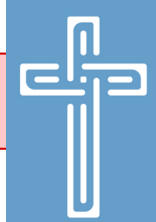


NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH
"ABIDING IN CHRIST"



New Life Methodist Church 979-968-8323

Church Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8:30am-3:30pm
 Wed. 8:30am - 5:30pm
 Friday 8:30am-12:30pm

Website - www.newlifelg.org

Andy Smith Lead Pastor andy@newlifelg.org
David Driskell Lay Pastor david@newlifelg.org
Dawn Eppers Office Manager office@newlifelg.org
Nancy Hajek Director of Classical Church Music nancy.hajek@newlifelg.org
Erica Menconi Finance Office finance@newlifelg.org

Non-Profit Organization

WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays at:

- 9:00 am - Traditional Service**
 - 10:00 am - Fellowship Time**
 - 10:15 am - Disciple Hour**
 - 11:10 am - Contemporary Service**
- (see calendar for more details)

July 2026 Edition

LIGHTSHINE



JULY 2026 EDITION
NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PONDERING

America celebrates 250 years! As we mark this special occasion, it's important to think about the gift of freedom that we take for granted each day. Not just the freedom to do what we want, but the kind of freedom where people get to govern themselves. Our country is special and a wonderful gift.

Back in 1775, Patrick Henry stood up in front of a room full of leaders and said something that still echoes today: *"Give me liberty or give me death."* That wasn't just a catchy slogan. It was a declaration that freedom is worth everything. Henry and the other founders weren't fighting for land or riches, they were fighting for a chance to live with dignity, to make their own choices, and to answer to something higher than kings or distant governments.

What makes America stand out isn't the fact that it won a war. It's that it dared to try something new: a government *"of the people, by the people, and for the people."* Before that, most of the world was ruled by kings or empires that didn't ask ordinary folks what they wanted. America flipped the script and said, *"The people are in charge."* And they wrote it down in a Constitution that even the government had to follow. Truly radical.

But there's more: the founders knew this freedom wasn't just about laws and politics. George Washington, in his farewell speech, reminded everyone that religion and morality were the pillars holding up this whole experiment. Without a shared sense of right and wrong, without faith to guide our hearts, freedom can fall apart.

As we remember the blessings of these United States of America, it's not just about what we see. It's about something bigger: the chance to worship freely, to speak openly, to gather and dream without fear. It's about a people who believed that government exists to serve, not to rule, and that every person has worth.

As we celebrate 250 years, it's important to remember the sacrifices made, for the faith that carried us through, and that freedom is a gift that needs constant care and nurture. Washington warned us to stay united, to resist division, and to hold tight to the values that make liberty possible.

God bless America. May we keep this radical experiment burning bright, trusting not in ourselves, but in the God who has guided this great Nation from the start. And when the road gets tough, may we remember Patrick Henry's words and Washington's wisdom, that freedom is worth fighting for, worth preserving, and worth living for. Because this blessing, and this country, is more than a place. It's a call to faith, hope, and the courage to stand up for truth and justice.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Andy

INSPIRING READS

- Pastor's Pondering
- Musical Notes
- Altar Rail
- Methodist Men
- Finance Report
- Disciple Hour News
- Women's ANEW 2026
- July 2026 Calendar
- Game Night & Ice Cream Social
- GMC Events
- Thank You's!
- Live Smart Expo Fun
- Notes From the Office
- New Ministry
- Dates to Celebrate
- Second Chance
- Prayer Team
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- UM Army
- Bible Quiz
- Church Humor

Thank you for your generous support of our ministries.

CHURCH HUMOR



3-27
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 www.familycircus.com

Bill Keane
 JEFF KEANE

"If God lives inside us like Grandma says, I hope He likes peanut butter and jelly."

NEW TESTAMENT

N G R A C E B B M M M S N C N Z Y R W
 P A P O S T L E O N E D A O Q Z R J U O
 E W S K D H P G D V H R M L F J E M Y B
 T E Y N A K Y V G D E E A X I T Z A R H
 E H I K A R U M N T L S R L O V E G J I
 R T N B C M E S I P H U I X E E G Q T N
 Y T V O Y L O P K X T R T X L Y C O W M
 J A W O I F U R P Z E R A C P H J J B C
 A M A S L T W A J U B E N V M I M T R T
 M S K N H O A L P G S C Z F E H C U D Z
 E U J C T G S V K K M T A G T V C L V N
 S R V H C F E M L Q S I S V C I L U K E
 O A W R G T L A I A U O B A F Q L Q F K
 V Z L I S C C R H A S N S I L H T A H S
 K A N S U R A K Y D E T X W F G R P M A
 S L H T S O R T U U J I S E R M O N P B
 X Y O Y M S I I R H O S D I S C I P L E
 F S J D C S M T R N J R K G O S P E L J
 R W K M N B O U H E R O D N C E G E I W
 N I R T G U E S A R P D S P I R I T E E

WORD LIST

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| APOSTLE | HEROD | LUKE | ROMANS |
| BETHLEHEM | JAMES | MARK | SALVATION |
| CHRIST | JESUS | MATTHEW | SAMARITAN |
| CROSS | JOHN | MIRACLES | SERMON |
| CRUCIFIXION | KINGDOM | PAUL | SPIRIT |
| DISCIPLE | LAMB | PETER | TEMPLE |
| GOSPEL | LASTSUPPER | RESURRECTION | TITUS |
| GRACE | LAZARUS | | |

Homemade
 GIFTS MADE EASY



MUSICAL NOTES



Well, I'm jumping on the Happy 250th birthday, America, bandwagon.

Most of you are familiar with the hymn, "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and some of you may even recall that Julia Ward Howe is the writer of it. But, you may not know the story behind it. The information I'm giving you comes from a book I received from a friend, *Then Sings My Soul*, by Robert J. Morgan.

He writes: "In 1861, during the darkest days of the Civil War, the Howes visited Washington, and Julia toured a nearby Union Army Camp on the Potomac in Virginia. There she heard soldiers singing a tribute to John Brown, who had been hanged in 1859 for attempting to lead an insurrection of slaves at Harper's Ferry: 'John Brown's Body Lies a-mold'ring in the Grave.' The music was rousing, but the words needed improvement. Julia's pastor asked her to consider writing new and better verses. That night, after the Howes retired to their room at the Willard Hotel, the words came.

Julia said, "I went to bed and slept as usual, but awoke the next morning in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, I shall lose this if I don't write it down immediately. I searched for an old sheet of paper and an old stub of a pen which I had had the night before, and began to scrawl the lines almost without looking, as I learned to do by often scratching down verses in the darkened room when my little children were sleeping. Having completed this, I lay down again and fell asleep, but not before feeling that something of importance had happened to me."

Julia gave her song to a friend who worked at *The Atlantic Monthly*. The magazine published it in February, 1862, sending her a check for

Soli Deo Gloria,
Nancy



Altar Rail giving for the month of July will be to:

Operation Christmas Child

Volunteer to prepare shoeboxes on Wednesdays at 5PM in RM 5

FINANCE UPDATE

Giving for May 2026 was as follows:

General Fund	\$ 58,650.84
Altar Rail	\$ 874.00
(Tejas School Supply Backpack Program)	
Total	\$ 59,524.84

METHODIST MEN

Methodist Men will meet at 6:30 PM, Thursday, July 16, in the Fellowship Hall for their monthly meeting. Come for a great program, good friendship and a delicious meal. Hope to see you!

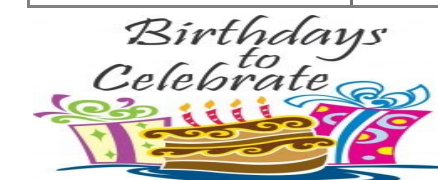
Methodist Men Chairman,
Matthew Watson

New Life FINANCIAL WELLNESS MINISTRY

Budget • Debt Strategy • Savings



Janice & Marvin Alexander	7/9
Charles & Janet Sledge	7/16
Frank & Barbara Walla	7/23
Kevin & Jill Hutchins	7/28
Charles & Pauline Ebel	7/30
Janet & Buzz Parker	7/31



Charlie	Learned	7/2
Donna	Burton	7/3
Linda	McBroom	7/11
Alex	Morgan	7/11
Allie	Morgan	7/15
Viola	Weiss	7/18
Susan	Bryant	7/18
Kim	Joost	7/23
Amy	Evans	7/24
Janet	Gillentine	7/25
Misty	Touchet	7/25
Barbara	Walla	7/27
Judy	Otto	7/30

Office closed Fri., July 3 *NOTES FROM THE OFFICE * Have a safe 4th!

We are offering a new ministry called New Life Financial Wellness. Kimberly Nickel, Certified Financial Planner, is offering free one-on-one financial planning classes for our members and those in our community. Please sign up in the narthex or fellowship hall. Kimberly will be glad to talk to you about the process.

We would like to bring a Mission Team together. Please talk to Pastor Andy or David about that opportunity. Friends 'n Fellowship returns Thursday, September 10 with a September 11th theme. Dave Smith, retired FBI agent, will share many interesting stories and take questions.

Our next AMEN Food Pantry volunteer date is Monday, July 20, from 8:30am - 12:30pm. If you cannot volunteer for an entire 4 hour shift on our dates, even an hour is appreciated. We have a food donation box in the church narthex and outside of the church office. If you take them directly to AMEN, please identify that you are donating in our church's name. Thanks! The food pantry is open Mondays 9am - noon and first and third Thursdays 4:30pm - 6pm.

This month's Emmaus Gathering will be Tuesday, July 21, 6:30pm, at First Methodist Church - Schulenburg. A potluck dinner will be served so bring a dish to share. The bus will be available. Call the church office for information.

We love to hear from you about our newsletter! If you want a hard copy mailed, the church appreciates a \$5 annual donation to cover almost half of the cost. This is not mandatory. Please have any articles in by the 20th of each month.

SECOND CHANCE

Please consider volunteering to support our ministry at Second Chance Emporium where millions of dollars have been donated back to the community. This is an excellent way to serve! We prepare the store of furniture, clothing and other treasures for resale.

Our next work dates are -

We no longer work on Mondays!
Tues., July 28 - Thurs., July 30, 9am - 3pm
Fri., July 31, - Sat., August 1, 8am - 3pm
Sunday, August 2, 11:30am

Thank you for donating your time!
Nancy, Judy, Sandy, Maxine, Lisa, Julie & Bev

Prayer Team Wednesdays 1:00pm C/R

BLESSED PRAYER SHAWLS

Do you know of someone going through an eventful time in life that is challenging or praiseworthy? We have beautiful handmade prayer shawls available to give as gifts to those who might be experiencing a joyous event or sadness in their lives. We are also recruiting those who already have a crocheting talent or would like to learn. We have yarn available to have shawls made and labels that need to be sewn onto our shawls. If you have time to donate or want more ministry information, please call the church office.



JOB OPENINGS: Mother's Day Out Paid Teacher Openings

Our church has been developing a new MDO program that we hope to launch in August that will meet on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am to 11am. Paid teaching positions are open now for those who would like to apply. Those interested in a paid teaching position can contact Susan Bryant at: mdo@newlifelg.org

Devotional and Disciple Hour Info

Upper Room... This devotional publication comes out every other month. Go to <https://www.upperroom.org/> devotionals to see archived and daily devotionals and other information.

Disciple Hour... will follow fellowship time held after the 9am worship service after fellowship time in the fellowship hall at 10:00am. John Wesley created 'Methodist Classes' where small groups meet weekly for mutual support, accountability and spiritual growth. Come take the opportunity to grow with your fellow church members in a more personal relationship with God. Please contact the church office for special needs.

Challengers Parlor - led by Jo Anne Hill

Foundations Conference Rm - led by Pastor Andy

Youth - led by Sarah Janisch and James Dornwell

Nursery & Children - led by Noreen Dopslauf and Martha Galindo. Children's take home lessons and worship service activities also available in the narthex.

New Covenant Rm 5 - led by Gary Martyr

Parables Library - led by Dale Alexander

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW

We are excited to announce that "early bird" tickets for the Women's ANEW 2026 Conference are one sale now for \$40 through August 31. Starting September 1, tickets will cost \$50. If tickets are still available after October 15, they will cost ticket price to \$60. There are two locations and dates this year Saturday, Nov. 7, at St. Luke's Methodist Church - Corpus Christi and Saturday, Nov. 16, at Tyler Street Church in Dallas. Go to midtexasgmc.org/women on the Mid-Texas website. A limited number of lunches will be available on site at an additional cost. You must pre-order for this. Plan now to attend this wonderful time of refreshment, inspiration and fellowship. Call our church office for assistance.



PLEASE JOIN US AT ONE OF THESE LOCATIONS

CORPUS CHRISTI NOV. 7, 2026 | **DALLAS NOV. 14, 2026**

UM ARMY

Youth Summer Mission Trip

Boerne, TX July 12 - 18

To Attend or Volunteer
Text or Email Jay Watson
979-249-6201; jwatson316@gmail.com

MISSION TRIP DONATIONS

Our mission trip to Boerne is July 12 - 18. Funds available to support our mission work is limited. We are asking for donations in the form of HEB Gift Cards or VISA Gift Cards (in any dollar amount) to help in this ministry. Gift cards can be dropped off in the church office or placed in the offering plates. Thank you!

LIVE SMART EXPO FUN

A DAY OF LEARNING OF GREAT SERVICES AVAILABLE NEARBY



PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING MINISTRY

COME TRY IT ARCHERY

HEALTHY EATING

SPONSORS: FAYETTE MEMORIAL NEW LIFE METHODIST FRIENDS 'N FELLOWSHIP

FURRY FRIENDS TO ADOPT

LEGAL SERVICES

FAYETTE CO TEACHERS

NUMEROUS HEALTH SERVICES

LA GRANGE COUNSELING CENTER



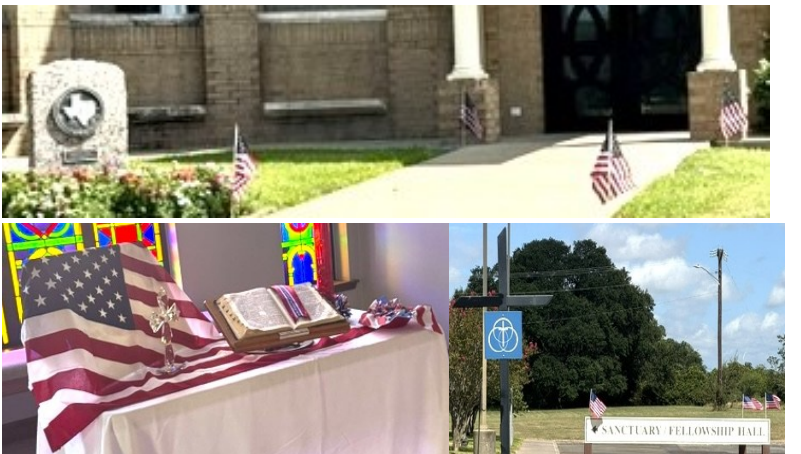
JOIN US SUNDAY, JULY 19, FOR A GAME NIGHT WITH ICE CREAM. EITHER MAKE YOUR OWN RECIPE OR BRING A CARTON OF YOUR FAVORITE ICE CREAM TO SHARE. IF YOU WANT TO BRING SOME COOKIES OR SOMETHING TO WARD OFF "BRAIN FREEZE" FEEL FREE TO DO THAT.

GMC OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR MID-TEXAS CONFERENCE

There are several Global Methodist Church opportunities available to our members such as, Storm The Gates, the official podcast of the Mid-Texas Conference. Some events are attendance only while others are available by livestream or in videos online. Here is a link to our Conference where you can sign up for emails, view and discover many opportunities to stay informed - <https://midtexasgmc.org/>. Our District is the Gonzales District and Matt Pennington, Pastor of First Methodist Church - Gonzales is our Presiding Elder. Questions about events and what they offer you? Contact our church office at 979-968-8323. We will gladly help you with specifics.



A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED AND HELPED WITH OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS YEAR. THE KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE WONDERFUL. WE INCLUDED ARCHERY IN OUR GAMES AND KIMBERLY NICKEL WAS ABLE TO INTRODUCE THE NEW LIFE FINANCIAL WELLNESS MINISTRY. WE ALL LEFT FEELING THE LOVE OF GOD!



THANK YOU TO BRENDA AND RON HOLCOMB FOR SETTING THE FLAGS OUT IN HONOR OF THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF OUR NATION. THANKS HOLCOMB'S, SUSAN BRYANT AND ADRIENNE ARMSTRONG & TIM CANADY FOR THE BEAUTIFUL INSIDE DÉCOR.

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 5:30pm - 7:30pm - VBS Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Prep Not Meeting	2 11:00am - Ladies Lunch Bunch - Kevin's Kitchen 5:30pm - 7:30pm - VBS	3 HAPPY 4TH OF JULY - OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	4
5 Communion Sunday 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am—Contemporary Service 5:00pm - Community Prayer Service - Redimidos por Cristos Church Annex Behind former 1st Baptist Church	6 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	7	8 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 10:00am - Worship @ Jefferson Place 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:00pm - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Prep - Rm 5	9	10 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	11
12 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am—Contemporary Service UM ARMY	13 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H UM ARMY	14 4:00pm - Council on Ministries Mtg - C/R UM ARMY	15 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:00pm - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Prep - Rm 5 UM ARMY	16 3:30pm - Methodist Men Meeting Prep - Kitchen 6:30pm - Methodist Men Meeting - F/H UM ARMY	17 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H UM ARMY	18 UM ARMY
19 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:10am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am—Contemporary Service 6 pm GAME AND ICE CREAM NIGHT FELLOWSHIP HALL	20 8:30am - 12:30pm AMEN Volunteer Day 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 5:30pm - Church Board Meeting - Rm 5 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	21 6:30pm - Emmaus Gathering and Potluck dinner First Methodist Church - Schulenburg	22 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:00pm - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Prep - Rm 5	23	24 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	25
26 9:45am - Combined Service 10:15am - Church Fellowship Time 10:30am - Disciple Hour Classes	27 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	28 9:00am - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol	29 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 9:00am - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:00pm - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Prep - Rm 5	30 9:00am - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol	31 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 8:00am - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	1 8:00am - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol