

The First Methodist  
**MESSENGER**

First Methodist Church of Pleasanton

April 2024

**In this issue:**

- Church Council Minutes
- Upcoming Events
- Celebrations
- Church News
- Christian Education

Introducing.....



Our new Church Logo

**Church Contact Information**

First Methodist Church  
420 N. Main St.  
Mailing address:  
P. O. Box 187  
Pleasanton, TX 78064  
1stmethodist.pleasantontx@gmail.com

Rev. Janet Deitiker Tracy  
(830) 569-2083  
revjanet.tracy@gmail.com

Barbara Lawrence  
Church Secretary  
(830) 569-2083  
1stmethodist.pleasantontx@gmail.com

Linda Harper  
Wesley Nurse  
(830) 569-2083  
lharper@mhm.org

Office Hours:  
Monday—Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Who are you praying for?**

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, needs US to pray for the people of Atascosa County who don't know Him. There are many in this county that need Hope. But they won't come to NOH to learn about Jesus unless some caring soul invites them. Who will you pray for? Who will you invite to Nights of Hope?

The poster features a background image of a crowd with their hands raised in worship, overlaid with a rainbow. The text reads: 'COME AND RECEIVE LASTING HOPE', 'NIGHTS OF HOPE', 'Pleasanton River Park', 'APRIL | 5-7 | 2024', 'Live Music | Giveaways | Community Food Trucks | Inspiring Message', and '\*Main Event starts at 7pm'. It also includes contact information: 'Stay Connected!', Facebook 'Nights of Hope for Atascosa County', Instagram '@NightsOfHopeAtascosa', phone '(830) 200-6799', and email 'info@nightsofhopeatascosa.org'. A QR code is provided for registration, with the text 'SCAN TO REGISTER FOR OUR EVENT!' above it. At the bottom, a paragraph explains the organization's mission: 'We are a non-profit located in Atascosa County. Our goal is to provide true and lasting hope to those in our community. We accomplish this by teaming up with other organizations in our area to make a lasting impact and give Hope to those in need. Come and join us!'.

Nights of Hope is coming April 5-7. Booths open at 5pm. Worship service is at 7pm in the City Park Pavilion. Does someone in your life need an introduction to Jesus? Bring them to this amazing event!



## First Methodist Church of Pleasanton Council Meeting (Overview)

First Methodist Church of Pleasanton Council Meeting Minutes (Overview), March 5, 2024

Attendees: Dan Barrow (Board Chair), Walt Franklin (Finance Chair), Leslie Ricks (Finance), Joett Morrison (SPR Chair), David Smith (Nominations Chair), Jeff Petter (Lay Leader), Phillip Tom (Member at Large), Pastor Janet Tracy.

The meeting was called to order by Dan Barrow at 6:04pm.

David Smith opened us in prayer and Dan Barrow gave a devotional from the book the "Three Simple Rules - a Wesleyan way of learning.

The meeting minutes from the last church council meeting held on February 4, 2024 (recorded by Barbara Lawrence) were reviewed. David Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Phillip Tom seconded, motion passed. The February 4' 2024, church council minutes were also printed in the February 2024 church newsletter.

New Business:

The council was presented with new artwork to be considered for our new logo and sign by Phillip and Jessica Tom. The design is a black outline of our church. Walt made a motion to accept the presented artwork as our new church logo and sign and Phillip Tom seconded, motion passed. Leslie Ricks will work with our new sign company to develop a proof for the church council to approve.

Jeff Petter provided an update on the search for our new pastor. An ad for our new pastor search has been sent out. To date we have received 8-10 resumes, 7 were complete of which 3 were US residents and the pastoral search plans to reach out to all three candidates by phone and/or zoom for an initial interview.

Leslie Ricks presented the Finance report. Our current finances will cover two months of our expenses and we have 7 seniors that have been sent scholarship letters, the deadline for receipt of the scholarship applications is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Leslie Ricks also shared a thank you letter that she received stating how well our church was doing and they also sent a donation. Leslie is sending them a thank you letter on behalf of our church.

Phillip Tom presented the Trustees report on behalf of Jeff Barta. There are several projects that are being addressed that are in need of repair. There was also discussion that our Trustees committee should be visionary for the future growth of our church. Phillip Tom also stated that he was going to help enlarge our play area for our kids to play in by moving the fence out to extend to his fence line. This will be a great benefit to the church, and it is greatly appreciated.

David Smith reported that the nominations committee will meet soon.

Joett Morrison presented the SPRC report. SPRC will work with the Pastor search committee to develop a complete job description and expectations for our new pastor. Jeff Petter suggested that SPRC and the church council plan to meet with the new pastor for a pastoral review on a monthly basis. This process would be an invitation for open dialog with the two groups.

Jeff Petter presented the Laity report. He recommended that during this time of transition, we boost up our Congregation Care Team during our transitions so that we may cover home/hospital visits and follow-up on homebound members etc.

Pastor Tracy gave her report, starting with Nights of Hope (NOH). Training for the event will take place every week through March in preparation for the 3-day event. She has requested that volunteer evangelist stay at the parsonage. She stated that she and Lance have purchased a new home and plan to move out after the NOH event is over in order for the parsonage to be made ready for the new pastor. There are several things that need to be addressed at the parsonage; the oak tree needs to be dealt with. When Pastor Tracy has completely moved out of the parsonage a member of SPRC and Trustees needs to do a walk through of the parsonage to determine any other issues that will need to be addressed.

The next church council meeting will be held on April 2, 2024, at 6:00p.m. All members of the church are invited to attend the monthly council meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Dan Barrow closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joett Morrison



# Celebrations!



- 04/06 Lonnie Popham  
Luke Gonzales
- 04/07 Clint Powell  
Randall Tolbirt
- 04/10 Jacob Barrow
- 04/11 Laken McAda  
Brandy Martin
- 04/12 Meredith  
Rutherford
- 04/13 Sadie McAda
- 04/14 Lauren Baca
- 04/16 Cassidy Bean
- 04/19 Barbara Lawrence
- 04/20 Libby Troell
- 04/21 Hayden Powell
- 04/22 Mark Mills
- 04/27 Dan Barrow
- 04/28 Meredith Butschek



- 04/13 Ken & Jennifer Trapp
- 04/23 Lonnie & Deanna Popham
- 04/26 Craig & Jill Helmick

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!

## Faith in Finance

The ups and downs of the church finances are often seen as a barometer of "how the church is doing". While possibly true of any changes in giving, many things can affect the monthly financial bottom line. Expected expenses – ex: \$4500 quarterly insurance premiums and unexpected expected items – ex: \$400 alarm system repairs.

To provide more transparency on the state of our finances, I'll be including the most recent data on Income vs Expenses involving the Operating Account. The Operating Account is our general fund that has all the in's and out's for making the church function on a daily basis.

In February :

Deposits - \$21,467.82

Expenses - \$20,476.00

Unbudgeted expenses in Feb- \$325.00 Plumbing boys bathroom, \$968.00 Pastoral search expenses.

If you have questions or would like a more in depth financial update, contact [Leslie Ricks](#) or [Walt Franklin](#).

## Chair-Meet & Move Exercise Class

This is an hour of prayer, stretching, fellowship, 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

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.

# April Calendar of Events!

04/01	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.	<b>SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS DUE</b> Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Boy Scouts-Fellowship Hall Monday Night Bible Study County Wide Prayer Meeting for NOH St. John's Lutheran Church
04/02	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting County Wide Prayer Meeting for NOH St. John's Lutheran Church
04/03	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 5:45 p.m. –7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Sunshine Kids Confirmation Class County Wide Prayer Meeting for NOH St. John's Lutheran Church
04/04	7:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.	County Wide Prayer Meeting St. John's Lutheran Church for NOH
04/05	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
<b>04/05-04/07 5-8:30 pm</b>		<b>Nights of Hope - Pleasanton City Park</b>
<b>7:00 pm Main Event</b>		
04/06		Youth Volunteer Day for UMCOR-Kerrville, TX
04/07	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service*-Holy communion Brush Country Emmaus Gathering Senior High Youth
04/08	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 Closed Ladies Bible Study Monday Night Bible Study
04/09	3:00 p.m.	Deadline for Super Seniors reservations to Fredericksburg
04/10	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 Confirmation Class
04/11	8:00 a.m.	Super Seniors Trip to Fredericksburg, TX
04/12	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
04/13	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Bible Art Training –Fellowship Hall
04/14		<b>UMCOR SUNDAY</b>
	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service*
04/15	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Boy Scouts-Fellowship Hall Monday Night Bible Study
04/17	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 Confirmation Class
04/19	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
04/20	8:00 a.m.	Bruck Country Emmaus Walk #5 Fellowship Hall
04/21	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service* Senior High Youth
04/22	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
04/24	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 Confirmation Class
04/26	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
04/28		<b>SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY</b>
	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class Disciples of Christ Sunday School Class Worship Service* Senior High Youth
04/29	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Ladies Bible Study Boy Scouts Monday Night Bible Study

# Church News!

**SPECIAL SUNDAY**

**“The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief.”**

— Acts 11:29, NRSV

**UMCOR SUNDAY**

**April 14, 2024**

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church

## Super Seniors

The Super Seniors met on March 21st to stuff Easter eggs for the Children’s Easter Egg Hunt to be held after church services on Easter Sunday. It was a great time with food, fun, fellowship and the cutest Easter goodies to stuff!!



Super Seniors modeling their new “jewelry”!

On April 11th, the Super Seniors will travel to the Wildseed Farm in Fredericksburg. We will leave the church at approximately 8am on the church bus. They will also visit Circle E Candles and have lunch before heading back. Please contact Ruth Marsh (830) 570-7509 or the Church Office (830) 569-2083 to RSVP no later than 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 9th.

## Congregational Care Team

The Congregational Care Team strives to provide support to our church family. Please notify any team with any need we can assist with. Team members: Mary Carolyn Chambers, Joan Shearrer, Roxanne Wilson,, Jolene Disbro and Leigh Ann Ware-Shearrer.

## Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry needs



**Canned Meat \* Canned Fruit \* Cereal**

**Bring to church and leave in the boxes in the Narthex.**



**Thank You!**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## 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.

## 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.

## Monday Night Bible Study

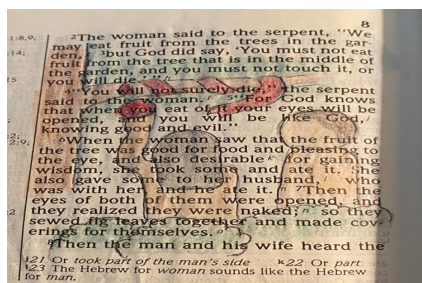
Want to dive deep into the Bible? That is what Monday night bible study does. We will continue to study Romans 4 through the end of Romans. It is never too late to join us. We meet on Monday evening at 7-8:30 p.m. If you have any questions contact the Church Office, Pastor Janet or Leigh Ann Ware-Shearrer.

## FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

### COMING THIS SUMMER

Family Sunday school is a concept where whole families study the Bible together. Our plan is to start a Sunday school class for a third grade through adults. We plan to study the Bible with the use of Bible Art and Bible Bunnies. Our goal is to reach those who don't attend Sunday school and to promote families studying the Bible together.

### BIBLE ART



Bible Art is not simply drawing pictures, but it is a method of Bible study that you can utilize.

"Art" as an aid in giving each page a distinctive quality which makes it easier to locate familiar passages of scripture or favorite Bible verses.

### BIBLE BUNNIES

Each Sunday Bible Bunnies Eden, Adalia, and Theodora will share a story from the Bible.



### Train the Trainers—April 13, 2024, 10 am– 12 pm

Leigh Ann Ware-Shearrer will hold a training session for Bible Art. This training is open to anyone interested in learning how to do BIBLE ART and willing to co-lead Family Sunday School. Members from other churches are welcome. RSVP to Leigh Ann Ware-Shearrer, lawpeds51@gmail.com or text 210-884-1702.



## Youth

We continue to have fun with our youth! We finished up our lessons about Moses then jumped into Easter. We spread the word of Jesus' resurrection by participating in the Cowboy Homecoming Parade! We even brought home a 3rd place trophy!

April will be a busy month. We have some important dates, so please mark your calendars:

April 6 - Jr and Sr Youth travel to Kerrville to serve at the UMCOR Disaster Relief Center

April 28 - Senior Recognition Sunday

May 10-12 Jr/Sr Youth Retreat

We are still looking for meal volunteers, so if you would like to provide a meal on Wednesday, please [click here](#) to sign up.

Blessings,  
Youth Education Team



Cowboy Homecoming Parade  
Our entry won Third Place!