

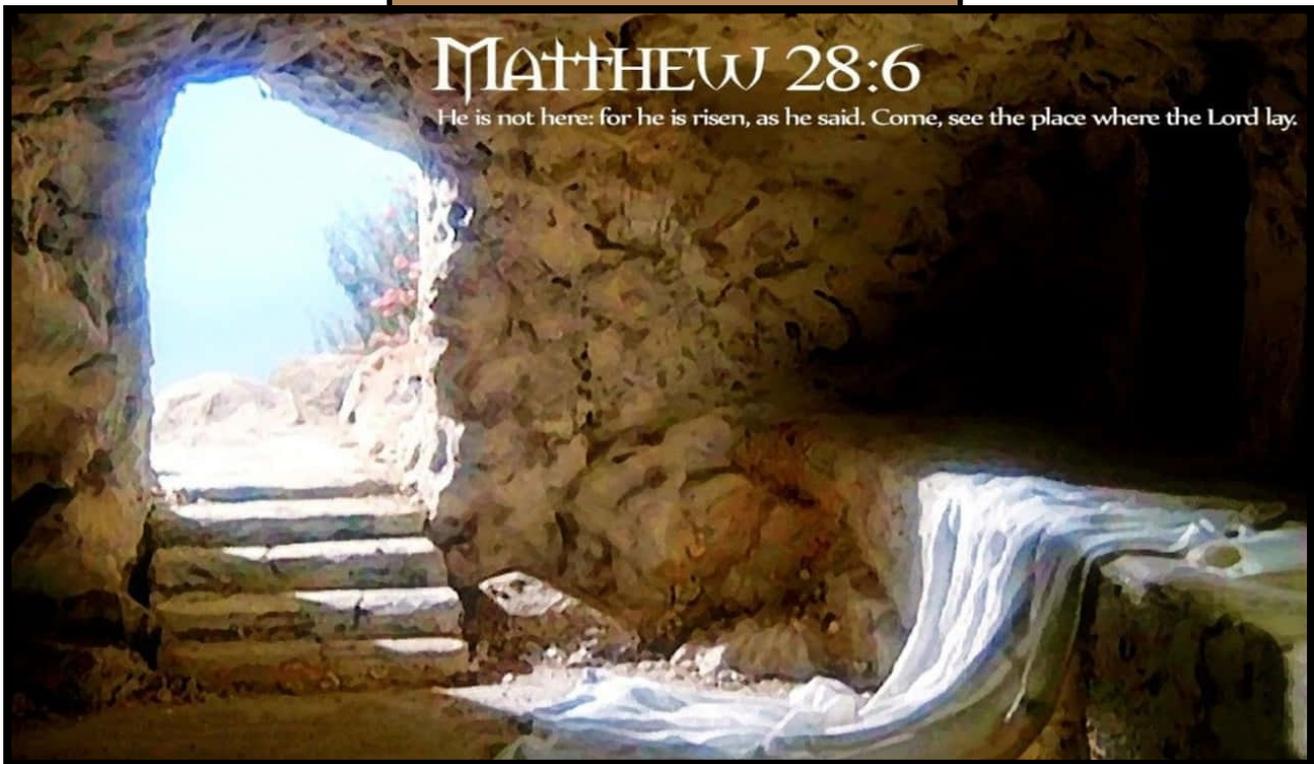
POWER LINES

>2.6 in 2026

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON
 SINCE 1945
 A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

331 W. OSCEOLA AVENUE
CLEWISTON, FL 33440
(863) 983-5269

APRIL, 2026



MATTHEW 28:6

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

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.CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM

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PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER



HE IS RISEN

"He is not here. He has Risen." (**Matthew 28:6a**) These are seven of the greatest words ever spoken, because humanity was no longer sentenced to death because of our sin. Jesus paid the price once and for all - for all of humanity, past, present and future. By saying yes to a relationship with Jesus we enter into a new and exciting chapter in our life.

Recently, I mentioned that there are just over 2.6 billion Christians in a world that boasts a population of just over 8 billion people. We have a lot of work to do my friends to live out our mission statement to see more people say **yes** to Jesus. We are called to make new disciples!

Some immediate things we can do to support our mission is to help our church family develop their own rescue stories when sharing their faith.

We can also hold some events that will be inviting to people who do not presently have a church home. I would like to invite you to post a note on your refrigerator with the names of three (3) people on it that you would like to invite to church or a Wednesday night dinner during the month of April. Then prayerfully invite them.

Together we can make a positive difference in sharing the good news about Jesus Christ. But we have to be intentional and prayerful in our efforts. Time is short.

God bless you and remember, we work the fields together!

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





Easter Egg Hunt—April 5

On Easter Morning, April 5, all children are invited to join a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt during our Services. We are eager to fill the LEC with excited kids celebrating the miracle of the resurrection. **Calling all youth volunteers:** We need your help to hide eggs at the beginning of the service!

Nursery Updates and Outdoor Play Area

In addition to our Easter celebration, we're thrilled to see more children enjoying our nursery. Their happy faces light up the room as they explore a wonderful collection of toys, from building blocks to art supplies, and participate in engaging games and activities.

We also want to express our gratitude to Lee Sweet and his team for recently cleaning and revamping the nursery's outdoor yard space. Thanks to their hard work, our nursery children now have a safe, inviting area for outdoor play right outside the nursery.

FirstKids Lessons—Sundays

Looking ahead, we invite families with children in kindergarten through 5th grade to join our First Kids lessons each Sunday. Through games, storytelling, Bible readings, and crafts, children learn what it means to be disciples of our Lord Jesus. Bring your kids and let them experience these engaging lessons!

This Month's Bible Verse

We're also excited to share our featured Bible verse for April:

"All of us can tell you that God Raised Jesus to life!" Acts 2:32

Doreen Malbog

We are planning to have a retreat on a Saturday with all the youth. The retreat will be a picnic style. Also we are planning to go bowling on a Saturday in Fort Myers with the youth and their families. We are going to assist with Vacation Bible School the first week in June.

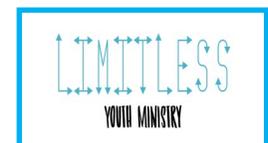
The movie day we had in January was a success. We had over 20 youths show up with their families.

I am also reaching out to different areas to bring in more families and youth to the church. Doing a Marketing Program on Sundays in different areas to bring in more youth on Sundays to the church like Pioneer and a new school in Clewiston, Clewiston Harvest Academy.

Matthew: 28:6 "He is not here; he has risen"

Happy Easter!

Mr. "O" Virgilio Ogando
Youth Minister





ON-GOING PRAYERS

- Julie Collins
- Helen Endicott
- Diana Hicks
- Sissie Lumpkin
- Mike Nethercote
- Michael O'Bannon
- Mike Pulley
- Sue Wolpert

HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

- Matt Beatty
- Vivian Gisbert
- Garry Hall
- Ada Miller
- Kemely Perez



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



- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Alan Hammock, Sr. | April 1 |
| Debby Gwyn | April 3 |
| Jonathan Hatton | April 6 |
| Ninette Aker | April 7 |
| Andrew Ryder | April 8 |
| Case Hammock | April 10 |
| Leslie Jones | April 11 |
| Rene Malbog | April 15 |
| Tara Belcher | April 21 |
| Mike Crooks | April 22 |
| Glorine Walker | April 23 |
| Derek DuPlooy | April 27 |
| Joe Costa | April 30 |



- Doreen & Rene Malbog
April 4
- Miranda & Ashley Harn
April 18

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, FL
 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
 Copyright: PowerLines has no copyright. When we print copyrighted material, we quote the source that gave us permission.
 When you reprint anything from PowerLines, out of courtesy, please send us a copy by mail to:
 Office: First Methodist Church of Clewiston, 352 W. Arcade Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440

In April we will be collecting **SOCKS** for the Shoebox Ministry and they can be placed in a box on the back counter of the Sanctuary. We are in need of boys and girls socks, crew top or midi top, ages 5-9 and 10-14. We would love to give each child at least two pair.



We did not quite reach our goal for tee shirts, either, so they are still needed, preferably children's size large. If you can donate shirts, it will be deeply appreciated! If not, monetary donations are always welcome!

Janet Way

Clewiston High School, Public Safety Academy students are having dinner on Wednesday, April 1 and will be having the Great Irish Potato Bake with all the trimmings!

On Wednesday April 15 their dinner menu will be Sausage, peppers and onions on a roll, salad and desserts.

They will start serving at 6:00 pm, either dine-in or carry out. Don't miss out on these delicious home cooked meals!



We had a great turn out for Cross Training Ministries dinner on March 11. Our fried catfish dinner with all the fixings went over well and we were able to donate additional monies to this very worthy cause (besides our budgeted amount).



On Wednesday, April 8 we will be having a yummy Lasagna dinner by Margaret and Sherry along with salad, breads and desserts to further the ministries of Wycliffe Bible Translators. As usual, dinner is at 6:00 pm, dine in or carry out. Please come out and join us for good food, fun and as always great fellowship.

Love and Blessings to All

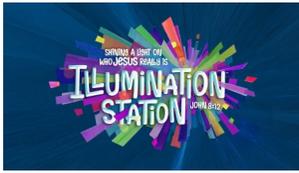
Sandy Stitt



The John MacArthur Bible Study continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the Old Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am. We are studying **1 Kings, chapters 12-22.**

If you would like to join, please contact Janet Way at (863) 677-1002 for more information or to join the group.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The theme for our Vacation Bible School, which starts Monday, June 1 thru Thursday, June 4, is "Illumination Station", focusing on Jesus as the Light of the World, helping kids discover who He really is through engaging activities and biblical teachings.

The "Illumination Station" theme invites children to explore the nature of Jesus and understand His role as the Light of the World, based on John 8:12. This theme aims to counter confusion about Jesus in today's culture by providing clear biblical truths about His identity as the promised, perfect, powerful, and proven Son of God.

The goal of "Illumination Station" is to help children not only learn about Jesus but also understand why His identity matters in their lives. The program encourages kids to respond to Jesus and recognize Him as the only way to receive God's forgiveness.



On Monday, March 23, we met at First Methodist in the Trinity Room where we put together 120 Easter bags for the residents of the Clewiston Nursing Home. We had several churches represented, also!

We included Christian bracelets for both the men and women. Packaged crackers, Hershey candy bars, wooden cross fidgets and plastic eggs filled with candy were also included. When these bags are taken over, we will also take potted flowers donated by the Clewiston Green Thumb Garden Club as decorations for the tables and we will also deliver a sheet cake for their enjoyment at their Easter luncheon.

Our Tuesday, April 7, meeting will be at the Sunrise Center for Disabled Adults at 402 S. Francisco Street. We will be potting live plants and doing a spring craft with them at 1:00 pm. We hope you are able to attend! They enjoy our company.

Janet Way

The GRIEF SHARE sessions are on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the Youth Room of the Life Enrichment Center. It is open to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one or friend. Our first meeting was on February 17, 2026 and the last will be May 12 (13 weeks).



We meet for approximately 90 minutes to watch an excellent video on the week's topic followed by a short discussion of the video and that week's "homework" and other things of importance to group members. Please know that you do not have to talk, but can just listen and allow God to begin to heal your heart.

Mary Thomas

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 1 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.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 21 unless otherwise noted. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, text or email me. Any church member is welcome to attend!

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.



**THE WAY MEN'S GROUP WILL BE HAVING BREAKFAST ON
SATURDAY, APRIL 25 AT 8:00 AM
IN THE LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER**

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	jpajones@hotmail.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	jpajones@hotmail.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	dorrietmal@gmail.com
Library	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	jpajones@hotmail.com



SHARE YOUR GIFT

The B&B Believers met on March 2 at the JPE office where ten Believers gathered for another evening of food, fun and Christian fellowship. I was blessed to share a message with the group as we talked about the God given gifts we all possess, yet at times may not feel the confidence, energy or talent to give them to further God's Word.

Our enemy is consistently on the prowl and relishes in placing those lies within our minds with words like: can't, insignificant and failure, all to fool us into believing them. We often see ourselves much differently than those around us do, only focusing on our flaws, weaknesses and self-imposed shortcomings, kind of like looking in one of those funny mirrors at a carnival. As we are all made in the image of God, that wavy, distorted picture of doubt and insignificance that creeps in our minds is a deceptive lie painted by the enemy. **John 10:10** tells us this- *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy."*, then Jesus gives us His victorious truth when He finishes the verse- *"I came so that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

Don't allow those lies that tell you that you can't, shouldn't or aren't good enough to share your gifts with others be stolen and lost by the deceptive one. God has used the most unlikely people throughout His Word and is still doing the exact same thing today. Abraham was old- **Genesis 24:1** and **18:11**. Joseph was abused- **Genesis 37:12-36**. Moses had a speech problem- **Exodus 4:10**. Jonah ran from God- **Jonah 1:3**. Peter denied Christ 3 times- **Matthew 26:69-75**, also in Mark, Luke and John. Paul persecuted Christians before becoming one- **Acts 8:3** and **9:1-2**. God chooses us and longs for us to share our gifts, despite our flaws, whether or not we think our gifts will really make a difference in our church, community and even our own families or not.

In both **Romans 12:3-8** and **1 Corinthians 12:12-22**, we read of how we are all part of the body through Christ, yet that all parts of the body are not the same and have different and unique functions. We all have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us...**Romans 12:6**. If just one of us allows our gift to be held back, due to doubt or anxiety of our gifts value, the body will lack completion. Allow your gift to flourish, pray for clarity if you're not sure of your gift, then share it with the world. Remember, all of our gifts are vital in God's eyes, **1 Corinthians 12:22**- *"On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable."* You have a gift, share it with everyone you come into contact with, in the precious love of Jesus.

The next B&B Believers gathering will be held on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Matt and Olga Beatty'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 2026. 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.

Blessings,

John Wellslager

**First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Finance Report for February, 2026**

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

General giving totaled \$ **15,402.61** for the month, with an additional \$**8,975.29** received in special funds for a total giving of \$ **24,377.90**

Total disbursements were \$ **22,497.71** for the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Whidden



**First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Bank Report
January 1, 2026 through February 28, 2026**

	February		Year to Date	
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
<u>General Fund</u>				
Beginning Balance	1,539.85	9,917.42	-3,038.45	8,467.28
Offering	15,402.61	14,668.61	36,004.87	32,977.66
Disbursements	18,505.72	18,759.90	34,529.68	35,618.81
Ending Balance	<u>-1,563.26</u>	<u>5,826.13</u>	<u>-1,563.26</u>	<u>5,826.13</u>
<u>Special Funds</u>				
Beginning Balance	196,636.11	185,176.42	200,884.67	187,204.86
Offering	8,975.29	3,975.00	13,221.09	9,044.64
Disbursements	3,991.99	16,011.00	12,486.35	23,109.08
Ending Balance	<u>201,619.41</u>	<u>173,140.42</u>	<u>201,619.41</u>	<u>173,140.42</u>
Total on Deposit	<u>200,056.15</u>	<u>178,966.55</u>	<u>200,056.15</u>	<u>178,966.55</u>

We're on the web:
WWW.CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM



**FIRST
METHODIST
CHURCH**

OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS:
**352 WEST ARCADE AVENUE
CLEWISTON, FL 33440-2802**

...AND ABRAHAM WENT FORTH
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POWER LINES



Established 1945
Celebrating Our 81st Year

CHURCH LOCATION:
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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.