

First WORD

“...The Word Became Flesh...” John 1:14

October 2026

FALL ON FLINT

Wednesday, October 28th | 6:00–7:30 PM

Annual Community Block Party

Carnival Games • Candy • Prizes • Food

Photo Booth • Trunk-or-Treating

Child-Friendly Costumes Encouraged!

HELP MAKE FALL ON FLINT A SUCCESS!

There are two easy ways you can get involved:

1.

DONATE CANDY OR SMALL PRIZES



Help us stock up for all the fun!
We're collecting individually
wrapped candy and small prizes.
Donations can be dropped off at
the church office or in the white
baskets around campus.

2.

HOST A TRUNK



Decorate your trunk or truck
bed as simply or as elaborately
as you'd like, then help us share
the love of Christ through
smiles, fun, and candy! It's a
great way to serve families and
be part of this special evening.

Let's make Fall on Flint a night our community won't forget!

MIDDAY MINGLE Pizza Party

Thursday, October 22 • 11:30 AM
Sapp Conference Room

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
Nutritionist Julie Joiner

\$15 includes:

- Lunch & healthy eating tips from a pro
- A pumpkin to decorate and take home

Please plan to share at least one of your own ideas
for a simple, nourishing meal.

Make your reservation through the church office
by October 20.

Our Church Staff

Jim Morrow
Laurel Griffith
Sylvia Broadway
Lisa Christenson
Jessica Clawson
Amy Cloud
Ashlee Crawford
Jeanne Geisel
Aaron Goudy
Becky Herndon

Senior Minister
Associate Minister of Discipleship
Hospitality Coordinator
Administrative Assistant, Finance/Business Office
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant—Pastoral & Membership Support
Director of Preschool
Church Administrator
Custodian
Administrative Assistant

Zerike Jones
Brandon Keaton
Emma Keaton
Angela Oliver
Kallie Rutledge
Allison Vandenberg
Scott Wood
Kelvin Works
Jackie Yielding

Custodian
Director of Music & Student Ministries
Ministry Assistant
Director of Food Services
Digital Media & Technology Specialist
Director of Children's Ministries
Facilities Manager
Maintenance Supervisor
Director of Missions and Outreach

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

October Prayer:

Oh, God, our creator, our Lord, and our Master, you are a great and wonderful God who has the power to transform us and help us to be more like you. You are a God who is full of grace and wisdom. You are a compassionate, kind, and loving God. You are holy and righteous and good, and we praise and honor you as our savior through Jesus Christ.

We come before you humbly, Lord, confessing that we are sinners. We doubt, we don't understand, we are confused, and we have lots of questions. However, we trust you to lead us through all the temptations that we face and to remove all our doubts. We know that you, oh, God, your scriptures, and your chosen men and women (who have greater understanding and clarity than we have) will lead us to the answers that we want and need. We pray that the Holy Spirit and our brothers and sisters in Christ will help us when we need guidance and direction, when we get lost, and when our faith grows weak. Help all of us, Lord, to hold tight to our faith and to support each other in our times of struggle and hardship, and in our times of joy and celebration.

As your children, and as citizens of your kingdom, oh, God, we have a great mission in this world. We need to share the Hope that we have with others. We need to let them know about the gospel. We need to tell them about Jesus Christ, his death and his resurrection, which can bring to them forgiveness, salvation, and everlasting life. We need to show them the influence that you have had on our lives by seeing the love we have for each other. We need to demonstrate our love for you and our love for our neighbors through service. We need to let others see our worshiping you through our work, through our good deeds, through our sacrifices. We want them to know your love as we know it. But we don't always know how to do this, Lord, so we pray for the help of the Holy Spirit who will guide us to our gifts and to those who would benefit from them. Help us, Lord, in all that we do to show the love and the mercy and the forgiveness and the grace that you have shown us, and help us to do so in your son's holy name, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Tim Yates

Congregational Care

Congratulations on the Birth of

- Marjorie Ellis Lanier, the daughter of Walker and Sarah Parker Lanier, and great-granddaughter of Billie Strickland.

Christian Sympathy Is Extended to

- Chris Dervan in the death of his father, Christopher Stuart Dervan.
- James Ashcraft in the death of his sister, Mary Eileen Poling.
- Peggy Tucker passed away on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Please remember her sister and brother in law, Pam and Rick Doherty.

Prayer Requests

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:15

- Beverly Hambrick
- Beth O'Brien
- Carman Harbuck
- Cecil
- Elizabeth Champion
- Gayle Hicks
- Bruce and Brenda Richards
- Kairos Ministry Team
- Keith Gaines
- Roger Griner

Prayer requests may be given to the church by using the Prayer Request Card in our worship areas or by calling the church office (229-432-7407). Please re-submit your prayer request by the 15th of each month if continued prayer is needed.

Prayer Chain - Our prayer chain passes along urgent prayer needs. To activate the Prayer Chain after hours, contact: Molly Strickland, **229-343-3011**.

Minister on Call (after hours & weekends) -

To reach the Minister on Call after hours and on weekends, call **229-733-1075**.

MEMORIALS:

September 2026

Given to **Memorial Maintenance Trust Fund**

in memory of Nan Wuller by

*Arthur and Kathleen Hornick

Given to **Littleton Sunday School Class**

in memory of Jim Bowles by

*Charlie and Ann Plunkett

in memory of Gerald Faircloth by

*Charlie and Ann Plunkett

in memory of Jeri Jackson by

*Charlie and Ann Plunkett

WELCOME, JEANNE!

— NEW CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR —

Jeanne Geisel is a longtime member of First Methodist and recently retired as a supervisory general engineer at the Marine Corps Logistics Base. She brings extensive experience in human resources, coaching-style leadership, facilities operations, and financial management.

With a heart for Jesus and a genuine love for people, she is a wonderful addition to our team.

Please join us in welcoming Jeanne Geisel— and in praying for and supporting her as she begins this new role.



advent ornament sale

GET READY FOR OUR UPCOMING YOUTH ADVENT ORNAMENT SALE! OUR STUDENTS WILL BE SELLING ORNAMENTS OF THE WALDEN CHAPEL "GOOD SHEPHERD" STAINED GLASS WINDOW, BEGINNING NOV. 29 THROUGH DEC. 20. ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS OUR 2027 HOSANNA MISSIONS TOUR.

\$30 per ornament



MISSION SPOTLIGHT:

HELPING HANDS ENDING HUNGER



Church member and Helping Hands Director Cathy Revell shares these words of gratitude about this important mission:

You said, "YES!"

In August of 2018, our congregation was told of a program, Helping Hands Ending Hunger, that would function in the local schools to collect the unopened food items donated by the students. These items would be stored during the week and then distributed to students on Fridays to eat during the weekend. Money was needed to purchase the refrigerator, freezer, and bins. You said, "YES!" and the first school was started... Morningside Elementary. Volunteers were needed to pack the bags, and you said, "YES!" Volunteers were needed to pick up the extra food items to deliver to local nonprofits and you said, "YES!"

Helping Hands Ending Hunger is now beginning its 9th school year. Twenty Dougherty County schools participate. 71,000 families have been served, 18 nonprofits receive food items, and 1,187,000 pounds (563 tons) of food items have been saved from the landfill and given to those in need... all because you cared enough to say, "YES!" That's the First Methodist way.

Thank you to Cathy and all our members who serve with Helping Hands!

OUR
IMPACT
AT A GLANCE

20	71,000	18	1,187,000
Dougherty County schools participate	families have been served	nonprofits receive food items	pounds (563 tons) of food items have been saved from the landfill

ATTENTION VETERANS!

We want to make sure we have your current contact information so we can invite you to our Veterans Day Breakfast and Worship Service Recognition in November. Please reach out to the church office at (229) 432-7407 to provide us with your current information. Thank you for your service!

Jackie Yielding

Director of Missions and Outreach
jyielding@firstmethodistalbany.com

OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING:

- 10/4: Women's Jail Ministry
- 10/11: The Vashti Center
- 10/18: The Methodist Home for Children and Youth
- 10/25: Altar Fund

Welcome Our Newest Members!



Kathy Adams
Joined September 13, 2026



Robert Rulison
Joined September 6, 2026

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

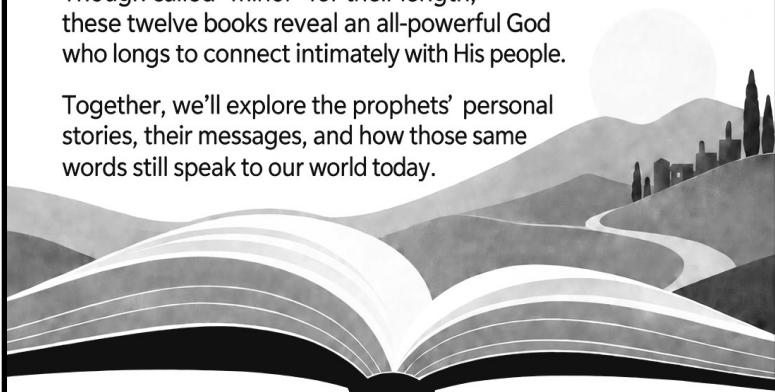
Majoring on Minors

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

Join us for an eight-week journey through the Minor Prophets and their powerful messages to ancient Israel.

Though called "minor" for their length, these twelve books reveal an all-powerful God who longs to connect intimately with His people.

Together, we'll explore the prophets' personal stories, their messages, and how those same words still speak to our world today.



Teacher: Laurel Griffith

Location: Sapp Conference Room

MIDWEEK TABLE TALK

REAL CONVERSATIONS. REAL PEOPLE. REAL FAITH.

WEDNESDAYS 4:45 PM

IN FORD HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME!

MIDWEEK Menu

• OCTOBER •

OCTOBER

7

- Chopped BBQ
- Baked Beans
- Potato Salad
- Fried Okra

OCTOBER

14

- Chicken Parmesan
- Broccoli
- Pasta Salad

OCTOBER

21

- Fried Fish & Shrimp
- Cheese Grits
- Coleslaw
- Hushpuppies
- Fried Okra

OCTOBER

28

Fall on Flint!



Grab n' Go kids' options!

MIDWEEK STUDIES

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM



MAJORING ON MINORS

Join us for an eight-week journey back to ancient Israel as we explore the words of the Minor Prophets who spoke for God in a dark and rebellious world.

Teacher: Laurel Griffith
Location: Walden Chapel



EXPERIENCING GOD

Knowing and Doing the Will of God

Have you ever wondered if God is truly at work in your life—and whether you're positioned to recognize it? This class will walk you through Henry Blackaby's transformative study, *Experiencing God*, helping you discover how to hear God's voice, understand His will, and join Him in the work He is already doing around you.

Teacher: Jackie Yielding
Location: WT Henry Classroom
Workbook required: \$22.00

SPARK

What if creativity wasn't a luxury for the few—but the sacred calling of every believer?

Al Gordan writes, "Spark is a love letter to your creative self, a call to dream again, to reignite your imagination, and fan the flame of your potential. In the age of algorithms, your creativity just might save the world."

MIDWEEK STUDIES CLASS

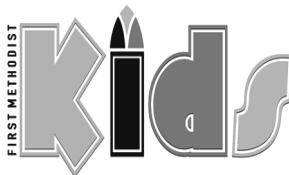
EIGHT-WEEK INTERACTIVE CLASS

Join Suzanne and Gary Unger for this eight-week interactive class where you will discover:

- The four key stages of creative breakthrough: Imagination, Inspiration, Innovation, and Impact
- How faith and creativity are inseparable—and why the Church should be the most creative place on earth.
- How to silence fear, overcome resistance, and take risks with bold faith.
- Why failure is not your enemy but your greatest creative teacher
- How to unlock Spirit-filled innovation and step into your divine calling.

Teachers: Suzanne and Gary Unger
Location: Sapp Conference Room
Date & Time: Wednesdays at 6:00 PM
Resource: "Spark" by Al Gordan — \$12.00





FALL ON FLINT — Wednesday, October 28 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Mark your calendars and join us for our annual block party on Flint Avenue! We’re looking forward to an evening filled with fun, laughter, and opportunities to connect with our church family and our community. Families can enjoy carnival-style games, candy, prizes, food options, a photo booth, and trunk-a-treating! Child-friendly costumes are encouraged, so come dressed for a night of fall fun!

HELP MAKE FALL ON FLINT A SUCCESS!

There are two easy ways you can get involved:

1. DONATE CANDY OR SMALL PRIZES

Help us stock up for all the fun! We’re collecting individually wrapped candy and small prizes. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or in the white baskets around campus.

2. HOST A TRUNK

Decorate your trunk or truck bed as simply or as elaborately as you’d like, then help us share the love of Christ through smiles, fun, and candy! It’s a great way to serve families and be part of this special evening.

Let’s make Fall on Flint a night our community won’t forget! We can’t wait to see you there!

Allison Vandenberg, Director of Children’s Ministries
avandenberg@firstmethodistalbany.com



October is here, and we are so excited for another fun-filled month at FMP! We have lots of special things happening, and we can’t wait to continue learning, growing, and shining His Light together!

We just wrapped up our Community Helper Month, and what a special month it has been! Our children have been learning all about the amazing people who help take care of and serve our community. We are so thankful for each of our community helpers and all they do for our families and our community. We appreciate you more than you know!

We also just finished our very first Parent Chapel, and it was such a special time! Our children are learning SO much during Chapel. They are learning Bible stories, songs, prayers, and most importantly, how much Jesus loves them. It is such a blessing to watch their little hearts and minds grow as they learn about God’s Word. We are so thankful for the opportunity to plant these little seeds of faith in their hearts!

October 2nd – Donuts with Grown-Ups: We can’t wait to welcome our special grown-ups for a sweet morning together! There’s nothing better than a little time together with the people our children love most.

We are so thankful for our wonderful Preschool family. Every day we get to watch these little ones learn, grow, make friends, discover new things, and learn more about Jesus—and it is truly a blessing!

Here’s to a wonderful October filled with JOY, learning, laughter, and shining His Light!

Ashlee Crawford, Director of Preschool
acrawford@firstmethodistalbany.com



THRIVE YOUTH

Check out our social media and register for trips at bit.ly/m/thrivestudents!

Connect with us on **Sundays from 4:00–6:00PM** in the Youth Center. Join us for devotions, small groups, snack supper, and a group activity. More info below!

Happy Fall from Thrive Student Ministry! Sign-ups begin this month for our annual Hosanna Missions Tour. We will be visiting Chicago, Milwaukee, & Mackinac Island this June, volunteering at local organizations and growing closer to our faith together. If a high school student in your family might be interested in joining us on this mission trip, contact Brandon for more details.

UPCOMING THIS OCTOBER:

- OCTOBER 4** – GAME NIGHT – MUSIC TRIVIA FAMILY FEUD
- OCTOBER 11** – FALL BREAK – NO PM YOUTH ACTIVITIES
- OCTOBER 18** – GIRLS & GUYS NIGHT
- OCTOBER 24** – CONFIRMATION CLASS TRIP TO BIBLICAL HISTORY CENTER
- OCTOBER 25** – MISSION NIGHT – SERVING AT SEWN
- OCTOBER 28** – FALL ON FLINT



Brandon Keaton,
Director of Music & Student Ministries
bkeaton@firstmethodistalbany.com

FIRST METHODIST TRIVIA QUIZ:

From your Church Archivists/Historians:
Gordon & Meri Beth—(answers on the bottom of the page.) *Verification of answers can be found by a visit to the Historical Room.

1. Of the twenty-four panels of the twelve stained-glass windows in the sanctuary which picture the life of Jesus, in how many is Jesus present?
2. Including performances of *The Living Last Supper*, *Godspell*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Smoke on the Mountain*, how many additional musicals and plays did the Drama Ministry present at First Methodist from 1983—2014.

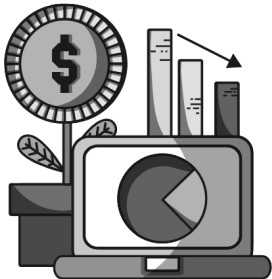
MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

AS OF JULY 2026

If you have any questions or would like to speak to someone regarding a donation, please call Lisa Christenson at 229-432-7407.

YTD Income: \$ 1,144,460.80
Prior Year: \$ 1,130,738.23
YTD Budget: \$ 1,245,447.00

YTD Expenses: \$ 1,255,319.20
Prior Year: \$ 1,152,240.65
YTD Budget: \$ 1,244,963.02



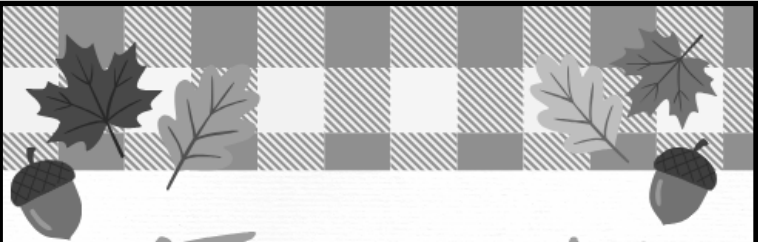
TRIVIA ANSWERS:

- 1) All but the last two panels 2) 25



*join the
sanctuary choir*

Now's the perfect time to join the choir as we begin preparation for our Christmas program. Join us on Wednesday nights at 5:30pm for Ladies Ensemble and 6:00pm for Choir Practice.



*Thanks to
our Youth
Sponsors!*

**DON'T FORGET TO DELIVER
YOUR OCTOBER LETTER FOR
YOUR STUDENT TO THE FRONT
OFFICE BY OCT. 18TH!**