

INSIDE FIRST METHODIST

Welcome. Win. Equip. Serve



HELPING YOU CONNECT WITH US

VOL. 4 - FALL 2026

fmclanton.org

Dear Church Family,

Fall is on the move at First Methodist!

At our recent annual conference of the Global Methodist Church, I was challenged to cast a big vision for the sake of our church's discipleship ministry. After all, in the Great Commission, Jesus says, "Make disciples"! (Matthew 28:19).

But how do we actually do that? Have you ever made a disciple?
The Lord has convicted me to preach on the DNA of Discipleship.
Our church's mission is a disciple-making road map:

Welcome. Win. Equip. Serve.

When everyone knows their spiritual gift, and uses that gift, we will achieve our discipleship goal.

Small Groups for adults are a big part of our mission strategy. If you haven't yet found a small group to lock arms with, check those out on pages 8 & 9. To help you find a group, we will have a quick Small Group Ministry Fair after each service on **Sunday morning, August 30th**. That's your chance to see the faces and friends who are ready for you! I truly believe our church has a small group for you now, no matter your age or stage of life. I even hear rumblings that in 2027 we might need to birth a few more small groups to accommodate all the numerical growth our small group ministry is experiencing. Only God! Many people don't join a group because they're afraid they will have to teach one day! You can be involved in so many ways in a group without the gift of teaching, just by sharing what the Lord is doing in your life. No Bible experts required! See you there!

In Christ,



Wes Kelley, Pastor FMC Clanton



Summer VBS 2026

SERVICES

Hydrate Service 9:00 am

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the Helen Parrish Activity Center for Hydrate with worship lead by Elevate and hear the message from Pastor Wes Kelley.

San Juan Service 10:00 am

San Juan is the Spanish-language service for First Methodist. Come and be blessed with a message from Pastor German Gomez.

Traditional Service 11:15 am

Sunday mornings at 11:15 am is our Traditional service. Join us for hymns, fellowship and a message from Pastor Wes Kelley!



Upcoming Sermon Series

CONFLICT SKILLS FOR ORDINARY CHRISTIANS

Late Sept. - Oct. 25th

Some of us go to great lengths to avoid conflict, and others of us seem to bring conflict with us wherever we go. What can God's Word teach us about doing conflict better as Christians? Let's stand apart from the world by the way we disagree.

DNA OF A DISCIPLE SERIES

Nov. 1st - 22nd

What makes us stand out as Christ's followers? We are a new creation—we have new "DNA"! At our core, our church's mission is to Welcome, Win, Equip, Serve. We have a strategy to fulfill our God-given mission. Our stewardship campaign this year will focus on this discipleship DNA!

ADVENT SERIES: THE FIRST GIFT

Nov. 29th - Dec. 27th

Jesus is the first and best Christmas Gift ever given, Immanuel, God with us. God took great care in preparing to send Jesus to us as the promised Messiah. This Christmas season, let's slow down and appreciate the love the Father has for us. Let's worship God for bestowing on us His crowning Gift—Jesus Christ.

streaming online at fmclanton.org Facebook & YouTube

COMING UP

NAVIGATE • NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Part 1 - Sun., Oct. 4th in the Crossroads Cafe at 10:15am. Are you new to our church family? This is a chance for you to spend time with Pastor Wes and discover more about our church's beliefs, ministries, and how you can get involved!



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL

The Community Thanksgiving Meal will be coming up on **Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27th**. Donations of \$30 to give toward the cost of the meal. To volunteer, reach out to ? at jghchildress@yahoo.com



CHRISTMAS, CHILI, & CINEMA

Join us on **December 6th at 5:30 pm** for the church family Christmas, Chili and Cinema. We will watch a Christmas movie and have a chili cookoff in fellowship with one another.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

This year's cantata, *Let the Whole World Sing*, will be performed by the Chancel Choir, Handbells, & FMC Children on **Sunday morning December 13th in the Traditional service** in the Sanctuary. Join us for a wonderful service of special music.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve candlelight & communion services will be held **Thursday, December 24th** beginning with **Hydrate at 4:00pm** in gym and then **Traditional at 5:30** in sanctuary. **No nursery care will be available for services.**



FMC PRESCHOOL: LOOKING AHEAD

As we begin a new school year, we are excited about all that is ahead. The next few months will be filled with opportunities for our students to learn, serve, celebrate, and grow together.

September: Community Helpers

September will be all about Community Helpers! Our students will be learning about the many people who help make our community a wonderful place to live. We look forward to introducing our preschoolers to firefighters, police officers, healthcare workers, and other community helpers while helping them understand the important roles these individuals play.

October: Fall Fun

October will bring plenty of fall excitement! Our students will take a field trip to the pumpkin patch, where they can enjoy a fun fall experience together. At the end of the month, we will also participate in the costume parade through town, giving our preschoolers an opportunity to show off their costumes and enjoy one of our favorite community traditions.

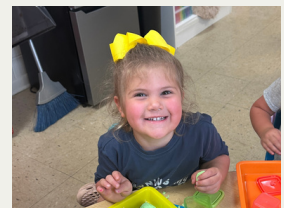
November: Gratitude & Serving Others

In November, we will focus on thankfulness and caring for our neighbors. Our preschool will hold a food drive to help families in our community who may be in need. We want our students to begin understanding that even at a young age, they can make a difference by sharing with and caring for others.

December: A Special Christmas Celebration

And, of course, we are already looking forward to one of the highlights of our year—our Christmas Program on December 15 at 6:00 p.m.! Our students are excited to share the Christmas story with their families and our church family, and we can't wait to see them shine!

We are so thankful for the continued love and support of our church family. First Methodist Church Preschool is blessed to have the opportunity to nurture and teach these young children while helping them grow in kindness, compassion, faith, and love for others. We look forward to all the wonderful memories the coming months will bring!



FMC KIDS

We welcome ALL kids to take part in our regular programming and events. FMC children's ministry wants to equip families with what they need to grow in love, service, and discipleship that is rooted in Jesus.

Weekly Programming

📌 **Better Together Wednesdays at 5:30PM** – Activity Center
BTW is a time that we cultivate spiritual growth through music and fellowship. All kids ages 4 to 6th grade are invited!

📌 **Sunday School at 10:15AM** – Activity Center Hallway
Join us for Sunday School as we dive deeper into Bible stories and discuss what we can learn from God through Scripture.

📌 **Small Blessings Time** – Activity Center Hallway: Room 3
Kindergarten and under are invited to attend "Small Blessings Time." The kids will sing a song and do an activity or two.

Big Events You Don't Want to Miss

Children's Sunday (Oct 18) – All of our BTW kids are invited to help lead the congregation in worship at the Traditional Service at 11:15

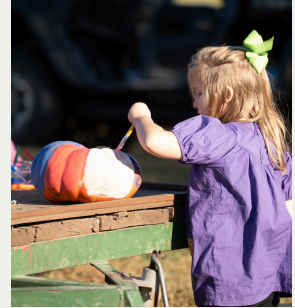
Fall on the Farm (Oct 18) – Join us at Mountain View Orchards from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be pumpkin painting, so be sure to bring a pumpkin and we will bring the paint

Family Advent Wreath Workshop (Nov 18) – All families are invited to come make Christmas memories centered in Christ by creating your family Advent wreath.

Winter Retreat (Jan 29-31, 2027) – ALL 3rd - 6th graders are invited to an overnight retreat with us at Shocco Springs, We will worship, play, and grow with God.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever!
Amen." – 2 Peter 3:18

Laura Percy, Children's Minister
Email: laura@fmclanton.org
Cell: 251-423-2327



DV8 STUDENTS

Welcome to DV8 Students! We're all about creating a space where students can belong, grow in their faith, and live out the love of Jesus together. Whether it's through worship, small groups, service, or retreats, DV8 is a place to connect and go deeper.

Weekly Gatherings

📍 Wednesdays at 6:30PM – Gibson Youth Center
Our biggest gathering of the week! Come hang out, worship, and dive into God's Word with friends.

📍 Sunday Groups at 10:15AM – Gibson Youth Center
Join us for Sunday School as we grow in faith and understanding together.

📍 2nd Sunday Small Groups
The Second Sunday of every month we are meeting for small groups. We will have an activity with fellowship as well as a devotional to go along with the night.

Big Events You Don't Want to Miss

Friendsgiving 2026, November 21-24
– Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL.

This is an annual trip we take with other churches in our area. We take those 4 days and dive into God's word and also have a ton of fun playing various team competitions! The overall cost is \$200.

Strength To Stand Conference 2027, January 9-11
– Pigeon Forge, TN.

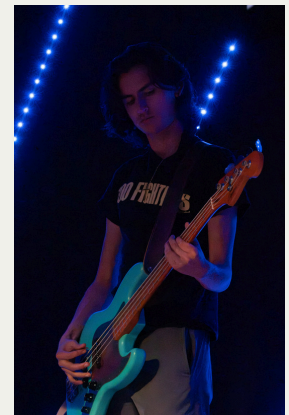
This is a great opportunity to hear some great worship as well as getting to hear some of the best speakers who are speaking the word of God! The overall cost is \$300.

Also, we are doing a bundle this year to where if you sign up for both Friendsgiving and STS you will receive a discount and your over all cost will be \$400. We would love for your student to join us

DV8 Students is more than just a program – it's a family. We can't wait to see you on Wednesdays, Sundays, and at these big moments throughout the year. Bring a friend and let's grow together!



Ian Velasquez, Student Pastor
Email: ian@fmclanton.org
Cell: 205-294-0609



GROUPS

Sunday Morning Small Groups (all times 10:15am)

Many of us remember Sunday mornings being spent not only in worship, but in small groups that fostered relationships that have carried us our entire lives. We have a Sunday morning small group for your stage of your life. All of our Sunday morning small groups meet from 10:15am – 11:00am.



- **Aldersgate - Seasoned Disciples: 2nd Floor of Education Building, Rm. 202/204.** This class is for seasoned disciples who are still learning, growing and serving the Lord together. For more information call Scott Phillips at 205-258-9766.



- **Koinonia - Young Families: Fellowship Hall in Activity Center.** This group of young families gather for great Bible study and fun fellowship. For more information call Mary Katherine Velasquez at 205-299-2100 or Taylor Freeman at 334-612-3609.



- **Rooted - For Parents with Youth: Worship Room of the Gibson Youth Center.** “Rooted” is now a place where adults gather to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ through the study of God’s Word. For more information call Kellie Reece at 205-217-7275 or Beth Thornhill at 205-294-0756.



- **In-Betweeners - For those between raising kids and caring for aging parents: 2nd Floor of Education Building, Rm. 200.** This eclectic group of adults juggle an empty nest, aging parents, and mid-life changes all while laughing with each other. For more information call Kimiera at Locke 205-389-4085 or Shellie Smith at 205-294-0736.



- **Journey – For Senior Adults: 2nd Floor of Education Building, Rm. 206/208.** This class is for people of all ages looking to focus on our life journey this side of heaven. For more information call Jane Conradi at 205-217-8121 or Becki McCallum at 205-955-2533.



- **Forge - For anyone stepping into adulthood - 2nd Floor of Education Building, Rm. 203.** This class is designed for early adults who live a hectic and transitory lifestyle! Our studies are designed for everyone, without the necessity of preparation. So just bring yourself and your Bible, and join us! For more information, contact Jodi Parnell at 205-217-3903 or Lacey Ellison at 205-389-0780.

Methodist Men & Methodist Women

- Methodist Men: 6:00pm. Fellowship Hall, Activity Center. 2nd Tue. of the month. Will resume meeting in September. Reach out to Trent Martin at 205-389-0330 for more information.
- Methodist Women: 11:00am. Fellowship Hall, Activity Center. 2nd Wed. of the month. Will resume meeting in September. Reach out to Carla Lumpkin at 205-613-4537 for more information.

Women's Small Groups

We hope you'll find a place here that you can connect with other women as you do life together.

- Beginning Mon., Sept. 14th, 10:00am. Home of Mary Linderman. Join us as we study our devotional, *The Upper Room*. Meets every other Monday. More info, contact Mary, 205-299-9927. Space is limited.
- Beginning Tue., Sept. 15th, 6:00pm. Home of Lynn Best: *Get Out of Your Head*, author Jennie Allen. Facilitator Alice Graham. Contact Lynn at 205-755-0982. Please note, after the initial meeting, this class will be held every other Monday night, beginning Sept. 21st.
- Beginning Tue., Sept. 8th, 6:30 pm. Crossroads Cafe: *Flourishing, Lessons from the Olive Tree*, author Christine Caine. Facilitator: Suzanne Lenoir: 205-646-1673.
- Beginning Wed., Sept. 16th, 6:00pm. Crossroads Cafe: *Nothing is Impossible with God*, author Shannon Bream. Facilitator Whitney Barlow: 334-782-4507. Co-Leader Mary Beth Wyatt: 214-250-2130
- Beginning Thurs., Sept. 10th, 6:00pm. Gibson Youth Center: *The Lie You Don't Know You Believe*, author Jennie Allen. Facilitator Alice Graham: 205-217-3038.

Man Church Groups

A vital part of our small group ministry, these groups foster deep relationships that offer Bible study and accountability between men.

- Leader – Tommy Lenoir: Meets at 6:00pm, Wed. Nights at Tommy Lenoir's house. Call Tommy at 205-688-0218 for more information.
- Leader – Chris Smith: Meets at 6:00pm, Wed. Nights at The Back Forty. Call Chris at 205-217-8515 for more information.
- Leaders – Andy Millard & Stephen Tubbs: Meets at 6:00pm, Mon. Nights in Crossroads Café. Call Andy at 205-258-6347 for more information.
- Leader – Paul Hammock: Meets at 9:00am, Mon. Mornings in Fellowship Hall, Activity Center. Call Paul at 205-258-6347 for more information.

Celebrate Recovery

For interest in 2026 step studies contact our Ministry Leader Ashley Holt at (205) 490-5388.

For more information about small groups, please reach out to the church office at (205) 755-0490, or email Lynn Best at Lynn@fmclanton.org

SERVE

As a church, our purpose is to help people connect with God and others. Check out some of the ways you can put your spiritual gift to work in our ministries.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Administration/Office
- Bread of Life Food Pantry
- Celebrate Recovery
- Children's Ministries (Better Together Wednesdays, Children's Music, Vacation Bible School, God's World, Nursery, Teaching)
- Young Adult
- Congregational Care
- Homebound Visits
- Fellowship Activities
- Cooking Activities
- Disaster Relief
- Guest Follow-up
- Information Technology
- Maintenance & Grounds
- Man Church Leadership
- International Missions
- Music (Elevate Worship Band, Chancel Choir & Handbells)
- Prayer Ministry
- River Church
- San Juan Congregation (Spanish language)
- Senior Adults
- Boy Scouts
- Small Groups
- Thanksgiving Community Meal
- Women's Ministries
- Youth (Small Groups, Host Snacks & Meals, Trip Chaperone)



For more information about opportunities to serve, please reach out to the church office at (205) 755-0490, or email Lynn Best at Lynn@fmclanton.org



Our church is committed to making disciples of Jesus throughout the world. Get involved with the local and international missions of our church. You will see the Holy Spirit moving!

UPCOMING TRIPS

Mexico

July 17-24, 2027

Please contact Julie Hayes (334) 657-0910 or j.hayes2790@yahoo.com for more information about how you can be a part of these upcoming mission trips!



LOCAL MISSIONS

The Bread of Life Food Pantry meets Thursday afternoons. Located behind Clanton Church of Christ. To get involved, contact Greg & Terri Nobles (205) 389-2141. The food pantry now has a website! chiltonbreadoflife.com. We encourage you to see what we are doing in the life of this ministry. For anyone wishing to donate, please write your check payable to: Chilton Bread of Life, and mail it to PO Box 02 Clanton, Al. 35045



FIRST METHODIST'S MISSION

Welcome

We exist to WELCOME everyone—to extend Christian hospitality to all people, because everyone matters to God and Jesus Christ died for all people.

Win

We exist to WIN people to a personal relationship with Christ—to share the good news of Jesus Christ, His love, and His transforming grace through teaching the Bible.

Equip

We exist to EQUIP believers to follow Christ daily by making the Bible our authority for living and by becoming a part of the life of our church. As we accept, love, and forgive one another in committed relationships, the Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus.

Serve

We exist to SERVE Christ's mission here in Chilton County and around the world—that lives may be changed for now and eternity as we proclaim through word and deed that Jesus Christ is Lord.