

# The Lamplighter

## What's So Special About Easter?

March 2024 • Volume XVII • Issue III

The story is told about a Sunday School class of four year olds in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The teacher looked at her class and asked, "Does anyone know what today is?" A little girl raised her hand and said, "It's Palm Sunday!" The teacher said, "That's great! Does anybody know what next Sunday is?" The same little girl raised her hand again and said, "Next Sunday is Easter!" "Very good," the teacher said. Then she asked, "What is so special about Easter?" The same little girl raised her hand and answered, "It's special because Jesus was raised from the dead..." Before the teacher could compliment her, she continued "but if He sees His shadow, He has to go back in for seven weeks!" Well, two out of three isn't so bad, is it? That little girl was at least on the right track, and that is remarkable, since our society seeks to fill the heads of our children with any and every other reason imaginable for the special nature of this holiday.

It would do us all good to meditate on this question: what's so special about Easter? Were we to ask this question to the general populace, I imagine we would come up with a variety of different answers: a time for family reunions, Easter baskets, new clothes, plenty of store sales, extra time off, Spring Break, chocolate, Easter egg hunts, visits from the Easter Bunny and so forth. All those things are nice, but they do not mark the reason for the special nature of Easter.

Of course, we, as Christians know the real reason Easter is special: Easter is God's declaration that death is defeated and that eternal life is now ours. It is this belief which makes ours such a living, vibrant faith. The apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:19, "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied." How true this is! If Christianity were only a moralistic movement, a good feeling society, or a social action group, then of what use would it be? How different would we be from any of a number of groups and organizations that do the same things? These things are important, and our faith certainly embraces morals, good feelings and social action. But, the human heart cries out for so much more. Those things are of little comfort in critical care rooms in hospitals, or in funeral homes or at gravesides. No, it is at these places, where the words of the Gospel take on a powerful meaning for us; "I am the Resurrection and the Life... whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25a-26) It is this promise that has sustained Christians throughout the years: this is not the end; we will live with God forever because Jesus has defeated the powers of sin and death. To paraphrase an old hymn, we can "...face tomorrow because He lives."

This is why Easter is so special to us and always will be. It is proof positive that we can trust Jesus from here to eternity, confident that He will be with us every step of the way. Jesus lives, now and forever! Hallelujah! I hope to see you in church each Sunday, and especially on Easter Sunday to celebrate this special day!

Ken



"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; And I give unto them eternal life..."

John 10:27- 28a

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First Methodist Church Washington (established 1784)

# From Your Associate Pastor of Missional Discipleship

If you've had the opportunity to walk between the new education building and the historic sanctuary building, perhaps you noticed the new disciple paver garden. (I've included some pictures on the back of this newsletter.) A detailed article about this new addition was provided in the recent December Lamplighter. Now, that it has been completed, I get to walk past this new space several times a day. The story about how the marble that now displays the names of the twelve original disciples was once part of a single cross that stood in our prayer garden is not self-evident to anyone encountering it for the first time. In other words, something completely new and beautiful has been created out of recycled and broken pieces.

As we move closer to Easter, the Christian doctrine of the resurrection is before us. The Apostles' Creed teaches us that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, was buried, and on the third day rose again." There is nothing more central to Christian belief than the resurrection. Why is that? Well, believing in the resurrection of Jesus carries with it so much more than acknowledging what happened in history almost two-thousand years ago. The resurrection of Jesus extends beyond a specific point in time. Instead, resurrection is central to the Christian faith because it points us to the truth about how God works in **our** lives. If God can raise His own Son from the dead, then he can give eternal life to our mortal bodies as well. The story of the true disciple of Jesus Christ, is one where we acknowledge that through Jesus' death and resurrection, we too are raised from the death of sin and despair and into new and abundant life.

What do people see when they look at those of us who claim to be Jesus' disciples? Might I suggest that the new disciple paver garden at our church be an example to all of us. People do not need to know our past to recognize what God is doing with us today. Yet, it is our past that makes it possible for us to be who God has made us to be now.

Resurrection is certainly about Jesus without whom there would be no hope of eternal life. Also, for those of us who belong to Jesus, our resurrection hope comes directly from His. Remember we are Easter People!

Happy Easter,

*Stephen Bazan*

## FAMILY YOUTH INITIATIVE MEETING

**March 10, 2024, 10:15 AM**

In 2023, the Church Council embarked on a planning effort called "The Next FMCW". The intent of this effort is to identify goals designed to grow the church by providing ways to help us attain our mission of Knowing Christ, Growing in Christ and Sharing Christ.

One of the goals/initiatives is to create a robust program that will engage parents and their children in activities that will bind them to our church community, grow the church and lay the foundation for the next generation of leadership.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, a facilitated meeting will be held in Wesley Hall immediately following the 9am service. All parents of children aged 1-18 are strongly encouraged to participate. The objective of this meeting is to learn what you believe is important to the success of a Family-Youth-Children program and what you are willing to do to contribute to that success. Provisions will be made to take care of your children.

A group consisting of parents, staff, Pastors and other church leaders will be formed to assess the information gathered and come up with an achievable plan that meets the needs of families and the church as a whole.

## Celebrating the gift of life during the month of March:

3rd	Cooper Anderson
4th	Richard Watkins
6th	Muriel Moore
8th	Ross LaBarbera
9th	Betty Harbor
10th	Ginny Taylor, Thomas Griffin, Ann Hunt Copley, Kailey Harris
11th	Shirley McPherson, Lesleigh Manning, Rebecca Tubaugh
12th	Brenda Bernhardt, Pam Shadle
13th	DeeDee Anderson
14th	Gayle Morgan, Brent Glover
16th	John Chenault
17th	Shirley Rouse, Patrick Haltigan
19th	Sandra Snapp, Justin Ingalls
20th	Kathleen Taylor, Randy Wynne
21st	Xander Blake
22nd	Sharon Main
23rd	Tatum Haselden
24th	Gretchen Beasley
25th	Kari Hall, Haley Copeland, Brooklyn Bowes
26th	Cherri Howdy, Susan Nash
28th	Sam Taylor, Patricia Moore, Lyda Talley, Danny Howard, Delaney O'Brien
29th	Laura Gerard
30th	John Wallace
31st	Anderson Rish, Seth Davis

# Family Ministries

This year Easter is coming much sooner than normal, but I thought I would share an activity that I shared last year and is fun for all families in our church no matter their size; making resurrection rolls! This has become a tradition for me, and I love sharing it with others. A resurrection roll is using some yummy ingredients to tell the story of Jesus being placed in the tomb and then getting to experience the Empty tomb! You will never look at a crescent roll the same!

Start by gathering all your ingredients. You will need a tube of crescent rolls, large marshmallows (peeps also work well in this activity), cinnamon and sugar in a small bowl (or you can buy the premade mixture) and a small bowl of melted butter.

Bring the kids to the table, and begin the story by telling them about Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. (I usually reference Mark 15 and 16 when talking with children.) This is the reason for the season, for our excitement for spring and new life and so it is important to share Jesus every opportunity we get.

Now, share what each of the ingredients represents. Have the children each take a marshmallow, which represents Jesus. Then dip the marshmallows in the butter and then roll it in the cinnamon and sugar. This represents the way the women prepared Jesus' body for burial by anointing Him with oil and spices.

Place each marshmallow in the center of a crescent roll and wrap it up, tucking and sealing the ends well. The crescent roll represents Jesus' grave clothes and how they wrapped His entire body. Put the rolls on the baking sheet and place them in the tomb (oven set to 400 degrees) and seal the tomb with a big rock (the oven door). While the rolls bake (about 15 minutes), the marshmallow will disappear, leaving behind nothing but a sweet, cinnamon sugar coating in the center.

Remove the rolls from the oven. Once they are cool enough to handle, have the children pull apart the rolls to reveal the (now invisible) marshmallow. Tell them about Jesus' resurrection and how when the women arrived at the tomb, they found it empty. Jesus had risen from the dead!

This activity is not just for young children, but ANY child of God can do this. It can give us another way of seeing the Easter story. Every time I pop open a tube of crescent rolls or grab a bag of marshmallows, it reminds me of the sacrifice that God made for me in sending His son Jesus to die on the cross and then rise again after 3 days to save me from my sins. May this Easter be a time of renewal for you in your relationship with Christ and you hear and take action for the call that He has placed on every one of us to rise each day and do everything that we can to serve Him!

I pray this Easter is filled with wonder and helps you draw nearer to our Lord and find new ways that He has blessed you and opportunities to serve Him in our lives, our church and our community.

Happy Easter,

*Sarah Beth*

Director of Family Ministries  
252-946-3311 Ext. 204  
[dfm@fmcwashington.com](mailto:dfm@fmcwashington.com)

## Child Care

As stores are still selling Christmas items at a discount, Valentine's Day items begin showing up and selling "Love." How precious that we have the manuscript of LOVE from God to use every day and to teach us about the depth of God's love for us. Thinking about the commercialism of it all, laughter bubbled up in my heart, wondering how society would cringe if we all decided to use this commercial holiday to signal about what a great thing was coming next. Every year I've swept past Valentine's Day without realizing the gift in it of pointing to God's most incredible love sacrifice for each one of us. I've chosen this year to celebrate that Easter items quickly overshadow February's fun and open the door to many conversations about not just bunnies and baskets, but the matchless love of God and the astounding example of obedience and love of Jesus for His Father. Year 2024 brings changing perspectives and teaches us new ways to teach our little ones more about our great big God and His love.

Romans 5:8

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

*Diane Van Staaldin*

Child Care Director  
Director's Cell: 252-947-2836

# Preschool

The month of February always goes by so quickly, but it is full of lots of love! Some highlights of our month included a mini field trip to the post office where our Pre-k students were able to go behind the scenes and see how the post office operates. They also mailed a special surprise to their families and brought special Valentine's to the mail carriers as well. We really appreciate all that USPS does for our community.

During chapel students learned all about the love of God and being kind through the stories of Zaccheus, Feeding the 5000, the Good Samaritan, and the story of friends bringing the paralyzed man to Jesus!

We are excited that on March 17, we will have Preschool Sunday! A special presentation by our students will occur after announcements at the 9:00 a.m. service, and I will give a brief update on our preschool program during 11:15 a.m. Worship. My prayer is that connections will be made between our congregation and our preschool families and that they will feel right at home.

Preschool Registration for the 2023-24 school year is now open to the public. We currently have spots still available in our Pre-K and Little Bits classes. Our Two's class and Three's class are currently full and a waitlist has been started for those two classes. Please contact Amanda Bazan if you would like more information about our program.

Finally, I want to send a huge thank you to all who gave towards our tuition need back in February. We feel very blessed by individuals and groups of the church that support our program so much. Your generous giving allowed a child to stay in our program and the family was very grateful and relieved when told they did not have to worry about the payment.

*Amanda Bazan*

Preschool Director

Cell: 252-532-7604

fmcwpreschool@gmail.com

# Youth News

The Youth Ministry here at First Methodist has been ramping up. In January, we assisted with Matthew 25 and began having MYF on Sunday evenings. In February, we heard a request from high schoolers to have a Bible study where they could be seeking God's word on a deeper level. We are excited to start another opportunity for our youth to be learning more about Christ and how they can develop and claim their faith as their own. In Psalm 119:105 we are told "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

On March 6 at 6:30 p.m., we will be offering a study on Right Now Media titled "How to Read and Study the Bible for Yourself." This is a 5-week study that will help us build the groundwork for youth in reading and understanding the Bible on their own and enable them to start studying the Bible, on their own. It's important that we start at the beginning so we can continue building and claiming our faith as our own. Rachel Cessna and Sarah Beth will be leading this study. If you are already connected with the church's Right Now Media, you can access this at home. Sarah Beth plans to print the study guide for students. Please let her know if your youth would like to participate by March 5.

Youth ministries will be helping with the children's ministry Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the park in Washington Park. Please let Sarah Beth know if your youth can come at 1:15 p.m. to help hide eggs and be available throughout the hunt to help some of the younger children find eggs.

We are continuing to have Sunday School on Sunday mornings where middle and high school ages are combined and as we move towards Easter, we will be talking about Jesus' time before his death and what His resurrection means to us. MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship or Youth Group) will continue on Sunday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. where we share a meal, have fun games and share a lesson together. If anyone from the congregation is willing to provide a meal for us, be it donating money, cooking a meal, or even purchasing a meal and dropping it off for us, please let Sarah Beth know.

If you have a gift of connecting with youth, please reach out to Sarah Beth. She and the youth are always welcome to have others join in our seeking of Christ and the fun that we have, so please consider stepping out and joining in with us!

In Christ's service,

*Sarah Beth Wood*

# Children's Ministry

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

The verse above was part of lesson during our Children's Church program back in February. As I reflect on what that verse can mean in just those few simple words, it is a theme that I feel has been woven throughout our Children's Ministry this past month. The children and parents who participated in our Valentine deliveries went out to share the love of Jesus with our shut-ins and to let them know that their church family cares about them. It was heartwarming to see some of our youngest disciples interacting with some of our oldest members. The waves, smiles, and words that were shared will be a memory I hope the children will keep with them for a long time. Also, we sent out a call for help in different areas of our Children's Ministry and this congregation answered! We now have a few more teachers lined-up to teach our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, VBS volunteers are coming together, and Children's Church has been led by a few new people recently who have answered the call to help. I guess you could say they didn't just say "Send me!", they said, "Use me!"

As we have now entered into the Lenten season, our children are being taught about Jesus' Death and Resurrection and what that really means for us as Christians. They are excited to share their knowledge about these things and are learning that they too can share the Good News! My hope is that our church family can be a shining example to them as they grow and mature in their faith. Below are opportunities for you to be involved in our Children's Ministry if you wish to be a light in a child's life.

1. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School teachers- We could still use one or two more people to teach this class. Remember, many hands make light work.
2. VBS- YES IT'S COMING! Our theme this year is "The Great Jungle Journey" and we need all kinds of talent to help with this event. We are currently searching for Travel Guides, Music Coordinator/Teacher, and Bible Story Teachers. Our Jungle Journey dates are June 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
3. Children's Church- Please continue to sign up to help with this amazing time. This takes up only 20 minutes of your day, but is packed with Biblical truth for the children.
4. Wednesday Night Programming- You DO NOT have to be a parent to serve on these nights. Are you good at coordinating games? Come be a game leader. Do you have a talent for music? Come and sing. Do you love crafts? Come lead a craft with the children. Any other special talents you want to share? Let's talk and make it happen!

Contact Information: Amanda Bazan, [cmc@fmcwashington.com](mailto:cmc@fmcwashington.com), 252-532-7604

## Upcoming Events:

March 6, 13, 20, 27 - Children's Weekly Program, 6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

March 23: Easter Egg Hunt - Washington Park, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

March 24: Palm Sunday - Children's procession with Palms (Both services)

*Amanda Bazan*

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Cell: 252-532-7604

Email: [cmc@fmcwashington.com](mailto:cmc@fmcwashington.com)

## FAMILY COOKOUT

Join us for a Cookout on the Washington Park waterfront on Sunday, April 14, at 4:30 p.m. All families are welcome! There will be music, a devotion, games for the kids and plenty of time for families to fellowship and get to know one another. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Be on the lookout for more information and a sign-up link to let us know if you would like to bring a dessert, side, or drink!

Save the date and make plans to join us!!!

212 Riverside Drive, Washington Park

Look forward to seeing you there!

*Summer Howdy*

# Trustees

## YEAR ENDING 2023 TRUSTEES REPORT

All church property located at 304 West 2nd Street has been properly titled and transferred from FUMC to FMCW in accordance with the provisions of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline Article 346. Property has full insurance coverage totaling \$11,929,000. The Parsonage located in Smallwood Subdivision has also been properly documented and insured for \$446,000. A video inventory of all FMCW personal property is maintained in the Senior Pastor lock box. FMCW has no outstanding capital debts. All legal documents are being kept in a fireproof safe held by the Senior Pastor. All Trust/Endowments have been properly recorded with FMCW named as Beneficiary and are held and invested at the Methodist Foundation. The church and campus is accessible and satisfies ADA standards.

*Rick Howdy*

Trustees Chairperson

## Matthew 25

Grilled hot dogs with all the trimmings were provided by the Methodist Men to 78 guests and 22 homebound on Saturday, February 10, with sides of baked beans and potato salad. The Circle of Kind Blessings provided delicious desserts which were wrapped by Gale Champion, Cathy Oestreich, Kathleen Taylor and Jane Weaver. The cook team members were Paige Davis, Kemp Huss, George Isovitsch, Ken Matveia, Will Jefferson, Alton Griffin, and Laura and Eleanor Davis. It is very appreciated that the Methodist Men do this each February. Thank you, gentlemen.

A special dessert was made for the homebound by Ann Cherry with a delightful valentine on each container.

There were more Hispanic guests participating this Saturday and our Hispanic volunteers, Evelyn Mequeda, Yetzibe Juarez, and Yamilet Martines conversed with them and made them welcome.

Other activities that included two guests having their blood pressure screens by nurse Sharon Jackson, and John Gunnels sharing with 12 guests at the book and prayer table. The homebound meals were delivered by Diana Tew, Missy Deaner, Barbara Smith, Renee Douglas and Jane Weaver. Pam Deese shared information from the United Way about free resources for the guests.

The tables arrangements were decorated with hearts and greenery by Sally Brodie and Kathleen Taylor and added a festive touch.

Other persons helping were Anne and Bruce Mears, Beth Litchfield ("Miss Hot Dog,") Robert Smithwick, Susan Zachary, Hazy Murphy and Lorre Bowen.

Submitted by

*Jane Weaver*

**The Matthew 25 team** is thankful for our church family's generous support in providing cook teams for our monthly fellowship meals. Please note for the first six months of this year those who have served and the months open for service. For more information, contact Shirley.stone@clerestorydesign.com (252-481-2420) or lorrebrown@gmail.com (252-944-6548).

January:	Methodist Men
February:	Methodist Youth
March:	Dick Bump and Donna Neuhaus
April:	Judy Griffin and Radell Rasmussen
May:	<b>TEAM NEEDED</b>
June:	Agape Circle

# Shepherding Ministry

## "NO SHEEP LEFT BEHIND"

"Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

To our Church Family:

We are so excited about the new Shepherding Ministry at First Methodist Church Washington. Shepherding is a ministry made up of faithful lay members of our church, willing to connect with our members and guide non-members and visitors into the life of the congregation. This ministry is a Pastor Assist Program designed to share any important information with our pastors at the request of those we contact. Lay members who have been called to this Shepherding Program will be given a section of our membership to shepherd. Shepherds will introduce themselves and let everyone know we are here for them if needed. They will establish and maintain a relationship with their assigned group by checking in periodically. There will be opportunities to pass along church news and activities and encourage participation within the church.

Our Shepherds are:

Ron & Deb Branch  
Lee & Nancy Hemink  
George & Bonnie Isovitsch  
Chris Smith

John Gunnels  
Rick & Cherri Howdy  
Ken & Lee Matveia  
Kay Smith

John & Janie Hauser  
Trey Howdy  
Charlie Moore

Shepherds will also welcome first time visitors by guiding and connecting them to the life of the church and offering opportunities to use their gifts to serve the Lord. As members, we encourage everyone to welcome our visitors. As family members, please greet those that worship around you, especially those you do not know and welcome them in the Name of Jesus.

Please continue to bathe this shepherding ministry in prayer as we seek to do His will. TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

Blessings,  
George and Bonnie and the entire Shepherding Team

**NOTE:** If you would like to serve as a shepherd in this ministry, please contact either George or Bonnie Isovitsch, or John and Janie Hauser and we will be happy to add your name to the list for our next TBD Shepherding Workshop. Contacts: George 724-822-4749, Bonnie 724 822-1529, John 910-650-8263, Janie 910-620-8720.

## Library News

### MARCH IS WOMEN IN HISTORY MONTH

In the church library this month, I have selected the book When Others Shuttered by Jamie Janosz as a must-read. The book is about eight women who were called to serve God in a changing America that wasn't changing for good. The stories of these faithful women can change your life while seeing what God can do through ordinary women willing to do HIS will.

Directions for checking out books are located on the circulation desk. The door is ALWAYS OPEN.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." — Steele & Addison

Delane Fuquay  
Church Librarian



## Methodist Women Circle News

**Monday, March 4, 2023**  
**MW Executive Board Meeting**  
**9:30 AM, Asbury Conference Room**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2023**

**Circle Meetings:**  
**Agape Circle**  
**9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall—Backpack Pals**  
**and Child Care Snacks**  
**7:00 PM, Parlor—Meeting**

**Circle of Joy**  
**1:00 PM, Asbury Conference Room**

**Circle of Kind Blessings**  
**12:00 PM, Wesley Hall**

**Circle of Mary and Martha**  
**9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall—Backpack Pals**  
**10:00 AM, Asbury Conference Room—Meeting**

**SONshine Circle**  
**TBD**

## WEDDING DIRECTORS

A training session to become a Wedding Director or Assistant Wedding Director at FMCW will be held on Sunday, Marcy 10, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Wedding Directors and Assistants may be paid \$200-\$300 for weddings of church members and \$300-\$400 for non-members. To join us, please contact Kaye Buckman at 252-946-9591.

# Stewardship

## STEWARDSHIP 2024

The Stewardship Campaign for the 2024 calendar year is complete. (Additional pledges will be accepted all year.) The church received over 100 pledges that represented 200 or more individuals. Pledges were identified to the three Financial Funds: General, Building (Trustee), and Capital (Capital Reserve). The total was \$610,190. These totals were passed on to the Finance Committee. They used these numbers and the prior year's donations and expenses to prepare the 2024 budget. This proposed budget was forwarded to the Church Council for approval. Some accounting changes were made and a final budget of \$879,341 was approved. See weekly Sunday Bulletin for Vital Signs.

*Reid Brodie*  
 Campaign Chairman

## Fall Fling 2023 was a Great Success!

The Fall Fling committee would like to thank everyone for helping make this past year's Fall Fling the most successful we have ever had! We reached our goal and raised \$50,000.00! Thanks to everyone that attended and bought chicken plates and items from the Fall Market, the Silent Auction, Live Auction, Bake Sale, and for supporting the Boy Scout car wash!

### The winners of the Reverse Drawing:

\$100.00 Gas Card - Erin Franz  
Flat Screen T.V. - Marshall Taylor  
John Deere Lawn Mower - Kyle Barnes

### Congratulations!

We also want to thank our church for their generosity of those giving items for both the Silent and Live Auctions! We have some very talented church members. Also, we were blessed to have several couples in our church to give large monetary gifts which helped us meet that fifty-thousand-dollar goal!

Our committee met at the end of January and made the following decisions as to how the money will be disbursed!

### Fall Fling Distribution January 14, 2024

Methodist Men	\$ 6,000
Methodist Women	6,000
Missions	6,000
Capital Building Fund	10,000
Landscaping/Power Washing	4,000
Wesley Hall Kitchen	2,000
To repair or replace fans over back door and oven	
Preschool	1,000
Sanctuary Preservation	15,000
These are the items we would like to have address:	
Replace the fabric over the organ pipes	
Replace the broken glass in the light fixtures	
Repair the threshold going into the Sanctuary from the hallway	
Install a railing on the steps in the altar area	
Refinish the outside doors on the 2nd St. side	
Total Distributions	\$ 50,000

We thank everyone again and especially thank our Heavenly Father for having such a generous congregation! God Bless You and until the next Fall Fling, please pray we will have some young people interested in this event who will come forward to help replace us older workers!

Fall Fling Committee:

Laura and Paige Davis, George and Bonnie Isovitsch, Sarah Purvis, Paula Willey, Jane Weaver, Mary Toler, Alma Friedman, Shirley Stone, Kaye Alligood, Al Nichols, Steve Toler, Diana Tew, Jim and Kaye Buckman

God Bless and thanks again!

Kaye Buckman and Paige Davis, Coordinators

## Missions Committee 2024

**Blessed to be a blessing. What does that mean?** In the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, The Global Methodist Church, Part 3, The Community of God's People, Section 304, The Ministry of the Laity explains:

*"God has entrusted His work in this world to the whole people of God. All Christians are called through their baptism to be in ministry to others, both as individuals and as a part of the church, using gifts and graces with which they have been equipped by the Holy Spirit. Every layperson bears the responsibility for carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), but likewise each has been given the power by God to do so."*

Our Mission Committee purpose is reflected by our mission statement:

**"To connect the congregation to opportunities to be hands and feet of Jesus locally and the broader community."**

### Events and Actions of the Missions Committee Planned for 2024.

1. House of Hope - Is a ministry in Bolivia that provides a haven to serve those who have been trafficked. The house is presently full and House of Hope needs more funds to provide housing for those who are waiting on accommodations. The Mission Committee has decided to dedicate our 2024 Lenten Offering to the House of Hope from **February 14 to March 31.**
2. FMCW has approved a fundraising dinner for the House of Hope on **April 5, 2024** in Wesley Hall to help finance housing. Harvest church will help support this event.
3. Doreen Trottier, from the Open Door Community Center, gave a presentation on their 5-year Open Door Celebration and their capital campaign on Sunday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 24.
4. Yard Sale dates are **April 21 to April 27 2024.**
5. Rise Against Hunger food packing event will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **May 26.**
6. The Church Has Left The Building will be on Sunday, **October 27** We will have a short dedication service and then leave the building to do mission work throughout our community.
7. We will support the Back Pack Pals Mission.
8. We will support the Fall Fling.
9. School Supply Gathering is scheduled for the month of August
10. The Eagle Wings Food Drive -TBD.
11. Meal Fundraisers - We have discussed Lasagna Dinner, Chili Cook Off and possibly a Pizza Bingo Night. Dates TBD
12. Christmas programs for Kiwanis Youth Fund, Salvation Army Angel Tree, Shoebox Operation Christmas Child and Shop with a Safety Officer (Washington Police Department).

Along with the Mission-budgeted support of eight local missions:

1. Saturday Night Jamboree
2. Safe Harbor through United Way
3. Open Door Community Center
4. Salvation Army
5. Eagles Wings
6. Ruth's House
7. Zion Shelter
8. Purpose Of God Annex

**Please pray about serving on the FMCW Missions Committee. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 PM.**

**Contact George or Bonnie Isovitsch if you would like to serve.**

*Christian sympathy is  
expressed to the family of:*

*Etta Buckman*

## **2024 FMCW LENTEN MISSION PROJECT**

Dear Church Family:

What are you giving up for Lent this year? **OR**, what would you like to **give** this year for Lent? How about supporting a global mission!!

### **House of Hope International**

House of Hope offers a new beginning for women who are leaving the world of prostitution. Once a woman is trafficked or falls into prostitution, she may feel there is no way out and that there is nothing else she can do to support herself and her children. *At House of Hope she learns about Jesus and His redeeming power.* Women who come to House of Hope learn to view themselves as valuable and worthy of a better life. They also learn crucial life skills.

### **Please see below how you can be the Hands and Feet of Jesus!!**

Let's be in prayer this Lenten Season for this global mission by praying daily for all those suffering women and their children as we touch their lives through this offering.

The missions committee is suggesting that each member give \$2.00 a day for the 40 days of Lent. Special Lenten envelopes will be provided at the Welcome Center outside Wesley Hall and on the table outside the Sanctuary.

Additionally, we at FMCW will be hosting a fundraising dinner event for the House of Hope on Friday, April 5, in Wesley Hall. This is an opportunity to find out more about this mission. April Havlin, Founder and Director of the House of Hope, will be our speaker. Please contact Cherri Howdy for information and reservations at [chowdy@suddenlink.net](mailto:chowdy@suddenlink.net) or (252) 946-4837.

## **ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY**

To access the online directory, scan the QR code, or go to [members.instantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.instantChurchDirectory.com). You will need to use an email address that is listed in our directory to sign up for access. The Online Church Directory is secure and may only be accessed by Church members who are listed in the directory. Your email addresses must also be validated by receiving and clicking on a validation link before you can access the directory for the first time. Accessing the directory is free of charge - you only need to provide your email address and set up a password. Need help or have questions? Contact Rachel Cessna at [pksocket516@hotmail.com](mailto:pksocket516@hotmail.com).

If you are a member of the Church, you are automatically listed in the directory. If you would like to be removed from the directory, please contact Rachel Cessna at [pksocket516@hotmail.com](mailto:pksocket516@hotmail.com) or call the Church Office by June 1.



## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for submissions to the April Lamp lighter is March 11, 2024, the **second** Monday of the month.

## RIGHT NOW MEDIA

All members are encouraged to check out a wonderful resource that our church offers called Right Now Media. Right Now media is an online library of video Bible studies, for children and adults alike. You can choose a study to use in Sunday School or to do as a small group study or even share with your family. There is the option to share videos with others (like Zoom) so you could do a study with someone across the country! The site can be accessed on your computer, smart TV or even put the app on your phone. Use the link below or check our church website to click for access. The church covers the cost. All you have to do is register and start a study!

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/FMCWashington>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SALVATION ARMY

### YOU EMBRACED A FAMILY AT CHRISTMAS

**You brightened the holiday—and showed them they were not forgotten.**

"Is Santa not going to come this year?" 10-year-old Mia asked her mom, Kate. "Did we do something bad?" It was an innocent question, but it broke the mother's heart.

Mia already faced so many challenges in her young life. She'd been born with several serious health conditions that required ongoing care. Because of Mia's medical needs, Kate missed work often. Eventually, her employer let her go.

For a time, unemployment insurance kept the family—Kate, her husband Mark and Mia and her brothers John and Cole—above water. When that ran out, Kate tried Social Security. Despite the family's financial strain, they didn't qualify.

As Christmas approached, the family's worries deepened. "At the time, I wasn't sure how to buy groceries, let alone gifts," Kate recalls.

One day, at her daughter's school, Kate ran into a Salvation Army staff member. She learned how kindhearted friends like you embrace struggling families like hers. "There would not have been a single gift last Christmas if not for The Salvation Army," Kate recalls. Not only did friends like you provide gifts for Mia and her brothers, the family also received bedding and clothes. Mia especially loved the finger painting set she received.

"I wish I had the words to articulate what that meant to me," Kate says. "It meant everything. It was people stepping in to do something for my kids that I couldn't. I have the utmost appreciation and respect for The Salvation Army."

At Christmas and throughout the year, you are a blessing for families in need in your community. Thank you so much, and may God bless you for caring! **WISH LIST: FOOD FOR HUNGRY FAMILIES, CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE — YOUR GIFT TODAY CAN HELP PROVIDE THIS AND MORE.**

### Wednesday Night Supper Menus

3/6/24	Cub Scout Fundraiser - BBQ Chicken, Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, and Dessert
3/13/24	Beef Stew, Rice, Butterbeans and Corn, Rolls, and Dessert
3/20/24	Chili, Baked Potato Bar, Mixed Salad, Cornbread, and Dessert
3/27/24	Baked Chicken, Baked Apples, Roasted Broccoli, Rolls, and Dessert

Please sign up each week or call the church office  
by noon on Monday.

# Letters

Dear Congregation,

On behalf of the homeless men and lunch recipients who used Zion Shelter and Kitchen in 2023, we the Board of Directors want to extend a heartfelt **Thank You** for your generous support over the past year.

In 2023, the staff and volunteers of Zion Kitchen prepared and delivered over 17,750 meals (up 4000 from 2022), and Zion Shelter provided 2,050 bed/nights to men (up 300 from 2022) who had nowhere else to sleep in comfort and safety.

Zion continued to offer professional Case Management services in 2023 to each of our homeless clients, with the goal of assisting them in escaping homelessness. We also help staff "Safe Harbor," a program that provides emergency, short-term housing in local motels for individuals and families when they initially—and often unexpectedly—find themselves homeless. Zion provides and staffs a "homeless hotline" that helps the homeless access available resources.

All the above was made possible by your generosity. We are inspired by your expression of caring and humbled by your support of our efforts to meet the needs of the homeless and food insecure in Beaufort County.

With gratitude and wishes for a happy and healthy 2024,

Keith Harris  
Executive Director

Thomas Jacobs  
Treasurer, Zion Board

Dear Rev Stephen, Rev Ken, and First Methodist Church Family,

Thank you for opening your doors to me on Sunday at 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM services where I felt loved and welcomed. So kind to allow me to share updates about Open Door Women's Shelter and our future plans while at the same time sharing the needs of homelessness in Beaufort County and Washington, our back yard.

Thank you for the financial support each month. Every dollar is critical to helping our ladies and their children.

Always Blessings,  
Doreen Trottier and Open Door Board and Staff

Dear Faithful Supporter of Open Door Women's Shelter,

There was abundant growth in 2023, but 2024 promises even more. Last month, Open Door celebrated 5 years of serving women and children in our community.

Open Door is kicking off a capital campaign to move forward with plans to expand our capacity from nine beds to 24! This is an audacious undertaking but a necessary one as we see the need for shelter increasing in our area. We are currently in the planning stages of this endeavor and welcome anyone to join our planning committee who might have expertise in this arena.

We're excited about what lies ahead for our organization but we recognize that we could not move forward without our loyal donors. I thank you for your continued support and invite you to join us as we grow, in whatever capacity you feel qualified.

Serving our community,  
Laurie Stewart  
Executive Director

Dear Staff Members,

How thankful I am for the ministry of First Methodist Church. And for the outreach and Love given to me. I thank God for the Love and Kindness given to me.

With Love,  
Ann Warner

P.S. Please pray as I continue to heal from intestinal surgery.

Dear First Methodist Church Washington,

On behalf of the staff and board of directors of Purpose of God Annex Outreach Center, thank you for your continued, generous support of this organization.

Sincerely,  
Mother Regina Jones  
Chief Admin Officer

# First Methodist Church

## Meetings & Activities Calendar

# MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Blended Worship Service and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Global Methodist Women's Meeting 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM MYF	<b>4</b> 9:30 AM MW Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	<b>5</b> <i>MW Circle Meetings</i> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM WWBS Easter Study 4:00 PM Chancel Choir 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 5:30 PM Wed. Night Supper (Pack 99 BBQ Chicken Fundraiser) 6:15 PM Children's Ministry 6:15 PM Financial Peace 6:15 PM "Salt and Light" 6:15 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Team	<b>7</b> 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:30 PM BSA Pack 99	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins—Spring Forward</i> 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Family Youth Initiative 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 2:00 PM Wedding Director Training 6:00 PM MYF 6:00 PM Yahoos	<b>11</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 10:00 AM WWBS Board Meeting 5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Wiccanon Chapter Order of Arrow Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM WWBS Easter Study 4:00 PM Chancel Choir 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 5:30 PM Wed. Night Supper 6:15 PM Children's Ministry 6:15 PM Financial Peace 6:15 PM Salt & Light Bible 6:15 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Team	<b>14</b> 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM Staff-Parish Relations Committee 6:30 PM BSA Pack 99	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>Preschool Sunday</i> St. Patrick's Day 8:00 AM Methodist Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM MYF	<b>18</b> 5:30 PM Child Care Board Meeting 6:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	<b>19</b> <i>Vernal Equinox—First Day of Spring</i> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 11:00 AM WWBS Spring Luncheon 4:00 PM Chancel Choir 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 5:30 PM Wed. Night Supper 6:15 PM Children's Ministry 6:15 PM Financial Peace 6:15 PM "Salt and Light" 6:15 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Team	<b>21</b> 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM Child Care Staff Meeting 6:30 PM BSA Pack 99 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 2:00 PM Children's Ministry Easter Egg Hunt
<b>24</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM MYF	<b>25</b> 1:00 PM Matthew 25 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	<b>26</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Committee Meeting	<b>27</b> 4:00 PM Chancel Choir 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 5:30 PM Wed. Night Supper 6:15 PM Children's Ministry 6:15 PM Financial Peace 6:15 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Team	<b>28</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> <i>Preschool Teacher Workday</i> 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM Yahoos 6:30 PM BSA Pack 99 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	<b>29</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship						



A special thank you to Sally Brodie for decorating the room so faithfully every month for Matthew 25 and for providing flowers for our many church activities

Above: Children delivering Valentines to Shut-Ins  
Left: The Disciple Paver Garden, Article on page 2



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