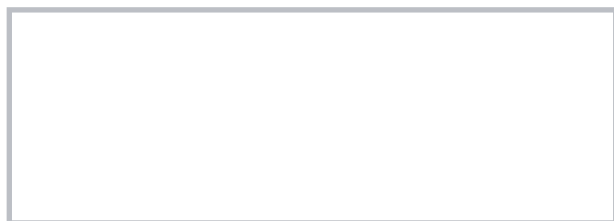


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POWER LINES

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON
Since 1945
A Global Methodist Church



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



2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Isaiah 43:18-19 - "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Revelation 21:5 - And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

POWER LINES



Established 1945

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



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



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.

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.CHURCHONTHETOUCH.ORG.

OR OUR WEBSITE WWW.FUMCCLEWISTON.COM

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PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER



THRIVE IN 2025

New Year's greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, dear brothers and sisters.

As we enter our 80th year of Christian ministry in The Glades, we will start this New Year off with a bang. The singing family, The Hyssongs, will be with us on Saturday evening, January 18th at 6:00 pm in the Life Enrichment Center

Shortly thereafter, we will hold The Tim Tebow Foundation's **Night To Shine**. This is a prom-themed night for our precious special needs community held from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm, also in our LEC. We will need many volunteers to make this a special night, so sign up at our Sunday service to help us be a blessing to others.

We will also hold a new members class in January and a Celebration of Life service for Isabelle Belton on February 15th with the time TBD. As you can see, 2025 is already off to a fast pace.

In the midst of the busyness of life, please make sure to take time to recharge your batteries. Jesus led in the example of resting as we read in scripture. After a time of ministry **Luke 4** shares; **42** At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place.

In teaching, I find that students rarely have down time in their busy schedules. They often take their lead from their parents, so if you don't share how important rest is, chances are they are not resting much either. Be an example. And modeling your life after Christ's life, is the best example you can follow.

To thrive in 2025, follow Jesus, explore the scriptures, live as an on-fire disciple and take rests when you need it.

God bless you and keep you,

Pastor Jeff



**First Methodist Church Clewiston
Finance Report—December, 2024**

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

General giving totaled \$13,455.95 for the month with an additional \$8,550.89 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 71.57% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$12,319.36 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 71% of budgeted annual expenses for eleven months through the year.

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 November 30, 2024

	November		Year to Date	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>General Fund</u>				
Beginning Balance	-8,758.81	-54,884.15	-7,163.75	8,474.11
Offering	13,455.95	25,658.18	164,464.89	157,098.10
Disbursements	<u>12,319.36</u>	<u>17,493.97</u>	<u>164,923.36</u>	<u>212,292.15</u>
Ending Balance	<u>-7,622.22</u>	<u>-46,719.94</u>	<u>-7,622.22</u>	<u>-46,719.94</u>
<u>Special Funds</u>				
Beginning Balance	160,099.48	175,843.32	157,642.51	143,259.32
Offering	8,550.89	3,515.00	47,399.54	138,524.33
Disbursements	<u>2,483.37</u>	<u>6,932.49</u>	<u>38,875.05</u>	<u>109,357.82</u>
Ending Balance	<u>166,167.00</u>	<u>172,425.83</u>	<u>166,167.00</u>	<u>172,425.83</u>
Total on Deposit	<u>158,544.78</u>	<u>125,705.89</u>	<u>158,544.78</u>	<u>125,705.89</u>



In December, First Kids enjoyed learning the Christmas story's events through the visits of God's most majestic messengers —Angels.

In 2025, we will learn about Jesus' supernatural miracles and how these miracles help us know more about his character. We will read about Jesus walking on water, healing a sick woman, restoring a demon-possessed man and raising Lazarus from the dead.

Our memory scripture for the month is

"Jesus replied, 'What is impossible with man is possible with God.'" Luke 18:27

Come join us as we celebrate the new year with learning more knowledge about our GREAT GOD!

Our great team of volunteers this month included: Ashley and Robert Hammock, Kathy Garcia, Laura and Evelyn Jones, Jane Robison, Ninette Aker and Sarah Way. I so appreciate their dedication and sacrifice during this most hectic time of the year.

Please pray for our children, volunteers 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



**HANGING OF THE GREENS DONE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30.
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED!**

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
Facebook News	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
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FirstKids Team	Doreen Malbog	(863) 677-0255	dortietmal@gmail.com



"He replied, 'What is impossible for people is possible with God.'" Luke 18:27 (NLT)





ON-GOING PRAYERS

Family of Brad Garrett
 Pastor John Hicks
 Carol Griggs
 Sharon Wilson

HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

Matt Beatty
 Janice Forbes
 Brenda Garvey
 Beth Giddens
 Garry Hall
 Elizabeth Johnstone
 Becky Moore
 Paul Smith
 Becky Starks
 Johnnie Wheeler

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

E-MAIL TO PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM



Heather Vallejo	Jan. 5
John Wellslager	Jan. 6
Sharon Wilson	Jan. 9
Mitch Thomas	Jan. 14
Wendy Costa	Jan. 14
Suzette DuPlooy	Jan. 19
Pam Kelley	Jan. 24
Mary Thomas	Jan. 26



No Anniversaries
 In January



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

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BE HIS BLESSING IN 2025

The B&B Believers met once again on December 9th at Rene and Doreen Malbog's house for another wonderful evening of fellowship, fun and even a little bit of Christmas trivia. Seventeen Believers joined together as Pastor John Hicks brought us a message on what Christmas is really about, sharing the love of Jesus with others and being a blessing to those around us, also challenging all of us with a list of Christmas trivia questions that stumped most of us.

After scratching our heads and answering a few of the tricky questions, we were all shuttled back in time, with the excited anticipation of children. John and his faithful elf, Diannie Armstrong, distributed each of us a wrapped gift and we began a fun game with dice trading gifts back and forth with laughter and suspense, before finally opening the gift that eventually landed on our lap. Pastor John shared that being a blessing to someone by giving a gift, no matter what that gift may be, shows the love of Jesus and can bring a smile to someone's face, brighten their day and actually change their hearts. He then had all of us choose another wrapped gift from the many that were left, and instructed us to be a blessing to someone by giving the gift as Christmas neared.

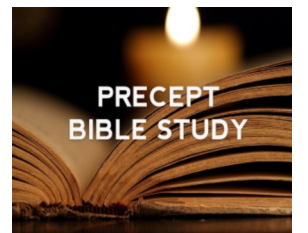
What a wonderful lesson he shared with us all, in that we are all here to share the good news and love of Jesus during the Christmas season and each of us did just that as we found someone to bless with our gift. As I've reflected on our time together on December 9th, I can't help to recollect witnessing a friend of mine being a blessing on a random Thursday afternoon 4 or 5 years ago. We had lunch together, and as we were leaving the restaurant and walking down the sidewalk, he stopped and addressed someone off to our right. "I really appreciate the wonderful job you are doing" he said to the landscape worker, "you are doing a great job and making a difference for the good. Thank you." That 15 second exchange is galvanized in my memory, such a simple gift, yet free for us to give if we just slow down to recognize those opportunities to be that blessing. We can be a blessing for Him in 2025 by simply sharing the love of Jesus with others, family, friends, co-workers and yes, even strangers just like my friend did a handful of years ago. Be a blessing to those around us, that's what Jesus wants us to do.

The next B&B Believers small group gathering will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Chris and John will host the January study, so consider joining us and giving B&B a try in 2025. 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

Our next Precepts Bible Study starts on Thursday, February 20 and lasts for 9 weeks. We will be studying the book of Mark. Classes are at 4:00 pm with Gail Williams as Leader and at 6:30 pm with Scott Jones as Leader.

If you are interested, please contact Scott Jones to enroll and get our study guide. Cost is only \$30.



Did you know that every month that has five Sundays, you have an opportunity to help the children at Residing Hope, the Methodist Children's Home? No matter how large or small the offering, every cent goes to help a child at their facility in north Florida. All you have to do is make a note on your check or envelope and your monies will go directly to the Residing Hope.

Remember, your gift can make an impact on those children's lives.



I just want to thank all those who helped prepare, serve and clean up at the dinner on Wednesday, December 4. We had a delicious Cuban meal prepared by Margaret Smith and Sherry Carlson of succulent pork and delicious black beans! Thank you to Dolly Burke for the wonderful Tres Leches cakes and Cuban coconut candy and also for Terry Garcia's yucca and flan that were so delicious. And thanks to Rene Malbog for handling the rice cooker! (I think we have it figured out now!)



PASTOR RANDEL
& WIFE

And, thank you to all of you who are so faithful in coming to help get the meals on the table and those who scrub pots and carry out the trash. We have an awesome Mission Team!

By the way, a big thank you to all the people that show up to enjoy the meal, too. We were able to raise \$1,005 to send to our sister church in Cuba, Pina Resurrection Church. Praise God!

Sandy Stitt



The Hyssongs are coming to perform for us on Saturday, January 18 at 6:00 pm in the Life Enrichment Center!

Please let all your friends know about this wonderful occasion and invite them to come enjoy this great performance! The event is free but a love offering will be taken.



We would love to fill two positions currently held by LuAnne Williams. They are MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY and KITCHEN MANAGER.

Please see Luanne or Pastor Jeff to know more about these vital positions!

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I'd like to invite you to our upcoming Administrative Council Meeting. The Council meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Trinity Room of the LEC. We try to keep our meeting time to an hour or 1-1/2 hours max. It is here that you can come and just listen or voice any concern, comment, or suggestion you may have. It also is a way for you to be "in the know" as to what the other church committees are doing.

We'll be meeting on Tuesday, January 21st at 6 pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, text, or email me. Everyone is welcome!

Shelley Davidson, Administrative Council Chair



Our W.I.N.G.S. group is meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church located at 810 Cedar Street on Monday, January 27 at 6:30 pm for an evening of fun and games! As usual, they will have some yummy treats for us.

We were also able to collect 120 Christmas gift bags for the Clewiston Nursing Home residents which were delivered the week of December 16. First Methodist also donated over 24 lap blankets, fuzzy non-skid socks for warmth, word search puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, sewing cards and various other items to keep them entertained. The Lutheran Church also donated several dozen tee shirts to them.

A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers that helped finish packing the bags, sorting and getting them ready for the Nursing Home to pick up.

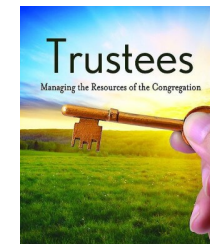
Janet Way

As we wrap up this year, we will tying up a few loose ends.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would also like to thank those who have helped throughout the year with Special donations and Special projects. I really appreciate the help and resources.

The electrical panel project will hopefully be starting up soon and we are still trying to raise the funds to take care of this. Thanks again for all of the help and support.

Lee Sweet



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| Wed. | Jan. 1 | HAPPY NEW YEAR! |
| Wed. | Jan. 8 | Clewiston High School, serving "Great Irish Potato Bake" |
| Sat. | Jan. 11 | Undecorate Church of Christmas items, 9:30 am |
| Mon. | Jan. 13 | B&B Meeting, John Wellslager's home, 6:00 pm |
| Tues. | Jan. 14 | Janet's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Trinity Room |
| Wed. | Jan. 15 | Mission Team, serving pulled pork sandwiches |
| Sat. | Jan. 18 | The Hyssongs in Concert in the LEC, 6:00 pm, love offering |
| Tues. | Jan. 21 | Administrative Council Meeting, 6:00 pm, Trinity Room |
| Sat. | Jan. 25 | New Members Class, 10:00 pm |
| Sun. | Jan. 26 | New Members Join |
| Mon. | Jan. 27 | W.I.N.G.S. meet at Lutheran Church, 6:30 pm |
| Tues. | Jan. 28 | Janet's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Trinity Room |
| Thurs. | Feb. 20 | Precepts classes start |