

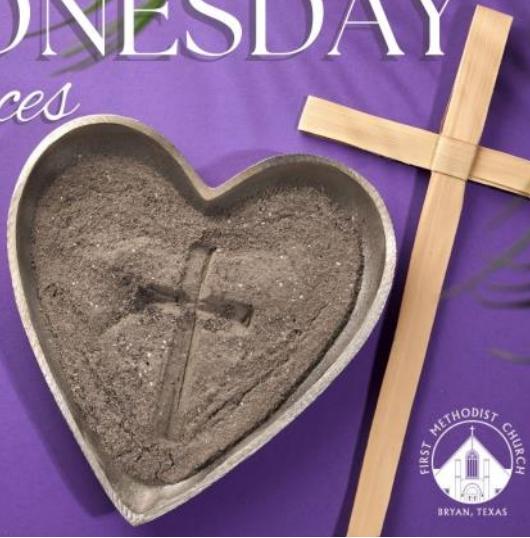


# ASH WEDNESDAY

## *Worship Services*

February 18th  
Noon & 6:30 PM  
FMC Bryan Sanctuary

"Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."



Lent is almost here. The weeks of Lent are not the most beloved on the church calendar. The days are dark and cold. The season of Lent begins with ashes and ends at the tomb. Lent is to be a time of repentance, penance, and fasting. Lent is seen as a time focused on our inadequacies. That all sounds like such a downer, no wonder no one has ever marketed Lent with greeting cards and t-shirts.

But what if Lent isn't meant to be depressing? What if we are missing the point?

A time of preparation and fasting leading to Easter has likely been practiced since apostolic times. The observance was recognized at the First Council of Nicea in 325 as a time of preparation for new converts who wanted to be baptized and as a time of repentance and contrition for sinners. The basic idea is to set aside forty days (not counting Sundays, which are seen as "mini-Easters"), imitating the struggles Jesus faced as he fasted in the wilderness. After experiencing self-denial, Jesus was able to take on all the temptations of Satan and begin his ministry fully empowered. By practicing simplicity and self-control, Christians confront their cravings and hungers as a reminder to pray with an attitude of dependence on God. At the limits of our own strength we discover greater power. Instead of fixating on ourselves, we set our sights on the Lord. Instead of being overcome by our challenges, we find ourselves overwhelmed by God's presence. Instead of fretting about what we are missing out on in life, we are being re-created in the fullness of life the Lord offers us. We practice giving something up so we will learn to not give up. As Paul writes, "Whenever I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

We get the word Lent from the Old English *lenten*—as in the lengthening of days that occurs with the coming of spring. In other words, as we move through Lent we experience more light, more illumination, so that Easter morning will burst out in full glory.

So Lent isn't dreary after all. Lent is a season of joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jonathan Bynum

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Intergenerational  
Worship & Prayer Night  
February 1

The Methodist Women  
February 3

Ash Wednesday  
February 18

Generations of Praise  
February 22

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**8:30 a.m.**  
Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary)

**9:00 a.m.**  
Contemporary Worship  
(Gym)

**11:00 a.m.**  
Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary)

**10:00 a.m.**  
Bilingual English/Spanish  
Worship  
(Chapel)

## CHURCH OFFICE

506 E. 28th St.  
Bryan, TX 77803  
979-779-1324  
979-775-2173 (Fax)

**Monday-Thursday**  
8:30 am to 5:00 pm

**Friday**  
8:30 am to 3:00 pm

[www.fmcbryan.org](http://www.fmcbryan.org)

# Ministry Calendar

2/1	2:00 PM	Worship - Crestview Retirement Center/Arbor Oaks	
	3:30 PM	Rising Generation Youth Worship Band	C214
	6:00 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)	C214
	7:30 PM	Worship & Prayer Night	Gym
2/2	10:00 AM	Table Discussion: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality	Heritage Room
	6:00 PM	Staff Parish Relations Committee	C105
2/3	9:30 AM	The Methodist Women: General Meeting	Heritage Room
	6:00 PM	Table Discussion: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality	Heritage Room
2/4	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies	Heritage Room
	5:45 PM	Children's Choir	Sanctuary: 2nd Floor
	6:00 PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Sanctuary: S101
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
2/5	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Ladies Bible Study	E209
	11:45 AM	Men on Main	Fellowship Hall
2/6	7:00 AM	Meals of Love	Fellowship Kitchen
2/8	3:30 PM	Rising Generation Youth Worship Band	C214
	6:00 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)	C215
	7:30 PM	Lighthouse College Ministry	Bass Parsonage
2/9	10:00 AM	Table Discussion: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality	Heritage Room
2/10	6:00 PM	Table Discussion: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality	Heritage Room
2/11	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies	Heritage Room
	5:45 PM	Children's Choir	Sanctuary: 2nd Floor
	6:00 PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Sanctuary: S102
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
2/12	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Ladies Bible Study	E210
	11:45 AM	Men on Main	Fellowship Hall
2/15	6:00 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)	C216
	7:30 PM	Lighthouse College Ministry	Bass Parsonage
2/16	10:00 AM	Table Discussion: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality	Heritage Room
	6:00 PM	Finance Committee	C105
2/17	6:00 PM	Table Discussion: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality	Heritage Room
2/18	12:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies	Heritage Room
	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
2/19	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Ladies Bible Study	E211
	11:45 AM	Men on Main	Fellowship Hall
2/20	7:00 AM	Meals of Love	Fellowship Kitchen
2/21	9:00 AM	Self Defense Seminar	Gym
2/22	5:15 PM	Generations of Praise - Family Night of Worship	Gym
	7:30 PM	Lighthouse College Ministry	Bass Parsonage
2/23	10:00 AM	Table Discussion: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality	Heritage Room
	6:00 PM	Church Council	Fellowship Hall
2/24	6:00 PM	Table Discussion: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality	Heritage Room
2/25	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies	Heritage Room
	5:45 PM	Children's Choir	Sanctuary: 2nd Floor
	6:00 PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Sanctuary: S103
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
2/26	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Ladies Bible Study	E212
	11:45 AM	Men on Main	Fellowship Hall
2/28	9:00 AM	Confirmation Retreat	
	8 12:30 PM	Rising Generation Youth Worship Band	C214



To receive a copy of our newsletter,  
please e-mail [leeann@fmcbryan.org](mailto:leeann@fmcbryan.org), and let us know if  
you'd like a paper or digital copy.

## FMC BRYAN CLERGY & STAFF

Senior Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bynum**  
ext. 105  
[jonathan@fmcbryan.org](mailto:jonathan@fmcbryan.org)

Associate Pastor

**Rev. Jeremy Bass**  
ext. 106  
[jeremy@fmcbryan.org](mailto:jeremy@fmcbryan.org)

Director of Children & Family Ministries

**Jeff Hobbs**  
ext. 111  
[jeff@fmcbryan.org](mailto:jeff@fmcbryan.org)

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

**Meredith Pennington**  
ext. 110  
[meredith@fmcbryan.org](mailto:meredith@fmcbryan.org)

Director of Adult Ministries & Member Involvement

**Natalie Patterson**  
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Director of Music & Worship Ministries

**Chris Caffee**  
ext. 107  
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Contemporary Worship Leader/Financial Administrative Assistant

**Kaitlyn Zimmerman**  
[kaityn@fmcbryan.org](mailto:kaityn@fmcbryan.org)

Organist  
**Angela Corbett**

Director of Business & Operations  
**Eileen Winkle**  
ext. 109  
[eileen@fmcbryan.org](mailto:eileen@fmcbryan.org)

Administrative Assistant  
**LeeAnn Broeker**  
ext. 101  
[leeann@fmcbryan.org](mailto:leeann@fmcbryan.org)

**Custodians**  
Hosea Morriel  
Rocio Hittt  
Josh Sweed

# Prayer Requests

**Rehab/Nursing Care:** Bill Pishek, Joy Allega, Ray Anthony, Marilyn Colby, Esther Mancillas

**Medical and Health Concerns:** John Millhollon, Frances Hicks, Jean Smith, Sue Gantt, Priscilla Rios, Becky Davis, John Lillie, Cathy Craig, Dianne Latham

**Grief:** The Loehr family grieving the passing of Rudy Loehr (son-in -law of Jean McGown)

**IN NEED OF PRAYER?** Fill out our [Prayer Request Form](#) on our website to be added to our weekly Prayer List or contact the church office at (979) 779-1324.

## Welcome Our Newest Members to FMC Bryan!

Justin Lindsey

Joined on January 18th

Marjorie Horne

Joined on January 18th

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church family here at First Methodist Church, Bryan, please contact Pastor Jonathan Bynum at [jonathan@fmcbryan.org](mailto:jonathan@fmcbryan.org), Pastor Jeremy Bass at [jeremy@fmcbryan.org](mailto:jeremy@fmcbryan.org), or contact the church office at (979) 779-1324.

Church-Wide Study - Sermons, Daily Readings, Discussion Groups

# Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

An eight-week study beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> that will forever change the way you love God, yourself, and others.

Resources available online:  
book, workbook, and daily devotional ([Day by Day](#))  
*None are required; all are helpful*



### Table Discussions

February 2 - March 24 in the Heritage Room

Mondays: 10 AM

Tuesdays: 6 PM (Childcare Provided for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade & Under)

# Service/Missions Updates



## Durable Medical Equipment Needed



Donate your gently used or new medical equipment to benefit Chosen, a local ministry that redistributes durable medical equipment to those in need. Please bring your donation to worship or the church office during business hours by **Sunday, February 8th**. For more information about Chosen, visit their website at [chosen210.com](http://chosen210.com).



Thank you for all those who donated on Sweatshirt Sunday! The Service/Mission Team was able to deliver one hundred and forty-nine sweatshirts to Fannin Elementary.



## Cereal Drive Begins Sunday, February 15th

Our yearly cereal drive benefitting Fannin Elementary will begin on Sunday, February 15. The goal is to send a box of cereal home with every student for the Spring Break holiday. **The deadline to donate is Sunday, March 1st.** Please bring unopened boxes of cereal to worship or the church office during business hours.



## Office Keepers Needed

Do you have a heart for service? We are in need of Office Keepers in the church office. Our Office Keepers are a vital part of our church family. They answer phone calls, greet visitors and do light office work. If you are available during one of the following shifts, we would love to have your help! Please contact LeeAnn Broeker at [leeann@fmcbryan.org](mailto:leeann@fmcbryan.org) or (979) 779-1324, ext. 101 to volunteer.

**Monday Mornings, 9 AM-12 PM**

**Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday Afternoons, 1 PM-5 PM**

# ENDOWMENT SPOTLIGHT

## The Landscape Endowment



The Landscape Endowment was established in honor of the Peggy Gillam family, whose deep love for First Methodist Church, Bryan, was reflected in their care for the church's outward appearance. Peggy Gillam was especially passionate about creating a welcoming and beautiful environment, believing that the church grounds should reflect the hospitality and faith found within its walls. She was both instrumental in promoting and generously supporting the creation of this endowment.

Scripture reminds us that what we nurture today can bless generations to come: *“A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children”* (Proverbs 13:22). The Landscape Endowment embodies this biblical principle by creating a lasting legacy of stewardship and care for God’s house.

This endowment helps ensure that the church campus landscape remains attractive, well-maintained, and inviting for members, visitors, and the broader community. Funds support landscaping needs, seasonal plantings, upkeep of green spaces, and improvements that enhance the overall beauty of the church property.

Well-kept grounds communicate stewardship and a spirit of welcome to all who enter. Whether attending worship, participating in ministry, or simply passing by, the church’s appearance reflects intentionality and reverence for God’s work.

Gifts to the Landscape Endowment offer a meaningful way to honor the Gillam family’s vision while supporting the long-term care of the church grounds. Contributions may be made in honor or memory of a loved one, creating a living legacy that continues to serve and bless the church for generations.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS OFFICE:** In an effort to be more efficient and reduce the cost of printing, envelopes, and postage, contribution statements will be delivered via email. We encourage members to ensure their email address is up to date with the church and to check spam or junk folders when statements are sent. Statements are sent quarterly. If you prefer to receive your contribution statement by USPS mail, please contact [eileen@fmcbryan.org](mailto:eileen@fmcbryan.org)

## FMC BRYAN 2025 FINANCIALS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

### Operating Budget as of Dec 31, 2025

1,353,889.71

1,402,196.62

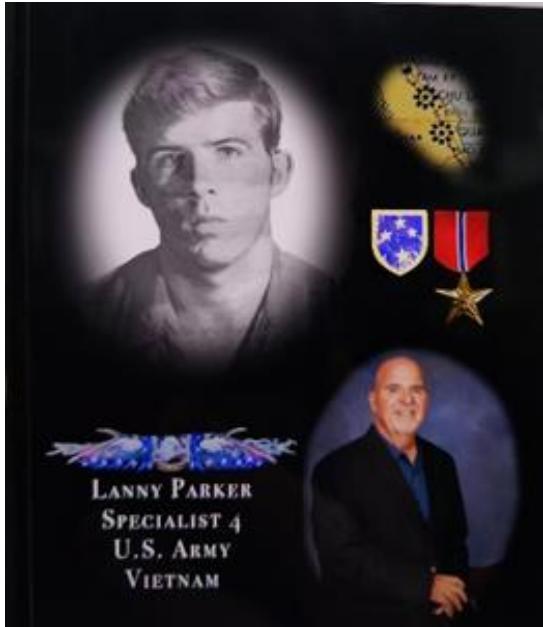
■ INCOME ■ EXPENSE

### 2025 Year-End Financial Summary

As we closed out 2025, the church was blessed with several substantial gifts received in December. While overall operating expenses exceeded income for the year, the church continues to maintain savings. Because of the generosity shown at year’s end, we were able to transfer funds back into savings despite the operating budget deficit. We give thanks to God for His provision and for the faithfulness of those who support the ministry and mission of the church.

*“And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*  
— Philippians 4:19

# Veteran Voices: Celebrating 250 Years as a Nation



## Lanny Parker, United States Army

### What influenced your decision to serve in the military?

Honestly, my life had no direction or goals for living life on life's terms. I had no home to call home, no place to go, and I was only 17 years old. I needed my parents' approval, and they said yes—"maybe you will make something of yourself, become a man." Little did I know then that **discipline** was—and still is—the key to achieving long-term goals in life.

### Which branch did you serve in and during what years?

On July 19, 1968, I volunteered to join the U.S. Army for two years. My service number began with RA, which meant, "You volunteered for this, Lanny—it wasn't the draft."

#### Military Service:

- **March 1969 – July 1970:** One month after turning 18, I was placed on orders to serve in Vietnam (USARV). I was honorably discharged with the rank of SP/4.
- **February 1977 – February 1981:** I joined the 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), Red Arrow, Wisconsin National Guard in Neillsville, Wisconsin. I achieved the rank of SGT (E-5) and was honorably discharged with a total of **9 years, 11 months, and 13 days** of service.

Guard in Neillsville, Wisconsin. I achieved the rank of SGT (E-5) and was honorably discharged with a total of **9 years, 11 months, and 13 days** of service.

#### Decorations, citations, and ribbons include:

- NDSM, BSM, VSM, VCH, ACM, ANGRB, 1-O/S BAR
- Marksman: M-14, M16 A-1

### What is one experience from your service that helped shape who you are today?

The ability to bounce back from adversity and continue to persevere in the face of life's obstacles. Resilience has allowed me to adapt to change, overcome setbacks, and remain humble through life's most challenging experiences.

### What skills or lessons from your military service have stayed with you in civilian life?

Respect for life—and for others. Respect costs nothing; **disrespect costs everything.**

"Adapt and overcome" is something I live by. I often step up without an invitation or instructions because it is the right thing to do. Don't wait—do what's right. Stay humble. *The best leaders don't chase glory; boastful leaders come and go.*

### What does being a veteran mean to you now?

The value of **service**. I have an "Honor Walk" outside my home that proudly flies the American flag. I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

Freedom comes with a cost—some gave it all. Being a veteran is an investment in building personal character, something I did not have at age 17. It is an honor for me to serve. *How may I help you today?*

### Is there a person or group you served with that you're especially grateful for?

Fifty-eight years ago this July, I joined the U.S. Army. But it's not just the Army—every branch of the service shares one calling: **to protect and serve.**

There is unity within all the armed forces, grounded in respect and dignity. A veteran is someone who, at one point in life, writes a blank check payable to the United States of America for up to and including their life. I am especially grateful to all who accept the call to serve our country. Of special note, my granddaughter—age 23—volunteered to join the United States Navy and was sworn in on January 9, 2026.



As we prepare to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, we want to honor the brave men and women of our church who have served in the Armed Forces. We'd love to feature your experiences in our church newsletter. Your stories of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism will inspire our congregation. Please contact Eileen Winkle at [eileen@fmcbryan.org](mailto:eileen@fmcbryan.org) to share your story!

# Adult Ministries



**THE  
METHODIST  
WOMEN**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD**  
**HERITAGE ROOM**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**TERESA SMITH**  
**MEALS OF LOVE**

**9:30 AM      GATHER**  
**10:00 AM      MEETING BEGINS**



**IN THE WORD**  
WITH JEN WILKIN

**April 24-25, 2026**

**Central Baptist Church**  
**College Station, TX**



[lifeway.com/intheword](http://lifeway.com/intheword)



## Answer the Call: Kairos Prison Ministry

I answered my call to prison ministry in 2002 when I joined Kairos Prison Ministry. I felt the Holy Spirit convicting me to step outside of my comfort zone, to enter His service outside of our church, and into the Wallis Pack Prison. I am part of a team of 50 or so Christian men and women who give their time, prayers, and talents to the incarcerated men, answering Jesus' calling in Matthew 25:40.

I have been blessed in so many ways through serving in Kairos. I have witnessed men give their lives to Jesus...I participated in worship unlike anything I have ever experienced in the free world...and I have been challenged in my beliefs and how God could ever love the unloved.

Kairos has a place for anyone wanting to get involved. These opportunities include witnessing directly with the men inside the prison, preparing meals and agape (tokens of love) to be sent into the prison, and attending a Kairos Closing Ceremony inside the prison and witness directly how Jesus is changing lives and building Christian communities inside of prisons.

Please contact me to further discuss if you feel led to Kairos and are looking to step outside your comfort. This could be your call to enter into Jesus' service working a team with other believers to bring the Good News of the gospel to a mission field hungry for Jesus.

- Mark Jurica

Contact Mark at (979) 777-4283 for more information.

### Team Schedule Information

#### Pack #11

<i>Starts:</i> 4/15/2026	<i>Team</i>	<i>Instructional:</i> 4/25/2026
<i>Meeting Schedule</i>		
2/28/2026	Christ Church - College Station	
3/14/2026	Christ Church - College Station	
3/28/2026	Christ Church - College Station	
4/11/2026	Christ Church - College Station	

# Young Adult Ministries

Young Adult Ministry – The Vine At FMC Bryan, we believe young adults thrive in authentic Christian community. The Vine is a Sunday School class for ages 18–25 focused on connection, spiritual growth, and honest conversation—with Jesus at the center.

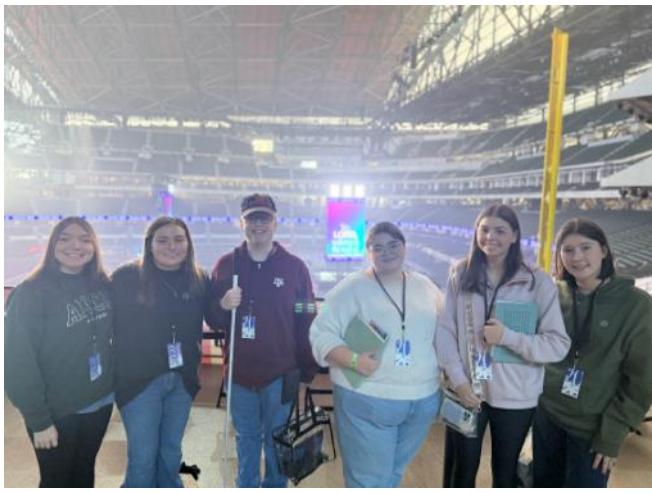
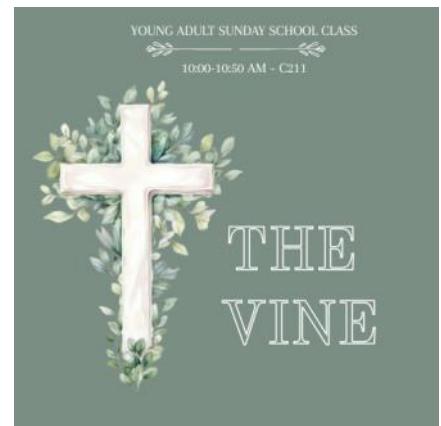
*"I am the vine; you are the branches..." — John 15:5*

**Sundays | 10:00–10:50 AM**  
**Room C211**

## What to Expect:

- New Study: "Gathered for the Good" by Jonathan Griffiths Exploring our God-given need for healthy Christian community
- Weekly Bible discussion
- Meaningful relationships
- Faith that carries into everyday life
- Community & Fellowship
- Monthly meals, intentional conversation, and group activities that build lasting friendships.

A group of our young adults travelled to Arlington, TX to attend Passion 2026 along with 47,000 other 18-25 year olds.



## Upcoming Vine Events:

- Lunch out - February 1 | Location TBD
- Super Bowl – February 8 | First Methodist Church

# Youth Ministries

Hello friends! February reminds us that while the excitement of a new year may fade, the commitments we've made still matter. After setting priorities in January, this month invites us to live them out with faithfulness and intention . When Jesus remains our focus, our daily choices begin to reflect what we truly value. We are grateful to continue walking together as a church family—growing deeper in faith, connection, and purpose.

## Upcoming News & Events

### **Super Bowl Party – MYF**

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

**5:30–7:30 PM**

**Heritage Room**

Join us for a fun night of games, food, fellowship, and football-themed fun! Students are encouraged to wear their favorite team gear and invite a friend.

### **No Diving Deeper – Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

There will be NO Diving Deeper in observance of Ash Wednesday . FMC will offer Ash Wednesday Worship Services with imposition of ashes at: 12:00 PM & 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. *There will also be NO First Family Dinner this evening.*

### **Generations of Praise**

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**

**Dinner at 5:15 PM | Heritage Room**

**Worship to Follow**

Join us for dinner and a powerful multi-generational night of worship! We will hear from three couples from different seasons of life at FMC as they share how they practically keep the main thing the main thing. The evening will conclude with an experiential prayer experience.

**RSVP for dinner: Please email Jeff Hobbs at [Jeff@FMCBryan.org](mailto:Jeff@FMCBryan.org) so we can plan accordingly.**

### **Snack Supper Menu – February 2026**

- February 1 – Pizza
- February 8 – Super Bowl Food
- February 15 – Taco Night
- February 22 – Generations of Praise: RSVP to Jeff Hobbs

**I love attending the students' activities throughout the year. The link below or the QR code allows you to give me all the details about your student's upcoming events.**

[Youth Activity Calendar Request](#)



## Staying Rooted

Scripture: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." — Matthew 6:33. In January, we talked about setting priorities. February invites us to protect them. It's easy to start strong—new habits, new rhythms, fresh intentions. But as schedules fill and life gets busy, the real question becomes: **Will we guard what we said mattered most?** Being rooted in Christ means choosing Him daily—not just when it's convenient.



It looks like:

- Saying no to distractions that pull us away from God.
- Choosing worship even when we're tired.
- Praying together when it feels awkward.
- Opening Scripture even when time feels tight.

Faith grows when we stay the course. Small, faithful choices compound into a strong foundation.



### **A Simple February Practice:**

#### Evaluate & Adjust:

- Ask as a family: Are our schedules reflecting our priorities?
- What needs to change so Jesus remains first?

#### Protect Sacred Time

Pick one non-negotiable faith rhythm (church, prayer, family devo).

Write it on the calendar.

#### Encourage Each Other

Celebrate small wins.

Speak life over each other's faith steps.

*A rooted life doesn't happen by accident—it happens on purpose.*



**Stay connected with us on social media:**

Follow us on [Facebook](#)



Follow us on [Instagram](#)

**FAMILY RETREAT**  
**SABBATH**

**REST • REFRESH • RENEW**

**March 20-22, 2026** | **Lakeview Methodist Camp & Conference Center**

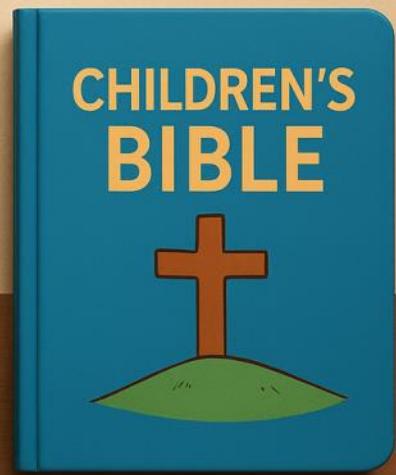
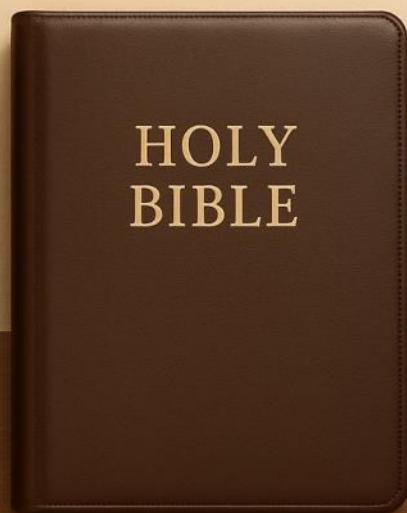
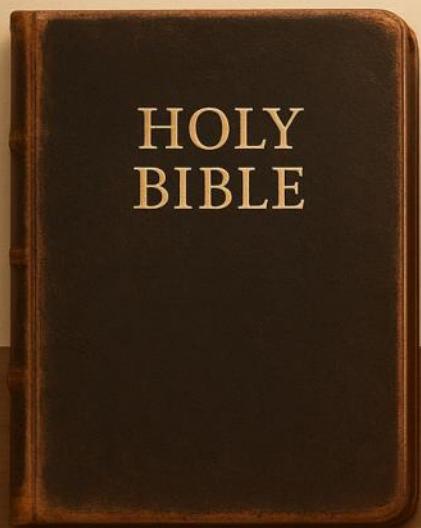
Registration opens Feb 1, 2026 closes March 2



Tim Freeman won the Ping Pong Tournament in December (again). \$200 was raised for the Brazos Church Pantry.

## GENERATIONS OF PRAISE

A FAMILY NIGHT OF WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

5:15 P.M. – DINNER 6:00 P.M. – WORSHIP

RSVP for Dinner by February 12th - [Jeff@fmcbryan.org](mailto:Jeff@fmcbryan.org)



BRYAN, TEXAS  
506 East 28th Street  
Bryan, TX 77803

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, BRYAN

# INTERGENERATIONAL *Worship and Prayer Night*



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST  
7:30 PM IN THE GYM**