

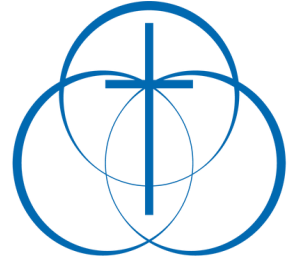


FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

426 Saint Paul St, Gonzales, TX 78629
(830) 672-8521

www.fumcgonzales.org
email: fumc@gvec.net



Pastor's Corner

Happy Summer, Church!

In all the business of our lives, and the brokenness in our world, I wanted to take this space to remind you of your chance to powerfully be the Light of Christ in the daily lives that you live. I wanted to remind you that when you trusted Christ as your Lord and Savior, you received the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Power that comes from this indwelling. I want to encourage you to spend as much energy as possible in your life growing in your relationship with Christ, and learning to rely on the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Maybe you'll be led to offer someone the chance to be set free from sin, maybe you'll be led to simply show up in the life of someone who is hurting, maybe you will be led to do something that from the world's standards would be outlandish. I praise God for your faithfulness, and implore you to keep going. Know that the Grace of Jesus Christ is sufficient for you. Know that the Power of the Holy Spirit rests on you. Because of these amazing Truths and so many more, you get to actually be the hands and feet of Jesus showing up in the lives of others. God is powerfully on the move in our community, and I'm so thankful to be a part of it with our amazing church family. Let's keep going!

It's an honor to be your pastor!

Blessings,
Pastor Matt



<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/GONZALES>

Pastor's Bible Study will restart Wednesday August 6 at 10:00 in the Stockton Building

New Study: Epic of Eden: Deborah – Unlikely Heroes and the Book of Judges

Course Description:

This in-depth Bible study featuring sought-after speaker and teacher Sandra Richter, unpacks why the book of Judges remains critical to our devotional lives today. The Book of Judges narrates one of the most chaotic and morally dark eras of Israel's story. Many speak of it as Israel's "Wild West," where the heroes and the villains stand only inches apart. Into this morally-ambiguous time comes one of the most unlikely leaders of the biblical text—the prophet Deborah. She is a wife and mother in an entirely patriarchal world, yet due to her integrity and courage, she transforms chaos into order and leads Israel in one of the most pivotal victories of the settlement period.

Illustrating the era of the Judges by means of the archaeological record, historical geography, and the hard facts of warfare in the ancient world, this study draws students immediately into the grand tale of Deborah and Barak, Jabin and Sisera, and of course the most unlikely of leaders, Jael. This study compels the modern reader to ask and answer three critical questions:

- What territory can you see from where you're standing that you know belongs to the Kingdom, but is not yet won?
- Is it worth fighting for?
- Are you willing to step out on faith and trust God for the victory?

Book Club News

A novel featuring a wealthy New England black family who had suffered a major trauma was our selection for June. Good Dirt by Charmaine Wilkerson told a interesting story about this modern family while also giving historical background about how the family had its origins in a village in Africa, was brought to America on a slave ship, and made its way to freedom and New England in exciting ways. Well-drawn characters throughout made this an interesting read. The mystery of the major trauma that affected the modern family added to the story.

Our choices for the next few months are:

July – The God of the Woods by Liz Moore

August – The Lion Women of Tehran

by Marjan Kamail

September – Isola by Allegra Goodman

We will meet again on July 24 at the City Library at 9:30 AM, and everyone is welcome. Tell your friends! For information, call 830-857-4148.

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
Allison Davis, Executive Assistant to the Lead Pastor
Janelle Lester, Wesley Nurse
Christina Menking, Organist
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director

STATISTICAL REPORT MAY 2025

Attendance			
DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL
4	107	73	180
11	153	107	260
18	112	114	226
25	91	55	146
TOTAL:	463	349	812
AVG:	116	87	203

Ordinary Income/Expense		Jan - May 25
Income		353,255.61
Gross Profit		353,255.61
Expense		
40000 · Facility Operations		71,397.13
60001 · Ministry Work Areas		20,147.73
66000 · Payroll Expenses		189,550.20
66100 · Staff Benefits		6,647.96
67000 · Church Clergy Expenses		23,995.53
77000 · Connectional Giving		16,939.27
Total Expense		328,677.82
Net Ordinary Income		24,577.79
Net Income		24,577.79

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1	Barbara Thigpen Jonathan Seale Quatro Gray	7/11	Brayden King Emmitt Currie	7/23	Rickey Gibson James McCray
7/2	Tom Lester, Sr. Baylen Bozka	7/12	Jordyn Gonzales	7/24	Mona Bivins Lynn Wilburn
7/3	Quinn Atkinson Vance Lucas Chase Heldarsen Jordan Johnson	7/14	Wendy Allen Jim Benedict Abby Stewart	7/25	Matthew Atkinson Kathleen Bowman
7/4	Jo Ann Keck	7/15	David Kardosz Morgan Denman Kace Glass	7/26	Noris Gibson Lynnox Leal
7/5	Heath Lipke Sydney McCray Dylan Storey	7/16	Piper Otto	7/27	Dub Whitehead Binni Davis
7/6	Patrice Gray Leslie Seiler Marty Yates	7/17	Bella Dawson	7/28	Charlena Parr Jake Barnick Janelle Lester
7/7	Dinah Braune Seth Gibson	7/19	Dee Dee Sengelmann Landon Holub	7/29	McKenzie Gillette
7/8	Dena Fritz	7/20	Martha Jo Whitt Lisa Henry Jim Rummage	7/30	Brunes Davis Dorothy Springs
		7/21	Grant Griffin Ava Medellin Rebekah Morgan	7/31	Dustin Balfanz Bailey Bennett Megan Strayer

July Anniversaries

7/1	Barry & Lauren Boothe Glen & Jo Sachtleben	7/19	Kyle & Debbie Crozier
7/5	Tim & Lisa Henry	7/22	Kenneth & Laverne Brzozowski
7/7	Clifford & Jamie Bryant	7/24	Jacob & Manda Leal Gary & Evelyn Young
7/11	Keith & Malinda Borrer	7/25	Dean & Allison Davis
7/12	Phil and Donna Koehler	7/26	Jeff & Dinah Braune
7/17	Brian & Shannon Sample Daniel & Kristie Seale	7/30	Darren & Melissa Schauer
7/18	E.T. & Noris Gibson Brian & Mia Schauer		

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

Altar Flowers for July are given by:

July 6-Beth Newman ~ In Memory of Elenore Ehrig

Leslie Seiler and Robert Blaylock ~ In Honor of Betty and George Hugo

July 13-Nancy Burns ~ In Memory of Vic and Sally Brown and Bill Meadows

July 20-Sandra Gorden ~ In Memory of Jerry Gorden and Buddy DuBose

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

Bill & Sally Storey; Philip and Natalie Storey & Family
~ In Memory of Lee, Evelyn, and Sue Carnes; Glynn and Feetie Storey

July 27-Ray, Judy, and Tracey Neitsch & Crystal, Michael and Rowdy Ehrig
~ In Memory of Michael Neitsch & Booty and Jean Neitsch

Children's Corner - July 2025

Hello! Last month, 200 children and volunteers learned to trust Jesus at True North VBS. Our volunteers are the best! We celebrated our dads with donuts and activities! Our largest group ever attended Children's Revive Camp! We can't wait to share the pictures next month. Sunday School has a spot for you. Come and join us!

July Fun Days: July 2 @ FMC, July 8 @ Purple Cactus Potteri, July 22 @ Bastrop

August 4 - Registration begins for Kids JAM (Kinder-6th grade), God's Girls (grades 5/6), God's Guys (grades 5/6), and God's Glorious Singers (grades 3-5)

August 5 - Educator Luncheon - Children can serve desserts.

August 10 - Back to School Sunday - Backpack Tags - Bibles to 3rd graders

Volunteers needed for Kids JAM and Sunday School!
To save a spot or to serve, please call 830-672-8521.

BELIEVE - BELONG - BECOME LIKE CHRIST



Wesley Nurse News and Updates- "Life Transitions"

Dear Church Family,

Life never stays the same. There are several stages with unique challenges that make each one memorable. As new parents you add new responsibilities and a baby to your life while trying to establish yourselves as a couple. This new role means sharing your partner with someone else so make sure you talk to each other, have a date night, and share your struggles. Adjustment is easier when you know what challenges exist.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." – Proverbs 22:6

Sending your first child off to school can be scary for everyone. As a parent, try to put your fears aside and look for the positives: your child is beginning an adventure that will teach him many new things. Before school starts, go to the school and arrange a tour if possible to take the fear out of the new surroundings, remind him/her that others will be nervous about school and there will be many new friends to meet. Talk about the exciting things he/she will be doing during the school day and make it an adventure for both of you. If you have worries about his/her health, be sure to meet with the school.

"The Lord detests double standards; he is not pleased by dishonest scales." - Proverbs 20:23

Gender differences of size, weight, and cellular structure impact the absorption of all types of medications. These issues are initiating new pharmaceutical studies to determine the most effective dosage for the treatment of men and women. Current knowledge shows that menstrual cycles may affect certain antidepressants, liver proteins affect some blood pressure medications, and physical size affects most medication dosages. So the next time you experience a medication adjustment or have your weight recorded at the doctor's office, know it is part of the process to determine the best prescription for you.

"Test me O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind." - Psalm 26:2

Research shows that heart disease impacts men and women differently. Women tend to display heart disease 10 years later than men, but with a more serious outcome. In either sex it is important to know the signs of a heart attack. Men tend to have the classic symptoms of severe chest pain, a squeezing sensation in the chest for 5-10 minutes, profuse sweating, pain radiating to the left arm, and/or a feeling of depression. Women tend to have atypical symptoms of shortness of breath, indigestion, heart palpitations of more than 10 minutes, jaw/shoulder/back pain in excess of 5-10 minutes, nausea, or extreme fatigue. In either case, seek help immediately and call 911. The quicker the response of professional help, the better the outcome.

"For those commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life." - Proverbs 6:23

Culture also impacts the differences between men and women. Biologically, men tend to be risk-takers with speed and dangerous activity, but cultures also foster that behavior. Men are often encouraged to act impulsively or macho while women are taught to be cautious. The Harvard Health Letter states that men with a high sense of masculinity will not seek attention for medical issues or treatment viewed as feminine such as intolerance for pain or eating fruits and vegetables. This research shows that educational material and promotions need to be sensitive not only to culture but also to gender.

Your Wesley Nurse,
Janelle Lester BSN, RN

Reference: 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. Centers for Disease Control-www.cdc.gov

Announcements –

- Blood Drive – Thank you to all of those who donated blood at our June Blood Drive. We collected a total of 9 units of blood. Thank you for taking the time to donate blood and for your support. Your donation is truly appreciated by the blood recipients, their loved ones and all of us here at the First Methodist Church. I am so grateful for your time, generosity, and dedication to helping others. Mark your calendars, our next Blood Drive will be September 7th.
- Cancer Support Group will meet on Monday, July 7, 2025 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.
- If you or a service club you know are interested in having a Diaper Drive to support the ministry, please let me know. The Diaper Pantry needs diaper sizes 4, 5, 6, 7 and pull ups 2T-3T, 3T-4T, and 4T-5T.

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.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

MEMORIALS 2nd Quarter 2025

SALLY LOU BROWN

Juanita Blundell-Trustees
Ronnie & Sue Tresner
Linda White
Houston Munson Family Partners LP-Bereavement
Stacey England

ANITA HORNING

Bobby & Rebekah Morgan-Wesley Nurse

CONNIE JEAN AVANT

Kenneth & Sue Gottwald-Youth
Jay & Donna Gray-Youth
Linda White
Kenneth & Doreen Fink-Youth
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Children's Ministry
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Joe Britt & Rosemary Hindman-Happy House
Bobby & Rebekah Morgan
Jeffery & Dinah Braune-Children's Ministry
Erwin & Mary Ckudre-Scholarship
Barbara Hand
Pal & Bethel Lester
Ludene Poe

JOHN 'WILL' WILLIAM THIELE

Bobby & Rebekah Morgan-Youth

MABEL GRAY

Bobby & Rebekah Morgan
Erwin & Mary Ckudre-Scholarship
Ludene Poe

KENNETH JACK DEBERRY

Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Ludene Poe

WILLIAM 'WILLIE' SIMPER

Jeffery & Dinah Braune-Youth
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Bobby & Rebekah Morgan-Youth
Ludene Poe

BERNICE BARBORAK

Ludene Poe

BETTY NOBLE

Ludene Poe

JENE A DREYER SR

Ludene Poe

ROBERT 'BOB' ERICKSON

Ludene Poe

SUZANNE RICHARDSON

Ludene Poe

GLADYS HOELSCHER

Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Youth

MARY ANN BRZOZOWSKI

Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement
Ludene Poe

PENNY CHRISTIAN

Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement
Ludene Poe

RICHARD KLAPOUCH

Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement

ROBERT VALENTA

Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement

LYNN SHEFFIELD

John & Edith Lucas

RICHARD 'DICK' HAMILTON

Erwin & Mary Ckudre-Scholarship
Katie Garrett
Glen & Jo Sachtleben
Jim & Jenice Benedict-Scholarship
Billy & Sue Boothe-Music
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Scholarship
Sammie & Ginger Gibson
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Troy & Kerry Lischka
Dana Thompson
Bob & Brenda Cuvelier
Jerry & Rebecca Poe
Ludene Poe

FRANCES ELAINE HUBER

Ludene Poe

CYNTHIA HANZALIK RICHTER

Ludene Poe



YOUTH

HELPING STUDENTS FIND & FOLLOW JESUS

SENIOR SUNDAY



SUMMER YOUTH GROUP



VBS





First Methodist Church
426 Saint Paul Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRE-SORTED
Standard Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Gonzales, Texas 78629
PERMIT NO. 4

