



# FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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### Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the strong name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." This single verse packs a lot for us in this time of year. For starters, we are immensely blessed...and all of our blessings are gifts from our good and faithful God! I love how it describes Him as the Father of heavenly lights, as it reminds us that the "Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:1) Maybe this is a season where you have much to be thankful for, but you also have much to work through or endure. Either way, remember that right there with you is The Lord, full of Grace and Truth, and He loves you! As we enter into the Fall, and Thanksgiving is right around the corner, let's take some time as families, as friends and as a church family to reflect on all of the ways we have to be thankful for God's blessings in our lives. Then, let's find ways to share the blessings we have received! Especially let's find ways to share the love and Grace of Christ with anyone and everyone we can! I am thankful for you, Church!

It's an honor to be your pastor.

Blessings,  
Pastor Matt

Beginning Sunday, December 3! This is a great time to bring someone to church with you!

Advent is the time of year we must sink down into the ancient story of God's people and remember what it means to hope. We walk with them on the desert road. We ache and thrill with the Prophets. We sing along with the Poets. We wait with anticipation for Jesus to step into the story. We could never get to him. Our only hope is that he comes to us. And in the fullness of time, the plot takes a scandalous turn that we dared not even imagine. The Creator steps into the story, and takes on the lead role. The Author becomes the Protagonist.



Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like a book of daily readings to guide your Advent season. Let's prepare well to come and adore Christ The Lord!

 **rightnow** MEDIA



# Thank You!

Thanks so much for all your prayers, phone calls, food, flowers, memorials and cards. The food was so very good at the lunch after Bill's service. You ladies did an outstanding job. We are so blessed to belong to such a loving and caring church family.

Love, Juanita Blundell,  
Carolyn Cain & Phyllis Snoga

I would like to thank each church member who took time to pray and bake delicious home baked cookies for the Cuero Stevenson Unit Kairos #32 held October 12-15, 2023!

Kairos Prison Ministry has over 30,000 volunteers in 37 states and 9 foreign countries. Our purpose is to establish Christian Communities inside prisons through the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ!

We handed out **1,437 dozen** cookies (1 dozen for each man in the unit) and served about 300 dozen to participants and volunteers for the weekend. They were very delicious and enjoyed by all!

Your support is **very much appreciated** and may God continue to bless each one of you!

Darvin Dieringer



## Happy House News



### November Events:

November 15<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving  
Classroom parties  
November 15<sup>th</sup> – Book Orders Due  
November 20<sup>th</sup> – School Holiday  
November 22<sup>nd</sup> – School Holiday

Sandra Jandt, 672-7879

### Book Club News

Shelby Van Pelt's first novel, Remarkably Bright Creatures, is a delightful book that will surprise you in several ways, including who the remarkably bright creatures really are. Several themes are developed in the book: family dysfunction, including child desertion; grief; downsizing; courtship in various forms; animal rights; value and commitment to work; and mystery. I promise you will never look at an octopus in the same way after reading this book. We hope Van Pelt writes more.

We will meet at the City library on November 16 (due to Thanksgiving on our usual date at 9:30. For the November selection, call 830-857-4148. Hope to see you there!

### 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 November 14, 2023, at 6 PM in the Stockton Building; all are welcome.

### 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

# November birthdays

11/1	Nila Ehrig	11/11	Joan Griffin	11/18	Amy Lipke
11/2	Sandra Atkinson		Alyson Jahns		Molly Bashaw
	Stephen Lucas		Josh Gray		Dutch Zaitz
	Kim Davis	11/12	Michaela Malatek	11/21	Luke Tenberg
11/3	Hope Mills	11/13	Clayton Wilkerson		Emma Froh
	Krissy Jo Hodges	11/14	Amy Thibodeaux	11/22	Justin Pope
	Jordan Williams		Trenton Wilkerson	11/25	Bonnie Hyman
11/4	Jenice Benedict		Ryder Robinson		Ann Reaves
	Sutton McMahon		Annie Thomsen	11/26	Rhett Oates
11/5	Michael Oakes	11/15	Taylor Malatek	11/27	Bailey Bozka
11/6	J.T. Miller		Ellen Denman		Jolie Gray
	Chelsea Quintanilla		Tori Kuntschik	11/28	Betty Schroeder
	James Massey		Mitchell Hardcastle		Dana Hamilton
11/7	Sandra Gorden		Slone Gibson	11/29	Ross Gottwald
11/8	McKenzie Hodges	11/16	Juanita Blundell		Mallory Clack
11/9	Norma Fink		Sydney Clack		Emma Balfanz
11/10	Mary Martha Ehrig		Mike Rosenauer		
	Autumn Smith	11/17	Maverick Lester		

# November Anniversaries

11/1	Dale & Sherri Schellenberg	11/22	Jason & Stacy Fogle
11/2	Houston & Maggie Keck	11/24	Pal & Bethel Lester
	Kevin & Lanece Darilek		Taylor & Blaine Davis
11/19	Dalton & Tori Kuntschik	11/25	Joe Britt & Rosemary Hindman
11/20	Matt & Brooke Pennington		

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

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

**November 5, 2023**-Dale and Sherry Schellenberg ~ In Memory of Donald Cuvelier, Betty Cuvelier, Dannie & Joyce Schellenberg; In Honor of our children and grandchildren

The Brzozowski, Wyant, and Lucas Families ~ In Memory of Lea Ann Wyant

**November 12, 2023**-Mike, Sarah, and Will Miller ~ In Memory of John W. Miller

Nancy Burns ~ In Memory of Lea Ann Wyant

Greg, Tim, and Charlotte Wilson ~ In Memory of Harold Wilson and Hensley Hurt

**November 19, 2023**-Al Wayne and Nila Ehrig ~ In Memory of Clifton Poe, and Alvin & Alice Ehrig

The Garland Tenberg Family ~ In Memory of Our Parents: Garland & Dorothy Tenberg, and Alfon & Stella Barta

**November 26, 2023**-Greg and Joan Griffin ~ In Honor of Our Heavenly Father



For information on hosting a table or volunteering behind the scenes, please contact Brooke Pennington (210-273-9610) or Natalie Storey (512-468-6947).

### Christmas Food Boxes

Plans are underway for the Christmas Food Box project sponsored by our Missions Ministry. This year we are planning to provide 100 boxes for needy families. GCAM assists us by signing up the families and giving them a voucher to receive their box. We purchase food items from the Victoria Food Bank and HEB to complete the boxes and we include a smoked chicken to provide the families with food for a holiday celebration meal. All recipients are very appreciative. This is a significant mission outreach project from our church to the community and we need your help: PRAY – Pray that this project will be successful and a blessing to those in need. DONATE – The November Altar Rail Offering will be designated for the food boxes and you can make monetary donations to the church marked “Christmas Food Boxes”. HELP – Join us in the fellowship hall to help assemble the boxes or come on Monday to help with the distribution of the boxes.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 TH , 9:30 am, Box preparation, Fellowship Hall  
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 th , 11:00am – 12:30 pm, Box Distribution

If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call. Thank you for your help with our project.

Rosemary Hindman, Project Chairperson

### STATISTICAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

Attendance				PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT		Jan-Sep 2023
DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL	Ordinary Income/Expense		
3	112	77	189	Income		
				Total Income		535,908.84
10	114	63	177	Gross Profit		535,908.84
17	82	70	152	Expense		
24	124	60	184	Facility Operations		124,955.73
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>702</b>	Ministry Work Areas		29,734.62
<b>AVG:</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>176</b>	Lawn Care		1,930.00
				Payroll Expenses		288,879.26
				Staff Benefits		12,970.28
				Church Clergy Expenses		37,337.67
				Apportionments/Conf. Treas.		36,549.14
				Connectional Giving		4,983.62
				Total Expense		537,340.32
				Net Ordinary Income		-1,431.48
				Net Income		-1,431.48



## Wesley Nurse News

*“Yet I said to myself, ‘This is my sickness, and I must endure it.’” - Jeremiah 10:19*

During this time of year, we often wonder if the upper respiratory infection we have is a cold or the flu. Here is a chart to help determine which it is:

Cold	Symptom	Flu
Pretty rare	Fever	Usually present
Slight body aches & pains	Aches	Severe aches & pains
Uncommon	Chills	Fairly common
Fairly mild	Fatigue	Moderate to severe
Develop over a few days	Sudden Symptoms	Rapid onset of 3-6 hours
Hacking & productive	Coughing	Dry and nonproductive
Common	Sneezing	Uncommon
Common	Stuffy Nose	Uncommon
Mild to moderate	Sore Throat	Uncommon
Mild to moderate	Chest Discomfort	Often severe
Fairly uncommon	Headache	Very common

Unlike colds, flu can lead to complications like pneumonia, especially in the old, the young, and those with serious health issues. Viruses are transmitted by contact with objects that the infected person has touched after coughing or sneezing. Germs can be transmitted 1 day before symptoms appear and up to 5 days after getting sick. Stay healthy by eating well, exercising regularly, getting plenty of rest, and practicing good hand washing. If you have a cold or the flu, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or elbow when coughing/sneezing, avoid people while ill, wash your hands after coughing/sneezing, and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. If you are ill stay home; don't share your germs. Treat your symptoms by hydrating yourself, getting plenty of rest, gargling to moisten a sore throat, drinking hot liquids to relieve nasal congestion, taking a steamy shower to clear nasal passages, applying hot or cold packs to congested sinuses, using an extra pillow when sleeping to relieve congestion, and avoiding travel by air. If you are healthy, share Jesus' love by taking the sick one the standard chicken soup or fluids and caring for the children.

*“You understand, O Lord; remember me and care for me.” - Jeremiah 15:15*

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. < [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com) >

- Blood Drive – On Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be hosting our last blood drive of the year! The South Texas Blood and Tissue Centers will be in the parking lot, in front of the church from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. As soon as I receive the link, I will post it to our church's social media page and around the church. Please sign up to donate and contact me if you need help with the process. I would be happy to assist you! The gift of life is priceless and with your donation, you can help save lives.
- Cancer Support Group will meet on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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.
- If you need a flu shot and are uncertain of where they are available, please call me and I can help in getting you in connection with a Flu Drive Clinic or a Flu Shot (Nurse) appointment at one of the clinics in Gonzales County.

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).



# CHILDREN'S CORNER NOVEMBER

**Sunday School** - We'd love for your child to join us each Sunday for a fun, faith-filled lesson from 9:45am-10:30am!  
**Happy House** - Chapel time is each Wednesday where we get to sing songs and learn more about Jesus.  
**Kids JAM** - 97 kids are currently enrolled! Who is God? - Who is Jesus? - What is the Bible? are the first three units in the curriculum. Kids love the songs and are challenged to learn at least one Bible verse per unit.  
We are thankful for all our volunteers, kitchen crew, van drivers, and teachers who make Kids JAM amazing!  
**Fall Fun Day** - On October 19th, 13 kids and 2 adults visited the nursing homes and Romberg House to sing songs. How exciting it was to see the joy this brought to the residents! We hope to return in December!  
**God's Girls** - On October 23rd, the girls studied God's Word Is Truth. They enjoyed snack time, group activities, learning the theme song, and Bible adventure.

## 2022 Dates:

Nov. 26 - Prep the House  
Dec. 10 - Christmas Pageant - 6pm  
Dec. 13 - Last Day of Kids JAM



## 2023 Dates:

January 17 - Kids JAM begins  
June 10-13 - VBS  
June 18-22 - Revive Camp



Give thanks to the Lord; for He is good, and His loves endures forever! Psalm 107:1





# YOUTH

## HELPING STUDENTS FIND & FOLLOW JESUS

### FIELDS OF FAITH



### CONFIRMATION CLASS



### WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP



#### Rocky Creek Corn Maze Youth Trip

SATURDAY, NOV 4TH

SPOTS LIMITED - RSVP to KATIE



8 ACRE CORN MAZE - FARM GAMES - FOOD - FUN WITH FRIENDS



LEAVE: 11 AM / RETURN: 5 PM

WHAT TO BRING: \$ for lunch / snacks

COST: \$20 for general admission

\*\*\*The Haunted Trail is closed this year due to the drought

**FIRST**  
METHODIST  
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STOCKTON BUILDING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH  
STOCKTON BUILDING | 5 - 8 PM

## Youth Friendsgiving Potluck

PLEASE RSVP TO KATIE & SIGN UP WITH A FRIEND OR 2 TO MAKE OR  
BUY A SIDE OR DESSERT IF YOU'RE ABLE TO JOIN US! THIS WILL  
HELP US MAKE SURE WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE.



First Methodist Church  
426 Saint Paul Street  
Gonzales, Texas 78629

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