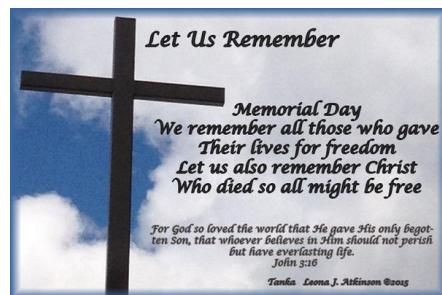
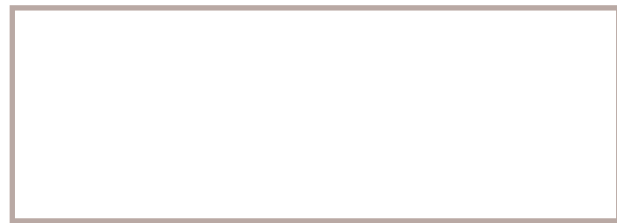




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POWER LINES

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON
SINCE 1945
A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

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CLEWISTON, FL 33440
(863) 983-5269



PENTECOST SUNDAY: MAY 19

Pentecost is found in Old Testament Scripture as a Jewish holiday. **Pentecost** was a Jewish festival that happened during the Feast of First Fruits. Happening 50 days after Passover, which celebrated Israel's deliverance from Egypt, Pentecost was a time to celebrate the initial harvest feast. Israel gathered together to offer the Lord two loaves of wheat bread made from the first fruits of the grain.

In New Testament Scripture, **Pentecost** Sunday takes on new meaning. In **Acts 2**, the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on **Pentecost** Sunday to fulfill Jesus's words that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to glorify God's name to all nations. As a result, we, the church and body of Christ, are called to bear witness to all nations through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the name of God!

Christians celebrate **Pentecost** to remember the gift of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus ascended, He promised to provide a comforter. It was in that moment on Pentecost that believers were empowered with the Holy Spirit. (Read **Acts 2:1-14**)

POWER LINES



Established 1945

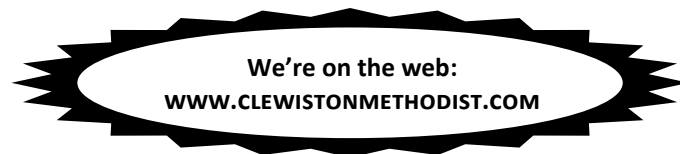
OUR VISION

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.

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



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.CHURCHONTHETOUCH.ORG.

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Pastor Jonathan's Corner



MAY DAYS FILLED WITH PRAISE

The days of May are quickly filled up on our calendars with so many things; here's a few more:

- May Day on the First also recognizes Christian Home Month and Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month.
- On the first Thursday, May 2 is the National Day of Prayer (you can watch it live online at: nationaldayofprayer.org).
- May 3 is Good Friday in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and
- Sunday May 5 is Orthodox Pascha/Resurrection Day, as well as Cinco de Mayo, and it's also "Yom HaShoah," which is translated "Holocaust Remembrance Day" for Israel to never forget the horrors of Nazi Germany.
- The rest of the Sundays in May are also meaningful, such as May 12 which celebrates the Ascension of Christ, and also Mother's Day!
- Sunday, May 19 is when we celebrate the Day of Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- And lastly, on Sunday, May 26 we celebrate Trinity Sunday and the Memorial Day Weekend and be reminded: "A graveyard is a school to teach the living how to live; it has a silent power to preach that pulpits can never give." Go see the flags on the graves of heroes!

There are a few more May days we need to mention for our Global Methodist Church here in Florida. Please be aware of the Special Florida Annual Conference that has been called as an online meeting for **Saturday, May 18 at 9:30 AM** for the purpose of voting to approve another District. We will celebrate the growth of the GMC in Florida! And speaking of new growth, the Conference is inviting each Church to start Alpha Teams. If you'd like to know more about Alpha, please visit: AlphaUSA.org.

Why would we in Florida, with so many good things that claim our valuable time, want to be a part of something called Alpha? At a recent meeting of the Southern Florida GMC Clergy, the Rev. Dr. Jay Therrell, President of our Annual Conference Cabinet, answered this question with the words from our founder, the Rev John Wesley, in his charge to the early Methodist preachers and circuit riders:

"You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that want you, but to those that need you most. Observe this: It is not your business to preach so many times and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can, and to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance; and with all your power to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord."

Several Clewiston Methodists have already expressed an earnest desire to participate in Alpha USA Training. These will be provided for everyone in the Florida GMC at no cost. The Zoom training meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM**. We just want to learn more about the nuts and bolts of starting our own local Alpha Team in Clewiston, so we can be trained and equipped to go full speed ahead in the Fall of 2024. If you're interested in finding out more, please don't hesitate to let me know...

We are all called ***"To Know Christ and To Make Him Known!"***

Rev. Jonathan Singleton,

Pastor of the Clewiston & Moore Haven Global Methodist Churches

**First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Finance Report, April 2024**

March financials reflect the activities of our church's giving, expenditures, and reimbursements for the month.

General giving totaled \$30,233.73 for the month with an additional \$2,449.00 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 28.5% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$20,450.93 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 22% of budgeted annual expenses.

Through the exceptional generosity of the congregation during March, the General fund balance increased to \$6,961.81 with total funds on deposit including Special funds of \$133,547.98.

Our church recently experienced a significant **\$33,242.00** maintenance expense at the parsonage as the roof at the parsonage and main air conditioner were replaced. Any special fund giving you feel led to provide for these projects are greatly appreciated.

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

The checking account has been reconciled for the month.

Respectfully submitted

R. D. Williams



**First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Bank Report
January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024**

	March		Year to Date	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
General Fund				
Beginning Balance	-2,820.99	5,109.87	-7,163.75	8,474.11
Offering	30,233.73	12,315.28	61,955.99	46,093.02
Disbursements	20,450.93	21,375.42	47,830.43	58,517.40
Ending Balance	6,961.81	-3,950.27	6,961.81	-3,950.27
Special Funds				
Beginning Balance	134,273.32	156,250.80	157,642.51	143,259.32
Offering	2,449.00	29,135.00	9,877.00	48,503.70
Disbursements	331.32	3,487.21	31,128.51	9,864.43
Ending Balance	136,391.00	181,898.59	136,391.00	181,898.59
Total on Deposit	143,352.81	177,948.32	143,352.81	177,948.32

One of the most powerful ways to rewire your brain for more joy and less stress is to focus on gratitude. Here are 10 simple ways to become more grateful.

1. Keep a Gratitude Journal. Establish a daily practice in which you remind yourself of the gifts, grace, benefits, and good things you enjoy. Recalling moments of gratitude associated with ordinary events, your personal attributes, or valued people in your life gives you the potential to interweave a sustainable theme of gratefulness into your life.

2. Remember the Bad. To be grateful in your current state, it is helpful to remember the hard times that you once experienced. When you remember how difficult life used to be and how far you have come, you set up an explicit contrast in your mind, and this contrast is fertile ground for gratefulness.

3. Ask Yourself Three Questions. Meditate on your relationships with parents, friends, siblings, work associates, children, and partners using these three questions: “What have I received from ___?”, “What have I given to ___?”, and “What troubles and difficulty have I caused?”

4. Share Your Gratitude with Others. Research has found that expressing gratitude can strengthen relationships. So the next time your partner, friend or family member does something you appreciate, be sure to let them know.

5. Come to Your Senses. Through our senses—the ability to touch, see, smell, taste, and hear—we gain an appreciation of what it means to be human and of what an incredible miracle it is to be alive. Seen through the lens of gratitude, the human body is not only a miraculous construction, but also a gift.

Recalling moments of gratitude associated with ordinary events, your personal attributes, or valued people in your life gives you the potential to interweave a sustainable theme of gratefulness into your life.

6. Use Visual Reminders. Because the two primary obstacles to gratefulness are forgetfulness and a lack of mindful awareness, visual reminders can serve as cues to trigger thoughts of gratitude. Often times, the best visual reminders are other people.

7. Make a Vow to Practice Gratitude. Research shows that making an oath to perform a behavior increases the likelihood that the action will be executed. Therefore, write your own gratitude vow, which could be as simple as “I vow to count my blessings each day,” and post it somewhere where you will be reminded of it every day.

8. Watch Your Language. Grateful people have a particular linguistic style that uses the language of gifts, givers, blessings, blessed, fortune, fortunate, and abundance. In gratitude, you should not focus on how inherently good you are, but rather on the inherently good things that others have done on your behalf.

9. Go Through the Motions. Grateful motions include smiling, saying thank you, and writing letters of gratitude. By “going through grateful motions,” you’ll trigger the emotion of gratitude more often.

10. Think Outside the Box. If you want to make the most out of opportunities to flex your gratitude muscles, you must look creatively for new situations and circumstances in which to feel grateful. Please share the creative ways you’ve found to help you practice gratitude

This article was adapted from Greater Good, the online magazine of UC Berkeley’s Greater Good Science Center, one of Mindful’s partners



Our First Kids Program had a very good April, much to the thanks of our leader, Janet Way and her daughter, Sarah. As many are aware, Janet had a serious accident and is currently undergoing physical therapy. Because Janet is so organized, the necessary materials for students and volunteers were easily located and utilized for our precious kiddos.

Currently, we are studying the life of Joseph and how God used him in miraculous ways to save his people despite many trials and tests. The children will also create a special Mother’s Day Craft on May 12.

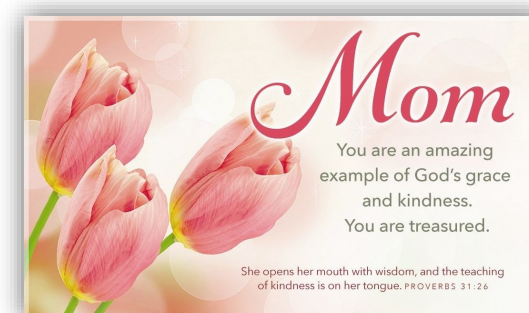
If you are interested in helping with our First Kids team, please contact Doreen Malbog at (863) 677-0255. For now, Janet will be focusing on her recovery.

FIRSTKIDS ON EASTER SUNDAY



VBS

Vacation Bible School, ***Keeper’s of the Kingdom***, will be taking place from Sunday, June 16 thru Thursday, June 20. Snacks/meals will be at 5:30 pm and events will start thereafter. We are in need of volunteers to help with this program! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary.





ON-GOING PRAYERS

- Maysel Barker
- Brad Garrett
- Brenda Garvey
- Carol Griggs
- Margo Fatzinger
- Bobby Jones
- Jay Mills
- Ashley Thomley
- Janet Way
- Johnnie Wheeler



HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

- Matt Beatty
- Isabelle Belton
- Becky Starks

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JONATHAN WITH UPDATES CONCERNING PEOPLE ON THE PRAYER LIST AT HIS E-MAIL PASTOR@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM



PowerLines is a monthly newsletter of First Methodist Church of Clewiston. Article submission deadline: 20th of each month. All members are urged to contribute to this publication. E-mail articles to fmcpowerlines@gmail.com. Editor: Ninette Aker
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- Peggy Byrn May 8
- Scott Jones May 13
- Evelyn Jones May 15
- Janice Forbes May 15
- Drake Hammock May 21
- Miranda Harn May 15



- Trip & Brenda Whidden May 9
- Tommy & Laura Perry, Jr. May 11
- Alan & Ardis Hammock May 15
- Jeff & Margaret Smith May 18

REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND WORSHIP IN PERSON OR WOULD LIKE TO WATCH WORSHIP SERVICES YOU MISSED, VISIT CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG



GriefShare has been in progress since Tuesday, March 5. It is a 13 week program and is being held in the Trinity Room. You can join at any time.

GriefShare is a Christ-centered, video-based support group program that equips lay volunteers to encourage and comfort people going through bereavement. The program is designed for people who have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend through death. Workbooks are a \$20 donation.

Each session features a video presentation on topics like comfort, answers, and hope. The GriefShare materials point to Christ as the ultimate source of healing.

Mary Thomas



Dear Church Family,

As most of you know, Janet is recovering from an accident that occurred the day before Easter. We would like to thank all of you for the outpouring of prayers, phone calls, visits, food and uncountable offers to help in any way possible.

This has been our church family for over 40 years. Words cannot adequately describe the blessings our family have experienced over those years.

As she works through this especially difficult time, we wish for all to know we have never, for one moment, felt alone in this journey thanks to your kindness, love and especially your prayers.

God Bless All of You,

The Way Family

FMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION

Position	Name	Phone	Email Address
Senior Pastor	Jonathan Singleton	(863) 553-1464	pastor@clewistonmethodist.com
Lay Leader	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Recording Secretary		POSITION OPEN—THIS COULD BE YOU!	
Membership Secretary	LuAnne Williams	(863) 885-1134	luannewms20@hotmail.com
Staff Parish Relations	John Wellslager	(863) 228-1724	johnw@jimmyspittmanelectrical.com
Head Trustee	Lee Sweet	(561) 985-4220	rasweet@rocketmail.com
Financial Director	R.D. Williams	(863) 885-1121	nchokie@live.com
Financial Secretary	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	
Treasurer/Editor	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
Mission Team	Sandy Stitt	(863) 677-1789	stitttranch@gmail.com
Children's Home		POSITION OPEN—THIS COULD BE YOU!	
FirstKids Team	Janet Way	(863) 677-1002	jcw33440@yahoo.com
FirstKids Team	Karen Cochrane	(561) 926-1266	kcnboca@bellsouth.net

RESIDING HOPE



Did you know?

In the 116 year history of Residing Hope, formerly Florida United Methodist Children's Home, this is our fourth name change.

In 1908, we started as the Florida Methodist Orphanage.

In the 1930's, realization was made that we were serving few orphans and more children who had been abused, neglected and abandoned so the name was changed to Florida Methodist Children's Home.

We with formation of the UMC in 1968 and merge with the Sarah Hunt Home, we became the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in 1971,

And, now we are Residing hope.

The above was taken from "The Link", April, 2024, Vol. 33, No. 4, www.residinghope.org.

First United Methodist of Clewiston is continuing to support this worthy cause! Just because the name changed, the many needs of the children remain the same.

The Mission Team would like to thank everyone who has participated in our Mission Dinners during the past several months. From our prep cooks, right on down to the dish washers and counter cleaners, you are invaluable to us! We have such an awesome team!

At our April fish fry we collected over \$1,100 for Pat & Melinda Edmiston from Wycliffe Bible Translators who were with us and updated the group on what is happening in Papua, New Guinea. It is always a blessing to hear them describe the amazing progress being made in Bible translation.

We look forward to seeing you at our dinners again this coming fall.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sandy Stitt



The B&B group convened once again on April 8 for another great evening of sharing and learning not only how to relate with one another, but more importantly how to have and cherish a relationship with our God.

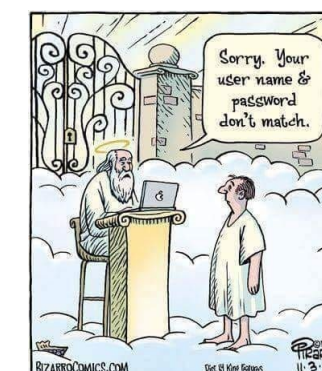
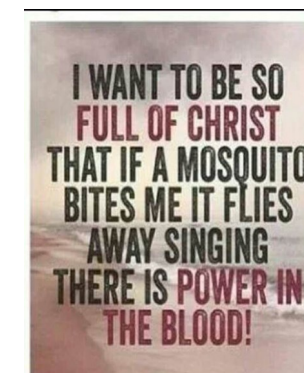
Ten Believers gathered, enjoyed delicious food, conversed in Christian fellowship and were blessed with a great message from Jeff Smith giving us biblical instruction to all of the personal and spiritual relationships in our lives. All of us are familiar with the Ten Commandments, but have we ever really considered the trickle down effect God's 10 well known precepts have on our relationships with one another?

Exodus, Chapter 20 lists God's ten rules for our lives and reading through those listed in the text makes it clear how not obeying any of them could and would impact a relationship with not only our God, but friends, strangers, family, spouses, co-workers, church members or literally anyone we establish a relationship with in our lives. Jealousy, envy, ego, anger, trust, honor, pride, honesty, goodness, proper time away from work, morality and faithfulness are all points of emphasis in this chapter from **Exodus** we strive in obeying in our walk with our God, and His only son King Jesus. I'd consider the trickling down affect of those 12 points more like a roaring waterfall for any personal relationship we are in, good or bad, in our lives. Don't let the cascade of any of them wash away a relationship forever, our life here is too short. Accept apologies and forgive, say you are sorry from your heart and ask forgiveness when you have been wronged. Jesus forgave us of our sins without hesitancy after our simple acceptance of Him being our Savior. Apologies and forgiveness are the only way we can heal broken or damaged relationships here among ourselves as well. Can you relate? I sure can...

The next B&B gathering will be held on Monday, May 6 at 6:00 pm at Ronnie and Jane Robison's house, so consider joining us in May.

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 at jwellslager@embarqmail.com.

Blessings, *John Wellslager*



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