

# POWER<sup>+</sup>LINES

## THRIVE IN 2025 THROUGH GOD'S WORD

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEWISTON  
SINCE 1945  
A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

331 W. OSCEOLA AVENUE  
CLEWISTON, FL 33440  
(863) 983-5269

### Happy Thanksgiving November, 2025

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
His love endures forever.  
Psalm 136.1

#### SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 10:00 AM IN THE TRINITY ROOM,  
FOR ALL AGES

**SERVICE:** 11:00 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** STARTS AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**YOUTH GROUP :** 12:30 PM TILL 2:00 PM IN LEC

SERVICE ALSO AVAILABLE AT

[WWW.CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG](http://WWW.CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG).

OR OUR WEBSITE [WWW.CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM](http://WWW.CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM)

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**PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This year marks our 80th year of serving Christ and inviting the people of The Glades into a personal relationship with Jesus. We have seen many good years of ministry and I believe the best is yet to come!

Having served this church for 10 of the past 11 years, I have witnessed some great signs of the Holy Spirit working in our midst. Two years ago, when our church completed a difficult transition into a new denomination, we were able to raise the funding necessary to complete this process. And then we grew in our missions abroad when we adopted a sister church in Cuba and a food ministry in the Philippines. These are signs of abundant life my friends.

Now we must be diligent in reviewing our overall ministries; developing new avenues to see more people in worship; new outreach opportunities explored and initiated; and people lovingly invited into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Let us not forget to be bold in our witness, remembering that Jesus is returning soon.

In preparing for a greater presence of the Holy Spirit, we must double our efforts to help believers become fully equipped disciples of Christ. We must help each member explore every avenue of our commitment to prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

At the beginning of this year we adopted the statement, "Thrive in 2025 through God's Word". And make no mistake, the Holy Spirit will lead us each step of the way as we take this journey of rejuvenation together.

To God be the glory!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Jeff".

Pastor Jeff



**NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHT: PACKING SHOEBOXES FOR CHRISTMAS!!!**

In November, First Kids will

1. Pack shoeboxes for Christmas gifts (11/2 and 11/9)
2. Learn about a woman who poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet.
3. Listen to the story of Jesus caring for a sinful woman.

This Month's Bible Verse is ...

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." **John 3:16**

Please join me and pray for our children, volunteers and their parents as they learn to follow His voice and see our God's powerful merciful hand in history and future of our world.



*Doreen Malbog*

The **YOUTH GROUP** meets every Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. I continue to encourage parents and the entire community to promote the **YOUTH GROUP**. Please invite any youth, ages 12 to 18 attending school, to come and join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship in Christ. We always have time for prayer with the teens and fun activities in the Life Enrichment Center, plus food and refreshments.

Feel free to contact me for information at [virgilio01@msn.com](mailto:virgilio01@msn.com) or any suggestions you would like to give to the youth minister.

We started a **SWAT** Program which is Students Working Against Tobacco. We plan to have this program at least one Sunday every other month on the last Sunday of the month.

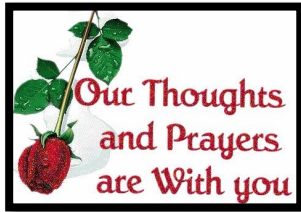
We will have a **Movie Event** in the next few months where we will invite the different Middle Schools in Labelle and Clewiston and parents are also welcome to attend.

Message to all families: **John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**

Many Blessings to the entire church community.

*"Mr. O"*

*Virgilio Ogando, Youth Minister*



### ON-GOING PRAYERS

Alan Hammock  
Sissie Lumpkin  
Matt Lewis  
Brenda Gail Murphy

### HOME BOUND FRIENDS & FAMILY

Matt Beatty  
Brenda Garvey  
Beth Giddens  
Vivian Gisbert  
Garry Hall  
Ada Miller  
Kemely Perez  
Becky Starks



REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND WORSHIP  
IN PERSON OR WOULD LIKE TO WATCH  
WORSHIP SERVICES YOU MISSED, VISIT  
**[CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG](http://CHURCHONTHECOUCH.ORG)**



Ardis Hammock	Nov. 3
Cathy Rodriguez	Nov. 4
Jim Way	Nov. 18
David Perry	Nov. 22
Joe Perry	Nov. 22



Carol & Harlan Griggs	Nov. 4
Ashley & Robert Hammock	Nov. 11
Katie & James McWhorter	Nov. 12
Sarah & Pedro Stinson	Nov. 17

#### **Matthew 19:6**

*So they are no longer two, but one flesh.  
Therefore, what God has joined together,  
let no one separate.*

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JEFF WITH  
UPDATES CONCERNING PEOPLE ON THE  
PRAYER LIST AT (863) 661-6936  
E-MAIL TO [PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM](mailto:PASTORJEFF@CLEWISTONMETHODIST.COM)

PowerLines is a monthly newsletter of First Methodist Church of Clewiston, FL  
Article submission deadline: 20th of each month. All members are urged to contribute to this publication.  
E-mail articles to [fmcpowerlines@gmail.com](mailto:fmcpowerlines@gmail.com). Editor: Ninette Aker  
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Due to all the upcoming Holidays, the Engage Bible Study has been postponed until the beginning of 2026.

Stay tuned for the upcoming start date!

Clewiston High School, Public Safety Academy Students are once again having dinners on Wednesday evenings in our Life Enrichment Center but they have decided to do this on the two Wednesdays each month!

The first dinner will be Wednesday, **November 5** serving baked Ziti, salad, garlic bread and dessert. The third Wednesday, **November 19**, will be the "Great Irish Potato Bake", salad and dessert. Both start at 6:00 pm, dine in or carry out.

Come out and support these great kids as they earn money towards their goals and futures. Plus have a delicious meal and enjoy being with other members of our community. Everyone's welcome...the more the merrier!



Your awesome Mission Team has started their season of Mission Dinners!

The purpose of these dinners is threefold:

1. To increase our Church Family's knowledge about each Mission that FMCC supports and
2. To enjoy great fellowship over a delicious meal and
3. To raise additional funds to add to our annual budgeted amount that the Church sends to each Mission.

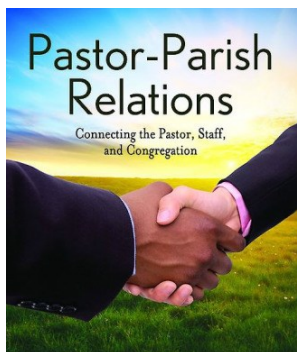


Our Mission Team hosted a dinner for St. Matthews House in October. Monica Correa did a wonderful job representing them and she shared some of St. Matt's new ministries. Many thanks to all who helped with the delicious meal. FMCC will be adding \$760 to the \$1,000 Budget for St. Matthews House!

Please mark Wednesday, **November 12** on your calendars and help us welcome the leaders and ladies from the Agape Home in Moore Haven. We will be serving Smothered Pork Chops with Rice, Green Beans, Rolls and yummy Desserts. Please join us for the latest on Agape Home's ministry, good food and good fellowship!

Blessings to all,

*Sandy Stitt*



We would like to announce a Staff Appreciation Lunch scheduled for November 16 in the LEC at 12:30 after the Church Service. **ALL ARE INVITED.**

We will have Fried Chicken provided by the SPRC and look forward to all of the great covered dishes from our great cooks in our congregation, so mark your calendars and plan to show up for a great fellowship together, as we show our appreciation for all that do for our Church.

Look forward seeing all of you there!

*Steve Stiles*



Looking back through some old PowerLines, I noted that the last time our Library was mentioned was June of 2017. Did you know that we have a wonderful Christian Library? It's located at the south end of the old fellowship hall in it's own room with beautiful oak bookshelves custom made by R.D. Williams?

There is a bulletin board in the hallway that has an explanation of how to navigate the vast amount of books that we have on hand. If you need any help, you can contact our librarian, Scott Jones.

*Ninette Aker*

The **GRIEF SHARE** sessions are on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the Trinity Room of the Life Enrichment Center. It is open to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one or friend.

We meet for approximately 90 minutes to watch an excellent video on the week's topic followed by short discussion of the video and that week's "homework" and other things of importance to group members. Please know that you do not have to talk, but can just listen and allow God to begin to heal your heart.

See [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) for more information about the program.

*Mary Thomas*



I'd like to invite you to our upcoming Administrative Council Meeting. The Council meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Old Fellowship Hall off the Sanctuary overflow area. We try to keep our meeting time to an hour or 1-1/2 hours max. It is here that you can come and just listen or voice any concern, comment, or suggestion you may have. It also is a way for you to be "in the know" as to what the other church committees are doing.

We'll be meeting on Tuesday, November 18 at 6:00 pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, text, or email me. Any church member is welcome!

*Shelley Davidson*

Administrative Council Chairperson

### **NOVEMBER HAS 5 SUNDAYS!**

Did you know that every month that has **FIVE** Sundays, you have an opportunity to help the children at **RESIDING HOPE**, the Methodist Children's Home?

No matter how large or small the offering, every cent goes to help a child at their facilities in central and north Florida. All you have to do is make a note on your check or envelope and your monies will go directly to Residing Hope.

Remember, your gift can make an impact on those children's lives.



### **FMC ADMINISTRATORS: CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>	<b><u>Email Address</u></b>
Senior Pastor	Jeffrey Smith	(863) 351-9692	pastorjeff@clewistonmethodist.com
Youth Minister	Virgilio Ogando	(863) 983-5269	virgilio01@msn.com
Lay Leader	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Recording Secretary	Margaret Smith	(863) 599-9417	sweetmbs007@gmail.com
Finance Director	Brenda Whidden	(863) 228-6385	blwhidden@gmail.com
Finance Secretary	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com
Staff Parish Relations	Steve Stiles	(863) 983-8432	sbthstiles@embarqmail.com
Head Trustee	Lee Sweet	(561) 985-4220	rasweet@rocketmail.com
Admin. Council Chair	Shelley Davidson	(863) 599-9070	shelleydavidson56@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
PowerLines Editor	Ninette Aker	(305) 510-5625	fmcpowerlines@gmail.com
Mission Team	Sandy Stitt	(863) 677-1789	stitttranch@gmail.com
FirstKids Team	Doreen Malbog	(863) 677-0255	dorrietmal@gmail.com
Library	Scott Jones	(863) 673-0722	sjones@johnsonprewitt.com



## WHO'S IN CONTROL?

The B&B Believers joined together on October 6 for a very special gathering, both to celebrate B&B's ten year anniversary, and more importantly to honor Cross Training Ministries. B&B began meeting on October 5, 2015 and has been meeting on the first Monday of the month, with about a year break in 2020/2021 due to Covid, and has been meeting ever since at different houses and locations around Clewiston.

Over the years we've met at over 20 different locations, with the majority of those locations being Believers homes, been led in our meetings by more than 15 Believers and have impacted well over 75 people's lives. Thirty Believers gathered once again on October 6 as we welcomed Mike Pittman and four of the young men from the Cross Training Ministries program, where we shared food, fellowship and the true transformation that only Jesus provides when we invite him into our life. Cross Training Ministries has been a part of our community for nearly 25 years, changing young men's lives forever, not only unchaining them from their vices and addictions, but more importantly introducing them to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The first step for each and every one of the men who have underwent the Christ centered rehabilitation program is to make the decision to surrender those seemingly unshakeable obsessions which in many cases, had pushed them to a point of rock bottom in their young lives. The men shared their startling testimonies with us that evening, with common threads that left all of us deeply moved, wondering how these young men had experienced so much bad in just a couple of short decades of life. As each man shared his story, we realized how the spiral of life's circumstances, upbringing and decisions can impact an individual's future, or at times lack thereof for those who can't give up that controlling compulsive mindset. One by one, each young man described a life of rebellious addiction, care free living, and even anger that eventually led them to finally giving up the selfish control their chosen vices had on them, trading it in for the freedom that was always there in Jesus.

While most of us reading this article can't begin to imagine the strength an alcohol or drug addiction has on an individual, I think we can all relate to battling our fleshly thoughts and sins the enemy so tactfully taunts us with on a daily basis. Realizing that God is in control of our lives is the absolute freedom that the men who choose to go to CTM experience each and every day of their rehabilitation. Mike explained to us that while the program certainly targets bringing the men to sobriety, it's the personal relationship they all gain with Jesus Christ that is really important to CTM. Adam, Ryan, Elias and Big Shane opened their hearts to us all that evening, sharing testimonies of a life shackled in chains they all thought they could control. Yet, to a man they thanked Jesus at the conclusion of each of their testimonies for freeing them from that unfounded control, and promising them with the eternal life he gives to all who believe. Take a few minutes today to pray for Adam, Ryan, Elias and Big Shane and that their relationship with Jesus continues to grow for the rest of their lives.

The next B&B Believers gathering will be held on Monday, November 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Denise Hatton's home. If you are looking for a fun, relaxed atmosphere to learn about Jesus and fellowship with other Believers, B&B might be for you. Invite a friend to give B&B a try and join us in 2025. If you have any questions about our meetings or want to be added to the email distribution list for upcoming meetings, call John Wellslager at 863-228-1724 or email at [johnw@jimmyspittmanelectrical.com](mailto:johnw@jimmyspittmanelectrical.com).

*John Wellslager*



Hi! My name is Heidi Jameson, and I'm a Licensed Mental Health Counselor offering telehealth and in-person counseling - right here in the building (First Methodist Clewiston)! My specialties include Autism, ADHD, and other neurodivergencies; Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; and Adoption & Foster issues.

But wait! There's more! Our counselors can also help with life stress, depression, anxiety, relationship conflicts, chronic illness/pain, grief, and suicide prevention. In fact, I was honored to have been able to speak at last year's "Refuse to Sink" fundraising kickoff dinner.



The Mangroves

We take most major insurances and have a sliding scale based on financial need for those choosing private pay. For more detailed information, please check out our website.

How to Contact Us:

Heidi's cell: 863-268-5802

Email: [HeidiJamesonMS@proton.me](mailto:HeidiJamesonMS@proton.me)

Self-schedule appointments: <https://themangroves.clientsecure.me/>

Website: <http://TheMangroves.net>

## IT'S PECAN TIME!

These luscious nuts will be arriving this month! It's time to clean out the freezer and replenish with this year's fresh crop from Georgia! Holiday baking...cookies...cakes...candies...pies...they all need this fantastic ingredient! All proceeds go to **RESIDING HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME**.



Help is needed to sell pecans on Bond Street on Saturday, November 8. Please contact Alan (863) 677-0075 or Ardis Hammock to let them know when you are available. Also, there will be a Moore Haven Street Fair on Saturday, November 15 where pecans will be offered, also. Help will be needed then, also! Advance orders can be taken!



## **SHOEBOX SHIPPING TIME IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING!**



The annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry is the perfect opportunity for us to show children in other countries just how much they mean to us.

We will be packing shoeboxes on Sunday, November 2 and Sunday, November 9 and will need our FirstKids and Youth to help us do this!

Please keep this ministry in your prayers!

If you would like more information on this ministry or if you would like to volunteer to be on our team, please contact Ninette Aker (305-510-5625) or Janet Way(863-677-1002).



This annual event will take place on Saturday, November 29 from 1:00 until 4:00 pm.

We will start in the Sanctuary and continue thru the entire campus to make our buildings look welcome to all our winter visitors.

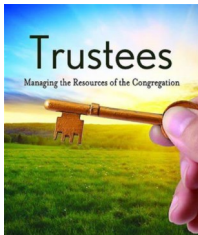
We welcome all parishioners to come and participate in this fun, festive occasion!!



First Methodist has been selected to be a host site for "Night to Shine" next February, 2026. We are excited to once again participate in this event in the Sweetest Town in America.

"Night to Shine" is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love for people with special needs, ages 14 and older.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please email us at [office@clewistonmethodist.com](mailto:office@clewistonmethodist.com).



Hello Church family! As many of you may have noticed, there has not been much news lately from the Trustees. We have all been busy growing sugar cane for "Americas Sweetest Town"! But, that does not mean we haven't been busy here at the Church! We have a few projects going on.

We recently replaced the back door to the old kitchen. We are also replacing carpet at the Parsonage in the master bedroom with vinyl flooring. We had a very generous donation to cover that cost and we are greatly appreciative for that.

The A/C for the Trinity Room in the LEC has unfortunately seen its better days after 25 years and we will be replacing that in the upcoming days. Any extra donations for that project would be greatly appreciated. It will cost roughly \$12 to \$13,000. We appreciate all of the extra love and support you may provide.

If anyone would like to sign up as a trustee for next year please reach out to me! We would love the extra help!

*Lee Sweet*



W.I.N.G.S. (Women IN God's Service) had a great meeting in October. We created 45 Christmas cards and wrote notes inside them for soldiers based outside the United States. We would like to offer Mary Thomas a special thanks for creating so many beautiful water color painted cards.

In November, we will be creating Thanksgiving placemats for Clewiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The meeting will be on Monday, November 17 at 6:30 pm in the Trinity Room of the LEC. Please come and invite friends.

*Janet Way*

# **FIRST METHODIST CHURCH CLEWISTON FINANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 2025**

The financials reflect the activities of our church's giving, expenditures, and reimbursements for the month of **September**.

General giving totaled **\$ 12,407.43** for the month, with an additional **\$ 7,097.50** received in special funds.

Total disbursements were **\$ 15,453.42** for the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Whidden



## **First Methodist Church of Clewiston Bank Report January 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025**

	September		Year to Date	
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>				
Beginning Balance	-16,773.37	-8,452.44	8,467.28	-7,163.75
Offering	12,407.43	13,805.00	125,785.88	136,738.80
Disbursements	15,453.42	15,041.98	154,072.52	139,264.47
Ending Balance	<u>-19,819.36</u>	<u>-9,689.42</u>	<u>-19,819.36</u>	<u>-9,689.42</u>
<b><u>Special Funds</u></b>				
Beginning Balance	182,339.82	155,639.07	187,204.86	157,642.51
Offering	7,097.50	2,530.00	38,288.28	35,138.65
Disbursements	1,023.30	788.71	37,079.12	35,400.80
Ending Balance	<u>188,414.02</u>	<u>157,380.36</u>	<u>188,414.02</u>	<u>157,380.36</u>
<b>Total on Deposit</b>	<u><b>168,594.66</b></u>	<u><b>147,690.94</b></u>	<u><b>168,594.66</b></u>	<u><b>147,690.94</b></u>

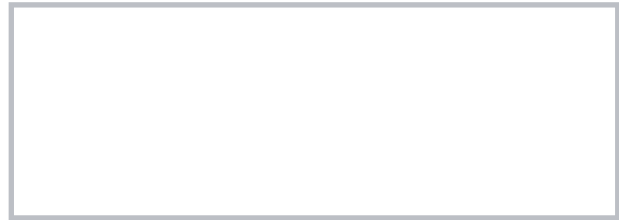
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# POWER LINES



**FIRST  
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CHURCH**

Established 1945

CHURCH LOCATION:  
**331 W. OSCEOLA AVENUE  
CLEWISTON, FL 33440-3008  
(863) 983-5269**



## OUR MISSION

TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST  
WITH EVERYONE IN CLEWISTON AND BEYOND  
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.



**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH

## OUR VISION

TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST  
WHO SHARE THEIR FAITH,  
GROW IN THEIR FAITH  
AND LIVE OUT THEIR FAITH  
THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD  
AND THE COMMUNITY.