

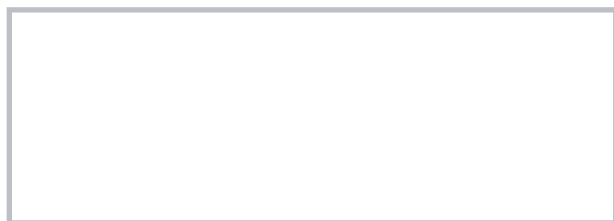
We're on the web:
WWW.FUMCCLEWISTON.COM



**FIRST
METHODIST
CHURCH**

OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS:
352 WEST ARCADE AVENUE
CLEWISTON, FL 33440-2802

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Clewiston, FL 33440
Permit No. 38



POWER  **LINES**



**FIRST
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Established 1945

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



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.

POWER  **LINES**

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON
Since 1945
A Global Methodist Church



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

NOVEMBER, 2024

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL: AT 9:45 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.

OR OUR WEBSITE WWW.FUMCCLEWISTON.COM

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor Jeff's Corner	2
First Kids/Youth	3
Birthdays/Prayer List/Anniversaries	4
WINGS/B&B/Volunteers	5
Missions/Hanging of Greens	6
B&B Believers	7
Community Lunch/Pecans/Contacts	8
Finance Report/Bank Report	9

PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER



GIVING THANKS

November is upon us church! Soon we will be Hanging the Greens - that is where the people prepare the church for the Season of Advent. And advent means we prepare for the coming of Christ!

In 2025, First Church will begin our 80th year in ministry to the community of Clewiston. What will this year hold in store for our mission and ministry at First Church? We have begun our search for a youth leader so we can share the love of Christ with young people. We continue our search for a new pastor who will joyfully lead us into a new decade of ministry. What will that season look like?

One thing is for sure and that is with God leading His people, anything is possible. And at the same time, we should be so grateful. God brought me here to The Glades over ten years ago and I have been so blessed to call you my brothers and sisters in Christ. We have witnessed people say "yes" for the first time to faith in Jesus Christ; we have celebrated the lives of people who have gone home to be with the Lord; we have married and baptized folks and received new members into membership. We have worshiped together and shared our faith with one another.

Please join Margaret and as we thank God for His many and continued blessings as residents of the sweetest town in America.

God bless you and keep you,

Pastor Jeff

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ¹⁶And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH CLEWISTON
FINANCE REPORT, OCTOBER, 2024**

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

General giving totaled \$13,805.00 for the month with an additional \$2,530.00 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 61.43% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$15,041.98 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 63% of budgeted annual expenses nine 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 are 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
R.D. Williams

**First Methodist Church of Clewiston
Bank Report
January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024**

	September		Year to Date	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
General Fund				
Beginning Balance	-8,452.44	-41,601.62	-7,163.75	8,474.11
Offering	13,805.00	10,152.10	136,738.80	115,388.12
Disbursements	15,041.98	19,056.86	139,264.47	174,368.61
Ending Balance	-9,689.42	-50,506.38	-9,689.42	-50,506.38
Special Funds				
Beginning Balance	155,639.07	148,991.06	157,642.51	143,259.32
Offering	2,530.00	3,451.66	35,138.65	110,135.44
Disbursements	788.71	1,443.29	35,400.80	102,395.33
Ending Balance	157,380.36	150,999.43	157,380.36	150,999.43
Total on Deposit	147,690.94	100,493.05	147,690.94	100,493.05



Please join a Community Thanksgiving Lunch at Clewiston High School Gymnasium on Thursday, November 21, 2024 from Noon until 2:00 pm.

The lunch is provided by CHS Public Safety Academy, other CHS clubs, and the Clewiston Elks Lodge.

Let's join them to celebrate a time for community fellowship and share a meal!

PECANS ARE HERE!! PECANS ARE HERE!!! PECANS ARE HERE!!!!

The hurricanes devastated the pecan trees in Georgia so next year there may not be a very great crop. So, now is the time to load up on this precious commodity!

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Still only \$15 per bag: | Peanut Brittle | Chocolate Peanut Brittle | Pecan Halves |
| | Cinnamon Pecans | Honey Glazed Pecans | Pecan Clusters |
| | Pistachios | Sugar-Free Chocolate Pecans | Pecan Pieces |
| | Milk Chocolate Pecans | Double Dipped Chocolate Peanuts | |

All proceeds go to Residing Hope (formerly known as United Methodist Children's Home).

Email Alan at mmpecans@gmail.com or call him at 863-677-0075 to place you orders.

The Pecan Man alias Alan Hammock

FUMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Senior Pastor	Jeff Smith	(863) 351-9692	pastorjeff@clewistonmethodist.com
Lay Leader	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Recording Secretary	Margaret Smith	(863) 599-9417	sweetmbs007@@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	LuAnne Williams	(863) 885-1134	luannewms20@hotmail.com
Staff Parish Relations	John Wellslager	(863) 228-1724	johnw@jimypittmanelectrical.com
Head Trustee	Lee Sweet	(561) 985-4220	rasweet@rocketmail.com
Financial Director	R.D. Williams	(863) 885-1121	nchokie@live.com
Financial Secretary	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Treasurer/Editor	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fumcpowerlines@gmail.com
Mission Team	Sandy Stitt	(863) 677-1789	stitttranch@gmail.com
FirstKids Team	Doreen Malbog	(863) 677-0255	dortietmal@gmail.com



Our First Kids Program had a wonderful October studying Queen Esther's story and learning about the Ten Commandments. We completed our study of Queen Esther with a celebration of Purim, the Jewish holiday celebrating the bravery of Queen Esther and the never-ending mercy of God. We also learned the Ten Commandments by creating crafts and playing interactive board games.

I am eternally grateful especially during Thanksgiving season for our great team of faithful volunteers: Kathy Garcia, Ashley Hammock, Laura and Evelyn Jones, Ninette Aker, Sarah Way, and Doreen Malbog.

First Kids have BIG PLANS for November. The children will pack shoeboxes on Sunday, November 10 and also Sunday, November 17 after the Children's Message. for the annual Operation Christmas Child and write Christmas letters to U.S. Soldiers serving overseas. Janet Way and Ninette Aker will lead these activities. We **encourage all First Kid children to join** in these impactful ministry outreaches (ages k-12).

Also, please pray for our children and their parents as they learn to follow his voice and see our God's powerful merciful hand in history and future of our world.

Doreen Malbog



ON-GOING PRAYERS

Diane Denault
Family of Lovvorn Dixon
Mark Primmer

HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

Matt Beatty
Isabelle Belton
Janice Forbes
Brenda Garvey
Brad Garrett
Garry Hall
Elizabeth Johnstone
Becky Moore
Becky Starks
Jonathan Spickard
Johnnie Wheeler

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JEFF WITH
UPDATES CONCERNING PEOPLE ON THE
PRAYER LIST AT (863) 661-6936

E-MAIL TO PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM



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



Ardis Hammock	Nov. 3
Cathy Rodriguez	Nov. 4
Sharon Jones	Nov. 13
Sue Williams	Nov. 17
Jim Way	Nov. 18
David Perry	Nov. 22
Joe Perry	Nov. 22



Carol & Harlan Griggs	Nov. 4
Ashley & Robert Hammock	Nov. 11
Katie & James McWhorter	Nov. 12
Sarah & Pedro Stinson	Nov. 17

Matthew 19:6
*So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
Therefore, what God has joined together,
let no one separate.*



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
Copyright: PowerLines has no copyright. When we print copyrighted material, we quote the source that gave us permission.
When you reprint anything from PowerLines, out of courtesy, please send us a copy by mail to:
First Methodist Church of Clewiston, 352 W. Arcade Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440



WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

These four words, when asked to us collectively, are thought provoking, and I think we feel confident in our purpose in that as a church family we are assured that FMCC and our fellow members are committed in worshipping together, supporting all of our ministries, both locally and abroad and most importantly spreading and introducing people to the great news of Jesus.

Now don't get me wrong, that's a beautiful purpose, but if we exchange just one word in that question, deeper reflection and reasoning is sometimes warranted within ourselves. "What is my purpose?" becomes more personal, a more intimate question that many Christians not only have asked themselves, but may struggle with as they read this article today. Do you wonder if you have the talents, personality or gifts needed to make a difference where you feel led to serve in the church, community or even amongst family and friends? Is something telling you that you need to do something, something that is out of your character and comfort zone? A wise man told me 25 years ago something I'll never forget when he said, "If something is telling you to do something, it's not just something." Wow, when I re-read those two sentences there's a lot of some-things there, but I'm not changing it, our great something is at times, our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit within us. I struggled with those 4 words in my mind mightily, what is the purpose of a middle-aged blind man who is quiet, reserved and now a little timid to speak out or offer my opinion in many situations, both private and public? What could I do to serve a purpose for not just my church, but for our community, friends, family and most importantly Jesus?

A couple of weeks ago, on October 21, 2024, marked 20 years of blindness for me, a third of my life in darkness in a fast paced, visual world. While my physical eyesight was extinguished that fateful October day in 2004, my eyes were opened to so much more than the blessing of sight gives us all. God, through LJ Pearce, provided me the strength to reach beyond, I mean way beyond my comfort zone and portions of my purpose began to be revealed to me in my heart. LJ asked me to join the choir, and I somehow said yes immediately. She asked me to sing solos, and before I knew it I again said sure. Soon a Community Christmas Cantata was formed, again I joined, singing solos when asked. LJ invited me to Toastmasters, a public speaking club, I again joined and faced, what is terrifying to many in that of public speaking. A little over 9 years ago, I shared an idea with LJ I had about a laid back kind of small group Bible study, and in October of 2015 the B&B group began meeting.

The B&B Believers group has met in over a dozen residences over the last 9 years and has impacted many lives, attracting a diversity of Believers spanning in age from the 20's to the 80's, from 6 different churches, as well as those from no church at all. Of course it would be impossible for me to tell you none of this would have happened if my physical eyesight had never been altered, but I truly believe our precious gift of sight can sometimes create stumbling blocks that trip us up with preconceived thoughts of a situation or circumstance, often allowing doubt to overtake and block that special certain something that we can't get out of our minds. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are many times that great something, don't dismiss it without praying about it, it just might be your purpose waiting to be shared with the world.

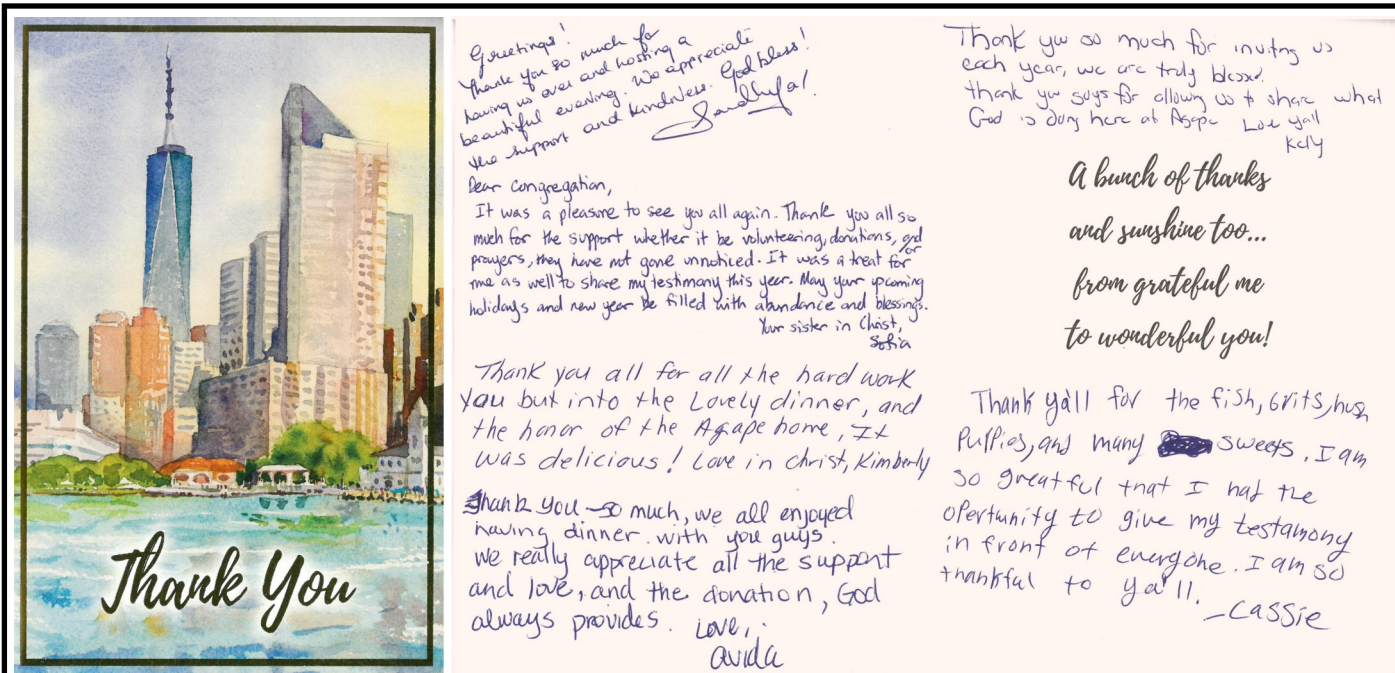
The B&B Believers cordially invite you to join us for a very special B&B Believer gathering to honor and support Kristine Petersen and the wonderful young people with the Clewiston High School Florida Public Safety Academy on November 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Life Enrichment Center here at First Methodist Clewiston. Desserts and finger foods will be served. Kristine heard that great something within her many years ago and has lived out that portion of her purpose, transforming countless young lives in our community for the betterment of society. Come join us to support the group who has served all of us around our community for years. If you can't make it on the 11th and want to donate to the FPSA on November 11, please reach out to myself or any of the B&B group.

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.

Blessings,

John Wellslager





The above Thank You card is from the ladies at the Agape Home in Moore Haven thanking us for the wonderful dinner and fellowship they received at the Wednesday, October 2 dinner.

Like football and hunting, the season for Mission Dinners is now open!

On October 2, FMCC hosted a fish fry for the ladies from the Agape Home in Moore Haven (see above thank you card). Touching testimonies were shared and our church family generously raised over \$1,000 which was added to the budgeted amount of \$1000. Praise God!

Please join us for "Breakfast for Dinner" on Wednesday, November 6. Our guest speaker representing St. Matthew's House will be Melissa Davenport. Melissa's knowledge of this very effective ministry and her passion for the men and women blessed by SMH is amazing. You won't want to miss this wonderful evening of fellowship and blessing.

Sandy Stitt



The Hanging of the Greens will be Saturday, November 30 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.

This is when we prepare our church for the Advent Season and ask family's to light the advent candles beginning on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent.

Come on out and join in on this festive occasion!

W.I.N.G.S. (Women in God's Service) had a great meeting in October. We packed treat bags and made Thanksgiving placemats for Clewiston Nursing and Rehab Center.

We will meet again on Monday, November 18 at 6:30 pm in the Life Enrichment Center. This time we will be writing notes inside of Christmas cards for soldiers away from home.

The W.I.N.G.S. ladies will also be taking nursing home tags back to their home church for Christmas gifts. The "Christmas Present Board" will be put in the back of our Sanctuary after our meeting so all our FMC members can donate presents, also.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, November 6: Mission sponsored dinner for St. Matthew's House serving breakfast for dinner
- Sunday, November 10: Kids pack Christmas shoeboxes
- Monday, November 11: B&B Believers, LEC at 6:00, honoring CHS Public Service Academy
- Wednesday, November 13: Clewiston High School serving Baked Ziti, salad, garlic bread
- Sunday, November 17: Kids pack Christmas shoeboxes
- Monday, November 18: WINGS meeting, 6:30 pm in LEC
- Wednesday, November 20: Making pies in our kitchen
- Thursday, November 21: Community Dinner at Clewiston High School, noon till 2:00 pm
- Thursday, November 28: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- Saturday, November 30: Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary

******B&B BELIEVERS SPECIAL EVENING OF SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY******

Don't miss this special event to support the Clewiston High School Florida Public Safety Academy who are led by Kristine Petersen, a group of young people who have supported and been involved in our community, offering assistance at countless events each and every year.

The B&B Believers study group invites everyone to this special evening where we will offer a monetary donation to the FPSA group to assist in the needs of their organization. We will share a message, get to meet some of the FPSA group this year, fellowship and enjoy desserts/finger foods together. Come help us support this wonderful group that we are blessed to have in our community, on November 11, 2024 from 6:00 pm till 7:30 pm in the LEC.

Volunteers Needed!



First Methodist will be making 24 pies for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner to be held at the Clewiston High School gymnasium on Thursday, November 21 from Noon to 2:00 pm. (See page 8 for lunch details) We need VOLUNTEERS to help make the pies on Wednesday, November 20, starting at 8:30 am. Let Ardis know if you can participate.