

POWER LINES

THRIVE IN 2025 THROUGH GOD'S WORD

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON

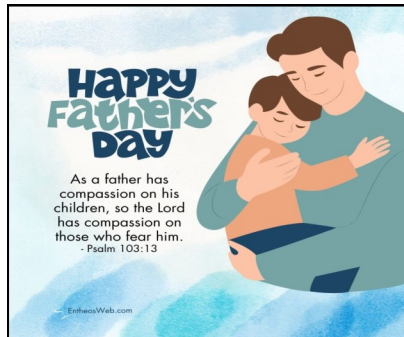
Since 1945

A Global Methodist Church

331 W. OSCEOLA AVENUE

CLEWISTON, FL 33440

(863) 983-5269



Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Matthew 6:31-33 "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 7:9-11 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

1 Timothy 5:8 "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

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

SERVICE: 11:00 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

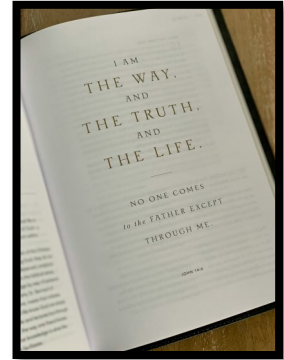
CHILDREN'S CHURCH: STARTS AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor Jeff's Corner	2
First Kids/VBS/Youth Ministry	3
Birthdays/Prayer List/Anniversaries	4
Missions/RUSH	5
Residing Hope/Contacts	6
B & B Believers	7
Pastor Hick's Article	8
Bank Report/Finance Report	9

**PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER****EIGHTY YEARS AND MORE!**

Did you know Moses was eighty years old when he first spoke to Pharaoh? He was just getting started with his ministry while leading the Israelites out of Egypt and out of bondage.

Our church is crossing the eighty-year ministry threshold and we are just getting started too! We've held over 4,000 Sunday services; sang at least 12,000 songs praising God; and faithfully strived to live out The Great Commission assigned to us by Jesus, over 2000 years ago.

What's next for First Methodist Church of Clewiston? Seeing more people say yes to faith in Jesus Christ should continue to be our main mission. Especially when we realize that we are closer now to Jesus' return than ever before. We cannot rest or grow weary my friends! **Hebrews 12:1b-2** And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

This is the time for all of us to be in the race. Our Christian walk is not simply about attending church on Sunday. Although that is important as we seek the face of God together in worship; pray for one another and learn more about God through searching the scriptures. Paul reminded the church at Corinth that we are all the body of Christ. We have different spiritual gifts and we are better together in unity than we are by ourselves.

Prayerfully ask God to guide you to opportunities to serve and freely give of your time, talents and resources to see the lost find faith in Christ.

Let's continue to seek God's face in worship; the Holy Spirit's fire in making disciples; and may we truly be the feet, hands and mouth of Jesus Christ.

In Jesus love and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Jeff".

In May, we learned about Jesus' Family Tree and the importance of women in Jesus' ministry. We focused on Jesus' interactions with a poor widow who gave all that she had and the woman at the well.



Also, the children enjoyed making Mother's Day Chimes to honor their moms.

In June, we will highlight several famous parables and make a special craft on Father's Day and the Fourth of July. The lessons will include...

- ◆ The Wise and Foolish Builders
- ◆ The Good Samaritan
- ◆ The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
- ◆ The Lost Sheep
- ◆ What Jesus said about being tempted and about worry

Our memory verse in June and July is "So, the words spoken by the prophet came true. He has said, 'I will open my mouth and tell stories. I will speak about things that were hidden since the world was made.'" **Matthew 13:35 (NIRV)**

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

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

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

Doreen Malbog

Sending blessing to everyone! **Luke 9:23** Then he said to them all, If anyone wants to be my disciple must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

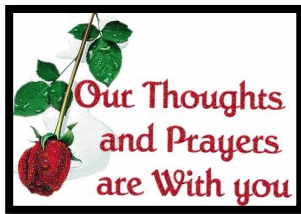
June 1: The youth group will be helping prepare the LEC for Vacation Bible School.

June 8: Cook-out for the End of the Year. Youth will have a SWAT event on Drug Prevention and Tobacco use with games on that day, also. We will also have a special celebration to honor all Fathers.

June 15: No youth meeting as it is Father's Day. Please come to the service to honor your Dad in a special way!



Mr. O (Virgilio Ogando)
Youth Minister



ON-GOING PRAYERS

David Collins
Vivian Gisbert
Beverly Upthegrove

HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

Matt Beatty
The Family of Maysel Barker
Frances Cross
Janice Forbes
Brenda Garvey
Beth Giddens
Garry Hall
Ada Miller
Kemely Perez
Becky Starks

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JEFF WITH
UPDATES CONCERNING PEOPLE ON THE
PRAYER LIST AT (863) 661-6936
E-MAIL TO PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM



Mae McDonald	June 3
Katie McWhorter	June 4
John Nau	June 6
Joe Lee	June 7
Jane Robison	June 12
Jane Thompson	June 12
Gary Nau	June 13
R.D. Williams, II	June 16
Margo Fatzinger	June 17
Brenda Whidden	June 20
Sarah Stinson	June 24



Luan & Sam Walker
June 1
Gwen & Bobby Hare
June 12
Sandy & John Stitt
June 17
LuAnne & R.D. Williams
June 30

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

PowerLines is a monthly newsletter of First Methodist Church of Clewiston.
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Sandy Stitt received this update from Pat & Mel Edmiston, Wycliffe Bible Translators:

In March, Pat traveled to Solomon Islands again to work with the Toabaita translation team on their book of Genesis. They are fairly new at translation so their time together involved both checking Genesis and learning many of the principles of Bible translation in order to improve future translation work. While checking the story of Tamar and Judah, Pat learned that in Miriam's Polynesian family, if a married woman dies, her unmarried sister is expected to marry the widowed husband. Up until such a time, he jokingly refers to her as his "spare tire."

Alamblak update: The Alamblak New Testament reprints and the Memory Verse booklets have all been delivered by plane to Munduku village. Preparations are now underway for the dedication on June 12. Melenda and I will be going along with our son Dan, his two children, Troy & Sarah, our daughter Carol and hopefully her husband, Jorge. Pray that all of our many flight connections go well.

Blessings, Pat & Melenda Edmiston



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!!
GOD BLESS YOU ON ALL YOUR UPCOMING PLANS**

A dozen children from the RUSH group (Rise Up to Serve Him) from the Clewiston Christian School came in April and spent several hours tidying up our campus. They cleaned the wood surfaces in the Sanctuary and then went to the Life Enrichment Center and did some other projects.



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, July 22 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2-5 Vacation Bible School, volunteers needed!
 Mon. June 9 B&B, 6:00 pm, at office of Jimmy Pittman Electrical
 Sun. June 15 Father's Day

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

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
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



LIFE'S ENDLESS TUG OF WAR

Eighteen Believers enjoyed a delicious Mexican smorgasbord at the festive Cinco de Mayo B&B gathering which was held at Denise Hatton's house. A big thanks to Denise for hosting and all the Believers who brought all of the savory food and goodies we shared that evening.

I was blessed to share a message with the group at the May meeting, and sweetened up everyone's pallets with a talk about the Fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5**. Inviting all in attendance to join me for just a few moments in darkness and close their eyes, we all shuttled back in time nearly 200 years and traveled deep in the Everglades and experienced a wise old Seminole Legend. My attempt to recite the legend in a Seminole native tongue worked as the group became silent as I told the story. I'll try it now with you as you read...

As the camp fire crackled and the heat of the day surrendered to the coolness of dusk, an old Seminole chief passed the *Legend of Two Wolves* to his grandson as they sat quietly on the ground in front of the fire deep within the Everglades. "My son, there is a battle waging deep within my heart, a battle between two wolves.", the old chief explained with a raspy soft voice from his many decades in the Everglades. "The first wolf is evil, he is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.", the expressionless old chief said with a slow deliberate emphasis on each flawed trait. After a short pause, he continued, looking up from the fire and staring solemnly into a far Cypress stand, "The other wolf is a good wolf, he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

Turning slowly toward his Grandson the chief concluded, "This same battle is taking place in your heart as well my son, and this clash will reside in every man, woman and child from now until the end of time." After a moment of silence, thoughtfully, the young Seminole Grandson asked, "Which wolf wins?" Without hesitation, "The one you feed.", the wrinkled and weathered chief replied, as a distant wolf hauntingly howled as if to emphasize the chief's key point.

I now welcome you back to Clewiston. The *Legend of Two Wolves* seems to have a direct parallel to what Paul writes in **Galatians 5:13-26**, particularly **verse 17** of the Fruit of the Spirit scripture of the challenge we face as Christians. **Galatians 5:17** "For the flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want." Our God has given us all free will, and all of us have a choice to make every waking moment of our lives while we live on this earth. The battle within us that both Paul writes of in **Galatians 5** and the old Seminole chief explains to his Grandson is between our flesh and our spirit, with an important third component we all possess and control, in that of our minds. Like a tug of war from our youths, the flesh is pulling one side of the rope, and the Holy Spirit residing within us stands ready and more than able to drag those fleshy thoughts and actions into the mud puddle once and for all. It's our mind and the choices we make in life, coupled with free will that give the added strength to one side or the other depending on which one we fuel, or as the Seminole chief tells us, which one we feed. Allow the Holy Spirit to take hold of the tug of war rope within you today and pull those selfish worldly thoughts and actions into the mud where they belong.

The next B&B Believers gathering will be held on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the JPE office. 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 johnw@jimmyspittmanelectrical.com.

John Wellslager

AN UDDERLY AMAZING LIFE LESSON

By Pastor John Hicks

Florida's dairy industry is "udderly" booming, thanks to the farmers and dairy cows throughout the state that produce fresh milk.

About 125,000 dairy cows reside in Florida, producing around 300 million gallons of milk annually. Dairy cows are milked two to three times per day and each dairy cow produces about 6 to 8 gallons of milk daily. A gallon of milk equals 345 squirts of a cow's udder which equals a little over 21 squirts per cup if you are interested in such things!

All of this milk goes from farm to carton in just 48 to 72 hours, which is good news for us milk lovers. There are times when I really enjoy the juice of the cow. For me, there is nothing much better than having a nice ice-cold glass of milk with a warm chocolate chip cookie right out of the oven.

I learned a lesson though. I sniff milk before I drink it these days. It started over 40 years ago. I had just taken a batch of cookies out of the oven and popped one in my mouth. I reached for the glass of milk I had poured and took a couple of quick gulps to help wash it down.

What happened next was not pretty. Like the passage in **Revelation**, I spewed it out of my mouth. I learned something that day: There's a price to be paid for leaving milk out of the refrigerator too long. Good milk turns bad from being warm too long.



















I've also learned over the years that good dispositions can turn sour for the same reason. If we let frustrations or aggravations or irritations simmer too long, we can stew ourselves into a bad attitude. Just as sour milk ruined the good cookie experience for me, sour attitudes can ruin something good for us and those around us.



The story of Mary and Martha in the Bible is a classic example of the sweet turning sour. Martha invited Jesus and the disciples to dinner. While Martha was busy doing all of the things that needed to be done, her sister was sitting down listening to Jesus teach. This irked Martha. What had started out to be an attitude of joy and service for someone special quickly curdled. Martha lost perspective and her focus turned inward towards herself and her situation. With time, she developed an attitude, and her attitude spoiled the gift she was offering.



A bad attitude can spoil something good. Satan knows that. Satan uses that. Notice that he didn't take Martha out of the kitchen; he took away her joy of serving in the kitchen. The adversary won't turn you against the church; he will turn you toward yourself in the church. He won't take you away from your work; he'll take away your pleasure in your work.



There is a life-lesson here for us to embrace. To keep an attitude from souring, treat it like you would a cup of milk: Keep it cool and check it regularly to make sure it's good. "Pleasant words (and attitudes) are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."




























 A wonderful 80th birthday party was held for 



 Mike Crooks on Sunday, April 27 in our LEC. It 



















 was hosted by his son, Jonathan and wife 

 Michelle, from Michigan. 

 Delicious cake and drinks were served and lots 

 of well wishes were bestowed upon Mike. 

 Here's to many more birthdays! 

First Methodist Church Clewiston Finance Report for April, 2025

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

General giving totaled \$ 14,600.23 for the month, with an additional \$3,087.50 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 30% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$ 16,649.81 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 30% of budgeted annual expenses for the current year.

While I am still trying to understand the workings of the Churches finances, I feel a little more comfortable with the workings of Church Windows and the work behind the scenes. I will do my best to keep up the good work that has been done by RD for so many years.

Respectfully Submitted

Brenda Whidden



First Methodist Church of Clewiston Bank Report January 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025

	April		Year to Date	
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>General Fund</u>				
Beginning Balance	6,167.77	6,961.81	8,467.28	-7,163.75
Offering	14,600.23	13,903.85	63,766.62	75,859.84
Disbursements	14,624.81	12,917.70	66,090.71	60,748.13
Ending Balance	<u>6,143.19</u>	<u>7,947.96</u>	<u>6,143.19</u>	<u>7,947.96</u>
 <u>Special Funds</u>				
Beginning Balance	164,294.07	136,391.00	178,864.99	157,642.51
Offering	3,087.50	2,305.00	13,133.30	12,182.00
Disbursements	1,500.00	244.90	26,116.72	31,373.41
Ending Balance	<u>165,881.57</u>	<u>138,451.10</u>	<u>165,881.57</u>	<u>138,451.10</u>
 Total on Deposit	<u>172,024.76</u>	<u>146,399.06</u>	<u>172,024.76</u>	<u>146,399.06</u>

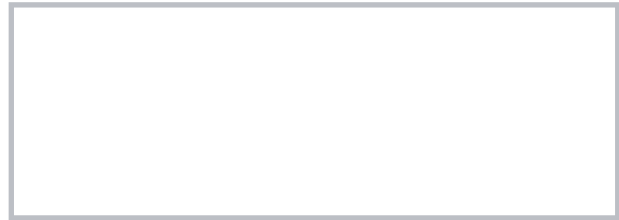
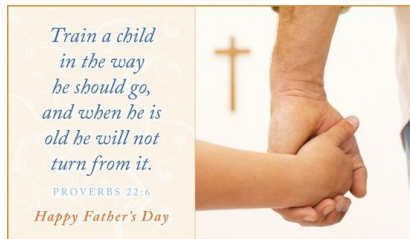
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POWER LINES



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.