



**THE**  
**CONNECTION**  
**May 2026**  
**Newsletter**

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

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**From the Pastor's Desk**

**Main Sanctuary Renovation**

More updates.

The project funding was approved at a special called meeting of the Administrative Council.

The carpet had been chosen, but unfortunately, the carpet was not available in the quantity we need for such a large space. Consequently, we had to delay the renovation from the original projection.

The Trustees have decided to go with a more neutral mottled color. Our current carpet is solid red and shows stains very badly. The new carpet will be sort of a black/charcoal with hints of dark blue with a mottled color. I like it.

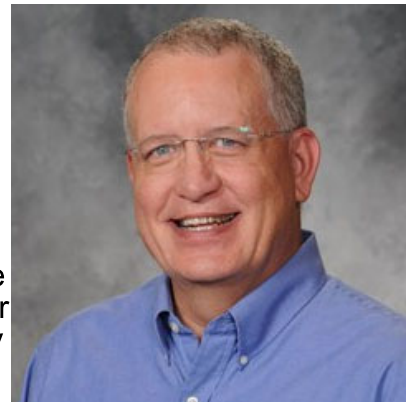
The question has been raised about the possible need to change the colors of the kneeling altars and the pew fabric. If that ends up being changed, it will be in a future phase of this project. Dealing with carpet and pew locations will be the hardest part of the project.

As of this writing, the carpet has arrived. So, we are now setting the renovation to start on Monday, April 27. So, the 11 o'clock Traditional worship will be moved to the Crossroads

Center for one Sunday (hopefully) on the first Sunday in May (May 3). If we need more time, we will publicize it.

So remember, please check the church news sources (email, website, Facebook, etc) for updated announcements concerning this major project.

We ask for everyone's patience. May 3, when we move Traditional worship to the CRC, will be hectic. Because of two worship services in the same space, I'm planning for a slightly shorter service on that day in order to help facilitate changing over to the next service. The contemporary service will start at 9:45 and will be Contemporary. The Traditional service will start at 11 and still be Traditional. And just as an option for folks, our 8:30 am service in the Chapel is also Traditional. It might be that a few 11 o'clock folks might want to worship in the chapel on that day of the switchover (the Chapel seats about 100 and currently worships with 45-60.).



**Stained Glass Auctions**

Our fifth stained glass auction will be May 20 and coincide with the Administrative Council Meeting on the night of Community Dinner. New pieces are still being added by our artisans. Some of the new pieces utilize wood from old pews. Some are solid wood, others have stained glass embedded in the wood. I confess, I am always amazed at the new pieces that are brought to my office. So many pieces are still being produced, that we will likely have at least two more auctions after this, taking us into the Fall. Remember, this current May auction is for missions. All proceeds will go to Pastor Kris Kopacz and his churches in Poland. Furthermore, you do not have to be a member of our church or even local to bid. However, if you live out of town, you need to be able to pick up the items (we don't want to deal with mailing stained glass). If you are out of Crestview, please call the church office and speak to Angie Arnold in order to bid. The current auction items may be viewed on the church website at: <https://www.firstcrestview.com/pages/stained-glass> You are also welcome to see them in the office of Angie Arnold, our Church Administrator.

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

*-Pastor Ronnie*

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## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **Main Sanctuary Renovations**

Our 11:00 worship will move to the CRC on Sunday, May 3 (Communion Sunday) due to construction & new carpet replacement in the Main Sanctuary.





*Drop off the kiddos on Kids St on Fri, May 8 from 5:30- 8:30PM  
for an evening of fun!\$10 per child.  
Preregister at [www.firstcrestview.com/events](http://www.firstcrestview.com/events)*

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### [CommUNITY Dinner](#)

Join us on **Wednesday, May 20** for our Community Dinner hosted by the Soup Kitchen Ministry. Dinner will be Brunswick stew, collard greens and rolls. Please bring a desert to share if you are able.



The CRC lobby will also hold our next round of Stained Glass and wooden crosses that we are auctioning off. All proceeds from this evening will go to Pastor Kris in Poland to help with his missions and outreach. Youth, Kids St. and Chancel Choir will meet at usual.

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

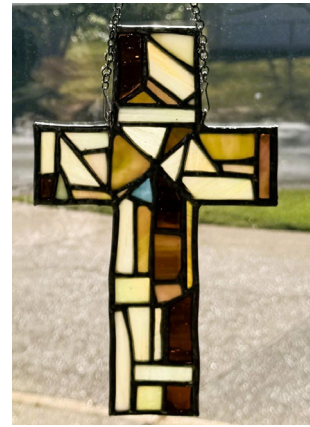
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### [Stained Glass Auction](#)

We will have another Stained Glass Silent Auction **Sun, May 17 - Wed, May 20**. This auction is open to the public. Check our Facebook page for pictures and starting bids.

Auction will wrap up after dinner on our CommUNITY Dinner evening on Wed, May 20.

Pastor Ronnie has more on this topic in his article at the top of the newsletter.



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### **Graduation Sunday**

Anyone in church graduating?  
Notate your grace note or send  
to [office.firstcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:office.firstcrestview@gmail.com) their name &  
school that they are graduating from by May  
13 and we will honor them on this very  
special **Sunday, May 24**.



**Wear RED for Pentecost Sunday, May 24!**

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### **Memorial Day**

Our church office will be closed on Mon, **May 24** in observance of Memorial Day.



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### [Exploring Membership Class](#)

Interested in becoming an FMC member? Join Pastor Ronnie on **Sun, May 31** at 3:00PM in the Asbury Rm/CRC. Please notate your grace note if you are interested and if you need to reserve childcare.



Vacation Bible School will be held **July 20-23**, 6:00-8:00, with a family night on July 24. We have already started planning and preparing and need your help. Please be prayerfully considering how you can help and be on the lookout for announcements about planning meetings and donations needed.

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## **MINISTRY UPDATES**

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## Wesleyan Child Care Center

Wesleyan Child Care Center is blooming with joy as we enter the beautiful month of May!

We are especially proud of our VPK classes as they prepare to graduate and take their next big step into kindergarten—we celebrate all they have learned and the wonderful young hearts they are becoming.

Our classrooms have been filled with growth, laughter, and meaningful moments as we finish the school year strong.

**We are now enrolling** for the upcoming school year and would love to welcome new families into our caring and nurturing environment.

Thank you for your continued support as we partner together in guiding our children to learn, grow, and shine!



*Osa Bell- WCCC Director*

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## Children's Ministry

**Thank you to everyone who made the Children's Palm Sunday Celebration such a wonderful day!**

It is always such a blessing to see the way so many ministries of our church come together to make the day so special for families in our church and community. A special shout out goes to the Men's Group and Youth Group for all their help before, during, and after the event.



**Parents Night Out** will be held on **Friday, May 8**, 5:30-8:30. Registration is required for this and spots are limited so be sure to visit the church website and sign up soon if you would like your child to attend. This is always such a fun evening for the kids and volunteers that attend. If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact the church office.

On **Sundays at 9:45** we have started a new series "**Flash Forward**". In this series, kids will learn that they can have hope! Hope is being sure that God will do good things. We want kids to be confident that no matter what is happening in their lives, God sees them, loves them, and has a good plan for them.

At **11:00 on Sundays** we are focusing on "**First Things First**". Throughout this series, kids will learn what the Bible tells us is most important in life, and what we should be doing every day in order to live a life that glorifies God

**Wednesday evenings** on Kids Street are a time for fun, fellowship, and learning. We gather together from 6:00-7:30, to have devotions, games, crafts, and snacks.

Vacation Bible School will be held **July 20-23**, 6:00-8:00, with a family night on **July 24**. We have already started planning and preparing and need your help. Please be prayerfully considering how you can help and be on the lookout for announcements about planning meetings and donations needed.

-Children's Ministry / *Vicky Anchor*

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## **Youth Ministry**

Hello Church Family: **wow- just wow!!** Yes- I have to brag: "What an incredible power packed Discovery Weekend 2026!" It was a spiritual formation retreat to explore God's amazing love through worship and fellowship. For both the leaders and the youth: this weekend was full of wild excitement, emotional tears, laughter, overwhelming joy, and a mighty move of the Holy Spirit.



For David, Jim, and me, being our first time, it was a huge success: the best event ever!! (Well- truth be told: our one and only event). But of course- this could not have happened if it hadn't been for our remarkable Church. So- with heartfelt gratitude, we express our deepest thanks for your love, dedication, gifts, and generous support. Your enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra mile was greatly appreciated.

Thank you- thank you- thank you: First Methodist Church. For all those who provided: breakfasts, lunch, dinner, and hosted an ice cream social for us this weekend. For all those who worked in the prayer room, served communion, led table discussions, the bathroom monitors, the decorators for Chapel and Sanctuary services, the agape, the music techs, the piano player, the parents, and the chaperons for overnight supervision. For all those who opened their home: for the youth talks, the burning of sins service, and the swimming time. For all those who came in on Saturday to pray for the youth. And on Sunday to clean up our mess by putting all the rooms back together. For all who went above and beyond the call of duty!

Finally, we especially thank the Youth: for their hard work, dedication, loyalty, leadership, commitment, leading the worship service, and for performing in the band. They really knocked this weekend out of the park!! We are all truly blessed to be a part of this extraordinary family of God!! May God receive all the honor, glory, and praise.

In His Service,  
*Youth Leader: David Smith*  
*Associate Pastor: Kathy McKinley*  
*Assistant: Jim Keller*

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## **Soup Kitchen Ministry**

SHOUT OUT TO BLESS YOU ALL for continuing to give and support our Soup Kitchen to provide delicious hot homemade meals each Saturday. Your donations 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 Soup Kitchen donations are aligned with that goal, and
- \* 100% of our Soup Kitchen team consist of loving volunteers.

Sixteen years strong, feeding our community in need we are grateful for your support along with the community and businesses donating canned vegetables,

bread, and desserts which help our meals go farther.

I wish to emphasize how much our church and community greatly appreciate our Soup Kitchen volunteers and supporters for they are truly heaven sent and share a strong bond; they are all committed and passionate about loving others through giving, 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.”



Hope to see you at the First Methodist of Crestview May Community Dinner hosted by the Soup Kitchen. We welcome you to come and enjoy Steve's homemade Brunswick Stew, greens, and roll. Donations from that meal will go to the Soup Kitchen's core mission of providing food for needy.

We'd like to greatly thank the Girl Scouts Troop 93004 for donating 6 cases of Girl Scout cookies to the Soup Kitchen. People who come for food love the Girl Scouts for their continued donation of cookies. volunteers also require volunteer hours to qualify for community service credits. We have incredible parents and grandparents who join us to share with their children the importance of giving their time helping people in need. It is also common to have members from other churches and Eglin Airforce base military, volunteer with us.

We welcome volunteers so please contact Deb Lubas Soup Kitchen Coordinator to schedule your next volunteer opportunity with us.

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 or counter and text Deb at 401-742-4898. Want to donate socks or gloves please text Deb at 401-742-4898. • Want to donate funds to the Soup Kitchen? Contact the office at 850-682-2018 with Soup Kitchen indicated on the envelope or NOTES section.

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

Respectfully, Deb Lubas, First Methodist of Crestview SOUP Kitchen Coordinator, 401-742 4898

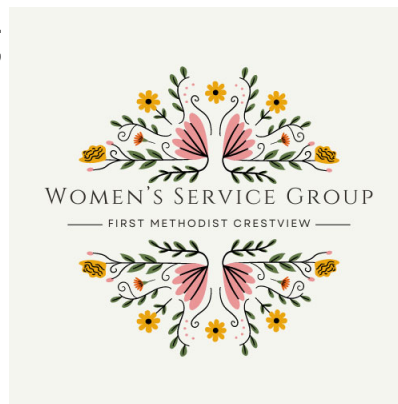
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### [Women's Service Group](#)

First Methodist Women's Service Group met on Friday April 3, 2026.

Our meetings are on the first Friday of each month. Each meeting begins with a meaningful devotion to lead us into discussions about ways to serve the Lord by serving our church and community.

Our guest speaker this month was Amber Cremeans from the JoAnn Birge Women and Children's Center in DeFuniak Springs. This is a residential drug treatment center that provides women and their young children a safe place to recover and helps them with employment and to get back on their feet. We are currently looking at ways that we may be able to help this much needed facility.



Sunday April 12th was a great day. We appreciated the opportunity to serve breakfast to the youth and adults for the Discovery Weekend. It was so much fun seeing the "energy" of the youth! We are truly blessed to have adults and volunteers willing to work with the youth of our church.

All FMC ladies and friends of the community are invited to join us for our next meeting, **Friday, May 1, 2026**, at 10:00 in the Crossroads Center Asbury Room.

***"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45***

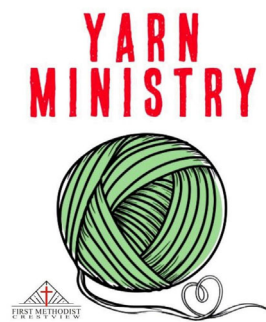
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### **Yarn Ministry**

Spring is all about color color COLOR! We're having a blast stitching up nap blankets and housekeeping items for our Wesleyan Child Care Center and we're making these handmade gifts with LOADS OF COLOR! What a blessing to look around and be inspired by God's own handiwork. Our meetings in May will be **Tues, May 12 & 19, 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*

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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 **May 6** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.  
Come pray for your hometown!

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## CALENDARS

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### May Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

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

##### Greeters

3- John and Cynthia Leitschuck  
10- Mike and Betsy Roy  
17- Gail and Terry Laskaskie  
24- Kaleb and Lindsey Reynolds  
31- Kit Callahan

##### Ushers

John & Cynthia Leitschuck

#### **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. Melvin Candelario 2. Aimee Keller 3. Nell Sutherland 4. Jody Woodward 5. Kathy McKinley

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

***\*Service will be held in the CRC on May 3!***

##### Greeters

5/3 Steve and Kathy Fowler  
5/10 Dee stager and Glenda McMasters  
5/17 Jayne Hager and Connie Stapp  
5/24 Eddie and Jayne Hager  
5/31 Ed and Joanne Guzowski

##### Ushers

5/3 Eddie and Tom Saunders  
5/10 Burt Colt and Dax Reeves  
5/17 Eddie Hager and Phillip Mathis  
5/24 Burt Colt and Tom Giovanini  
5/31 Dax Reeves and Tom Saunders

##### Office door

5/3 - 5/31 Jim Hight

##### Lock Doors and Lights

5/3 Dax Reeves  
5/10 Burt Colt  
5/17 Eddie Hager  
5/24 Burt Colt  
5/31 Dax Reeves

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1. Phil Estrem 2. Kathy McKinley 3. Margaret Larson 4. Sarah Fordyce 5. Mike Steen

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## **Important Dates In May**

May 1- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC  
May 3- 11:00AM Traditions Service in the CRC  
May 3 through 5- Annual Conference  
May 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza  
May 7- World Day of Prayer  
May 8- Parents Night Out 5:30-8:30PM  
May 11- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
May 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
May 16- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC (request nursery by 5/9)  
May 17- Trustees 3:00PM Conf Rm  
-Finance 5:00PM Rm 213  
May 18- June newsletter deadline  
May 20- CommUNITY Dinner 5:30PM CRC Hosted by Soup Kitchen Ministry  
- Church Council 6:30PM CRC  
May 24- Pentecost Sunday **WEAR RED!**  
- Graduation Sunday  
May 25- Office Closed / Memorial Day  
May 26- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
May 31- Exploring Membership Class 3:00PM CRC

*\*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 June**

June 2- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC  
June 3- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza  
June 8- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM CRC  
June 9- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm  
-Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
June 10- Chancel Choir Summer Hiatus Begins  
June 16- Missions 6:30PM Rm 213  
June 18 thru June 20- Youth to Camp Baldwin  
June 20 - Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC (request nursery by 6/14)  
June 21- Camp Meetings Begin  
June 22- July newsletter deadline  
June 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](http://firstcrestview.com) calendar for any updates or changes

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***A MOMENT OF REFLECTION***

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### **A Blessing in Spring**

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,  
Where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be your name.  
Every blessing you pour out may we turn back to praise of you,  
O God when the sun's shining down on us when the world's 'all as it should be'  
Blessed be your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.  
Blessed be your name.  
You give and take away our hearts will choose to say Lord,  
Blessed be your name.

*- Author Unknown*

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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*  
May 25 / Memorial Day

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### **First Methodist Staff Contacts**

#### Staff:

Pastor - Rev. Ronnie Bearden, [drronbearden@hotmail.com](mailto:drronbearden@hotmail.com)  
Associate Pastor - Rev. 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: [www.firstcrestview.com](http://www.firstcrestview.com)  
App store: FirstCrestview



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