

MESSENGER

First Methodist Church of Pleasanton

February 2024

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Church Contact Information

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Office Hours:
 Monday—Thursday
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Time of transition.....

After much thought and prayer, I have decided to resign as Pastor of First Methodist Church. Serving during church disaffiliation has been challenging, but I give thanks for all I have learned from the experience. I am so very grateful that FMC did not divide over disaffiliation and remains united in Christ.

A pastoral search team has been formed and includes David Smith, Beth Gossett, Jessica Tom, Walt Franklin and Jeff Peter. Several of our members are prepared to lead worship and preach during the transition.

I will be available for all of my duties and have tentative plans to remain through May 19th. However, that may change if I secure another position, or if FMC finds a pastor prior to that date. Since confirmation has just begun, we will have leaders in place to continue our Wednesday evening class until these youth are confirmed on May 19th.

Lance and I have appreciated the many caring and supportive souls in this church. We view you all as brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct FMC as you move into the in the future.

-Pastor Janet

First Methodist Church

Women's Luncheon

Saturday, February 24 -10am to 2pm

Deadline to buy tickets/tables is February 9th

See page 6 for more info.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14th, 6 - 7 pm

Joint Service at All Saint's Episcopal Church



First Methodist Church of Pleasanton Council Meeting (Overview)

First Methodist Church Pleasanton

Annual Meeting Minutes (Overview)

February 4, 2024

The first Annual Meeting of First Methodist Church Pleasanton was called to order by Staci Barta at 11:46 a.m. with welcoming remarks.

Due to her recent shoulder surgery, Joett Morrison made a motion to nominate Barbara Lawrence as Recording Secretary, Jeff Petter seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Janet Tracy opened the meeting with a prayer.

Staci Barta, Council Chair gave the congregation a recap of events of 2023. The biggest was the disaffiliation in May. There were many things to be done after the vote, legal and financial, creation of the Book of Discipline and in the process of obtaining our 501(c)3 which will take several months. The name of the Single Board has changed to the Church Council. Staci said it has been a privilege to serve us and we would be voting on new council members and chair.

David Smith, Nomination Committee Chair thanked Staci for her years of service. Dan Barrow was nominated by the Committee as the new Church Council Chair. Joett Morrison made a motion to accept the appointment of Dan Barrow as Church Council Chair. Jeff Petter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staci Barta announced that we will vote on the new church council members, Council Chair, Dan Barrow, Nominations Chair David Smith, Finance Chair Walt Franklin, Trustees Chair Jeff Barta, SPR Chair Joett Morrison, Member at Large Phillip Tom, and Lay Leader Jeff Petter. Hank Read made a motion to accept the new Church Council, Dan Barrow seconded. Motion carried.

Dan thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and thanked Staci for her leadership during the covid/disaffiliation process and other matters of our church. They will be “big shoes” to fill. When asked if he would be chair, he said he prayed about it. When he received his answer he stated, “you are never too old to serve”. He would like people to step up and volunteer or come to him with ideas. Also, encouraging our younger people to step up because this is their church.

Pastor Janet presented a slide presentation of the church committees/teams and members. Jeff Petter is on all committees since he is the Lay Leader. The list will be part of the Annual Report packet which will be available in the Office when completed. The committees do not meet on a regular basis. The only committees that do meet monthly and/or bimonthly are Finance, SPRC, Trustees and Church Council.

David Smith reported on the New Pastor Search Committee. They are currently working on putting together what our needs are and invites people to contact a member if there are specific concerns they may have. The next meeting of the Pastor Search Committee is Monday, February 5th.

Committee Chairs were called on to give their reports. All Committee chairs have submitted written reports that will be part of the Annual Meeting packet.

Finance – Walt Franklin

We are currently in a healthy financial situation. We have a \$180,000 budget. All accounts are in good financial standing. Thanked everyone for their faithful giving especially in times of when our designated giving was needed, such as the purchase of the property next door and the funds needed for disaffiliation.

SPRC – Joett Morrison

Continued on page 3

Our SPR committee held six meetings in 2023 three were with Pastor Tracy. The goal of these meetings was to keep an open dialog with Pastor Tracy and to discuss successes, issues, and/or concerns from the congregation.

After much prayer and consideration, Pastor Tracy has presented her letter of resignation dated January 3, 2024. She is willing to continue her role as our Pastor until Sunday, May 19th (Pentecost Sunday) which is the graduation of the confirmation class. We will pray for our church and Pastor Tracy as we both move forward.

As we search for our new pastor, SPR will work with the new Pastoral Search Committee to help prepare a well-defined job description including human resources expectation.

SPR will help and support the transition of Pastor Janet and Lance as they move forward to their next opportunity, and we will also be there to welcome and work with our new incoming pastor in the near future.

Trustees – Jeff Barta

Jeff thanked everyone for coming out to help with the workdays. Cold weather set us back a little bit, however we did get a lot of stuff done; proper drainage, trimmed trees, and beautification was done around the church. He has several things on his list that people keep adding. As soon as the weather warms up, we will plan another workday.

Pastor Report – Pastor Janet Tracy

2023 had been a year of successes, positives, and some losses. We had five new members join, two baptisms. However, there were several members of our congregation that passed away, and we lost some due to the disaffiliation, but our church remained united in Christ.

There were several very successful events held during the year including Christian Hunting Safety Camp, Vacation Bible School and the growth of our Sunshine Kids Junior and Senior High groups and joint services with All Saints Episcopal Church were a success.

As she and Lance prepare to move, she wishes all the best and that we will continue to be their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Lay Leader – Jeff Petter

It was a wonderful process to be part of the team creating the new Book of Discipline. In their process they used references from other Wesleyan doctrines to help write our new one. They were submissive to Gods will for our church and his will was their guiding principle through this process. 2023 was a very fruitful year for our church. This is our mission statement; **The mission of the First Methodist Church of Pleasanton is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ as we welcome and witness to all.** Jeff thanked Pastor Janet for her persistence and guidance in getting our teams back together.

Dan Barrow statement our Book of Discipline team was led by the Holy Spirit, and it was well done.

Joett Morrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Walt Franklin seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lawrence
Recording Secretary



Celebrations!



- 02/01 Duncan McAda
- 02/03 Corky Shearrer
Ruth Marsh
- 02/04 Guy Rutherford
Vicki Milam Smith
- 02/05 Tracey Veale
- 02/10 Ruth Dowdy
- 02/12 Bennack Conroy
- 02/17 James Marsh
Gail Dillard
- 02/18 Jessica Tom
- 02/19 Laura Kemp
- 02/20 Bob Kinsel, Jr.
- 02/21 Hunter Rankin
Cory Keeler
Roy Shannon
- 02/22 Lee Ricks, Jr.
Judy Havins
Craig Helmick
- 02/23 Lauren Miles
- 02/24 Karen Harris

02/03 Corky & Leigh Ann Shearrer

02/20 Walt & Mary Franklin

Are we missing your name on the birthday/anniversary list? Please notify the Church Office at 830-569-2083 so we can update your records. We don't want to miss anyone!



⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

Need a prayer? We have a prayer team for that. Staci, Leigh Ann and Pastor Janet are happy to pray for you or your loved one. We believe in the power of prayer so leave a message at the church office, or fill out a prayer request card at church. They are at the entrance to the sanctuary.

February 2024

02/02	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
02/04	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Saints & Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service* Annual Church Meeting following service
02/05	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Monday Night Bible Study
02/06	10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	T.O.P.S.
02/07	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Meet & Move Exercise Class-FMH Sunshine Kids & Junior High Youth Confirmation Class
02/08	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
02/11	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Saints & Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service* Potluck Luncheon following service
02/12	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Monday Night Bible Study
02/13	10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	T.O.P.S.
02/14		Ash Wednesday
	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Senior Box Pickup-FMC Sunshine Kids & Junior High Youth Ash Wednesday Service @ All Saints
02/16	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
02/17	8:00 a.m.	Brush Country Emmaus-Fellowship Hall
02/18		First Sunday of Lent
	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Saints & Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service*
02/19	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study
02/20	10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	T.O.P.S.
02/21	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Meet & Move Exercise Class-FMH Sunshine Kids & Junior High Youth Confirmation Class
02/23	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
02/24	10:00 a.m.	Women's' Luncheon-Pleasanton Civic Center
02/25		Second Sunday of Lent
	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Saints & Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service*
02/26	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study
02/27	10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	T.O.P.S.
2/28	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Sunshine Kids & Junior High Youth Confirmation Class

*Nursery Provided

Church News!

Nights of Hope for Atascosa is Coming!

Our Church Council has voted to support Nights of Hope for Atascosa, an interdenominational, evangelical event. It's goal is to share the good news with the unchurched in Atascosa County. We will join with other churches to be about the Great Commission.

April 4, 5 & 6

To learn more go to

www.nightsofhopeatascosa.org



Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry needs



Canned Meat * Canned Fruit * Cereal
Bring to church and leave in the

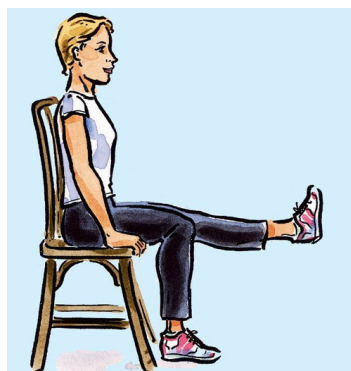
boxes in the Narthex.

Thank You!



Bountiful Blessing Needs
Your Extra
Deer and Hog Meat.

It's time to donate last years
stash of frozen meat.



Chair- Meet & Move Exercise Class

**This is an hour of prayer, stretching, fellow-
ship, strengthening and keeping our old
bones moving in a positive direction.**

Come join us! \$5 each and bring a towel.

Wednesday 10-11 am in the Fellowship Hall

Led by Christi Kinsel

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School welcome children to join us in the classroom after Children's Time to explore the Bible in a fun, easy lesson. Jill Petter is leading the way and looking for others to join her. Volunteers will have lessons prepared and laid out for them ahead of time. No preparation needed! We will even have the TV tuned to the YouTube channel so you won't have to miss out on the sermon! This is a great way to get to know our youth! To sign up contact Jill Petter at 432-553-4086.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class

“Saints and Sinners” is an adult class that meets at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the classroom next to the church parlor. We use the Cokesbury Adult Bible Study series and always have a lively conversation and good fellowship. Fresh Coffee available. We meet year round, and any and all are welcome to join us. Facilitator, Dan Barrow.

Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class

This is an adult class for the young, mature, and old. We enjoy discussions about Bible passages and are eager to learn more about our Savior. We rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance. WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT? We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the classroom next to the Fellowship Hall Facilitator, Peggy McCampbell

Monday Night Bible Study

Join us as we take a virtual tour of Rome through an in-depth study of Romans. Monday nights, 7:00 to 8:30pm. Classroom next to Fellowship Hall. We enjoy good fellowship and digging deep into scripture. Leigh Ann Shearrer will facilitate this study. All are welcome.

Women's Bible Study

The Monday Women's Bible Study is going to read the Bible in chronological order during 2024. If you would like to join us, we meet on Mondays from 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the classroom by the Fellowship Hall. We will begin January 8th. The books can be ordered from Amazon. You can use your Bible, you don't need to order a special one. If you have

Women's Luncheon

The First Methodist Women are hosting their annual Women's Luncheon on February 24, 2024. This year's luncheon theme is Friendship and is open to all women of all denominations interested in hosting a table or buying a ticket. The event includes lunch, a speaker, and a fun style show. This year's speaker is Amy Cunningham. Amy inspires individuals to live a life of compassion, empathy, passion, and purpose. She travels the nation speaking to first responders, educators, health care professionals, and other groups and organizations who dedicate their time to helping others. Amy believes that great leaders are not born, they are developed through intentional interventions and skill building. The style show will feature fun fashions from Paisley, the Woman's Club of Pleasanton, and more! To purchase a table/ticket or for more information, please contact Barbara at the church office at 830-569-2083. Tables of 8 cost \$200 and individual tickets cost \$25. Ticket and table sales will end **February 9th**. We have a limited number of individual tickets, and we will not sell tickets at the door, so please confirm with Barbara if you need an individual ticket.



First Methodist Church
Womens' Luncheon
February 24, 2024
We welcome you to join us
in celebrating friendships
Ecclesiastes 4:9
Featured TEDx San Antonio Speaker: Amy Cunningham
Style show provided by Paisley's,
The Woman's Club of Pleasanton, & more
Tables open for viewing at 10am
Luncheon begins at 11am
Speaker & Style Show to follow
Tables of 8: \$200
Single tickets: \$25
Deadline to buy
tables/tickets is Feb 9th

Youth

We are back at it for the Spring with our Youth. Sunshine Kids and Jr Youth started back up on Jan 24th. Reminder, we meet on Wednesdays from 5:45 - 7pm. We are asking for help again this year with meals. If you are interested, please contact Jessica Tom at 210-382-3358 or [click here](#) to sign up.

We are starting confirmation with our 6th and 7th graders on **Jan 31st**. If your child is 6th grade or older and has not been confirmed with our church, they are welcome to join us. There will be a parent meeting at 5:30 on Jan 31st so Pastor Janet can review the semester with you. We are following the curriculum in The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith along with some other supplemental materials and we are excited to provide each youth with a copy of the book. Parents are encouraged to read lessons with their children ahead of each week so our discussions will be meaningful.

Sr Youth started back up on Jan 21st. Our dates to meet this Spring are 2/4, 2/25, 3/3, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5. We will celebrate our graduating seniors during Worship on **April 28th**. Several of you may have pictures to share with us of youth over the years, so please start gathering those.

Jr and Sr Youth will have their retreat **May 10-12** and they are still earning points to be eligible to attend the retreat. Remember our most important date for Jr and Sr Youth is **February 24th from 10:30am-12:30pm** where it is all hands-on deck at the annual Women's Luncheon serving plates. This is a major fundraiser held for our Youth programs and their help is vital.

We are excited we have 11 youth interested in attending Revive Winter Retreat. These ladies will be sponsored by the First Methodist Women and the Retreat is Feb 16-18 at Camp Eagle in Rocksprings. Janna and Sheryl will be chaperoning this fun weekend and we are excited to hear about it upon their return.

We enjoy our time with your children and love to grow with them in their faith!

Jessica, Guy, Jill, Janna, Sheryl

EVENTS SCHEDULE 2024
SR YOUTH

- 10 pts Sr Youth Sundays**
1/21, 2/4, 2/25, 3/3, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5
- Work Events** **15 pts**
2/24 Women's Luncheon 10:30 - 12:30
(Friday between 3-6 is also an option)
4/6 UMCOR Volunteer Fun Day - all day
- 4/28 Graduating Senior Sunday**
5/10-12 May Youth Retreat
Save the Date. details to come on both
- Optional Activities** **15 pts**
 - Serving as Greeter, Acolyte, or Liturgist during Sunday service
 - Helping in Sunday School Classes

MORE INFO: **CHECK THE GROUPME**

YOUTH EVENTS 2024
SUNSHINE KIDS & JR YOUTH

- WEDNESDAY NIGHTS** **1/24 THRU 5/8**
5:45 - 7:00 PM
- FEB 24** **WOMEN'S LUNCHEON**
SERVERS NEEDED
10:30 - 12:30
- VOLUNTEER DAY ALL DAY** **APR 6**
JR & SR YOUTH
- MAY 10-12** **JR & SR YOUTH RETREAT**

JR YOUTH HOLDS CONFIRMATION CLASS EACH WED NIGHT

COMING SOON Family Sunday School!

Report by Leigh Ann Ware-Shearrer

The first introductory/organizational meeting was held on Jan 28, 2024. Attending included: Sandra & Duncan McAda, Dana & Jose Dorado, Roxanne Wilson, Jessica Tom and Leigh Ann & Corky Shearrer.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Bible Art and The Bible Bunnies programs will be combined with the goal of attracting whole families to Sunday School.

Bible Art is studying the Bible utilizing "Art" or drawing simple pictures in your Bible giving each page a distinctive quality which makes it easier to locate familiar passages of scripture or favorite Bible stories.

To aid in participation the Bible Bunnies will be in attendance of the sessions. Bible Bunnies are therapy animals that aid in telling Bible stories. Dana & Jose will bring the Bible Bunnies, Boaz, the miniature pony" and other therapy animals to help in telling the story.

The goal is to have third graders through adults studying the Bible together and each person drawing light pictures in their Bible depicting the main theme on that page.

Ideas were shared about how best to implement this exciting program.

Plans currently are:

- Start advertising this exciting event by Flyers to be distributed at Sunshine Kids, in Churches, on Church and individual Face Book and social media sites.
- Needed 1 classroom with tables, color pencils, and Bibles. Provide age-appropriate Bibles for all children (they will be drawing & using color pencils in Bibles).
- 2 leaders per Sunday, rotating leaders. Each would lead the class one Sunday a month or less.
- Leigh Ann will lead a Train the Trainers workshop. People from other churches could be invited to be trained.
- Leigh Ann & Dana will have the program for Sunshine Kids on April 24th – the story of Shadrach will be shared with the kids.
- June 2nd will be the first day of Family Sunday School.

Tentative Plans:

- Are to train the leaders for the Youth Retreat so Bible Art could be incorporated in that weekend mission.
- Possibly incorporate some Bible Art in Vacation Bible School.

If you are interested in learning more of helping launch this program or just want further information, send Leigh Ann Ware-Shearrer an email message at lawpeds51@gmail.com