



***THE
CONNECTION***
**July 2026
Newsletter**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

From the Pastor's Desk

Renovations

Not only has our Main Sanctuary been renovated, but we have also renovated the Wesleyan Child Care Center. A few months ago, our wonderful director, Osa Bell, came to me with a request for improvements since it had been many years since we last painted the WCCC.

Thanks to the dedicated work of volunteers and staff, our WCCC is almost ready for the new school year in August.



Elevator Update

I wanted to give everyone an update on this very long saga. We began having serious troubles about 6 months ago and the obvious question which arises is: What's taking so long?

The elevator is only about 12 or so years old and, believe it or not, it is outdated. Part of me wonders if the original company sold us an older model. At any rate, parts for a more simple fix are just not available.

Consequently, we are looking at major parts upgrades with a cost of about \$70,000. That's a lot!

People then began asking other questions.

Given the high repair cost, How much would it cost if we just bought a brand new one (vs repairing the old one)?

The answer we received was about twice as much because our elevator is actually a residential elevator. A new commercial elevator would also require major construction of a new, larger shaft (with changed to adjoining rooms). In that light, the quoted repair cost seems more justified. Current codes would not allow us to install another residential elevator in its place.

Do we really need an elevator? After-all, we got along for about 45 years

without one.

The answer is yes. While it is not used a lot, it is used. We have several members who have handicapping and mobility issues and the elevator is about the only way someone can get from lower levels to the Main Sanctuary. This includes the Chapel. If you leave the Chapel, walking the sidewalk across the yard, you have to walk up-hill and navigate steps (which is a challenge if you use a walker). With an elevator, someone can walk from the chapel, through the WCCC to the elevator. The elevator also helps those who park in the back parking lot but do not handle stairs very well.

So, we apologize for this equipment failure and all of the inconvenience it has caused. We know people with mobility issues have been disappointed. Our Church Administrator, Angie Arnold, has put in many hours trying to resolve this.

So that brings you up to date. Currently, the Trustees are deciding how and when to move forward with this costly repair. We will keep you updated in the future

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

-Pastor Ronnie

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Our church office will be closed on Thursday, July 2
in observance of Independence Day.**

Happy Birthday America!

Fall Small Groups

Register now! Our offerings for Fall are listed online at firstcrestview.com or you can peruse the books at the next Community Dinner on July 15. Sign up early!





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.

Battle Of The Banana Puddings

Our Banana Pudding Contest will take place at on **Wed, July 15** at our Summer Shindig Community Dinner! All entries need to be in the Crossroads Center by 5:10pm for judging. Everyone is invited to enter!



Community Dinner Summer Shindig

Join us on Wed, July 15 in the CRC!

*Our Youth & Kids Street will be hosting our summer friendly dinner with hotdogs, baked beans, chips & all the fixin's! Please bring a dessert to share if you are able. All proceeds go to our Children & Youth ministries.



*Our **BANANA PUDDING CONTEST** will take place before the community dinner. All entries need to be in the CRC by 5:10PM for judging. Everyone is invited to enter!

*Interested in being a **Vacation Bible School volunteer**? Sign up on this night & pick up your VBS volunteer shirt.

*Peruse our **Fall Small Group** classes list & register.

*There will be no Kids St activities after dinner on this night.

*Youth will meet after dinner clean-up.

*Nursery will be provided for Church Council members only for the meeting beginning at 6:30PM in the Wesley Hall/CRC.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

We are excited to announce that our Summer Mission Project has begun!

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.

deadline to return your completed shoe box is **September 16, 2026** at our Community Dinner.



MINISTRY UPDATES

Missions Committee

Summer is here!

Now is the perfect time to start on our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) summer project. Shoe boxes and informational literature are available at the Crossroads Center and outside the church office. Deadline for return is **September 16, 2026**.

Did you know we have a Bicycle Ministry?

Warren Carruso fixes usable bikes to give to anyone who might need one including children. If you have a bike you no longer use or want, think about giving it to the Bicycle Ministry, OR if you know of someone who needs a bike, please contact the church office.

Have a safe and wonderful summer. Blessings

-Pam Hight



Children's Ministry

Rainforest Falls VBS is Almost Here!

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:

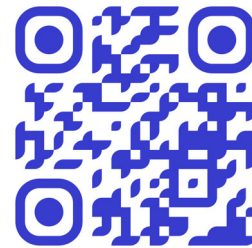
Pray for VBS — Lift up the planning team, volunteers, and the children who will attend. Pray that hearts are open and that God's love is experienced in powerful ways.

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.



End-of-Summer / Back-to-School Celebration

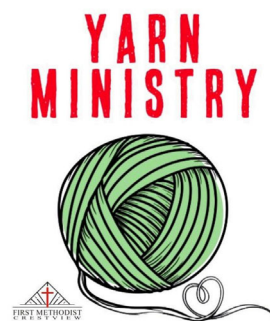
Mark your calendars for Wednesday, **August 5** at 6:00. We'll celebrate the end of summer with a water slide, pizza, and ice cream. It will be a great evening of fun, faith, and fellowship as we get ready for a new school year.

-Children's Ministry / *Vicky Anchor*

Yarn Ministry

You know you're a Yarnie when the first thing you pack for vacation is your project & enough yarn to last you at least 3 months... but you're only going away for the weekend. It happens!

Summer is the perfect time to whittle down your projects to bite size patterns that are easy to haul with you in the car, plane or train. And what a blessing to meet others on the road who also whip their projects out and the easy conversation flows. These are our Yarnie friends from



around the world that we can learn from and share a laugh. How blessed are we???

Our meetings in June will be **Tues, July 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

"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 **July 1** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.

Come pray for your hometown!



CALENDARS

July Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters

7/5 Gail & Terry Laskaskie

7/12 Kaleb & Lindsey Reynolds

7/19 Kit Callahan

7/26 Debbie Watson

Ushers

Alesha Dabbs & Robert 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 Ushers

7/5. Steve and Kathy Fowler

7/12. Glenda McMasters and Judy Beard

7/19. Ed and Joanne Guzowski
7/26. Eddie and Jayne Hager

Ushers

7/5. Phillip Mathis and Tom Giovanini
7/12. Tom Saunders and Eddie Hager
7/19. Burt Colt and Dax Reeves
7/26. Rollin Anderson and Tom Giovanini

Office door

7/5-7/26 Jim Hight

Look doors and lights

7/5. Mac McKinley
7/12. Dax Reeves
7/19. Burt Colt

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

Important Dates In 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 / Classes & Groups Canceled This Week
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

Looking Forward to August

Aug 2- Long Range Planning 3:00PM Asbury RM/CRC
Aug 5- Back to School Event for Youth & Kids St
Aug 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Aug 7- Women's Service Group 11:30AM Fat Boys/Crestview
Aug 9- Blessing of the Backpacks / All services
Aug 10- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM CRC
Aug 11- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm
 -Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Aug 12- Chancel Choir Kick-Off Party (Time & Location TBA)

- Fall Small Groups Begin
Aug 16- Chancel Choir Is Back!
Aug 15 - Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC (request nursery by 8/10)
Aug 18- Missions Committee 6:30PM Rm 213
Aug 24- September Newsletter Deadline
Aug 25- 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



Father, thank You for the gift of summer!
Thank You for the warmth of the sun, the beauty of nature,
and the slower, sweeter pace of the season.
As we enjoy this time, draw us closer to You.
Grant our souls rest from the busyness,
and help us to be a light and a comfort to those around us.
Amen.

***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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

July 2 / Happy Birthday America!

First Methodist Staff Contacts

Staff:

Pastor - Rev. Ronnie Bearden, drnonbearden@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, fmfacilities599@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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