



## Happy New Year Resolution

Surround yourself with friends who share your faith, fostering intentional relationships that encourage spiritual growth.



It's that time when we scratch out 2025 to rewrite the correct year, 2026. Filled with hope of new beginnings and fresh resolutions, we lean into the future while the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" are linger in our minds: ironically, we look forward as we sing about looking back. Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland, recorded the words in 1788 and published them in 1796. Burns may have simply refined the poem because he was quick to acknowledge an older origin by an unknown writer.

While we know the chorus and the first stanza thanks to Guy Lombardo, it is a much longer song about not forgetting old friends ("auld acquaintances"). Instead, we lift a toast to memories of the old times ("auld lang syne"). If you keep singing the whole tune, Burns writes about the good old days of running across the hills and picking daisies ("We twa hae run about the braes / And pu'd the gowans fine"). Then he expresses regret for how friends drift apart, as the singer has paddled the stream from morning to dinner, but they are separated by broad seas ("We twa hae paid'd i' the burn / Frae mornin' sun till dine / But seas between us braid hae roar'd"). Finally, Burns writes of reconnecting with each other in the traditional cross-armed Christmas circle dance ("there's a hand, my trusty fiere / And gie's a hand o' thine") and a goodwill toast ("And we'll tak a right guid willy waught").

We may focus on self-improvement and personal goals in the new year, but what really matters are our relationships—first and foremost, our relationship with Jesus. Jesus is the one who unites us at his table "in remembrance of me."

In the Bible, "remember" isn't the opposite of "forget." When a believer cries out, "O Lord, remember me," he isn't lamenting that God has quit thinking about him. Remembering is a call to action, a plea to actively respond based on the covenant bond. As the people were about to enter the Promised Land and face the battles ahead, the Lord reassured them, "Perhaps you will think to yourselves, 'How can we ever conquer these nations that are so much more powerful than we are?' But don't be afraid of them! Just remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all the land of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 7:17-18 NLT). In other words, you can trust what God will do because of what God has done; you can be faithful to God and take action because God has always been faithful to you.

Maybe the Lord's Supper should include joining hands, dancing around the communion table, and then lifting the cup of Christ to remember. Having remembered, having a renewed resolve, we can charge forward in confidence, ready to share the good news that Jesus makes all things new (Revelation 21:5), including each of us and our relationships.

This year remember to remember and this indeed be the year of our Lord 2026—a year of love, of reconciliation, of invitation.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bynum

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Children's and Youth  
Ministry Parents  
Meeting**  
January 2

**The Methodist Women**  
January 6

**Amazing Grace Bible  
Study: God of Covenant**  
January 8

**First Family Dinner and  
Wednesday Bible  
Studies Resumes**  
January 14

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

# Ministry Calendar

1/1		Campus Closed - New Year's Holiday	
1/4	2:00 PM	Worship - Crestview Retirement Center/Arbor Oaks	
1/5	6:00 PM	Staff Parish Relations Committee	C105
1/6	9:30 AM	The Methodist Women	Heritage Room
1/7	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
1/8	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study - Covenant	E209
	11:45 AM	Men on Main	Fellowship Hall
1/9	7:00 AM	Meals of Love	Fellowship Hall Kitchen
1/11	8:30 AM	Confirmation Trip	
	4:00 PM	Youth Worship Band	C214
	6:00 PM	Methodist Youth Fellowship	C214
1/12	6:00 PM	Service/Mission Team	C105
1/14	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies	Heritage Room
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
1/15	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study - Covenant	E209
	11:45 AM	Men on Main	Fellowship Hall
1/18	6:00 PM	Methodist Youth Fellowship	C214
	7:30 PM	Lighthouse College Ministry	Parsonage
1/19		FMC Closed - Martin L. King Holiday	
1/21	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies	Heritage Room
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
1/22	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study - Covenant	E209
	11:45 AM	Men on Main	Fellowship Hall
1/23	7:00 AM	Meals of Love	Fellowship Hall Kitchen
1/25	4:00 PM	Youth Worship Band	C214
	6:00 PM	Methodist Youth Fellowship	C214
	7:30 PM	Lighthouse College Ministry	Parsonage
1/28	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies	Heritage Room
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
1/29	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study - Covenant	E209
	11:45 AM	Men on Main	Fellowship Hall

## FMC BRYAN CLERGY & STAFF

Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bynum**  
ext. 105  
jonathan@fmcbyryan.org

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

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

Director of Youth & Young Adult  
Ministries  
**Meredith Pennington**  
ext. 110  
meredith@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

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

**Custodians**  
Hosea Morriel  
Rocio Hitt  
Josh Sweed



To receive a copy of our  
newsletter, please e-mail  
leeann@fmcbyryan.org, and let us  
know if you'd like a  
paper or digital copy.



# Prayer Requests

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

**Prayers of Concern and Care:** Cailey Cotner, Matthew Arriaga

**Prayers of Healing:** Judy Miller, Ann Marie Vick, Chuck Schroeppel, Lynda Pool, Nancy Reynolds, Sam Tessen, Jeff French, Michael Smith, Cynthia McBride, Adam Bolline, Cindy Brack, Bobby Vance, Betty Horn, Jack Walker, Shirley Vasovski, Danny Robertson, Becky Davis, Judy Nix, Chad Parker, LaVerne Degelia, Mike Harrah, Leonard Urbanovsky, John Millhollon, Francis Hicks, Jean Smith

## In Need of Prayer?

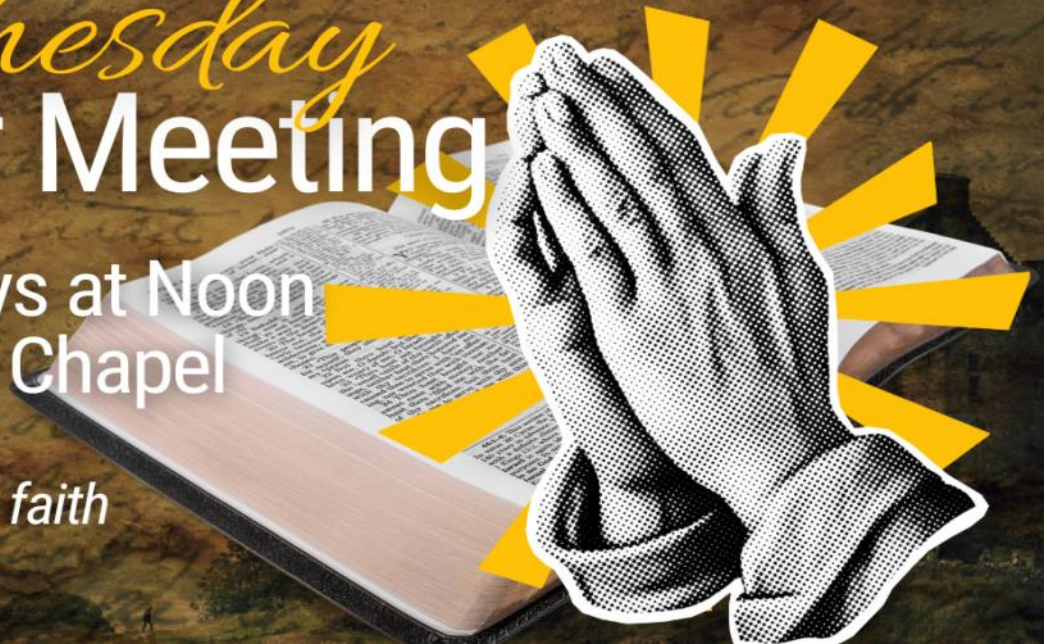


Fill out our [Prayer Request Form](#) on our website to be added to our weekly Prayer List or contact the church office at (979) 779-1324.

## Wednesday Prayer Meeting

Wednesdays at Noon  
FMC Bryan Chapel

*Strengthen your faith  
through prayer.*



**Tory & Daryl Dickey**  
Joined on November 23rd

## Welcome Our Newest Members to FMC Bryan!

**Not Pictured:**  
**Michael & Janeth Neville**  
Joined on December 14th

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@fmcbyran.org](mailto:jonathan@fmcbyran.org), Pastor Jeremy Bass at [jeremy@fmcbyran.org](mailto:jeremy@fmcbyran.org), or contact the church office at (979) 779-1324.





# FIRST FAMILY DINNER

Wednesday Evenings  
January 14<sup>th</sup> - May 6<sup>th</sup>





HERITAGE ROOM



New Menu Each Week!  
Bible Studies for All  
Following Dinner!

Fellowship & Food!

Beginning January 14

## Adult Bible Study


Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.


Heritage Room or Zoom (registration required)

# JOB

The story nobody wants.  
The story nobody can avoid.

Taught by  
Pastor Jonathan





SCAN TO REGISTER

Dear Church Family,

We have a great little place where the food and fellowship are always warm and inviting. It is a nice place to sit and visit with old and new friends over a cup of coffee and a plate of pure love.

Mission Café has been “in business” for about 15 years in the Heritage Room and was an idea that Rev. David Henry shared with us after visiting a friend’s church in the Austin area. That church that had a similar program. David’s idea was that we only ask for donations and they should only be used for local missions. Therefore, the name...Mission Café. So, whoever volunteers for a Sunday gets to name the mission project that they want to support with donations made that day.

Each Sunday the volunteers come in early to prepare and offer something warm. We try to have the doors open from 8:00 to 9:45. This enables us to reach members going to and from the 8:30 and 9:00 services and then those heading to Sunday School at 9:45.

Preparation is easy. It is the volunteer’s choice to serve anything they want to. From donuts and pastries, to breakfast tacos, to cooking a full meal of scrambled eggs, grits, biscuits, gravy, and sausage.

Up to 75 have come in to share in God’s love.

If you would like to serve there is a sign-up sheet on the door at the Heritage Kitchen counter.

Grab a friend or Sunday School classmate and give it a try.

Be a Blessing and you will be Blessed.

Steve May, Service/Mission Team Chairman



## Service/Mission Team 2025 Year End Report

All the Programs listed below have received donations from FMC Bryan both monetarily and in service from many of our volunteers. Our funding is provided from allotted funds in the Church Budget, Endowment Funds and from donations designated for General Missions, or designated to one of these programs that we support. \$40,347.00 was donated to the following projects:

### CHILDREN – Our Gifts from God

- Bryan ISD (Fannin Elementary) \$685.00
- Save Our Streets \$850.00
- Hope Pregnancy Center \$962.00
- Still Creek Ranch \$1000.00
- BCS Together \$2,250.00

### FEEDING THE HUNGRY – Matthew 25:45

- Brazos Church Pantry \$6,000.00
- Lee Chapel \$1000.00
- Society of St. Stephen
- Meals of Love (MRC) \$6980.00

### A PLACE TO REST – HOMLESSNESS

- Salvation Army \$4,000.00
- Twin City Mission \$1,000.00
- Family Promise \$600.00
- BVCASA \$60.00
- Elder Air (fans/heaters) \$1,000.00

### FOREIGN MISSIONS – ACTS 1:8

- Mobility Worldwide \$6,000.00
- Sintuco, Peru \$3,310.00
- TMS / Drums for Christ \$750.00
- Christian Mission Fellowship International \$1,300.00
- Chesed Missions in support of The Ebenezer Orphanage – Ethiopia \$1,300.00

### GMC – Love Our Neighbors

- Established the Kairos Ministry Fund in the Designated Funds Accounts
- Mid-Tex Flood Relief and Flood Buckets
- Established Local Hands and Feet Ministry Fund in the Designated Missions Accounts
- Methodist Women and Methodist Men donate to a numerous programs each year



# ENDOWMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Celebrate a Legacy: Give to the Heritage Endowment

At First Methodist Church of Bryan, we are blessed by the faithfulness and generosity of those who have come before us. One meaningful way their legacy lives on is through our Heritage Endowment Fund—a vital resource that helps meet the present and future needs of our church.

The Heritage Endowment is our church's largest and most flexible endowment fund, supporting both special ministry and mission projects—locally and beyond—and extraordinary needs related to our church property, such as major repairs, expansions, and improvements. This fund ensures that we can respond when opportunities arise or unexpected needs emerge.

Unlike general fundraising, endowments are designed to last. Gifts to the endowment are invested, and the principal remains intact, with only a portion of the earnings used each year. This allows the Heritage Endowment to provide a reliable and predictable source of funding for the church's mission, not just today—but for generations to come.



We invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift to the Heritage Endowment Fund in memory or in honor of someone special—a loved one whose faith shaped your life, a mentor who inspired your service, or a friend who walked with you in your spiritual journey. Your gift becomes a living tribute, helping ensure that our church continues to grow, serve, and shine Christ's light well into the future.

To learn more or make a gift, please contact the Eileen Winkle, Business & Facilities Manager [eileen@fmcbyryan.org](mailto:eileen@fmcbyryan.org). Let us give thanks for the legacy we've inherited—and be part of the legacy yet to come.

### ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE 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@fmcbyryan.org](mailto:eileen@fmcbyryan.org)



## Amazing Grace Bible Study: God of Covenant

Begins January 8, 2026  
Thursdays at 10:00 am  
Location: E209

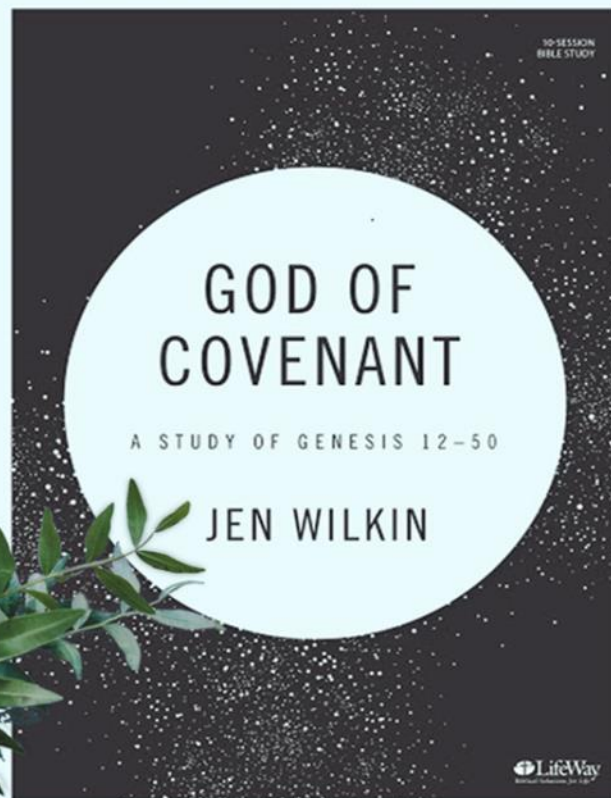
### Description:

Beginning with Genesis 12, walk alongside the fathers of our faith—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph—to discern Jesus in the stories of His people.

Over 10 sessions, discover how God orchestrates everything for His glory and the good of His people, and see how the God of creation and covenant is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

To sign up, please contact:

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




## Amazing Grace Bible Study Prepared Gift Bags for Residents of Crestview Affordable Housing



# Young Adult Ministries

At FMC Bryan, we believe young adults thrive when rooted in authentic Christian community. That's why The Vine exists — a Sunday School class designed for ages 18–25 who are seeking connection, spiritual growth, and space to explore big questions with Jesus at the center.

Jesus said: **“I am the vine; you are the branches...” — John 15:5**

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

## What to Expect:

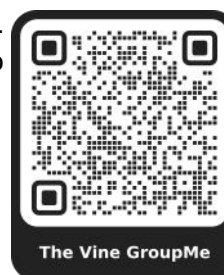
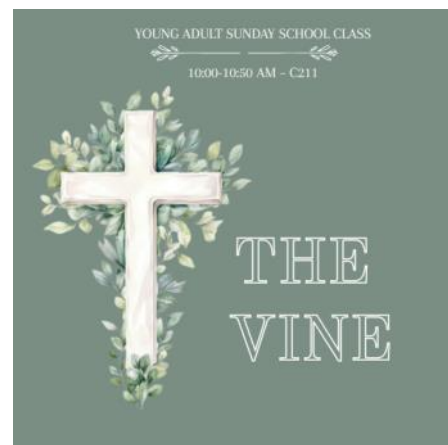
- Weekly Bible study and discussion –New Study – Jonathan’s Griffiths: “Gathered for the Good” This will focus on our divine need for spiritual healthy Christian community.
- Meaningful relationships and fellowship
- Spiritual growth that carries into everyday life Community & Fellowship Monthly meals, authentic conversations, and group activities to build relationships that matter.

## Upcoming Vine Events

Fellowship Activity January 17 | TBD

- Follow along on Instagram •
- Join our GroupMe •
- Visit our website: [www.fmcbyran.org/ministries/youngadults](http://www.fmcbyran.org/ministries/youngadults)

Let us treat you to coffee & a great conversation.



The Vine GroupMe



Vine Instagram

## SIGN UP TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN MENTOR TODAY!

### THE LIGHTHOUSE COLLEGE MINISTRY AT FMC BRYAN

# CHRISTIAN MENTORSHIP

*The hope of this mentorship is to pair 2–3 college students with spiritually mature Christians within our church. This ministry focuses on a homecooked meal, prayer, and Christian conversation.*



Mentor Application

ARE YOU INTERESTED? VISIT  
[WWW.FMCBRYAN.ORG/MINISTRIES/COLLEGE](http://WWW.FMCBRYAN.ORG/MINISTRIES/COLLEGE) TO SIGN UP!



Student Registration



# Youth Ministries

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Happy New Year, friends!

January invites us into a fresh start—not just new calendars and routines, but renewed hearts and refocused lives. As we step into 2026, we do so grounded in the unchanging truth of who Jesus is and anchored in His Word. This is a season to reset rhythms, realign priorities, and intentionally choose what (and Who) we build our lives around. We are excited to begin this new year walking together in faith, community, and purpose.

## **Upcoming News & Events**

**Parent Meeting – Children & Youth**  
**Sunday, January 4**  
**During the Sunday School Hour**

This joint meeting is an important opportunity for parents to hear about the vision, calendar, and expectations for the upcoming semester in both Children's and Youth Ministries. We hope you'll make plans to attend.

**MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)**  
**Resumes Sunday, January 11**  
**5:30–7:30 PM**  
**Heritage Room**

MYF is our weekly gathering for fellowship, worship, games, teaching, and small group connection. We can't wait to welcome students back and kick off the new semester together!

**Diving Deeper**  
**Resumes Wednesday, January 14**  
**Following First Family Dinner 5:15**

As we begin the new year, we will start our journey through the New Testament—exploring the life, teachings, and mission of Jesus. Each week includes a fun activity, meaningful teaching, and small group discussion designed to help students grow in their faith.

**Save the Date – Generations of Praise**  
**Sunday, February 22**

Generations of Praise is a special night where all ages come together —children, youth, young adults, parents, and grandparents—to worship the King side by side. Mark your calendars now for this powerful evening of unified worship and praise.

## **New Year Devotional: Rooted for the Year Ahead**

**Scripture:**

*“Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him.”*  
— Colossians 2:7

The beginning of a new year naturally brings goals, resolutions, and good intentions. But before adding more to our schedules, January invites us to ask a deeper question: What is our family rooted in?

Being rooted in God's Word doesn't happen by accident, it happens through intentional choices. When Jesus is our foundation, our priorities shift. We begin to choose time with Him before time fills up. We listen to His teaching before the noise of the world. And we measure success not by productivity, but by faithfulness.

**A Simple January Practice for Families & Students:**

- **Choose One Priority:** Decide on one intentional habit this year (daily Scripture, prayer, worship, or serving).
- **Start Small & Stay Consistent:** Even five minutes a day in God's Word builds deep roots over time.
- **Invite God Into the Ordinary:** Car rides, meals, homework, and conversations all become sacred when Jesus is invited in. A rooted life may not always be easy—but it will be steady, faithful, and fruitful.

# Elf Hunt Memories

What a joyful way to end the year!

We loved seeing students laugh, compete, serve, and celebrate together during The Great Elf Hunt & Elfcapades. Our scripture focus was 1 John 1:3-6.



Thank you to every volunteer, parent, and student who helped make this night one to remember!



Stay connected with us on social media:  
Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Follow us on [Instagram](#)





# Children & Family Ministries



In December, the Confirmation class delivered 40 boxes to the Seafarer's Center in Houston. The class stuffed the boxes with goods for the seafarers which was made possible by a donation from the Methodist Women.

**FMC CHILDREN'S & YOUTH  
MINISTRY  
PARENTS' MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH  
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

**FIRST FAMILY DINNER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS  
EXODUS, NUMBERS, AND JOSHUA**

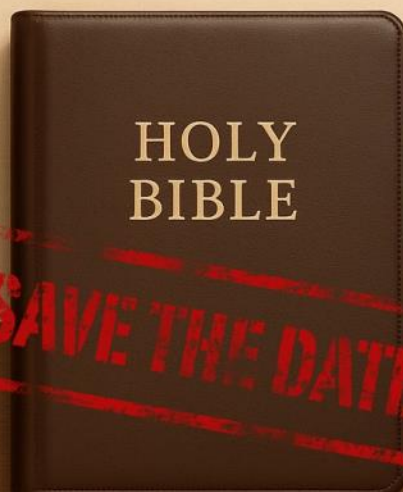
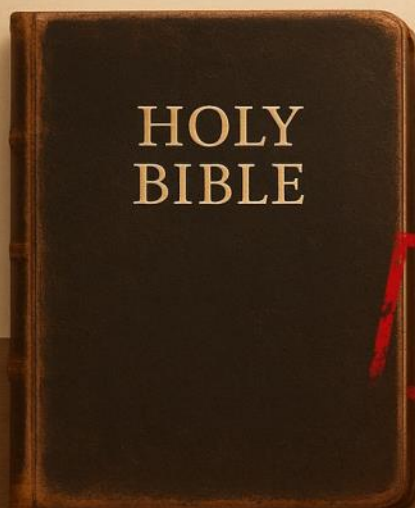


**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS STARTING  
JANUARY 14TH  
DINNER - 5:15 - 6:00 P.M.  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR - 5:45 - 6:30 P.M.  
STUDIES - 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.**



## GENERATIONS OF PRAISE

A FAMILY NIGHT OF WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES



**SAVE THE DATE**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND**

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



BRYAN, TEXAS

506 East 28th Street  
Bryan, TX 77803

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Our Get Connected webpage has everything you need to get plugged into the ministries and missions of First Methodist Church, Bryan.**

**Scan the QR code above to GET CONNECTED!**

**<https://fmcbyran.org/get-connected>**