

# POWER LINES

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

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

April  
 2025



**Matthew 28:6:** "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

**John 11:25-26:** "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'"

**1 Peter 1:3:** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

**Romans 6:4:** "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

**Luke 24:5-6:** "And as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!'"

## 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**



**REAL RESURRECTION**

The Power of God. We see it everyday, but do we recognize it?

When the sun rises and the clouds come together to bring rain or snow; or you see the birth of another beautiful child; do we laud the God of all creation? We should praise His Holy name.

In **Luke 19**, on what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem to the cheers of the people and the Pharisees told Jesus to rebuke his disciples for celebrating his arrival. "I tell you," [Jesus] replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." All of creation recognizes the King of Creation.

On the third day after they crucified our Lord, the world was put on notice that God is The Almighty and the real resurrection of His Son, Jesus the Christ, was complete. Jesus overcame crucifixion, death, and taking the sins of the world upon His shoulders. This was a real resurrection and that is of significant meaning for you and me.

We have the promise of an eternal life; a heavenly home; and a new life that begins the moment we say yes to Jesus as our Lord. This Easter, share the good news about this real resurrection with others and invite them to experience church for themselves so they can know what real resurrection looks like from the stories about Jesus and what resurrection can mean for their life too!

God bless you.

He Has Risen!

He Has Risen...Indeed!

*Pastor Jeff*





In March, we learned that God is always worthy of our worship! And that our worship is only for our God, not other people. Our lessons included events with John the Baptist and Jesus' first miracles.

In April, we will learn about Jesus' final days on earth and his death on the cross. We will also celebrate Jesus' resurrection with an Easter egg hunt, games and treats on Easter morning. See you there.

Our memory scripture for this month is "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die." **John 11:25-26**. Come join us as we to learn more about our marvelous savior, Jesus!

Our great team of volunteers included: Cathy Rodriguez, Laura and Evelyn Jones, Ashley Hammock, 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 and worship our Risen Savior, Jesus.

*Doreen Malbog*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
MONDAY, JUNE 2 THRU THURSDAY, JUNE 5  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Youth Group has already had several meetings. We have a couple of youth attending the meeting every Sunday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. I continue to encourage parents, and the entire community, to promote the Youth Group.

Please invite any youth to come and join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship in Christ. We always have a moment for prayer with the teens and fun activities in the LEC building.

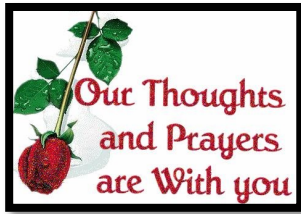
We would love for any youth from the ages of 12 to 18 attending school to come and join us every Sunday. Feel free to contact me for information at [virgilio01@msn.com](mailto:virgilio01@msn.com), or any suggestions you would like to give to the youth minister.

Message to all families **Psalm 20:4** A prayer for a king says. "May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans". Many Blessings to the entire church community.

..

*Mr. C (Virgilio Ogando)*

Youth Minister



**ON-GOING PRAYERS**

David Collins  
Beverly Upthegrove

**HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY**

Matt Beatty  
Frances Cross  
Janice Forbes  
Brenda Garvey  
Beth Giddens  
Garry Hall  
Pastor John Hicks  
Ada Miller  
Kemely Perez  
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)



Alan Hammock, Sr.	April 1
Debby Gwyn	April 3
Jonathan Hatton	April 6
Ninette Aker	April 7
Case Hammock	April 10
Leslie Jones	April 11
Rene Malbog	April 15
Tara Belcher	April 21
Mike Crooks	April 22
Patrick Lay	April 24
Wayne Jones	April 26
Derek DuPlooy	April 27
Joe Costa	April 30



Doreen & Rene Malbog  
April 4

Miranda & Ashley Harn  
April 18

**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 great time at our March W.I.N.G.S. meeting in the Trinity Room on Monday, March 24. The ladies made Easter bags for the Clewiston Nursing & Rehabilitation Home.

We will not meet again until October so have a wonderful summer!

Prayers go out to all our northern W.I.N.G.S. members for a safe trip home.

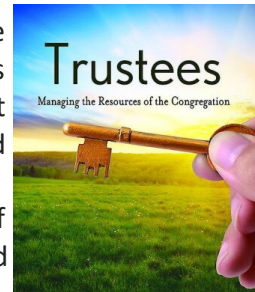
*Janet Way*

I'd like to report this month that we have been doing some minor repairs at the parsonage. We have installed brand new Smart Key door locks on all of the doors and purchased a new washing machine. We also had Davidson's Plumbing come out and repair some minor toilet issues and replace the kitchen faucet. We also repaired one of the screens on the porch that had come loose.

Also some of you may have noticed the new sod around the west side entrance of the Sanctuary that was donated by Star Farms Corp. Thank you to Mrs. Forbes and Mrs Stitt for helping out with this project.

We also currently have some plumbing work being completed at the W.C. Owen rental. If anyone would like to help out with any special projects please feel free to reach out. Thank you all for the support.

*Lee Sweet*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues. April 1	Grief Share, 6:30 pm
Wed. April 2	Confirmation Class, 4:00 pm
Wed. April 2	Mission Dinner, 6:00 pm,
Thurs. April 3	Precepts at 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Mon. April 7	B&B Believers, 6:00 pm
Tues. April 8	Grief Share, 6:30 pm
Wed. April 9	Confirmation Class, 4:00 pm
Wed. April 9	Clewiston High School, dinner at 6:00 pm
Thurs. April 10	Precepts at 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Fri. April 11	Secret Church at 7:00 pm, Trinity Room and LEC
Tues. April 15	Administrative Council Meeting, 6:00 pm, Trinity Room
Tues. April 15	Grief Share, 6:30 pm
Wed. April 16	Confirmation Class at 4:00 pm
Thurs. April 17	Precepts at 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Sun. April 20	EASTER
Tues. April 22	Grief Share at 6:30 pm
Wed. April 23	Confirmation Class at 4:00 pm
Sun. April 27	Mike Crooks 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration in LEC, after service
Tues. April 29	Grief Share at 6:30 pm
Wed. April 30	Confirmation Class at 4:00 pm
June 2-5	Vacation Bible School

The Mission Team served Ninette's delicious Baked Spaghetti on March 5th and we raised an extra \$715 for our HOOI Mission work in the Dominican Republic. That was added to the budget of \$1,200 and mailed shortly afterward.



Our last dinner for the winter/spring season will be Wednesday, April 2nd. "Guest Chef", Harlan Griggs, will fix his Famous Grilled Pork Loin with Pineapple Slices! We will add black beans & rice, green beans, Cuban bread and our wonderful desserts. Proceeds will go to benefit Wycliffe Bible Translators. We are hoping Mel & Pat Edmiston will be able to join us and give us an update.

Please join us and bring friends and/or family for good fellowship, a delicious meal and fund-raising for a good cause!

*Sandy Stitt*  
Missions Chair



The weekly Grief Share Support Group started up another session on Tuesday, February 25 and 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, phone (863) 677-0349 or register at [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup).

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, April 15 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

Mike Crooks will be turning **80** on April 22 and would like to celebrate with his church family!!

A cake/coffee/punch reception in the Life Enrichment Center will be hosted by his son (Jonathan) and daughter-in-law (Michelle) from Michigan on Sunday, April 27 immediately following the church service.

Mike has been a member of First Methodist Church of Clewiston since the early 1970's. He has had many roles at the church including portraying John the Baptist in "Jesus is Lord", church trustee, usher, choir member, fish fryer, slicer of turkey and ham and a member of the adult Sunday School.



Please come and celebrate this milestone birthday with Mike and enjoy some refreshments!

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 facilities in central and north Florida. All you have to do is make a note on your check or envelope and your monies will go directly to Residing Hope.

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



**FMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Senior Pastor	Jeffrey Smith	(863) 351-9692	pastorjeff@clewistonmethodist.com
Youth Minister	Virgilio Ogando	(863) 983-5269	virgilio01@msn.com
Lay Leader	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Recording Secretary	Margaret Smith	(863) 599-9417	sweetmbs007@@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Staff Parish Relations	Steve Stiles	(863) 983-8432	sbthstiles@embarqmail.com
Head Trustee	Lee Sweet	(561) 985-4220	rasweet@rocketmail.com
Financial Secretary	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Admin. Council Chair	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
PowerLines Editor	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
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FirstKids Team	Doreen Malbog	(863) 677-0255	dortietmal@gmail.com
Library	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com



## ARE YOU UNDER THE INFLUENCE?

On March 3, the B&B Believers came together once again as eleven Believers gathered at Ninette's house to enjoy Christian fellowship, conversation and another great message brought to us by Lindsay. Don't worry, this article won't have you hopping on one foot, reciting the alphabet backwards or touching your nose with your eyes shut as police officers often task those under the influence with. No, nothing like that, Lindsay's message gave us all a thought-provoking nudge towards examining our lives to see who, what and why we are influenced by, then turning inward towards ourselves, and how we may, or may not influence others.

Whether you like it or not, we're all in positions to place others under our influence each and every day. Choosing what kind of influence we are portraying to others takes self-reflection and honest evaluation, sometimes tough to think about when we know the world is always watching what we are doing. Likewise, taking stock in those who you may be following on those social media platforms, hanging out with or befriending can and will influence you and your actions, whether for the good or the bad. **Matthew 5:13** tells us about the goodness of being the salt of the earth, yet guarding against allowing our saltiness to be lost and becoming good for little aside from being thrown out and trampled under foot. **Matthew 5** continues in verses **14-16**, giving us instruction to not allow our light to be hidden, rather let our light shine for all to see each and every day and being that positive influence, our world so desperately needs.

Associating ourselves with those who shine with that salty, brilliant light that **Matthew 5** describes, and avoiding the pretty sparkly lures, yet hidden deceptions the enemy thrives on tricking us with is a life long challenge for us all, especially in 2025. From the very beginning in **Genesis Chapter 3**, when the enemy appeared in the form of a snake and used his cunning to twist words around to trick Eve into eating the forbidden fruit, the devil has been at it telling his lies, most of the time through people in one way or another. After Adam and Eve both ate the fruit from the forbidden tree in the middle of the garden, their eyes were opened to their nakedness and they retrieved fig leaves in an attempt to cover themselves. It's what God said in **Genesis 3:11** that should jump out to all of us though, "...who told you that you were naked?". Who told you that? Perhaps a question we should ask ourselves more often prior to life's decisions, actions, social media friends and the company we keep. Once God asks us, "Who told you that?", it's probably too late and the influences we may be under may place hand cuffs of guilt, shame and dread that can be tough for us to unlock.

Always remain positive and let your light shine for others to see, yet remembering to lean on those around you for support during challenges or temptations in our lives. **Proverbs 27:17** "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

The next B&B Believers gathering will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the JPE office. 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 [johnw@jimmpittmanelectrical.com](mailto:johnw@jimmpittmanelectrical.com).

*John Wellslager*



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

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

General giving totaled \$ 14,668.61 for the month with an additional \$3,675.00 received in special funds. This brings our regular giving to 15.5% of our goal for the year. Total disbursements were \$ 18,759.90 for the month, bringing our total expenditures to 21% of budgeted annual expenses for the current year.

The transition of Director of Finance responsibilities from R.D. Williams to Brenda Whidden continues very smoothly. Brenda has assumed the regular duties for reconciling the bank statements and creating the financial statements each month with minimal input from R.D. Brenda’s willingness to take on this responsibility is greatly appreciated.

The church made a significant payment of \$9,750.00 towards the replacement of the main electrical panel serving the Sanctuary portion of our building. There have been several generous donations to help offset a portion of this expense, if you are able to contribute any additional amount towards this necessary improvement, please indicate on your check or VANCO submission your gift is for the special electrical repair project.

The checking account has been reconciled for the month.

Respectfully submitted.

Brenda Whidden and R.D. Williams



**First Methodist Church of Clewiston  
Bank Report  
January 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025**

	February		Year to Date	
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>				
Beginning Balance	9,917.42	-7,967.26	8,467.28	-7,163.75
Offering	14,668.61	15,653.00	32,977.66	31,722.26
Disbursements	18,759.90	10,506.73	35,618.81	27,379.50
Ending Balance	5,826.13	-2,820.99	5,826.13	-2,820.99
<b><u>Special Funds</u></b>				
Beginning Balance	175,137.71	159,934.70	178,864.99	157,642.51
Offering	3,675.00	2,815.00	6,845.80	7,428.00
Disbursements	15,811.00	28,476.38	22,709.08	30,797.19
Ending Balance	163,001.71	134,273.32	163,001.71	134,273.32
<b>Total on Deposit</b>	<b>168,827.84</b>	<b>131,452.33</b>	<b>168,827.84</b>	<b>131,452.33</b>

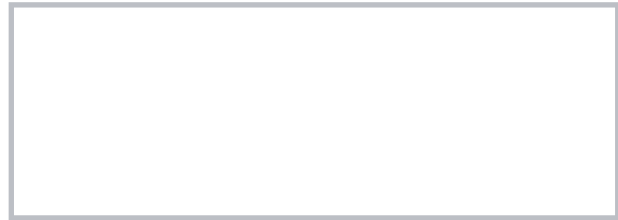
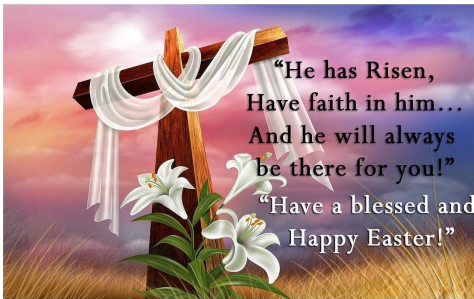
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# POWER LINES



**FIRST  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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.