



THE MESSENGER

HAPPY NEW YEAR - JANUARY 2024
First Methodist - San Angelo, TX
A GMC Congregation
LOVE, WORSHIP, WITNESS



- 1st Offices closed – Holiday**
- 2nd College Scholarship awards application available in office. Due by 2/5/24.**
- 2nd Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 4th Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 5th Wesley Soup Kitchen. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers welcomed.**
- 7th Holy Communion at all services.**
- 9th Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 9th Emmaus Gathering – 6:30 p.m. at Sierra Vista UMC.**
- 11th Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 13th Discipleship Bands Breakfast. 8:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall. See Pg. 12**
- 15th Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- 15th Church Council @ 5:30 p.m. Cheers classroom.**
- 18th Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 20th Ramp Build – Contact Pastor Dale at church office.**
- 21st Costa Rica Team Q & A @ 8: 00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in First Place Café**
- 23rd Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 23rd Prayer & Healing Service – 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.**
- 23rd Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 24th Wednesday Night Spring Academy. Dinner @ 5:15 p.m. Classes @ 6**
- 25th Methodist Assistance - 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 30th Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Library.**
- 30th Somebody's Rusty Tidings of Last Tuesdays 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.**
- 31st Wednesday Night Spring Academy. Dinner @ 5:15 p.m. Classes @ 6**

COMING IN FEBURARY

- 1ST National Prayer Breakfast – McNease Convention Center. 6:30 a.m. Speaker is Crystal Evans Hurst (daughter of Tony Evans).**

Services & Sunday School Hour

8:30 The Bridge – Sanctuary 9:30 – Sunday School for all ages

10:45 Traditional – Sanctuary 11:00 11th Hour – Celebration

Live streaming services

Firstmethodist.net – Tap for Sunday streaming

37 East Beauregard * San Angelo, Texas 76903

325-655-8981 * Fax: 325-655-7039

Email: info@firstmethodist.net

FIRST METHODIST San Angelo

A Global Methodist Congregation

OUR PASTORS

Sermon Series for January
8:30 and 10:45 a.m. services
FOCUS: The Greatness of God

7th – Long Road Trips

**14th – The Word Endures
Forever**

21st – Powerful, Yet Gentle

28th – Unfathomable Spirit



Rev. Scott Bradford
Senior Pastor



Rev. Jim Noble
Associate Pastor



Rev. Cyndi Young
Associate Pastor



Rev. Dale Weise
Associate Pastor

SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

- **Childcare** is available - all services.
- **Children** are welcome in services. We provide activity bags in the Sanctuary (front and back doors) and in Celebration Hall.
- **Coffee** is in First Place Café Hall.
- **Hearing Assistance** devices are available in the back of the sanctuary.
- **Holy Communion** is served the first Sunday of each month in all services.
- **Live Streaming** – All services live streamed through the website @ <https://firstmethodist.net>
- **Messenger Newsletter** – Hard copies are available in the Sanctuary and at the Service Desk near First Place Café. Also available online if you send a request to the church.
- **Sunday School at 9:30** for all ages. Adult, youth, children, infants & toddlers. See directional signs at church or call the church office at 655-8981 or visit www.firstmethodist.net
- **Upper Room Devotionals** are available in the Sanctuary and at the Service Desk near First Place Café

To access the 2024 Methodist Lectionary, go to [Discipleship Ministries | 2023 Revised Common Lectionary – Sundays &...](https://umcdiscipleship.org) (umcdiscipleship.org)

REV. SCOTT BRADFORD – Senior Pastor

Updates and The New Year

Discipleship Bands – Please come for an informational breakfast January 13th at 8am. “A discipleship band is a group of 3-5 people (of the same sex) who read, pray, and meet together to become the love of God for one another and the world.” Its intent is to strengthen your accountability to be a disciple and deepen your faith. I pray you will want to join one.

Lake View Lighthouse – Another grant has been awarded (\$84,000) for Phase III and Program Grant from Methodist Healthcare Ministries (MHM). We need your help and willingness to serve as we implement new programs and maintain those started in 2023. Programs include Lighthouse Kids Eat Free, Afterschool program, Food pantry, Mobile Clinics, Nutritional Classes, Kids Clothing Closet, and more.

W.O.R.D. Challenge – more details coming January 14th in worship!

Tammy Ma (Christmas offering) – You have donated \$3,160 to help Tammy Ma be reunited with her orphans she hasn't seen in two years since being expelled from India. I hope to have pictures and details of the reunion soon.

Mid-Texas Conference (MTC) – The MTC recently gave a \$1,000 rebate on connectional giving for both Rev Jim Noble as Treasurer and for my role as Presiding Elder for Covenant Area #11. A \$2,000 thank you to the congregation for supporting us in this extra work of which we volunteer. In 2024, the MTC is offering a \$25,000 rebate off our connectional giving to offset the work Jim does as Treasurer. Our previous apportionments were \$145,000 and our new connectional giving was going to be about \$52,000 and with this rebate, it will only be about \$27,000(Ish).

Same Great Church – We are 6 months into being First Methodist Church, a GMC Congregation, and I know it has been a hard year for all, but I want to affirm we are the same great church. As we continue to be loving in hope to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we have continued each ongoing ministry and are on the move to begin new ones. In 2023, we took in seventy-one new members (the largest growth in my seven years here) and twelve baptisms. Financially we have had a good year and are looking towards exciting ministries in 2024. My soul is blessed when I see our church helping people. Examples are:

- 20,000 pounds of food donated from Wall ISD to help us reach the underserved.
- Shannon Business office collected a truckload of coats & blankets to distribute. When pulling up to the church with the load, Candis and I encountered a woman walked up needing a coat. Somebody's Rusty remains a vital ministry.
- Our work to help MLK restroom project and the recent partnership with Garden the Gethsemane raised over \$11,777 to repair their foundation.
- Costa Rica Mission Team continues to build and is now helping lead the way in Mid-Texas Conference.
- Lighthouse Kids Eat Free served 1,000 meals this past summer.
- Our recent hosting an Inter-faith Hanukkah and Menorah Lighting Service.
- Nearly every month we build a ramp in the Texas Ramp Project.
- Growth in Childrens and Youth ministry and more

Same Great Church making a difference in God's Kingdom. Celebrate what has been accomplished let us also pour more into the Kingdom work because of a hurting world. The world needs the love of Jesus that we can offer through First Methodist Church!

In His Grace

Pastor Scott

JANUARY 2024

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REV. JIM NOBLE – Associate Pastor

Hello Church! Every new year, I'm reminded of some of the standard prayers and services given to us by John Wesley. A few years ago, I intended to do a New Years Service (that was canceled due to inclement weather) using a modified Wesley Thanksgiving service. Rather than spending the first days of 2024 (What! How?) ruminating on what went wrong during the holidays, or on negative thoughts about the new year, why not try being as thankful as possible. Years ago, I was watching an elite football team warm up for a game that evening. The coach kept shouting, "Set the tone!" Boy, did they. They dominated! Dominate this year with Thanksgiving! Here is the litany of Thanksgiving from Wesley...and his Wesley Covenant Prayer (with updated language):

Litany of Thanksgiving

I give thanks for all of God's mercies. O God, you have been gracious to me through all the years of my life. I thank you for your loving care, which has filled my days and brought me to this time and place.

I praise your Holy name, O God

You have given me life and reason and set me in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted me with family and friends and ministered to me through the hands of my Christian sisters and brothers.

I praise your Holy name, O God

You have filled my heart with a hunger after you and have given me your peace. You have redeemed me and called me to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given me a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church.

I praise your Holy name, O God

You have been light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in my joys and the all-sufficient reward in all my labors.

I praise your Holy name, O God

You remembered me when I forgot you. You followed me even when I tried to flee from you. You met me with forgiveness when I returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace:

I praise your Holy name, O God

The Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me where you will, put me to work, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or set aside for you, exalted for you or demoted for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things or let me have nothing. I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now God, Father, Son, and Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And let the covenant made now on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen!

Also, join us beginning January 7th for Guts! In 11th hour. Basically, we'll talk about how we ought not be ashamed of being Christians! It is a privilege being one of your pastors!

REV. CYNTHIA YOUNG - ASSOCIATE PASTOR

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES - ONE ANOTHER SHARING MINISTRY

The Unfailing Prediction for 2024 . . .

To everything there is a season. That's it. I predict that your year ahead will be filled to overflowing with the ups and downs of life. We can anticipate an ebb and flow of unpredictable joys and difficulties, but they somehow seem to balance out along our journey.



There will be **a time** to enjoy decadent chocolate – and **a time** to reluctantly walk it off. **A time** to cheer for our favorite teams . . . and a reluctant **time to** “try again next year!” **A time** to kiss newborn babies and welcome them into our world . . . and **a time** to say goodbye to those we hold dear.

God will send days of clouds and rain to balance out the sunshine and heat of our summer. He will send hours where we overflow with praise - and hours when we are on our knees yearning for His peace.

We will have days of seeking and finding and other times when we give up the search.

We will have seasons when everything flows with effortless ease....and other seasons when we seem to struggle over the smallest issues.

There will be times when the checkbook is our friend – and other times when we are reminded again that it is God who is our Provider of all things.

I'm sure there will be times when you see answers to prayer almost as soon as you say your Amen. There will be other prayers that you lift to the Lord and wonder how much longer it will be before the answers are realized.

I wish I could promise you a year of never-ending highlights. No fears, no problems, no broken issues to face or relationships to mend. Truthfully, it will be during the difficult times that you will draw closer to the Lord.

So – for 2024, I can only predict this one thing. No matter how your journey unfolds and no matter how smooth or difficult the weeks ahead may be, there is this one absolute truth to claim:

You will never walk alone.

God's faithfulness, strength, wisdom and grace are no less sufficient today than as we began our journey a year ago. To everything there is a season. And God will be with us through them all.

Blessings to you - Pastor Cyndi



Children's Ministries

Barbie Hari - Director Children's
Faith & Formation Ministries
barbiehari@hotmail.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR & JANUARY PLANS

In January, each class will be starting new and exciting lessons. James will be teaching the 3rd-5th graders how to use their Bibles and get more familiar with them.

Meg McCracken & I will be teaching Pre-K through 2nd graders *The Adventures of Otter B* who will teach us valuable lessons about God's Word. We will begin our Wednesday night lessons again January 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. We invite you to come and have fun learning through stories and play!

I am in need (again) of two nursery workers and a Pre-K Sunday school teacher and subs. If you are interested, please contact me. Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and I just can't wait to see you all this New Year of 2024!

Ms. Barbie



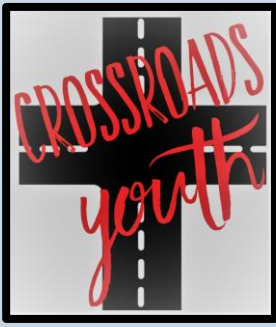
Children's time with Ms. Barbie and Pastor Scott, a choir of angels plus a sweet little lamb and Parents Night Out with a Children's Christmas Party. The children are always excited to see what special treat is in store for them each Sunday and throughout the month.



Don't forget about Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

3 - 5-year-olds, Kinder, 1st & 2nd graders in Room E201. 3rd to 5th graders are in Room E203.

You can check your child in on the 2nd floor just down the hall from the office!



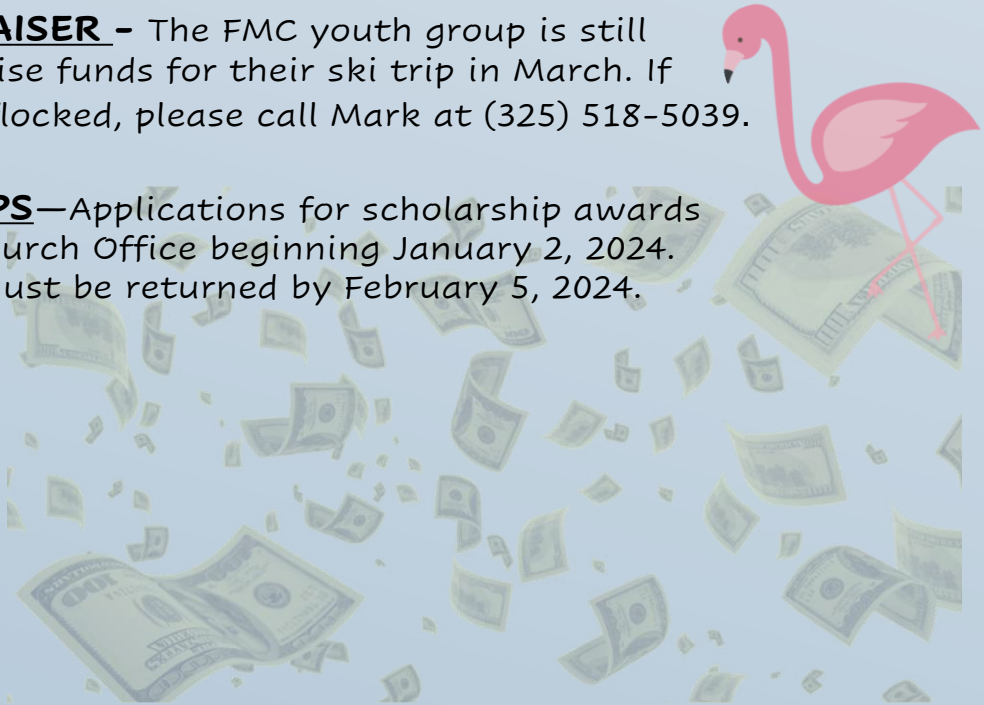
Youth Ministries

Mark Noworatzky
Director of Youth
Mnoworatzky@gmail.com



YARD FLAMINGO FUNRAISER - The FMC youth group is still flocking and rocking to raise funds for their ski trip in March. If you'd like to have a yard flocked, please call Mark at (325) 518-5039.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS—Applications for scholarship awards will be available in the Church Office beginning January 2, 2024. Completed applications must be returned by February 5, 2024.



FROM SHERRIE WALKER: I want to thank you for helping with the Goliad event in December. We had an excellent volunteer response and they seemed to enjoy themselves with many offering to help again. Whatever we can do to get people over to that area (in my mind) is beneficial. Now that they've had the experience, I feel like many of these volunteers will be instrumental in helping with an after-school program at the Lighthouse. *Building some bridges!* The school was appreciative of our efforts and bragged about us to the new SAISD Superintendent and his team who dropped by. One of those team members was Dr. Kingman, whose family has been visiting here. It has been nice to be inside the school meeting the faculty and getting to know each other better. I really feel like developing these relationships with Goliad faculty and families will build a better foundation for future ministries at the Lighthouse. They mentioned wanting Scott to play Santa next time. So, get ready, Scott! You may be the next Santa for the Goliad Express, LOL! I bet Mark N knows where you can get a nice costume!

Many thanks,

Sherrie Walker

2023 Goliad Express Volunteers: Laurel Bradford, Cathy Hubbard, April Strahan, Fay Coleman, Barbara Rallo, Betsy Sadler, Cerise Strzelczyk, Trudy Bozeman, D'Ann Kuhlmann, Lesa Parry, Pastor Jim, and Barbie Hari.



Methodist Healthcare/Wesley Nurse Health Ministries

lparry@mhmc.org - Lesa Parry

If you need to reach me, please call 325-215-4835. Offices at both First Methodist Church 37 East Beauregard or Lakeview Lighthouse 263 E. 40th Street

"MY HEALTHY CHILD": Is an on-going class and space is limited. To check availability and register, call Lesa Parry, Wesley Nurse, 325-215-4835. The program needs pullups size 4T-5T, pullups size 3T-4T and size 6 - Huggies brand only. (These are for children with allergy to other brands).

LIGHTHOUSE AND GOLIAD ELEMENTARY MINISTRIES UPDATE

Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."



What joy this season of giving was! So many activities involving children and their families. **My Healthy Child Surprise Brunch** filled the newly updated church parlor with warmth and wide-eyed children (and of course, FOOD).



Our church added a sweet sparkling light to **The San Angelo Reads program** at Goliad by bringing cookies and hot chocolate. So many volunteers (listed on Page 7) came to

spread Christmas joy. I had the honor of sharing a book in a cozy fake fireside corner. Thank you all for your time and love of children at this school.



I asked for volunteers to adopt some of my families who were concerned about providing for their children during Christmas. I asked and the Lord provided in abundance. The Tuesday Women's Bible Study (The Morning Glories) stepped up in generosity with stockings and presents. Others did likewise. To see Christ's hands and feet in action made my Christmas delightfully tiring.



Morning Glories Givers: **Pictured:** Alice Kiser, Jo Ann Larimore, Evelyn Coley, Jaci Cortese, Lisa Lesosky, Bobbi Aldhizer and Lori Francks. **Not pictured:** Debra Blasingame, Carol Santry, Pat Haines, Marcy Baker, Candis Hicks, Sherry Ann Miller, Laura Harkey, Jan Coffey, Lana Mott, Dorothy Shuster, and Cathy Hubbard.

Happy New Year,

Lesa Parry

JANUARY 2024

JANUARY 2024 OPPS FOR LEARNING ABOUT JESUS!

Tuesday Morning Group: The Morning Glories – Class meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Journey Classroom (3rd Floor). Class will continue *Carry the Flame* by Jim Cymbala. FMI contact Jaci Cortese @ jlouco60@gmail.com or the church office.

Wednesday Night Group: Current study is *Holy Roar. Seven Words That Will Change the Way You Worship*. Written by Chris Tomlin and Darrin Whitehead, the study provided insight and encouragement to deepen your practice of praise. FMI, visit holyroar.com. Contact Sherryann Miller @ angelo.edu or the church office for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT STUDIES

Bayith/Fellowship – *The Bible, The Whole Bible, and Nothing but the Bible*, led by Buster Peek. This class studies the Bible to understand who God is, gain wisdom, learn to receive guidance, and to see and follow Jesus. Meets on the 3rd floor.

Cheers – Meets on the 3rd floor. The Cheers Class is currently studying *The Story*, by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee & led by John Walker. *The Story* is a progression of Bible characters & events from Genesis to Revelation, which allows the stories, Poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel.



Chi Rho – Currently studying *Unoffendable: How Just One Change Can Make All of Life Better* by Brant Hansen. This book gives a concrete practical way to live life with less stress. In our easily offended, cancel-culture society, learn how to replace perpetual frustration and anger with refreshing humility and gratitude.

Harmony – The Harmony Class will begin *Everything You Need* by David Jeremiah in January. This study, led by Evelyn Coley, asserts that God equips all believers with everything they need. Drawing from 2 Peter 1:3-11, explore eight critical tools the Lord provides---diligence, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love---to help you live boldly and confidently.

Journey – The Journey Class uses the *Journey Through the Bible* study series and is currently working through 1, 2, 3 John. The series uses the NRSV to study the Bible book by book. Various class members lead the study. Meets in person on the 3rd floor.



Seekers – The Seekers are studying *Romans* by Max Lucado, led by various class members. *Romans* is part of the *Life Lessons with Max Lucado* series, which brings the Bible to life with lessons filled with intriguing questions, inspirational stories, and poignant reflections to take you deeper into God's Word. Class meets in the church office conference room 2nd floor.

S.T.E.R. (scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason – The Wesleyan Quadrilateral). Study topics vary weekly and are led by different class members. For current information contact Cathy Hubbard at 3721cathy@gmail.com.



Union – Study topics vary weekly and led by various class members. Next topic is The Ten Commandments. For more information, contact Meagan Hunnicutt @ Meagan@shelburnefs.com. Meets on the 3rd floor of the Education Building.

Adult Sunday School meet at 9:30 a.m. Need more information? Visit <https://firstmethodist.net/adultfaithformation/adult-sunday-school>.

WEEKDAY CLASSES – Tuesday & Wednesdays

TUESDAYS – Morning Glories (Women’s class) 10:00 a.m.

The MG’s have returned to their study *Carry the Flame* by Jim Cymbala. For more information, contact Lori Francks @ 325-234-0375.

WEDNESDAYS – The Friends Group

Wednesday Night Group: Current study is *Holy Road. Seven Words That Will Change the Way You Worship*. Written by Chris Tomlin and Darrin Whitehead, the study provided insight and encouragement to deepen your practice of praise. FMI, visit holyroar.com. Contact Sherryann Miller @ angelo.edu or the church office for more information.

JOIN UP FOR SINGING THAT GOOD OLE’ CHURCH MUSIC

Wesleyan Handbells – Led by Laura Burkhalter. Practice is Wednesday evenings @ 6:00 p.m. in the handbell room – 1st floor. Contact Laura for more information @ burkhalterl@yahoo.com.

Sanctuary Choir – Led by Adam Chappell. Rehearsals are held @ 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room on the 1st floor near the sanctuary. For more information and summer practice schedule, contact Adam Chappell @ adamchappell@hotmail.com.

The 11th Hour Praise & Worship Band

An eclectic group of various aged musicians who present contemporary music in a casual service. Practice in Celebration Hall. Looking for new musicians and vocalists. Contact Pastor Dale (655-8981) at the church office for more info.

The 8:30 Bridge Musicians

Various musicians contribute to a blended musical style of both traditional and contemporary songs. Practice is called as needed. You may contact Pastor Cyndi at the church office (655-8981) for more information.



A new choral group (The S.T.E.R. class)

An eclectic group of merrymaking carolers toured homes during an evening run about town 12/17^h. I understand they only drop by upon request. A tradition with this class of mischievous merry makers. Thank you for making wonderful for the many young (and older) at heart!



New Members

Joining First Church in December: Ray Coleman, Ervin Englert, Janelle Slough (10:45), James & LaDonna Gibson, Donna Rogers, Ramsey Rogers, Todd and Lorrie Smith (11th Hour).

TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

NURSERY WORKERS & VOLUNTEERS - Sunday mornings and other times as needed. Contact Barbie Hari @ 325-655-8981.

SOUND TECHNICIANS - Will train. Contact Pastor Scott at the church office @ 325-655-8981. This is a paid part-time position. For more information, go to <https://firstmethodist.net/careers>.

WAYS TO ASSIST MY CHURCH

BLESSING BOX - Located in the front of the church outside the courtyard. Nonperishable foods can be taken to the church office. Please only pop top cans and snack size items. Please do not purchase family size items.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - You can honor or memorialize someone, or a specific group, by placing flowers at the chancel area in the sanctuary. Call Dori Wegner (254-718-6189) or email her @ dori@swcia.com.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES - Meals for children temporarily removed from homes. Call Brenda Stone for more information @ 325-656-0679.

COMMUNION STEWARDS - Need at 8:30 and 10:45 services. Call Cathy Hubbard @ 325-450-3590.

LAUNDRY LOVE- Contact Candis Hicks for more information @325-763-7387 or email her at heritageparksanangelo@gmail.com. Next date is 10/19/23. See calendar on front page.

METHODIST ASSISTANCE - In First Place Café, a basket is available to drop off canned foods that are donated to those in need who stop by FUMC during the week. Joe & Connie Jeffers are managing the ministry.

NEIGHBORS CAFÉ - Rust Street monthly lunch prepared by members of the Journey SS class. Contact Stephanie Sayers for more information if you would like to help on the first Mondays of each month except for January 2024.



SOMEBODY'S RUSTY - Contact Candis Hicks @ heritageparksanangelo@gmail.com or call 325-763-7387 for information. Always a need for good walking shoes (tennis shoes), underwear and new socks in the packaging. Tidings of Last Tuesday this month.

SOUP KITCHEN - Dates for 2024 being January 5th. Wesley UMC - 301 W. 18th MLK Blvd. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Beth McCrea at edgemama@hotmail.com or the church office @ (325) 655-8981.



TEXAS RAMP PROJECT - Contact Pastor Dale at the church for the next ramp build on **January 20th** @ 655-8981.

MESSAGE BOARD

Bulgaria and Mid-Texas GMC Partnership - International Ministry Partnership Team

Do you want to be part of what God is doing in the GMC around the world? Visit with Pastor Jim Noble or go to this website for more information.

<https://midtexasgmc.org/bulgaria-partnership>

From Pastor Scott - Staff Christmas Bonuses

A huge thank you to all who donated to staff bonuses. On their behalf, I thank you for making our Christmas a littler brighter by showing your appreciation. As Senior Pastor, I also want to pat the staff on the back as they have certainly been working hard to see us through a difficult year.



From Juanita Downey

Thanks to all our office volunteers who answer phones and graciously do most everything else. You are greatly appreciated. Office volunteers enjoyed a quiet luncheon with church staff in December. You are dearly loved.

College Scholarships

Applications for scholarship awards will be available in the Church Office beginning January 2, 2024. Completed applications must be returned by February 5, 2024.

Pickle Ball

This fun indoor game gained momentum during Refuel Wednesday nights, so much that the Pickle ball program is continuing Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in playing, contact **Clay Hubbard @ 325-650-2556** for additional information.



discipleship bands

Time + Trust = Transformation

A discipleship band is a group of three to five people of the same sex, marital status, and of similar age, who read together, pray together, and meet together to become the love of God for one another and the world.

★ LEARN MORE! ★

BREAKFAST GATHERING

SATURDAY, JAN. 13, 2024

HERITAGE HALL

8:00, BREAKFAST, 8:30, MEETING

PLEASE RSVP VIA FORMS IN OFFICE OR FIRSTPLACE CAFÉ,
OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

Discipleship Bands Breakfast Gathering

Learn more at a Breakfast Meeting in Heritage Hall on Saturday, January 13, 2024. Breakfast will begin at 8:00 a.m. with Pastor Scott leading the meeting starting at 8:30 a.m. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Please RSVP in the First Café or to Sherrie Walker (sherrie@firstmethodist.net) in the Church Office. FMI visit discipleshipbands.com.

Merry Christmas Happenings All Around Town

Woman's Advent 20th Anniversary

Over 400 women gathered for food, fellowship and worship. Hostesses provided decorated tables. Then to the sanctuary for worship. Each talk was a blessing as Brandy Hooper

shared about Hope, Lisa Hirschfeld spoke on peace, Delaney Grimes was a young expert on Love while Ginny Fuchs ended with stories of Joy. All talks were followed by a musical offering. This year's music was graciously shared by Patti Wetzel and Dr. Pamela Lee,

Sidonna Hartman, Shelly Weise & Jay Weatherby, Rev. Cyndi Young, Georgia Swaney & Janet Faulker. One of our special traditions is a duet by Meagan Hunnicutt and Sariah Noworatzky singing, "O, Holy Night." As the congregation sang, "Silent Night", the sanctuary became a vision to behold as light was passed from one to the other as a symbol of sharing the Light of Christ with each other and world. Each year, the design team of Lori Francks, Cathy Hubbard, Meagan Hunnicutt, Pat Massey, Brenda Stone & Sherrie Walker hear from those who attended how this evening truly sets the tone for Advent and the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent Lunches: Great music, good hot soup on some chilly Wednesdays, sermons of the season on hope, joy, peace, and love that spreads among area churches. Blessings to Bishop Sis, Rev. Mark Krause, Rev. Cecilia Granadosin, & Pastor Jim Stanley. Pictured left is Rev. Granadosin and vocalist James Hari, guitarist Jimmy Shanks, and Jane Smith on piano.

Feed the Children Ministry (CPS): The group of ladies who help feed children removed from their homes have been busy feeding 1-3 children their evening meal Monday-Friday. Often these are teenagers who are often difficult to find placement. To be able to make a choice of what they would like to eat each evening is very special to them. This year, we provided Christmas presents for the young man we have had under our watch for a few months. When we delivered a small tree to the location where he's staying, he was so excited! We took a everything needed for him to decorate. These children are appreciative of the simplest things! If you would like to help with this ministry, call Brenda Stone at 325-656-0679 for more information.



COME, LORD JESUS, COME. HEAR OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER & HEALING SERVICES

January 23rd in the Chapel @ 6:00 p.m.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING (HEALTH CONCERNS)

Cynthia Johnson, Grace Copeland, Janis Noble (Rev. Jim Noble's mother), Lisa Lesosky, Pat Adams, Porter Ewald, (grandson of Joey Henderson), Rev. Dick West, Rev. Nathaniel Hankins, Shirley Mohler, Shirley Riddle, Vickie Spydell (Hospice care), and the families of Carolyn Weatherby (Jay Weatherby's mother), Sharon Skaggs (Margaret Lupton's mother), Bob Barnes (Lisa Hirschfeld's father), Claire Adams (Stephanie James' mother).

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WITH CANCER

Barry Kleypas, Bill Humble, Bonnie Kennedy, Briana McCall, Carol Smith, Caryl Quisinger, Connie Weams, Dawn Jackson, Duder Duderstadt, Ethan Miller, Fred Gudmundson, Jay Moore, Jeff Peters, Jeff Ward, Jennifer Cooper, Jerry Tindel, Joe Lynch, Jo Ann Motl, Jose Perez, Kevin Halfman, Kinsley Baker, Linda Rogers, Lisa Melton, Lynda Hughes, Maria Roberts, Melissa James, Michaela Rigsby, Michelle Elkins, Nicole Kleinsmith, Pamela Adams, Pat Adams, Raul Najera, Ron Hoelle, Rosura Gonzales, Roy Shannon, Sherrie Walker, Sheryl Bragg, Shirley Kennedy, Susan Armstrong, Todd Cummings.



"A Methodist is a person who has the love of God shining in his heart by the Holy Spirit." He loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength."

- John Wesley

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

National Guard Texas: Daryl Bradford;
U.S. Air Force: Tyler Barden, Chris Cavaness, Josh Mort, Josh Rodriguez, Ryan Gandy, Zane Jarvis; **U.S. Marine Corp:** Danielle Pozun; **U.S. Army:** Johnny Goldthrite, Randall Tye Graham, Ryan Tallant, Savannah Gideon; **U.S. Coast Guard:** Weston McIntire; **U.S. Navy:** Jason Bird, Matt Kuehhas. Thank you all for your service and dedication to our country.

DECEMBER MEMORIALS 2023

<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>	<u>GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>FUND:</u>
Beth Kopecky	Bayith-Fellowship Class Joe & Connie Jeffers Chip & Stephanie Sayers Gary & Leslee Bowen Roger & Martha Doliver Birdie Pool	Love & Care Methodist Asst. Youth Ministry Youth Ministry Youth Ministry Love & Care
Sharon Skaggs	Harold & La Queta Shelburne Steve & Margaret Lupton Cheers Class Linda Gay Fender Roger & Martha Dolliver	Youth Ministry Youth Ministry Massey Trust Youth Ministry Youth Ministry
Judith Hirschfeld	Harold & La Queta Shelburne Hon. Marilyn Aboussie & John A. Hay, Jr.	Youth Ministry Youth Ministry
Carolyn Weatherby	Harold & La Queta Shelburne Hon. Marilyn Aboussie & John A. Hay, Jr. Roger & Martha Doliver Birdie Pool	Youth Ministry Youth Ministry Youth Ministry Youth Ministry Love & Care
Polly Waterhouse	Harold & La Queta Shelburne Candis Hicks	Youth Ministry Youth Ministry
Kayleigh Smith (granddaughter of Ronnie & Dori Wegner)	Candis Hicks	Youth Ministry
Bob Barnes	Cheers Class Roger & Martha Dolliver Ronald & Barbara Welsh	Massey Trust Love & Care Love & Care

<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>	<u>GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>FUND:</u>
Kent & Janice Amacker	Elaine Amacker Bridges	Youth Ministry

IN MEMORANDUM

Sharon Skaggs - December 4, 2023
 Bob Barnes - December 17, 2023
 Claire Adams - December 17, 2023

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:3-4.



SAVE THE DATES AHEAD FOR FELLOWSHIP AT FIRST METHODIST.

GET INTO THE **W.O.R.D** IN 2024.

Pastor Scott mentioned this acronym in his article. He will expound further in forthcoming sermons. What a great idea for beginning a new year.

Witness to the good news. **O**ffer to serve in new ministry areas.

Respond to the needs of others. **D**eepen your faith through Bible study.

COME ONE . . . COME ALL

... and see what our Costa Rica Mission Team is all about. If you're interested in hearing about how to get your hands dirty Summer of 2024, stop by First Place Café at Noon on January 21st for a Q&A. Thank you all and Merry CHRISTmas! Karee

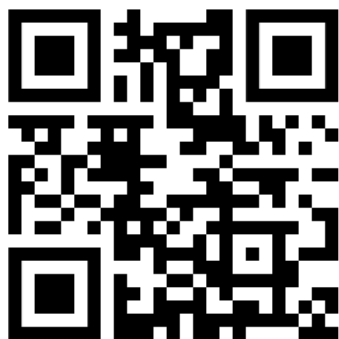
SOUper Bowl of Caring coming in February

February 11th will be a big day at FMC as there will be one worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 featuring a variety of special music, and a soup lunch will be held afterwards in Celebration Hall.

The SOUper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide effort to "tackle hunger" through awareness, donations, and service, and is typically held on Superbowl Sunday.

For our SOUper Bowl of Caring 2024 event, we are asking folks to bring and serve a crockpot of soup for the lunch. There will also be an opportunity to help with several outreach projects that morning, and any monetary donations collected will go to a local food ministry.

More details to follow but mark your calendars now to attend. If you would like to help with the organization and set-up for this event, please contact Sherrie Walker in the Church Office.



Check out our website online giving option

We offer online donations and tithing opportunities, but did you know that you can also make a "Memorial" or you can support a "Ministry of your Choice" directly from our website. Take advantage of the convenience online giving offers. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for regular monthly donations. Check us out at <https://firstmethodist.net>