

SEPTEMBER 2011



Building Location:
331 W Osceola Ave
Clewiston, FL. 33440-3008

Mailing Address:
352 W Arcade Ave
Clewiston FL. 33440-2802

Phone: (863) 983-5269
Fax: (863) 983-5269

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

Sundays:

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Mondays:

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts LEC

Tuesdays:

6:00 p.m. Art Class: LEC
7:00 p.m. Hispanic Home Church (FH)

Wednesdays:

8:30 a.m. Prayer Team
(in Sanctuary)

12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Food
Pantry Open

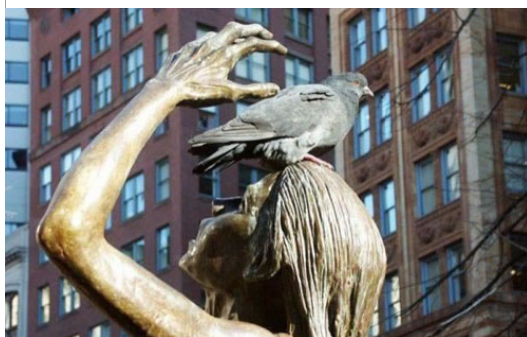
6:00 p.m. Dinner (LEC)
6:30 p.m. Kingdom Kids
6:45 p.m. Youth and Adult
Bible Studies
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursdays:

Precept: 9:30 a.m.,
4:00 p.m., 6:45 p.m.
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

CLEWISTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

John C. Hicks - Senior Pastor



In Honor of Labor Day

A friend of mine shared some insights he uses to help him deal with life's daily grind. He stated, "You need to accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue."

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them. Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on."

Other words of advice: "Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. When everything's coming your way, you're probably in the wrong lane. We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, and some have weird names, but they all have to live in the same box. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour."

I appreciated and even smiled as I read some of his tips, but when it comes to work and the daily grind, I have seven heroes I turn to.

They are miners. They work in their mine, all day long, finding jewels of great beauty. And they sing a song, "We dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, in our mine the whole day through, to dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig is what we like to do!"

When they start each day, they sing, "Heigh ho! Heigh ho! It's off to work we go!" and while they work they sing, "Just whistle while you work!"



They are the seven dwarfs: Sleepy, Doc, Dopey, Happy, Grumpy, Sneezzy and Bashful.

Even though they are cartoons, these little guys seem to have it all together when it comes to work! They are doing something they enjoy, something they believe is important, and they get pleasure out of work, not just a paycheck.

"We dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, in our mine the whole day through!" Would that we could all derive as much pleasure and satisfaction from our work as do the seven dwarfs! Would that we all could share their attitude about our labors!

We all know some people who say, "I go to work every morning and I endure it. I am just there for the paycheck." Perhaps you are one of them.

When I hear things like that, I think about how fortunate that I am. I feel called to my work. If truth be known, I would probably do it even if I were not being paid.

But even still, there are days when I don't want to come to work. There are days when I'd rather be anywhere else.



Some days, even the pastor doesn't want to get up and go to work because work can be hard, and work can be frustrating, and working can be tiring.

One of the real issues we face in the church is believer's burn-out, also known as compassion fatigue. Sometimes, especially when we are tired and frustrated, we let the values of the world dilute our Christian values.

It almost seems like Jesus about to let that happen in the way He treated the woman in Matthew 15:26. Jesus told her, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." But then Jesus looked into her eyes, and He listened to her words with His heart: "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Because of this, even though He was tired and wanted desperately to rest, He reached out with His love and touched her, and her life was changed.

That's what our Christian work is about –touching one another with God's love and changing lives in the process.



Look around and think of those who surround you. We are farmers and school teachers, sales people and mechanics, doctors and police officers, retired people and students; and we come with differing levels of satisfaction in what we do for a living.

I think our faith tells us that although no job is perfect, there are ways to get more meaning and joy out of our work. Probably the most obvious way is to realize that our work, no matter what it is we do, touches someone somewhere.

In one of its best understandings, work is about relationships. Work can also be about making life better for someone beside us. This aspect of work may be hard to see in some jobs, but I believe it is there nonetheless.

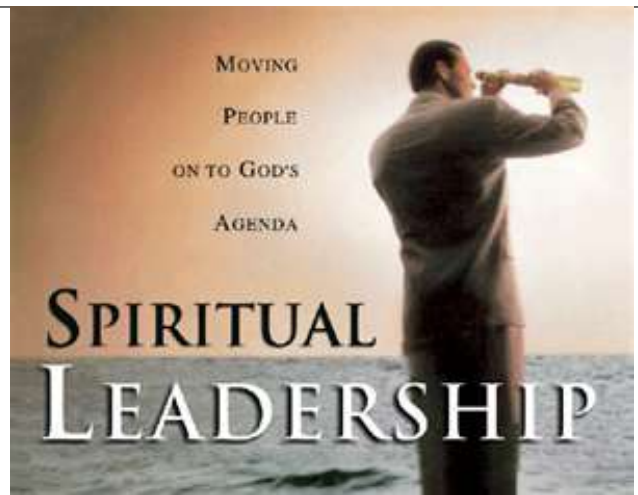
Our work takes on new meaning when we see it as touching others. And if as Christians we add a little bit of faith to what we do for a living, we may discover our work bringing us more joy and less stress, more satisfaction and less fatigue. We may even find ourselves singing,



Heigh Ho...

"Heigh ho! Heigh Ho! It's off to work we go!" We may even find ourselves whistling while we work!

Pastor John



Dear Church Family,

Since May, I have been meeting once a month with 11 other pastors in a "Spiritual Leadership Incubator" training. This training is a "by-invitation" only program and involves an investment and commitment on the part of our church and district, as well as myself.

It involves a year-long commitment of studying, praying, and exploring opportunities to help bring spiritual leadership development to the local church. We meet once a month for eight hours of training for the first six months, and then once a month for the next six months as continued training, support, and consultation as we implement what we have learned and experienced in our local church setting.

In October, I will give an invitation to the leadership and any interested members of our church family to join with me in forming a spiritual leadership team.

Spiritual Leadership will help us as individuals and as a church to understand God's design for leadership and will enable us to lead God's people towards the fulfillment of His purposes for First United Methodist Church of Clewiston.

Please pray for our church, our leadership, and what God might be leading you to do as a part of His ministry here.

And please seriously pray and consider about being On one of our spiritual leadership teams.

The Rest of



Read the Bible as one seamless story from beginning to end!

Last Year, we as a church went through the whole Bible based on the book, "The Story". Each week our Sunday School classes studied a chapter and I preached from that chapter. It was a wonderful experience to go through the Bible together as a church family.

I also realized that there was more to "the story" in the Bible than we had time to cover each week. God has led me to preach through the Bible again, once again using the book, "The Story", as a template. As you remember, "The Story" is 31 chapters long and is written in chronological order, making it a good tool to help us understand God's story in the Bible and what that means to us.

My plan is to start on Sunday, September 18th, National Go To Church Day! We will have copies of "The Story" available for those who need a copy, and encourage everyone to read and follow along each week as we journey once again through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

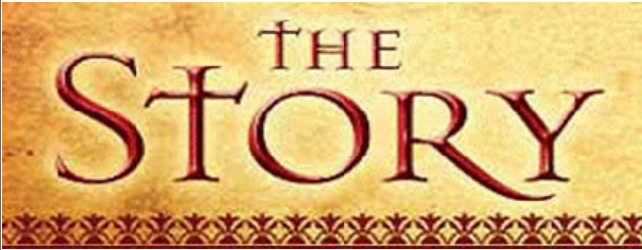
This time through, I will add some more details which, like Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story", should enrich what we first heard and help make God's story for us more complete.

Each week, similar to last year, I will send out the Scripture references and sermon notes on the message which God has led me to preach as we journey once again through God's great story and messages God has given us in His Word.

Journeying through God's word with you.

Pastor John

The Rest of



Additional Notes!

Please prayerfully consider making the commitment to be a part of this spiritual challenge to go through the whole Bible together!

I encourage you to join a Bible study group, a Sunday School Class, a home fellowship group, and even possibly a devotional time with your family!

Starting Wednesday, September 14, I will lead a post- Wednesday Night Dinner Bible Study (about 6:45) in the Trinity Room of the LEC, using *The Story*, and sharing insights on the Scriptures I will be preaching on for the next Sunday.

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

The Bible in 50 Words

Why should we study the bible? The simple answer is because God in His word tells us to. (2Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. We are exhorted to preach the word and to be able to defend it.)

In summary studying the bible allows us to be better workman for God. It equips us with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) so that we can quench the fiery darts of the devil and be more than conquers in Christ. Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Remember our citizenship is not on earth but in heaven and while on earth we are to represent Christ in everything we do. That is our job to represent Christ to the world and to preach His saving message. By studying His word we will be able to give reasons and to prove by the Word to the lost why Christ is our hope. The word of God will set you free, so discover His truth in the word and enjoy the freedom and peace it brings. John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Sermon Topic Projections

| Date | Chapter | Topics | Focus | Bible References |
|----------|-----------|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Sept. 18 | Chapter 1 | “Paradise Lost, Hope Floats” | Creation/Flood | Genesis 1-8 |
| Sept. 25 | Chapter 2 | “Called Into God’s Promise” | Abraham | Genesis 12-13, 15-17, 21-22, 32-33, 35 |
| Oct. 2 | Chapter 3 | “I Dreamed a Dream” | Joseph | Genesis 37, 39, 41-48, 50 |
| Oct. 9 | Chapter 4 | “A Basket Case” | Moses | Exodus 1-7, 10-17 |
| Oct. 16 | Chapter 5 | “The Top Ten” | Command-ments | Exodus 19-20, 24-25 |
| Oct. 23 | Chapter 6 | “Are We There Yet?” | Wilderness | Numbers 10-14, 20-21, 25, 27, Deut. 1-2, 6, 8-9, 29-34 |
| Oct. 30 | Chapter 7 | “They Might Be Giants” | Joshua | Joshua 1-2, 6, 8, 10-11, 24 |



Sunday, September 11

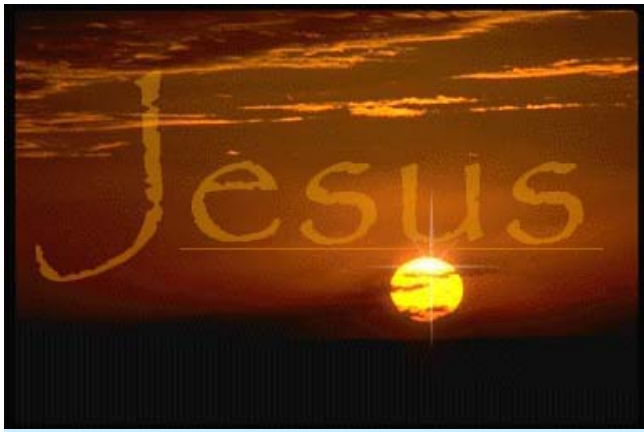
A Special Worship Service



Make plans to join us on Sunday, September 11, as we share in a special service of remembrance, honoring those who serve our community, and remembering those who have lost their lives to the terrorisms and tragedies of the world, and praising a God who stands with us in all of life's situations.

**“Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!”**





Visioning God's Plan for First United Methodist Church of Clewiston

Where does God want us to go?
Where does God want us to grow?
How can we make it happen?

We have a great opportunity to do great things for God's ministry here at our church. The future is open as to how we can grow and what we can do.

Where will our church be in five or ten years? What kind of ministry do we need to develop for our future generations? What can we do better to meet the needs of our current church family? What can we do to be faithful to making disciples for Christ?

All of the above questions help prime the pump as we come together to prayerfully consider our ministry and ministry possibilities together.

Dave Sankey has shared that he will be leaving the Clewiston community at the end of the school year. (but will be with us until then). This has given us the motivation as well as the time and opportunity to explore where we want to go with this position, and explore possible ministry expansion to young adults and families with children.

It's also a great time to look at, examine, and enhance all of our ministry areas to make sure we are on track with our calling and mission.

Please join the Staff Parrish team and church leadership as we start this exciting process of Possibilities. Our first meeting is on Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m., in the LEC Trinity Room.



Grow
In
Him!

National Back to Church Sunday

Sunday, September 18th

Back to Church Sunday is based on the simple principle that most people will come to church if invited by a friend and yet in the last year only 2% of church members have invited an unchurched friend to church. Ninety-eight percent of churchgoers never extend an invitation in a given year.

(Lifeway Research).

Organizers say most people who drop out of church haven't lost their faith in God, they simply fell out of the habit of churchgoing. Some moved or had a change in life circumstances, or they had a falling out with their former church and simply drifted away. Most often, life became too busy.

This means many of them could be open to returning to church.

"82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited"

—Dr. Thom Rainer, The Unchurched Next Door

Have you thought about inviting someone, but never have gotten around to it? Now is a great time!

Have you missed someone in church? Why not give them a call to check on how they are doing? Do you know someone who has been away for a long time? Why not take an opportunity this month to invite them back to church?



Wednesday Dinners in September

Wednesday, September 7 Fun Foods!

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Tacos, BBQ Pork

Wednesday, September 14 Covered Dish!

Wednesday, September 21 Mission Dinner!
Ham, Roast Pork

Wednesday, September 28 Pot Roast!



Parsonage Washing Machine — RIP

The washing machine at the parsonage started making strange noises, so Pastor John traded it out for a donated one we were using in the pantry to wash dish towels, etc. The washing machine lasted about a week before it gave up the ghost and is designated for the washing machine graveyard.

If anyone has a working washing machine that we can use in the pantry area, please call the church office.



Pumpkin Patch is coming!!!!

Our delivery date is sometime the middle of October. We will let you know when we get the finalized time!



CHURCH LIBRARY

We have received some very welcome help in the church library from the Moraflores family--Giovanna (the mom), Giovanna (the teen daughter), Gabriela, and Giordana. They work at categorizing and labeling books, building shelves and reading! They also work with the Food Pantry and are home schooled.

Gabriela (12) has read You Are Grounded for Life and written the following report:

"This book is by Joey O'Conner. It is about his life story in a family of seven siblings. It shows how you should act when you are faced with problems and how to deal with them in a godly manner. It also tells about the mistakes he made and how we should avoid doing the same. The stories are very entertaining and funny. I highly recommend this book for all struggling Christian teens."

Giordana (9) has read The Shepherds Surprise:

"The author of this pop-up book is David C. Cook. It tells about the shepherds' surprise when the an-

gels appear to them on Christmas eve. The angels said, "Glory to GOD in the highest and on earth peace goodwill toward men". The angels told them to go to Bethlehem and they would find a baby wrapped in soft cloth lying in a manger. The angel faded away into heaven. They went straight away to see the new born king and just as the angel said they found a baby wrapped in soft cloth lying in a manger. Mary and Joseph told them his name was JESUS. I recommend this book to all children, especially those who do not know about Jesus."

Any others who are reading books from the church library are welcome to submit book reports. Turn them in at the church office.

The library is located on the west side of the main sanctuary and is open on Wednesdays from 5 pm 'till 6 pm, church dinner time.



United Methodist Women

Faith, Hope, Love in Action

United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, September 6 at 6:30 pm in the LEC for their annual Membership, Nurture and Outreach meeting and supper. This is a time for all members and friends to touch base with each other and renew our commitment to "faith, hope and love in action." The meal will be catered. Make reservations with your small group leader or call the church office, 983-5269. Cost is \$8.00. Following a short business meeting, we will honor our deceased members and hear brief reports from our small group leaders. We will also be encouraged in our spiritual growth by Jan Miller who will speak on one of her favorite subjects, "Prayer." Jan and husband Charles live in South Bay, but commute to Clewiston where they are active members of First Baptist Church. A retired teacher, she keeps her body active with exercises and water aerobics and her mind active with Bible Study, teaching a Sunday School class, and periodic speaking engagements.

Danielle Jean brought us up to date on her mission project in Haiti at the August 6th UMW luncheon. God burdened her heart when she saw so many illiterate children in an area north of Port Au Prince. Because Danielle feels so blessed to have a good education, she wants to help others have that same opportunity. She remarked recently, "Who knows what doctors, scientists, teachers, etc. may come from this poor area if they are given a chance through education?"

When this reporter called her for a recent update this was her response: "Thank you Lord, for all who have made a commitment to help make COGPOW a reality. There were obstacles along the way, so we decided to pursue an alternative site. Please recall that our financial goal is to raise \$25,000 to be able to erect the structure. Hosean International Ministries has pledged \$10,000 and we have received gifts from our church family, for which we are grateful. We appreciate your continued prayers, efforts and support. COGPOW (Child of God, Person of Worth) is moving forward."

The District Mission Sampler Event will be Saturday, September 17th at First UM in Cape Coral. Registration begins at 9:00 am. The program is from 10 am 'til 2 pm. The Mission Studies will cover (1) Haiti, (2) Restorative Justice-The Journey and (#) Joy to the World. Lunch will be provided. Reservations are required. Cost is \$8.

FLOWER DUTY FOR SEPTEMBER: Morning Bible Study



Be saving your pennies, nickels and dimes for the World Thank Offering which

will be collected at the November meeting.

The Nominating Committee will meet soon. Please pray about what God may want you to do for God through UMW and be prepared to say "yes."

Remember, we collect Campbell's barcodes from soups and other Campbell products. We also collect "Labels for Education."



BIBLE STUDIES **AVAILABLE**

Morning Bible Study (MBS): Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, (September through May) of each month at 9:00 AM in the Trinity Room of the

LEC. Call Church Office 983-5269 for more information.

First Monday Bible Study (FMB): Meets 1st Monday of each month from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM (September through May) in the Pastor's office. Bring a sack lunch.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study (WEBS): Meets every Wednesday In the Trinity Room (after the Wed. Family Dinner-approx 6:45 PM)

Friendship Circle (FC): Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at Noon. Location changes monthly. Call Church Office 983-5269 or Ann Pearce for more information.

Summer Evening Bible Study (SEBS): Meets weekly at 7:00 pm during the summer months only. Call Church Office 983-5269 or Emily Drake.

Precept Bible Study (PBS): A non-denominational Bible study open to **everyone** and participated by men and women from many churches. You have a choice of time: Each Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m., or 6:45 p.m., with the exception of holiday breaks. The same lesson being taught at all three allows you to be flexible with your schedule.

Please check with the church office (983-5269) for times and meeting dates which may change without notice.

TWO LITTLE BOY'S



A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous.

The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Kay Jones | Sept.1 |
| Sandy Hall | Sept.2 |
| Helen Endicott | Sept.4 |
| Garry Hall | Sept.4 |
| Steve McKown | Sept.5 |
| Russ Andrews | Sept.6 |
| Brandon Galarneau | Sept.6 |
| LJ Margolis | Sept.6 |
| Steven McKown | Sept.6 |
| Bruce Jones | Sept.7 |
| Dolly Burke | Sept.9 |
| Todd Wheeler | Sept.9 |
| Wyatt Keen | Sept.10 |
| Vonita Mack | Sept.11 |
| Wesley Whitehurt | Sept.11 |
| William Vanderwende | Sept.12 |
| Sarah Martin | Sept.13 |
| Luan Walker | Sept.13 |
| Dave Abney | Sept.14 |
| Marci Propes | Sept.14 |
| Colby Sikes | Sept.17 |
| Katelyn Lazere | Sept.18 |
| Catherine Pickett | Sept.18 |
| Danielle Tritt | Sept.18 |
| Christine Wellslinger | Sept.18 |
| Brandon Caudill | Sept.20 |
| Rana Hilliard | Sept.21 |
| Cathy Hughes | Sept.22 |
| Candace Hull | Sept.22 |
| Hall Lindsay | Sept.23 |
| Britton Walker | Sept.24 |
| Kathy Galassini | Sept.25 |
| Buddy Griswald | Sept.25. |
| Vince Santamaria | Sept.25. |
| Darla Drake | Sept.26 |
| Cindy Edwards | Sept.26 |
| Robin Howell | Sept.26 |
| Frankie Leon | Sept.26 |
| Becky Starks | Sept.26 |
| Susan Walker | Sept.27 |
| Jim Arnold | Sept.28 |
| Tuesday Tritt | Sept.28 |
| Katherine Dukes | Sept.29 |
| Sulema Mack | Sept.29 |
| Robert Belton | Sept.30 |



FLOWERS

Sunday, Sept.4
 Sunday, Sept.11
 Sunday, Sept.18
 Sunday, Sept.25

Ronnie and Jane Robinson
 Elizabeth Johnstone
 Pam Kelly
 Mike Crooks

GREETERS

8:30 - Everyone

11:00 - Everyone

CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

TO BE ANNOUNCED

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Thanks to Benoit Paquette (See Exodus 34)

04-07-2005

YEP, THIS IS MOSES' GRAVE ALRIGHT



ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| John and Lynne Mila | Sept.2 |
| Jack and Ona Herring | Sept.3 |
| Mary Ann and Russ Andrews | Sept.4 |
| James and Carrie Sikes | Sept.14 |
| Clint and Pamela Kelly | Sept.20 |
| John and Christine Wellslinger | Sept.21 |

September 2011

Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace and gratitude.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|----|---|
| | | | | | | |
| [See Bible Study Schedule-p8 for a complete list of Bible Studies.] | | | | 1 Pick-up PRECEPT materials @ normal class times | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 6:30 pm UMW annual Membership, Nurture and Outreach meeting and supper | 7 6 pm DINNER Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Tacos, BBQ Pork | 8 Precept Bible Study Classes Start @ regular class times | 9 | 10 |
| | <i>Labor Day</i> | | | | | |
| 11 | 12 FMB-11:45 <i>First Monday Bible Study (Yes, it is on 2nd Monday this month)</i> | 13 MBS | 14 ABS 6 pm DINNER— Covered Dish | 15 | 16 | 17 10:00 District UMW Mission Sampler Event |
| 18 | 19 | 20 7 pm: <i>Ad Council</i> | 21 6 pm DINNER Mission Dinner-Ham, Roast Pork | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 MBS | 28 6 pm DINNER Pot Roast | 29 | 30 | |



First United Methodist Church
352 West Arcade Avenue
Clewiston, Florida 33440-2802

Non-Profit Org.

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"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28 -30