

# POWER LINES

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON**  
 Since 1945  
 A Global Methodist Church

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



**Proverbs 23:15**: My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed.

**Ezekiel 36:26**: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

**Proverbs 4:23**: Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

**Proverbs 27:19**: As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.

**Jeremiah 17:9**: The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

**Psalms 51:10**: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**Psalms 37:4**: May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

## 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](http://WWW.CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG).

OR OUR WEBSITE [WWW.FUMCCLEWISTON.COM](http://WWW.FUMCCLEWISTON.COM)

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**PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER**



**NIGHT TO SHINE**

On a special Friday Night in February, our Life Enrichment Center will be transformed into a prom night destination for our special needs honored guests! I can't wait for them to arrive.

Every year I hear from those who volunteer, "when is **Night to Shine** ?" It would seem they can't wait to see our honored guests either. We have volunteers who register folks; serve food; and cheer our honored guests on as they take a ride in the limo.

Other volunteers help with hair, make-up or shoeshines and others are dance partners for our honored guests. One thing is for sure, **Night to Shine** is a night to remember for everyone involved!

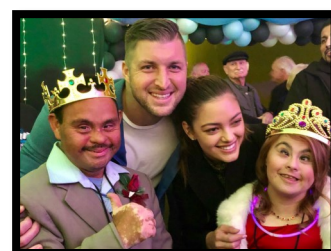
Our sponsors seem to love **Night to Shine** too. They may donate time, finances, food, or encouragement as they find out about this special evening. One other very important element of **NTS** is the spiritual aspect that includes sharing the love of Jesus; sharing prayers and sharing our love with one another that's founded in the Word of God.

Please join us in prayer as we hold a very special evening celebration on Friday, February 7th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm called **Night to Shine**.

And to God be the glory for what He will do on that incredible night!

God loves you and so do I,

*Pastor Jeff*





In January, First Kids enjoyed learning about Jesus' supernatural miracles and how these miracles help us know more about his character. We read about Jesus walking on water, healing a sick woman, and raising Lazarus from the dead.

Our memory scripture for January was "Jesus replied, 'What is impossible with man is possible with God.'" **Luke 18:27**

In February, we will be exploring...

How Jesus was there when the world was created!

How the Old Testament stories point to Jesus.

How God invites us into His Kingdom.

How God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit.

Our memory scripture in February is "In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." **John 1:1**

Come join us as we to learn more about our GREAT GOD!

Our great team of volunteers this month included: Cathy Rodriguez, Laura and Evelyn Jones, Jane Robinson, Ninette Aker, and Sarah Way. I so appreciate their dedication to servicing our kids.

**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*





**ON-GOING PRAYERS**

Pastor John Hicks  
Ada Miller  
Kemely Perez

**HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY**

Matt Beatty  
Frances Cross  
Janice Forbes  
Brenda Garvey  
Beth Giddens  
Garry Hall  
Elizabeth Johnstone  
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](mailto:PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM)



Robert Hammock, Jr.	Feb. 4
Ashley Harn	Feb. 7
Alberto Hernandez	Feb. 7
Aylee Harn	Feb. 10
Carol Griggs	Feb. 12
Ronnie Robison	Feb. 17
Mark Deitz	Feb. 19
Sandy Stitt	Feb. 21
Lee Sweet, II	Feb. 21
Diannie Armstrong	Feb. 25



Wendy & Joe Costa  
February 17

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

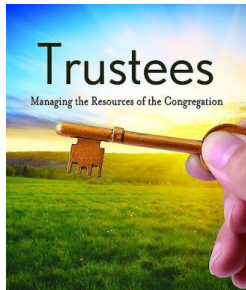
REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND WORSHIP  
IN PERSON OR WOULD LIKE TO WATCH  
WORSHIP SERVICES YOU MISSED, VISIT  
**CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG**

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.  
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We had a wonderful WINGS meeting at Faith Lutheran Church on Monday, January 27. There were ladies from three different Church denominations in attendance. As usual, Diane Denault and Johanna Huss made some delicious desserts for us and there were plenty of jig saw puzzles. If you want some for yourself, just let Johanna know as she has plenty to share.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 10 in our Trinity Room at 6:30 pm. We will be making Valentine Day cards for the residents at Clewiston Nursing Home. It's a very creative evening, so make sure you join us. All women are welcome. Please remember that WINGS means Women IN God's Service and that's what we hope to represent.

*Janet Way*



I am happy to let everyone know that the electrical panel switch-out project has gotten underway. We do not anticipate it taking but three to four days to complete. I would like to thank those who made special contributions to this project.

I'd also like to report that all four of the annual fire inspections we have to do are all completed and passed. We were also asked to install a handrail in the women's restroom and I'd like report that, that has been taken care of.

Thanks for all of the continued support.

*Lee Sweet*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Mon. Feb. 3 B&B Believers, Robison home, 6:00 pm
- Wed. Feb. 5 Mission Team Dinner, 6:00 pm, for the Groves, serving grilled chicken, rice, green beans, yeast rolls, desserts
- Fri. Feb. 7 **NIGHT TO SHINE**
- Mon. Feb. 10 W.I.N.G.S. meeting, Trinity Room, 6:30 pm
- Tues. Feb. 11 Janet's Bible Study, 10:30 am, Trinity Room
- Wed. Feb. 12 CHS, Public Service Academy Dinner, serving baked chicken, red potatoes, green beans
- Sat. Feb. 15 Isabelle Belton Celebration of Life, 11:00 am, LEC
- Tues. Feb. 18 Admin. Council Mtg., 6:00 pm, Trinity Room
- Wed. Feb. 19 Fundraiser dinner for Teachers Luncheon, 6:00 LEC
- Thurs. Feb. 20 Precepts classes start, 4:00 pm or 6:30 pm, Trinity Room
- Tues. Feb. 25 Janet's Bible Study, 10:30 am, Trinity Room
- Tues. Feb. 25 GriefShare classes begin, 6:30 pm, Trinity Room
- Thurs. Feb. 27 Precepts classes, Trinity Room
- June 2-5 Vacation Bible School



Many thanks to all who helped make our dinner for Cross Training Ministries such a success. We served well over 70 dinners, and raised \$2,345 for them. Their testimonies and report on progress recovering from hurricane Milton damage was great. The community has really stepped up to helping this very worthy ministry. They were very appreciative for our efforts.

We have two opportunities to be a blessing in February! Dinner for the Groves New Life Missions in Zambia on Wednesday, February 5, and a luncheon for the family of our beloved Isabelle Belton on Saturday, February 15.

Instead of coming down for the dinner, the Groves will come Sunday, February 9 and speak in Church this year. That will allow more people to hear their message, and allow us to present them with the money we raise at the dinner. The menu for Wednesday, February 5 will be: grilled chicken, yellow rice, green beans, yeast rolls and desserts.

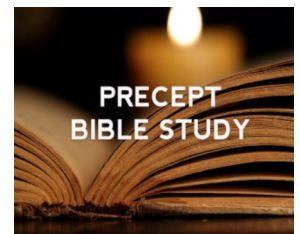
For Isabelle's Celebration of Life Reception, the treats will include: Pimiento Cheese Sandwiches, Deviled Eggs, Pasta Salad, Fruit Plates, Veggie Plates, Chips, Desserts & monetary donations to purchase Chicken Wings and Sub Sandwiches.

We will also need volunteers to decorate tables on Friday, help in the kitchen on Saturday and people to clean up. Please consider how you can help for this meal, and invite others to help out too!

*Sandy Stitt*

The 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.



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, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, text, or email me. Everyone is welcome!

*Shelley Davidson*  
Administrative Council Chairperson



### SEEING IS BELIEVING

The B&B Believers Bible study group met once again to kick off 2025 on Monday, January 13 at Chris and John Wellslager's house. The tremendous New Year's gathering of 18 Believers enjoyed an evening of Christian fellowship, food and a heart felt message brought to us by Nancy Hatton of God using her as a vessel of salvation for an unlikely recipient of Jesus' forgiveness of sins and assurance of eternal life for those who truly believe He is our risen Savior.

Nancy's message shared a story of God through a spiritual vision of Jesus inviting a Jewish family member home and to salvation and belief in his risen Savior. Much like Thomas' doubting mindset in the Gospel of **John 24:20-29**, at times, our eyes and human nature to want to see physical proof of just about all things in our lives prior to submitting to ourselves that what we're seeing is actually happening or true can sometimes unfortunately hamper our faith eyes. In most cases, our Christian walk is entered into with some semblance of God given physical vision, and the world we experience all of our lives is beautifully taken in through those perfectly created windows.

I recall some of my first memories of attending a church, probably at the age of 8 or 10, at the Salem Methodist Church in Maryland where my brother Steve and I entered the Sunday School classroom alongside quite a few other kids from the area. Messages and activities, much like Mary brings to the children of our congregation each Sunday, were shared and experienced by the dozen or so kids before the leader would ask us to pray. "Close your eyes and bow your heads", was introduced right from the beginning by that Sunday School leader, a request which has been echoed in my mind throughout the over half a century since this wide blue eyed little boy heard those words for the very first time. Pulling the blinds down over our God given windows when we pray to our God shuts out the potential distractions, interruptions and problems our world may introduce as we seek our mind and hearts connection with our Lord.

In order to remain focused with 20/20 faith vision, we're tasked to limit our preconceived thoughts and conclusions we may hastily deduce via the input of our physical eyes, taking the time to close our eyes as we were taught as kids and invite the Holy Spirit to help us see how Jesus sees what we've just physically witnessed. Faith is invisible, so as a visual society grasping the concept of believing in something we can't see can be challenging, **Hebrews 11:1**, especially during times of struggle or adversity in our lives, but when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior our faith eyes are instantly opened.

**2 Corinthians 5:7** tells us, "We live by faith, not by sight." And as the connection of that absolute truth enters our hearts to live forever, the true vision of our belief becomes crystal clear. The next time you put in a new set of contacts, grab your glasses or reach for those cheaters, take a moment and be sure your faith vision is allowing you to see the world and believe through eyes of faith.

The next B&B Believers small group gathering will be held on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Ronnie and Jane Robison's house. If you are looking for a fun, relaxed atmosphere to learn about Jesus and fellowship with other Believers, B&B might be for you. Invite a friend to give B&B a try and join us in 2025. 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](mailto:jwellslager@embarqmail.com).

*John Wellslager*



The Hyssongs were in our LEC on Saturday, January 18 and did a really great performance. Besides all their great singing, the guys also play the trumpet, trombone and piano...such a talented group of gospel performers!



The weekly Grief Share Support Group is starting up another session on Tuesday, February 25 that will continue through Tuesday, May 20. If you know someone who may need help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend this may be the place for them.

For more information, contact Mary Thomas locally at [mnct1953@gmail.com](mailto:mnct1953@gmail.com), phone (863) 677-0349 or register at [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup).

**FMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Senior Pastor	Jeffrey Smith	(863) 351-9692	<a href="mailto:pastorjeff@clewistonmethodist.com">pastorjeff@clewistonmethodist.com</a>
Lay Leader	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	<a href="mailto:sjones@johnsonprewitt.com">sjones@johnsonprewitt.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Margaret Smith	(863) 599-9417	<a href="mailto:sweetmbs007@gmail.com">sweetmbs007@gmail.com</a>
Membership Secretary	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	<a href="mailto:sjones@johnsonprewitt.com">sjones@johnsonprewitt.com</a>
Staff Parish Relations	Steve Stiles	(863) 983-8432	<a href="mailto:sbthstiles@embarqmail.com">sbthstiles@embarqmail.com</a>
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PowerLines Editor	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	<a href="mailto:fmcpowerlines@gmail.com">fmcpowerlines@gmail.com</a>
Mission Team	Sandy Stitt	(863) 677-1789	<a href="mailto:stitttranch@gmail.com">stitttranch@gmail.com</a>
FirstKids Team	Doreen Malbog	(863) 677-0255	<a href="mailto:dortietmal@gmail.com">dortietmal@gmail.com</a>
Library	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	<a href="mailto:sjones@johnsonprewitt.com">sjones@johnsonprewitt.com</a>



**First Methodist Church Clewiston  
Finance Report, January 2025**

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

General giving totaled \$ 42,124.25 the month with an additional \$17,163.00 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 89.9% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$ 26,034.75 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 82% of budgeted annual expenses for the entire year.

The generosity of the members of the congregation has brought our budget into a small surplus for the year. Many thanks to each of you for your strong support of our church’s mission.

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 December 31, 2024**

	December		Year to Date	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>				
Beginning Balance	-7,622.22	-46,719.94	-7,163.75	8,474.11
Offering	42,124.25	59,684.46	206,589.14	216,782.56
Disbursements	26,034.75	20,128.27	190,958.11	232,420.42
Ending Balance	8,467.28	-7,163.75	8,467.28	-7,163.75
<b><u>Special Funds</u></b>				
Beginning Balance	166,167.00	172,425.83	157,642.51	143,259.32
Offering	17,163.00	9,514.88	64,562.54	148,039.21
Disbursements	4,465.01	24,298.20	43,340.06	133,656.02
Ending Balance	178,864.99	157,642.51	178,864.99	157,642.51
<b>Total on Deposit</b>	<b>187,332.27</b>	<b>150,478.76</b>	<b>187,332.27</b>	<b>150,478.76</b>

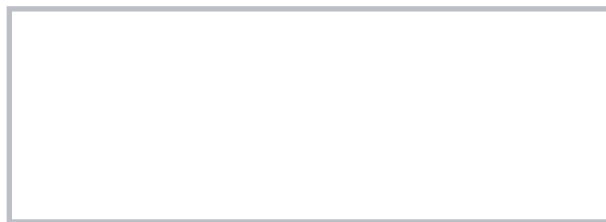
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# POWER LINES



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.