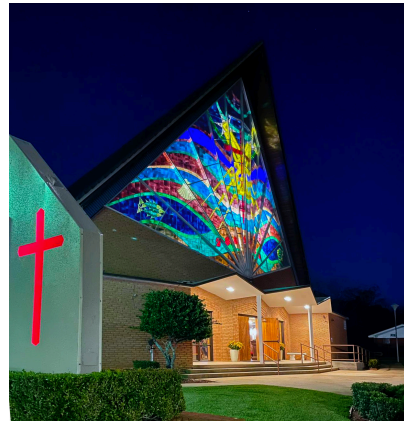
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### **EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP**

Interested in becoming an FMC member?

Join Pastor Ronnie on Sun, Jan 11 at 3:00PM  
in the Asbury Rm/CRC.

Please notate your grace note if you are interested in attending and if you need to reserve childcare.



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## MINISTRY UPDATES

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### Wesleyan Child Care Center

Our preschool joyfully celebrated Christmas with a special *Happy Birthday, Jesus* party enjoyed by all of our students. The children learned about the true meaning of Christmas through songs, stories, and festive activities focused on the birth of Jesus. Smiles and laughter filled the day as we celebrated together in a spirit of love and thankfulness. It was a meaningful and joyful way to share the season with our school family.



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### Children's Ministry

We have had a wonderful and exciting December on Kids Street celebrating the birth of Jesus. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the month so special. In addition to our normal Wednesday and Sunday activities, we had a Parents Night Out, a Gingerbread House Decorating Party, and put on a Christmas play. Many volunteers stepped up to make these events special and we really appreciate all of them.



We would also like to say a special thank you to the yarn ministry for making all of the scarves for the Christmas Play!

Parents Night Out is a wonderful ministry that serves our church families with children and also serves as an outreach ministry to our community. The last two times our spots filled up within a week of advertising it, and we had to turn people away. We would love to grow this ministry, but we need more volunteers to be able to serve more families. We hold Parents Night Outs on Friday

evenings from 5:30 -8:30. If you are willing to volunteer on an occasional Friday evening, please contact the church office and let us know!

We are looking forward to 2026!

-Vicky Anchor

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## **Finance Committee**

### **Generosity Matters - New Year, New Commitments!**

A new year invites reflection and intention. As we step into 2026, many of us set goals for our health, our families, and our finances. Scripture reminds us that faithfulness is often found in small, consistent steps rather than dramatic changes. "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much" (Luke 16:10).



This is a wonderful time to revisit your giving plan, your budget, and your priorities. Rather than asking, "How much can I afford?" consider asking, "What does faithfulness look like for me this year?"

When generosity is intentional, it becomes a source of peace and purpose, not pressure.

As we begin the year, may we commit our plans to God and trust Him to guide our steps.

### **Please enjoy this personal testimony from one of our church members:**

'...From my early teens, I worked and contributed what I could (the leftovers) to my church. After marriage, my wife and I struggled to make ends meet although we had decent income. We contributed to our church what we thought we could afford (leftovers). We thought we could not give a tithe (10%) as money was limited. This thinking lasted from early in our marriage through our thirties and even into our forties. Then, something changed. We realized that we were short changing God! We decided that we would keep God's commandment and give a tenth of our income before paying our bills. You know, it seemed as if we had more money left to pay bills and even contribute to some of our favorite charities. We have no significant savings and live on our Social Security. We give at least 10% to our church and also support several charities.

As our Social Security increases, our giving increases also. It is our belief that "You can't out give God." So, what is the cost of giving? ZERO!  
Anonymous, but true!...

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## Winter Small Groups

Time to cozy up this winter with a Small Group study! We have many classes to choose from. Visit [Firstcrestview.com](http://Firstcrestview.com) to see the list and to sign up- we're saving you a seat!



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## Soup Kitchen Ministry

**BLESS ALL OF YOU** for continuing to support our Soup Kitchen to provide delicious homemade hot meals each Saturday. Your donations and support keep us sustainable coupled with the nonprofit donations of bread and pastries allow us to continue to meet our goal to provide healthy full meal choices for our community in need. Did you know that:

- \* 100% of your donations support that goal and
- \* 100% of our Soup Kitchen teams consist of Christian volunteers.



Sixteen years strong, feeding our community in need. If you happen to come by the Fellowship Hall (outside the building), check out the new signs that highlight the location of the Soup Kitchen, as well as day, and time the food service is available to our community. The purpose is to provide community situational awareness, both online and onsite.

This is the season of giving with the community donating canned vegetables and groceries that help our meals go farther. We have local community farmers that periodically share their eggs which make great casseroles that are enjoyed by our hungry community in need. Now that Winter is upon us, we have separate volunteers who donate socks and gloves which helps to keep people warmer while Yarnies share their labors of love with handmade winter hats.

We always welcome people of all ages, especially the youth to volunteer in the Soup Kitchen. Many need volunteer hours to qualify for college credits, scouts need to qualify for community patches, while others wish to give their time to the community and make a difference. It is common to see parents and grandparents teaching their children the importance of giving their time assisting people who need their helping hands. Contact Deb Lubas Soup Kitchen Coordinator to schedule your next opportunity at volunteering.

Our Thanksgiving meal on 22 Nov 2025, Chef Steve cooked smoked turkey, green beans, homemade mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce with donated bread and desserts from local grocery stores for our community in need. Christmas meals are now in the planning stage, scheduled to be served on 27 Dec 2025 for our homeless and those in need.

Are you curious as to why volunteers choose to support the Soup Kitchen Mission? There are many passages from the Bible. Here is one of them, 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.

**Requesting your prayers of healing** for our Soup Kitchen volunteers Bonnie, Robert, and Edie.



### How to Support the Soup Kitchen

- Want to join us volunteering for the First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission? We invite you to contact us at [greenhalghdj@cox.net](mailto:greenhalghdj@cox.net) or text 401-742-4898.
- Want to donate food, please place them in the Soup Kitchen refrigerator and text me at 401-742-4898. Want to donate socks or gloves please text me at 401-742-4898.
- Want to donate to First Methodist of Crestview to fund the 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, 401-742-4898

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### Yarn Ministry

#### **HAPPY NEW YEAR from Yarnieville!**

Wanting to learn a new hobby for the new year? Hang out with some fabulous folks to go along with that new hobby? Join us- we have so much fun!

Goals for this year: continue to support our own Wesleyan Child Care Center, Fisher House at Eglin, local retirement homes and especially those in our own church who could use the comfort of a shawl or lapghan.

Pray for us this year- we do it all for the Lord!

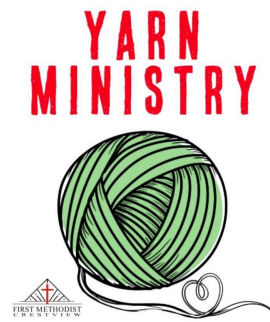
Our meetings in January will be **Tues, Jan 13 & 27, at 6:00PM** in Rm 213 aka Yarnia.

We're looking forward to connecting & reaching out to others to further God's kingdom through loads of yarn and love in 2026!

-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 **Jan 7** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.

Come pray for your hometown!



# CALENDARS

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## January Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

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

#### Greeters

4- Kit Callahan  
11- Debbie Watson  
18- Peggy Harkness  
25- John and Cynthia Leitschuck

#### Ushers

Alesha Dabbs & Robert Dabbs

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1. Alesha Dabbs 2. Kathy 3. Bob McCrory 4. Alesha

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

Greeters & Ushers: 1. Jan Lee 2. John & Marcy Pennell 3. Haley Smith 4. Keller family

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

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

Greeters and Side Aisles

1/4 Steve and Kathy Fowler  
1/11 Connie Stapp and Glenda McMasters  
1/18 Ed and Joanne Guzowski  
1/25 Phillip and Melanie Mathis

#### Ushers

1/4 Eddie Hager and Tom Saunders  
1/11 Ed Guzowski and Tom Giovanini  
1/18 Phillip Mathis and Dax Reeves  
1/25 Burt Colt and Dax Reeves

Back door

1/4-1/25 Jim Hight

Lights and Door Locks

1/4 Eddie Hager  
1/11 Burt Colt  
1/18 Dax Reeves  
1/25 Dax Reeves

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1. TBD 2. Kathy McKinley 3. Matt Minyard 4. Sarah Fordyce 5. Mike Steen

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## Important Dates In January

Jan 4- Epiphany Sunday

Jan 5- Church office reopens for 2026! Happy New Year!

Jan 6- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

Jan 7- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza  
Jan 9- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC  
Jan 11-Children's Committee 12:15PM Kids St.  
-Youth 12:15PM Conf Rm  
-Exploring Membership Class 3:00PM Asbury Rm/CRC  
Jan 12- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
Jan 17- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC  
Jan 18- Trustees 3:00PM FH  
-Finance 5:00PM Rm 213  
Jan 19- Feb Newsletter Deadline  
-Office Closed / Staff Retreat  
Jan 21- CommUNITY Dinner / 8th Ave Methodist Men Chili Cook-Off  
-Church Council 6:30PM CRC  
Jan 27- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
Jan 28- Winter Small Groups Begin

*\*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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### **Looking Forward to February**

Feb 3- WCCC Board 6:00PM Conf Rm  
Feb 4- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza  
Feb 6- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC  
Feb 9- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM CRC  
Feb 10- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm  
-Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
Feb 16- Office closed for President's Day & Staff Retreat  
-March Newsletter Deadline  
Feb 17- Missions 6:30PM RM 213  
Feb 18- Ash Wednesday service in the Main Sanctuary  
Feb 21 - Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC  
Feb 24- 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](http://firstcrestview.com) calendar for any updates or changes

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## ***A MOMENT OF REFLECTION***

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# A Prayer For the New Year

Dear God,  
thank You for the gift of this new year  
and the potential it holds.  
Thank You for Your faithfulness in the past year,  
even in challenges.  
Kindle in us a mighty flame of hope,  
so we may live with intention and  
praise Your glorious name.  
Amen.

Happy New Year from your 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  
Jan 19 / Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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### **First Methodist Staff Contacts**

Staff:  
Pastor - Pastor Ronnie Bearden, [drronbearden@hotmail.com](mailto:drronbearden@hotmail.com)  
Associate Pastor - Kathy McKinley, [fmcassociatepastor@gmail.com](mailto:fmcassociatepastor@gmail.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),  
Youth Ministry - David Smith, [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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