



# FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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### Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year, Church!

As we wrap up 2023 with a wonderful Christmas Eve celebration, we can be certain that Christ our Lord is with us and for us as we enter a new year. Each year, I try to spend some time reflecting on all that God has done in the year. It strikes me that we simply don't know what awaits us in 2024. In the same thought, I find it comforting that nothing that will happen in the coming year will be a surprise to God. It is so comforting to know that God has always been, is currently and has promised to always be at work and on the move. What's more is that the strength of The Holy Spirit is our gift to live in and through. So as we enter this new calendar year, let's enter with a renewed vigor in pursuing The Lord in our lives, among our Church family and in the world we get to live and serve. Every single day is a gift! One of the ways we have found helpful in the past few years to help us start out with our focus on Christ and living faithfully with Him is to join together in John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service. We will be taking part in this powerful commitment service on January 7 in both worship services. I hope you will come with expectation of God meeting you with power in your commitment to Him. If you would like a copy of the Covenant Renewal Service, let me know, I'd love to share one with you! My family and I are thankful and blessed to be entering this new year together with you. May God bless you and yours as we live into a faithful 2024! I will close with Wesley's Covenant Prayer:

"I am no longer mine, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

It's an honor to be your pastor.

Blessings,  
Pastor Matt



## *Earth Angels Quilters*

Earth Angels held their last gathering of 2023 by celebrating with good friends, quite a variety of delicious refreshments, and outstanding fellowship. We also amassed much-needed clothing as Christmas gifts for those who live at Legacy Ranch. We even had a few items for Show and Tell. The 2024 new year is expected to be a great experience for all.

Earth Angels is a non-denominational group of women who are interested in quilting. Meetings of the Earth Angels are held the second Tuesday of each month. Those in need of prayers and those needing to be "Wrapped in God's Love" by quilt donations are mentioned. Our meetings may also include inspirational readings, programs about various aspects of quilting, sharing Show and Tell items, and fellowship. Visit our Earth Angels Facebook page to see some of our most recent creations. Feel free to join us at our next meeting, our annual Christmas gathering, on January 9, 2024, at 6 PM in the Stockton Building; all are welcome.

## *Thank You!*

Dear Church Family,  
Thanks to your support and generosity, we have completed the preparation and distribution of 100 food boxes for needy families in the Gonzales area. I want to thank each of you for your donations of money and time in making this project a success. We extend a huge thank you to all of the volunteers that helped prepare the boxes and distribute them including a group of volunteers from EOG. This project would not be successful without the hands, feet (and backs!) of volunteers. This project helps those less fortunate to have some extra groceries and also be able to fix a nice holiday meal for their families. I feel this outreach is a testament to our faith and the loving spirit of Christ at work in our community. All of the recipients expressed their gratitude and want you to know that it does make a difference.

Thanks, Rosemary Hindman

## Happy House News



### **January Events:**

**January 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – School Holidays**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> – School Holiday**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> – Back to School**

**January 15<sup>th</sup> – School Holiday**

**January 24<sup>th</sup> – Book Orders Due On-line**

**January 29<sup>th</sup> – Class Pictures**

*Happy New Year Everyone!!*

Sandra Jandt  
672-7879

## **Book Club News**

Our December meeting was a delightful discussion of Truman Capote's classic short novel A Christmas Memory. The understanding of family traditions and memories was made more special by the illustrated copies given to us by one of our generous members. The discussion of these Christmas stories always includes the sharing of those poignant memories we each have of childhood and early adult Christmas memories.

For January, we have chosen a historical fiction book The Paris Daughter by Kristen Harmel who excels at writing that kind of book. This mystery requires the tough decisions that two mothers must make at the beginning of World War II and the mystery that resulted from those decisions.

Make some new year's resolutions: read more books, join our book club for lively discussions and friendships. We will meet at the city library at 9:30 AM on Thursday, January 25 at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome; bring a friend. Call 830-857-4148 for information.

Martha Jo Whitt

## **Staff**

Rev. Dr. Matt Pennington, Lead Pastor  
Katie Foote, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Melissa Clampit, Dir. of Children & Family Ministries  
Felicia Cantu, Office Manager  
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager  
Janelle Lester, Wesley Nurse  
Christina Menking, Organist  
Bill Meadows, Pianist  
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director

# Happy birthday

1 Jimmy Mills	15 Jordan Escobedo	25 David Brown
2 Beaux Massey	Elizabeth Currie	26 Zachary Taylor
5 Tommy Barnick	Trace Herndon	Linnea Cowan-Merrill
Cody Witzkoske	16 Bill Meadows	Bubba Ehrig
6 Bill Reaves	Cheryl Meadows	Dennis Jahns
Daniel Tomas	Noble Zaitz	27 Herman Grauke
7 Lisa Barnick	17 Janet Currie	28 Byron Freeman
8 Ellen Johnson	18 Carol Wallace	Beth Newman
Joyce Harris	Britt Hindman	29 Phil Koehler
10 Michael Lackey, Sr.	Robbie Heldarsen	Kenneth Gottwald
Jessyca Malaer	Angela DuBose	Al Wayne Ehrig
11 Erik Currie	Parker Petras	Christina Jahns
12 Courtney Williams	19 Nicholas Casares	Jax Lipke
Roy Johnson	20 Rachelle Pearson	30 Read Staton
Maria Sullivan	Todd Crawford	Allie Balfanz
13 Cree Stowers	Andrew Storey	Kelsey Boulter
14 Carolyn Cain	21 Norma Ehrig	Liz Massey
Scarlett Crawford	Zac Clack	31 Glenn Pruess
Glen Sachtleben	Tessa Quintanilla	Connor Fogle
Fisher Davis	Hannah Gottwald	
Emery Mendel	23 Sherri Schellenberg	
Kaddin Mikulik	24 Dale Graham	
Bowen Davis	Madelyne Parr	
Nate Pennington	Marlow Irons	

## ANNIVERSARIES IN



**2 Dewey & Amanda Smith**  
**6 Brad & Stacy Zella**  
**7 Lance & Leah Behlen**  
**Steve & Kathleen Ehrig**  
**8 Jimmy & Hope Mills**  
**12 Johnnie & Debbie Fogle**

Please contact Felicia at the church office, 672-8521, if your information is missing or incorrect.

### *Altar Flowers for January are given by:*

**January 7**-Johnnie and Debbie Fogle; Jason, Stacy, Emily and Joshua Fogle; Heather Ramsey and Andrew Klein; Erik and Shane Ramsey ~ In Honor of Joyce Harris' 90th Birthday

**January 14**-Mary and Erwin Ckudre ~ In Memory of Our Mothers, Margaret Fossler and Vi Wehman

**January 21**-Sandra Gorden ~ In Honor of My Children & Grandchildren

Joe Britt & Rosemary Hindman ~ In Memory of Joe W. Hindman, and Max and Evelyn Tieken

Melissa & Darren Schauer ~ In Honor of Our Church Staff and Volunteers

**January 28**-Rusty, Melissa, Haley and Braden Clampit ~ In Memory of Our Loved Ones

Jeff and Dinah Braune ~ In Memory of Douglas Barabas and Elmo Braune

## Wesley Nurse News

Dear Church Family,

The celebrations of faith and family during Kwanza, Hanukkah, and Christmas are over, yet attention to family is just as important in January as it was in December. Since the family of the 1950's is no longer the norm, we as a church need to ask what it means to be 'family,' how we support families, and how we reclaim its importance. Today's families are led by traditional parents, single parents, blended or stepfamilies. Even though they may look different, each group is made of people who support and love each other in all of life's situations.

*"It is not good for man to be alone." - Genesis 2:18*

Without family, people are often set adrift with no direction or support which tends to make them less healthy. Positive relationships provide unconditional love and encouragement which fosters self-esteem, positive attitudes, and better health habits. They ground a person and provide building blocks for other relationships. How does one build and nurture positive families? Be interested in each other's activities. Attend and support each other's interests and events. Plan outings for the family and offer positive, bonding experiences. Listen to each other and learn to 'agree to disagree' as families also need to understand and deal with conflict. All families have highs and lows, so it is important to teach children how to handle disappointment and adversity as well as how to celebrate the joys and wonders of family life. Embrace all family life whether it consists of a biological, church, neighborhood, college, or other supportive 'family.' Each setting is important to your spiritual, mental, and physical health. By definition, a family is 'a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation.' This means that any group who love and support each other through life's complications is considered family. God's family goes beyond blood lines, color, size, or creed. Who is your family?

Your Wesley Nurse,  
Janelle Lester BSN, RN

References: Merila, N. & Slutz (2009) Seasons of Wholeness Monthly themes and programming for faith community ministry. Volume VI. International Parish Nurse Resource Center; St. Louis, Mo.

### Wesley Nurse News and Updates

- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we held our last blood drive of the year, and our community did a fantastic job of supporting it! We exceeded our goal, our drive was #2 most sustainable and efficient collection of blood, #3 largest collection of blood in all South Texas mobile blood drives Sunday! I am more than thankful for the support from you all with this Community Outreach event. Your act of kindness does not go unnoticed and because of you, lives have been and will be saved. Once the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center confirms our dates for 2024, I will share them with you all.
- Cancer Support Group will meet on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 12 pm. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please call me and I can answer any questions you may have about this group.
- Through a partnership with the Texas Diaper Bank, based out of San Antonio, I am now offering My Healthy Child classes. The classes can be attended on an individual basis or in a group setting. After completion of each lesson, participants will receive 2 packages of diapers for children under the age of 6 years old. If you know of anyone interested in this program, please direct them to me and I will work with them to seek their qualification into the program.

Thank you again for your continuous support of the Wesley Nurse Ministry. It is because of each of you, that I can effectively help others in our community. If you need any of my services, please call or email me, and we can arrange for a phone visit if you are unable to come in for an in-person appointment. You can reach me by phone at 830.888.9780, or by email at [jlester@mhm.org](mailto:jlester@mhm.org).

### STATISTICAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

Attendance			
DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL
5	121	90	215
12	104	77	127
19	102	46	196
26	106	84	165
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>730</b>
<b>AVG:</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>183</b>

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT		Jan - Nov
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Total Income		677,904.87
Gross Profit		677,904.87
Expense		
Facility Operations		158,342.02
Ministry Work Areas		38,574.40
Lawn Care		1,930.00
Payroll Expenses		353,345.61
Staff Benefits		16,534.76
Church Clergy Expenses		49,080.75
Apportionments/Confr Treasurer		36,549.14
Connectional Giving		10,452.98
Total Expense		664,809.66
Net Ordinary Income		13,095.21

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
MEMORIALS 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023**

**KENNETH EHRIG**

Tom & Pam Lester  
Charles & Maydell Pankey-Scholarship  
William L & Marilyn DuBose  
Randy & Sue Peschel  
Charles & Vivian Ehrig  
Ludene Poe  
Melvin & Jackie Hodgkiss-Bereavement  
Jerry & Rebecca Poe  
Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement

**WILLY RAY 'BILL' BLUNDELL**

Charles & Maydell Pankey-Music  
Bill & Ann Reaves  
Paul & Linda Coffin  
Ludene Poe  
Bruce & Lisa Gindler-Children's Ministry  
Sammie & Ginger Gibson-Bereavement  
Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement  
Herbert & Barbara Thigpen

**FRANK FRYER SR**

Ludene Poe

**LAWRENCE FRYER SR**

Ludene Poe

**RANDALL SWEENEY**

Ludene Poe

**GARLAND FRANK TENBERG JR**

Byrd Operating Company  
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Children's Ministry  
Bruce & Lisa Gindler-Children's Ministry  
Joe Britt & Rosemary Hindman-Happy House  
Gregory A Hirsch  
Paula Jones & Delton Schmidt  
David & Sasha Kardosz  
John & Edith Lucas  
Bobby & Rebekah Morgan-Children's Ministry  
Charles & Maydell Pankey-Bereavement  
Bill & Ann Reaves  
Barry & Lauren Boothe  
Kim & Kelly Caraway  
Kenneth & Doreen Fink-Youth  
Stewart & Linda Frazier  
Gonzales Livestock Market  
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan  
Stephen & Kenna Lucas-Children's Ministry  
Mike & Jackie Mikesh  
Kerry & Tammy Morgan  
Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement  
Smokey & Donna Spahn  
Richard & Sharon White  
Dyna Dubose  
Sammie & Ginger Gibson-Bereavement  
George & Betty Perez  
Junior & Marilyn Buchholtz  
Tom & Pam Lester  
Matthew Geck  
Doris Baros  
Erwin & Mary Ckudre-Bereavement  
Steve & Laurie Taylor-Scholarship  
Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement

**GARY KAPMEYER**

Bobby & Rebekah Morgan

**BILLE J BRUNS**

Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement

**CHARLOTTE TIEKEN**

Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement

**CORNELIA FAY 'CONNIE' KRIDLER**

Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement

**DONNA PRUETT**

Barry & Lauren Boothe

**GENARO SALDANA**

Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement

**JACK MARK DUBOSE**

Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement

**JERRY W BIVINS**

Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement

**JILL DON BARNETT**

Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement

**PEGGY BARNETT**

Michael & Irene Oakes-Bereavement

Tom & Pam Lester

**RITA IRENE LUEDECKE**

Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

Dyna Dubose

Tom & Pam Lester

**TODD GARRETT**

Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Missions

Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

Tom & Pam Lester

John & Edith Lucas

Jason Breitschopf

Mike & Sarah Miller-Youth

Ludene Poe

Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement

**DAVID LEE EHRIG**

Jerry & Rebecca Poe

**ELIZABETH 'BETTY' PETTUS**

Ludene Poe

**JOSEPHINE HERSCHAP**

Ludene Poe

**LYNN SMITH JR**

Ludene Poe

**PAUL CERDA**

Ludene Poe



# CHILDREN'S CORNER

*new year*

## SAME GREAT GOD

SUNDAY SCHOOL - JOIN US EACH SUNDAY AT 9:45AM! NEW YEAR - SAME GREAT GOD!

HAPPY HOUSE - THE LITTLES LOVED HEARING ABOUT JESUS AND THE ADVENT SEASON.

KIDS JAM - THE KIDS ENJOYED CHURCH TIME AND CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTHDAY.

GOD'S GIRLS - ON DECEMBER 8TH, THE GIRLS GATHERED AND COMPLETED A SERVICE PROJECT, PLAYED GAMES, SANG, ENJOYED AN ETIQUETTE LESSON, AND TRAVELED TO SEE LIGHTS IN CUERO.

NEW YEAR FUN DAY - JANUARY 3RD - PICTURES AND DETAILS NEXT MONTH.

SUMMER DATES: VBS JUNE 10-13

REVIVE CHILDREN'S CAMP JUNE 18-22





# YOUTH



HELPING STUDENTS FIND & FOLLOW JESUS  
**CHRISTMAS PAGENAT**



**LAUREN DAIGLE CONCERT**

**WEDNESDAY  
YOUTH GROUP**





First Methodist Church  
426 Saint Paul Street  
Gonzales, Texas 78629

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***Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. - Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV***