

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



JULY & AUGUST, 2025

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.CHURCHONTHETOUCH.ORG.
 OR OUR WEBSITE WWW.FUMCCLEWISTON.COM

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PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER



John Oatman, Jr.

COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS

This note comes to you while we are in North Carolina looking over our weather-beaten home and counting our blessings. The damage was nothing that a new roof, paint job and the removal of three trees would not take care of. But we count ourselves blessed because there were thousands of folks who lost their homes, never to rebuild or recover.

Hurricane Helena made her mark across the map on the eastern seaboard. Stormy weather is not a respecter of time, socio-economic background, or location. Over the past couple of years, we have seen severe rainstorms that dumped feet of rain; hurricanes and tornadoes that left death and devastation in their path and in areas we never thought we would see such events take place.

The Sunday we left for North Carolina, we sang the song *Count Your Many Blessings* during our worship service. The lyrics were composed by Johnson Oatman, Jr., born in 1856 and penned the song in 1897. He also wrote songs titled, *No, Not One* and *Higher Ground*. One article pointed out that he was not as good a singer as his dad, but he loved music, nonetheless. Johnson attended schools for ministry, served in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and began writing songs that we sing still today. He composed about 200 songs a year and by age 36 and compiled 5000 songs by the end of his life. As his story unfolded, it appeared to me that Johnson counted his blessings and made the best of what talents God had given him. Through his compositions, Brother Johnson had shared the Good News concerning Jesus Christ.

Are you counting the blessings God has provided in your life? If you are thankful for what God has provided, then we must ask the Holy Spirit to help us to be doers of God's Word in the world around us. Scripture reminds us that it is not enough for us to hear or listen to the Word of God. We are to actively live out what we learn by following Jesus. **(James 1:19-27)** John Wesley said, *"The Gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."* Jesus said to love God and love our neighbor. We love God **and** our neighbor, when we put into action the Word of God written in our hearts.

God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Jeff



This summer, we are highlighting several famous parables and will make a special craft for Father's Day and the Fourth of July. The lessons 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 learn more about our Savior, Jesus!

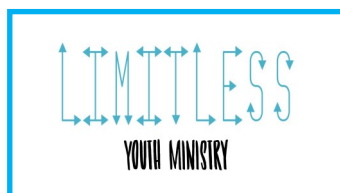
Our great team of volunteers during the summer months include: Laura and Evelyn Jones, Jane Robison, Ninette Aker and Sarah Way. I so appreciate their dedication to serving our kids and youth.

Please join me and 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.

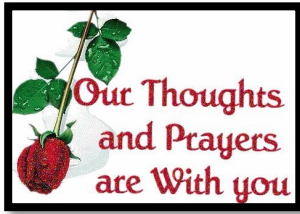
Doreen Malbog

The Youth Group was a big help with Vacation Bible School the beginning of June so we are sending out a great big THANK YOU to them!

Youth group will not be meeting from July 6 thru July 27 as Mr. O and his team leaders will be on vacation. But we will resume Sunday, August 3 at 12:30 pm (after church service) with games, food, snacks and drinks.



Mr. O (Virgilio Ogando)
Youth Minister



ON-GOING PRAYERS

David Collins
 Margo Fatzinger
 Vivian Gisbert
 Beverly Upthegrove

HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

Matt Beatty
 Janice Forbes
 Brenda Garvey
 Beth Giddens
 Garry Hall
 Ada Miller
 Kemely Perez
 Becky Starks
 Johnnie Wheeler

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



Jeff Smith	July 5
Davis Forbes	July 5
Tim Burke	July 13
Jerry Cochran	July 16
Ashley Hammock	July 13
Karen Cochran	July 17
Michael Atkinson	July 18
Kathy Caulkins	July 21
Sam Walker	July 27
Lois Blount	July 28
Everett McWhorter	July 31
Rebecca McWhorter	July 31



Tommy Perry	Aug. 2
Jensen Harn	Aug. 5
James McWhorter	Aug. 7
Becky Rawls	Aug. 10
Bobby Hare	Aug. 10
Jennie Smith	Aug. 13
Ellie Schlager	Aug. 24
Margaret Smith	Aug. 27
Harlan Griggs	Aug. 27
Gwen Hare	Aug. 28



Barbara & Steve Stiles
 July 3
 Alisha & Chris Norwood
 July 25
 Aimee & Lee Sweet
 July 31



Karen & Jerry Cochran
 August 10
 Dolly & Tim Burke
 August 12
 Sharon & Wayne Jones
 August 13

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

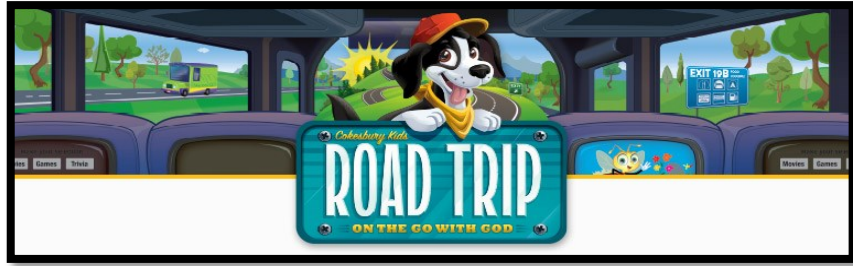
PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JEFF WITH
 UPDATES CONCERNING PEOPLE ON THE
 PRAYER LIST AT (863) 661-6936
 E-MAIL TO PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM

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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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!



A great big thank you to all those volunteers that showed up for Vacation Bible School!
There was an average of 40 children per evening...a really great turn out!



“SCOUT” (THE DOG PUPPET WITH PASTOR JEFF) WAS THE NAVIGATOR’S (LONDON DAVIDSON) BUDDY



THE NAVIGATOR WITH HIS MAPS



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

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
Finance Director	Brenda Whidden	(863) 228-6385	blwhidden@gmail.com
Finance Secretary	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@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
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



The B&B Believers met once again on June 9 where 14 Believers braved an evening deluge to gather at the JPE office for another great time of food, fellowship and a message on the challenge of taming our tongues. We were all told as kids, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” The nearly 200-year-old rhyme can be easily recited out of memory by all of us, but was what our parents told us, or what we’ve told our kids actually the truth?

Our words alone can’t break a bone, however, the damage our itty-bitty tongues cause when they form words that are said to bring someone down are crushing to the spirit of those who hear those devastating words. Bones can heal, but the damage sharp words can cause can sever friendships, destroy close relationships and end even the best of marriages. In **Chapter 3 of James**, we are given a clear picture of a comparison of how a very large animal in that of a horse is controlled by the use of a bit in its mouth, and how a large ship is steered by the small rudder in its stern. Both examples **James** gives us in **verses 3 and 4** show us the control and positive direction the small parts of these large objects can provide when they are used properly by the operator.

Conversely, in **verses 5 and 6, James** warns us of how our tongues, when used in boastful and unthoughtful ways, are like the small spark that will set ablaze destructive infernos that will not only leave a huge forest reduced to ashes, but likewise set the entire course of one’s life on fire, and leaving itself set on fire by hell. **James 3:8** tells us, “but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”, then reminds us in **verses 9 and 10** of our double mindedness as we praise our Lord and curse our neighbors out of the same mouth. While I know James’ brother Jesus knew, I’m not sure James had the foresight of the two additional tongues we all now have in 2025.

Our thumbs have become an extension of our tongues in today’s electronic age, creating a triple threat of the sparking tinderbox the slips of our tongues and wandering thumbs often cause. Before we speak, before we text, before we post, before we tweet, before we snap, before we TikTok, before we allow our words to be consumed by others, let’s all remember what Jesus said in **Matthew 12:36-37**. “But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgement for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” Can you give your accounting Jesus speaks of in Matthew today? Let’s all begin to speak, text and tweet like Jesus is right there with us, because he is always present, every moment of our lives. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can maim forever.

As has become tradition, the B&B Believers will skip the month of July due to vacations and summer fun. The next B&B Believers gathering will be held on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Ronnie and Jane Robison’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 johnw@jimypittmanelectrical.com.

John Wellslager





NEW TEACHER LUNCHEON

School starts early this year and our annual **NEW TEACHER LUNCHEON** is planned for **Tuesday, August 5th** at 12 noon in our Life Enrichment Center.

It is our hope to, once again, bless each teacher new to our community's schools with a generous gift card from Walmart to help them outfit their classrooms and to help them with groceries (if needed) until their first paycheck comes through. And a delicious lunch, too!

If you feel moved to donate towards this endeavor, please mark your check with "New Teacher Luncheon." We are expecting 27 to 30 new teachers this year.

We will be preparing the food and decorating the LEC on Sunday, August 3 at 2:00 pm. You are welcome to help with this project by joining us to decorate or by bringing food.

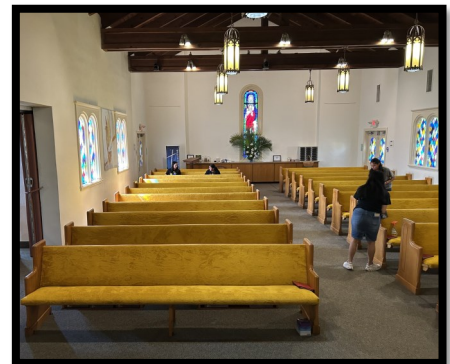
Please contact Mary Thomas at (863) 677-0249 if you have questions.



Ten 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 much needed clean up projects.

Lee Sweet





**WOULD YOU BELIEVE THAT IT'S
ALREADY TIME TO THINK ABOUT
CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES!!!!**

WELL.....IT IS!

We have started taking an inventory of items needed for this year's Shoeboxes and if we are to match the 120 boxes we sent last year, we have lots of needs. **BARBIE DOLLS** are a chief priority as we enjoy giving these to the 50 girls and they are a little costly to purchase. We also need tee shirts, sizes 6-8 and 10-12 for boys and girls as we will be sending 120 of those.

Other items needed: #2 yellow pencils, Matchbox cars, 16 oz. water bottles, small stuffed animals, white bar soap, non-medicated lip balm, small pads of paper, pens or any small toy items that a kid would like.

The shoeboxes cost \$2.00 each and the shipping charges are \$10.00 each so if you would like to donate, just mark your check with "shoebox". If you would like to help us get all this stuff organized, just contact me, Janet Way (863) 677-1002 or Ninette Aker (305) 510-5625 as we would love to have you on the team!

More to come in the September issue.



The weekly Grief Share Support Group will start again on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm. 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.

**First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Finance Report for May, 2025**

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

General giving totaled \$10,906.91 for the month with an additional \$2,300.00 received in special funds.

Total disbursements were \$17,663.97. The current balanced bank account reflects a balance of \$182,026.61 as of May 31, 2025.

Pastor Jeff and I continue to work on cleaning up a few things on the financials as time allows.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Whidden



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

	May		Year to Date	
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>General Fund</u>				
Beginning Balance	6,143.19	7,947.96	8,467.28	-7,163.75
Offering	10,906.91	13,804.35	74,673.53	89,664.19
Disbursements	18,349.53	15,574.24	84,440.24	76,322.37
Ending Balance	<u>-1,299.43</u>	<u>6,178.07</u>	<u>-1,299.43</u>	<u>6,178.07</u>
<u>Special Funds</u>				
Beginning Balance	165,881.57	138,451.10	178,864.99	157,642.51
Offering	2,300.00	2,385.00	15,433.30	14,567.00
Disbursements	1,646.00	2,089.73	27,762.72	33,463.14
Ending Balance	<u>166,535.57</u>	<u>138,746.37</u>	<u>166,535.57</u>	<u>138,746.37</u>
Total on Deposit	<u>165,236.14</u>	<u>144,924.44</u>	<u>165,236.14</u>	<u>144,924.44</u>

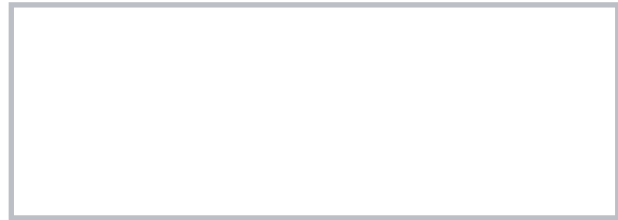
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POWER LINES



**FIRST
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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.



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

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.