

FROM THE PASTOR

The Mission Field.

"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him" (MT 4:18-19, NIV).

Jesus entered the everyday of the disciple's life and offered them a single command, "Come, follow me." We have heard this story and others like it many times before. In response, we might nod our heads in agreement and offer an 'Amen.' But like many churches across this nation, we may have followed Jesus with our eyes instead of our lives.

The Lord is moving in many hearts. Many feel the 'tug' of following but lack the guidance or sense of direction of where to go. Many of your brothers and sisters in this very church are witnessing the Holy Spirit push them to actively "Follow Christ."

On Saturday, May 3, recent ILI Participants were invited to coffee and donuts with Pastor Ray to discuss what we learned from the ILI training. Eight attendees shared their thoughts on the information provided and the many witnesses they experienced. The following points were presented to the Ad Council on 5/27/25 as necessary guidance.

1) What is our mission? If the church is not driven by its mission and powered by the Holy Spirit, then it is just a country club.

2) Each gathering should fulfill some part of our mission, and it should begin with prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is not to fill the church, please ourselves, or follow tradition, but to win souls for Christ.

3) We need a 4-pronged approach to reach these varied groups: The unchurched. Those who used to attend. Those who just sit in church. Everyone else.

4) Pastor Ray will be teaching to the ILI Core Values from the pulpit beginning in September. He will encourage Sunday Schools to also cover aspects of the core values as he teaches them to further reinforce the message.

5) We need to prepare ourselves from within the church to reach outside the church. Pastor Ray intends to build a prayer team to go into the community. The goal will be personal one-to-one interaction to reach those not in God's Army.

None of these ideas are new. Many we can point to in our recent past. What is new is the realization that we have slowed or ceased in some capacity. I am asking each group; each Sunday School, committee, Bible study, fellowship event, or frequent gathering of two or more people consider these five-steps. Let them be the first and last thing we speak of when we gather in any way.

I thank you all for what you have done, are doing, and will do to the service and honor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May His name be praised!

In His Service,
Pastor Ray

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Join our **ADULT Discovery Bible Study** on Wednesday evenings this summer at 6:30 pm in Room 113. It's great for MEN and WOMEN – no homework!

Fifth Sunday Fellowship: June 29!



Please join us in the HUB!





**9:00am Sunday School
for all ages**

10:00am Worship Service

FIRST
METHODIST
CHURCH of
AZLE



Can't get to church?

You can always watch our services on Facebook or YouTube! We have a YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstMethodistChurchofAzle>. There is a link from our website, or you can search YouTube as well – be sure to pick the “First Methodist Church of Azle” channel with our NEW BLUE LOGO and not the old one with the UMC cross and flame.

First Methodist Church Phone App!

Search Google App Store or Apple App Store for:



My Church by ChurchSpring

- 1) Load app,
- 2) Enter FIRST METHODIST CHURCH of AZLE
- 3) Confirm.

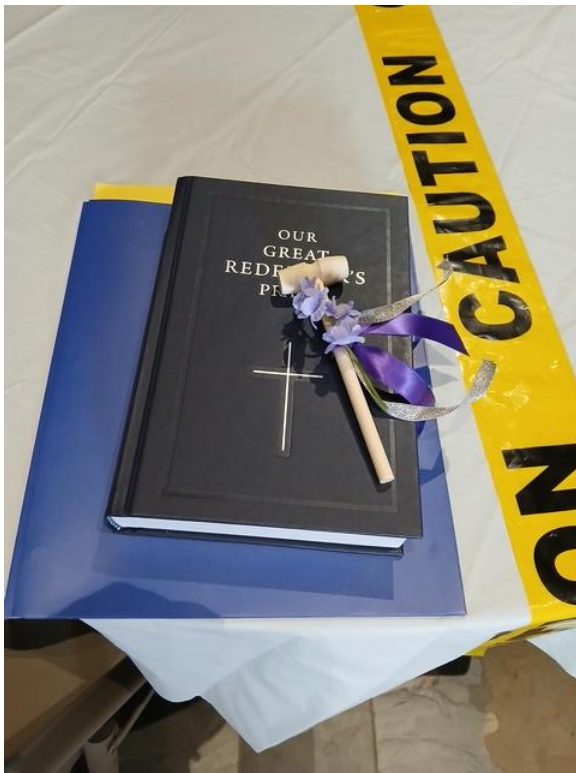
Visit our website:
FMCAzle.org

Women's Retreat

Twenty lovely ladies attended the 2025 Women's Retreat May 16-17. They were treated to fellowship and fun in a pretty room at the Good News facility. They learned about the Good News program for Azle Seniors from

Terri Bartlett. They were served fancy food, popcorn, and homemade heart-shaped shortbread cookies. They sang old and new hymns led by Holly Davis, who was accompanied by Ronnie & Grant at the keyboard. They heard 5 delightful and discerning speakers on how to follow God's plan for their Christian lives. We learned we are all under construction, guided by the Holy Spirit using power tools like prayer & the scriptures.





SENIOR ACTIVE CHRISTIANS

Our SAC group travelled to the Clark Gardens outside Mineral Wells on April 25, 2025. After a delightful time wandering through the various garden areas, we had lunch at Chili's in Mineral Wells. Our monthly trips are always full of good fun and fellowship! If you are 50+, we would love for you to join us on June 6 when we travel to Hico to tour the Billy the Kid Museum (free entry) with lunch to follow at the Koffee Kup Family Restaurant – famous for its pies! And on July 13, SAC will enjoy lunch together at Cotton Patch in Lake Worth before attending the Popcorn Players Theater for their melodrama *Peril on the High Seas*, or *Let's Get Together and Do Launch*.

S
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C







BILLY
THE
KID

HICO TEXAS

Senior Active Christians

June 6 9:30am

To HICO, TX for:

Billy the Kid Museum (free)

Koffee Kup Family Restaurant

(famous for their pies!)

PLEASE JOIN US!!



FAMILY MINISTRIES

Children

Our children shared a delightful time of worship from Proverbs on Wednesday, May 21, on their last evening of Children's activities!





Six of our children will be attending Preteen Camp at Camp Sabine Creek Ranch from June 9 – June 12!

The Children's Music Academy has been postponed but watch for a new date later this summer.



Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace will be our VBS theme from July 20-23 this year. It includes a wonderful marketplace as well as music, crafts, and a snack dinner. VOLUNTEERS are needed to make this year's VBS a success!! We can only invite as many children from the community as we have volunteers to assist. Please see Marsha Ingle and tell her you are WILLING to help with VBS today!

The Family Ministries Council is providing matching polo shirts for Family Ministries Staff, which includes both paid staff and volunteer workers from the nursery to the youth room. These shirts are to help designate the appropriate people to watch our children and youth, bringing a higher level of confidence and professionalism to our Family Ministry.

Youth



As you receive this newsletter, twelve of our youth are likely on the way back from their Mystery Trip. Where did they go, you ask? Ahh, it's a MYSTERY!! We look forward to their safe return and their stories.

We are taking a group of Senior High youth on a Mission Trip to Eureka Springs, AR, July 6 – 12. While we are there, we will have the opportunity to see The Great Passion Play. There are a few open slots if you have a high school youth who would like to join us.



WEDNESDAYS
5:30pm – 7:30pm

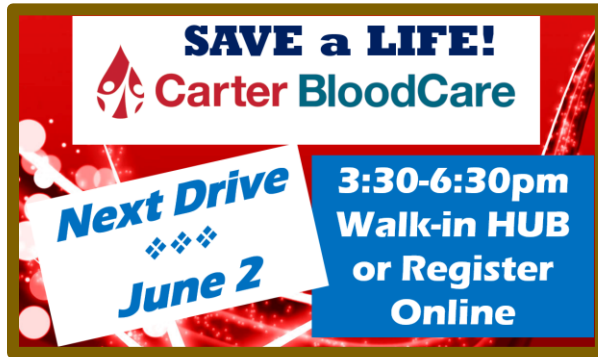
SUNDAYS

9am
Sunday School

5:30pm – 7:30pm
Sunday Night

THE NOW
YOUTH GROUP



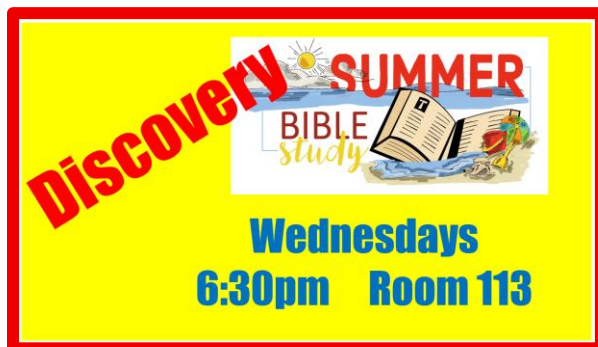


Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

TUESDAY mornings at 7:30am year-round.

ALL men of the church are welcome.

It's a real breakfast fellowship, guys!



MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Friends,

Our Season of Easter and Celebration has been a testament to the power of worship in proclaiming the message of the Resurrection. Throughout the time of Easter, our music ministry teams have diligently led the congregation through reflective hymns and jubilant songs that mirrored the journey from sorrow to joy.

As we reflect on our successful Easter celebrations, our hearts are filled with anticipation for future worship experiences. Music ministry will continue to evolve as we integrate new creative expressions with traditional hymns, contemporary praise, and contemplative worship, sustaining our momentum toward spiritual growth. Each song is an opportunity to echo the resurrection message, inspire our hearts, and invite more souls to join our community in worship.

This Summer, we enter into a temporary single service gathering. Let ALL of our voices continue to blend in harmony, carrying the eternal message of hope, resurrection, and love into every corner of our lives. May the joy of Easter resonate in our hearts all year long, reminding us that, through music and faith, we are invited to draw ever closer to God.

Pray, sing, and worship.

John 8:12:

"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." "

"Christ, Whose glory fills the skies" (OGRP #211)

*v1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shade of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.*

*v3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.*

This Summer, we invite you to join the time of Music and Worship, Youth and Choir. Youth worship begins at 7 pm, as does Choir in the loft. Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry teams. It's a joy and privilege to serve in ministry amongst



leadership and the congregation of this church family.

Contact us

If you're interested in joining or want more information, please contact me at gnewman@fmcazle.org. We can't wait to welcome you into our music family!

*With Humility and Gratitude,
Grant*



SERVING MINISTRIES

The 4th of July will be here before we know it. Again, this year we will be handing out bottles of water to the people who attend the Follow the Flag celebration. This event will be held at Azle Central Park on Friday, July 4. We will need volunteers to hand out the water. Each shift will be two hours long. If you are interested in celebrating the 4th with us, please volunteer for one of the shifts. We need at least four volunteers for each shift.

The available shifts are:

4 pm – 6 pm
6 pm – 8 pm
8 pm – 10 pm

Please call or stop by the church office or TEXT Deanna Keen, who is traveling (817-371-2102), to be added to the list.

Thank you,

Deanna Keen
Chairperson of Serving Ministries
Serving God by Serving Others



Volunteer Opportunities within our Church

As compiled by Deanna Keen, Serving Ministries Chair

- Follow the Flag: This is our community's 4th of July celebration. Volunteers are needed to hand out bottles of water on the 4th of July from 4 pm – 10 pm in 2-hour shifts. Interested? Contact the church office or Deanna Keen (817-371-2102).
- Building ramps and making home repairs: We have no current projects, but if this is interesting to you, please contact Darryl Keen (817-733-7411) or Deanna Keen (817-371-2102) to be placed on our list for when a project becomes available.
- Security/Greeters: Volunteers are needed on Sunday mornings to greet people as they enter the church. Volunteers are asked to serve once a month from 8:00 am – 11:45 am. If interested, please contact Glenn Cary (817-800-0501).
- Sunday School Assistants: Volunteers are needed to assist the Children's Sunday School teachers as a second adult in the classroom. If interested, please contact Marsha Ingle (817-999-6768).
- Feed the Youth: Volunteers are needed to feed the youth on Sunday evenings. Each volunteer is asked to serve once every few months. If interested, please contact Meg Arnold (682-478-9613).
- Prayer Shawls: If you knit or crochet, this might be for you! Prayer shawls are given



to those who have suffered loss, are homebound, or are sick. If interested, please contact Marie Wells (817-319-5494).

- Office: The church office utilizes volunteers to answer the phone and door, and complete occasional small tasks one weekday morning a week from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact Janet Hargrove (817-999-0600) or Pat Noe in the church office.
- Vacation Bible School: Many volunteers are needed this year on July 20-23. Jobs of all kinds are available. If interested, please contact Marsha Ingle (817-999-6768).
- Upwards Basketball and Cheerleading: This Christian sports program will start in October 2025. Coaches and scorekeepers will be needed. If interested, please contact Meg Arnold (682-478-9613).

Volunteer Opportunities in Azle

As compiled by Deanna Keen, Serving Ministries Chair

- Azle Community Caring Center: Please visit <https://communitycaringcenter.com> and fill out their volunteer form. The information will go directly to the volunteer coordinator, who will then share the available openings.
- Texas Health Hospital Auxiliary Azle: This group needs volunteers to help in the Rainbow Inn Gift Shop and the Attic ReRuns Resale Shop. If interested, please contact Mary Fonville (817-229-6874) or Karen Searfoss (817-270-3670).
- Azle City Library: The library needs 1-2 volunteers to assist with summer programs. For more information, please contact Rebecca (817-752-2682).
- Academy 4: Academy 4 is a mentoring program for 4th graders at the Cross Timbers and Hilltop Elementary Schools in Azle. Volunteers are needed for the

2025/2026 school year. For more information or to sign up, visit <https://academy4.org/azle-isd>

- Summer Lunch Program: Lunches are provided for the kids in Pelican Bay during the summer months. For more information, please contact Monica Goth (817-789-9224).
- Azle Animal Shelter: If you are an animal lover, this may be your spot! The animal shelter needs volunteers to walk, snuggle, and socialize with the animals at the shelter. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. For more information, please call 817-752-2681 or stop by 724 Park Street in Azle.
- Good N.E.W.S.: Good N.E.W.S. 4 Seniors needs volunteers for a variety of tasks for local seniors still living at home. If you are interested, please contact the Good N.E.W.S office (817-444-2300).

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

The listed anniversaries are taken from the information in Realm. If your information needs to be updated, please contact Pat Noe at pnoe@fmcazle.org.

Richard & Pat Noe 6/1 (40 years)
Robin & Christy Mason 6/5 (32 years)
Glenn & Susan Cary 6/6 (10 years)
Santo & Sandra Forte 6/7 (57 years)
Jim & Dede Loudermilk 6/13 (45 years)
Bob & Marie Wells 6/13 (60 years)
Eric & Stacy Johnson 6/18 (31 years)
Ollie & Pam Washburn 6/20 (55 years)
Bill & B.J. Collins 6/25 (42 years)
Tony & Kathy Brooks 6/27 (33 years)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

If you know of someone not listed, please send an email to pnoe@fmcazle.org.

Don Cattle 3; Peggy Huddleston 5; Deanna Crisco 6; Nancy Ritter 6; Ginger Bettis 7; Mike Cox 7; Bobby Goode 7; Stacy Johnson 7; Bill



June 2025 MESSENGER



Collins 8; Carolyn Smith 11; Glenn Cary 12;
Barbara Burns 16; Darryl Keen 20; Duck Taylor
22; Keith Boenisch 23; Teresa Howe 23;
Richard Noe, Jr. 24; ; Catherine Ritter 25;
Darlene Tatum 25; Deanna Keen 26; Penni
Noe 26; Denise Hargrove 30; Doug
McCammish 30

APRIL FINANCIALS

April Budget	\$ 65,163
April Income	\$ 47,548
April Expenses	\$ 51,547

YTD Budget	\$260,653
YTD Income	\$195,326
YTD Expenses	\$216,340



June 2025 Events and Activities

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun	1-Jun		Summer Worship Hours Begin!
		9:00am	Sunday School for all ages.
		10:00am	Worship (Sanctuary)
			NO Sunday Evening Youth
Mon	2-Jun	3:30pm	Community Blood Drive
Tues	3-Jun	7:30am	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (HUB)
		2:30pm	Grief Share (113)
Wed	4-Jun		Summer Wednesday Evenings
		5:30pm	Youth Dinner, Activities
		6:15pm	MomStrong (110)
		6:30pm	Discovery Bible Study (113)
		7:00pm	Praise & Worship (Sanctuary)
		7:00pm	Vocal Rehearsal (Music Suite)
Fri	6-Jun	9:30am	SAC to Hico: Billy the Kid Museum & lunch @ Koffee Kup Join us!!
Sun	8-Jun	10:00am	Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday
		5:30pm	Sunday Evening Youth
Mon - Jun 9 -			Preteen Camp @Sabine Creek Ranch
Thurs Jun 12			
Tues	10-Jun	7:30am	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (HUB)
		2:30pm	Grief Share (113)
Wed	11-Jun		Summer Wednesday Evenings
Sun	15-Jun	3:30pm	Legacy Oaks Worship
		4:30pm	Youth Council (113)
		5:30pm	Sunday Evening Youth
Mon	16-Jun	6:30pm	SPR Council (113 - closed meeting)
Wed	18-Jun		Summer Wednesday Evenings
Thur	19-Jun	6:30pm	Finance Council
Sun	22-Jun	5:30pm	Sunday Evening Youth
Wed	25-Jun		Summer Wednesday Evenings
Sun	29-Jun		Potluck Fellowship Dinner (HUB) - immediately following worship; chicken provided, bring sides and desserts!

