

# POWER LINES

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON**

Since 1945

A Global Methodist Church

**331 W. OSCEOLA AVENUE**

**CLEWISTON, FL 33440**

**(863) 983-5269**



## **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ESV**

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

## **Revelation 22:12-13 ESV**

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

## **Matthew 24:27 ESV**

For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

## **SUNDAY ACTIVITIES**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** AT 10:00 AM IN THE TRINITY ROOM,  
FOR ALL AGES

**SERVICE:** 11:00 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH:** STARTS AFTER CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERVICE ALSO AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG](http://WWW.CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG).

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**PASTOR JONATHAN'S CORNER*****JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!***

Christ-followers have always believed in the personal and physical return of our Lord Jesus, all the way back from the first century and onward to the present. Jesus promised, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to be with me, that you also may be where I Am." We believe Jesus is coming back again to fulfill all the prophecies, with all the beautiful promises of Heaven, and he will take us to live with him in our eternal home.

Such Biblical promises and prophecies are also a warning, because the closer we get to our Lord's return, things are going to go from bad to worse. The whole planet will seem like it's getting ready to give birth with strange events, crazy storms, and everything that can be shaken will be shaken... Even societies will break down, structures we once counted on will fall apart, and a spirit of lawlessness will increase. Seems like it's time to heed the warnings...

In the Last Days, it will seem like compassion is in short supply, as Jesus said, "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of many will grow cold." Prophetic events are being revealed that will take place just prior to His return. In fact, according to some calculations, there are over two thousand prophecies regarding the Second Coming of Jesus all throughout the Bible, which means for every one prophecy concerning the first coming of Christ, there are about eight more which point to His second coming! The whole world knows Jesus came the first time; it's history... And nothing can stop his Second Coming; it's going to be Biblical!

In **Matthew 24**, Jesus declares in **verse 36**: "No one knows about the day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." We don't get to know the exact time, but we can discern the signs of the times in order to stay alert, as the Day of the Lord is approaching. Jesus will return when most of the world is completely unaware, like Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." We're warned by a loving God to "Keep watch," to "Be ready" so that we won't be left behind. Come be a part of this Great Awakening!

We declare: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again" ...Will you be ready?

Blessings....

*Pastor Jonathan Singleton*

P.S. Pastor's new phone number: (863) 553-1464



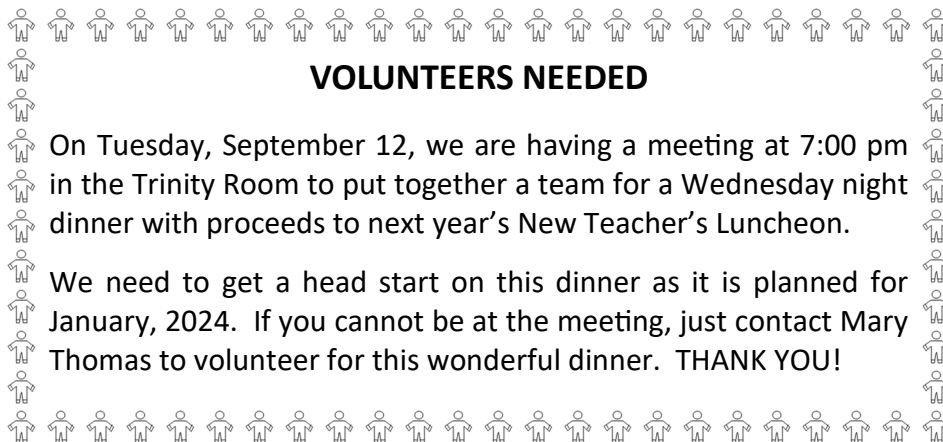
First Kids ministry has many exciting crafts and games planned for this fall.

Please remember that we have a nursery for babies and small children under the age of 5. Children from age 5 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome in our FIRST KIDS program that begins after the Children's Sermon.

In September we will continue to study Old Testament heroes. We will also begin talking about the Shoebox Ministry and just how important it is to children throughout the world.

For questions about our ministry or to volunteer, please contact Janet Way at (863) 677-1002.

### *The First Kids Team*



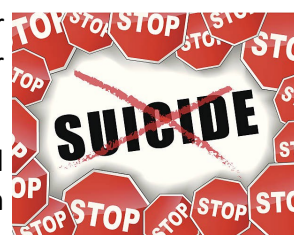
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

On Tuesday, September 12, we are having a meeting at 7:00 pm in the Trinity Room to put together a team for a Wednesday night dinner with proceeds to next year's New Teacher's Luncheon.

We need to get a head start on this dinner as it is planned for January, 2024. If you cannot be at the meeting, just contact Mary Thomas to volunteer for this wonderful dinner. THANK YOU!

**REFUSE TO SINK, INC.**, a 501d3 non-profit organization, is having their Third Annual Fundraiser, Memorial Bass Tournament and Steak Dinner the weekend of September 8 and 9.

Steak dinner is \$50 at Clewiston Inn on Friday, September 8 and Fishing Tournament is on Saturday, September 9 at Roland & Mary Ann Martin's Marina.



September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Refuse to Sink's mission is to promote mental health awareness, educate on suicide prevention and provide other non-profits with resources to assist in these critical areas. Counseling scholarships are available through First Methodist Church. You can also donate to the Refuse to Sink special fund to help others. To schedule a counseling session, contact Jay Reed, CSW, at (239) 256-2572.

For more info, contact Traci Owens t (863) 677-1100 or Sylvia Hernandez at (863) 677-6566.



### ON-GOING PRAYERS

Maysel Barker  
 Matt Beatty  
 Family of Lois Blount  
 Brenda Garvey  
 Becky Starks

### HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

Curvin Martin

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JONATHAN WITH  
 UPDATES CONCERNING PEOPLE ON THE  
 PRAYER LIST AT HIS E-MAIL  
[PASTOR@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM](mailto:PASTOR@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM)



REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND WORSHIP  
 IN PERSON OR WOULD LIKE TO WATCH  
 WORSHIP SERVICES YOU MISSED, VISIT  
[CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG](http://CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG)



Kay Jones	Sept. 1
Sylvia Winekoff	Sept. 6
Helen Endicott	Sept. 4
Bruce Jones	Sept. 7
Dolly Burke	Sept. 9
Luan Walker	Sept. 13
Chris Beatty	Sept. 14
Joy Llossas	Sept. 15
Chris Wellslager	Sept. 18
Alisha Norwood	Sept. 24
Jocelyn Sweet	Sept. 25
Becky Starks	Sept. 26
LuAnne Williams	Sept. 30



Pam & Clint Kelley  
 Sept. 20

Chris & John Wellslager  
 Sept. 21

#### **Matthew 19:6**

*So they are no longer two, but one flesh.  
 Therefore, what God has joined together,  
 let no one separate.*





Many thanks all who chipped in to help with the annual luncheon to welcome new teachers to our Clewiston Schools. There were 40 in all this year and they were welcomed with a gift bag including some items from local businesses and a Walmart gift card for \$100! A huge thank you to all who so generously gave to the fund to help us bless them greatly as they begin their new teaching career here in America's Sweetest Town. Some of them arrive with little to no savings and after they pay first and last month's rent and utilities deposit they have little left for foods until their first paycheck. This gift assures they will be fed and their classroom will have needed supplies.

We also appreciate the members of Faith Lutheran Church who pitched in to help us with their presence and more gift cards for prizes. Teachers also had a chance to win one of 3 stools hand painted by Mary Thomas. The centerpieces, generously donated by Frierson Farms, contained many school supplies. Clewiston Christian School donated Bibles that were available for teachers to take. The CHS Public Service Academy students were there to help pass out gifts and, as always, do anything needed.

**THANKS ALSO TO**

Sunshine Family Medicine  
Nana's Cupcake Shoppe and More  
Stitt Ranch  
Sugar Realty  
Common Grounds Coffee Shop



**WHO SETS YOUR WORTH?**

The B&B Believers joined together once again on Monday, August 7 at John and Chris Wellslager's house for another great evening of fellowship. Nineteen of us gathered around our table and were blessed as Lindsay Hall shared a message of our worth, how we perceive that worth, and most importantly who sets that so called worth. We learned to always avoid allowing this world to try to pin us down and place expectations or demands upon us to fit a certain mold or appearance, just to point out the imaginary flaws we all have, making us feel less valuable or worthy. As sinners, none of us are worthy of the love and sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for all of us. However, if we keep our eyes focused on Him, rather than the noise of this world our journey through this life and our worth as believers becomes crystal clear, as His love will literally pour from us daily.

The B&B Believers group usually meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Meetings are held at a different person's house each month and a different person leads our gathering each month. Due to Labor Day, our next meeting will be on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Glades Orthodontics office located at 327 Central Avenue, Clewiston, FL. If you are looking for a fun, relaxed atmosphere to learn about Jesus and fellowship with other Believers, B&B might be for you. If you have any questions about our meetings or want to be added to the email distribution list for upcoming meetings call John Wellslager at 863-228-1724 or email [jwellslager@embarqmail.com](mailto:jwellslager@embarqmail.com).

Blessings,

*John Wellslager*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Sept. 7	Precepts class resumes. Studying <b>2 Peter</b> from Sept. 7 thru Oct. 12. Times are 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm (morning classes are unavailable). Contact Scott Jones at (863) 673-0722 if you are interested in joining this great study group. Class is a 45 minute discussion and then a 45 minute video.
Fri. Sept. 8	"Refuse to Sink" Steak Dinner at Clewiston Inn, 7:00 pm
Mon. Sept. 11	B&B Believers meet at 6:00 pm at Glades Orthodontics
Tues. Sept. 12	Volunteers for dinner for New Teacher's Luncheon meet at 7:00 pm, Trinity Room
Wed. Sept. 13	Great Irish Potato Bake dinner with salad and desserts by the Clewiston High School, Public Service Academy serving dinner at 6:00 pm, LEC
Tues. Sept. 19	Administrative Council Meet at 6:00 pm in Trinity Room
Mon. Sept. 25	GriefShare, 7:00 pm, Trinity Room
Wed. Oct 4	"Breakfast for Dinner" for St. Matthew's House by the Mission Team At 6:00 pm in LEC
Wed. Oct. 11	Sausage with peppers and onions with salad and desserts by Clewiston High School, Public Service Academy serving dinner at 6:00 pm, LEC



### **WHO WILL YOU INVITE!!!!**



The Adult Bible Study class is now meeting before the service at 10:00 each Sunday morning in the Trinity Room in the LEC.

Our September class will begin a new study of lessons from the Kings of Judah and Ezekiel.

All are invited to join in the class.

*Mary Thomas*



We will begin a new series of GriefShare sessions on Monday nights at 7:00 pm at First Methodist Church. We will start on Sept. 25.

The program has been re-vamped with shorter videos and updated content. If you or someone you know would benefit from this scripture based program, please text me their contact information at (863) 677-0349. Workbooks will be \$20 but Scholarships are available. We should be finished with the 13 weeks just before Christmas. Check out the program at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org).

*Mary Thomas*



The John MacArthur Bible Study on **2 Samuel** will start on Tuesday, October 10 at 10 o'clock in the Trinity Room of the LEC.

If you have not been to this study before, please come join us. The study will meet every second and fourth Tuesday.

We have a wonderful time beginning with prayer concerns and diving into the material. Hope to see you there.

*Janet Way*

### **FUMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Senior Pastor	Jonathan Singleton	(863) 553-1464	<a href="mailto:pastor@clewistonmethodist.com">pastor@clewistonmethodist.com</a>
Lay Leader	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	<a href="mailto:sjones@johnsonprewitt.com">sjones@johnsonprewitt.com</a>
Recording Secretary	THIS COULD BE YOU!!!		
Membership Secretary	LuAnne Williams	(863) 885-1134	<a href="mailto:luannewms20@hotmail.com">luannewms20@hotmail.com</a>
Staff Parish Relations	John Wellslager	(863) 228-1724	<a href="mailto:johnw@jimypittmanelectrical.com">johnw@jimypittmanelectrical.com</a>
Head Trustee	Lee Sweet	(561) 985-4220	<a href="mailto:rasweet@rocketmail.com">rasweet@rocketmail.com</a>
Financial Director	R.D. Williams	(863) 885-1121	<a href="mailto:nchokie@live.com">nchokie@live.com</a>
Financial Secretary	Sherry Carlson	(561) 261-1628	<a href="mailto:shecar21@aol.com">shecar21@aol.com</a>
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Children's Home	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	<a href="mailto:shelleydavidson56@gmail.com">shelleydavidson56@gmail.com</a>
FirstKids Team	Janet Way	(863) 677-1002	<a href="mailto:jcw33440@yahoo.com">jcw33440@yahoo.com</a>
FirstKids Team	Karen Cochrane	(561) 926-1266	<a href="mailto:kcnboca@bellsouth.net">kcnboca@bellsouth.net</a>

**First Methodist Church of Clewiston**  
**Bank Report**  
**January 1, 2023 through July 30, 2023**

	<u>July</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>				
Beginning Balance	-\$22,583.53	\$19,564.32	\$8,474.11	\$36,192.10
Offering	\$13,459.15	\$16,824.60	\$92,302.99	\$117,802.81
Disbursements	\$24,578.33	\$20,421.86	\$134,479.81	\$138,027.85
Ending Balance	<u>-\$33,702.71</u>	<u>\$15,967.06</u>	<u>-\$33,702.71</u>	<u>\$15,967.06</u>
 <b><u>Special Funds</u></b>				
Beginning Balance	\$143,556.65	\$140,364.17	\$143,259.32	\$157,024.50
Offering	\$14,987.00	\$5,172.66	\$98,931.45	\$52,380.32
Disbursements	\$5,991.60	\$9,784.23	\$89,638.72	\$73,652.22
Ending Balance	<u>\$152,552.05</u>	<u>\$135,752.60</u>	<u>\$152,552.05</u>	<u>\$135,752.60</u>
 <b>Total on Deposit</b>	<u><b>\$118,849.34</b></u>	<u><b>\$151,719.66</b></u>	<u><b>\$118,849.34</b></u>	<u><b>\$151,719.66</b></u>
 WIF Account			\$250.00	

**First Methodist Church Clewiston**  
**Finance Report August 2023**

July financials reflect the activities of our church's giving, expenditures, and fund transfers for the month.

General giving totaled \$13,459.15 for the month with an additional \$14,987.00 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 34.88% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$24,578.33 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 50.8% of budgeted annual expenses. The General fund balance decreased to -\$33,702.71 with total funds on deposit including Special Funds and WIF account of \$119,099.34. These totals represent an increase in Budgeted needs of \$10,000 annually and represent additional costs associated with our music ministry.

Your continued support of our church through your presence and gifts is greatly appreciated.

The prepayment of apportionments to the Global Methodist Church was returned. The new GMC felt that monthly payments will be a practice they wish all churches to adhere to. There was a reversal of expenses in the Apportionment account to reflect this returned check. We will catch up on our monthly giving during August.

We had additional transition start-up expenses which were applied to our special and normal expense lines in July, these include initial payments for our property insurance with our new carrier, painting, and other expenses to prepare the parsonage for the Singleton family as well as moving expenses for the Singleton family from their previous appointment in Illinois. The relocation expenses and pastoral appointment expenses (salary and benefits) will be shared with First Methodist Church of Moore Haven.

The balance in the transition fund at the end of July totals \$8,944.94. The reduction from the June balance reflects a down payment being made for the new sign panels at the church. The total expense for the new signs will be approximately \$9,000. Additional expenses are anticipated for reprogramming the web page, and other associated disaffiliation expenses.

With the arrival of our new Pastor, Jonathon Singleton, in July we will begin the process of adjusting our annual budget for the remainder of the calendar year to reflect the changes in expense due to the pastoral sharing agreement with First Methodist Church of Moore Haven.

The checking account has been reconciled for the month.

Respectfully submitted,







Welcome back with more exciting news from the Florida United Methodist Children's Home! We have included, in this edition, a couple of articles about two residents of the Children's Home – both true success stories!

As you know, the new school season has recently started, and it has for Ren too. Ren is a resident of the Children's Home. She attends the school on campus, Legacy Scholars Academy, and it has really saved her academically. She says it's because of the support that they receive from friends like us that makes it possible for children like Ren to get that help. She said before she came to the Children's Home, her grades were poor. That was mostly because she was not attending school on a regular basis. In fact, her grades were mostly C's, D's, and F's. The teachers at Legacy Scholars Academy gave her the extra help she needed to get back on track, and now she's making straight A's. One of her favorite classes is Yearbook & Journalism because she gets to do a lot of hands-on research and writing. Her other favorite class is Science, partly because she's always been interested in it, and partly because her teacher is funny. Ren will be starting her senior year at Legacy Scholars Academy, and she'll be participating in a dual enrollment program at Daytona State College. Ren stated that it is because of our financial generosity that she can attend this school and now has a chance on being successful. Please to watch a short video go to: [YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPO4diQsPJQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPO4diQsPJQ)

Another successful story from the Children's Home is Jaden. Jaden lived at the Children's Home for nearly three years after his father passed away and his mother couldn't care for him. When he turned 18, he transitioned to their Independent Living program to help youth who have aged out to become independent. Now Jaden is living on his own! Here's the actual YouTube link for the video: <https://youtube/8tLzCL6Uv2M>.

Thank you for your continued support, both financially and prayerfully. It truly is making a difference! Blessings to all,

*Shelley Davidson*



Dig into that freezer and use up all the pecans you have.....cause it's time to refresh your supply!!

Mr. Pecan Man said same price (\$15) as last year and all proceeds benefit the Florida Children's Home.



JUST SCAN THIS CODE AND YOUR  
ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS  
ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE AT  
[WWW.CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM](http://WWW.CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM)





Shoebox time is rapidly approaching. The annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry is the perfect opportunity for us to show children in other countries just how much they mean to us. Ninette and I have already ordered a wide variety of materials informing people about the ministry and you will soon be able to pick it up on the back counter of the Sanctuary. We will also have banks for your spare change.

Last year, for the first time, we purchased actual plastic red and green shoeboxes with the Samaritan's Purse logo. They were much nicer than the cheap plastic ones we had previously used. We plan on purchasing these shoeboxes again at a cost of a little over \$2.00 a shoebox. In addition, shipping will be \$10.00 each. The cost to buy and ship our shoeboxes will be close to \$1,500. This amount does not include items bought for the shoeboxes. If you would like to make a donation, please make it to the church and mark it "shoebox".

The ministry stills needs a wide variety of items if we are to match the 116 boxes we donated last year. We will be packing boxes on Sunday, November 5 and Sunday, November 12. A list of the items we need is listed below.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers and be on the lookout for additional information in next month's newsletter. If you would like more information on this ministry or if you would like to volunteer to be on our team please contact Ninette Aker (305-510-5625) or Janet Way (863-677-1002).

In addition, if you enjoy sewing you might have extra material or items that can be used to make sewing kits for the older girls.

- ◆ Small stuffed animals
- ◆ Matchbox size cars
- ◆ Socks
- ◆ Tee shirts
- ◆ Bar soap
- ◆ Erasers
- ◆ Notepads
- ◆ Pencil sharpeners
- ◆ Small items for fishing kits
- ◆ Small balls
- ◆ Small toys
- ◆ Glue sticks
- ◆ Nail clipper & file
- ◆ 12" Ruler
- ◆ Fun adhesive bandages

**THANK YOU!**



**Bring Joy to a child through a shoebox!**  
Simple gifts like these packed into a shoebox and delivered by Operation Christmas Child can change a child's life and eternity!



**Pick one item that's medium to large for a "wow"**

<p><b>Fun things</b></p> <p>Hot Wheels Top Ball Legos Checkers Whistle Harmonica</p>	<p><b>School/Art Supplies</b></p> <p>Pencils &amp; Pens Sharpener &amp; Erasers Paper Crayons Ruler Scissors</p>
<p><b>Something to love</b></p> <p>Stuffed Animal Doll</p>	<p><b>Hygiene Supplies</b></p> <p>Bar soap Washcloths Toothbrush Comb</p>
<p><b>Personal things</b></p> <p>Backpack Jewelry Sunglasses Note/photo</p>	<p><b>Practical things</b></p> <p>Flip-flops Clothes Sewing kit Lovie Blanket</p>



**What to pack in a shoebox gift**

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Toothpaste; candy/gum/food/drink mixes; used items; war-related; seeds; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items; aerosol cans.

**Deliver your filled shoe box by November \_\_\_\_ to:**

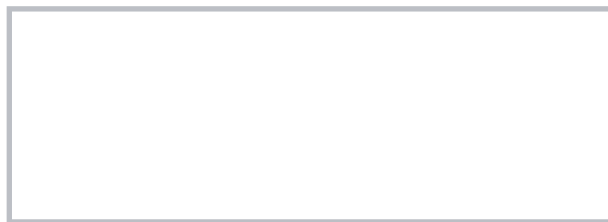
Designed by SimplyShoeBoxes.com



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Established 1945

CHURCH LOCATION:  
**331 W. OSCEOLA AVENUE  
CLEWISTON, FL 33440-3008**  
(863) 983-5269



## OUR VISION

TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST  
WHO SHARE THEIR FAITH,  
GROW IN THEIR FAITH  
AND LIVE OUT THEIR FAITH  
THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD  
AND THE COMMUNITY.

## OUR MISSION

TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST  
WITH EVERYONE IN CLEWISTON AND BEYOND  
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

