

INSIDE FIRST METHODIST

Welcome. Win. Equip. Serve



HELPING YOU CONNECT WITH US

fmclanton.org

Dear Church Family,

Our new year 2026 is starting strong! Our Sunday morning small groups and Sunday School classes are coming strong off a Christmas season of fellowship.

I'm not just "looking forward"—I'm praying forward to the spiritual growth and relationships that grow even deeper as these groups and classes enter into their 4th month of life in our church family.

Remember, in the month of March this year we will have 6-month check-in. Our think tank that developed our new Sunday schedule with your input will meet again this March 2026 to take stock of how the new schedule is working for everyone. I look forward to sharing your thoughts with that group. Drop me a line about how the new Sunday schedule is going for your family. Just email me at wes@fmclanton.org. Remember to focus not only on the convenient aspects—what are the spiritual aspects of this schedule and its impact on your family? I would love to hear it!

In our sermon series in this new year we will focus on a key word: **discernment**. Every day we ask questions that are discernment-driven. "How do I talk to my kids about life issues so that they'll listen?" "Do I stay at this job, or is God calling me to step out in faith?" "How do I know if my feelings are a nudge from the Spirit, or just my feelings?"

These are the kinds of questions that bring us to our knees in prayer, to discern God's will for our lives.

We all need spiritual discernment. That's what we will be discussing in two sermon series that kick off the new year: Discerning God's Will and The Craft of Prayer.

We have a lot in store in the months to come. My goal is to develop small groups and ministry teams who pursue our mission to "Welcome. Win. Equip. Serve."

Speaking of "equipping," have you ever taken a spiritual gifts assessment? Try this one! Don't worry, it's not a test! This is just a tool to help you discover what your gift may be. It doesn't take long, and you get a report that you can discuss with your spouse, your small group, or a trusted mentor in the faith. Give it a try by scanning this QR Code!

In Christ,



Wes Kelley, Pastor FMC Clanton



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

Discerning the Will of God — Starting January 4th

Decisions, decisions! Wouldn't it be nice if we just knew plain and simple the choice God wants us to make? The Bible has lots of wisdom to help us know and follow God's will for our lives.

The Craft of Prayer—Starting Feb. 22nd

The craftsman goes to the workshop to labor. The prayer warrior goes to the prayer closet to do battle. In this series, we make ourselves familiar with the simple tools and humble skills of the prayer closet.

streaming online at fmclanton.org Facebook & YouTube

COMING UP

PANCAKE DAY

Join us Saturday, February 14th, for the 68th annual Methodist Men Pancake Day! Buy your tickets and come have all you can eat pancakes and sausage cooked by our Methodist Men!



CINCO DE MAYO DINNER

Join us on Saturday, May 2nd for our Annual Cinco de Mayo Dinner hosted by the women of our San Juan service. Come enjoy authentic Mexican cuisine and fellowship!



FMC PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

Join us on Thursday, May 14th in the Activity Center for our end of year preschool program and graduation ceremony.

DVS SENIOR SUNDAY

Sunday, May 17th we will celebrate the graduating class of 2026. Join us in both services as we celebrate our Seniors!



CONFIRMATION

Join us on Sunday, May 31st at our River Church service for Confirmation. Confirmation is an intentional time when our 6th graders publicly profess their faith and confirm their baptismal vows.



RIVER CHURCH BEGINS

Join us on Sunday, May 24th for our first River Church service of the season! River Church is held at the Johnny Trobaugh Pavilion at the Higgins Ferry boat launch at Lake Mitchell.

EASTER

Easter at First Methodist Church

Easter is a season for believers to come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We have a full calendar of events to attend, so please add these dates to your calendar and come be a part of these wonderful services!

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18th
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29th
Children will lead a procession of palms in Hydrate and Traditional services.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2nd
Service of Shadows at 6:30 pm
in the sanctuary

Good Friday

Friday, April 3rd
Traditional service at 12:00 pm
Hydrate evening service at 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday


Sunday, April 5th
Join us in either the 9:00 am Hydrate or
11:15 am Traditional Service to celebrate
our risen savior!



FMC KIDS

The 2026 winter and spring semester in Children's ministry at FMC will be filled with celebrations, community, and Christ-centered fun. 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 (Gym)

BTW is a time that we cultivate spiritual growth through music and fellowship. All kids ages 4 to 6th grade are invited! (Starts back Jan. 21st.)

 **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. Be sure to stay for a Bible Story during Sunday School

Confirmation

Confirmation is an intentional time of Christian discipleship in the Wesleyan tradition. Our church offers this class for 6th graders who attend any service (Hydrate, Traditional, or San Juan). We will meet during Sunday school beginning on March 1st and on Wednesday nights, 6:35 p.m. beginning on March 4th. The Kick off lunch for parents and students will be on a Sunday in February, be on the lookout for more details. Confirmation Sunday will be on May 31st at River Church. For more information please contact Laura Percy at laura@fmclanton.org or Meghan Kelley at meghanstewardkelley@gmail.com



FMC KIDS

Big Events You Don't Want to Miss

Ash Wednesday Family Dinner (February 18th) – All Families are invited to join us for dinner and pick out their Bible Buddies for the Lent season at 6 p.m.

Sweetheart Dance (February 21st) – Join us for our annual Sweetheart Dance (Parent/Child Dance) from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Our theme this year is Sweetheart Roundup.

Children's Sunday (March 1st) – All BTW kids are invited to help lead the congregation in worship at the Hydrate Service at 9:00.

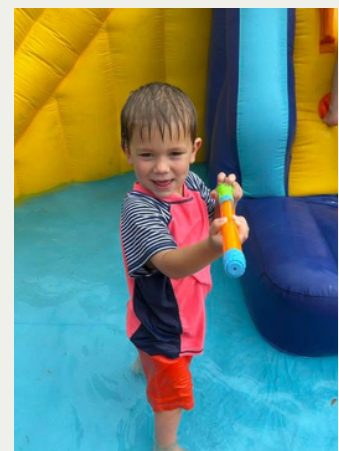
BTW Kid's Ministry Invite Night (March 4th) – All elementary students are encouraged to bring a friend to our Glow in the Dark Invite Night.

Easter on the Lawn (March 29th) – Your family is invited to our Easter celebration at 2 p.m., where there are egg hunts, inflatables, and more!

BTW Closing Program (May 6th) – Parents are invited to come watch their elementary BTW kids share a closing program at 6 p.m.

End of the Year Party (May 17th) – All kids are invited to our end of the year party on the lawn for water slides and games at 2 p.m.

“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

Once a month, we gather in homes for fun, food, and deeper conversations about faith and life.

Big Events You Don't Want to Miss

Service Opportunities -

January – Serve Our Space Night - Jan 11th at Youth Building

February – Love in Action Night - Feb 8th

March – Neighborhood Blessing Night - March 8th

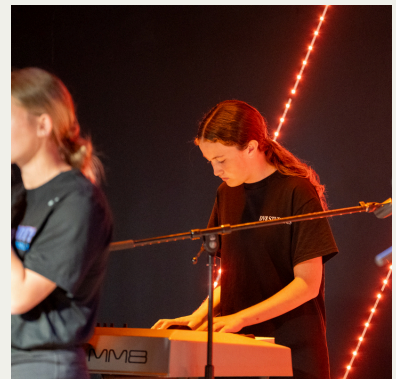
April – Adopt-a-Ministry Night - April 12th

May – Mission Prep + Celebration Night - May 3rd

Youth Girls Event - Sunday, April 19th - We will have a girls event for the students in our youth group and in our area. With a guest speaker and worship! If you have a student that would like to attend contact us and we would love to share more!

Senior Sunday - Sunday, May 17th - is when we will celebrate our graduating seniors in both services!

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)

- Aldersgate Class for Senior Adults: Room 202, 2nd Floor, Education Building
- Koinonia - Children's Parents: Fellowship Hall of the Activity Center
- Rooted - Youth Parents: Gibson Center Worship Room
- In-Betweeners - Living between raising kids and caring for parents: Rocking Chair Room, 3rd Floor, Education Building
- Journey Class for Senior Adults: Crossroads Cafe
- Forge for Young Adults - For anyone stepping into adulthood: Room 203, 2nd Floor, Education Building

Man Church

- Monday Morning: 9am - 10am in the Fellowship Hall of the Activity Center
- Monday Night: 6:00pm - 7:00 pm in the Crossroads Cafe
- Wednesday Night: 6:00pm at the Back Forty
- Wednesday Night: 6:00pm at Tommy Lenoir's home

Women's Groups

The Methodist Women meet every month on the second Wednesday at 11:00 am. Reach out to Carla Lumpkin at (205) 613-4537 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)
- Jail Ministry - CR Inside



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 10-25, 2026

Ecuador

June 6-13, 2026

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.



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