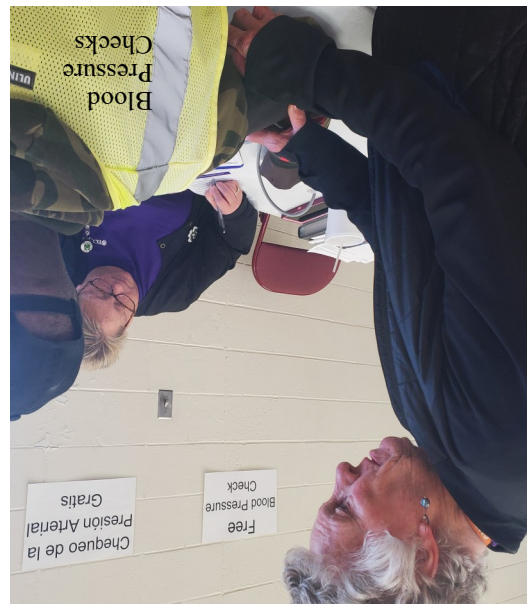


(See article on page 9)

So many volunteers with servant hearts make the Matthew 25 fellowship meal a success. Guests leave feeling the warmth of people who care and the abundant provision Christ offers them.



The Lamplighter

April 2025 • Volume XVIII • Issue III

What Does It Mean To Say 'He Is Risen'

Sunday April 20th is Easter Sunday. Once again, churches around the world will be filled with crowds of people in their new Easter finery, Easter lilies, and the sounds of majestic choral anthems, as we proclaim to the world the blessed truth of the ancient orthodox Christian greeting: "**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!**" The celebration of this most important Christian festival is the highlight of the Christian year, and we all look forward to it.

But, what does Easter really mean to us? What does it really mean for us to join our voices as one, and proclaim, "**He is risen!**"? The celebration of this holy day did not start out in such a bold and joyous manner. It began with a group of men, who were "**behind closed doors,**" who were afraid for their lives. But Jesus came and stood in their midst, and Easter became the story of how these fearful men were transformed into vibrant, courageous, witnessing disciples of the living Lord. For them, the statement "**He is risen!**" became far more than a liturgical response; it changed them, transformed them, it became a way of life for them. It can and should be so for us today.

The Easter faith becomes a living reality for us only as we emerge from the "**closed doors**" of our lives and live in the face of the uncertainty of our existence as those who are unafraid. Because Christ is risen and is alive and present in our world and in our lives, even here, even now, we have no need to fear anything. **Easter assures us that Jesus lives!** He is alive and at work, offering new possibilities for the world's redemption, creating new structures for life and work, offering new blessings for faith.

The Easter faith becomes a living reality to us only as we live in the certainty that it is the living Lord who meets us in the midst of the uncertainties of this life---even death itself. We can truly call ourselves Easter people when we live joyfully in the knowledge that the Lord who holds the future is the same one who holds us in the palm of His loving hands. The Easter faith knows that, whatever powers seem to control life, God's power in Jesus Christ is ultimately triumphant! Easter is a preview of our ultimate future: **resurrection and eternal life with God in Christ!** What a bright and glorious future it is!

This Easter, when we once again celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, may our worship be more than mere lip service. May Easter become for us, as it did for Jesus' first disciples, a source of courage, comfort and strength: a way of life. "**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!**" See you in church Sunday!

Ken



"In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He is risen!...' " Luke 24:5-6

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From Your Associate Pastor of Missional Discipleship

We are blessed to have so many discipleship opportunities at First Methodist Washington. There are Sunday School Classes, short-term and long-term Bible Studies, and many forms of small groups that help give people a focused place for spiritual formation. John Wesley, when starting the Methodist Movement in the Church of England in the 18th Century, first stumbled on this idea that small intentional spiritual communities are the bread and butter of a growing church. In his day, he used the terms: Societies, Classes, and Bands as a way to describe three types of such communities found in the church.

Societies were the largest, making up the whole membership of the local church. They would focus primarily on corporate worship and teaching. To be a member of a society, all one would be accountable to would be the General Rules of the Church.

However, for deeper spiritual formation Classes would be made up of groups of 12-24 people, both men and women who dedicated themselves to sharing life together for the purpose of intentionally growing in their faith, and sharing in Christian service. Not to be confused with what we call "Sunday School Classes" today, Wesley's Classes met weekly, but usually in people's homes, and were made up of people who held each other accountable to a higher standard because their love and trust in one another allowed for it.

Yet still to go deeper, Wesley formed Bands. Bands were four to eight all-men or all-women groups that met regularly to edify each other, confess sins, and guide one another in ways that are hard to do with just anyone. They required great trust among the group members. Yet they yielded deeply mature Christians who became leaders within the church and society.

Today in the Global Methodist Church, there is great interest in rediscovering these original practices for reviving the Church. The good news is that we are well established here at First Church in that many of these groups have organically formed over the years. And others have blossomed through intentional prayer and commitment.

This month, I would like to highlight our Channels Missional Community. A Missional Community is closely related to Wesley's Classes. Our Channels Missional Community has grown together over eight years and is now in the process of multiplying their group in order to reach more people for Christ. They share deeply with one another through their prayers for one another, their support for each other and their respective families, and through their service to the church and the community.

I would also like to share that the idea of missional communities is beginning to take off in a new way here at our church in that there are two to three new groups who have planted seeds for growth. These are new in addition to BathTime and the Yahoos who continue to do good work, too. May God continue to shower down blessings upon them each as they continue in this historic and good work for God's Kingdom.

If you would like more information about our missional communities, you can look on our church website. Or, if you would like more information on how to get one started or to find helpful resources, I would be happy to help.

In Christ,
Stephen Bazan

Family Night Dinner Menus

- Apr 2 Tacos, Chips and Salsa, Spanish Rice, Mixed Salad, and Dessert
- Apr 9 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Dessert
- Apr 16 Chicken Pastry, Sweet Potatoes, Cabbage, Rolls, and Dessert
- Apr 23 NO MEAL — EASTER BREAK
- Apr 30 Turkey/Cheese Sliders, Ham/Cheese Sliders, Pasta Salad, Mixed Salad, and Dessert

First Methodist Church Meetings & Activities Calendar

APRIL 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Circle Meetings 10:00 AM Circle of Mary & Martha 12:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Weekly Lenten Service 7:00 PM Agape Circle	2 9:30 AM WWBS "Revelation" by Jen Wilkin 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Children & Youth Ministries 7:30 PM Open Door Program 7:30 PM Praise Team	3 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:30 PM Pack 99	4	5
6 Preschool Sunday—Both Services 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship	7 9:30 AM Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	8 9:00 AM Agape Circle and Mary & Martha-Backpacks & Childcare Snacks 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:30 AM Circle of Kind Blessings 12:00 PM Weekly Lenten Service 6:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Wicacoan Order of Arrow	9 11:30 AM WWBS Spring Luncheon 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Children & Youth Ministries 7:30 PM Zion Shelter Program 7:30 PM Praise Team	10 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM SPRC 6:30 PM Pack 99	11 5:00 PM Tate/ Edwards Rehearsal	12 11:00 AM Matthew 25 Fellowship Meal 6:00 PM Tate / Edwards Wedding
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 3:00 PM Children's Easter Egg Hunt 6:00 PM Yahoos	14 Holy Week Begins Newsletter Deadline Holy Week Begins 5:30 PM Missions Committee 6:30 PM Family Ministries 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	15 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Weekly Lenten Service	16 4:30 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Youth Egg Hunt 6:15 PM Eagle's Wings Program 7:30 PM Praise Team	17 Maundy Thursday 7:00 AM Men at the Table 5:00 Scout District Banquet 6:30 PM Pack 99 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	18 Good Friday	19 3:00 PM Rain Date for Easter Egg Hunt
20 Easter Breakfast 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	21 Office Closed Preschool Break Begins 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	22 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	23 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:30 PM Praise Team	24 Preschool Break Ends 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM Yahoos 6:30 PM Pack 99	25	26
27 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 1:00 PM Yard Sale Prep	28 9:00 AM Yard Sale Prep 1:00 PM Matthew 25 Board Meeting 5:30 PM Childcare Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	29 9:00 AM Yard Sale Prep 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	30 9:00 AM Yard Sale Prep 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Children & Youth Ministries 7:30 PM Praise Team			

Letters

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for the generosity you've shown this past year to people in need, right here in our community.

You've helped put food on the table for people who were going hungry. You've helped struggling seniors stretch their pennies to make ends meet. You've helped provide emergency assistance for families overwhelmed by the high cost of living. You've shined a light of hope for people who felt broken...and lost.

Your generosity has brought practical and much-needed help to people in our community.

Once again, thank you for your support of The Salvation Army, and for your continuing partnership and trust. I hope I can count on you again this year, as together, we turn your compassion into action to transform lives.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,
Sergeant Les Ashby, Corps Officer

P.S. Thank you so much for your generosity in 2024! Please make a compassionate gift that will extend your kindness into the new year—and help even more of your neighbors in need.

To My Church Family,

I just want to send my sincere thanks for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, texts and delicious food that I received during my recovery from back surgery! Bill and I were overwhelmed by the love and support that this precious church family shared with us.

Love & Blessings,
Marsha Bowes

I will praise thee...marvelous are thy works. Psalm 139:14
Thinking of you with a grateful heart!

Thank you from Mr. & Mrs. David Harrell & Family

Dear Church Staff,

Thank you for Lamplighter. Look forward to reading all the church news. Congratulations to Lyda on her retirement. "Well Done, Indeed!". Lyda has been a blessing to First Methodist Church.

May God bless our church.

Love, Ann Warner

Dear First Methodist Church Washington, NC,

The Saturday Night Jamboree would like to thank you for the support that you have provided. As you know this organization provides a monthly social gathering for mentally and physically challenged individuals who do not have an opportunity to participate in the normal functions of the community. The success of the Jamboree can only be attributed to the commitment of the volunteers and support of churches and other organizations in our community who have kept this going for so many years. We really do not know what we would do without the love and selfless work of our volunteers and of those in our community that support us through words of encouragement and good deeds every month. You have looked into your heart to provide a gift of love to make the Jamboree available for many individuals in our community that need our support and for that we are very thankful! God truly has blessed and provided for the Saturday Night Jamboree.

Thank you for our support and God bless you.
Tine Woolard, SNJ President

BLAST FROM THE PAST

"I went to Washington, N.C., in December, 1898. I found the congregation worshipping in the town hall. They had commenced to build a nice brick church. The building was under cover and no money in hand to complete it, with a six thousand dollar debt to provide for. It took five thousand dollars to complete the church, and the conference had been invited to hold the session of 1899 there. I was informed by the Presiding Elder that there was no trouble there, and that the church would be completed without difficulty as the congregation was amply able to build it. I went there and went to work with all my might to relieve the situation...

With hard and constant work, we succeeded in finishing the church building at an additional cost of \$5,000 which we raised that year.

To be continued..... 😊
Patty Jackson, History Committee

Celebrating the gift of life during the month of April:

- 1st Pat Zeising, Brittany Lane
- 2nd Jimmy Buck, Matt Miller, Anna Reid Moore
- 3rd Neva Cashion
- 5th Erin Culbertson
- 6th Sawyer Thompson
- 7th Ann Warner
- 8th Davis Beeman, Ward Howdy, Hudson Capehart
- 10th Tina Miller, Buffy Lich
- 12th Walt Gerard
- 13th Patrick Keely, John Singleton, Tate Singleton, Katie Baxter, Cassie Culbertson
- 14th Lilly Davis
- 15th Lyn Sanders
- 16th Nathan Worsley
- 17th Derek Gifford
- 19th John Marshall Howard
- 20th Morgan Elks
- 21st Bill Zeising
- 22nd Luke Ross
- 23rd Jane Weaver, David Gossett, Tom Willey
- 24th Doddie Singleton, Tilly Little, Wayne Oestreich, Robin Turner
- 28th Buddy Anderson, Valerie Whitehead, Janice Williamson
- 29th Mike Freeman
- 30th Catherine Glover

Family Ministries

This Lent, I struggled with what to give as a small sacrifice in acknowledgement of all that God has done for me. One of my morning devotions shared Luke 10:38-42 when Jesus comes to visit his friends Lazarus, Mary and Martha. And this morning, it hit me like a ton of bricks, and I was humbled when reading to hear and see similarities to my own life. "But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.'⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing.'"

To say that I felt called out would be an understatement. As I read the verses again, I could hear my name instead of Martha's - "Sarah Beth you need to slow down, don't let that to-do list run your life." Just because there is always something to do does not mean that I need to drop everything and do it right at that moment! There is always something going on, but God has called us to also slow down and listen to Him.

So, for Lent this year, I am trying to slow down a bit, to not always be rushed at the endless to-do list to get everything down. I am trying to be more intentional about listening for God to speak in the everyday things. Here at the church that may be talking with one of our members who I know doesn't have many people to talk with or walking down the childcare or preschool hall and listening to the children learn their lessons and laugh; talking less, watching and listening more for God to speak and give him my best!

While there will be many things over Easter here at the church, I hope that everyone will go ahead and plan to join the church family for a picnic on Sunday, May 4. This year the picnic will be hosted by Paige and Laura Davis at their home on 105 Southeast Ave. We will have a wonderful afternoon of food, fun and fellowship for everyone. FMCW will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and buns, and we ask that everyone else sign up to bring a side, a dessert or drinks and RSVP so we know how many to expect! Don't forget to bring a chair or blanket for your family. This will be a fun, relaxing time for our church family to gather, fellowship and worship our Lord for all the blessings He has given us!

Please use the link <https://shorturl.at/iLA18> or QR code below to sign up and you can always contact me at dfm@fmcwashington.com or 919-810-2054 with any questions!



Blessings,

Sarah Beth Wood

In Memoriam Polly Sheppard Jones

The Methodist Women of First Methodist Church, Washington, North Carolina, wish to pay tribute to Polly Sheppard Jones. Polly passed away on May 16, 2024. Polly was devoted to First Methodist Church and the Methodist Women.

Polly was born in Washington, North Carolina, on September 24, 1931. She was raised in Washington and graduated from Washington High School in 1949. Polly attended Pfeiffer College. Polly was born Alice Tallulah Sheppard. She was called by the nickname, "Little Tal," which she hated. When she went to Dance school for the first time, she renamed herself after the Polly Parrot shoes that she was wearing! She was known as "Polly" ever since!

Polly is survived by her two daughters, one son, and ten grandchildren. Polly was pre-deceased by her husbands Nat Jones, Bob Williamson, and Clarence Williams.

Polly was an astute and very kind business woman. She was co-owner of Ace Realty in Virginia Beach, and later Branch Manager for many years of Life and Casualty Insurance Company in Washington, NC. Polly, as well as her parents and grandparents, were lifelong members of First Methodist Church. She was active in Emmaus Group, Sunday School Class, Circle of Love, and Circle of Joy.

Polly was a loyal friend, terrific grandmother, a great listener, and provided support to her family.

In God's Love,
Barbara Smith
Kay Smith

Missions

2025 FMCW Yard Sale is less than 8 weeks away

All funds raised are used to support local missions. What you can do to help.....

First, we need your donations.

- If you haven't used it in a while, why not box it up and donate it so others can enjoy it. Box your treasures and label the box - this is very helpful as we sort for the yard sale
- A covered trailer will be at the church parking lot starting April 1 for dropping off items. Katey in the office will have the key. Please put your item to the front of the trailer to make room for others that will be doing drop offs also.
- We also have a storage unit in Chocowinity for furniture and other large items. Ron Branch (828-719-8803) will be glad to meet you there for access.

Second, and most important, we need volunteers

- We will need 30+ people after the 9 AM service on April 27 (wear your work clothes to church that day) to move the boxes from the trailer to inside the church. We will set up tables in Wesley Hall and start "sorting." Another group will be moving items from the storage unit to the church as well.
- We will need 30+ each day (Mon-Thur) from 9-4 to continue sorting and pricing. We have a job for everyone so please bring your lunch and stay as long as you can. It is fun, rewarding and you are guaranteed to make some new friends.

"Please be praying as to how God may want to use you to serve Him. For we were Created to Serve, Eph. 2:10; Saved to Serve, 1 Tim. 1:9; Called to Serve, Eph. 4:1; Gifted to Service, 1 Peter 4:10; and Commanded to Serve, Matt. 20:28."

Point of contact for more info is Debbie Branch (828-719-8804) or Bonnie Isovitsch (724-822-1529)

Matthew 25

On Saturday, March 8, the Methodist youth under the direction of Leslie Keeley and Sara Beth Wood, took the reins and provided the dinner for 60 Matthew 25 guests. The menu consisted of fried chicken, potato salad, slaw, and rolls. The youth volunteering were Rachel Cessa, Patrick, Darcy, Weston, Marilyse and Hayden Keeley, Sullivan and Summer Howdy, Matt, Cate and Caroline Swanner and Anne Baxter.

Desserts were donated by the Church of the Good Shepherd and wrapped and plated by Judy Griffin, Cathy Burdi and Barbara Backalew.

Sullivan Howdy, a member of the youth group, was the speaker and gave a message of encouragement from the gospel of Luke.

23 meals were also delivered to the homebound church members by Diana Tew, Missy Deaner, Betty Nichols, Kay Smith and Barbara Smith.

The nurses Sharon Williams and Wanda Lilly were quite busy screening 18 guests for blood pressure readings as well as Susan Zachary handing out hygiene items. A walking cane provided by a church member was presented to one guest in need.

Sally Brodie again worked her magic on decorating the tables with festive Saint Patrick Day arrangements. This is always a delight for the guests. It makes them feel special.

Other volunteers helping in the service: Kim Copeland (kitchen and children's ministry); John Gunnels heading the prayer ministry; Tim Copeland; John Hauser; Maria and Kaelynn Dunn; Anne and Bruce Mears; Kathleen Couch; Pam Deese; Robert Smithwick; Beth Litchfield; Briseyda and Yetzbe Juarez; Joselyn Trejo; Mary Toler; and Lorre Bowen.

"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12.

**Methodist Women
Circle News**

Monday, March 3, 2025
MW Executive Board Meeting
9:30 AM, Asbury Conference Room

Tuesday, March 4, 2025
MW Circle Meetings:

Agape Circle
9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall, Backpack Pals
and Childcare Snacks

Circle of Kind Blessings
12:00 PM, Wesley Hall—Lenton Lunch
1:00 PM, Wesley Hall—Meeting

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

Circle of Joy
1:00 PM, Asbury Conference Room

SONshine Circle
TBD

**Washington Women's Bible Study
Spring Luncheon**

Ladies please join us on Wednesday, April 9, at 11:00 am for a time of fellowship, feasting on a lunch provided by the Agape and Kind Blessings Circles, and to receive a blessing from our speaker, Wanda Kleber. Wanda is a former certified speaker for Christian Women's Club and presently leads Bible Study Fellowship in New Bern. The cost of our event is \$20 per person. Registration forms are at the information centers outside of Wesley Hall and the Sanctuary. Bring family members and friends, and you do not have to have done any of our Bible Studies to attend. Contact Laura Davis with any questions at 252-943-4711,

2024 FALL FLING UPDATE!

Congratulations to the following who won the big-ticket items for Fall Fling:

John Deere Tractor Lawn Mower - Todd Smith

Flat Screen T.V. - Brenda Hardy

\$250 Gas Card - Maurice Cutler

The \$12,000 raised has been divided and will be dispersed as such:

- Methodist Men - \$4,000
- Methodist Women - \$4,000
- "My Father's House" - \$2,000
- Parlor Fund - \$2,000

The Fall Fling Committee would like to thank everyone that came and supported this annual Fundraiser! The food was delicious, the bake sale successful, and the fellowship **fun-fun-fun!** Until the next one!!! Mark your calendar for November 22, 2025! It always takes place the weekend before Thanksgiving! Hopefully, this year we will bring back the auctions!

Thanks again!

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

Youth Ministry

Spring is a busy season! Sports, spring break trips, end of year tests, awards banquets, recitals, etc, the list can go on for what seems like miles! Having Easter "late" this year makes everything seem even busier than usual! But we have to remember why we even celebrate Easter in the first place: because Jesus not only died on the cross for our sins, but He rose again! That's not only the Good News, it's the BEST news! We don't have to do this busy life alone. Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." In other words, whatever your task (sports, academics, dance, music, chores, etc), **WHATEVER**, do it for God! Do it because He sent His Son for you. Do it because He rose again! Do it because He loved you first. Celebrate Resurrection Day, on Easter and always, by doing everything you do for Him. ~Mrs. Leslie

April Activities:

- April 13: Help hide eggs for children's egg hunt
- April 14-17: Beaufort County Prayer Breakfast
- April 16: Glow in the dark egg hunt for youth-6:15 pm
- April 19: Rain day for children's egg hunt
- April 20: Easter Sunday, no Youth Gathering this evening
- April 23: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES (Spring break)
- April 27: NO SUNDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES (Spring break)
- April 30: Wed night activities resume 6:15 pm (dinner at 5:30 pm)

Looking ahead:

- May 4: Family picnic at Laura and Paige Davis' house (no Youth Gathering this evening)
- May 7: Wed night activities 6:15 pm (dinner at 5:30 pm)
- May 11: Mother's Day
- May 14: Last Wednesday night supper and Family Bingo Night 6:15 pm (dinner at 5:30 pm)
- May 18: Rise Against Hunger, set up begins at 3:00 pm
- June 8: Senior Sunday
- June 13-14: Decorate for VBS
- June 16-20: VBS 9am-12 pm daily

~*Leslie Keely*

Leader of Youth and Children Ministries
C: 252-945-1222
O: 252-946-3311, ext. 225

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20, 2025

On Easter Sunday, at both church services, there will be a special children's moment. The children will come down front and hear a special message from Mrs. Leslie. They will receive a special gift that has been selected and donated by the "Circle of Kind Blessings"! Help us make this Easter Sunday a special memory for your child by participating! God Bless, and we hope to see you and your family Easter Sunday!

EASTER BAKE SALE

The Circle of Mary and Martha will be offering assorted homemade desserts to purchase for your Easter Dinner on

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Before and after services

Cheesecakes go fast! Call Shirley Stone at 252-481-2420 to reserve yours today. Proceeds will be used for the M&M Circle's Preschool Scholarship.

Children's Ministry

It's Resurrection Day! Jesus Christ is risen, He's risen indeed! As my five year old loves to say, "Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins because He loves us!" Jesus told us in Luke 18:16-17, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Your faith, little one, holds so much hope and joy for your fellow Christians. Don't ever be afraid to tell others about the hope of what Jesus did for us, because He loves us! Let's remember to celebrate Easter in our hearts all year long and share His hope with everyone we meet! ~Mrs. Leslie

Come join us on Wednesday nights at 6:15 to continue to learn about our Easter Love Letters from God (ELLFG) by Glenys Nellis!

April Activities:

April 2: ELLFG activities-6:15pm-7:15pm
 April 9: ELLFG activities-6:15pm-7:15pm
 April 13: Easter Egg Hunt-3pm
 April 16: ELLFG activities-6:15pm-7:15pm
 April 19: Easter Egg Hunt rain date
 April 20: Easter Sunday!
 April 23: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING-Spring Break
 April 30: Wed night activities

Looking Ahead:

May 4: Family Picnic at Paige and Laura Davis' house
 May 7: Wed night activities
 May 14: Last Wednesday Night Supper and Family Fun Night! 5:30-7:30pm
 June 16-20: VBS-9am-12pm daily

~*Leslie Keely*

Leader of Youth and Children Ministries
 C: 252-945-1222
 O: 252-946-3311, ext. 225

Childcare

Springtime Blessings at First Methodist Church Childcare

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." - Isaiah 43:19

Spring is a season of renewal, growth, and fresh beginnings—reminding us of God's continuous work in our lives. Just as the earth blossoms with new life, we are excited to see our children flourish in faith, wisdom, and love each day.

At First Methodist Church Childcare, we strive to nurture not just young minds but also young hearts in Christ. This season, our teachings focus on: God's Creation & Care - Exploring the wonders of nature, learning how God created everything with love, and how we can be good stewards of His world. Growing in Kindness & Love - Emphasizing the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), teaching children to show love, patience, and kindness to one another.

Upcoming Events:
 March 26, 2025 - Fundraiser Event
 May 2, 2025 - Spring Fest

As we embrace this season of renewal, let's rejoice in the blessings of growth—both in nature and in our children's spiritual journeys. Thank you for being part of our FMC childcare family!

Blessings,

Jessica Powell

Director's Contact: 252-947-2836
 Email: fmcwchildcare@gmail.com

Preschool

March was a busy month for our preschool. The children enjoyed some fun days with Dr. Seuss stories and games, tried to catch a leprechaun, and had a special visit from Thomas Atkins with his excavator after learning about different careers. In chapel, the children learned all about the story of Moses. We talked about how it is important to listen, obey, and follow God's rules. We also learned how important it is to ask God for help when we need it.

We are looking forward to April and our trips to the Fire Department and Police Department as well as all of the excitement that comes with Easter! We are also excited about sharing more about our preschool during Preschool Sunday on April 6 at BOTH church services. The children have been preparing during our chapel times and are looking forward to sharing some favorite songs with the congregation!

Finally, the preschool will be on Spring Break during the third full week in April right after Easter. After that, we will be very busy with many events leading up to our last day in May. It will feel like a whirlwind, so continue to pray for our strength, energy, and patience in the coming months.

Amanda Bazan

Preschool Director
 Cell: 252-532-7604
fmcwpreschool@gmail.com

Shepherding Ministry

Dear Church Family:

We are into the second year of our Shepherding Ministry at First Methodist Church Washington. We would like to thank all those who served as shepherds in 2024. We have listed the shepherds and their flocks below. Your shepherd will be checking in with you periodically. If you have a need for prayers, updates, information or anything, please contact the appropriate shepherd from the list below. Shepherds will also be connecting with first time visitors and ongoing visitors to help them become more familiar with the ministries of our church. Those visitors will be encouraged to use their gifts to serve and if they so desire, lead them to become members of FMCW. Please continue to pray for this ministry. Please contact John & Janie Hauser or George & Bonnie Isovitsch if you would be interested in helping with this ministry. You will be blessed!!

2025 Shepherding Flocks at First Methodist Church Washington

Flocks Listed Alphabetically

- 1) Add - Ber
- 2) Blac - Cap
- 3) Carr - Dud
- 4) Dudl - Hack
- 5) Hall - Huss
- 6) Inga - Lob
- 7) MacC - New
- 8) Nich - Romp
- 9) Ron - Ston
- 10) Stow - Wall
- 11) Ward - Zel

Shepherds

Ron & Deb Branch
 Beth Litchfield
 Lee & Nancy Hemink
 Gale Champion
 Wendy Ingalls
 John & Janie Hauser
 Tom & Paula Willey
 Lee & Ken Matveia
 George & Bonnie Isovitsch
 Ray & Judy Peede
 John Gunnels