



THE
CONNECTION
June 2026
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

From the Pastor's Desk

Main Sanctuary Renovation

As I write this, Phase 1 is almost finally completed.

The stage was removed, the carpet was replaced. The kneeling rail moved and recovered, and the modesty rail removed with the stage and modesty rail removed, we were able to re-space all of the pews. Before the project began, there were a couple of spots where the gap was only 11 inches or less and it was either impossible or almost impossible for someone to pass another in the pew. Now all the pews are gapped at about 18 inches. This is so much better. I would have liked a larger gap, but the Trustees did not want to remove any more pews.



Entrance and exit at the front of the sanctuary is greatly improved and is now much safer.

Phase 2 will be in the future and will involve the chancel (the stage area). The brickwork is awful in some places and needs repair. We also will address improvements to the wiring for mics and TV screens. It will be a while because we have a few other more pressing needs.

I am truly thankful for such hard work of all involved. This was a big project and the results are wonderful.

Worship Banners

A lot of excitement and appreciation has been generated over our new worship banners.

I'm almost finished purchasing the banners for the Main Sanctuary with only 4 more to go (2 pair). These include two for early Fall and two for Advent. When complete, we will then have a full collection to run an entire yearly cycle.

There are still several banners I intend to eventually purchase for the Crossroads Center and a few for the chapel.

If you are interested in making a contribution for the purchase of any banners, just speak to me. I can even show you the ones I still want to acquire if you want to see the possibilities. Contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund.

Dreaming Big

It was such a blessing to be able to do the Main Sanctuary renovation with funds on hand.

However, there are some big projects which I dream about. For example, the bathrooms are completely inadequate for the Main Sanctuary (by modern standards, of course). Currently, our bathrooms can only accommodate 2 women and 3 men for a Sanctuary which seats 350-400! I dream of a major renovation project which would vastly increase bathroom accommodation and would involve major changes to the Office area and the bathrooms at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

We do not have the funds for such a project currently and there are currently no plans for such a project. It's just a dream that comes from a Pastor who always wants to improve our church. But I share these thoughts with you here because there are sometimes church members who have the resources and like to support big dreams. And the only way that they become a part of those big dreams is if the dreams are made known.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIG Thank You!

Thank you to all who volunteered and helped make Parents Night Out such a wonderful evening for the 30 children who attended. Your joyful service, creativity, and care made the night special for every child who walked through the doors.

-Vicky Anchor, Children's Ministry



Congrats to our Grads!

High School

College

Keenan D. Williamson , Klarissa M. Williamson

REFIT Event

Join us on Wednesday **June 3**, at 6:00PM for a special **REFIT Fundraiser** for Vacation Bible School. All donations will go towards Vacation Bible School. There will be multiple instructors & special drawings. Free Childcare is available. Sign up today for childcare this event! Come whoop it up for VBS 2026!
<https://vbspro.events/p/fmc-refit>



Camp Meeting Month

Our ode to Camp Meetings begins on Sun, **June 21 and will last until Sun, August 9.**

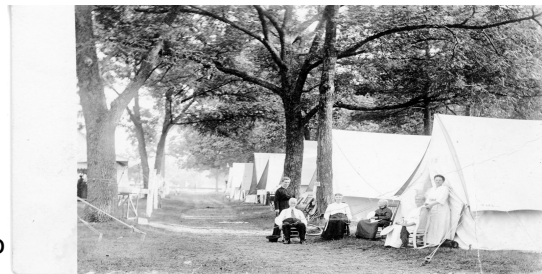
This is a time when our traditional services, 8:30AM & 11:00AM, dig into the brown Cokesbury hymnals to sing those old time religion tunes.

Please peruse the Cokesbury hymnals found in the pew pockets and jot down any page numbers on your Grace Note that you'd like to sing.

Kevin Lusk, our Chancel Choir Director, is currently taking requests.

Camp meetings originated in the American frontier (Kentucky/Carolinas) around 1799–1801 as multi-day, outdoor Protestant revivals during the Second Great Awakening. Pioneered by Presbyterians, they served isolated settlements with preaching and communion, becoming a key, lasting component of Methodist evangelism by the early 1800s.

Photo owned by Susan Patt.





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.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

We are excited to announce that our Summer Project is just around the corner! Shoe boxes are now available for pick up in front of the church office and the CRC and include the label, ideas on what to fill your shoebox with and a cute coloring page. Don't miss your chance to participate—stop by and collect yours as soon as possible. Please remember that the deadline to return your completed shoe box is **September 16, 2026**. Mark your calendar and ensure you return it on time to be part of this great effort.



- Pam Hight & Marianne Peyton

MINISTRY UPDATES

Wesleyan Child Care Center

As another wonderful school year comes to a close at Wesleyan Child Care Center, we are filled with gratitude for all God has done in our preschool ministry this year.

We are especially proud to celebrate our 50 VPK graduates as they prepare to take their next big step into kindergarten this fall.

Throughout the year, our students have



grown academically, socially, and spiritually while learning about God's love each day.

Our graduation celebration was a joyful reminder of how much these children have blossomed under the care and dedication of our teachers and families. We thank our church family for their continued prayers and support and look forward to another blessed year ahead at Wesleyan.

Osa Bell- WCCC Director

Children's Ministry

Rainforest Falls VBS is Coming

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure at Rainforest Falls VBS, happening **July 20–23** from 6:00–8:00 p.m., with a special Family Night & Dinner on **July 24** at 6:00 p.m.

This year, we'll be exploring the nature of God through Bible adventures, exciting games, hands-on crafts, and dinner each night. It's going to be a week filled with discovery, friendship, and faith-building fun.

Registration is now open. Click on this QR code to sign up!

Volunteers are essential to making VBS a success. If you feel led to help—whether for one night or the whole week—please contact the church office. Every helping hand makes a difference.



Ways to Support VBS

Your support helps create a meaningful, faith-building experience for every child. Here are several ways you can be part of the mission:

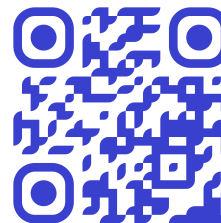
Pray for VBS — Lift up the planning team, volunteers, and the children who will attend. Pray that hearts are open and that God's love is experienced in powerful ways.

Volunteer Your Time — Many opportunities are available before, during, and after VBS. Help with preparation, decorating, leading activities, or staying afterward for cleanup. Every role matters.

Donate from the Amazon Wish List — Items are needed for decorations, craft supplies, and snacks. Your donations help bring the rainforest theme to life and keep activities running smoothly. This QR code will take you straight to our Amazon page!

Take a Donation Leaf — When available, choose a leaf to help provide food for the nightly dinners. Each leaf represents a specific item needed.

Support the Adopt-a-Monkey Fundraiser — This fun fundraiser helps cover the cost of VBS t-shirts. Choose your favorite monkey and make a donation to support our kids.



Wednesday Night Kids Street

We will continue throughout the summer from **6:00–7:30 p.m.** Children will be learning about The Fruit of the Spirit through stories, activities, and creative lessons designed to help them grow in faith and character.

Ages for our Wed night Kid's St program:

Nursery (for parents who remain on campus) is for children 6 wks through 3 yrs. Children's Class includes PreK (age 4) through 5th grade.

-Children's Ministry / *Vicky Anchor*

Soup Kitchen Ministry

BLESS YOU ALL for your continued support and generosity toward our Soup Kitchen.

Every Saturday, your donations help us serve delicious, hot homemade meals to those in need. Your kindness keeps our mission sustainable and allows us to offer nutritious food choices that truly make a difference in people's lives. Thanks to generous contributions, we can provide healthy meals that bring hope and comfort each week. Sixteen years strong, feeding 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.

Hope you were able to come to the First Methodist of Crestview May Community Dinner hosted by the Soup Kitchen. Many people commented that Steve's homemade Brunswick Stew was amazing along with sides. 100% of your donations from that May community dinner went to the Soup Kitchen's core mission of providing a warm meal to our community in need.

We are once again deeply grateful to Girl Scouts Troop 93004 for their generosity in donating 15 more cases of Girl Scout cookies to the Soup Kitchen. These cookies are more than just a sweet treat—they bring joy and lift the spirits of those facing food insecurity. The people who come for a meal look forward to receiving these cookies, as they brighten their day and remind them that their community cares about them. Thank you, Girl Scouts, for making a positive difference and for showing our guests that they are valued and supported. Your kindness truly makes an impact!

We welcome volunteers of all ages to donate their time in the Soup Kitchen. In the month of May, we were blessed with three new volunteers who joined us. All our volunteers feel the gift of joy and love from helping others in need. We 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." This verse reminds us of the importance of caring for others, which is at the heart of our Soup Kitchen's mission.

While some of our 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. Some volunteers join us to earn community service credits, while others—parents, grandparents, church members, and Eglin Airforce Base personnel—help out to support those in need. We welcome new volunteers; please contact Deb Lubas, Soup Kitchen Coordinator, to schedule your opportunity at 401-742-4898 or greenhalghdj@cox.net.

How to Support the Soup Kitchen

- To volunteer with the First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission, email greenhalghdj@cox.net or text 401-742-4898.
- To donate food, place items in the Soup Kitchen refrigerator or on the counter. For questions or to notify us, please contact Deb Lubas, Soup

Kitchen Coordinator, at 401-742-4898.

- To donate socks or gloves, please text Deb Lubas at 401-742-4898.
- To donate funds, place a check in the Sunday's church offering; or mail or deliver to the First Methodist of Crestview office; on the check indicate & Soup Kitchen on your envelope and in the NOTES section of the check.
- We invite you to stay connected with us on Facebook @FirstCrestview or visit our website at <https://FirstCrestview.com>.

-Respectfully, Deb Lubas, SOUP Kitchen Coordinator

Women's Service Group

First Methodist Women's Service Group will remain active throughout the summer.

We kicked off our Back to School drive to collect school supplies for students returning to school in August. Everyone is encouraged to help us with this project. You can give supplies to any member of the Women's Service Group. We will be collecting through August.

Our summer meetings will be casual lunches. All FMC ladies and friends of the community are invited to join us for our next meeting, **Friday, June 5, 2026, 11:30AM** at Back Home Bakery.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." -1 Peter 4:10



Yarn Ministry

We're still happily cranking out nap blankies and care squares for our WCCC littles and we are having SO MUCH FUN with them!

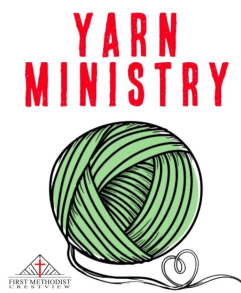
Our meetings in June will be **Tues, June 9 & 23, at 6:00PM** in Rm 213 (aka Yarnia). Since this month has 5 Tuesdays, we will meet on **June 30** at Panera's at 6:00PM- don't forget to bring your project!

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

Come pray for your hometown!



CALENDARS

June Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters

7- Debbie Watson
14- Peggy Harkness
21- Leitschuck's
28- Roys

Ushers

Debbie Watson & Adam Dabbs

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

Greeters and Users

6/7. Steve and Kathy Fowler
6/14. Ed and Joanne Guzowski
6/21. Glenda McMasters and Judy Beard
6/28. Phillip and Melanie Mathis

Ushers

6/7. Phillip Mathis and Tom Giovanini
6/14. Burt Colt and Dax Reeves
6/21. Eddie Hager and Tom Saunders
6/28. Rollin Anderson and Tom Giovanini

Office Door

6/7 - 6/28 Jim Hight

Lock doors and lights

6/7. Mac McKinley
6/14. Dax Reeves
6/21. Eddie Hager
6/28 Burt Colt

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

Important Dates In June

June 3- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
June 5- Women's Service Group 11:30AM Back Home Bakery/Crestview
June 8- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM CRC
June 9-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 calendar for any updates or changes

Looking Forward To July

July 1- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
July 2- Church Office Closed For Fourth of July. Happy Birthday America!
July 10- Women's Service Group 11:30AM McAlisters/Crestview
July 12- Children's Committee 12:15PM on Kids St
 - Youth 12:15PM Conf RM
 - Trustees 3:00PM Conf Rm
 - Finance 5:00PM Rm 213
July 13- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
July 14- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
July 15- CommUNITY Dinner 5:30PM CRC Hosted by Children's Ministry
 - Church Council 6:30PM CRC
July 18- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC (request nursery by 7/12)
July 20- August newsletter deadline
July 20 through 23 - VBS 6-8:00PM CRC
July 24- VBS Family Night & Dinner 6:00PM CRC
July 26- VBS Sunday 9:45AM CRC
July 28- 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



Lord,
like a sunflower turns its face toward the sun,
help me turn my heart toward You.
In seasons of joy and in times of shadow,
keep me rooted in Your love and steady in Your light.

May my life shine with Your beauty,
bringing warmth and hope to those around me.
Amen

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

May 25 / Memorial Day

First Methodist Staff Contacts

Staff:

Pastor - Rev. Ronnie Bearden, drronbearden@hotmail.com
Associate Pastor - Rev. Kathy McKinley, fmcassociatepastor@gmail.com
Church Administrator - Angie Arnold, firstcrestview@gmail.com
Church Secretary - Cathrin Owens, office.firstcrestview@gmail.com
Children's Ministry, kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com,
Youth Ministry - David Smith, 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: www.firstcrestview.com

App store: FirstCrestview



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