

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 2 · April 2026



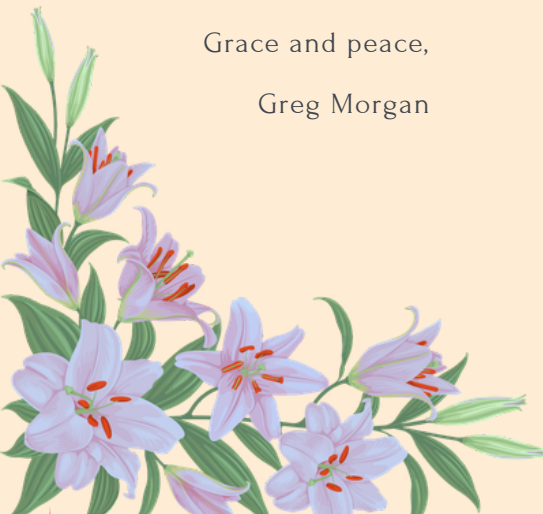
Pastoral Perspective

Folks,

The days are getting longer, the weather feels incredible, flowers are blooming, and the fairways are finally green again! Sitting outside, it's hard not to notice that even creation seems to echo the hope of Easter and the power of God to bring life where there once was none. What looked dead just weeks ago is now bursting with life again, a quiet reminder that God is always in the business of resurrection. The church year moves through different seasons. Lent calls us to reflection and repentance. Advent invites us to wait and prepare. Ordinary Time challenges us to grow and mature. But Easter stands above them all. It is the season that reminds us, again and again, that our hope is grounded in God's faithfulness, that even when we cannot see it, his promises still stand. There are moments when life feels like winter: dark, barren, and without hope. But Easter declares that even the worst of deaths and the fiercest of enemies are no match for God. There is nothing so far gone that he cannot bring it back, nothing so broken that he cannot restore, and nothing so impossible that he cannot overcome. This is the season where our hearts are awakened again, where awe and wonder return, where we remember that the tomb is empty, hope is alive, and the best is still ahead.

Grace and peace,

Greg Morgan



*Worship
& Learn
with Us*

Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship
Service:
10:30 A.M.

(see back for Easter schedule)

*Child care is
available during the
classrooms during
Sunday Service*

New Member Luncheon

Our New Member Luncheon was a wonderful time of connection and community as we welcomed those who have recently joined our church family. Over a shared meal, new members had the opportunity to meet church leaders, learn more about our mission, and build meaningful relationships. It was a joy to gather together, and we're excited to see how each person will grow and get involved in the life of our church.



Nancy James, Lynn Murrah, JJ Williamson, Mike Murrah, Deborah McCoy, William Wright



JJ Williamson, Liz McKay, Angela LeGrand



Debbie Lee & Keith Lee, Victoria Ellefritz, Lisa Mitchell, Mark & Toni Budzilowski

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

We're grateful for the many new members who've joined our church family and look forward to all God will continue to do through you.

Not pictured: Mary Harrington, Sue Pipkin & Tricia Hooker



BUDZIOWSKI, Mark & Toni



BYRNE, Brad, Megan, Jackson, Riley & Reed



CARLOW, Brad & Ashley



CASIAS, Eric, Kathryn & Emma



FOREMAN, Gerry & Mary Jo



GRIGSBY, Gisela



HAJDA, Kevin



HALL, Colby, Whitney & Stevie



JAMES, Nancy



LEE, Keith & Debbie



MCCOY, Deborah



MOORE, Josh, Lauren, Caroline & Jacquelyn



MURRAH, Mike & Lynn



PRATT, Kenneth & Kenessa



SCATES, Eddy, Leigh Ann, Carleigh & Caylin



SLADE, Chris & Anne



TOWNSEND, Randy & Wendy



WOISARD, Ann & Ellie Beaty



Servant's Heart

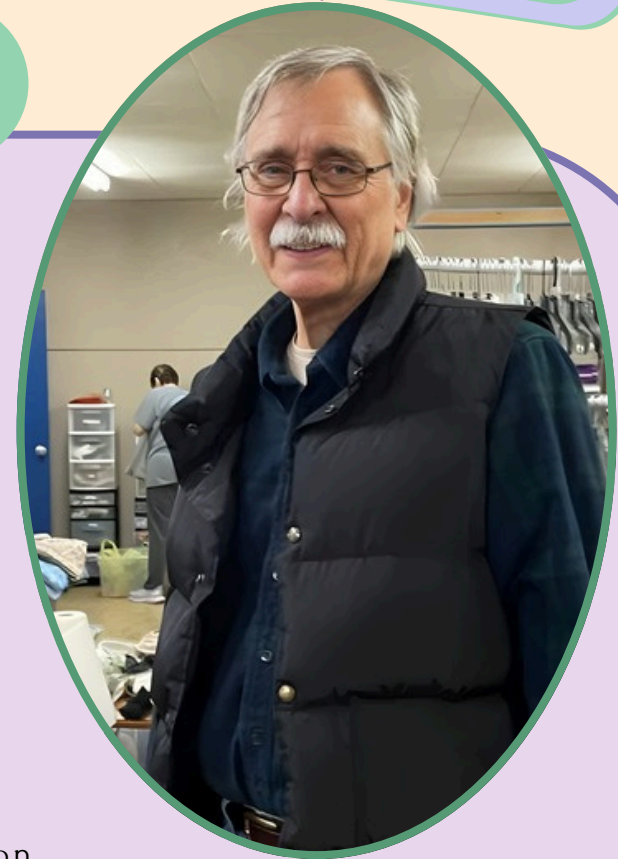
Paul
Quinn

Q What role do you serve in, and how did you get started?

Since coming to First last year, I've been drawn to activities that have the look and feel of the things I've done before. I'm convinced that when we do outreach, every ministry to others is also a ministry to us, a chance to grow in our walk with the Lord. Mary's Closet puts me in closer contact with a social group I know through the hospital emergency room- folks who are struggling to get what most of us take for granted. When resources are limited, the laundromat is an air conditioned place to get out of the heat, but the machines eat a lot of quarters. A clean, free change of clothes at the Closet is a savvy choice. And they come with a helping of dignity.

The Closet also employs men from Restoration of Hope to help with the heavy lifting. My participation in Kairos, a para-church ministry to the long-term incarcerated, has made me aware of the re-entry problems these men face. When Kip and I spend a morning grunting out the massive (T55) Torx bolts on the old van seat mounts with two men from Restoration, it is a chance to model the cooperation and persistence that may be useful to someone looking for a job. Two of us have ankle monitors and two of us do not, but we are all servants of the same Master. (Gal 3: 28)

Oh, and speaking of Torx, we are building wheelchair ramps with TexasRamps.org. Can't swing a hammer? That's so 20th century! The new normal is T25 Torx screws and a cordless drill. Come on out on the second Saturday and we'll show you how. It's good fun, good fellowship, and you will still have Saturday afternoon off.



Servant's Heart

Q What do you enjoy most about volunteering with our church family?

I came back to the Lord in the middle 1980s and I've been hanging around churches for a while. This crowd is on fire for the Lord. I've never seen zeal for service like this. We have all kinds of volunteers. Go back and read Romans 12: 9- 13. Then take a look at what the people in this congregation are doing. We are in the square middle of it!



Q Who has been an inspiration in your journey of serving others?

Many have helped, but I will mention two. First, my other half Christine. If you can find a woman who will haggle with the Kipsigis for vegetables on Tuesday, wash them in Jix, and sleep with you under the mosquito nets, you need to marry her and take her where ever you go. Many of the visible things we do with conduct of worship are really her passion, and I'm just the supporting cast. Lay reading, communion stewards, oh, and yes, choir! If you have the gift, don't be stingy, share it. Come on down, Sunday at 3pm. The other is Frank Coats, a long term friend who is presently pastor at Cooks Point Methodist Church. Frank is one of the bravest men I know ("nobody is going to blackmail me, I'll tell you what I did!") He has taught me the importance of small group accountability, in the Wesleyan tradition. If you are bound to report back to the group on what you did, you need to do something. In early 2012, Dr Hayden Hemphill called me to medical missions in Haiti with the scripture 1 John 3:17. What does it say to you? And where are you called?



Wheelchair Ramp Build

On Saturday, March 14th, members of our church came together to build a wheelchair ramp for a community member in need, ensuring safe and easy access to their home. With willing hands and joyful hearts, volunteers worked side by side to make a meaningful difference.



Bill Ainsley, Donnie Camp, Michael White, Angela LeGrand, Drew LeGrand, Chris Spyles



Serving Through Structure

Get to know our new
Director of Operations:

Victoria Ellefritz



A LITTLE ABOUT ME:

I am delighted to share a little about myself in this newsletter's spotlight. My greatest joy comes from our family—Between William and I we are blessed with six wonderful children, nine grandchildren, and, most recently, we celebrated the arrival of our very first great grandchild! Each new addition brings more love and laughter to our lives.

After a fulfilling 38-year career in Property Management /Real Estate, I retired in 2024. My professional journey taught me the value of hard work, integrity, and building lasting relationships. Retirement has given me the opportunity to focus even more on giving back.

MY ROLE IN THE CHURCH

Currently, I serve as the Operations Director at our church, where I volunteer my time to help ensure everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. Being involved in our church and helping it grow has been especially rewarding and fulfilling to me, particularly at this stage of my life. This role has allowed me to combine my organizational skills with my passion for service, and I look forward to the many adventures ahead with our church and growing family.

MY HOBBIES

Outside of my work and family life, I am an avid traveler, whether embarking on scenic road trips or relaxing cruises, I find joy in exploring new places. I also love the challenge of puzzling and the quiet pleasure of reading, both of which offer wonderful ways to unwind and keep my mind engaged.

Member Spotlight

Q

Tell us a little about your family—who's who, and what are some of your favorite things to do together?

We are Chris & Lacey McCulloch. We have 3 daughters, Gracyn (24), Aubrey (13), and Lily Kate (11). Gracyn is married to Will Hlavinka. Our favorite things to do together are traveling, including all the events for our daughters travel soccer experience! :)



Q

What are some of your hobbies/what do you guys like to do for fun?

We like to go to the lake, play games, and themed movie nights!

Q

Does your family have a favorite Easter tradition?

We still egg hunt with the kids even though they are older. Each year, my sister and I try to come up with creative ways to design the egg hunt to keep the kids interested. We also love to play Bible trivia and other family games. Anything we can do to keep the kids wanting to hang out with the family on the holidays :)



Member Spotlight

Q

How do you guys plug into the church? What are some of your favorite ways to get involved?

We have the best Sunday School class "Task & Purpose." We love that not only do we get to share the Lord with these people, but we also get to do everyday life with this group! Also, I work in the office on Mondays. We have a great group of office ladies and I am happy to be a part of this group. Women's Bible study has been a wonderful addition at First Methodist. I have loved getting to know more of the members of our congregation. Of course working with the youth is dear to my heart. I love getting to experience Wednesday nights with my younger daughters.

Q

Do you have a favorite bible verse to share?

A dear person gave my oldest daughter this verse to memorize when she was very little.
Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
This phrase has given us strength during difficult times.



Q

If we had a church potluck, what dish are you guys bringing, and who's cooking?

Lacey is definitely cooking - probably something in a crock pot like white chicken chili or crack cheese dip!



Palm Sunday

Our Palm Sunday service was a joyful and meaningful celebration as we remembered Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, where He was welcomed and honored as King. With hearts full of praise, we gathered together in worship, reflecting on the hope and salvation He brings. It was a beautiful way to begin Holy Week as a church family, united in faith and gratitude.



BIG NEWS!

A NEW CHAPTER FOR OUR YOUTH MINISTRY!

Meet our new Director of
Youth Ministries:

Max Henry

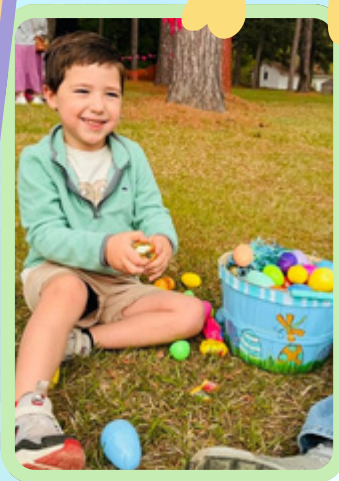


A LITTLE ABOUT MAX:

We're excited to welcome Max Henry as our new Youth Director! Max is currently a junior at Texas A&M- Texarkana, where he is pursuing a degree in marketing. Max has a heart for investing in the next generation. He is a lifelong Texarkana resident, his family are active members of our church, and we're grateful to continue that connection as he steps into this role. He brings a passion for teaching and learning and a desire to help students grow in their faith and relationships—be sure to say hello and welcome him!

Easter Egg Hunt

Our Easter Egg Hunt & Family Picnic was a wonderful success despite a windy and chilly morning. It was filled with laughter, excitement, and a strong sense of community. From the youngest participants to our many volunteers, everyone played a part in making the event joyful and memorable. We are so thankful for everyone who came out and helped make this special day such a meaningful celebration!



& Family Picnic

Rachel Page & Sharie Bishop



Linda Stanley, Kip & Janis Roberts



Eric Cain & Randy Sarrett



The Riddell Family

Chris Quinn, Josh Bishop, Max Henry



Haley Roeser, JJ Williamson, Angela LeGrand



Nancy & Ken King



In Memorium



Lana will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her easy laughter, and the way she made everyone feel welcome and cared for. She had a kind heart, a calm presence, and a way of bringing comfort and light into the lives of others. Her love was steady, her smile was genuine, and her legacy will live on in the many lives she touched.

Obituary

Lana Carol Rehkopf, 74, of Texarkana, Texas, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 27, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born on October 28, 1951, in Texarkana, Arkansas, to Lenetta and Earl Boddie.

Lana lived a life centered on love, family, and simple joys. She built a successful career as a Senior Vice President for Bank of the Ozarks, where she was respected not only for her professionalism, but also for her warmth and genuine care for others.

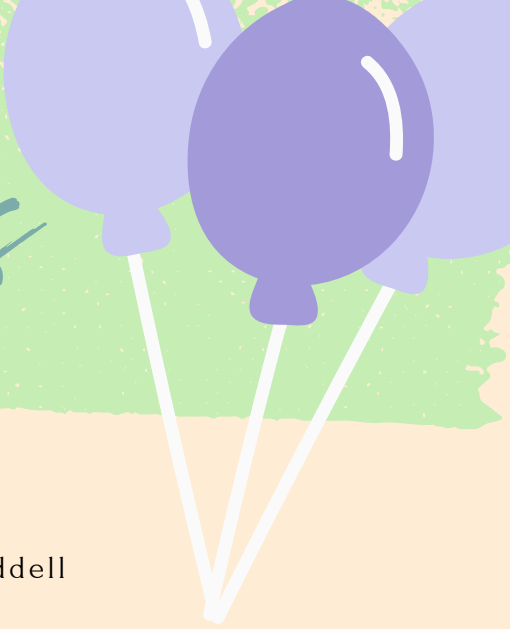
She found her greatest happiness in the moments spent with those she loved. Whether traveling the country, enjoying life on the road in an RV, or simply gathering together, Lana treasured every memory made with her family. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy, and she never missed an opportunity to celebrate them, encourage them, and shower them with love.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lenetta and Earl Boddie.

Left to carry on her memory are her devoted husband of 50 years, Terry Rehkopf; her daughters, Lindsay Thompson and husband Jacob, and Jenna Dresser and husband Andrew; her cherished grandchildren, Connor Thompson, Bennett Thompson, Jack Dresser, and Tripp Dresser; her sister, Lisa Spivey; her brother, Earl Boddie; and a large circle of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends who will miss her deeply.

Lana's family finds comfort in knowing that her love will continue to guide them, and that the memories she created will be treasured forever.

Celebrations



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---------------------------------|
| 2 | Lila Crews
Sydney Hornbuckle | 19 | Mary Claire Riddell |
| 5 | Gail Eichler | 21 | Louis Crews
Al Ellzey |
| 8 | Whitney Hall | | Patricia Jones-Ellzey |
| 9 | Jennifer Thomas
John Hays | 22 | Rachel Page
Ann Woisard |
| 11 | Keith Lee | | Helen Clark Hays |
| 15 | Donnie Camp | 26 | Kristi White
Terrie Arnold |
| 16 | Alice McMillan
Jamie Tengwall | | Tate Snell |
| 17 | Owen Dickeson
Tyler Griffin
Magan Wisdom | 27 | Jennifer Lacefield
Mike Ward |
| 18 | Peyton LeGrand
Steve Morriss
Sharon Ward | 29 | McKenzie Bishop |
| | | 30 | Anna Ramage |



Upcoming Events

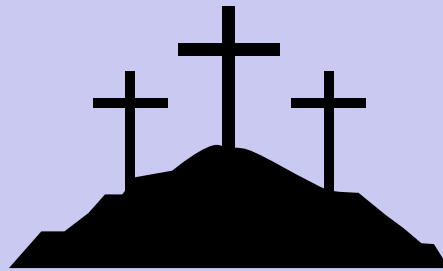
Maundy **THURSDAY**

April 2nd
6:00 p.m. Service



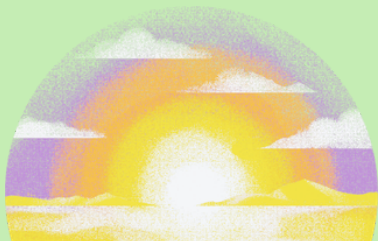
Good **FRIDAY**

April 3rd
6:00 p.m. Service



Easter **Sunday**

April 5th
TWO Services:
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.



Senior **Sunday**

May 10th
10:30 a.m. Service

