FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

426 Saint Paul St, Gonzales, TX 78629
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Pastor's Corner

The Grace of Jesus Christ in me, greets the Grace of Jesus Christ in you, Church!

Over the past few weeks, I have had the chance to process more about the gathering of the Global Methodist Church General Conference in Johannesburg South Africa. To be elected a delegate to a General Conference for the second time was truly an honor, and I am grateful for your prayers and support in serving the Global Church in this way. There were roughly 422 delegates elected from all across the world that gathered to worship, pray, and work diligently on the legislation before us. From this work, one historic moment was when we nearly unanimously passed The Articles of faith (1 no vote), which sets the doctrinal and theological framework for our movement. This was historic in that it sets the theological bedrock that generations will draw from to remain faithful, something that will ensure we are who we say we are. We elected new bishops, we set educational standards, and had robust conversations on a variety of theological matters. I believe in our movement and I am honored to be a part of the Global Methodist Church. I am also so happy to be home. At the end of the day, the faithful work of the General Conference is important, but where the rubber meets the road in ministry that seeks to transform lives through a relationship with Jesus Christ, it happens in the local church. I had a vision for the sermon series we are in that I'm calling "Conversations with Jesus" while in Johannesburg. What a gift it is to walk together and receive the powerful truths Jesus shared in his life and ministry, and to continue that conversation among us! As we press into this Fall season, I'm praying for rain and easier temperatures, but I'm also praying that God will inspire you! We will host our second Come and Worship Gathering during Come and Take It on October 4, and I hope you will come at 7am to worship! We will have only ONE worship service in our Sanctuary that morning at 10am. Come and Worship. What a testimony to what God can do! I want to encourage you to spend time with Jesus this week. Talk to Him, but best of all, listen to Him! He's speaking with power and is full of Grace and Truth. I'm so thankful for you, church.

I'm honored to be your pastor.

Blessings
Pastor Matt

Thank you!

Dear Earth Angels,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful, colorful quilt you all made for me. You all are truly angels! I think of you all when I wrap myself up in it and feel the warmth & love. We are so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family and appreciate your thoughtfulness at this difficult time.

Blessings,
Dinah & Jeff Braune

Members of the Shawl Ministry,

Thank you for the beautiful blue crocheted shawl and the prayers that came with it. I appreciate all the time spent crocheting it. What a blessing this ministry is to all who receive one.

Sincerely,
Lauren Boothe

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. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 13 at 6p.m. in the Stockton Building.

2027 Flower Calendar

It's time to start the 2027 Flower Calendar, and you should have received your flower request forms. 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 ($70) 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

Happy House News

October Events:
October 5th – Scholl Holiday
October 26th – Fall Class Parties
October 26th –Fall Carnival

Blessings,
Sandra Jandt

Staff

Rev. Dr. Matt Pennington, Lead Pastor
Melissa Clampit, Dir. of Children & Family Ministries
Felicia Cantu, Office Manager
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager
Allison Davis, Executive Assistant to the Lead Pastor
Emma Balfanz, Ministry Intern
Janelle Lester, Wesley Nurse
Christina Menking, Organist
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director
Val Ramirez, Sr., Custodian

STATISTICAL REPORT AUGUST 2026

Attendance

DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL
2	108	75	183
9	151	125	276
16	105	75	180
23	110	75	185
30	87	89	176
TOTAL:	**561**	**439**	**1,000**
AVG:	***112***	***88***	***200***

	Jan - Aug 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	522,481.57
Gross Profit	522,481.57
Expense	
40000 · Facility Operations	133,834.43
60001 · Ministry Work Areas	31,289.94
66000 · Payroll Expenses	305,386.69
66100 · Staff Benefits	9,337.90
67000 · Church Clergy Expenses	42,710.90
77000 · Connectional Giving	23,945.60
Total Expense	546,505.46
Net Ordinary Income	-24,023.89
Net Income	**-24,023.89**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/01	Levi Hernandez
10/02	Jennifer Davis
	Nicki Meredith
10/03	Norman Burns
	Kenneth Leonhardt
10/04	Angie Boothe
	Donna Koehler
	Lyncoln Leal
	Everly Irons
10/05	Willa Keck
	Dakota Schmidt
10/06	Carol Farek
	Adam Staton
10/07	Bryan Denman
	Lori Raabe
	Travis Schauer
	Robert Blaylock
10/08	Kiley Morrow
10/09	Sophie Deleon
	Parker Otto
10/10	Jim Arledge
	Peyton Ruddock
10/11	Evelyn Clark
	Carlos Martinez
	Sarah Miller
	Blakelyn Wright
10/13	Philip Storey
	Ellie Mae Lester
	Jo Nell Pick
10/14	George Reese
	Roy Irons, Jr.
10/15	Kathy Boyd
	Kimberly Strozier
	Jason Fogle
	Jason Carter
10/16	Leigh Pirkle
10/17	Ali Brown
10/18	Linda Stulting
	Tristin Davis
	Rylee Ruddock
10/19	Mary Ckodre
	Reagan Daniel
10/20	Ace Irons
	Jo Sachtleben
	Brian Sample
	Haley Pirkle
10/21	Jay Gray
	Pat Davis
10/22	Amanda Balfanz
10/23	Hudson Daniel
	Laurie Taylor
	Sharon Tenberg
	Byron Lester
10/24	Mary Ella Hurt
	Wayne Baker
	Peggy Jo White
	Robert Willman
10/25	Hayley Knox
	Eradio Valverde
10/26	Dean Davis
	Natalie Storey
	Sadie Clemons
	Lillian Keck
10/27	Madeline Bird
	Ridge Martin
	John Whitt
10/28	Timothy Wilson
10/29	Lyndon Leal
10/30	J. Lynn Barnick
10/31	Morgan Boothe
	Addyson Kardosz

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

10/10	Taylor & Brittany Floyd	10/20	Michael & Kristi Mercer
10/13	David & Mona Bivins	10/22	Michael & Crystal Ehrig
10/15	Wade & Shelby Miller	10/24	Pat & Kim Davis
10/17	John & Judy Thomsen	10/27	George & Glenna Reese
10/18	Dustin & Courtney Williams		

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

Altar Flowers for October are given by:

October 4-The Bobby Avant and Family ~ In Memory of Connie Avant

October 11-Debbie Robinson ~ In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Robinson

Darvin Dieringer ~ In Memory of Margie Dieringer

October 18-Taylor, Blaine, Bowen, Brunes, Binni, and Bishop Davis
~ In Memory of Baron Boone Davis

October 25-Bill and Ann Reaves ~ In Memory of John & Leola Marek and Gregory & Margie Baros

Maydell Pankey ~ In Memory of Charles R. Pankey, Jr.

Connie Davis and Tanner Davis ~ In Honor of Bowen, Brunes, Binni, and Baron Davis
and in Memory of Baron Boone Davis; Wilma and Bob Teel; Clarice and Marvin Hood

CHILDREN'S CORNER - OCTOBER 2026

WHAT A WONDERFUL BLESSING IT IS TO SEE CHILDREN CONNECT WITH CHRIST THROUGH SUNDAY SCHOOL, KIDS JAM, GOD'S GUYS, GOD'S GIRLS, AND GOD'S LITTLES—OUR NEWEST PROGRAM FOR OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN. THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS WHO FAITHFULLY SERVE AS THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
MEMORIALS 3rd Quarter 2026

RAYMOND OTTO NEITSCH JR
Bubba & Lisa Ehrig-Happy House
Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co-Happy House
Tom & Pam Lester-Happy House
Greg & Kris McLain-Happy House
Ludene Poe
Betty Schroeder-Happy House
Houston Munson Family Partnership-Bereavement
Barbara Hand
Ellen Johnson
Michael & Irene Oakes-Happy House
Rusty & Melissa Clampit-Happy House
Erwin & Mary Ckodre-Bereavement

SANDRA JANE 'JANIE' CARLETON
Norman & Jean Burns-Music
Shirley Cage
Fred & Sheri Sanderson
Janet Baker
Ludene Poe
Beth Newman
Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement
Larry & Beth Mercer
Leroy & Bobbie Polasek
Margaret Hobizal Zella
Barbara Hand
Michael & Irene Oakes

LUANN SHELTON
Judy Neitsch & family-Happy House
Barbara Hand
Michael & Irene Oakes-Happy House
Terrie McCaleb-Happy House

MARIAN BLANCHE GINDLER
Ludene Poe
Beth Newman
Phil & Jackie Breitschopf
Houston Munson Family Partnership-Bereavement
Ellen Johnson
Michael & Irene Oakes
Erwin & Mary Ckodre-Bereavement
James & Holly Schellhase

HERMAN LOUIS GRAUKE
Steve & Mary Willman
Dyna Dubose
Harold & Brenda Grauke
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Joe Britt & Rosemary Hindman-Bereavement
Thomas & Shirley Pirkle
Bill & Ann Reaves
Betty Schroeder-Happy House
Laverne Davis-Happy House
Roger & Denise Immenhauser
Larry & Beth Mercer
Maydell Pankey-Bereavement
Leroy & Bobbie Polasek
Steve & Laurie Taylor-Scholarship
Sharon Tenberg
Barbara Hand
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Bereavement
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald-Youth
Ludene Poe
Michael & Irene Oakes
Scott & JoAnn Keck

MARY GAYLE MORGAN
Ludene Poe
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Thomas & Shirley Pirkle
Sandra Gorden-Good Samaritan
Michael & Irene Oakes

CHARLOTTE WILSON
Greg & Kris McLain
Beth Newman
Ellen Johnson
Michael & Irene Oakes

MARY JANE GAYTAN
Ludene Poe
Michael & Irene Oakes

BRENDA SUE RHOADES
Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement

GARY PAUL PAGEL
Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement

JAMES HENRY PADGETT JR
Ludene Poe
Bernice Heldarsen-Bereavement

JANET LINDEMANN
Ludene Poe

LINDA KLIMOSKI
Ludene Poe

LINDA SUTTON BROWN
Ludene Poe

JOHN MEADOWS
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

GLORIA KAY RUDDOCK
Ludene Poe

JIMMIE LEE RIVERKAMP
Ludene Poe
John & Edit Lucas

JOHN G STEFINSKY
Ludene Poe

JOHN M MOHRMANN
Ludene Poe

THOMAS I HILL, SR
Ludene Poe

VICTOR AGUILAR
Ludene Poe

ELAINE MARIE BRZOZOWSKI
Ellen Johnson
Michael & Irene Oakes

JACKIE LYNN WILLIAMSON
Ellen Johnson

JOHN L ZAVADIL
Ellen Johnson
Michael & Irene Oakes

JOHN MARK ZAVADIL
Ellen Johnson

KATHERINE ANN GARY
Ellen Johnson

LYNN WAYNE WILBURN
Ellen Johnson

PAMELA GAYLE DAVIS
Ellen Johnson
Michael & Irene Oakes

SALLY KAY STOREY
Ellen Johnson

CARROLL & KATHLEEN ERWIN
Michael & Irene Oakes
JOE & MARY FRANCES CARRIZALES
Michael & Irene Oakes
LORRAINE WALSHAK
Michael & Irene Oakes
JOE ELDRIDGE
Michael & Irene Oakes
ROLAND ESCOBEDO SR
Michael & Irene Oakes
ROBERT L BENNETT
Michael & Irene Oakes
GLADYS CAMPION
Michael & Irene Oakes
ROBERT 'BOB' BURCHARD
Michael & Irene Oakes
LOUIS HENRY BRUNS
Michael & Irene Oakes
CAROLINE CLOER
Michael & Irene Oakes
JOYCE ELAINE DAVIS
Jay & Donna Gray-Scholarship
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Ludene Poe
BILLY WAYNE COLWELL
John & Edith Lucas-Children's Ministry
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Ludene Poe
MORGAN BARRY BOOTHE SR
Billy & Sue Boothe-Trustees
Kenneth & Laverne Brzozowski-Landscape
Wesley & Brenda Caldwell--Trustees
First Methodist Church Choir-Trustees
Kyle & Debbie Crozier-Trustees
Pat & Kim Davis-Trustees
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Trustees
Kenneth & Karen Fougerat-Children's Ministry
Sandra Gorden-Trustees
Harold & Brenda Grauke-Trustees
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Joe Britt & Rosemary Hindman-Trustees
Paula Jones & Delton Schmidt-Trustees
James & Mona Lassig-Trustees
John & Edith Lucas-Trustees
Stephen & Kenna Lucas-Landscape
Larry & Beth Mercer-Trustees
Ludene Poe-Trustees
Leroy & Bobbie Polasek-Trustees
Bobbie & Josie Tomas-Trustees
Susie Selzer-Trustees
Wayne & Tammy Hillman-Trustees
Andrew & Kyla Brown-Trustees
Gonzales Livestock Market-Trustees
Rusty & Melissa Clampit-Trustees
David & Jacquelyn Potter-Trustees
David & Mona Bivins-Trustees
Sue Withers-Trustees
Jeanie Hindman-Trustees
Glenna Winegeart-Trustees
Janet Baker-Trustees
Steve & Kathleen Ehrig-Trustees
Jay & Donna Gray-Scholarship
Glenn & Linda Glass-Trustees
Tom & Pam Lester-Trustees
Carl & Betty Sample-Trustees

MORGAN BARRY BOOTHE SR (cont'd)
Albert & Rose Rodriguez-Trustees
Nancy Logan
Susanne & Carroll Barnett-Trustees
Pauline Neskora-Trustees
Trace & Alisha Boothe-Trustees
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald-Youth
Betty Schroeder-Trustees
Kenneth & Doreen Fink-Youth
Steve & Felicia Cantu-Trustees
Ralph & Lori Raabe-Trustees
Cathy Hallmark-Trustees
Tommy & Theresa Bruns
Glen & Joe Sachtleben-Trustees
Jeffery & Dinah Braune-Children's Ministry
CARL WILLIAM SWORDS
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
LARRY BARABAS
Kenneth & Karen Fougerat-Children's Ministry
NANCY LEA SEITZ
Ludene Poe
STEVEN LEWIS ECKOLS
Ludene Poe
PEGGY SCHULTZ
John & Edith Lucas
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald-Youth
Glen & Joe Sachtleben

Wesley Nurse News and Updates

Preventive care is proactive love. October encourages us to stay current with screenings and routine appointments so concerns can be addressed early. If you have been postponing care due to fear, time, or uncertainty, consider this a gentle nudge: you are worth caring for, and wisdom often begins with one phone call.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity." — Proverbs 31:25

Health Tips:
• Check which screenings are recommended for you (mammogram, colon cancer screening, vaccines, and others).
• Schedule appointments you have been delaying; ask a friend to remind you or go with you if that helps.
• Write down family health history to share with your provider; it can guide prevention.
• Stay current on flu and other vaccines as recommended by your healthcare provider.
• Pray for courage and peace as you take steps toward health.

Things to try this week…

Look up your recommended screening and choose one to schedule.
Gather family health history to share with your provider.
Get your flu shot if recommended and available.
What appointment or screening have you been postponing that you can schedule now?

Gentle Safety Note –
Preventive screenings save lives; early detection often leads to simpler treatment and better outcomes.

Lord, give us courage to pursue wise care. Help us choose prevention, peace, and hope.
Amen.

Your Wesley Nurse,
Janelle Lester, BSN, RN

Wesley Nurse Announcements

- Our third blood drive of the year was a success! Thank you so much to our donors for their time and donation. We had a total of 14 donations; that will potentially help 42 patients receive lifesaving treatment! Our drive was the 3rd largest collection of blood that Sunday and the #1 highest percentage to goal! At the end of the year, I will work on next year's Blood Drive schedule, but until then, mark your calendars for our last drive of the year, November 29th!
- Cancer Support Group will meet on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 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.
- I continue to operate the Diaper Bank Ministry and offer My Healthy Child classes but am always in need of donations. 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 and pull ups 2T-3T, 3T-4T, and 4T-5T.

Continued on the next page...

Wesley Nurse News continued...

One of the greatest blessings of our church family is the opportunity to care for one another in meaningful and practical ways. As your Wesley Nurse, I am continually seeking to identify the health and wellness needs within our surrounding community and congregation. These needs may include health education topics, support resources, screening opportunities, or ideas for future health fairs and outreach events. If you or your family have questions about health topics, would benefit from a particular class/group, or see a need in our community that we could address together, I would love to hear from you! Please come visit me during the week. Together, we can prayerfully and thoughtfully build healthier, stronger pathways of care for our church and community.

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.

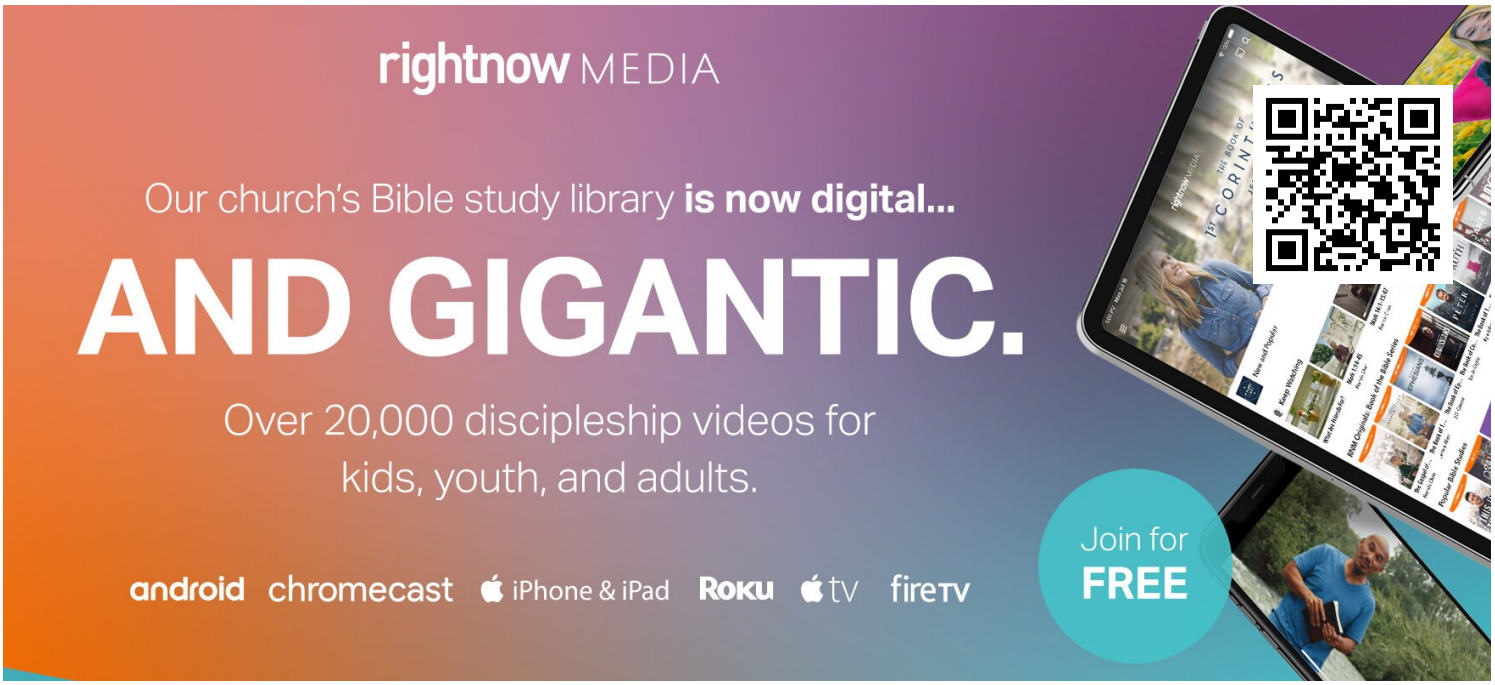
Book Club News

Land by Maggie O'Farrall, our September selection, is a historical novel which has something for every reader: history of Ireland in the 1800's just after the Great Hunger (Potato Famine), a family saga spanning a few generations, fantasy set in a mysterious bog, a look into the life of a Jesuit priest, the migration story of those seeking their fortunes in Canada, and a love story than began in an Irish workhouse for children orphaned by the famine. We found it a bit difficult to get into but it definitely is a book to be read.

For October we have chosen Kin by Tayari Jones. Set in the American south, Jones tells the story of two motherless girls who bond because of that common problem. During the mid-20th century, they try to find their ways to adulthood.

Please join us on Thursday, October 22 at 9:30 in the city library. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call or text 830-857-4148.

Martha Jo Whitt



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

OCTOBER 2026

FIRST METHODIST GONZALES

Child OF THE King

YOUTH GROUP

It has been an amazing first few weeks at youth! We kicked off the year with 70 students in attendance at our very first gathering. We are super excited to see how God will continue to work in and through our youth. As we look to the month ahead, we have a worship night planned and we will attend the Fields of Faith community wide event. Please continue praying over our youth that they may grow stronger in their faith and always know the love of our amazing Father!

First Methodist Church
426 Saint Paul Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629

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