

POWER LINES

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON
SINCE 1945
A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



331 W. OSCEOLA AVENUE
CLEWISTON, FL 33440
(863) 983-5269

September, 2024



Matthew 20:26 (NIV): "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant."

Mark 10:45 (ESV): "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 13:14-15 (NLT): "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV): "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."

Galatians 5:13 (ESV): "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL: AT 10:00 AM IN THE TRINITY ROOM,
FOR ALL AGES

SERVICE: 11:00 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: STARTS AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERVICE ALSO AVAILABLE AT

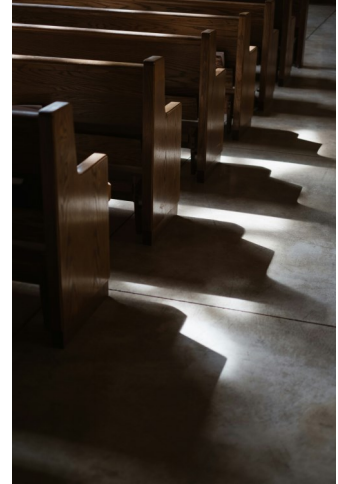
WWW.CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG

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Jeff's Corner



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

I pray you are well and looking forward to cooler weather this fall. One thing is for sure, change is always in the wind, blowing in one direction or the other. Speaking of change, I thank you for another opportunity to serve as your pastor. Margaret and I love Clewiston and we believe in the mission of our church. Together, we can continue our journey to know Jesus and to make Jesus known.

On this journey, we will need the help of every member if we are to be successful. During the month of September, we invite you to step-up in your service to our church's mission. Descriptions of the positions will be made available to our members by September 1, with a goal to fill the positions prior to our annual church conference being scheduled for October. Remember that everyone is a minister* in Christ's church. Please pray about what you can offer your gifts in service to Jesus.

***1st Peter 4:10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

God is calling you to offer your gift for service! Please reach out to me or Lay Leader Scott Jones for a list of positions to serve and the details of that service. Together we can make a difference for God's Kingdom and help others begin or rekindle their walk with Jesus Christ.

God bless you and keep you.

Jesus loves you and so do I,

Pastor Jeff Smith

P.S. My new phone number is: (863) 351-9692



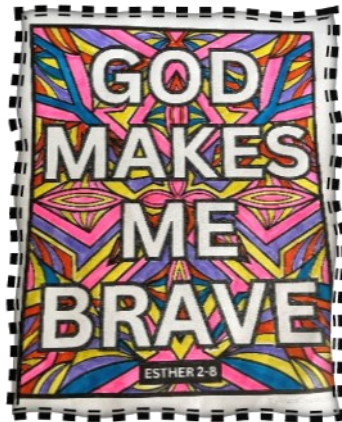
Our First Kids Program had an exciting August!

Many thanks to our great team of volunteers this month: Jane Robison, Kathy Garcia, Laura and Evelyn Jones, Ashley Hammock, Sarah Way, and Doreen Malbog.

Lee Sweet along with Rene Malbog and Scott Jones supported our team by working on the air conditioning and restoring internet connections. A **BIG THANKS** is well deserved!

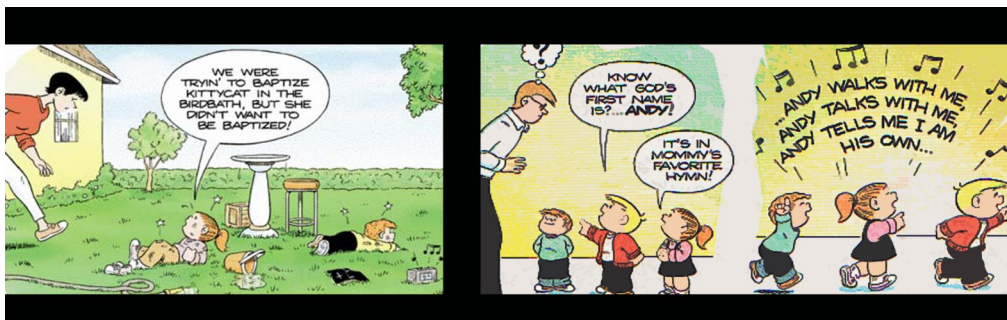
We completed many fun and impactful activities about Daniel's life including making lion puppets to remember Daniel's faithfulness in the Lion's Den.

In both August and September, we delve into the story of Queen Esther where we will learn how God protected his people from certain death through the brave acts of Queen Esther.



****Encourage your kids, your grandkids, and/or your neighbor's kids to begin the new school year by attending FirstKids every Sunday.*

Please contact Doreen Malbog (863-677-0255) for more information or questions.





ON-GOING PRAYERS

- Amanda Crawford (H)
- Janice Forbes (E)
- Brad Garrett (H)
- Brenda Garvey (H)
- Garry Hall (H)
- Bobby Jones (H)
- Jay Mills (H)

SY=Sympathy H=Health E=Encouragement
 C=Comfort S=Salvation A=Answer to Prayer

HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

- Matt Beatty
- Isabelle Belton
- Becky Starks

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JEFF WITH
 UPDATES CONCERNING PEOPLE ON THE
 PRAYER LIST AT HIS E-MAIL
PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM



REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND WORSHIP
 IN PERSON OR WOULD LIKE TO WATCH
 WORSHIP SERVICES YOU MISSED, VISIT
CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG



- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Kay Jones | Sept. 1 |
| Helen Endicott | Sept. 4 |
| Sylvia Winekoff | Sept. 6 |
| Bruce Jones | Sept. 7 |
| Dolly Burke | Sept. 9 |
| Luan Walker | Sept. 13 |
| Chris Beatty | Sept. 14 |
| Joy Llossas | Sept. 15 |
| Chris Wellslager | Sept. 18 |
| Alisha Norwood | Sept. 24 |
| Jocelyn Sweet | Sept. 25 |
| Becky Starks | Sept. 26 |
| LuAnne Williams | Sept. 30 |

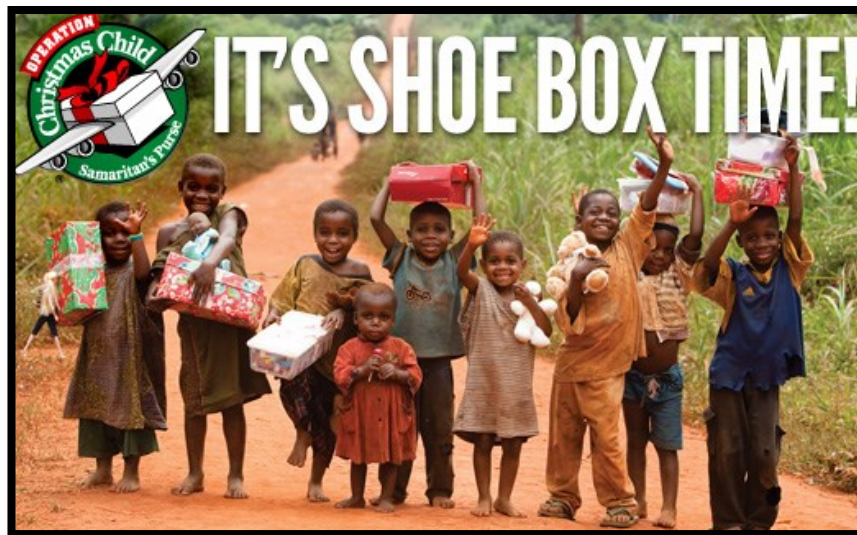


Pam & Clint Kelley
 Sept. 20

Chris & John Wellslager
 Sept. 21



PowerLines is a monthly newsletter of First Methodist Church of Clewiston.
 Article submission deadline: 20th of each month. All members are urged to contribute to this publication.
 E-mail articles to fmcpowerlines@gmail.com. Editor: Ninette Aker
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The annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry is the perfect opportunity for us to show children in other countries just how much they mean to us.

Ninette and I have already ordered a wide variety of materials informing people about the ministry and you will soon be able to pick it up on the back counter in the Sanctuary.

Last year, we purchased actual plastic red and green shoeboxes with the Samaritan’s Purse shoebox logo. They were much nicer than the cheap plastic ones we had previously used. We plan on purchasing these shoeboxes again at a cost of a little over \$2.00 each. In addition, shipping to each child overseas will be an additional \$10.00 each. The cost to buy and ship our shoeboxes will be close to \$1,500. This amount does not include items bought for the shoeboxes. If you would like to make a donation, please make it to the church and mark it “shoebox”.

The ministry still needs a wide variety of items to include if we are to match the 116 boxes we donated last year. A list of the items we need is listed below. Please keep this ministry in your prayers and be on the lookout for additional information in next month’s newsletter. If you would like more information on this ministry or if you would like to volunteer to be on our team, please contact Ninette Aker (305-510-5625) or Janet Way (863-677-1002).

Additional needed shoebox items: matchbox cars, t-shirts, jump ropes, items for fishing kits, hair clips and other small toys.

We will be packing boxes on Sunday, November 3 and on Sunday, November 10.

Janet Way





At GriefShare you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

A SUPPORT GROUP TO HELP YOU MOVE THROUGH THE GRIEF PROCESS

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

VIDEOS THAT ENCOURAGE

Each weekly GriefShare group begins with a 30-minute video featuring respected experts on grief-related topics and helpful stories from people who have experienced loss. Their insights will help you manage your emotions, gain clarity, and find answers to your questions as you walk through the grief process.

SUPPORTIVE DISCUSSIONS

After the video, you and the other group members will spend time discussing what was presented in the video and what is going on in your lives. Talking with other people who understand what you're experiencing brings great comfort, normalizes the grief experience, and offers a supportive environment to work through your grief.

The next session of GriefShare at First United Methodist will begin on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 pm in the Trinity Room of the Life Enrichment Bldg. The workbook is only \$20 but scholarships are available.

Please share this with those you know who are hurting from the loss of a loved one.

Mary Thomas



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JUST SCAN THIS CODE AND YOUR
ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS
ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE AT
WWW.CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM



NEW TEACHER LUNCHEON

On Monday, August 5 our church held the annual luncheon to welcome the teachers new to our schools and to “America’s Sweetest Town.” There were 36 new teachers who were there with their principals to receive a gift of school supplies and a generous Walmart gift card to help them finish getting the things they need for their classrooms or to purchase food until their first paycheck.

The teachers and guests once again feasted on Ninette’s delicious chicken salad and Luan Walker’s pasta salad. Croissants, chips, fresh fruit salad and assorted cookies and brownies rounded out the menu.

Faith Lutheran Church partnered with us by providing desserts, help and restaurant gift cards for door prizes.

The committee would like to thank **EVERYONE** who helped out in any way, be it with monetary donations, providing food or showing up to help out during the event. The Clewiston High School FL Public Service Academy students showed up and did a wonderful job (as always) helping out.

One of the amazing things we were able to demonstrate to these young teachers is how this community always shows up to help out whenever needed. That was very evident on this day.

Mary Thomas



WHEN SHOULD WE CELEBRATE LIFE?



The B&B Believers met once again after taking the month of July off, on August 5, 2024 and received an eye opening message, one each and every one of us need to hear. Eleven Believers braved the pouring rain on the evening of the 5th, shaking out umbrellas and enduring damp clothes for a great message brought to us and inspired by Chris.

We've all attended a Celebration of Life over the years, and as we continue to age, likely a few to many of those mixed emotional events. Whether for a friend, loved one or close family member who has passed, we celebrate the life of that person while attempting the difficult task of suppressing the loss felt in our hearts. We listen to friends and family speak of the person who is no longer with us, often telling stories of fun times, humorous stories and beautiful and selfless acts he or she gladly conducted during life with us. Pictures, slide shows and family videos are displayed tugging at our hearts and memories and so many times raising the corners of our mouths northward into a slight smile or even a chuckle or laugh. A celebration of life is a loving way for us to pay tribute to our lost loved ones, but is it really when God really wants us to commemorate a life?

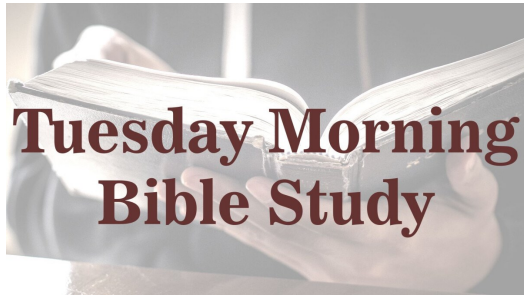
As Christians, how should we be celebrating our lives today, while we're still among our friends and family? In **John 10:10**, Jesus tells us that He came so that we can live our lives abundantly, that is in large quantities, or in simple terms live our life big. We all have a story to tell and that story, no matter how you may be feeling today, always includes and starts with what God has done for you. Do you sometimes feel like you have an unsurmountable circumstance that has created a disadvantage in life, giving you no reason to celebrate? Or perhaps, while you are a believer, you can't see exactly what God has done in your life that really gives you that reason to embrace each and every day in celebration? What ever the reason that you may not cherish and live each and every day to its fullest, knowing that God can and wants you to do exactly that, is a deception and exactly what the enemy longs for. We can easily make lemonade when life deals us lemons. We need to simply trust that God is in control of all that is good, and always honor each and every day we wake up alive, living our lives abundantly and in celebration. Don't wait for others to celebrate your life once your life is over, do it today and live life big, while you're still here. It's what God wants us all to do. Chris shared an audio podcast towards the end of our gathering that really drives this point home and if you have 15 or 20 minutes I encourage you to give it a listen. You won't be sorry you did...

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/1652-celebrate-life-today/id1342285788?i=1000658052209>

The B&B Believers will meet once again on Monday, September 9 at 6:00 pm at Ninette's house for another evening of fun, food, fellowship and learning the Word of God. Consider joining us in September. Also, the B&B group has selected to support Kristine and the great group of young people with the Florida Public Safety Academy (FPSA) this period and plan to hold a special meeting for them later this fall. We feel it's time to honor and support this group of wonderful young people who have supported us all in this community for such a very long time.

If you are looking for a fun, relaxed atmosphere to learn about Jesus and fellowship with other Believers, B&B might be for you. If you have any questions about our meetings or want to be added to the email distribution list for upcoming meetings, call John Wellslager at 863-228-1724 or email at jwellslager@embarqmail.com.

John Wellslager



The John McArthur Bible Study on 1 Kings and Proverbs will start on Tuesday, October 8 at 10:00 am in the Trinity Room in the LEC.

If you have not been to this study before, please come join us! The study meets every second and fourth Tuesday.

We have a wonderful time beginning with prayer concerns and diving into the material.

Hope to see you there!

Janet Way



Clewiston High School, Public Service Academy is starting off our Wednesday night dinners on September 18 with their delicious “Great Irish Potato Bake” with all the trimmings. It starts at 6:00 pm with take-out or dine-in. Come join us so we can catch up with what happened during the summer!

FMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Interim Pastor	Jeffrey Smith	(863) 351-9692	pastorjeff@clewistonmethodist.com
Lay Leader**	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Recording Secretary	Margaret Smith		
Membership Sec.*	LuAnne Williams	(863) 885-1134	luannewms20@hotmail.com
Staff Parish Relations	John Wellslager	(863) 228-1724	johnw@jimmypittmanelectrical.com
Head Trustee	Lee Sweet	(561) 985-4220	rasweet@rocketmail.com
Finance Director*	R.D. Williams	(863) 885-1121	nchokie@live.com
Finance Secretary	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Treasurer/Editor	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
Mission Team	Sandy Stitt	(863) 677-1789	stitttranch@gmail.com
FirstKids Team	Doreen Malbog	(863) 677-0255	dorrietmal@gmail.com

***These members are moving away—we need replacements! See page 11**

****This member is retiring from position—we need replacement! See page 11**

Hi Everyone! This is Karen Cochrane.

After much soul searching, Jerry and I have decided we need to move from Clewiston (for health reasons). We will be relocating on September 4 and 5 to our new address: 2261 Coachman Loop, Lakeland, FL 33812.



I am planning a few days where I can meet friends in Sebring, since it's about the same distance for each of us. I will miss my friends here from the past 15 years and of course my church family.

Thank you all for your prayers for Jerry and I while we were both spending time in the hospital!! We're sending out love to my church and will keep you in my prayers.

Karen Cochrane

Editor note: We will miss your delicious pork n' beans during Wednesday night dinners, too!
I just might have stolen the recipe (tee-hee).



We, the family of Mary Lois Lee, want to thank everyone for their heartfelt love and support shown to us during this tough time. Our First Methodist Church family went over and beyond to make her Celebration of Life nothing short of amazing on August 24.

Everything was perfect and we know she would have been well pleased as we honored and reflected on her wonderful life.

The prayers, scripture passages, music and stories about her life touched our hearts tremendously. The dinner and fellowship after the service were enjoyed by all.

God welcomed her into Heaven on August 17. We will miss her every day but will take great comfort in knowing she is with the Lord and is enjoying being reunited with loved ones who have made that journey before her. Her memory and her legacy will always live within all of us.



**First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Finance Report— August, 2024**

July financials reflect the activities of our church’s giving, expenditures, and reimbursements for the month.

General giving totaled \$10,734.64 for the month with an additional \$7,044.00 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 51.26% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$12,551.98 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 50% of budgeted annual expenses seven months through the year.

Our church has experienced a significant **\$33,242.00** maintenance expense at the parsonage as the roof at the parsonage and main air conditioner were replaced. Kind donations totaling \$ 5,400.00 have been received to date to help offset this expense. Any special fund giving you feel led to provide for these projects is greatly appreciated.

Your continued support of our church through your presence and gifts is greatly appreciated.

The checking account has been reconciled for the month.

Respectfully Submitted



R. D. Williams

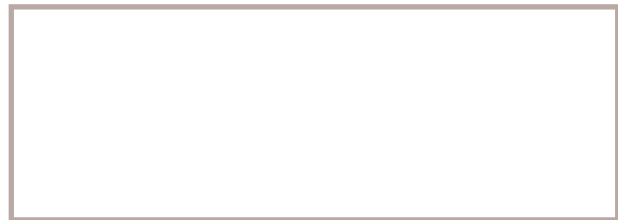
**First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Bank Report
January 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024**

	July		Year to Date	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>General Fund</u>				
Beginning Balance	-3,188.00	-22,583.53	-7,163.75	8,474.11
Offering	10,734.64	12,131.28	111,537.76	90,975.12
Disbursements	<u>12,551.98</u>	<u>23,250.46</u>	<u>109,379.35</u>	<u>133,151.94</u>
Ending Balance	<u>-5,005.34</u>	<u>-33,702.71</u>	<u>-5,005.34</u>	<u>-33,702.71</u>
<u>Special Funds</u>				
Beginning Balance	145,008.77	143,556.65	157,642.51	143,259.32
Offering	7,044.00	14,987.00	28,398.65	98,931.45
Disbursements	<u>331.44</u>	<u>5,991.60</u>	<u>34,319.83</u>	<u>89,638.72</u>
Ending Balance	<u>151,721.33</u>	<u>152,552.05</u>	<u>151,721.33</u>	<u>152,552.05</u>
Total on Deposit	<u>146,715.99</u>	<u>118,849.34</u>	<u>146,715.99</u>	<u>118,849.34</u>



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POWER LINES



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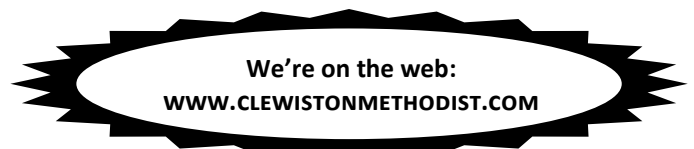
OUR VISION

TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
WHO SHARE THEIR FAITH,
GROW IN THEIR FAITH
AND LIVE OUT THEIR FAITH
THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD
AND THE COMMUNITY.

OUR MISSION

TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST
WITH EVERYONE IN CLEWISTON AND BEYOND
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

CHURCH LOCATION:
331 W. OSCEOLA AVENUE
CLEWISTON, FL 33440-3008
(863) 983-5269



SERVANT OPENINGS AT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

These teams/positions work together in prayerful harmony to see the mission of our church actively lived out to glorify Christ.

FINANCE TEAM CHAIR

The Finance Team shall oversee the stewardship of financial resources as their priority throughout the year, seeking as part of the ministry of discipleship to move members toward tithing and beyond, with an attitude of generosity.

The Finance Team shall be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the church council.*

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS TEAM CHAIR

The PPRC shall engage in biblical and theological reflection on the mission of the church, the primary task and ministries of the local church, and on the role and work of the pastor(s) and staff as they carry out their leadership responsibilities.*

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CHAIR

The church council (Ad Council), or its equivalent governing body, shall provide for planning and implementing a ministry of evangelizing and spreading scriptural holiness through nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference.*

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Each local church shall accurately maintain a permanent membership record for each baptized or professing member.* A membership secretary will oversee these processes or a team that performs these processes.

LAY LEADER

The lay leader is responsible for communications with the laity of the church and to serve as a liaison between the clergy and the members of the congregation. The lay leader is a major figure in the identification of potential leaders within the congregation and in the development and training of those future leaders.* The Lay Leader also works closely with the pastor.

Youth Ministry Leader

The Youth that attend First Methodist Church of Clewiston should be raised up and disciplined to become active followers of Jesus Christ. This servant leader will work with the PPR and Ad Council to establish and maintain a Christian spiritual formation program for our youth.

*These paragraphs represent a portion of the full description found at globalmethodist.org Global Methodist Church | Join Us | Make Disciples At the Global Methodist Church, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. Join Us.globalmethodist.org

Note: the above teams could also add team members who would like to contribute to a church, seeking to fulfill its mission.

For more information about these or other opportunities to serve contact: Scott Jones call or text at 863-673-0722 or Pastor Jeff at 863-351-9692