

# THE MESSENGER

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY  
FEBRUARY 2024

First Methodist - San Angelo, TX  
A GMC Congregation  
LOVE, WORSHIP, WITNESS



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wesley Soup Kitchen. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the library.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Emmaus Gathering – Sierra Vista UMC. 6:30 p.m.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Spring Academy – 5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the library.
- 11<sup>th</sup> One Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Souperbowl of Caring lunch @ 11:30 in Celebration Hall.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the library.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday Service – Celebration Hall
- 15<sup>th</sup> Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the library.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Ramp Build – Contact Pastor Dale at the church for more information.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the library.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Night Spring Academy – 5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Methodist Assistance - 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the library.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Tidings of Last Tuesdays – 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor & FPC.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Prayer and Healing Service – 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Spring Academy – 5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Methodist Assistance – 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the library.

## Services & Sunday School Hour

8:30 The Bridge – Sanctuary 9:30 - Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 Traditional – Sanctuary 11:00 11<sup>th</sup> Hour - Celebration

Live streaming services

[Firstmethodist.net](http://Firstmethodist.net) - Tap for Sunday streaming

37 East Beauregard \* San Angelo, Texas 76903

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

Email: [info@firstmethodist.net](mailto:info@firstmethodist.net)

# FIRST METHODIST San Angelo

A Global Methodist Congregation

## OUR PASTORS

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

4th – Nothing Compares to God  
11th – The Lord is Everlasting

**FOCUS: Lenten Weeping**  
18th – Jesus Overcomes the  
Weeping of the Grave.  
25th – Jesus Weeps for His People



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](http://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 &... \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://Discipleship Ministries | 2023 Revised Common Lectionary – Sundays &... (umcdiscipleship.org))

## REV. SCOTT BRADFORD – Senior Pastor

I want to write you about some upcoming things:

**72-hour Prayer Reading:** From 7:00 a.m. on Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday) through right before church on Easter morning March 31<sup>st</sup>, in the Chapel.

In Scripture, Paul told Timothy “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given to you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.” (1 Timothy 4:13-16)

At a previous congregation and another one I visited, I took part in a 72 Hour public reading through the Bible which will occur during Holy Week and bring us right up to Easter morning. Churches are usually good at public reading for sermons on Sunday morning, or Bible Studies but don't really publicly read the Scriptures much except short excerpts.

I invite you to be a part of public reading where we will begin with Genesis and in 72 hours read all the way through revelation leading right up to Easter morning. In Dripping Springs in the early morning on Sunday when we were nearing the ending of the reading, people who had previously read just randomly arrived early and when we were near the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter of Revelation, I looked around and people were standing. I have chills now writing about it. The Word of God matters to us, and we should hear it read!

**Band Meeting or Class Meetings:** Going “deeper” in your faith: In her pre-Conference report President Pro Tempore Rev. Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory writes:

“In 2024, we are going to be focused on Accountable Discipleship. It is a key distinctive in the Global Methodist church. A disciple is a person whose life reflects the character of Christ and extends the mission of Christ in holy love of God and neighbor. The disciple's character and practice are informed by the scriptures, nurtured by the community of faith, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Goal of accountable discipleship ministry in the Global Methodist Church is to create communities that make, develop, and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ where each person is invited, challenged, supported, and held lovingly accountable to living sanctified lives that reflect the practices, character, and mission of Christ.”

It is important that we find Bible studies and band meetings or reunion groups that hold us accountable and take us deeper in our faith. May we have a blessed 2024 as I continue to challenge myself, and you, to **be in the WORD: Witness; Outreach; Reaching in; and Deepening your faith.**

In His Grace,

**Pastor Scott**

# REV. JIM NOBLE – Associate Pastor

Hello Church!

If you regularly attend 11<sup>th</sup> hour, this may be repetitive, but if you don't, I've been preaching an apologetics type of series about the impact Christianity has made on the world. There is an all-too-common narrative out in our culture that Christians are somehow the problem. The thinking among believers in this narrative is something along the lines of, "If we could just get rid of Christianity, Jesus, and religion, we'd have utopia (not the Utopia in Texas, we already have that). Nonsense.

The overwhelming evidence is Christianity, while not perfect, has been a remarkably positive force in history. I've been using the book, *How Christianity Changed the World*, by Alvin Schmidt, as a guide through the series.

Christianity has had tremendous positive impact in areas such as the sanctity of life, the rights of women, charity & compassion, healthcare, education, labor, science, liberty, art, music, and many other areas.

Though facts and history certainly support the positive impacts of our faith, we must always act lovingly and not aggressively. If you come across someone espousing the nonsense cultural narrative, you can certainly defend the faith...but lovingly. Some people are simply averse to facts anyway and nothing can help that except God & prayer.

I know a man, I'll call him Billy, from Emmaus, who is a retired coach & educator. He was quite a coach, having multiple state champions and state championship teams at the 6A level. He also loved teaching. But he was probably best described as an agnostic. One of his longtime fellow coaches, a Christian, invited Billy to dinner at his family's house. Billy showed up, was introduced, and one of the kids in the house said, "Wait, is this the Billy we've been praying for every day for years?" Yes, it was. Billy is now a deeply devoted follower of Christ, praise Jesus.

On another note, I'm trying a new class on Wednesday nights for those, like me, who adore all kinds of music. We're meeting in the office conference room, I believe. See the rest of this newsletter for more details. Come check it out!

It is a privilege being one of your pastors!

**Rev. Jim Noble**



# REV. CYNTHIA YOUNG - ASSOCIATE PASTOR

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES - ONE ANOTHER SHARING MINISTRY

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING ROAD TRIPS!



**SUNDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

### Road Trip to Ft. McKavett & Hymn Sing in the Hirschfeld Chapel

Mark your calendar now for this day trip to Fort McKavett on Sunday, April 7 for an old-fashioned Hymn Sing Service and fellowship time at the spectacular Hirschfeld Chapel.

We will caravan in the Church bus and extra vehicles from the church at 2:30 and return around 7:30. No need to bring anything – all will be provided. **Sign-up sheets will be posted at the Registration Desk if you plan to join us for this wonderful day!**



## **All-Inclusive Chartered Bus Trip to Branson, MO**

**November 18-23, 2024**

**\$1050 per person Double Occupancy / Additional \$350 for Single Occupancy Hotels, Prime Seating for seven shows in Branson, Meals, Gratuities and Bus Transportation. \$200 per person deposit due by April 15, 2024, at Fred & Carol's Traveltime. Some of the Shows – (plus shopping, sight-seeing and making great memories!)**

1. Dolly Parton's Christmas Dinner Show with Live Nativity & 32 Magnificent Horses
2. Christmas Wonderland, one of Branson's largest Holiday Productions
3. The Texas Tenors, a three-time Emmy Award Winning Vocal Group
4. The Dutton's, world famous family singing, dancing and a variety of musical instruments
5. Clay Cooper Express – a fun and exciting western show
6. Sight & Sound Theatre – Experience Christmas – comes to life with massive sets & live animals
7. Hughes Brothers Show has been awarded 16 times Best Christmas Show in Branson

More information to come. For now, please save these dates.

It will be a wonderful trip to remember! For questions, please contact Pastor Cyndi.





# Children's Ministries

Barbie Hari - Director Children's Faith  
& Formation Ministries  
[barbiehari@hotmail.com](mailto:barbiehari@hotmail.com)



## SPRINGING INTO FEBRUARY AND PLANNING FOR EASTER

I honestly do not know who has more fun at church. Your children or me. I love planning lessons and activities that instill biblical principles into the hearts of our young. Whether it is Sunday or Wednesday evenings, we play and learn through our playing. I have a wonderful job and appreciate all the support and love I receive from the congregation of First Church. Thank you for allowing me to nurture and love your children.



**Easter Egg Hunt  
at The Bosque.**

**MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup> - The Big Egg Hunt is scheduled at The Bosque – Downtown across from the Concho River.**

Fun family time! Everyone invited. Moms and dads, children, friends, grandparents, and grandchildren. Can bring a lunch basket and have a picnic while enjoying games, crafts, relaxation, and a great family day. Events will begin at 11:30 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS & SPRING ACADEMY

The focus for the mid-week academy is learning about God's creation and the animals.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

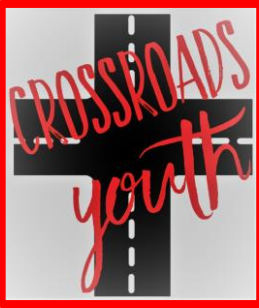
Pre – K children are continuing lessons with Otter B.  
K - 2<sup>nd</sup> children are learning about The Lord's Prayer.  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> children are learning how to use their Bibles.



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

3 - 5-year-olds, Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in Room E201. 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders are in Room E203. You can check your child in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor just down the hall from the office!





## Youth Ministries

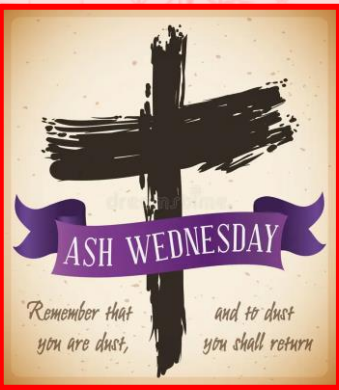
Mark Noworatzky  
Director of Youth  
[Mnoworatzky@gmail.com](mailto:Mnoworatzky@gmail.com)



### PAST EVENTS



### FUTURE EVENTS



#### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Youth group to lead service.  
**February 14<sup>th</sup>** in Celebration Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



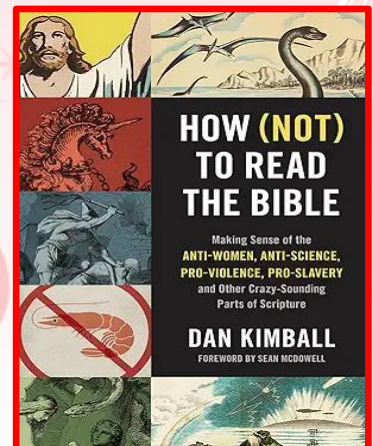
#### SKI TRIP TO COLORADO

Spring Break  
**March 9<sup>th</sup> through March 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE BOSQUE

**March 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Day of service to the church by helping with games and crafts.

**CURRENT STUDY:** *How (Not)to Read the Bible.*





**Methodist Healthcare/Wesley Nurse**  
**Health Ministries**

**lparry@mhm.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. 40<sup>th</sup> 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:**

**IN THE WORKS:**

- ❖ Programming to serve the children and parents of Goliad is being called Monday Munchies (eating healthy program) planned to begin four to six weeks prior to the end of school.
- ❖ Kids Eat Free program gearing up for the summer meals.
- ❖ Flooring for The Lighthouse also in the works, and hopefully completed by summer.

Always looking for volunteers to help with new programs. Thankful for all the new faces below who gathered in the kitchen at First Church during the Point in Time Count.

Point in Time Count most successful with all those being accounted for and came to First Church for a hot meal. Thanks to all who volunteered to service.





## FEBRUARY 2024 OPPS FOR LEARNING ABOUT JESUS!

**Tuesday Morning Group: The Morning Glories** – Class meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Journey Classroom (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor). Class is continuing *Carry the Flame* by Jim Cymbala. FMI contact Jaci Cortese @ [jlouco60@gmail.com](mailto:jlouco60@gmail.com) or the church office. For the Lenten season, Pastor Cyndi will lead *In the Footsteps of the Savior* by Max Lucado beginning February 13<sup>th</sup>. Books are \$11.00.

**Wednesday Night Group:** Current study is Tony Evans book *The Power of God's Names*. Evans explores 11 names of God used in the Bible so you can gain a deeper understanding of God's identity, character and works. Books are \$12.00. Contact Sherryann Miller @ [angelo.edu](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Cheers** – Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 be wrapping up *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. A Lenten study begins on February 18<sup>th</sup> named *Lent for Everyone*.

**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. Next study will be on the book of Jude, led by Stacie Elkins. Meets in person on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Seekers** – The Seekers are beginning NOOMA by Rob Bell. Class meets in the church office conference room 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:3721cathy@gmail.com).

**Union** – Study topics vary weekly and led by various class members. Class will start a Lent study on February 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Meagan Hunnicutt @ [Meagan@shelburnefs.com](mailto:Meagan@shelburnefs.com). Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### THAT GOOD OLE' CHURCH MUSIC

**Wesleyan Handbells** - Led by Laura Burkhalter. Practice is Wednesday evenings @ 6:00 p.m. in the handbell room – 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Contact Laura for more information @ [burkhalterl@yahoo.com](mailto:burkhalterl@yahoo.com).

**Sanctuary Choir** - Led by Adam Chappell. Rehearsals are held @ 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor near the sanctuary. For more information and summer practice schedule, contact Adam Chappell @ [adamchappell@hotmail.com](mailto:adamchappell@hotmail.com).

### **The 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Spring Academy Classes for All Age Groups

**Children (Ages 3-5)** Meet us in Heritage Hall @ 5:50 p.m. to go upstairs for an Animal Bible lesson, games, crafts, and a snack.

**Youth (Ages 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)** Study will be *How NOT to Read the Bible*. Meets @ 6:00 p.m. in the basement.

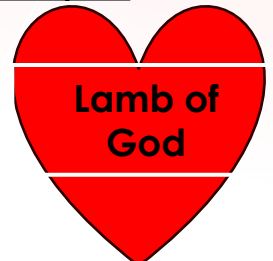
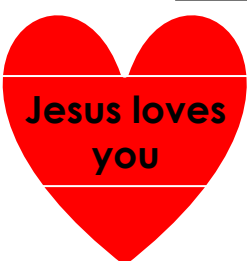
**Men** – Pastor Scott will explore *Wild at Heart* by John Eldredge. Journey classroom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Book cost is \$11.00.

**Women** – How to Play Mah Jongg and led by Sharon Kulig. Meets in Library @ 6:00 p.m.

**Men & Women** – Deep Tracks led by Pastor Jim. Simple agenda. Listen to music and share our experiences. Meets in the Office conference room.

**Men & Women** – *The Power of God's Names* is being led by Sherry Ann Miller in the Harmony Classroom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Book cost is \$12.00.

The church nursery will be open each evening from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.





## 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](mailto:dori@swcia.com).

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

**COMMUNION STEWARDS** – Needed for 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](mailto:heritageparksanangelo@gmail.com).

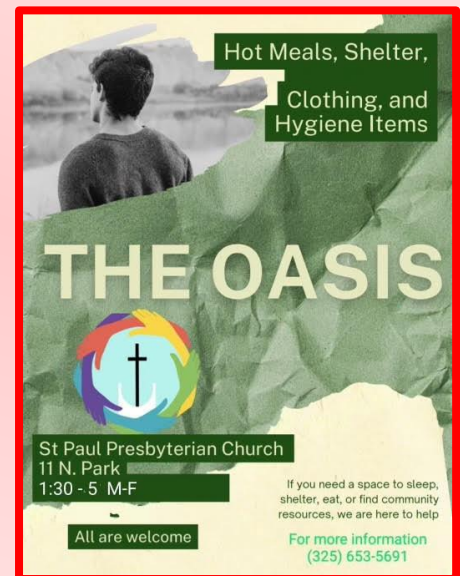
**METHODIST ASSISTANCE** - In First Place Café, a basket is available to drop off canned foods that are donated to those in need who stop by FUMC during the week. Joe & Connie Jeffers are managing the ministry.

**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.

**SOMEBODY'S RUSTY** - Contact Candis Hicks @ [heritageparksanangelo@gmail.com](mailto:heritageparksanangelo@gmail.com) or call 325-763-7387 for info. Always a need for good walking shoes (tennis shoes), underwear and new socks in the packaging.

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

**TEXAS RAMP PROJECT** – Contact Pastor Dale at the church for the next ramp build @ 655-8981 slated for 2/17/24.



**St. Paul's Presbyterian Church** is offering hot meals, hygiene items, and shelter during the cold days of winter. If you would like to help, call the number and see what the needs are @ **325-653-5691**





## SOUP-ER BOWL OF CARING – FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 cover expenses.

**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.



In conjunction with **SOUPER Bowl of Caring**, FMC will have a food drive to aid our Methodist Assistance Ministry. Suggestions are

**Canned (pull top, regular)**  
Proteins like chili, stew, tuna, soups, and peanut butter  
Spaghetti O's, Tuna, Boxed meal kits  
Canned vegetables  
Canned fruit

**If Jesus fed 5,000 with just a few fish and loaves of bread, certainly we can bring a can or two to feed those in our community.**

Donations can be left in First Place Café. Collecting on Sundays February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>



# MESSAGE BOARD & UPCOMING EVENTS

## **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>**

## **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

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**

Anyone interested, contact Sherrie Walker ([sherrie72@firstmethodist.net](mailto:sherrie72@firstmethodist.net)) in the Church Office. FMI visit [discipleshipbands.com](http://discipleshipbands.com).

## **MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> - PALM SUNDAY FUNDRAISER FOR THE COSTA RICA MISSION TEAM**

## **MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> – MARCH 31<sup>st</sup> - 72 HOUR BIBLE READING**

See Pastor Scott's page at the start of the newsletter. Come and take a time to read scripture aloud in the Sanctuary. Goal is to read the entire bible by Easter Sunday.



## **MARCH 30<sup>th</sup> - EASTER EGG HUNT at the Bosque @ 11:30 a.m.**

## **APRIL 7<sup>th</sup> - FORT MCKAVITT ROAD TRIP**

Short sermon and lots of singing in the chapel at Fort McKavitt. Contact Pastor Cyndi at the church office for more information and to save you a spot in the church van.

## **APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> – PRAYER RETREAT AT FIRST CHURCH**

Reverend Sue White will lead a prayer retreat at First Church beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding by 4:00 p.m. More information coming.

## **JULY 15<sup>th</sup> – COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP**

# TAMMY MA AND THE GREAT REUNION WORLDWIDE MISSIONARY FOR JESUS

**Tammy Ma (Christmas offering)** – You donated \$3,160 to help Tammy Ma be reunited with her orphans she had not seen in two years since being expelled from India. Thank you, First Church, for spreading abounding kindness to Tammy and her many “children.”



## Back story - Atheist turned Christian

After becoming a Christian without any Biblical knowledge, she was invited to read *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. Obviously, the words compelled her to do more. Being unchurched, she found that Jesus was real and she was willing to be moved into action.

Tammy asked her pastor at the time about serving in an organization like the Peace Corps, but with a Christian focus. He told her that was called a missionary (which she knew nothing about). Decision made. Off to a third world country with \$800 in her pocket.

Long story shortened, in 1999, she began K Ministries with a focus on children. For 23 years, she had a home for children who either needed adopted or until a family situation was healthy.

Photos were taken at the reunion with her many “children” and some of the grandchildren born to those children. Plans for this year is to set up a guest house for missionaries in Thailand.



Below is a link to a short podcast if you would like to hear Tammy's witnessing to the great power of God Almighty.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/special-guest-tammy-ma/id1584211228?i=1000636696059>

so much love.





# WEDNESDAY EVENINGS & MID WEEK ACADEMY

**Begins on Wednesdays, January 24 – March 20**

No meeting Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday

No meeting Mar. 13 – Spring Break

All Classes are from 6:00-7:00. Free Dinner, 5:15-6:00, Kitchen and Heritage Hall

***The Power of God's Names*** - Wednesday Night Friends Group Study, led by Sherry Ann Miller, Harmony Classroom. Books \$12

***Wild at Heart*** - Men's Study. Led by Scott Bradford. Journey Classroom, Books \$11

***Mah Jongg Lessons*** - Led by Sharon Kulig in the Library

***Deep Tracks*** - Led by Jim Noble, Office Conference Room

***Pickleball*** – Meets in the gym at 6:00 p.m. All skill levels welcome.

***How NOT to Read the Bible*** - Youth, Grades 6-12 and led by Mark Noworatzky

***Animal Bible Lessons*** - Kids, Ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades. Led by Barbie Hari

**Music Rehearsals:**

Wesleyan Handbells, 6:00, Handbell Room

11<sup>th</sup> Hour Band, 6:00, Celebration Hall

Sanctuary Choir, 7:00, Choir Room



# LORD JESUS, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

## PRAYER & HEALING SERVICES

February in the Chapel @ 6:00 p.m.

### PRAYERS FOR HEALING (HEALTH CONCERNS)

Cameron Grace, Candis Hicks, Connie Jeffers, Herold Shelburne, James Hernandez, Janis Noble (Rev. Jim Noble's mother), Jimmy James Russell, Leslee Bowen, Lisa Lesosky, Mary Witt, Myrl Wilde, Pat & LaVerne Adams, Rev. Scott Bradford, Shannon Robbins (wife of Rev. Tom Robbins), Shirley Mohler, Shirley Riddle, Vickie Spydell (Hospice care), the families of Cal Hengst, Evelyn Hyman, Ann Southall and Jane Smith (Solomon Southall).

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE WITH CANCER

Barry Kleypas, Bill Humble, Bonnie Kennedy, Briana McCall, Carol Smith, Caryl Guisinger, 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.

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

**National Guard Texas**: Daryl Bradford; **U.S. Air Force**: Tyler Barden, Chris Cavaness, Josh Mort, Ryan Gandy, Zane Jarvis; **U.S. Marine Corp**: Danielle Pozun; **U.S. Army**: Johnny Goldthrite, 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.

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

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

**W**itness to the good news.

**O**ffer to serve in new ministry areas.

**R**espond to the needs of others.

**D**eepen your faith through Bible study.



**IN MEMORY OF:****GIVEN BY:****FUND:****Carolyn Weatherby**John & Sharon Alexander  
Lori Francks  
Tommy & Edra OwensYouth Ministry  
Sr. Pastor's Discretionary  
Love & Care**Bob Barnes**John & Sharon Alexander  
David & Betty Hirsh  
Gary & Mignon Gammage  
Linda Gay Fender  
Lori Francks  
George & Jane McCrea  
Charles & Brenda Wyatt  
Lee & Jan Pipkin  
Camille Santry  
Stephen & Margaret Lupton  
Kent & Janis Amacker  
David Hirschfeld  
Shawnee Ingrum  
Gary & Leslee Bowen  
James & Janie ThomasLove & Care  
Love & Care  
Love & Care  
Massey Trust  
Sr. Pastor's Discretionary  
Gen. Church Renovation  
Methodist Assistance  
Love & Care  
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Love & Care  
Love & Care  
Love & Care  
Love & Care  
Love & Care**Bob & Jayne Barnes  
& Amy Landon**

Shawnee Ingrum

Love &amp; Care

**Bob & Patsy Eckert**

Catherine Bruff

Love &amp; Care

**John & Joan Iman**

John Iman

Love &amp; Care

**Katie Stoll**

Dana Balke

Somebody's Rusty

**Kaye Pfluger**

Lori Francks

Sr. Pastor's Discretionary

**Sharon Scaggs**

Lori Francks

Sr. Pastor's Discretionary

**Phil & Sharon Scaggs**

Brad &amp; Toni Goodwin

Love &amp; Care

**Clair Adams**

Lori Francks

Sr. Pastor's Discretionary

**Judith Hirschfeld**

Lori Francks

Sr. Pastor's Discretionary

**Polly Waterhouse**

Lori Francks

Sr. Pastor's Discretionary

George &amp; Jane McCrea

Gen. Church Renovations

Gerry Palmer

Gen. Church Renovations

Jack &amp; Jane Ann Srader

Youth Ministry

Lori Francks

Sr. Pastor's Discretionary

Jack &amp; Jane Ann Srader

Youth Ministry

Lori Francks

Sr. Pastor's Discretionary

**Melba Cox****Jim Ridge**

George &amp; Jane McCrea

Gen. Church Renovations

**Al Herrington**

George &amp; Jane McCrea

Gen. Church Renovations

**Jackie Oates**

Cecil &amp; Rebecca Johnson

Sr. Pastor's Discretionary

*(Mother of Jamie Shannon)*

James &amp; Ladonna Gibson

Love &amp; Care

**Raymond Meza**

Jack &amp; Jane Ann Srader

Youth Ministry

**Michael Wardlaw**

Jack &amp; Jane Ann Srader

Youth Ministry

**John Jost**

Jack &amp; Jane Ann Srader

Youth Ministry

**Boyd "Bo" Everett**

Jack &amp; Jane Ann Srader

Youth Ministry

**Solomon "Sol" Southall**

Megan McCracken

Youth Ministry

*(Son of Ann Southall)*



## IN MEMORANDUM

Tyler Dixon (Elizabeth Coleman's brother) – January 3, 2024  
Jackie Oates (Jamie Shannon's mother) – January 9, 2024  
Cal Hengst – January 12, 2024  
Mary "Evelyn" Hyman – January 19, 2024  
Sol Southall – son of Ann Southall &  
nephew of Jane Smith – January 20, 2024

"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.

# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.



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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>