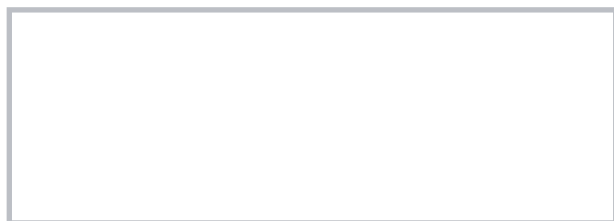
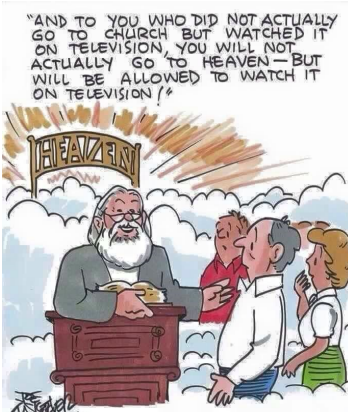


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POWER LINES

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON
Since 1945
A Global Methodist Church

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CLEWISTON, FL 33440
(863) 983-5269



HAPPY SPRINGTIME!

Isaiah 40:31

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Psalms 27:14

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

Galatians 6:9

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

James 1:12

“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”

POWER LINES



Established 1945

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



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



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.

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL: At 9:45 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.
OR OUR WEBSITE WWW.FUMCCLEWISTON.COM

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PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER

NO LONGER LOST



2nd Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

We are happy to announce that Mr. Virgilio Ogando, has joined our ministry team as our Youth Minister. I would like to thank our SPR Team as they put together a great position description and search that caught Mr. O's attention. And I appreciate our Church Council's prayerful commitment to the fact that a vibrant youth ministry helps us in fulfilling our mission. If you would like to contact Mr. O, please email him at virgilio01@msn.com. Stay tuned to our website and weekly bulletin for a special announcement coming soon.

It's been estimated by Pew Research (no pun intended) that 44% of teens attend church. What church(s) do they attend? Typically a church that cares about them and that provides for their spiritual needs. Another fact we have to address as the church is that only 24% of teens believe that "religion is very important in their lives."

Also, beginning on March 26, at 4:00 pm in the LEC we will hold a 6-week confirmation class for youth, ages 12 (before end of 2026) and up. I will lead the class that will focus on helping the confirmands grow deeper in their faith and belief system. Being able to articulate why you are a Christian is imperative in living out our call to share our faith. Topics of discussion will include; what are the sacraments; how can I share my faith; a look at symbolism in the church; and a closer look at being a Christian and Methodist.

God loves you and so do I ,

Pastor Jeff



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH CLEWISTON

FINANCE REPORT, FEBRUARY 2025

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

General giving totaled \$18,309.05 for the month with an additional \$3,170.80.00 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 8.7% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$ 15,858.91 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 8% of budgeted annual expenses for the entire year.

The checking account has been reconciled for the month.

Respectfully Submitted,

R.D. Williams and Brenda Whidden



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON

BANK REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025

	January		Year to Date	
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
General Fund				
Beginning Balance	8,467.28	-7,163.75	8,467.28	-7,163.75
Offering	18,309.05	16,069.26	18,309.05	16,069.26
Disbursements	16,858.91	16,872.77	16,858.91	16,872.77
Ending Balance	9,917.42	-7,967.26	9,917.42	-7,967.26
Special Funds				
Beginning Balance	178,864.99	157,642.51	178,864.99	157,642.51
Offering	3,170.80	4,613.00	3,170.80	4,613.00
Disbursements	6,898.08	2,320.81	6,898.08	2,320.81
Ending Balance	175,137.71	159,934.70	175,137.71	159,934.70
Total on Deposit	185,055.13	151,967.44	185,055.13	151,967.44

NIGHT TO SHINE '25



On a cool, comfortable Friday night at the Life Enrichment Center of First Methodist Church Clewiston, we witnessed an electric celebration of The Tim Tebow's Foundation - **Night to Shine!** Forty-five honored guests and 85 volunteers came together for a night filled with limo rides, dinner, dancing, photo-booths, and the crowning event where all of our special-needs family were crowned the King and Queens of the prom.

We want to thank all of the people and sponsors that made **NTS 2025** possible. Please consider being a part of **NTS 2026** on Friday, February 13. Help us as we make this, another great **Night to Shine!**



Did you know that every month that has five Sundays, you have an opportunity to help the children at **Residing Hope**, the Methodist Children's Home? No matter how large or small the offering, every cent goes to help a child at their facilities in central and north Florida. All you have to do is make a note on your check or envelope and your monies will go directly to Residing Hope.

Remember, your gift can make an impact on those children's lives.



On Sunday, February 23, we were visited by Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer of **Residing Hope**. At that time, she was presented a check in the amount of \$13,700 that was raised from the pecan sales by Alan and Ardis Hammock's efforts during the past few months.

In return, we were awarded a certificate from her for our outstanding contribution of over \$19,000 to Residing Hope during the entire year of 2024.



In February, we explored the Old Testament stories of Jesus at an early age to see what example he set for us. We read about how Jesus created the world, how he invites us into his Kingdom as in the story of David and Mephibosheth, and how he speaks to us through the Holy Spirit.

Our memory scripture for January was "In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." **John 1:1**

In March, we will be exploring Jesus as a young child and at the beginning of his ministry...

- ◆ Jesus' actions at the temple when he was only 12 years old
- ◆ God's words and events at Jesus' baptism.
- ◆ Jesus' actions and his first miracle (turning water into wine.)

Our memory scripture in March is "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people." **Luke 2:52**

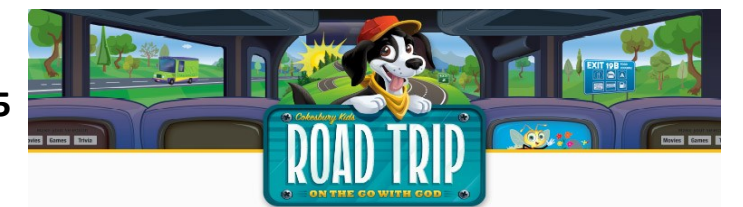
Come join us as we to learn more about our savior, Jesus!

Our great team of volunteers this month included: Cathy Rodriguez, Laura and Evelyn Jones, Ashley Hammock, Ninette Aker, and Sarah Way. I so appreciate their dedication to servicing our kids.

Please pray for our volunteers, children and their parents as they learn to follow his voice and see our God's powerful merciful hand in history and future of our world.

Doreen Malbog

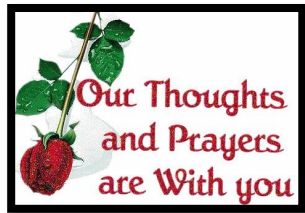
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MONDAY, JUNE 2 THRU THURSDAY, JUNE 5 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Beginning Wednesday, March 26 at 4:00 pm, Pastor Jeff will lead a series of confirmation classes (6) for youth who are 12 years of age (or will be 12 in 2025).

Confirmation is a sacred day that marks a person's spiritual journey and their commitment to live out their baptismal covenant. Sunday, May 4th will be Confirmation Sunday where the students will be presented for confirmation to the church.

Please contact Pastor Jeff for more information at Pastor-Jeff@clewistonmethodist.com or text to (863) 351-9692 to register or for more information.



ON-GOING PRAYERS

Brandon Dupree
 Vivian Gisbert
 Debbie Pulley
 Mike Pulley
 Barbara Stiles

HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

Matt Beatty
 Frances Cross
 Janice Forbes
 Brenda Garvey
 Beth Giddens
 Carol Griggs
 Garry Hall
 Pastor John Hicks
 Elizabeth Johnstone
 Ada Miller
 Kemely Perez
 Paul Smith
 Becky Starks
 Johnnie Wheeler

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JEFF WITH
 UPDATES CONCERNING PEOPLE ON THE
 PRAYER LIST AT (863) 661-6936

E-MAIL TO PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM



PowerLines is a monthly newsletter of First Methodist Church of Clewiston.
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Clint Kelley	March 2
Joann Wilson	March 3
Sarah Way	March 6
Ona Herring	March 8
Mary Ann Martin	March 12
Janet Way	March 16
Shelley Davidson	March 16
Jackie Theobald	March 20



Scott & Laura Jones
 March 7

Matthew 19:6
*So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
 Therefore, what God has joined together,
 let no one separate.*

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

ARE YOU TOUCHED?
 AN ARTICLE BY PASTOR JOHN HICKS
 AS PUBLISHED IN THE MONTICELLO NEWS

Touched is a great word that can mean many things!

When we remove blemishes from something, it is touched up. A touch down means we score. Being touched in the heart means that you were affected deeply. In another context, if you are touched could mean that you are not right mentally. Saying, "He touched me!" can mean excitement if it's someone you like, but it can be an expression seeking punishment if it happens to be your brother after your parents told you both to behave and keep your hands to yourself.

Being touched can mean a warm embrace between friends or significant others, a firm handshake in greeting, or a pat on the back. Being touched can also mean hurt in inappropriate groping, a shove away, or a slap in the face (physically or emotionally). More important, being touched can bring healing as happened with the twins in the following story. If this story moves you, you have been touched emotionally, which is also good.

Kyrie and Brielle Jackson were prematurely born at 28 weeks, each weighing about two pounds. Kyrie started putting on weight in the days following her arrival, but Brielle was struggling. At three weeks, Brielle went into respiratory distress. She was gasping for breath, and her face and stick-thin arms and legs turned bluish-gray.

Drastic situations sometimes call for drastic solutions. NICU Nurse Gayle Kasparian, after exhausting all the conventional remedies, decided to try a procedure she had heard about that was common in parts of Europe but not yet readily practiced in this country which called for double-bedding multiple-birth babies, especially preemies. Getting the parents' permission, Kasparian slipped baby Brielle into the incubator holding her sister. Brielle almost immediately snuggled up to Kyrie. Kyrie's blood-oxygen levels improved and she began to breathe more easily. The frantic crying stopped and her normal pinkish color quickly returned. Over the next weeks, Brielle's health continued to improve with her sister snuggled next to her.

In due time, the twins went home. During their first five years, according to mom and dad, the twins still slept together and, not surprisingly, still snuggled. Twenty-nine years later, the sisters are still huggers.

The truth is, all of us need to be appropriately touched. Appropriate touches release something in the brain called endorphins. Endorphins generally give a general boost in the mood and happiness of an individual, and are at the root of what athletes call the "Runners High". People need touch in order to survive, or they become "touched", as in not submitted to the local Monticello newspaper this week. right mentally

Consider the truth of how important touch can be in our lives. It's amazing how much emotion can be conveyed in a simple touch. When you're down and out, something as simple as a hand on the shoulder, a hug or quietly holding hands can have a profound effect. The failing twin was healed by the embrace of her sister. We, too, can bring healing through appropriate loving embraces, touches, or encouraging words. Think how much brighter our day becomes when we are touched in a special way by a special person (or animal!).

One study I read said that we need the equivalent of 12 good hugs, touches, or positive affirmations a day in order to survive, and 17 or more in order to thrive.

In the name of God, for the glory of God, let us go out and help people thrive!

Pastor John Hicks



HEADS WE WIN, TAILS WE WIN

The B&B Believers joined together once again on February 3 and shared food, fellowship and another great evening of learning and discussing how God gives us all a coin that guarantees us a win every time it's tossed, no matter how it lands.

Seventeen Believers gathered as I was honored to share a message about two words that most of us immediately recognize to be pivotal in our Christian walk, but do we really know how to portray them and extend them to those around us in meaningful ways? Many times, we use mercy and grace interchangeably when we reflect on our salvation, however, mercy and grace have two very different definitions and highlighting those differences is something we should all be aware of as we continue our walk and share the good news with others around us.

Mercy is simply not getting something, the punishment, we deserve, while grace is getting something, a gift, we don't deserve. Not quite opposites, rather slight opposites that truly work amazing together. If God minted us a coin of love, mercy would be firmly stamped on one side and grace clearly on the other. The free gift of God's grace all begins with the mercy He extended when His son Jesus suffered for our sins on the cross and is completed when we believe in our hearts that Jesus is our Savior. No matter how our coin of love lands when we flip it, we win every time through the mercy and grace of God. So how do we extend that mercy and grace to those around us? In today's world, showing mercy to those around us may feel challenging at times, especially when we feel others have attacked us with wrongful words, hurt us with spiteful words and/or actions, as well as those who may not seem like they fit in our personal circle. When we sense these challenges, we must all remember to strive to give people what they need, rather than what we think they deserve.

Ephesians 4:32 tells us, be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you. The next time you feel challenged to extend mercy in one of those sticky life moments, remember it probably wasn't easy for God to send His only son to the cross to pay for sins Jesus didn't commit, he did it freely for his love for us. Showing grace to those around us is giving a gift to someone who may not deserve it or has earned it in our mind, another stretch for us if we look at it through our flesh and blood eyes only. Opening our hearts and showing kindness to others, even when they might not deserve it is really what showing grace is all about in our lives as Christians. Choosing kind and gentle words, letting things go, being there when you're needed, forgiving others and asking others for forgiveness are just a few gifts of grace we can show others around us when those challenging opportunities arise. Humbling ourselves in those situations and freely giving grace to others is what **Romans 5:8** points us towards, but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let everyone see Jesus within you by sharing mercy and grace with those around you every day.

The next B&B Believers small group gathering will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Ninette's house. If you are looking for a fun, relaxed atmosphere to learn about Jesus and fellowship with other Believers, B&B might be for you. Invite a friend to give B&B a try and join us in 2025. 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

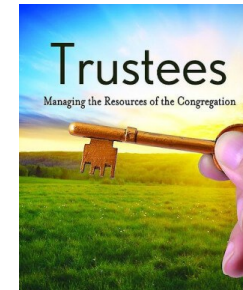


W.I.N.G.S. (Women in God's Service) had a great meeting in February. We created Valentine's cards for the residents of Clewiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 17 at 6:30 pm in the LEC, Trinity Room. We will be packing Easter gifts for the Nursing Home. Hope to see you there!

Note: Please keep all Christmas, Valentine's and Easter cards you receive and donate them to our W.I.N.G.S. group. We can cut and paste various pieces and make someone smile again with parts from your beautiful cards. Cards are made for our nursing home and for deployed and hospitalized soldiers.

Janet Way



After a busy few months things have slowed down a little bit with the Trustees.

The electric panel project was completed without any issues. The renter at the WC Owen home has painted the kitchen and living room. She has sent me pictures and it looks very nice. One of the refrigerators in the LEC had a small leak and quit working. We had the repair man check it out and he got it going but we will continue to monitor.

All in all things on Campus are good.

Lee Sweet

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 2 Youth Group Meets, 2 to 4 in LEC
- March 3 B&B Believers, 6:00 pm at Ninette's house
- March 4 Grief Share, 6:30, Trinity Room
- March 5 Mission Dinner, 6:00, baked spaghetti, H.O.O.I.
- March 5 Ash Wednesday Service, 6:45 pm in Sanctuary
- March 6 Precepts Bible Study at 4:00 and 6:30 pm, Trinity Room
- March 11 Janet's Bible Study, 10:30 am, Trinity Room
- March 12 CHS, Public Service Academy, sausage w/onions, green pepper sandwiches
- March 13 Precepts Bible Study, 4:00 and 6:30 pm, Trinity Room
- March 17 W.I.N.G.S. Meeting, 6:30 pm, Trinity Room
- March 18 Administrative Council Meeting, 6:00 pm, Trinity Room
- March 18 Grief Share, 7:00 pm, Trinity Room
- March 20 Precepts Bible Study, 4:00 and 6:30 pm, Trinity Room
- March 25 Janet's Bible Study, 10:30 am, Trinity Room
- March 25 Grief Share, 6:30 pm, Trinity Room
- March 26 Confirmation Classes start March 26 at 2:00 pm
- March 27 Precepts Bible Study, 4:00 and 6:30 pm, Trinity Room
- April 7 B&B Believers, 6:00 pm, tba
- June 2-5 Vacation Bible School

I am so thankful for our "Mission-Minded" Church! And **THANK YOU** all for your continued support for our Missions!

The dinner for Sandy & Delbert Groves "New Life International Mission" in February raised \$1,400 for New Life I.M. That was added to the \$2,000 from our budget for a very nice gift of \$3,400. We were blessed by the testimony Delbert gave in Church on Sunday, February 9. Thank you, Pastor Jeff, for sharing your pulpit with Delbert!

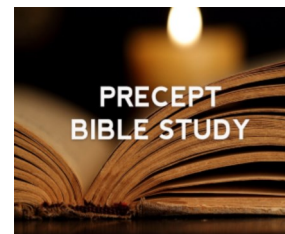
Please mark your calendars for the next Mission Dinner, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. Our guests will be the leadership from HOOI (Homeless & Orphan Outreach, Inc.). Dinner will be Ninette's delicious baked spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and our famous mission desserts.

Please join us for good food, good fellowship and exciting news about the ministry we help support in the Dominican Republic. God bless you all.

Sandy Stitt

The Precepts Bible Study started on Thursday, February 20 and lasts for 9 weeks. We are studying the book of **Mark**. Classes are at 4:00 pm with Gail Williams as Leader and at 6:30 pm with Scott Jones as Leader.

If you are interested, please contact Scott Jones to enroll and get the study guide. Cost is only \$30.



The weekly Grief Share Support Group started up another session on Tuesday, February 25 and will continue through Tuesday, May 20. If you know someone who may need help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend this may be the place for them.

For more information, contact Mary Thomas locally at mnct1953@gmail.com, phone (863) 677-0349 or register at griefshare.org/findagroup.

I'd like to invite you to our upcoming Administrative Council Meeting. The Council meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Trinity Room of the LEC. We try to keep our meeting time to an hour or 1-1/2 hours max. It is here that you can come and just listen or voice any concern, comment, or suggestion you may have. It also is a way for you to be "in the know" as to what the other church committees are doing.

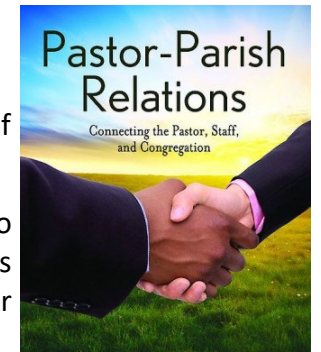
We'll be meeting on Tuesday, March 18 at 6:00 pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, text, or email me. Everyone is welcome!

Shelley Davidson
Administrative Council Chairperson

Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

WOW, what a few months we have had at First Methodist Church of Clewiston.

I would like to announce, if you do not already know, Pastor Jeff has agreed to stay with us thru June, 2027. Pastor Jeff is very passionate about helping us move forward and help us grow in our Global Methodist membership. Pastor Jeff and Margaret have moved back into the Parsonage so stop by and visit.



One more important announcement is that we have been actively seeking a Youth Minister for our church for some time and God has answered our prayers. Mr. Virgilio Ogando is our new Youth Minister. A teacher at the Labelle Middle School has been lead to us and comes highly recommended by the Hendry County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Mike Swindle, and the Principal of the Labelle Middle School, Mr. Ryan Harris. Mr. Ogando has experience in building Youth Programs previously in his home state of New York, and is very excited about this opportunity to help us get our Youth involved here at First Methodist Church of Clewiston.

Let's get behind Mr. Ogando as he will definitely need our help and support to make the Youth Program a huge success. If you would like to be involved in any large or small capacity, please contact Mr. O at (239) 440-5717 on his cell, or Pastor Jeff (863) 661-6936.

Please pray for God's guidance in building a strong and sustainable Youth Program.

With God's Guidance

Steve Stiles
Staff Parish Relations Committee

FMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION			
Position	Name	Phone	Email Address
Senior Pastor	Jeffrey Smith	(863) 351-9692	pastorjeff@clewistonmethodist.com
Youth Minister	Virgilio Ogando	(863) 983-5269	virgilio01@msn.com
Lay Leader	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Recording Secretary	Margaret Smith	(863) 599-9417	sweetmbs007@@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Staff Parish Relations	Steve Stiles	(863) 983-8432	sbthstiles@embarqmail.com
Head Trustee	Lee Sweet	(561) 985-4220	rasweet@rocketmail.com
Financial Secretary	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Admin. Council Chair	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
PowerLines Editor	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
Mission Team	Sandy Stitt	(863) 677-1789	stitttranch@gmail.com
FirstKids Team	Doreen Malbog	(863) 677-0255	dortietmal@gmail.com
Library	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com