

First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas



Volume 18, Issue 4

May/June 2020 Newsletter

In this issue:

- Pastor's Bible Study
- Children's Ministry
- Confirmation Class
- Youth Ministry
- Summer Camp
- Class of 2020
- Scholarship Recipients
- Music Director
- Trustees Report
- Finance Committee
- Financial Numbers
- Committee Chairs
- May/June Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Prayer List

Sam's Song #5.11.20

We Methodists have always sung our faith. John and Charles Wesley were quite a pair—definitely brothers in human **genes**! But they were also *spiritual* brothers in Christ. In their ministry, they completed each other like the two legs of a well-loved pair of denim **jeans**! Our Methodist theology is rooted in scripture but punctuated with John's sermons and Charles' hymn texts. Yes, they were very different—John the prolific preacher and Charles the poet-artist accounting for some 6000 hymns. But they were a well-loved pair of *brothers*.

As I write this morning, my calendar notifications keep reminding me of things I should be doing if everything was normal. Early on, it was annoying but now I find in each notification a moment of remembering. For example-**just now as I'm typing this!**-my phone tells me that I should check on the prayer shawl people who are usually here on a Monday morning about this time. I give thanks and breathe a prayer for them by name and by smile.

But... back to the Wesley's another moment. They were all about community—**stitching relationships** with God and with people. Whether praying, preaching, or singing, the common gathering point was community. People **TOGETHER**—Living

the Word, Sharing the Sacraments, Singing their Faith, and Glowing and Going in the Spirit to Change the World.

I miss our gathering, but I get glimpses of it as I imagine you gathered in your living room or at your kitchen table with the people you love most around you and around the screen that is one of your "windows" to your church family. I want you to send me a picture of "you and yours" gathered at the kitchen table, or on the floor, or in the lawn chairs—wherever YOU gather for worship on Sunday morning. I'd like to see pictures* of your family worshipping together at the iPad, the TV, or the phone screen. Together and apart.

Church family: **You CAN still find ways to change the world one face at a time** even when we can't shake hands. We are one in spirit and in purpose. We may be apart or even alone but we are still together.

A stylized signature of the name "Sam" in a cursive font.

rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com

214-842-9252 talk or text

(* We won't share pictures without your consent!)



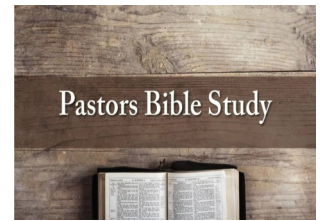
Worship Services Online: "Live @ 10:45"

We are having one service on Facebook Live. I call it "Live at 10:45." Some have said, "And just like that, all our pastors became televangelists!" But it's not about becoming famous or getting rich—it IS about worshipping together when we cannot BE together! If you are connected, please help others you know—especially our elders—get connected too. If you are a part of our 8:45am service crowd, you will be pleased that we are using both hymnals (including Cokesbury hymns!) and some fun youth songs as well.

I welcome your ideas for our worship! I have tried to use different places but may settle that soon for efficiency of set up. As you can see, we are expanding and beginning to include other voices, speaking and singing. And playing instruments. What about a community hymn sing on Zoom with the Cokesbury???

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor's Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at Noon. Please don't be afraid of Zoom! You can participate by watching without talking. Talk only if you want to! Don't be intimidated; you will find it friendly! Decide whether you would like to watch on your phone or your computer and then send me an email at rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com or a text at 214-842-9252. Then I can send you either an email or a text with a safe link to click, a meeting ID number, and a password. We are looking at the lectionary scriptures each week. These are ones that will be used in the worship service for the coming Sunday.



Children's Ministry

Hello! In the Children's Ministry department, we are contacting our families and checking in, sending out online Sunday school lessons, Mother's Day crafts ideas, and doing children's sermons for the video service. We also delivered around 20 bags filled with Easter goodies to all the kiddos in our ministry: choir, Sunday school, acolytes, and their siblings.

If you know of any children who would like to join our program and/or receive these resources, please email Amy at stark.amy1@gmail.com or Bonnie at bonnie.smith@hotmail.com.



Thanks!

Amy Stark and Bonnie Smith

Confirmation Class

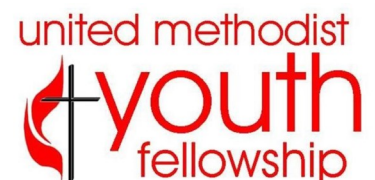
Our Confirmation Class is on hold while deciding what to do going forward. The class has had some great times this school year. Craig Jensen and Pastor Sam have shared the teaching, but Craig has done most of it. Pastor Sam went to be with the group for the Bishops Rally for Confirmation Classes all of the North Texas Conference of the UMC. It was held at Creekwood UMC in Allen. A great time was had by all playing games and participating in music, and attending worship, with Bishop McKee sharing a hopeful message and communion.



Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry is still meeting and doing activities...ONLINE! We are in touch with our youth families checking in, recruiting youth to read scripture for the service, sharing Bible verses, and playing Instagram games! Every time the kids post that day's picture on Instagram, they get a point. Whoever has the most points at the end of the week wins a prize.

If you know of any youth who would like to join our program and/or participate in these activities, please email Mandy and Jennifer at fumcommerceyouth@gmail.com.



Thanks!

Jennifer Knight and Mandy Swinson

Summer Camp

Bridgeport Summer Camp has been cancelled in its traditional form. Instead, they are offering a FREE online camp at www.bridgeportinbox.com. Families can use this curriculum in their homes as Bridgeport has combined the use of Social Media and other online sites to safely connect campers with other in home campers through out North Texas. For those looking for a more connectional experience, they have forums set up for kids to share their creations from different games and activities. In order to view and post to the forums, kids/parents will need to create a member account.

2019 Curriculum: Blueprints of the Church

This is a redesign of the 2019 Bridgeport Summer Camp Curriculum entitled "Blueprints of the Church". It comes with four lessons based around being the church:

- * Welcoming
- * Worship
- * Leading and Learning
- * Outside the Walls

2020 Curriculum: God

Adapted from the 2020 Bridgeport Summer Camp Curriculum, this curriculum explores answers to some of the difficult questions that we often ask about God:

- * Where is God?
- * When is God?
- * Who is God?
- * Why does God love us?



Congrats Class of 2020!

As you might imagine, our graduating seniors are feeling a little cheated. Students are missing out on their senior year in this historic time. Please remember all our students and their families and call or send a card or email of encouragement.

A prayer for the graduates: *"God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth. Bless these graduates as they have finished high school. We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way. Walk with them as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose. Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen."*



*Let's celebrate our FUMC high school graduates:
Maggie Robinson, Rockney Reid,
Cason Oats, Zachary Jensen,
Charlie Walker, Cailynn Beane,
and Luke Scarcelli;
and our Little Ark employee graduate:
Lana Swinson*

Congratulations to our 2020 Scholarship Recipients

Maggie Robinson and Zachary Jensen were each awarded the Weldon & Annie Reese Kibler Scholarship.

Rockney Reid and Cailynn Beane were each awarded the Leland & Mary Casey Scholarship.



Music Director Candidate

We have a promising candidate for Music Director. However, with all the uncertainties, we have made no commitment. He might join Pastor Sam for a video soon with the understanding that he is a volunteer.



Trustees Report

Chapel Repair: Roof material including the new steeple were delayed in production and the slate for the new roof shipped from Spain was quarantined in New Orleans. But at last—construction is slated to begin the second week in May. The estimated completion is three weeks. The cost of \$108,000 is covered by our Conference insurance policy.

Eagle Scout Project: Benton White, a member of our Boy Scout Troop #27, submitted a proposal to the Trustees to paint and clean up the area around the two storage sheds on the southwest corner of the church property. The project is part of the requirements for his Eagle Scout Award. Benton designed the project and will lead the troop in cleaning up the materials stored around the structures in addition to the painting. The project will be completed by the end of July.

Church Trustees

Finance Committee

I hope you are all COVID-19 free. No doubt you have at least a small case of cabin fever by now. I am sure you miss Sunday Church just like I do. Without attending church to reset your weekly clock, it is hard to keep up with what day it is.



One way to set that clock is to send in your weekly donation to the church. As you know, most of our expenses are relatively fixed and just keep piling up even if we aren't in the building. It seems some folks have forgotten the Church because donations are down. Here is an idea...take that check you got from Uncle Sam and send 10% of it to the Church.

Thanks,
Jim Brown
Finance Committee Chair

By the Numbers

Financial Information:	Worship Service
General Operating Fund	Video Views
as of March 30, 2020	3/22 2,200
Income: \$ 20,243	3/29 486
Expenses: \$ 29,621	4/5 429
-\$ 9,378	(Palm Sunday)
	4/9 420
	(Maundy Thurs.)
	4/12 820
	(Easter Sunday)
Year-to-Date	4/19 641
Income: \$ 81,188	4/26 450
Expenses: \$ 85,659	5/3 328
-\$ 4,471	5/10 253

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:
Chester Robinson
(903) 366-2125

Lay Leader:
Bill Heitholt
(903) 886-6819

SPPRC Chair:
David Giles
(817) 366-2026

Trustees Chair:
Gene Lockhart
(903) 513-8676

Finance Chair:
Jim Brown
(903) 886-7439

FUMC Foundation Pres.:
Tammy Naizer
(903) 886-1961

Worship Chair:
Nancy Doughty
(903) 886-6328

Connect/Grow Chair:
Bonnie Smith
(903) 782-5312

Serve Team Chair:
Amy Stark
(903) 246-1487

May Birthdays

- 5/1 Cameron Basden
Michael McGuyer
- 5/2 Harold Coker
- 5/4 Jeff Helton
Cindy Todhunter
- 5/5 Dane Casselberry
- 5/10 Elaine Thomas
- 5/14 Cailynn Beane
- 5/21 Sheryl Zelhart
- 5/25 Teresa Heatherly
Susan Lampe
- 5/26 Mikey Elwell
Madie Williams
- 5/27 Rayn Barton



May Anniversaries

- 5/7 Harold & Becky Coker
- 5/15 Bill & Diane Duffy
- 5/18 Mark & Frances Sartwell
- 5/22 Bill & Nancy Ogden
- 5/30 Roger & Jean Arnold
Derrell & Tiffany Harrison
- 5/31 Ray & Sabrina Green



June Birthdays

- 6/3 Michael Bourcy
Ruby Vander Velde
- 6/4 Peggy Hanak
Luke Pearce
- 6/5 David Huffman
- 6/8 Glenn Crow
Connor Green
- 6/10 Shay Bunch
- 6/12 Sarah Martin
- 6/14 Dru Casselberry
- 6/15 Bill Duffy
- 6/16 Chelsey Beane
- 6/21 Madeline Harrison
- 6/22 Kay Jensen
Sarah Staton
- 6/23 Anne Mills
- 6/24 Harriet Williams
- 6/25 Bill Heitholt
Mark Sartwell
- 6/28 Mason Bunch



June Anniversaries

- 6/2 Richie & Kim Bruister
- 6/4 Jim & Susan Patton
- 6/9 Dennis & Judy Anderson
- 6/10 Ricky & Mimi Dobbs
- 6/12 Gene & Carolyn Lockhart
Jody & Cindy Todhunter
- 6/18 Bob & Dixie Stachowiak
- 6/19 Pepper & Becky Mackie
- 6/21 David & Nelda Reid
- 6/22 Chester & Julia Robinson
- 6/25 Michael & Wanda Beane



Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Family of Dawn Parker (Jon Parker's mother)
- Tom Bailey
- Phil Barlow (Robyn Elwell's father)
- Edna O'Quinn
- Pat Skauge
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those in the medical field
- Those working in the food supply chain
- Those keeping our country safe and going

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Glenna Anderson (Dennis Anderson's mother)
- Betty Casselberry
- Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Virginia Collier
- Garrett Cramer
- Rev. Tom Dudley
- Cindy French (Marsha Shepherd's coworker)
- Jack & Gladys Gray
- Sally Grove
- Jim Guidry (Lisa & Monty McGuyer's friend)
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Debbie Hood (Cathy Giles' sister)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Zachary Madden
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Priscilla McFarland
- Betty Morton
- Alfredo Muniz
- Lona Neal (Greg Neal's Mother)
- Richard Norton
- Walt Parker
- Robert Seay
- Harley Stegall (Viola Beadles Martin's granddaughter)
- Odeana Stewart
- Donna Tavener
- James and Geneva Teel
- Brenda Wheeler (Cathy Giles' sister)
- Dennis Wilkinson

Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole
- Nick Heath
- Myra Terrell

Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

Briarcliff:

- Gene Casselberry
- Edna O'Quinn

Colonial Lodge (Tender Care):

- Joe McMahan

Greenville Health & Rehab:

- Mildred Davis

Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- Roger & Jean Arnold

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Those serving in our military:

- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- IT2 Patrick Stogner (Janelle Stogner's grandson in Japan)
- Col. Keith Williams
- Major Bob Farmer

Please pray for our people in our retirement homes (especially Edna O'Quinn who is in the hospital struggling with pneumonia). All of our folks at Oak Manor and Country Homes are bound to their rooms; they are struggling!

