FIRST METHODIST
CRESTVIEW

THE CONNECTION
December 2026 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas Eve



We invite you to a special worship service on Christmas Eve. The main service will be at 6 pm in the Main Sanctuary, and then we will have a second service at 11 pm. We usually average about 300-350 at the 6:30 pm service and about 50 at the Almost Midnight Service. Come for carol singing, Holy Communion, candle lighting and a devotion to focus out hearts and minds on Jesus. So invite your friends to join you and come early!

Special Christmas Eve Offering

Each year at the Christmas Eve Services, our church receives a special missions offering. We are doing something different this year. All of the undesignated gifts we receive this year at our Christmas Eve service will go to CASH: Crestview Area Shelter for the Homeless. This ministry does great work and they are facing some difficult funding challenges. In all of your Christmas spending this year, please remember to make a special offering for this essential ministry for our area.

Thank You!

Dear church family, Melanie and I were overwhelmed by your kindness during Pastor Appreciation Month (October). Your expressions of kindness and support were so wonderful. We are so very glad that God planted us in Crestview!

Rumble Channel Update

Last month I told you about new video channels. Bob McCrory and I are taking old worship service recordings anywhere from a few months ago to a few years ago… and we are isolating both the sermons and the puppets and then posting them (Bob is doing the heavy lifting- thanks Bob!)

The sermons go to this channel:

SERMONS BY RONNIE BEARDEN: https://rumble.com/c/c-7950748

TRUTH UNEXPECTED (puppets): https://rumble.com/c/c-7971846

If you are using a computer, then you should be able to go to those channels and then look for a tab called **PLAYLISTS**. If you click on that, you will find all the videos organized (if you do not use a playlist, the videos are in random order, and when you get to the end of one, some other random channel video will play instead of mine). Using the PLAYLIST is best.

On the Puppet Channel (Truth Unexpected), **all** of the puppet videos are on the the same playlist. At present, there are 60 puppet videos posted. This is the easiest way to watch these because they play one after another if you choose PLAY ALL (you have to turn the volume on for each video).

On the sermon channel, there are currently 5 entire sermon series posted (over 40 sermons). You can listen to the series from this year: **Habakkuk** (4 sermons), **Galatians** (20 sermons), and **Why Jesus is the Only Way** (8 sermons). Also listed are two series from a few years ago: **A Revelation of Worship** (7 sermons) and **Don't Be Deceived!** (3 sermons).

Here is the quick link to the sermon playlist: https://rumble.com/c/c-7950748/playlists

Sadly, I have figured out that when I go to those channels on my Rumble phone app, I don't see the PLAYLIST tab because the app is very streamlined. To see the PLAYLIST button on your phone or tablet, use a Web browser to get to Rumble instead of the app.

Here is more information about commercials. I have set up the Puppet channel TRUTH UNEXPECTED with no commercials. I did not do that with the sermons. The reason is because if you set a video for no-commercials, then it cannot be found be searching…. and we want people to find these videos as an extension of our ministry to reach others. Occasionally, I might make one puppet video here and there commercial just to allow it to pop up on a search, but it will be rare.

Rumble is just like other free websites in that commercials pay the bills. If you pay for the Premium level, commercials go away. You don't have to do that, but it is an option… and it applies to the whole Rumble site, not just my channel.

Our desire is for these channels to be blessing to people young and old for many years to come.

-Pastor Ronnie

WITH THANKFULNESS

From The Bottom Of My Heart

Thank you so much, church family, for your love and condolences in Melanie's passing. I especially appreciate the 8th Ave Men's Group for driving me to see Mel when I couldn't drive myself. Thank you.

-Gary Zick



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



FMC Christmas Event Schedule 2026

Parent's Day Out / Kids Christmas ADVENTure
Sat, Dec 5 from 9:00AM-1:00PM on Kids Street
Parents enjoy a day out shopping while the kids enjoy a Christmas ADVENTure.
This event is FREE (donations are accepted) for kids 6 months up to 5th grade.
We will serve pizza, have arts & crafts and snacks.

Kids Gingerbread Event
Sat, Dec 12, 9:45-11:00AM in the Crossroads Center.
Join us as we decorate Gingerbread Houses.
Parents are invited to participate with their children. Bring a friend!

Christmas Cantata & Preaching Service

Sun, Dec 13
Our Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata will be held at 8:30AM & 11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary (no sermon). The Preaching Service with Pastor Ronnie will be held at 9:45AM in the Crossroads Center.

FMC Christmas Party Hosted By The 8th Ave Methodist Men
Everyone is invited!
Mon, Dec14 at 6:00PM in the Crossroads Center
Tickets are 15$ each & can be purchased in the office or by a men's group member. Sign up for child care at firstcrestview.com. Donations will be collected at the front door for the Benevolence Pantry.

Kid's Street Children's Christmas Pageant & Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Wed, Dec 16, 6:00-7:30PM in the Crossroads Center
Join us as our children from Kids' Street perform their Christmas Program followed by
a Happy Birthday Jesus Party with cake!

Youth Christmas Caroling & Party
Sat, Dec 19 from 2:00-7:00PM.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES
Thurs, Dec 24 in the Main Sanctuary
6:30PM (FB Live) & 11:00PM.
*These services are family friendly, therefore nursery & Kids' Street programs will be unavailable.
Christmas Eve Offering
This year's offering will go toward the Crestview Area Shelter for the Homeless.

One Combined Worship Service
Sun, Dec 27, at 11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary.

Church Office Holiday Closure
Dec 24, 2026-Jan 4, 2027

Poinsettia Update



Unfortunately we are not able to proceed with our poinsettia fundraiser this year due to the hurricane damage to our supplier.
Their farm was decimated. We continue to lift up those who are still dealing with devastating storm damage. Lord, hear our prayers.

Angel Tree Adoption Gifts



We are excited about the upcoming Christmas season!
Our Angel gifts are due back in the CRC by **Sun, Dec 6**, or you may drop them off during the week in the office during normal business hours.

One Blood's Big Red Bus



The Big Red Bus will be on campus **Sun, Dec 6** from 8:00AM-12:00PM.
Blood donors will receive a sweatshirt, a $20 egift card,and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening.
Roll up your sleeves & save a life!

8th Ave Methodist Men Meeting Changes

On January 2027 our men's group will meet on the 2nd Thurs of each month at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall.
I would encourage anyone interested in wanting to have a positive impact and make a meaningful difference in our church and community to join us for a delicious meal and good fellowship.
-Dave Ordoñez
*The next meeting will be held on **Thurs, Jan 14** at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall.*

MINISTRY UPDATES

Wesleyan Child Care Center



This week, our Wesleyan family came together for a special food drive to support our church's food bank at First Methodist Church of Crestview! Our students and families helped collect food items to bless those in need within our community.

After gathering our donations, we took a special moment to pray over the food and ask God's blessing upon every item and the neighbors and families who will receive it.

We are so proud to teach our little ones that giving is about more than sharing what we have — it's about showing love, kindness, and compassion for others. What a beautiful reminder that even the smallest hands can make a BIG difference!

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." – Acts 20:35

Thank you to our wonderful Wesleyan families for helping us spread a little love throughout our community!

-Osa Bell / WCCC Director

Children's Ministry

Kids Street Christmas Celebrations Are Coming!

Christmas is one of the most exciting times of the year in Children's Ministry, and we have several wonderful opportunities for children and families to celebrate the birth of Jesus together.
Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for these special events throughout December!

Parents Day Out: Christmas ADVENTure
Saturday, December 5 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The Christmas season can be busy, and we would love to give parents a few hours to shop, wrap gifts, enjoy a date, or simply take a well-deserved break while your children enjoy a fun-filled Christmas experience!

Children ages 6 month through grade are invited to attend our **Christmas ADVENTure**! This special event will include Christmas music, crafts, games, snacks, and lunch as we celebrate the joy of the season together.

This event is free, although donations are appreciated. Registration is required. Spots are limited so be sure to sign up soon. Register at https://vbspro.events/p/pdo-2026

We also need volunteers to help make this exciting day a success! If you would like to serve, please contact Vicky at the church office or make a note on your Grace Note and place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Jesus and Candy Canes Special Kids Street Sunday
Sunday, December 6

Join us for a special Kids Street Sunday School lesson all about **Jesus and Candy Canes**! Children will discover how this familiar Christmas treat points us to Jesus and reminds us of the true reason for the season. The morning will include a Bible devotion, games, crafts, snacks, and plenty of Christmas fun as we learn more about God's greatest gift.

Gingerbread Decorating Party
Saturday, December 12 | 9:45 AM - 11:00 AM Crossroads Center

Families are invited to join us for a festive morning of gingerbread decorating and Christmas fellowship. This fun family event is a wonderful opportunity to create special memories together while celebrating the season. We hope you'll make plans to attend!

Kids Street Christmas Concert & Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Wednesday, December 16 | 6:00 PM Crossroads Center

Our children have been working hard on Wednesday evenings, learning and practicing songs in preparation for this special Christmas celebration. We invite everyone to come and support our children as they share the message of Christ's birth through music and worship.

Following the concert, we'll gather for our annual **Happy Birthday Jesus Party**, where families can celebrate the birth of our Savior together with fun, fellowship, and festive treats.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we are reminded that Jesus is the greatest gift ever given. We look forward to seeing your family at these special events as we grow together in faith, friendship, and the love of Christ. May your Christmas season be filled with the joy, hope, and peace that come from knowing Him!

-*Vicky Anchor & Angie Woodward*

Youth

Thank You

I'm thankful for Pastor Kathy, Mr. David Smith, and all our volunteers who teach our youth what it means to follow Jesus. Special thanks to Eddie Hagar for teaching the book of Acts on Wednesday nights, and Chris Woodward for helping prep and teaching the youth how to paint our game room.

November Recap

Our game room painting project is well on its way to being finished. We also had a great turnout at Friendsgiving at Hideaway Pizza, where I introduced myself to parents and shared upcoming events and the curriculum I'll be teaching in the new year.

Coming Up

- Dec 2: Prepare the materials for the Christmas Parade float
- Dec 5: Community Christmas Parade
- Dec 19: Christmas caroling at the nursing homes, followed by the YouthChristmas Party
- No Youth on Dec 23 or 30
- No Youth Sunday School on Dec 27, joint combined service at 11 am.

Weekly Schedule (6th-12th grade)

- Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:30pm
- Sunday School, 11:00am

Want to join us? Call the church office at 682-2012.
God bless you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

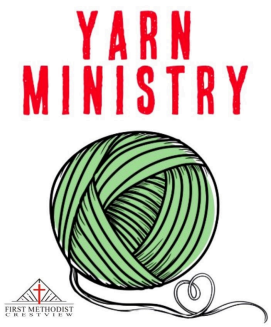
- Pastor Mark Barfield, Youth Pastor

Missions

The holidays are upon us, and our church has a remarkable sense of giving where needed not only all year but especially during this season. The angel tree is an excellent example of our caring and nurturing way. Several of our ministries take on special projects during this time as well.
For many years, one of our traditions at Christmas has been to take up a Christmas Eve offering during our Christmas Eve services. This year, the Missions Team voted to give the Christmas Eve offering to our local Crestview Area Shelter for the Homeless.
The shelter provides numerous services for adults and families in our area who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness as well as low-income people. They provide a safe environment where people can go for showers, do laundry, get basic medical care, clothing, and emergency housing. Approximately 70 bag lunches are given out daily Monday - Saturday.
Assistance is given with many programs such as applications for housing funding, Medicaid, Social Security etc. The local Cold Night Shelter is housed there when the temperature gets 40 degrees and below.
The shelter is in jeopardy of losing funding as the United Methodist Church, who owns the building, may close it and sell it or lease to the shelter effective January 2027.
Our Mission Teams is deeply thankful for the support you have given us all year long.
May you have a blessed Christmas filled with the love of Christ, family, and each other.

Blessings, Pam Hight / 850 758-8201

Yarn Ministry



We're working on many hats to distribute through our Soup Kitchen Ministry and scarves to distribute through our Benevelonce Ministry! Merriest of Christmas to all of our church family. We're so thankful for your support and encouragement in the past year.

Our meetings in November will be **Tues, Dec 8 & 22 at 4:30PM 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

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.

We are grateful for your support along with the community and businesses generously donating pizzas, bread, and desserts that help our meals go farther. And once again this month, we received donated racks of bread which made a healthy addition to the meals. Our meals we prepare and serve bring joy and lift the spirits of those facing food insecurity. The people who come for a meal look forward to receiving it, as they brighten their day and remind them that their community cares about them. Thank you all for making a positive difference and for showing our guests that they are valued and supported. Your kindness truly makes an impact!

We wish to share 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. We are so grateful for our volunteers who work together as servants of God providing food to people in need. We are all passionately committed to loving others through giving.

Matthew 25:35 For 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. 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.

How to Support the Soup Kitchen
-We are looking for a volunteer cook for the 4 th Saturday of each month who is willing to learn and will be surrounded by cheerful trained volunteers who love assisting the cook in the Soup Kitchen.
-To volunteer with the First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission, email greenhalghdj@cox.net or text 401-742-4898.
-Please continue to donate your gently used grocery bags. 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 in the Winter, please text Deb Lubas at 401-742-4898.
-To donate funds, place a check in the Sunday's church offering; or mail or deliver a 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, First Methodist of Crestview, 401-742-4898

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 **Dec 2** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.
Come pray for your hometown!

CALENDARS

December Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters
6 Kaleb and Lindsey Reynolds
13 Kit Callahan
20 Debbie Watson
27 Peggy Harkness

Ushers
Debby 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
12/6-Steve and Kathy Fowler
12/13-Eddie and Jayne Hager
12/20-Ed and Joanne Guzowski
12/27-Glenda McMasters and Judy Beard

Ushers
12/6-Tom Giovanini and Tom Saunders
12/13-Dax Reeves and Burt Colt
12/20-Phillip Mathis and Tom Saunders
12/27-Burt Colt and Dax Reeves

Office door
12/6-12/27 Jim Hight

Lights and Lock Doors

12/6-Dax Reeves
12/13-Burt Colt
12/20-Dax Reeves
12/27-Eddie Hager

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

---

Important Dates In December

Dec 2- Crestview Prayer Network 10:00AM CRC
Dec 4- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC
Dec 5- Parent's Day Out 9:00AM-1:00PM on Kids St
Dec 8-Yarn Ministry 4:30PM Rm 213
Dec 12- Gingerbread Event 9:45-11:00AM CRC
Dec 13- Cantata 8:30AM & 11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary, Preaching Service at 9:45AM in the CRC
Dec 14- 8th Ave Methodist Men Hosting FMC Christmas Party 6:00PM CRC
- January 2027 Newsletter Deadline
Dec 15- Missions Committee 6:00PM Rm 213
Dec 16- Christmas Pageant & Happy Birthday Jesus Party 6:00PM CRC
Dec 19- Youth Christmas Caroling & Party 2:00PM
-Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC (request nursery by 12/14)
Dec 22- Yarn Ministry 4:30PM Rm 213
Dec 24- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30PM & 11:00PM Main Sanctuary
Dec 27- One Combined Service at 11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary
Dec 24 through 28- Church Office Closed for Christmas

**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 January

Jan 4- Office Reopens for the New Year
Jan 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Jan 8- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC
Jan 10- Children's Committee 12:15PM Kids St
-Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm
Jan 12- Happy Birthday Party for the Yarn Ministry 4:30PM Rm 213
Jan 14- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH
Jan 16- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC
(request nursery by Jan 11)
Jan 17-- Trustees 3:00PM Conf Rm
-Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
Jan 20- Community Dinner 5:30PM, Church Council 6:30PM, Chili Cook-Off
Jan 25- February Newsletter Deadline
Jan 26- Yarn Ministry 4:30PM 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



In This Holy Season

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.

- Author Unknown

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

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 - Pastor Mark Barfield, firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com
Custodian - Jody Waddell, fmcustodian@gmail.com
Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward, fmfacilities599@gmail.com
Maintenance Assistant- Josh South
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