



## New Year's Eve Worship Service

12/31 Wesleyan Covenant Service  
with Communion

9 AM (Gym) and 11 AM (Sanctuary)  
(No 8:30 AM Worship Service)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Methodist Women  
Meeting  
January 2

Children's Ministry  
Parents' Meeting  
January 7

First Family Dinner &  
Bible Studies Resumes  
January 10



## Undershepherd Udderings

Howdy First Family! We are in the midst of advent season and celebrating the birth of our Savior. A new year is about to dawn. I'm excited about what the Lord will do in our church and I'm grateful for the Lord being at work in 2023. To the Lord be glory for His amazing answers to prayer and provision for us.

I wanted to start the year off with gratitude and I encourage you to join together as a church for a devotional focused on the power of gratitude. Having the biblical mindset of gratitude is life-changing. Here is the link.

[https://media.swncdn.com/cultivate/amac/AMAC-30-days-gratitude.pdf?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Your+Free+Download&utm\\_campaign=SWN+-+Welcome+Series+Email+1](https://media.swncdn.com/cultivate/amac/AMAC-30-days-gratitude.pdf?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Your+Free+Download&utm_campaign=SWN+-+Welcome+Series+Email+1)

I read this amazing article about the church and Israel that seemed timely and I wanted to share it with you for it does an excellent job of explaining the central importance of the people of Israel in God's plan of salvation for the world.

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/the-church-and-israel-in-the-new-testament>

I have my heart with God's people in Israel. Let's continue to pray for Israel. This past year, due to the enormous task of administration I faced in the transition to the GMC I decided not to teach on Wednesday nights, but I'm excited to offer (for any age) a study next year (spring and fall) entitled "The Israel Story." I hope you will join me from 6 to 6:55 p.m. in the Heritage Room as we look at the bible from Genesis to Revelation as God's story of creating Israel, sending a Messiah to the Jews who rejected Yeshua, the birth of the church and the evangelization of the Gentile world. We will be using the Right Now Media video bible study by John Myers (a pastor in Israel) entitled "The Israel Story." I think the timing of this study is perfect as it will allow us to do in depth biblical study about what God has done in raising up a people called Israel and how we, as Gentile believers, have been grafted into the holy covenant of God and the new covenant we have through Christ.

You will need to buy a hard cover study guide (\$15.00) and study a little bit outside of class, so that class time is focused on discussion and the teaching sessions with John Myer. Here's a video trailer: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/375389?session=375409>

You will need to sign up for this study so that I can order a study guide for you and even though this class is not closed to visitors, the class is meant for 21 weeks of ongoing study (spring and fall) so it will take commitment. We will cover the two-thirds of the book this spring, then the remaining 1/3 in the fall. I will be adding additional content. I hope many of you will have a hunger to be a part of such an in depth study on the biblical truth about Israel. I especially encourage all Sunday School teachers to be a part of this study.

Please email me and let me know by December 25<sup>th</sup> if you will be part of this bible study. The first class begins the same evening as our return to First Family dinner (5:15 p.m.) which will be Wednesday, January 10th.

### John Myers



John Myers is the founder of The Israel Story, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing the unique role that Israel and the Jewish people play in God's story of redemption by declaring the gospel message, combating anti-Semitism, and helping align believers in Jesus with God's love. John and his wife, Dariel, have 6 children and live in Israel.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Rick Sitton*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

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

**11:00 a.m.**  
Bilingual English/Spanish  
Worship  
(Fellowship Hall)

## 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.fmcbyran.org](http://www.fmcbyran.org)



# Ministry Calendar

1/2	9:30 AM	TMW: General Meeting
1/3	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
1/4	11:45 AM	Men on Main
1/5	6:30 PM	Generation of Power
1/7	10:00 AM	Children's Ministry Parents' Meeting
	2:00 PM	Worship - Crestview Retirement Center/Arbor Oaks
	5:30 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)
	7:30 PM	College/Young Adult Ministry
1/8	10:30 AM	Time Like Hannah's
	6:00 PM	Staff Parish Relations Committee
1/10	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
1/11	11:45 AM	Men on Main
1/12	12:00 PM	Meals of Love
1/13	8:30 AM	Leadership Training Session
1/14	8:30 AM	Confirmation Trip
	5:30 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)
	7:30 PM	College/Young Adult Ministry
1/15		FMC Closed - Martin L. King Holiday
1/17	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
1/18	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study
	11:45 AM	Men on Main
1/19	6:30 PM	Generation of Power
1/20		GMC Convening Mid-Texas Annual Conference in Waco, TX
1/21	5:30 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)
	7:30 PM	College/Young Adult Ministry
1/24	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
1/25	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study
	11:45 AM	Men on Main
1/26	12:00 PM	Meals of Love
1/28	5:30 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)
	7:30 PM	College/Young Adult Ministry
1/29	6:00 PM	Board of Trustees
1/31	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal



- **Limited Hours (9 AM—12 PM)**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 27—Friday, Dec. 29**
- **Closed for News Year's—Monday, Jan. 1**
- **Closed for MLK, Jr. Day—Monday Jan. 15**

## FMC BRYAN CLERGY & STAFF

Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Rick Sitton**  
ext. 105  
rick@fmcbyryan.org

Associate Pastor  
**Rev. Jeremy Bass**  
ext. 106  
jeremy@fmcbyryan.org

Associate Pastor, Hispanic Ministry  
**Rev. Dr. Augusto Sarria**  
ext. 104  
augusto@fmcbyryan.org

Director of Children  
& Family Ministries  
**Jeff Hobbs**  
ext. 111  
jeff@fmcbyryan.org

Director of Adult Ministries  
& Member Involvement  
**Natalie Patterson**  
ext. 102  
natalie.patterson@fmcbyryan.org

Director of Music & Worship  
Ministries  
**Chris Caffee**  
ext. 107  
chris@fmcbyryan.org

Director of Youth and Young Adult  
Ministries  
**Will Pepper**  
ext. 110  
pepper@fmcbyryan.org

Contemporary Worship Leader  
**Kaitlyn Zimmerman**  
kaitlyn@fmcbyryan.org

Organist  
**Angela Corbett**

Director of  
Business & Operations  
**Eileen Winkle**  
ext. 109  
eileen@fmcbyryan.org

Administrative Assistant  
**LeeAnn Broeker**  
ext. 101  
leeann@fmcbyryan.org

Financial Administrative Assistant  
**Lynn Knowles**  
lynn@fmcbyryan.org

**Custodians**  
Hosea Morriel  
Rocio Hitt  
Josh Sweed

# Prayer Requests

**Rehab/Nursing Care:** Joy Allega, Ray Anthony, Jim Bradford, Marilyn Colby, Dixie Copeland, Donna Durocher, Daphne Eller, Billie Gray, Donna Lamar

**Prayers of Healing:** Pat Atmar, Betty Carter, Nancy Conlee, Janice Elsik, Sue Futrell, Billie Gray, Ed Janosky, Esther Mancillas, Judy Miller, John Millhollon, Linda Millhollon, Bill Pishek, Nancy Janosky Schnell, Ann Marie Vick, Grace Ashley, Chuck Schroepel, Alma Fonseca, Delia Garza, Sharon Dent, David Kipp, Keith Reece, Kelly Callaway, Lynda Pool, Betty Thompson, Mark Conlee, Nancy Reynolds, Andrew Monroe, Gerald Whitfield, Jake & Lyndsi's twins, Robert Tessen, Michael Smith, Jesse Mitchell, Linda Whitfield, Sharon Wehring, Patt Gandy, Irv Sabrsula, LaVerne Degelia

## Church News & Upcoming Events

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED: MONEY COUNTER

We are in need of someone to volunteer to be a money counter for the 1st quarter of 2024. Money counters meet Monday mornings in the church office at 9 AM to count offerings from worship services. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Jeanette Leese at 979-240-0467.

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WAYS TO GIVE



IN PERSON /  
SUNDAY OFFERING



MAIL TO:  
506 E. 28TH ST



ONLINE AT:  
FMCBRYAN.ORG

Welcome  
to our  
**New Members**

**Joined December 10, 2023**

Bill & Jodie Wakefield

(Pictured with their daughters,  
Charlotte & Sadie)



Are you interested in knowing more  
about becoming a Stephen Minister?

Contact Natalie Patterson

[natalie.patterson@fmcbyran.org](mailto:natalie.patterson@fmcbyran.org)

### What Is a Stephen Minister?



#### A Stephen Minister is ...

- ⇒ *A child of God who walks beside a hurting person.*
- ⇒ *A caring Christian who really listens.*
- ⇒ *A member of our congregation who has received training in how to provide distinctively Christian care.*
- ⇒ *A person who is ready to focus on your needs.*
- ⇒ *A trustworthy confidant who will keep everything you say and your identity confidential.*
- ⇒ *Someone who will faithfully meet with you on a weekly basis for as long as your need persists.*



# Missions & Evangelism

## The Methodist Women



The Methodist Women of First Methodist Church in Bryan would like to cordially invite you to our January 2024 meeting. The meetings are held in the Heritage Room of the church. We gather and visit at 9:30 a.m. and begin our meetings at 10:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month from January through May and from September to December. We normally do not meet in the summer months. Our January meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Each month we usually have a guest speaker from a local charity, someone with a topic of interest to women, or a person sharing their spiritual walk. Most topics are geared towards the interests and needs of women. Over the years we have contributed financially to many organizations here and abroad.

In January 2024, our scheduled guest speaker is Rebecca Winborn from the American Cancer Society. At this meeting we will also be electing our officers for the upcoming year and voting on a mission statement for the group.

Come and bring a friend! Women do not have to be members of our church to attend. We look forward to having you become a part of our women's group so we can serve Christ together. Join us in this new beginning!



**A BIG “thank you” from the Facilities Manager to the Methodist Men for taking care of maintenance on the church gas lines up on the roof-top.**





# Go Green To Save Green \$

Beginning January 1, 2024, we will be utilizing the church's dishware when food is served during F.M.C. events in order to save money on disposable paper goods so we may be good stewards of the financial gifts provided to the church. In turn, we will reduce our environmental footprint so we may be good stewards to God's creations. We ask for your cooperation and assistance with this transition. Please let us know if you have questions.



Meals of Love

Meals of Love Served 2,851 meals in 2023. There were 134 more meals served in 2023 than in 2022.

We are so BLESSED and GRATEFUL for the dedicated Meals of Love volunteers who help make this ministry a success!



**August 27, 2023 to November 25, 2023**  
**14 Households Participating**  
**\$ 37.93 Total Donations**  
**Contributions go towards FMC, Bryan missions.**

**Amazing Grace Bible Study made Christmas gift bags for the residents at Crestview Affordable Housing on December 14, 2023. Thank you, Amazing Grace!**



# Adult Ministries

## Be The Light

*They went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. Coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2: 9-11*

Epiphany is observed on January 7, commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi. The Wise Men are a mysterious part of the Christmas story. The Gospel of Matthew suggests that the men are Gentiles from a "faraway land". They are the Gentile equivalent of the Jewish shepherds that visited on the night of Jesus birth. This is foreshadowing of the church itself. Jesus would later command all his followers to go into the world and make disciples of all the nations. We see in the arrival of the Wise Men a sign of God's universal mercy and love<sup>1</sup>.

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2*

*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16*

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Jesus came to give His Light to everyone. We must move toward the light and keep our eyes focused on Jesus.

Loving God and loving neighbor happens by focusing on how to share the Light that Christ offers us. We share the Light by watching over one another in love and sharing that His grace and love is available to all. It is in our interactions with others that God refines and grows our own faith.

Today our world is shrouded in darkness. The Light of Jesus is desperately needed. We are called to let God lead us forward to the Light. Allow Him to guide our steps when we go astray and teach us how to be faithful as we walk in THE LIGHT.

*Natalie Patterson*

<sup>1</sup>Watching from The Walls by Andrew C Thompson

## Amazing Grace Bible Study

### "When You Pray"

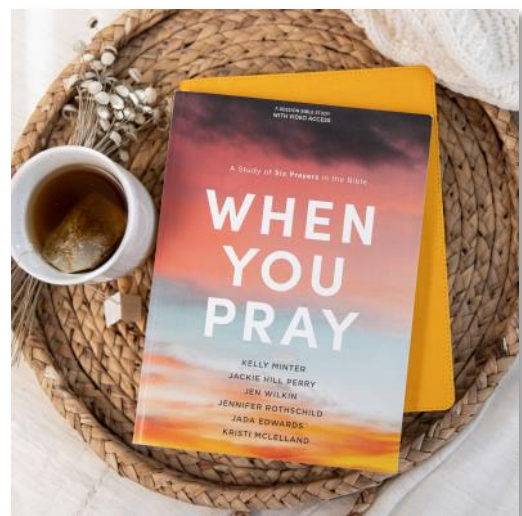
January 18, 2024 – February 29, 2024

Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray? Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God? Do you reach the end of a day only to realize you haven't prayed at all? You're not alone. Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it's a struggle. Throughout God's Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray.

Join six beloved Bible study teachers in this 7-session study and learn that God welcomes your praise and lament, your thanksgiving and intercession. You'll see examples of how to pray when you're alone and when you're gathered with others. Above all, you'll notice there's no one right way to pray.

Books are available for purchase through Lifeway.com

Lifeway.com <https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/when-you-pray-bible-study-book-with-video-access-P005837641>





# Children & Family Ministries

## FMC Bryan Confirmation Class Wins Salvation Army Bell Ringing Competition

The Confirmation class raised \$3,422.18 in their annual competition against A&M UMC ringing the Salvation Army bell. FMC Bryan retains the trophy! The Confirmation class recently delivered Christmas boxes to the Seafarer's Center in Houston and served at the Brazos Church Pantry.



## FIRST FAMILY DINNER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS SPRING 2024

**THE  
I AM**  
STATEMENTS OF JESUS  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS  
STARTING JANUARY 10th  
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.  
FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES.

## FMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PARENTS' MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH  
10:00 A.M.  
IN THE HERITAGE ROOM**

START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO,  
AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT.  
-PROVERBS 22:6

**College**  
MINISTRY

**SUNDAYS AT 7:30 PM**

CONTACT PASTOR JEREMY AT [JEREMY@FMCBRYAN.ORG](mailto:JEREMY@FMCBRYAN.ORG)



BRYAN, TEXAS

506 East 28th Street  
Bryan, TX 77803

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

# *New Year's Eve Worship Service*

December 31st—Wesleyan Covenant Service  
with Communion

9 AM Contemporary Worship Service

11 AM Traditional Worship Service

(No 8:30 AM Worship Service)