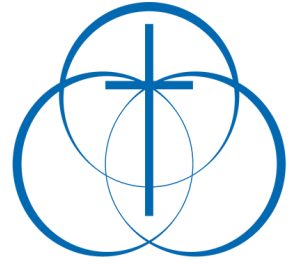




FIRST METHODIST CHURCH MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

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



Pastor's Corner

Greetings, Church!

What a joy it is to live into the resurrection life offered to us through our Savior, the Risen Jesus Christ. We recently began a Sunday sermon series on 1 John, and I have personally been greatly impacted by the truth in this small book toward the end of the New Testament.

1 John 2: 1-3

¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

What a gift the Apostle shared with us in the invitation to live Holy lives in relationship with Jesus, who is our advocate. Think about that...Jesus. Lived a perfect life. Died in our place on the cross so we can have freedom and forgiveness from sin and death. Rose from the grave and now offers us the chance to be raised in Him to new life by the power of the Holy Spirit! What's more, Jesus isn't sitting idle, rather He is advocating and interceding on our behalf. He sent the Holy Spirit to empower us. Now it's our choice. Notice I didn't say it is "up to us." We need help. Our help has come. We get to be released from our sin, from our shame, and everyone else on the planet can too! What great news that we get to live and share. A dear friend sent me two birthday gifts this year. One of the gifts is a new fountain pen, which I love. The other is a small dog that serves as a pen holder. I was looking at this as I started writing and thought that this small dog handing me my pen is a great segway...what we get to be about is offering Christ to people. We can't make them receive, but we know when they do it will be the best gift they could possibly receive. So, Church, keep offering Christ! You never know who might be ready to receive Him into their lives.

It's an honor to be your pastor.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt



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

Happy House News

May Events:

May 8th – Art Show 12:00noon-5:00pm

May 13th-Promotion/Graduation 5:00-6:30 pm

May 15th – Last Day of School- Early Release

Sandra Jandt, 672-7879 School

Teachers Needed

Grace Christian Academy is seeking highly-qualified educators for the 2024-2025 school year. Full- and part-time positions available.

Email holie.gray@gmail.com for more information.

Thank You!

Dear Earth Angels,

We would like to thank you for the beautiful quilt given for our daughter Juliette. It was so kind of your group to think of us.

Thank you, Logan, Jackie and Juliette Hurt

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

Book Club News

Picture yourself on a Michigan cherry farm with three grown daughters during the Covid pandemic. This is the setting for our April selection Tom Lake by Ann Patchett. The daughters are helping with the harvest and are anxious and eager to hear the story of their mother's career as a young actress who played summer stock with a soon-to-be famous actor. A lively discussion led our group to agree that we may not have been as forthcoming as the mother was. We will probably remember this book whenever we eat a cherry.

For May, we have chosen a whodunit set in a small Texas town where a murder of a young woman years ago has never been solved. In Look for the Lie by Ann Tinterra, the suspected killer (and friend of the victim) comes back determined to solve the mystery.

Join us on Thursday, May 23 at 9:30 AM at the city library for a lively discussion. We have some new members which is delightful and are hoping for more. If you have a question, call 830-857-4148.

Earth Angels Quilters

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 on May 9, at 6PM in the Stockton Building; all are welcome.

STATISTICAL REPORT MARCH 2024

Attendance						Jan - Mar 24
DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL	Ordinary Income/Expense		
3	110	80	190	Income		203,394.52
10	85	100	185	Gross Profit		203,394.52
17	126	70	196	Expense		
24	135	100	235	40000 · Facility Operations		44,217.23
31	225	129	354	60001 · Ministry Work Areas		11,838.90
TOTAL:	681	479	1160	66000 · Payroll Expenses		99,432.83
AVG:	136	96	232	66100 · Staff Benefits		4,134.60
				67000 · Church Clergy Expenses		14,645.89
				77000 · Connectional Giving		9,406.95
				Total Expense		183,676.40
				Net Ordinary Income		19,718.12
				Net Income		19,718.12

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Zilpha Dolezal Billie Spohler	5/13	Jack Ehrig Coltin Russell Stacy Zella	5/24	Ray Neitsch Emily Currie Emma Stewart
5/2	Ashley Daniel Kristen Pearson	5/14	Brittany Garcia	5/25	Greg Griffin Kacie Henke
5/3	Nan Berkley	5/15	Emily Fogle Lindsey Low	5/26	Lauren Boothe Judy Schauer
5/4	Laverne Brzozowski Christine Weaver	5/16	Brian Pirkle Bethany King	5/27	Kenna Lucas Tiffany Lester
5/6	Sue Penney John Lucas	5/17	Tyson Boulter Kelly Lester Julie Hurt	5/28	Dwayne Petras Christopher Cerda Case Martin
5/7	Jackie Kridler Teri Johnson	5/18	Kalli Glass	5/29	Brendon Mercer David Eppright Erik Ramsey Shane Ramsey
5/8	Pat Wilburn Darvin Dieringer	5/19	Kylee Watson Brent Hardcastle	5/30	Mark Strozier Keith Borrer Tanner Davis
5/9	Jeff Massie Sawyer Boothe	5/20	Tinsley Gray Rebecca Hardcastle	5/31	Stacy Fogle Manda Leal
5/11	Bobby Atkinson Jo Ann Mercer Tammy Lester Austin Brown Emily Gottwald Evan Jahns	5/21	Lauren Tenberg		
5/12	Frank Lee Atkinson	5/22	Bill Walker Ancel Atkinson		
		5/23	Garrick Davis Kyson Kusak		

ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

5/1	<i>Jason & Stephanie Carter</i>	5/17	<i>Travis & Megan Keck</i>
5/2	<i>Brian & Leigh Pirkle Tim & Crystal Gray</i>	5/18	<i>Billy & Kathy Ploetz</i>
5/3	<i>Bill & Bonnie Hyman</i>	5/19	<i>Landon & Bailey Bozka</i>
5/4	<i>Jack & Brandy Ehrig</i>	5/21	<i>Kenneth & Sue Gottwald</i>
5/8	<i>Gene & Teresa Reed</i>	5/22	<i>Ray & Judy Neitsch</i>
5/10	<i>Lee & Dana Williams</i>	5/25	<i>Kevin & Angela DuBose</i>
5/15	<i>Mark & Kimberly Strozier</i>	5/29	<i>Monty & Kelly McGuffin</i>
5/16	<i>Otho & Linnea Merrill</i>	5/30	<i>Byron & Julie Lester</i>

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

Altar Flowers for May are given by:

May 5-Kenneth and Sue Gottwald ~ In Honor of Our Children and Grandchildren,
and In Memory of Our Parents

May 12-Rowdy, Allison, and Brinklee Marrow ~ In Honor of Linda Marrow

Darren and Melissa Schauer ~ In Honor of Our Mothers, Gail Schauer and Elizabeth Colwell

May 19-John and Edith Lucas ~ In Honor of Our Church, Family, and Friends

May 26-Sandra Atkinson and Bernice Heldarsen ~
In Memory of Frank Atkinson and Bob Heldarsen For Their Dedicated Service to Our Country.

CHILDREN'S CORNER - MAY

BELONG - BELIEVE - BECOME LIKE CHRIST

GOD IS WORKING WITH US AND THROUGH US EACH DAY IN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM!

PALM SUNDAY - EASTER ACTIVITIES - BUTTERFLY RELEASE - SUNDAY SCHOOL - KIDS JAM - GOD'S GIRLS
SPECIAL MUSIC IN CHURCH - CHAPEL WITH HAPPY HOUSE - SPAGHETTI SUPPER FUNDRAISER - VBS - CAMPS

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER STAFF, TEACHERS, VAN DRIVERS AND KITCHEN LADIES FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO KIDS JAM. WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR WE HAVE HAD TEACHING GOD'S WORD TO THE CHILDREN!
TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AT THE ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER FUNDRAISER WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SAVE THE DATE:

JUNE 10-13 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - REGISTER NOW

JUNE 16 - SPECIAL VBS MUSIC FOR BOTH SERVICES

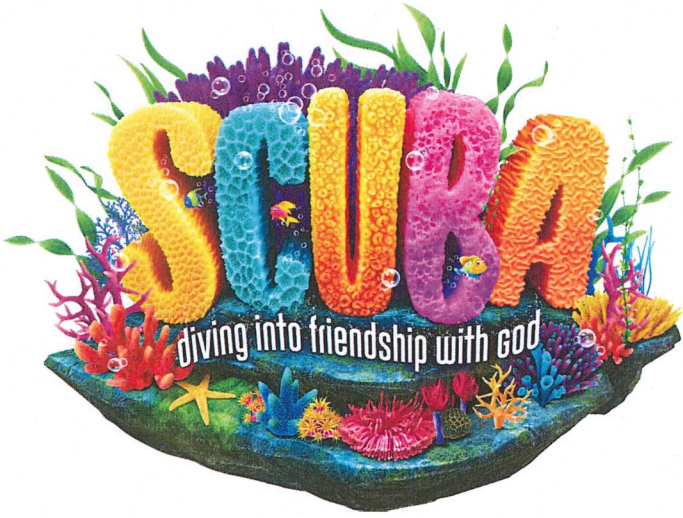
JUNE 18-22 - REVIVE CHILDREN'S CAMP

JULY 3 - SUMMER FUN DAY - 8:30AM - 12:30PM

JULY 15 - DAY CAMP KINDER-GRADE 3 - 8:30AM - 1:30PM

JULY 16 - DAY CAMP GRADES 4-6 - 8:30AM-1:30PM





Early Registration April 1-15 for church families
Public Registration April 16—until classes are full
To ensure a shirt, you must register by May 2, 2024.

First Methodist Church | Registration Form Vacation Bible School

9am—12pm June 10-13

Entering PK4—6th grade

426 St. Paul Gonzales, Texas 78629

Contact Melissa at 672-8521 with any questions.

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Fall 2024 grade: _____

Name of parent(s)/guardian: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Parent phone #: _____

Email address: _____ Home church: _____

In case of emergency, Contact Name & Number: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

List all authorized persons to pick-up child: _____

CIRCLE Shirt Size : **Youth:** Toddler 4 Toddler 5/6 YS YM YL YXL

Shirts \$10 each **Adult:** S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Paid: Cash _____ Check # _____

Permission to release photos and videos for publicity purposes: _____ Yes _____ No

*** Children will be signed in/out each day of VBS. ***

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Crew Info (for church use only): _____

Wesley Nurse News and Updates

Dear Church family:

“I went down to the grove of walnut trees and out to the valley to see the new spring growth, to see whether the grapevines had budded, or the pomegranates were in bloom.” - Song of Solomon 6:11

Spring gives us such pleasure as we see everything coming back to life, and it's a reminder of the new life that we have through Christ's resurrection. Gardening is a pleasure for most of us, but it is also an exercise and can lead to injuries. Raking, mulching, planting, trimming, and digging are good physical activity yet can result in pain and stiffness in our neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist, knees, and back if we over-extend ourselves.

Treat gardening as a sport: Warm up and stretch the muscles before beginning. Plan your work carefully to avoid injuries. Set a moderate pace and time schedule to allow enjoyment of the task and minimize potential injuries. Wear safety goggles, sturdy shoes, and long pants to prevent injury when using power tools and equipment. Protect your hearing when using machinery. If you have to raise your voice to talk to someone who is an arm's length away, the noise can be potentially harmful to your hearing. Wear gloves to lower the risk for skin irritations, cuts, and certain contaminants. Protect yourself from diseases caused by mosquitoes and ticks. Wear long-sleeved shirts, and pants tucked in your socks. Lower your risk for sunburn and skin cancer. Wear long sleeves, wide-brimmed hats, sun shades, and sunscreen with SPF factor.

Remember good body mechanics: When lifting heavy bags of dirt or mulch keep your back straight, bend your knees, lift with the legs, and hold objects close to your body. If shoveling, lift the dirt and turn the entire body to empty it, do not twist.

Change it up: Use different muscle groups and minimize the repetitive stress placed on joints and extremities by frequently changing activities. Use a cushion, stool, or small bench when weeding. The support helps reduce stress placed on knees and spine from gardening movements.

Take frequent breaks: By stopping to stretch, getting a drink or just enjoying the progress every half hour, you minimize your chance of injury or dehydration. Stop gardening if fatigued or in pain. That “one last thing” when tired leads to injury. If pain occurs, stop! If pain persists, apply ice to the affected area for 15-20 minutes at a time to reduce inflammation. **DO NOT USE HEAT** - it increases the inflammatory process. If pain persists, contact your physician.

“A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit.” Matthew 7:17

When making dietary change to healthier foods, consider a garden. Fruits and vegetables always taste better from a garden than a hothouse since they can ripen naturally and are less processed than those purchased in stores. If you grow herbs, you can enhance the taste of your other food and decrease the use of salt as a flavoring. Having plenty of vegetables and herbs right outside your door will help battle the risks of heart disease and cancer, so start planning yours today.

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.

Upcoming Events –

- The Cancer Support Group will meet on Tuesday, May 14, 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.
- 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 Gonzales Youth



Helping Students Find & Follow Jesus

Senior Sunday Celebration & Brunch MAY 19TH

WORSHIP SERVICE | 8:30AM & 10:45 AM
SANCTUARY

BRUNCH | 9:30 - 10:30 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL



LET'S BLESS OUR SENIORS!

PLEASE WRITE A NOTE
OF ENCOURAGEMENT,
ADVICE, OR PRAYER
AND/OR SHARE A GIFT
ON SENIOR SUNDAY!

*GIFTS CAN ALSO BE TURNED
IN EARLY TO KATIE BY 5PM,
THURS. MAY 16TH TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE. THANK YOU!

CLASS OF 2024

MORGAN BOOTHE
CHANCE BOYD
MALLORY CLACK
LANDON HOLUB
ALYSON JAHNS
TARA LESTER
VANCE LUCAS
DREW PENNINGTON
WESTON RUDDOCK
MACY SAMPLE
PARKER STOREY
CREE STOWERS
BLAKE WRIGHT

FIRST METHODIST GONZALES YOUTH

20  24

SHRIMP BOIL END OF YEAR PARTY

WED. MAY 15TH

4 - 8 P M

GYM TIME | 9 SQUARE | GAMES
HOT DOGS | SHRIMP | SNOW CONES



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

