

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

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Non-Profit Organization



LIGHTSHINE

MARCH 2026 EDITION
 NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH



PASTOR'S PONDERING

What do most people think of when they consider Christianity? Probably forgiveness. Yes, forgiveness is central to the Christian faith. It's the whole reason Jesus died on the cross. This sacrifice provides the fresh start we need and becomes for us the way to eternal life. But if we stop there, we're missing half the story.

Methodists have always believed that the gospel is more than forgiveness. This gift of grace is amazing and necessary, but it's only the beginning. The other part of the story is holiness or what we often call sanctification. And here's the best part: this isn't something reserved for spiritual all-stars or the folks who have their lives perfectly together. Holiness, believe it or not, is God's gift for all of us.

I understand if you have reservations. You might even think that holiness is impossible. I get it. There's a lot of pressure in our world to look like you've got it all figured out. But sanctification isn't about pretending to be perfect. It's about opening ourselves up to God's grace, a grace that wants to do more than just wipe away our sins. God's grace is stubborn; it wants to work on us, in us, and sometimes in spite of us.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, had a lot to say about this. He talked about "holiness of heart and life." That means God's grace doesn't just give us a new status; it gives us a new way of living. It's like God saying, "I love you just as you are, but I love you too much to leave you that way." Forgiveness is the front door. Holiness is the house God wants to build with you.

How does this happen? Not by checking things off a spiritual list, and it's definitely not about being holier-than-thou. It starts with accepting this gift from God and being open to the idea that it's our calling to live more like Jesus. Sometimes the changes sanctifying grace makes in our lives is dramatic, like a moment of surrender or a breakthrough prayer. More often, it's the slow, steady work of practicing spiritual habits: praying even when we don't feel like it, reading Scripture and letting it read us, worshiping with others, serving in practical ways, and regularly examining our hearts.

God uses these practices, not as hoops to jump through, but ways the Holy Spirit shapes our desires, softens our hearts, and helps us grow more like Jesus. It's God's work, and we get to work with him, as we keep saying yes to God, one day at a time.

Holiness isn't a burden. It's a gift. It's God's promise that there is more – more love, more peace, more freedom, more life – waiting for us if we're willing to say yes. During Lent, please do not settle for only half the Gospel. Forgiveness is wonderful, but the deeper blessing comes with letting God make you holy, day by day.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Andy

INSPIRING READS

- Pastor's Pondering
- Musical Notes
- Altar Rail
- Methodist Men
- Finance Report
- Disciple Hour News
- Archery Fun Day
- UM Army
- Friends 'N Fellowship
- Relay for Life
- March 2026 Calendar
- Church Happenings
- Notes From the Office
- Dates to Celebrate
- Second Chance
- Prayer Team
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Bible Quiz
- Church Humor

Thank you for your generous support of our

WORSHIP TIMES

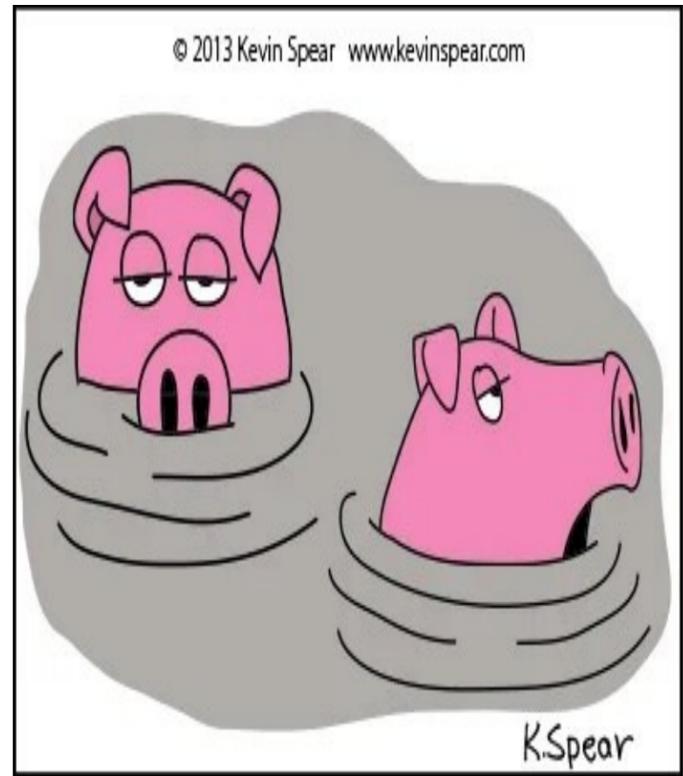
Sundays at:

- 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)



March 2026 Edition

CHURCH HUMOR



"I feel sorry for that Prodigal Son. Somebody needs to order him a pizza."

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

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62. A Discussion About Sabbath (Lord over Sabbath)

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| ABJATHAR | DOING | MEET |
| ALLOWED | EAT | MERCY |
| BREAKING | GRAINFIELDS | PICK |
| COMPANIONS | GREATER | PRIEST |
| CONDEMNED | HEADS | REQUIREMENTS |
| CONSECRATED | HUNGRY | SABBATH |
| DAVID | INNOCENT | SACRED |
| DAY | LAW | SACRIFICE |
| DESECRATE | LORD | TEMPLE |
| DESIRE | MEAN | WALKING |

MUSICAL NOTES



Pastor Andy has referred to the hymn, "Amazing Grace," several times in his sermons. Here's a bit more information about John Newton's most famous hymn that comes from *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan.

The title for this hymn was originally "Faith's Review and Expectation." It is based on Newton's study of 1 Chronicles 17:16-17: "King David . . . said: 'Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet . . . You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree . . .'"

And the nearly forgotten verse that Newton added near the end of "Amazing Grace" has been added to the hymn, "My Chains Are Gone."

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;

But God, Who called me here below, shall be forever mine.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Nancy



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

Homer Thomas UM Army Scholarship Fund

METHODIST MEN

Methodist Men will meet at 6:30PM, Thursday, March 19th, in the Fellowship Hall for their meeting. There will be a delicious meal as well as an enlightening program.

Methodist Men Chairman,
Matthew Watson

FINANCE UPDATE

Giving for January:

General Fund	\$ 55,658.91
Altar Rail	\$ 525.00

Total	\$ 56,183.91
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Please let Erica know if you have questions about your 2025 giving statements. Email finance@newlifelg.org.

*NOTES FROM THE OFFICE *

There is a special Lenten Meal Deal that AMEN is planning for recipients through Easter. We will have a recipe, information and 2 gallon Ziplock bags in the church narthex. Please consider volunteering at AMEN Food Pantry in La Grange. If you donate items directly to AMEN, please identify that you are donating in our church's name. Our next work date is March 23. In January we donated 57 pounds of groceries.

The next monthly Emmaus Gathering will be at Hallettsville First Methodist Church with a potluck for dinner at 6:30pm Tuesday, February 17. Please contact the church office at 979-968-8323 for information.

Save the date: Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, March 29, 8:30am along with a Combined Worship Service at 10am.

Our church holds a monthly 10am worship service at Jefferson Place each 2nd Wednesday. All are welcome.

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.



Cliff & Susan Gage	3/4
Al & Erica Menconi	3/9
Willie & Melanie Sneed	3/9
Pat & Tammy Budde	3/14
Heath & Jennifer Golan	3/15
Jay & Vicki Watson	3/16
Joseph & Kari Willrich	3/19
E. J. & Beverly Gray	3/21
Jim & Cindy Coleman	3/21
Ron & Carol Simons	3/24
Michael & Anissa Menefee	3/26

BLESSED PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE

Beautiful handmade prayer shawls are available to give as comforting gifts to those who might be experiencing a joyous event or sadness in their lives. We are always recruiting those who already have a talent or would like to learn to crochet. There is yarn available and tags that need to be sewn into our shawls. If you have time to donate or want more ministry information, please call the church office.



Dana Hall receives a prayer shawl (scarf) after being hospitalized for hip replacement surgery. We have others that have received these beautiful shawls. Special events of important birthdays and weddings are great example of why you may want to consider gifting one.

Prayer Team
Wednesdays
1:00pm C/R

Merry Douberly sends her many thanks for the prayers and beautiful prayer shawl that she received during her illness.

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 the 9:00AM 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. Childcare is available. Please contact the church office for other special needs.

Challengers, Parlor - led by Jo Anne Hill

Foundations, Conference Rm - led by Pastor Andy

New Covenant, Rm 5 - led by Gary Martyr

Parables, Library - led by Dale Alexander

Children's Sunday School, Rm 11 - Brenda Holcomb

Youth, Rm 14 - Sarah Janisch & James Dornwell

Light finger food refreshments are provided by our Disciple Hour Classes following this schedule -

First Sunday: **Pastor Andy's class**

Second Sunday: **Gary Martyr's class**

Third Sunday: **Dale Alexander's class** Fourth Sunday: **Jo Anne Hill's class** Fifth Sundays: **Our Church Treats**



We are hosting a fun day where kids and youth can try out archery in a safe and controlled environment. This will be held on our church grounds Saturday, March 21.

U.M. ARMY
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

Our Youth Mission trip is in Boerne, TX, July 12 - 18. Youth or Adults interested in serving are to contact Jay Watson at 979-249-6201 or email jwatson316@gmail.com.



Jennifer	Golan	3/1
Ronnie	Ray	3/3
Sandra	Anderson	3/6
James Roy	Wessels	3/8
Charles	Bailey	3/10
Linda	Childers	3/11
Billie	Ayres	3/12
Vicki	Gray	3/13
Madeline	Willrich	3/14
Rob	Emmons	3/15
Theah	Fleck	3/22
Maxine	Ballard	3/23
Myrna	Thiessen	3/23
Sandy	Smith	3/24
Heidi	Stone	3/24
Randy	Walker	3/25
Ruth Ann	Wessels	3/29

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 sale at resale pricing.

Our next work dates are -

Monday, Mar. 9, - Thursday, Mar. 12 9am -3pm

Friday, Mar. 13, - Sat., Mar. 14, 8am - 3pm

Sunday, March 15, start time 11:30pm

Note, we are no longer working on Mondays following our work week

Thank you for donating your time!

Nancy, Judy, Sandy, Maxine, Lisa, Julie & Bev

Upcoming 2026 Schedule

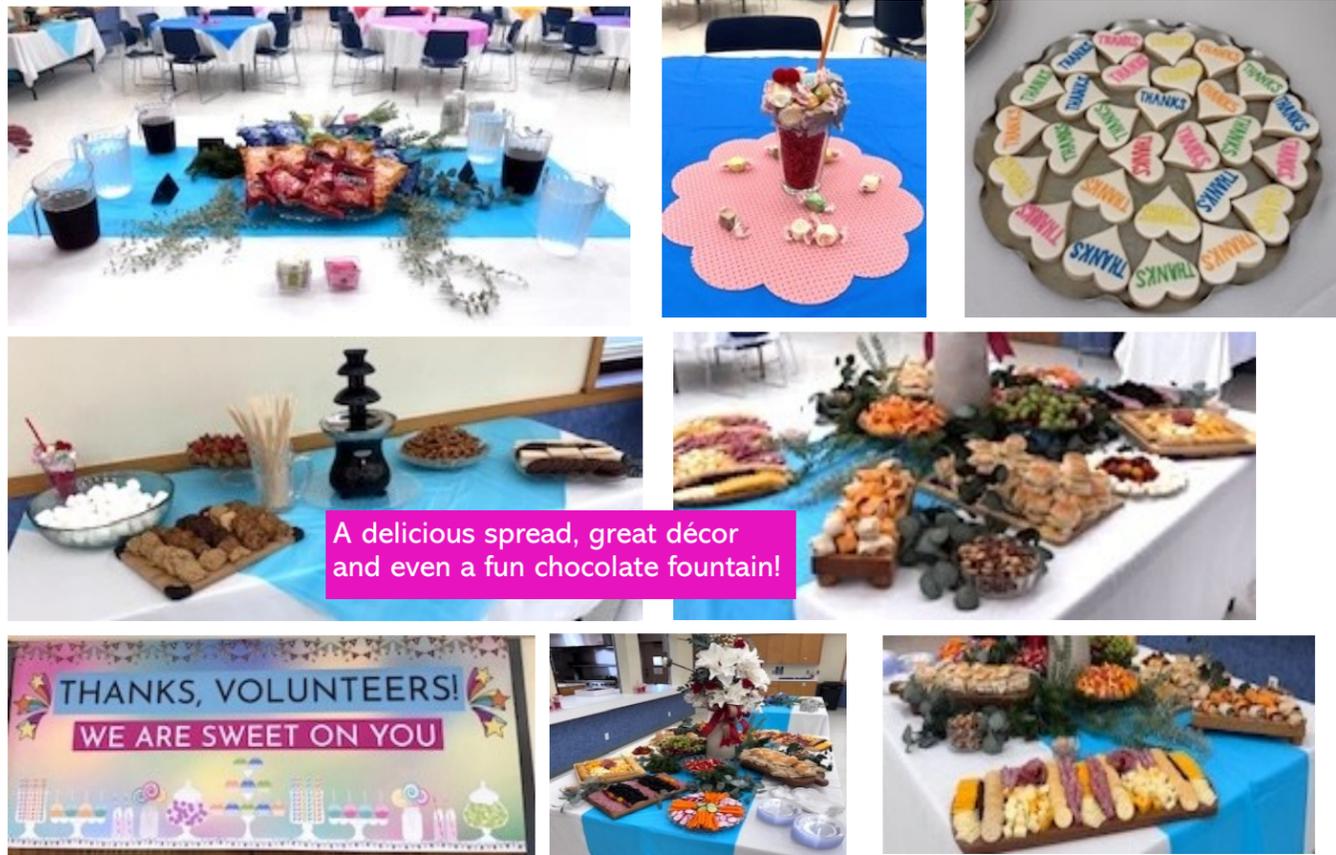
Monday, April 27 - Sunday, May 3; Monday, June 8 - Sunday, June 14

Monday, July 27 - Sunday, August 3; Monday Sep 8 - Sunday, Sep 13

Monday, October 19 - Sunday, October 25; Tuesday, Dec 8 - Sunday, Dec 13

CHURCH HAPPENINGS!

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



A delicious spread, great décor and even a fun chocolate fountain!

Sixty volunteers from AMEN, Blue Hills, 2nd Chance and Feed the Need to came by our church on Sunday, February 15, to receive our gratitude and to designate a \$10 gift to their local charity of choice to honor their efforts. Thank you to everyone who prepared a wonderful time of celebration!

HOLY LAND TRIP

Oct. 27 ~ Nov. 5, 2026

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

New Life
METHODIST CHURCH



We are excited to invite you on a life-changing trip to the Holy Land in October 2026. This trip is organized and led by Educational Opportunities (EO) Tours, a trusted Christian group tour company with decades of experience. **THE BASIC COST FOR THIS TRIP IS: \$4,198.00.** This Pricing Includes...

- Roundtrip Flights between New York & Israel
- First Class Hotel Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast and Dinner
- All Ground Transportation with Guide
- Fees, Hotel Gratuities, Gov. Taxes

Extra Expenses Not Included:
 Airfare to and from New York
 Daily Lunch (budget \$20 per day)
 Bottled Water (available on bus for \$1)
 Tip for Guide (\$6 per day)
 Travel Insurance (optional but recommended)
 Credit Card Fees (a 3.5% fee on any payments made by credit card, except for the initial deposit).

The front office will be glad to answer any questions.



**JOIN FRIENDS
'N
FELLOWSHIP
FOR A GREAT
NIGHT OF
BINGO AND
CHILI DOGS
WITH GREAT
SIDES**

BINGO
 Thursday, March 12
 5:30pm

SAVE THE DATE RELAY FOR LIFE APRIL 18, 2026



Relay for Life of Fayette County will be held on April 18, 2026 from 6 to 10 pm at Leopard Stadium. The theme this year is "United Against Cancer". Team "Stars of Hope" is participating in several fundraisers to benefit the American Cancer Society. A free will donation bake sale will be held on April 2 in front of Le Petite Gourmet Shoppe starting at 8:30 am. A drive-thru fried chicken meal will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on April 9, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased from Noreen Dopslauf, team captain. Anyone interested in signing up for the team or donating to the team can contact Noreen Dopslauf at 979-966-3164.

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 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	2 1:00pm - Emmaus Women—C/R 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library	3 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H	4 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Choir Rm	6 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 1:00pm - Friends 'N Fellowship Board Mtg - C/R	7
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME SPRING FORWARD 1 HOUR 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service	9 9:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol 1:00pm - Emmaus Women—C/R 1:00pm - Fayette Co. Retired Teachers - F/H 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library	10 9:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol 10:00am - Worship @ Jefferson Place 4:00pm - Council on Ministries Mtg - C/R 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H	11 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 9:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol 3:30pm - Friends 'N Fellowship Prep - Kitchen & F/H 5:30pm - 7pm Friends 'N Fellowship - "Bingo" Event 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Choir Rm	13 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 8:00am - Chicken Salad Prep - kitchen 8:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol	14 Blue Hills BBQ Begins 8:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol
15 Communion Sunday 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service 11:30am - Second Chance Vol Blue Hills BBQ	16 8:00am - Chicken Salad Prep - kitchen 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library 5:30pm - Church Board Meeting - Rm 5 Blue Hills BBQ	17 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H 6:30pm - Emmaus Gathering, Hallettsville First Methodist Church Blue Hills BBQ	18 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 8:00am - Chicken Salad Prep - kitchen 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal Blue Hills BBQ	19 3:30pm - Methodist Men Meal Prep—Kitchen 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Choir Rm 6:30pm - Methodist Men Meeting Blue Hills BBQ	20 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 8:00am - Chicken Salad Prep - kitchen Blue Hills BBQ	21 Blue Hills BBQ
22 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service Blue Hills BBQ	23 8:00am - Chicken Salad Prep - kitchen 8:30am - 12:30pm - AMEN Volunteer 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 4:15pm - Girls In The Middle 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library Blue Hills BBQ	24 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H Blue Hills BBQ	25 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 8:00am - Chicken Salad Prep - kitchen 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal Blue Hills BBQ	26 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Choir Rm Blue Hills BBQ	27 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 8:00am - Chicken Salad Prep - kitchen Blue Hills BBQ	28 Blue Hills BBQ Last Day
29 8:30am - Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast 10:00am - Combined Service	30 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 4:15pm - Girls In The Middle 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library	31 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H				