



FIRST UNITED METHODIST GONZALES

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Pastor's Corner

Greetings, Church!

As I look around our community, I notice many activities are returning to a more normal operating schedule. I thought I would touch base about what we are doing here on the church campus to do our part. We have a great team caring for our facilities and keeping them clean. We regularly disinfect our campus using ULV foggers that disinfect the air and surfaces. This is a great practice, and one that helps us feel confident that all of our facilities are safe for everyone. Our goal is to ensure that the Church is a place where everyone can safely connect with God and with each other.

As the school year wraps up, I want to take a moment to say a great big THANK YOU. Thank you to the teachers, and all of the other GISD staff who have worked tirelessly to make this 2020-2021 school year a success. You made it! I know this has been a year that challenges seemed insurmountable at times, and I join the ranks of those who are so very thankful for you doing what you do to raise up the children and youth of this community. God bless each and every one of you! Enjoy your summer!

It's an honor to be your pastor.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt

Introducing Katie Foote, Youth and Family Ministries Intern

Hi! My name is Katie and I'm excited and honored to be here and to get to know y'all! I was born and raised in Houston, TX. I graduated from Texas A&M in 2011 with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Psychology. After graduation I had the joy of doing college ministry both in College Station for 2 years and then overseas for 2 years. I then did young adult ministry in Dallas for 3 years while studying at Dallas Theological Seminary. The past few years I have taken what I've called my Sabbath season, to rest and heal from some health difficulties, doing part time work as a nanny and a caregiver. Grace - unmerited kindness extended, something I think we are always learning more and more about as believers - has taken on a deeper and more beautiful meaning to me in this season. A few of my favorite things are matcha lattes, coffee, time in nature especially if it's near water, traveling, creating, music and listening to it live if possible, documentaries & musicals, puzzles, and most of all spending quality time with family and friends. I came to know Jesus in 8th grade and my life has not been the same since. My hope and prayer in life is to know Jesus and to make Him known, to be a light in the darkness. I've learned from experience that this life can be painful and hard, but that with Christ there is hope, joy, beauty and peace beyond compare. I truly look forward to meeting y'all and getting to know you better soon!



Join us in congratulating Claudia Ramirez and Nicholas Casares, who both recently graduated from high school. These two wonderful young adults make up our custodial team and they've each played an integral part during this COVID-19 season. We're extremely proud of both of them!

Thank You!

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for being an instrumental part in our annual Chad Advocacy Conference. Our topic for this year was Child Sex Trafficking awareness and prevention. There was a great turnout from those who serve our community to learn more about how we can work together to put an end to child sex trafficking.

Without your assistance in setting up equipment for our speakers and putting out chairs and tables, we would not have been able to make this event possible. Thank you for letting us use your equipment as well as your amazing space to host the conference. It went above and beyond our expectations!

We hope to be able to put on such a great conference again in the future and I am certain, that with your help, we can make it happen.

Thank you,
From all of us here at Norma's House

Dear Prayer Shawl Group,

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl. It was such a surprise! More than that though, thank you for going to God on my behalf. It means very much to me that you would. Thank you, again, for your kindness & generosity.

Jill Shreve

Dear First UMC,

We would like to thank all the ladies that brought food to the dinner after Jerry's funeral. We would like to thank the bereavement committee for the planning and the clean up afterwards. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Julia Oakes & Family

Dear Mary & Prayer Shawl Group,

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl given to my upon my grandmother's passing. When I wrap myself in it I will be reminded of her sweet love, as well as the love of the Lord and each of you sweet ladies!

Love, Felicia Cantu

Staff

Rev. Dr. Matt Pennington, Lead Pastor
Allison Davis, Dir. of Children & Family Ministries
Felicia Cantu, Office Manager
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager
Katie Foote, Youth & Family Ministries Intern
Janelle Lester, Wesley Nurse
Christina Menking, Organist
Bill Meadows, Pianist
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you very much for the Bible! I will take this Bible to college with me so I know I have the word of the Lord with me 24/7. Thank you for the cup and the magnet.

Thank you,
Natalie Tenberg

Earth Angels

Earth Angels are officially on hiatus! We'll resume meetings in September; however, we will not quit sewing. We're continuing to make place mats for The Romberg House, The Texan, and The Heights. We will continue to work on the tops for our group project which should be ready by September, as well as working on our personal and donation quilts. In September, we'll return refreshed and renewed. Anyone interested in quilting is invited to join us at that time.

The next meeting of Earth Angels will be on September 14, the second Tuesday of the month in the FUMC Fellowship Center at 6 PM. Meeting items include mentioning those needing prayers or needing to be "Wrapped in God's Love" by donation quilts, the sharing of anything related to quilting, inspirational readings, and Show and Tell items which are available to view on our Facebook page. Come join us in September; we'll be looking for you.

STATISTICAL REPORT APRIL 2021

Finance	<u>Jan - Apr</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	<u>202,818.19</u>
Gross Profit	202,818.19
Expense	
40000 · Facility Operations	35,514.55
60000 · Ministry Work Areas	11,594.11
65200 · Lawn Care	700.00
66000 · Payroll	118,470.57
66100 · Staff Benefits	10,185.39
67000 · Church Clergy Exp.	16,627.86
76000 · Apportionments/Conf.	<u>20,921.43</u>
Total Expense	<u>214,013.91</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-11,195.72</u>
Net Income	<u>-11,195.72</u>

June Birthdays

6/1	Corie Connell Briggs Gindler Megan Tenberg	6/10	Cooper Russell	6/19	Royce Towns, Jr. Lisa Ehrig Jennifer Pennington
6/2	Jeffrey Mills Kirk Bennett	6/11	Cody Stowers	6/20	Debbie Fogle
6/3	Susanne Bennett Camden Bryant	6/12	Kay Burrough Stephen Tenberg Brent Gindler	6/21	Michelle Lavender Steven Gottwald
6/4	Braden Clampit	6/13	Janie Massey John Parr	6/22	Lilah Coke
6/5	Jeanette Pruet	6/14	Alexis Cerda	6/23	Pam Lester Emma Morgan Joshua Fogle
6/6	Doreen Fink Marge Frye Katie Garcia Kenna Oates Weldon Holub	6/16	Connor Pruet	6/24	Maydell Pankey Dixie Lester Cotton Russell
6/8	Julia Oakes David Pruet	6/17	Roland Escobedo D'Anna Robinson	6/25	Victor Brown, Jr.
		6/18	Gena Bennett Ashtyn Kardosz Grady Hilbig	6/27	Irene Oakes
				6/28	Sonya Crawford Grace Pennington

June Anniversaries

6/1	Chris & Rachelle Pearson Billy & Sue Boothe	6/11	Mike & Irene Oakes Bill & Jeanette Mayer Wayne & Erin Baker
6/2	Royce, Jr. & Terry Towns	6/13	Mike & Sarah Miller
6/3	Cody & Noelle Stowers	6/16	Jay & Donna Gray
6/4	Greg & Dee Dee Sengelman Seth & Christi Fullilove	6/18	Steve & Mary Willman
6/5	Bill & Willa Keck	6/22	Bubba & Lisa Ehrig
6/6	Brent & Kayla Gindler	6/24	Mike & Jennifer Rosenauer
6/7	Leon & Mali Ivey	6/25	Commie & Donna Hisey
6/8	Leslie & Deanie Ploeger Todd & Sonya Crawford	6/27	Grayson & Nicki Meredith
6/10	Bryan & Ellen Denman Al Wayne & Nila Ehrig	6/28	Ross & Sarah Gottwald
		6/29	Keith & Judy Schauer
		6/30	Tom & Pam Lester

Please contact Felicia at the church office, 672-8521, if your information is missing or incorrect.

Altar Flowers for June are given by:

June 6-Greg and Joan Griffin

June 13-Garland Tenberg, Jr. and Family ~ In Memory of Garland and Dorothy Tenberg and Alfon and Stella Barta

Dewey, Amanda and Adaline Smith ~ In Honor of Autumn Grace

June 20-Derrick, Janelle, Dixie Rea, Ellie Mae, Stayton, Maverick and Rustin Lester ~ In Memory of Abby Lee and Bella Lynn Lester

June 27-Steve and Mary Willman ~ In Honor of Edith Willman and In Memory of Tom and Rita Elder and Bob Willman

Bill and Juanita Blundell ~ In Memory of Connie Blundell Riley

Wesley Nurse News

Dear Church Family,

"Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in distress." - Psalm 31:9

More than one million Americans at or over age 40 are currently blind. Vision impairment creates problems for an additional 2.4 million. As Baby Boomers age, these numbers are expected to double. That means this is a problem for all of us. Blindness and visual impairment from many eye diseases and disorders can be reduced when detected and treated early. The leading causes of vision blindness and visual impairment include:

- **Diabetic Retinopathy:** This common complication of diabetes affects and impairs vision in nearly half of all diabetics to some degree over their lifetime. Blood vessels of the retina can break down, become blocked or leak. Effective treatment includes laser surgery and some medications. Diabetics require annual dilated eye exams.
- **Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD):** AMD is the most common cause of legal blindness and vision impairment in older Americans because it damages central vision. There is no generally accepted treatment, but laser therapies may reduce the risk of further vision loss.
- **Cataract:** This is the clouding of the lens of the eye and usually appears with advancing age but can be linked to smoking, diabetes and excessive exposure to sunlight. Surgical treatment can eliminate vision loss by replacing the eye's lens.
- **Glaucoma:** Vision loss is caused by gradual damage to the optic nerve which carries visual information from the eye to the brain. Vision loss is not noticed until significant nerve damage has occurred, so screenings are important for early diagnosis when it can be controlled. Any vision loss cannot be restored.

We have a responsibility to care for our eyesight. God has given us our body and the resources to care for it. In 1 Corinthians 3:16 Paul tells us, "You yourselves are God's temple and ...God's spirit lives in you." In verse 9 he says, "You are God's field, God's building." By seeing our eye doctor regularly for vision exams and following our doctor's advice, we become good stewards of our bodies. We use the resources God has given us, so we can become the extraordinary servants He intends us to be.

"Turn and answer me, O Lord my God! Restore the sparkle to my eyes..." Psalm 13:3

Your vision naturally changes as you age but medical conditions can cause additional vision losses at various times of your life. Your vision loss may be a difficulty with either the central or peripheral vision fields. It might be blurred vision, light sensitivity, night blindness, or even a hazy vision. Visit an eye care professional if you have difficulty with: close-up work or reading, determining colors, recognizing friends, reading signs, difficulty completing daily activities. It is important to determine if your problem can be treated with a pair of glasses or if it is disease related requiring surveillance and additional treatment. An early diagnosis of glaucoma, cataracts, macular degeneration, or diabetic retinopathy will make a huge difference in managing your vision.

"Look, I have seen all this with my own eyes and heard it with my own ears, and now I understand." - Job 13:1

In His Service, Your Wesley Nurse,
Janelle Lester, BSN, RN

References / Resources: www.afb.org – American Foundation for the Blind – information for families, educators and professionals on vision issues, devices, policy, and Braille - www.aoa.org/ - American Optometric Association – information for professionals and families on specific disease processes, vision problems, and healthy practices for all ages - www.cclvi.org – Council of Citizens with Low Vision International – has resources, links, and quarterly audio/large-print newsletter for the vision impaired-www.lighthouse.org – Lighthouse International – provides clinical services, education, research, and advocacy to preserve vision and assist people with low vision-www.navh.org/ - National Association for Visually Handicapped – health information for specific eye disorders, services for low vision, and a catalog of visual aids-www.nei.nih.gov – National Eye Institute/National Institute of Health – consumer information, resources, and research on eye health

Announcements –

- FREE Health Screening Event – Please join me at Henson Chapel on Thursday, June 17th from 10 am – 2 pm for a Community Outreach Event. The Texas Kidney Foundation will be performing Kidney Screenings, there will be blood pressure screenings, along with other healthcare vendors at the event. If you would like to participate in the event, please RSVP by calling or texting me at 830.888.9780. All participants will be asked to please wear a mask.

- Blood Drive – On Sunday, June 20th, we will be hosting our second blood drive of the year! The South Texas Blood and Tissue Centers will be in the parking lot, in front of the church from 8 am – 12:30 pm. Please sign up to donate and contact me if you need help with the process. I would be happy to assist you! The gift of life is priceless and with your donation, you can help save lives.

As we are all continuing to learn to coexist with COVID-19, my office visits look a little different. I am available to take in-person office visits for individuals who need any of my services. These appointments will follow a specific process, starting with pre-appointment telephone screening and we will continue to practice social distancing. All patients will be required to wear a mask in the Wesley Nurse's office. Please call or email me, and we can arrange for a phone visit if you are unable to come in for an in-person appointment. You can reach me by phone at 830.888.9780, or by email at jlester@mhm.org.

Youth News

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

Confirmation Students

After navigation schedule conflicts and pandemic hurdles, all of our confirmands have finally been confirmed! Congratulations to Emma Balfanz, Emma Froh, Jacob Froh, Colt Robinson, Andrew Decou (Belmont), Dakota Schmidt, Megan Tenberg, Thomas Hardcastle, and Joelee Lester!



Testimony Night

It is always a joy for us to hear one of our youth stand up in front of their peers and share about God's faithfulness in their lives! Shout out to Faith Lester for sharing how God has helped and blessed her in the midst of struggles. We are also thankful for Jonah Brown who leads us in worship on these special nights!



Spaghetti Supper

Another great year for Spaghetti Supper! Thank you to everyone who supported this amazing fundraiser! It goes such a long way to supporting the continued growth of both our children and youth ministries. Thank You!



Youth News cont.

Senior Sunday

We had a great turn out for our Senior Sunday Celebration. Join us in celebrating Samantha Barnick, Nicholas Casares, Braden Clampit, Cade Davis, Tristin Davis, Jake Hardcastle, Weldon Holub, Brett Jahns, Ashtyn Kardosz, Jaydyn Lookabill, Lindsey Low, Emily Moore, Peyton Ruddock, Hayley Sample, Natalie Tenberg, Cameron Vernor, and Jordan Williams. We pray that God will continue to guide them wherever life takes them!



Shrimp Boil Party

We ended the school year without annual shrimp boil where we welcome the summer time and most importantly, the incoming 7th graders to the youth group! This year was bittersweet as it was also the last youth group with Brian and Katrina.



A LETTER FROM BRIAN AND KATRINA

Our dear church family, the first place we called home as a family of 3, you will forever have a special place in our hearts. During our time in Gonzales, we have been shown generosity and love during personal celebrations and hardships. We cannot thank you all enough for making our first ministry position the best that we could have ever hoped for. We have been blessed to see the youth group flourish over the past four and a half years, and it has been one of our greatest joys to be a part of the work that God is doing in this community. We know and trust that the youth ministry is God's, and He will continue to pour His love into it long after we are gone! We will miss you all deeply. You have been our family while we have lived here! The kind of love that comes from sharing a bond with Christ is not easily broken. We love you all and pray for the absolute best God has to offer! With the love of Christ, Brian and Katrina Sherman.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Poolside Bible Studies

This summer Poolside Bible Studies will happen. Be on the lookout for upcoming dates, times, and locations.



SUMMER CAMPS

July 19-23 Revive Summer Camp at Latham Springs

Register at revivetexas.org. \$300 per person. Contact the church office about SCHOLARSHIPS! It's going to be an awesome week of powerful worship, making new friends, and strengthening your relationship with God!



Sendhub

To get weekly updates of youth events....

Parents, text the word "parents" to (956)752-3909 and follow instructions.

Youth, text the word "gonzales" to (956)752-3909 and follow instructions.

Book Club News

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins, our May selection, was a gripping novel set in the city of Acapulco and along the route north as a middle-class book store owner and her young son make their way north to the United States after a violent drug cartel murders her husband and extended family. While the book offers no solutions to the complex border problems, it certainly offered insight into who may be coming and why and the incredible difficulties they face on the trip north.

For June, we will read a much lighter book by Anne Tyler who has the ability to create characters that the reader cares about. Micah, the main character in Red Head by the Side of the Road, is just such a character. A middle-aged IT nerd who has trouble relating to the world provides humor and pathos.

Book Club will meet on Thursday, June 24 at 9:30 in the Bride's Parlor and everyone is welcome. Call 672-9307 or 857-4148 for more information.

Martha Jo Whitt

Children's Corner

Treasured VBS is just around the corner and I am in need of volunteers. Please consider helping make this event successful. Many volunteers have been working diligently preparing decorations and organizing plans for the children. This is the largest outreach ministry we offer to our community. This year on Sunday June 20th, we invite you to join us to help decorate and make final preparations for VBS. A light lunch will be served and then we will get work. I have divided us into 4 teams to help us accomplish this important task as efficiently as possible. Please considering serving on this Sunday.



VBS will take place June 21-24 from 9 am to 12 pm. VBS is open to children age 3 through exiting 5th graders. VBS is one way we can show God's love to these children and their families. Thank you for always welcoming the children and parents to our VBS program.

Registration forms are available in the church office and the Narthex. T-shirts are still only \$5 for participants and free for all volunteers! Register early!

I challenge you to prayerfully consider volunteering in one of our many roles at VBS. We have a spot for you. If this something you are called to participate, we would love to have you.

Basic Training Camp, for exiting 3rd-exiting 5th grade, still has spots available for girls and boys. Camp dates are July 18-21. This is a great 1st time camp! I will be serving as camp counselor again this year. This year registration starts by completing a quick online form found on the Crossroads District website. Please let me know if you have any questions about camp. We are also looking for Youth Aged counselors if your child is interested in being a camp counselor let me know ASAP. The counselor application deadline is May 31st.

Lego Camp is back this summer! August 2-6 Registration is underway. Registration forms are available in the church office. The registration fee will remain \$125.00. The deadline to register is July 23. Ages 5-7 classes are 9am-12pm and Ages 8-12 classes are 1pm-4pm.





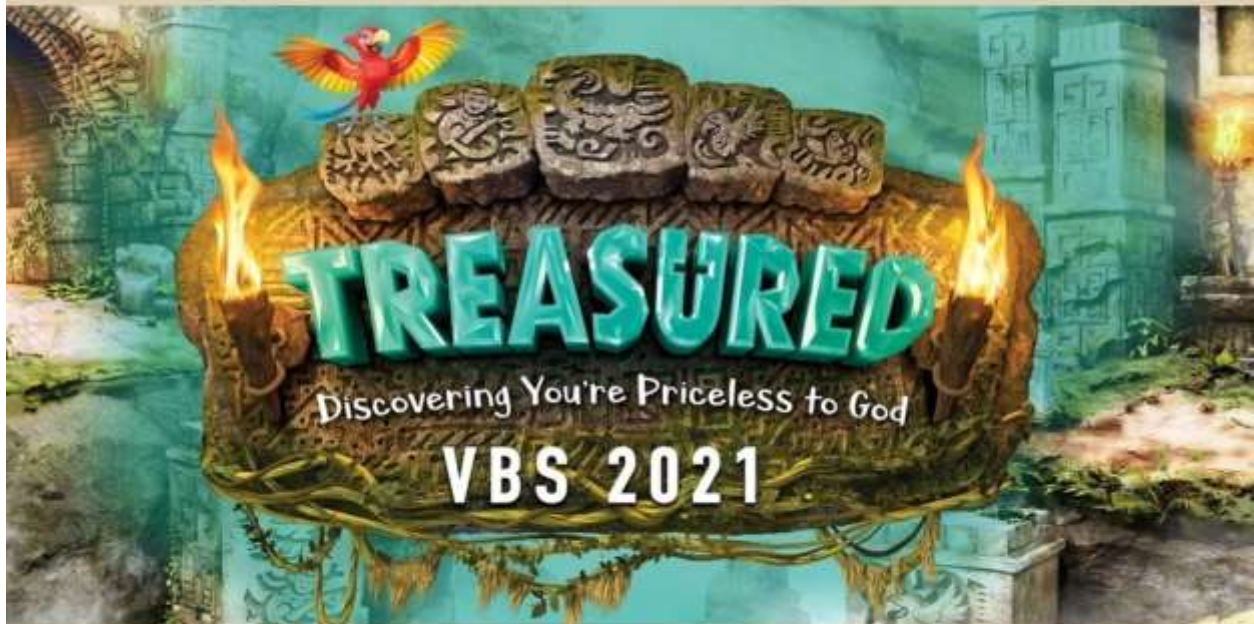
First United Methodist Church
426 Saint Paul Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629

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June 21-24

9AM-NOON



Spaces Limited! REGISTER NOW!