



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

426 Saint Paul St, Gonzales, TX 78629

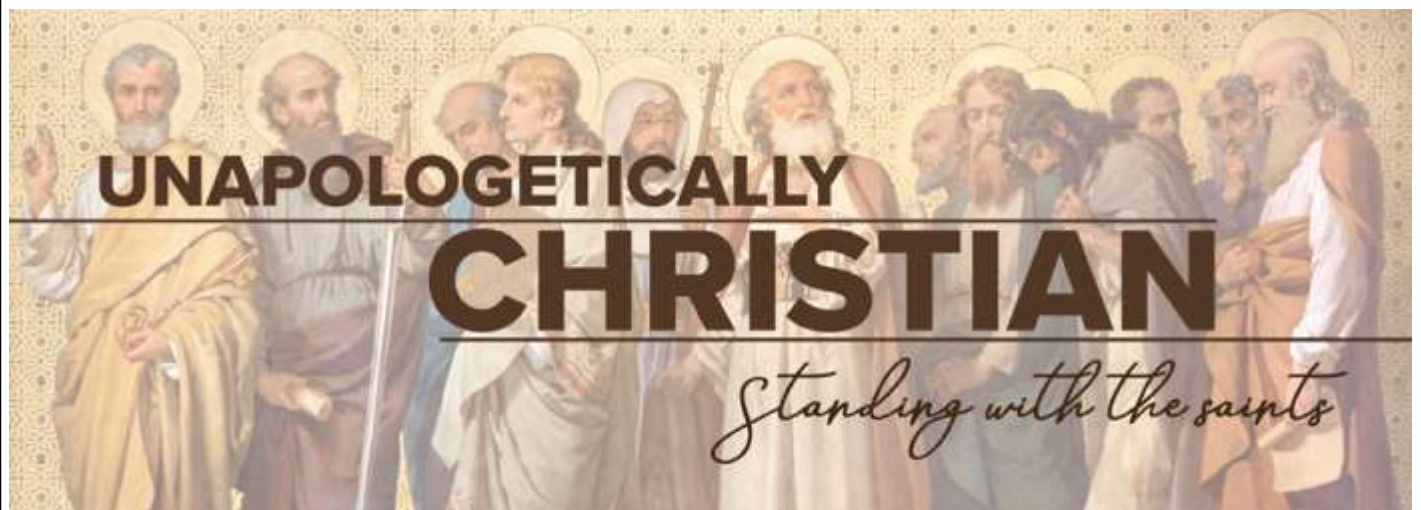
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Pastor's Corner

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! As I write this article, students and teachers are settling into their first day of the school year. I know you will continue to join me in praying for this to be a safe year of healthy growth! My closing point of encouragement to students, parents, teachers last Sunday was Zephaniah 3: 17 from the Legacy Standard Bible... would you let this Word sit with you today? "Yahweh your God is in your midst, A mighty one who will save. He will be joyful over you with gladness; He will be quiet in His love; He will rejoice over you with joyful singing."

I am really excited about the sermon series that I will be starting this Fall. It's titled UNAPOLOGETICALLY CHRISTIAN: Standing with the Saints.



We get the word "catechesis" from the Greek word that means "to teach or instruct." As Methodists, we have a robust and powerful history of catechism that is apostolic in nature, rooted in God's Holy Word and draws from the oldest creeds known (Nicene and Apostle's Creeds). Simply put, we will be examining the essentials of our faith: Who are we? What do we believe? How should we then live as a people called Methodist? Come along the journey! Bring a friend with you!

It's an honor to be your pastor.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt

 **rightnow** MEDIA





GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

*Happy 100th Birthday
to former church member
Cecil Keck Iley Allert!*

Altar Flowers

It's time to start the 2024 Flower Calendar, and your flower request forms will soon be in the mail. It is a blessing to have beautiful fresh flowers gracing the altar each Sunday, and your generosity is appreciated.

Those who give a full arrangement (\$50) are welcome to take their flowers home to enjoy after the second service. The arrangement is in a convenient cardboard container that is easily removed from the permanent brass vases.

Thank you,
Melissa Schauer

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

Thank You!

Dear First Methodist Church,

I feel honored and grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the First Methodist Church Scholarship. I want to thank you for your generosity in funding this scholarship. It is a great help to me financially, especially in these uncertain times.

I am a Business major hoping to go into my Accountant career. This fall semester, I am beginning my Freshman year and will be starting to work towards my dream job.

As I start my education at Texas State University, I cannot express my gratitude for this scholarship strongly enough. The funds will not be wasted because I am dedicated to being the best student I can be, so when I enter the workforce in the field of Accounting I will be prepared and equipped to be an innovative, high-contributing employee.

Again, thank you for your vote of confidence in me-and this thoughtful, generous gift!

Sincerely, Jarren Johnson

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are no words to express the joy I experienced worshipping with your congregation. You are blessed with a dynamic pastor and a loving staff. I thank God for each of them and each of you! Your faithfulness and commitment to the "least of these" is aligned with the heart of God.

Thank you so much for the warm hospitality shown to Stan and I. You blessed us in so many ways during our visit. A special thank you to Rosemary for all that she did and to those who contributed to our basket-we have thoroughly enjoyed it.

I pray daily for Pastor Matt and your congregation. May God continue to richly bless you and may those who don't know his grace-find it through First!

With prayers of gratitude for faithful congregations and loving saints,

Rev. Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory

Dear Church Family,

Thank y'all for the scholarships, Bible and book. I'm glad to be a recipient and member of this church. Thank y'all for your lifelong support and unconditional love.

Thanks! Brendon Mercer

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

9/01	Connie Davis	9/11	Charles Pankey	9/21	Charlotte Wilson
9/02	Macy Sample Ellis Baker		Stephanie Carter		Keith Heldarsen
9/03	Eve Waddell	9/12	Evelyn Young		Maggie Farrar
	Layne Barnick	9/13	Matt Oates	9/22	Brian Bennett
9/05	Garen Reese		David Bivins		Steve Taylor
9/06	Sammie Massie		Dustin Williams		Kathleen Borrer
	Christi Fullilove	9/14	Kate Zella	9/23	Frances Ehrig
	Cade Davis		Jack Finch		Rustin Lester
	John Gentry	9/15	Devin Bennett	9/24	Nancy Logan
	Justin Rummage		Bobby Morgan	9/25	Judy Neitsch
9/07	Dylan King	9/16	Erin Baker		Parker Storey
	Emily Moore		Rusty Clampit		Lee Raley
9/08	Dane King	9/17	Cole Boothe	9/26	Kristi Mercer
	Dane Sullivan		Judy Gipson		Patricia Edmiston
	Jake Hardcastle	9/18	Lana Lucas		Hays Gray
9/09	Darren Schauer		Emersyn Kusak	9/27	Ludene Poe
	Eldon Farek	9/19	Tammy Morgan		Anna Hardcastle
	Tim Gray	9/20	Kathy Gibson	9/28	Heather McMahon
	Will Miller		Keith Schauer	9/30	Tim Allen
	Justine White		Shannon Sample		
			Jamie Bryant		
			Kristie Seale		



9/3	Doug & Shirley Floyd
9/10	Greg & Joan Griffin
9/11	Keeton & Jessica Ehrig
9/14	Emmitt & Marie Currie
9/15	Ralph & Justine White
9/18	Bobby & Barbara Atkinson
9/20	David & Kay Burrough
9/22	Larry & Patrice Gray
	David & Sascha Kardosz
9/28	Bobby & Evelyn Clark
9/30	Matt & Kenna Oates

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

Altar Flowers for September are given by:

September 3-Laurie and Steve Taylor ~ In Memory of Elenore Ehrig

Jay and Donna Gray ~ In Memory of Ross D. Gray

Norma Fink ~ In Memory of William Fink

September 10-Wendy and Kiley Allen ~ In Memory of Doyle Allen

Nancy Logan ~ In Memory of Jim Logan

September 17-Allison and Rowdy Marrow ~ In Honor of Kenneth and Marsha Wright
and In Memory of Rob Marrow and Larry Marrow

September 24-Herman Grauke and Family ~ In Memory of Sue Grauke

Bill and Sally Storey ~ In Memory of Lee, Evelyn, and Sue Carnes; Marion "Feetie" Storey

CHILDREN'S CORNER - SEPTEMBER 2023



We've been busy this summer at FMC! What a blessing it is to work with our children!

LEGO Camp - We averaged 30 kids daily building the most amazing structures throughout the week!

Movie Day - Thirteen children and five adults enjoy yummy food and a movie in Yoakum.

The Educator Luncheon was a huge success! The children enjoyed being a part of this great service.

Sunday, August 13 - Children of all ages brought backpacks and bags to be blessed for the new school year. In addition, Bibles were presented to eight children. Love it, Learn it, and Live it!

Sunday School - Ages 3yrs old to 6th grade are welcome! The Fruit of the Spirit series has started!

Save the Dates: Sept. 13 - Kids JAM begins; Sept. 17 - First Gathering of God's Girls
Nov. 26 - Prep the House
Dec. 10 - Christmas Pageant 6pm; Dec. 13 - Last Day Kids JAM for Fall



Wesley Nurse News

"O Lord, I have come to you for protection; don't let me be disgraced. Save me, for you do what is right." - Psalm 31:1

Mental health is something we tend to take for granted until there is a problem. At that time we wonder where to turn for help. In addition, stigmas are often attached to mental health issues which make us reluctant to seek help and we pretend that everything is just fine. Mental illnesses can affect people of any age, race, religion or economic status and are one of the leading causes of disability in the world. Without treatment, they can result in unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, or suicide. Some of the conditions considered mental illness are:

- ADHD
- Anxiety Disorder
- Bipolar Personality
- Dementia
- Depression
- Eating Disorders
- Learning Disabilities
- Phobias
- Obsessive/Compulsive Behaviors
- Panic Disorders
- Suicide
- Schizophrenia
- Substance Abuse
- Post-traumatic Stress

Depression is one of the most common mental illnesses. Symptoms of clinical depression include: persistent feelings of "emptiness," sleep disturbances, inability to concentrate, memory problems, changes in appetite, loss of pleasure or interest in things that were once enjoyable, irritability, loss of energy, and feelings of hopelessness. Depression can be experienced because of a chemical imbalance, environmental factors, or stress. In Ecclesiastes we read, "'Meaningless!' says the Teacher. 'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.'" These words describe how most depressed people feel. In a subsequent chapter it says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." We can't separate our physical, mental, and spiritual health. Only when we seek wholeness through our Creator do we find true joy. Joy or wholeness can only be found at the foot of the cross and the empty tomb. Seek medical help but don't forget to seek spiritual help too.

"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases." - Luke 9:1

If a loved one exhibits behavior that is considered out of the norm, see a physician. Denying that a problem exists will not help your loved one. Denial is common because of the stigma of mental illness but it only promotes the perception that mental illness is something to sweep under the rug. Without acknowledgment, the behavior will get worse, a diagnosis will be delayed, and families can disintegrate from the stress. Since mental illness is not a wound that can be seen, families usually have more difficulty accepting the illness. Anyone struggling with it cannot "get over it" or "put it out of his mind" because mental illness is a physical condition. If your loved one exhibits any warning signs, it is important to embrace the diagnosis as well as the difficulty of the illness. Learn all you can about the diagnosis, talk with your physician about ways to cope with the diagnosis, and find a support group to share your experience and learn from others. As caregivers, remember to take care of yourself in order to deal with the frustration and anxiety of the family disease. Treatment options for mental illness include medication, talk therapy, or a combination of various treatment modalities. Because of the options, each person must receive an individual treatment plan to address his/her diagnosis and personal needs. Starting with your family physician, find a hospital or psychiatrist that can treat the entire family. The plan should include interventions to educate the family, treat the person medically, and address the spiritual and interpersonal components of the illness.

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.nami.org/ > - National Alliance on Mental Illness – offers support, education, advocacy, and research < www.webmd.com/mental-health/mental-health-types-illness/ > - material for consumers on mental health – HON approved < <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/> > - US Department of Health and Human Services, National Mental Health Information Center < www.pathprogram.samhsa.gov/ > - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration < www.healthyminds.org/Main-Topic/Mental-Illness.aspx > - American Psychiatric Association – consumer

Announcements and Upcoming Events –

- The South Texas Blood & Tissue Center of Victoria will be here out in front of the church on Sunday, September 10th from 8 am – 1:00 pm., for our third blood drive of the year. We, as a church, have set a goal of collecting 30 units of blood this drive. Mark your calendars and please invite your neighbors, friends, and family members to come and help save a life, by *donating blood* to those in need and help us reach our goal!! I faithfully pray that we as a church and community will continue to give selflessly and positively impact the lives of others.
- The Cancer Support group meets monthly. We will meet on September 12th. If you are interested in participating or have questions, 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.

Book Club News

Kate Morton is an author that one can depend upon to provide interesting stories with many twists and turns. Our August selection, Homecoming, was no different. Set in Australia, Morton's home, she describes the setting and creates complex characters to keep the reader involved and interested. A mystery, family dynamics, a book-within-a-book, and stories of love, death, and bravery, made this a favorite of our group and one we highly recommend.

For September, we will be reading a totally different type of book by Shelby Van Pelt, Remarkably Bright Creatures. Told by an octopus (?), it describes an animal/human love story that promises delightful reading. One reviewer promised "laughter and tears," so I guess we should be prepared for anything.

After some discussion, our Book Club has decided to meet at the City Library in hopes of recruiting some new members. We have loved meeting at the church for all these years (over 20) and are thankful to the church for allowing us to do so. We meet at the same time: the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30, so we would love to see some of your faces there on September 28. Call 830-857-4148 for information.

Earth Angels Quilters

Due to a variety of reasons, there will not be a meeting in September. The heat is still on & looks to stay for a while! Continue to stay inside, stay cool, and quilt! We are continually adding to our stash of quilts designated for those who may have future needs.

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 October 10, 2023, at 6 PM in the Stockton Building; all are welcome.

STATISTICAL REPORT JULY 2023

Attendance				Ordinary Income/Expense		Jan - Jul 23
DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL	Income		<u>417,799.54</u>
				Gross Profit		417,799.54
				Expense		
2	118	101	219	40000 · Facility Operations		93,445.09
9	105	67	172	60000 · Ministry Work Areas		22,123.65
16	109	90	199	65200 · Lawn Care		1,930.00
23	109	61	170	66000 · Payroll		224,885.94
30	138	52	190	66100 · Staff Benefits		9,108.27
TOTAL:	579	371	950	67000 · Church Clergy Expenses		27,545.04
AVG:	<u>116</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>190</u>	76000 · Apportionments/Conf. Treasurer		36,549.14
				81000 · GMC MidTexas Connectional Giving		1,815.20
				82000 · GMC Global Connectional Funding		<u>605.07</u>
				Total Expense		<u>418,007.40</u>
				Net Ordinary Income		<u>-207.86</u>
				Net Income		<u>-207.86</u>

YOUTH

Helping Students Find & Follow Jesus

Junior High Youth
Wednesdays
5 - 7 pm

THE GOSPEL OF

MARK

LEARN ABOUT THE LIFE OF JESUS

4 - 5 | community time (stockton bldg)

5:15 - 6 | bible study (stockton bldg)

6 - 7 | games & snack (gym)

High School Youth
Wednesdays
6 - 8 pm

THE BOOK OF

JAMES

A LIVING FAITH

4 - 6 | community time (stockton bldg)

6 - 7 | games & snack (gym)

7 - 8 | bible study (stockton bldg)

Educator Luncheon

Our youth did a great job helping greet, serve dessert & clean up to bless our educator's for this special tradition!





First Methodist Church
426 Saint Paul Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629

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