

THE MESSENGER
JANUARY 2025
First Methodist -
San Angelo, TX
GMC
Congregation
LOVE, WORSHIP,
WITNESS



- 3rd Soup Kitchen – Wesley UMC – 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- 5th Communion All Services
- 7th Emmaus Gathering – Sierra Vista UMC @ 6:30 p.m.
- 8th Mah Jongg 2:00 p.m. in the library
- 8th Wednesday Night Activities
- 15th Mah Jongg @ 2:00 p.m. in the library
- 15th Wednesday Night Activities
- 22nd Mah Jongg @ 2:00 p.m. in the library
- 22nd Wednesday Night Activities
- 28th Tidings of Last Tuesdays @ 1:00 p.m.
First Place & 3rd floor
- 28th Prayer & Healing Service @ 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel
- 29th Wednesday Night Activities

Mah Jong @ 2:00 p.m. in the church library each Wednesday afternoon.

Wednesday Night Activities: Meal @ 5:15 p.m. plus Wednesday Night Friends, Kids Ignite Program, MomCo, Pickleball, and Youth.

Methodist Assistance

Food Distributions are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Methodist Assistance Financial Distributions are Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lighthouse Food Pantry

Food Distributions are every Monday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call Sherrie Walker at the church office if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

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

JANUARY SERMON SERIES

8:30 and 10:45 a.m. services

01/05 Divine Resuscitation
01/12 Holy, Holy, Holy
01/19 Repairing the Altar
01/26 Tending the Flame

Rev. Scott Bradford
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dale Weise
Associate Pastor



Rev. Cyndi Young
Associate Pastor

Rev. Jim Noble
Volunteer Pastor &
Mid Texas CFO

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.

REV. SCOTT BRADFORD – Senior Pastor

Sabbath is soon in our today's world, even though the Hebrew writer wrote (Hebrews 4:9-11) "There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience." As you read this, I'm not only thinking of Sabbath rest, but sabbatical.

One of the historic Wesleyan questions is about the difference between leisure time and sabbath. I think we can all get caught up on trying to figure that out. "Many pastors have a day off and think that's their Sabbath." Eugene Peterson calls a day off a "bastard Sabbath." He says Sabbath is not a free day to do errands or go on vacation — it is a special time devoted to "pray and play" with Jesus." (1) In other words, a day off, is not a restful time with God, and few pastors, and even fewer parishioners take it. I am personally needing to find Sabbath.

Bill Gaultiere writes "Sabbaticals work like Sabbaths except that by setting aside a few weeks — or better yet a few months! — for Sabbath rest we are able to *dramatically disconnect* from life and work as usual and explore who we are at their core and bring ourselves more fully to God and his call upon our lives." (1)

I last took a Sabbatical in 2004 after seven years in Junction, and twenty years later I'm nearly completing my eighth year at San Angelo First. I see similarities, except the last few years have been hard with lots of decisions that have had to be made. I feel it's time.

My Sabbatical will have some leisure, some earnest prayer and play with Jesus. I am going to be working on a collection of faith stories I hope to do something with; I hope to shovel some snow, and the dogs might find a walk in the mountains refreshing. Laurel will probably find me underfoot. I am praying for the quiet time of sabbatical. Before I go, I have been trying to get everything in order. Gaultiere speaks of this overworking before the retreat as also being harmful, but unfortunately, I find it necessary.

Says Gaultiere, "But in the Biblical tradition, before the Sabbath there is a *Preparation Day* to get ready for your day of rest and renewal and after the Sabbath there is an evening which is meant to be a restful transition time before you begin the work week." (1)

For now, I believe I'm prepared, but I also look towards the evening in which I will transition back to be with you. Hold down the fort!

In His Grace



Pastor Scott

(1) – *From Sabbath to Sabbatical*, Bill Gaultiere, Soul Shepherding



Happy New Year! Happy New You!!

Happy New Year to you! It's quite an adventurous chasm of unknowns when we realize we are standing before a whole new year - and we truly have no idea of all that will transpire in the coming weeks or months. We can make plans, but they change. We can set goals, but sometimes God intervenes and redirects our steps. We can be anxious, or we can intentionally trust God. I firmly believe that the path of trust leads us toward a more peaceful journey and into a deeper understanding of God's grace and love for us.

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him
and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 5:5-6**

I have been on an adventure within this scripture for the past several months. What a rich journey it has been with a handful of ladies who diligently seek to become more like Christ. Trusting God with all our heart is a determined, intentional effort. (Usually we trust Him with the "big" issues, yet we try to pretend we can handle the "small" issues on our own.). Even small issues have huge ramifications that only God can do - such as keeping our hearts beating, our minds thinking and our souls seeking His will through it all.

May God bless you in special ways this coming year. Yes, it is easier to pray that our year will be filled with blessings, great health, easy days and non-problematic issues. Yet there will most certainly be situations that present themselves as negative circumstances, unwarranted questions or frustrations on multiple levels.

Please don't give up or give in to worry or fear! The difficult times are when we more attentively **trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding!** My prayer for us this year is **in all our ways we will learn the depth of joy that comes from submitting to Him, being transformed by Him, and seeing our path directed by the mighty hand of God.**

With much love,

Pastor Cyndi



Children's Ministry

Barbie Hari - Director Children's Faith &
Formation Ministries



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

January Kids Corner

Wednesday Nights

We will Resume Wednesday classes January 6th **5:30 p.m. -7:30pm.**
Each week we will continue fun hands-on lessons with crafts and games!
Family Dinners are back and start at 5:15pm in Heritage Hall.

Sunday School

In January we will continue with our curriculum called, *Simply Loved a Journey through God's loving word.* Each week we watch a short video and do crafts and music.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ms. Barbie—Children's Director
barbie@firstmethodist.net

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!

Children's Ministries December Activities

Come to the Manger – Advent Celebration & Musical Performances



The excitement of children during the season of Advent. They know they are preparing for Christmas. **Come to the Manger** hosted by the Children's Ministry was such an event to escort in the story of the birth of Jesus.

Family fun and working to prepare a sweet choral program they shared with worship services. What a blessing our children are!

Methodist Healthcare/Wesley Nurse Health Ministries

lparry@mhm.org - Lesa Parry

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



The Lighthouse hosted Goliat Polar Express Event at the Lighthouse on 12/12 as an evening event so families could enjoy ushering in the season together. Thanks to all who participated included Elf Karen Clark.



**CROCKING
AROUND THE
CHRISTMAS TREE**
Four classes this year. What a blessing!



I want to thank Morning Glories for providing Christmas to one of my single moms and her three children. She was moved to tears by the generosity and love that was given to her family. I could not do the work I am blessed to do without the support and prayers of First Methodist congregation.



Youth Ministry

Mark Noworatzky
mark@firstmethodist.net



Typical items that sell well at garage sales:

- Appliances
- Bicycles
- Books
- Clothes
- Exercise Equipment
- Furniture
- Health Care items (shower chairs, portable potties)
- Home Decor
- Kitchen dishes, pots and pans & baking items and small kitchen appliances
- Lawn equipment
- Luggage
- Records
- Tools

We will be collecting items beginning January 15th. **The sale begins on Friday January 24th @ 8:00 a.m.** and runs until 8:00 p.m. We will also be open the next morning **Saturday January 25th @ 8:00 a.m. until closing at 8:00 p.m.**

Warm up to His Word with Friends

Tuesday Morning Group: The Morning Glories – Class meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Journey Classroom (3rd Floor). Anyone interested is welcome to attend. FMI contact Jacie via the church office.

Wednesday Night Group: Class currently studying *The Promised Land* by Ray Vander Laan. Contact SherryannMiller@angelo.edu 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.

Cheers

Currently studying *Because of Bethlehem* by Max Lucado. Enrich your Advent Season by spending time looking into the scriptures.

Chi Rho

Currently studying *Don't Look Back* by Bible teacher, international speaker, activist, and bestselling author Christine Caine. This study will motivate you to stop looking back, get unstuck, and keep moving forward into God's promises and purpose for your life. It is being taught by Giovanna Lecroy.

Harmony

The class will return to the previous study *The Quest*. Leading class is Evelyn Coley.

Journey

The Journey Class is currently studying Revelation led by David Huckaby.

Seekers

The Seekers Class is using the NOOMA video curriculum, by Rob Bell. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. Led by various class members.

S.T.E.R. (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason – The Wesleyan Quadrilateral)

The STER class is studying *Experiencing the Heart of Jesus* by Max Lucado. The study is designed to be a unique approach to bring people closer to the heart and soul of Jesus and help them have a more intimate knowledge of how His gospel flows through His relationship with us, and our relationships with others. Led by various class members. Contact Cathy Hubbard FMI at 3721cathy@gmail.com.

Union

Currently studying *Soul Detox* by Greg Groeschel and led by Tim Hunnicutt. This book examines the toxins that assault us daily including toxic influences, toxic emotions, and toxic behaviors and offers the ultimate spiritual interventions with ways to remain clean, pure, and focused on the standard of God's holiness.

Class Locations: 3rd Floor above Celebration Hall – Cheers, Harmony, Journey, Bayith/Fellowship
3rd Floor Education Building – S.T.E.R., Union, Chi Rho
2nd Floor Office Conference Room – Seekers
All classes meet on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.





MID-WEEK CLASSES – Tuesdays & Wednesdays

TUESDAYS - Morning Glories (Women's class) 10:00 a.m. is currently studying Max Lucado's *Experiencing the Heart of Jesus for 52 Weeks*. Jacie Cortes will be leading. You can drop in anytime. Each lesson somewhat stands on its own.

WEDNESDAYS - The Friends Group is currently studying *The Promised Land* by Ray Vander Laan. Contact SherryannMiller@angelo.edu for more information.

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 - Rehearsals are held @ 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room on the 1st floor near the sanctuary. For more information, contact Dr. Pamela Lee at the church office.

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.

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NURSERY WORKERS - Sunday mornings and other times as needed. Contact Barbie Hari @ 325-655-8981. This is a paid position.

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>.

Part-Time Kitchen Coordinator - Assist with food planning and preparation for church events, ensure proper food handling practices and maintain safe and sanitary conditions of the facilities and equipment. The Kitchen Coordinator reports directly to the Senior Pastor and works with staff, volunteers, and members. Applicants must be 18 years or older, Food Manager Certified (or willing to become certified) and pass a background check. Visit www.firstmethodist.net/careers to complete an application.



Pictures left to right:

Debby Embry transferred to First Church December 8th. Welcome to FMC. Sherrie Walker celebrating her December 21st birthday with staff. Scott Sustek joined by restoration of faith on December 15th.

Editorial: With the dawning of 2025, I've spent some time in reflection about the past year. With a year's worth of church news under my belt and hundreds of pictures of FMC activities, even though the "*world in which we live,*" had a rough year, I looked back and would say FMC had a great year. **Successful. Spirited. Intentional. Interactive.** We hosted an African bishop and a Bulgarian Pastor, raised funds for the youth and the Costa Rica Mission Team. The children's ministry is exploding, The Lighthouse is thriving, and new hymnals are forthcoming. I look forward to 2025. New years bring endless possibilities.

As I close another newsletter, this song echo in my head. "In the Year 2525" was a song from the late '60s. I remember listening to it as a young child, but I had no clue the meaning. Having a brother, Steven, four years older, I dug the tune because I listened to what he listened to.

Instead of singing about each year, the lyrics of the song project time by 10,000 years looking at man's thoughts, relationships, and how he will be impacted by technological advances. They are wrong on some accounts. I could have retorted the lyrics if I had been older. But I know with all assurance that each year we wait expectantly for the return of Christ as we just expectantly waited to celebrate His birth in December. Next year is a step ahead – one day at a time. May you be blessed to overflowing in the New Year.

How can you assist your 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.

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.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CAR CLINIC – Contact Jason Hari for more information by calling the church office.

COMMUNION DELIVERY – Folks needed to deliver communion to our beloved shut ins. Communion elements are sacked and ready to pick up and deliver the first Sunday of each month.

COMMUNION STEWARDS – Needed for 8:30 and 10:45 services. Call Cathy Hubbard @ 325-450-3590.

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIPS – Contact Pastor Dale at the church office for more information. Team travels in the summer (July or August).

LAUNDRY LOVE- Contact Candis Hicks for more information @ 325-763-7387 or email her at heritageparksanangelo@gmail.com.

METHODIST FOOD 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. See calendar for distribution dates. Items needed: Canned tuna or chicken (5 oz. cans) or packaged tuna or chicken. Contact Lisa Lesosky at 325-315-6561 for more information.

METHODIST MOMETARY ASSISTANCE - Seeking more volunteers to help one day a week on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Training provided. Contact Laurel Bradford by leaving a message at the church office

NOTEWRITERS – Contact Shelly Sanford via the church office for more info on how you can help with this comforting ministry.

SOMEBODY'S RUSTY - Contact Candis Hicks @ 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 are the first Friday of each month. 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 @ 655-8981.

PLAN AHEAD. 2025 has just begun

A Special Invitation from Rust Street Ministries Share Your Warmth this Season

Many of those we serve need warm blankets to help them stay comfortable and safe during the colder months. We are specifically seeking donations of **full-size and queen-size blankets** (please no throws). If your congregation can contribute, blankets can be dropped off at 803 Rust Street on **Tuesday or Thursday 9:00-12:00**, or on **Wednesday 11:00 - 1:00**. If you are unable to deliver, don't hesitate to contact us, and we can arrange a convenient pick up at your church. Thank you again for being such an important part of our work. We are blessed to have churches like yours supporting our efforts, and together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those in need.

New Year Blessings, Rhonda Glover - Rust Street Ministries - Assistant Manager/ Volunteer Coordinator
rhonda@jscc.org 325-486-1004

January

1 st Happy New Year from FMC	22 nd Wednesday Night Activities
8 th Wednesday Night Activities	24 th and 25 th Youth Garage Sale - Gym
15 th Wednesday Night Activities	28 th Tidings of Last Tuesday
29 th Wednesday Night Activities	

February

5 th Wednesday Night Activities	19 th Wednesday Night Activities
9 th Souper Bowl Sunday – Celebration	25 th Tidings of Last Tuesday
12 th Wednesday Night Activities	26 th Wednesday Night Activities

March

5 th Ash Wednesday Service (Youth Led)	9 th Daylight Savings Time
14 th Youth Ski Trip	25 th Tidings of Last Tuesday

April

6th Day trip to the Hirschfeld Chapel (tentative)
17th Maundy Thursday Service (Youth led)
19th Easter in the Park
20th Easter Sunday

June

6th – 8th Family Camp Out
8th Pentecost and Confirmation

GARAGE SALE INFORMATION

- The beginning of the new year is always good to clean out items you no longer want or use.
- You can bring items to the church or call Mark, and he will get it picked up. (325-518-5039)
- Donations will have to be stacked on the far side of the gym as not to interrupt other activities that occur during the week.

SAVE THE DATE!

Family Camp Out * June 6-8, 2025
S. Llano River State Park
Junction, Texas

We have 15 campsites reserved, along with the amphitheater. Each site has electrical (30amp) and water hook-ups. Enjoy river tubing, fishing, group activities and Sunday morning worship with Pastor Dale. Bring your bikes and outdoor games. Fun for all ages. No charge for sites, but reservations are required. Contact Sherrie Walker or Barbie Hari in the Church Office



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS.

PRAYER & HEALING SERVICES in the CHAPEL – 6:00 p.m.

The next prayer service will be January 28, 2024.

Prayers for Healing (Health Concerns):

Ann Williams (sister of Allen Martin), Betsy Sadler, Betty Andrews, Carolyn Tegeler, David Hirschfeld, Harold Moore, Jack Plott, Jo Ann Motl, Joy Morris, Katy Bravo (granddaughter of Ladonna Gibson), LaVerne Adams, Rev. Dick West, Sandy Jinright, Shirley Mohler, Shirley Riddle, and Todd Cummings.

Prayers for Those Serving in the Military:

National Guard Texas: Daryl Bradford; **U.S. Air Force:** Tyler Barden, Carly Barrett, Lawson Barrett, Chris Cavaness, Ryan Gandy, Javi Nagore, Micah Rejcek, Zane Jarvis; **U.S. Marine Corp:** Shawn Miller, Danielle Pozun; **U.S. Army:** Johnny Goldthright, Jason Revelez, Jr., Cody Smith, Ryan Tallant, Tayte Cormier, Savannah Gideon; **U.S. Coast Guard:** Weston McIntire; **U.S. Navy:** Jason Bird, Matt Kuehhas, Chris Willberg. **USSF:** Jackson Lindquist. Thank you all for your service and dedication to our country.

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, Mark Sisson, 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.

DECEMBER 2024 Memorials & Honorariums

	<u>Given By</u>	<u>Fund</u>
<u>MEMORIALS</u>		
Jack Moore	Gary & Mignon Gammage	Music/Choir
	Steve & Margaret Lupton	Youth Ministry
Fran Sentell	Camille Santry	Youth Ministry
<u>HONORARIUMS</u>		
Kent & Janic Amacker	John & Carolyn Amacker Duncan	Operating Budget

Important Note when Giving and for Attendance Purposes:

When making a cash donation, always provide both your first and last name. By using your full name, we can correctly identify you as the donor and record your contributions accurately.

In addition, when you register your attendance, please use your full name(s).

Thanks in advance, The Business Office and and Membership Secretary



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>