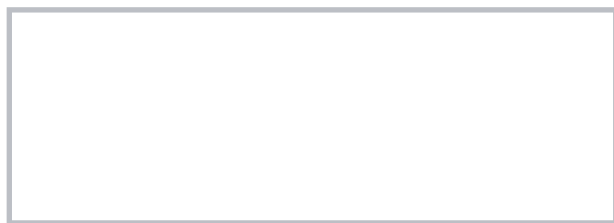


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OUR MISSION
TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST
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FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.



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.

POWER LINES

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON
Since 1945
A Global Methodist Church

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Monday, May 26



Sunday, May 11



1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Titus 2:4-5 "Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

Proverbs 31:30 "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

Proverbs 3:33 "The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous."

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL: **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

YOUTH GROUP : **12:30 PM TILL 2:00 PM** IN LEC

SERVICE ALSO AVAILABLE AT
WWW.CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG.
OR OUR WEBSITE WWW.FUMCCLEWISTON.COM

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JEFF’S CORNER



THE HELPER

At the writing of this article, we find ourselves in the midst of a drought. Our farmers need rain; rain helps produce crops; we need crops to eat and the circle of life continues. Life itself is so interdependent and no one makes it through this life without some help along the way.

The Psalmist writes in Chapter 124:8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Friends, the sooner we acknowledge this fact, the sooner we will live out the plan that God has for our life and tune into His guidance. I understand that sometimes people will let you down. It’s happened to me and it hurts. But God will never let us down because He loves us and wants us to prosper. (Jeremiah 29:11)

So on this day after Easter, I am going to start praying for rain. In this way I feel like I am asking God for help and honoring Him in believing He provides for all of our needs.

Is there something you need help with and you haven’t asked God for help just yet? What is holding you back? You can also ask for Holy Spirit discernment to see if what you are asking for lines up with God’s plan for your life? We have just celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Once again God has reached across the great divide caused by our sin so that we could be reconciled to Him through the free gifts of forgiveness and grace. What are you waiting for? Seek God for help with whatever you need and He will respond with one of three answers according to our late President Jimmy Carter. He said God will answer with; “Yes, or No, or You’ve Got to Be Kidding!” We need to trust God and ask for help in navigating this life.

God loves you and so do I,

Pastor Jeff

First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Finance Report— April, 2025

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

General giving totaled \$ 16,188.73 for the month with an additional \$3,200.00 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 23.14% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$ 15,502.27 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 24% of budgeted annual expenses for the current year.

Brenda Whidden continues to transition as the Director of Finance. Brenda has assumed the regular duties for reconciling the bank statements and creating the financial statements each month with minimal input from R.D. Williams. Brenda’s willingness to take on this responsibility is greatly appreciated.

The checking account has been reconciled for the month.

Respectfully Submitted

Brenda Whidden



First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Bank Report
January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025

	March		Year to Date	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
General Fund				
Beginning Balance	5,826.13	-2,820.99	8,467.28	-7,163.75
Offering	16,188.73	30,233.73	49,166.39	61,955.99
Disbursements	15,502.27	20,450.93	51,121.08	47,830.43
Ending Balance	6,512.59	6,961.81	6,512.59	6,961.81
Special Funds				
Beginning Balance	163,001.71	134,273.32	178,864.99	157,642.51
Offering	3,200.00	2,449.00	10,045.80	9,877.00
Disbursements	1,907.64	331.32	24,616.72	31,128.51
Ending Balance	164,294.07	136,391.00	164,294.07	136,391.00
Total on Deposit	170,806.66	143,352.81	170,806.66	143,352.81



GUIDANCE FROM THE INSIDE OUT

On April 7, sixteen Believers met once again for another thought-provoking message brought to us by Lindsay Hall which aimed squarely at how to perceive what guides our responses to our many emotions as we navigate our lives as Christians. The Disney movie, **Inside Out**, was explained, bringing forward for discussion some of the emotions all of us may experience during different seasons in each of our journeys. In the animated movie the main character is guided by her nine named emotions, Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, Disgust, Anxiety, Boredom, Embarrassment and Envy. Each emotion jockeying for position in the forefront of a young teenaged girl’s mind. Depending upon her responses or reactions to the emotional tug-of-war in her head, decisions and actions are made sometimes good, sometimes bad. Sound familiar? The fact that 8 of the 9 emotions that round out the characters in the movie lean towards the negative causing distress and unpleasant feelings, especially in today’s world, are a clear reminder of how the enemy longs for us to dwell on those last 8, so he can try to crush our Joy.

However, we can be assured, no matter how much he tries, it’s a losing battle for that deceiving pest. Our guidance and responses to each and every one of our **Inside Out** emotional characters when they pop up in our lives, and they will, can be gleaned from the Word of God. Calmly responding in context to our emotions and allowing our Lord to guide us, rather than quickly or brashly reacting to them is crucial to having peace with all of them, no matter the challenges in this life.

- Joy: **Philippians 4:4** “Rejoice in the Lord always.” We could really stop there, but here are solid shields against the enemy’s attack within our minds for the other eight.
- Sadness: **Psalms 34:18** “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted”
- Anger: **Ephesians 4:26** “In your anger do not sin”
- Fear: **Isaiah 41:10** “Do not fear, for I am with you”
- Disgust: **Romans 12:9** “Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.”
- Anxiety: **1 Peter 5:7** “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”
- Boredom: **Colossians 3:23** “What ever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”
- Embarrassment: **Romans 10:11** “Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame.”
- Envy: **Proverbs 14:30** “A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”

Our God knows we are all human, and from the very beginning knew that struggles of the world would torment and persuade us just as the enemy tempted His son and our Savior Jesus. Jesus was human and had the same emotions we all experience every day. Holding His hand as we walk through sunshine or storms in life that trigger our emotions, good or bad, is challenging at times, but is exactly what God’s unfailing love wants for all of us. Lean into Him and let your Joy shine from the inside out for all to see, no matter the circumstance. The next B&B Believers gathering will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Denise Hatton’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 johnnw@jimmpittmanelectrical.com.

John Wellslager



In April, we learned about Jesus’ actions in the temple, his baptism, and his death and resurrection on Easter morning. The children and young celebrated Easter with an Easter Egg Hunt, games, and special treats.

In May, we will be learning about the women who were with Jesus during his time on earth. We will discuss the stories of ...

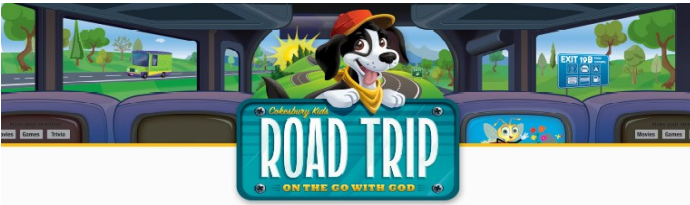
- ♦ Mary and Martha
- ♦ The Widow’s Offering
- ♦ The Woman at the Well

Our memory scripture in May is **“MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE. I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME.” John 10:27 (NIRV)**. 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, Margaret Smith, Mr. O., and Sarah Way. I so appreciate their dedication to servicing our kids and youth.

Please pray for our children, volunteers, 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!

contact: sweetmbs007@gmail.com

LIMITLESS

YOUTH MINISTRY

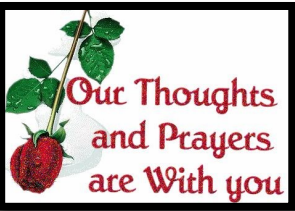
John 15:4-5:

You cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me. “Yes, I am the vine: you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. Far apart from me you can do nothing.

The Youth Group is doing really well. We continue to invite any youth from the ages of 12 to 18 going to school to come and join us. Join us for a time of prayer, snacks and fun every Sunday from 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm effective April 27.

Mr. C (Virgilio Ogando)

Youth Minister



ON-GOING PRAYERS

Maysel Barker
David Collins
Vivian Gisbert
Beverly Upthegrove

HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

Matt Beatty
Frances Cross
Janice Forbes
Brenda Garvey
Beth Giddens
Garry Hall
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.
Article submission deadline: 20th of each month. All members are urged to contribute to this publication.
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Scott Jones May 13
Janice Forbes May 15
Evelyn Jones May 15
Drake Hammock May 21
Miranda Harn May 25
Barbara Wiley May 30



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

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

PASSING OF A POPE

I could not let this moment pass without acknowledging the passing of Pope Francis. From many accounts, including pictures of him in various ministry settings, it is clear to me that Pope Francis cared about people. It is not easy being a leader (Shepherd) to a flock as large as the Catholic Church but I believe Pope Francis led with compassion, love, honesty and integrity.

Please join me in prayer for the cardinals as they select a new shepherd for the church. I offer a final thank you to Pope Francis' family for sharing him with the world. May Pope Francis rest eternally in the arms of the one he lifted high before the world, Jesus Christ. Amen and Amen.

Pastor Jeff

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues. May 20 Admin. Council Meet, 6:00 pm, Trinity Room
June 2-5 Vacation Bible School, volunteers needed!

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.



FMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION

Position	Name	Phone	Email Address
Senior Pastor	Jeffrey Smith	(863) 351-9692	pastorjeff@clewistonmethodist.com
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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
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Admin. Council Chair	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
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FirstKids Team	Doreen Malbog	(863) 677-0255	dortietmal@gmail.com
Library	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com



Many thanks to Harlan Griggs for preparing his delicious marinated, grilled pork loin steaks with pineapple rings for our April Mission dinner. We raised an additional \$525 to send to Wycliffe Bible Translators along with our Church’s budgeted \$1,000.

Mel and Pat Edmiston were our guests and they shared so much amazing and encouraging news of the work of Wycliffe! Our gifts to this wonderful mission are very, very well spent.

Thanks to all who help support the missions of First Methodist Church of Clewiston in so many ways!

Our Wednesday night fundraiser dinners will restart again in October. Have a safe summer!

Sandy Stitt

Missions Chair



The weekly Grief Share Support Group will continue through Tuesday, May 27. 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, May 20 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



KNOWN TO BE SAVED

An Article by Pastor John Hicks

On the outskirts of a small town was a big pecan tree growing just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys sat underneath the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts they had gathered. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came along on his bicycle and heard voices from the cemetery. Closing in, he heard counting: “one for you, one for me.” Terrified, he jumped on his bike and took off, almost running over an old man with a cane. “Come quick,” said the boy, “I heard Satan and the Lord down at the cemetery dividing up souls.” The man replied, “Beat it kid. I can’t be bothered with such nonsense. Can’t you see it’s hard for me to walk?”

When the boy insisted, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, “One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.” The old man whispered, “Boy, you’ve been tellin’ me the truth.” Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, gripping the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse. That’s when they heard, “One for you, one for me. That’s all, now let’s go get those nuts by the fence and we’ll be done.” They say the old man made it back to town a full five minutes ahead of the kid on the bike!

The RMS Titanic was a British passenger liner that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in the early morning of April 15, 1912, after colliding with an iceberg during her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York City. Of the 2, 224 passengers and crew aboard, more than 1,500 died in the sinking, making it one of the deadliest commercial peacetime maritime disasters in modern history.

I still remember going to a Titanic exhibit where all of us received boarding passes to the Titanic with the name of an actual passenger. It made the experience more personal. It really hit home when we stood at a large wall which had two lists, reminiscent of the same lists that were posted after the tragedy in the White Star Line’s offices. Imagine anxious relatives waiting to hear the fate of a passenger they loved, and a company rep occasionally coming in to add a name to one of two lists: “Known to be saved” and “Known to be lost.” One of my friends had the name of a passenger who was saved. His wife and kids had names on the “lost” list.

It’s sobering when you think about it, because family and friends and everyone we know is also on one of two lists: “Known to be saved” or “Known to be lost.” Not rich or poor. Not liberal or conservative. Not Religion X or Religion Y. Just “saved” or “lost.”

At the end when the Lord and Satan are dividing up nuts like you and me, which list will we be on? Now is the time to make sure. Now is the time to make sure for our family and friends as well!