



FUMC Newsletter

MARCH 2016

426 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX 78629
Phone: 830-672-8521 Fax: 830-672-4612 www.fumcgonzales.org

Pastor's Corner

Did you hear the joke about the couple that was getting ready to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary? Both the husband and wife decided they would purchase a new vehicle as a gift. He wanted a new truck. She wanted a FAST sports car. The discussion got pretty heated until the wife finally put her foot down, ***“Look, I want something that goes from 0 to 150 in under 5 seconds, and that’s all there is to it!”***

On the day of the anniversary, the wife went out to the garage, but there was no new car. Angry, she went back inside looking for an explanation from her husband, but he was not home. Frustrated and upset, she went into the bathroom to get dressed. There, sitting on the floor, wrapped in a big red ribbon was her anniversary present...something that would go from 0 to 150 in under five seconds. ***It was a new scale!*** {I hope you can get a laugh from this!}

I share this joke because I want you to think about anniversaries. We all remember special dates in our lives; these are moments we honor and cherish. If you think about it, the Bible is full of festivals and holy days set aside to provoke memories and acts of historical importance. In the Jewish faith, the feast of Passover marks the anniversary of God’s deliverance for the Jews living as slaves in Egypt. The original Passover involved the slaughtering of a lamb whose blood was put over the doorposts as a sign of faith. The Lord passed over the houses of the Jews during the last plague poured out on the Egyptians – the filling of every firstborn.

During His last supper Jesus established Himself as the new Passover lamb. By His sacrifice on the cross, all those who have faith in Him shall be delivered from slavery to sin and death. We honor this act with a special anniversary celebration. It’s known as Easter Sunday! But with every Sunday, and with every celebration of Holy Communion, we celebrate the anniversary of what Christ has done for us.

Anniversaries are important to our spiritual lives; they retell the great story of God’s grace and love in our lives. As a congregation, we have the opportunity to celebrate a special milestone: ***our 175th anniversary.*** God has been working through the life of this congregation before Texas was even a Republic!

I’m organizing a special committee tasked with planning our 175th anniversary celebration. The goal is to have this event in the early spring of 2017 (about a year from now.) We want this event to be special as we cherish our past and look forward to the future. If you would like to be part of this special planning committee, please let me know.

In Christ’s Service,
Andy



Gonzales FUMC Commemorative Church Plates

Have you gotten yours? Need a present? Need a special gift?

Why not give a commemorative plate? There are 24 plates available!

The price has been reduced from \$25 to \$15.

We would love to sell you one or more!

Available at the Church office (672-8521) Get yours today!!!



*Altar Flowers for March
are given by:*

March 6

Kenneth and Sue Gottwald
In Honor of Our Families

March 13

Mark and Kim Strozier
In Honor of Judith Marie Hurley

Kelly Allen
In Honor of Percy and Arline Pettus

March 20

Bradley and J. C. Avant
Bobby and Connie Avant
In Memory of Clyde and Jo B. Farmer

March 27

Easter Lilies

Staff

Rev. Andy Smith, Senior Pastor
Willa Keck, Children's Ministry Director
Felicia Cantu, Office Manager
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager
Janelle Lester, Wesley Nurse
Craig Aamot, Music Minister
Christina Menking, Organist
Bill Meadows, Pianist
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director
Rosannah Green, Attendance
Lupe Longoria, Custodian

Happy House Enrollment

School Year 2016-2017

Going On Now!

Call School Office 672-7879



Book Club News

How could you survive World War II as a young, totally blind girl in France? Our February selection, All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, has been on the best-seller lists for over a year and for good reason. The novel takes place during World War II in France and Germany and traces the lives of two young people, a very intelligent orphaned German boy and a blind French girl. The girl's father makes intricate wooden boxes and houses with secret openings and uses these to teach her to independently move around the city. Eventually, near the end of the war, the lives of the two youth intertwine. The plot and numerous characters and settings made the book somewhat challenging to read, but the group thoroughly recommends it. Some of you who read and enjoyed our earlier selection The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah will definitely want to read this one, too.

Our March selection is a non-fiction book, Liberty's Torch: The Great Adventure to Build the Statue of Liberty by Elizabeth Mitchell. It, too, spent time on the best-seller list and should be an insight to that great monument that is a beacon to the world and a symbol to all Americans of the freedom we hold dear. Plus, the time of its building and design (1870's) was a fascinating period of extreme growth and development in our country.



Come join us on Thursday, March 24 at 9:30 in the church library for discussion of the March selection. Everyone is welcome!

Martha Jo Whitt



Thank You

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the very generous donations made. We are truly grateful and appreciate the continued support.

Norma's House

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for all your calls, cards, food & prayers. It is so comforting to know you are always there.

Sincerely, Charlotte Wilson

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl. I know it was lovingly knitted and will be comforting. Your thoughts and prayers are a blessing.

Rosemary Hindman

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you for your prayers, cards, words of kindness, the food & fellowship. Thank you for being such a great church family. We appreciate each one of you.

Ann, Debbie, Ken, Becky Robinson

Dear Bereavement Committee,

Thank you for providing food & working in the kitchen after dad's service. We appreciate all your hard work in getting it together & being there to support our family.

Ann, Debbie, Ken, Becky Robinson

Dear Earth Angels,

We want to thank you all for the beautiful quilt you sewed for our baby boy. We will certainly get much use of it in the years to come. We also want to thank you for the diapers. They were much needed. Thank you again and God bless!

Sincerely, Houston & Maggie

Dear FUMC Church Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, food and visits during my stay in the hospital and rehab. I am improving every day so keep the prayers coming.

Royce Towns, Jr.

Dear Kathy & The Shawl Ministry,

Thank you for the shawl and prayers. It has been a great comfort to me.

Royce Towns, Jr.

Dear Friends of First United Methodist Church & Pastor Andy,

Thank you so much for all the prayers and kindness shown to us at this time of the loss of John's brother, Jimmy. We feel very blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Blessings, John & Edith Lucas

Dear FUMC,

Thank you so much for all the underwear, socks, and pants. You have no idea how much it is appreciated.

Love, East Avenue Susanne & Nikki



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 24: MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:00p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 25: GOOD FRIDAY

5-7p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer

Sunday, March 27: EASTER SUNDAY

6:30a.m. Sunrise Service

at the Amphitheater

7:15a.m. Easter Breakfast

FUMC Fellowship Hall

8:30a.m. Easter Sunday Service

10:25a.m. Butterfly Release

10:45a.m. Easter Sunday Service

Earth Angels

Women who are interested in quilting make up our group called Earth Angels. Meetings are usually held at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month, in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Center. A typical meeting involves an inspirational reading followed by the mentioning of persons who may be in need of prayers or in need of being "wrapped in God's love" by the presentation of a quilt. Members share ideas, show quilts they have made, and engage in quilting projects. Fellowship and sharing play a major role in Earth Angels. Feel free to visit our next meeting on March 8, 2016; we'd love to have you.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1	Bruce Gindler	3/16	Kenneth Brzozowski	3/25	Dale Schellenberg
3/3	Randon Ulcak J.R. Ryan	3/17	Jayne Finch Valorie Daniel Kenneth Fink Dorothy Tenberg		Joshua Malaer Jessica Arledge Case Petras Oliver Georgiou
3/4	Kelley McNabb Lanece Gibson Barbara Blanchard	3/18	LaVerne Davis Weston Ruddock Addison LaTourette	3/26	Virginia Hallmark Martin Dawe
3/5	Carolyn Harrell	3/21	Alvin Lacy Elsie Mosher Hadley Borrer Brody Borrer	3/27	Heather Henry Allyson Kusak
3/7	Bill Blundell Mary Lena Kosser	3/22	Laura Wolting Jase Ehrig	3/28	Victor Dolezal
3/9	Robbie Harris	3/23	Forrest Penney Jason Ploetz Baron DuBose	3/29	Maggie Barnick Allyson Schauer Larry Frye Presley Tuch Abigail Hornung
3/10	Kelly Allen	3/24	Ruth Denman Ethan Mendel Tina Lyles Bobby Avant Lisa Brown	3/30	Nathan Medellin
3/11	Ryan Kocian Audrey Thibodeaux Wade Zella			3/31	Mike Miller Houston Munson, III
3/12	Kathie McLain Sarah Gottwald				
3/13	Trey Lester Sophie Georgiou				
3/14	Blakely Mercer Judy Gentry				
3/15	Lu Ann Shelton Brady Herndon				



ANNIVERSARIES

3/3	Ronnie & Christina Menking Bruce & Lisa Gindler
3/6	Bill & Juanita Blundell
3/7	Matt & Cheryl Atkinson
3/14	David & Leslie Bird
3/18	Bert, Jr. & Frances Ehrig David & Jeanette Pruett
3/23	Lance & Kelsie Remschel
3/30	Dakota & Sierra Brown

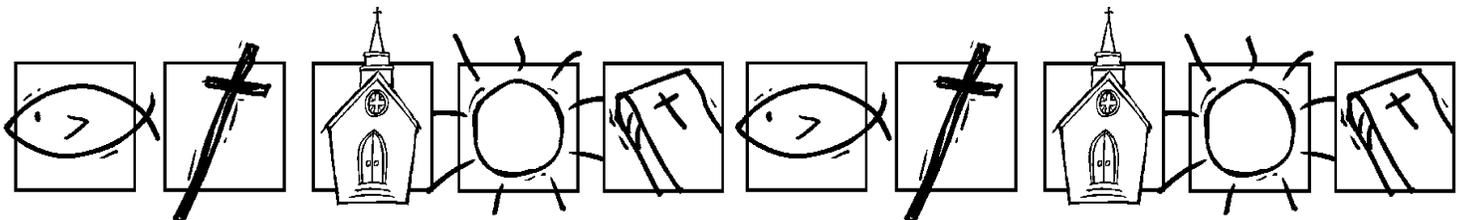


Daylight Savings Time begins March 13th. Be sure to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.



MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<p>March 6, 2016</p> 	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Cree Stowers Megan Tenberg Ashtyn Kardosz</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) Dena Fritz Herman Grauke Commie Hisey John Lucas</p> <p>Johnnie Fogle Willa Keck</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Ava Medellin Grace Morgan Sadie Morgan</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) Bobby Morgan Ray Neitsch Leslie Ploeger Kelly Allen</p> <p>J. Lynn Barnick Willa Keck</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>March 13, 2016</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Hadley Borrer Brody Borrer Josie Stowers</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) Kenneth Fink Joe Britt Hindman Ronnie Menking Greg Sengelmann</p> <p>Dale Graham Lisa Gindler</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Paisley Ploeger Weston Ruddock Peyton Ruddock</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) David Bird Jeffery Braune Mike Davis Bitsy Henderson</p> <p>Kelly Allen Lisa Gindler</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>March 20, 2016</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Cole Boothe Morgan Boothe Daniel Sullivan</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) Steve Taylor John Whitt Martha Jo Whitt Jimmy Borrer</p> <p>Rosannah Green Commie Hisey</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Macy Sample Parker Storey Sadie Thibodeaux</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) Eldon Farek Dick Goss Shirley Goss Greg Griffin</p> <p>David Bird Commie Hisey</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>March 27, 2016</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Mallory Clack Braden Clampit Natalie Tenberg</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) Billy Boothe Sue Boothe Erwin Ckudre Gary Clack</p> <p>Rosemary Hindman Allison Davis</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Slone Gibson Nicholas Casares Seth Gibson</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) Tom Lester Sr Cheryl Meadows Justin Pope Mary Tomas</p> <p>Dick Goss Allison Davis</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>



March 2016

March 2016

April 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Feb 28	29	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
Feb 28 - Mar 5			10:00am Shut-In-Visitation	8:30am Happy House 9:00am HH Creative Movement-FC 10:00am Bible Study-CO 12:00pm Lenten Service 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:15pm Jr. High Youth 5:15pm Praise Band Pr 5:30pm Prsie Band Pr 6:15pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	6:00am Men's Group-N 9:30am Communion @ Care Centers 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO		
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mar 6 - 12	COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 12:00pm Hosannah Choir Practice-CR 2:30pm Communion @ Romberg House 4:00pm Confirmation Class-YR	8:30am Happy House 9:00am Happy House Trike-a-Thon-FC 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 5:30pm Wesleyan Circle-N 6:00pm Quilt Group-FC	8:30am Happy House 9:00am HH Creative Movement-FC 10:00am Bible Study-CO 12:00pm Lenten Service 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:00pm Hosannah Choir 5:15pm Jr. High Youth 5:15pm Praise Band Pr 6:15pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	6:00am Men's Group-N 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack-CR	9:00am Seniors In Action-N	Private Event-N
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mar 13 - 19	Blood Drive 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 12:00pm Hosannah Choir Practice-CR	12:00pm Cancer Support Group-N 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation	10:00am Bible Study-CO 12:00pm Lenten Service & Lunch 5:15pm Praise Band Practice-S 6:15pm Choir Practice-CR	6:00am Men's Group-N 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO		District Youth Rally-Cath
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Mar 20 - 26	Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 4:00pm 4:30pm 4-H-FC 4:00pm Confirmation Class-YR	8:30am Happy House 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation	8:30am Happy House 9:00am HH Creative Movement-FC 9:00am HH Easter Egg 10:00am Bible Study-C 12:00pm Lenten Service 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:15pm Easter Egg Hun 5:15pm Jr. High Youth 5:15pm Praise Band Pr 6:15pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	6:00am Men's Group-N 9:30am Book Club-L 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service-S	Good Friday Office Closed 5:00pm Sanctuary Open for Prayer	
	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
Mar 27 - Apr 2	Easter Sunday 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:20am Butterfly Release 10:45am Worship-S	8:30am Happy House 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation	8:30am Happy House 9:00am HH Creative Movement-FC 10:00am Bible Study-CO 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:15pm Jr. High Youth 5:15pm Praise Band Practice-S 6:15pm Choir Practice-CR 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	6:00am Men's Group-N 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO		

United Methodist Women News

Report from the UMW Study

On February 1st the UMW hosted a study on Wesley's perspective on happiness and how one defines and how one is misled on this topic. Seven participants were in attendance, six ladies and one gentleman.

Pastor Andy Smith led our mission study which was based on the book: **Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God** by Cynthia Hopson and Sarah Lancaster.

The content had to do with myths about happiness, cultural features, Bible based content, John Wesley's theology on the subject, and a Methodist approach to happiness.



In summary, there were five cogent points in the discussion:

1. Lasting, true happiness is satisfying one's desire for God—from within—holiness-sanctification.
2. Happiness is funbut not defined by fun and material things
3. Happiness is not simply an elevated, pleasant feeling.
4. Happiness focuses on NOW – not past or future.
5. Loving more the way God does is essential in happiness.

Many of the participants has experienced personal tragedies in their own personal lives and shared how the study applied to them.

Lunch was served at noon. All experienced not just a knowledgeable day but a very spiritual day moved by the spirit within the participants.

These studies occur annually and are sponsored by UMW. UMW does not target just Methodist Women, but both genders and other denominations as well. As Wesley said, "The world is my parish."

Thank You for Your Donations

Our wonderful congregation gave so many socks and underwear that we were able to divide them between East Avenue and Legacy Ranch.

Then, with the monetary donations, we were able to purchase **89** items of clothing. Willa is an experienced shopper who can really find bargains. Cheryl and Willa had fun matching items to make sets.

On Tuesday, February 16th, the Pastor, Willa, Rosemary, Allison, and Felicia visited the ranch and was able to give them our donations..

On February 19th, Cheryl stopped by East Avenue to deliver lots of socks and underwear and 12 pairs of pants for the children there. The items were received with great joy.

Thank you again for your generous hearts.

STATISTICAL REPORT JANUARY, 2016

<u>DATE</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>10:45</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>OFFERINGS</u>
3	106	133	239	79	\$ 13,062.81
10	95	120	215	75	\$ 10,233.75
17	117	130	247	74	\$ 7,689.53
24	106	168	274	82	\$ 12,388.20
31	—	188	188	67	\$ 6,378.50
TOTALS:	424	739	1163	377	\$ 49,752.79
AVERAGES:	106	148	233	75	

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH: \$ 43,935.94
NET GAIN OR LOSS FOR THE MONTH: \$ 5,816.85
APPORTIONMENTS PAID TO DATE: 1%

Wesley Nurse News

“Brain Injury Awareness”

Our Heavenly Father has given health laws to teach us how to care for our bodies. One of the great blessings we received when we came into this world was a physical body. Our Father knows that we face temptations to treat our bodies unwisely or to take harmful things into them. For this reason he has told us which things are good for our health and which things are bad. The scriptures tell us about God’s laws: “No temporal commandment gave I . . . , for my commandments are spiritual.” This means that His commandments concerning our physical state are for our spiritual good. When we keep the Lord’s law of health and obey his other commandments, the Lord promises to bless us physically and spiritually.

This month our awareness is on brain injury. Individuals who sustain brain injuries must have timely access to expert trauma care, specialized rehabilitation, lifelong disease management and individualized services and supports to live healthy, independent, and satisfying lives. *Brain injury is unpredictable in its consequences. Brain injury affects who we are, the way we think, act, and feel. It can change everything about us in a matter of seconds.* The most important things to remember are, no two brain injuries are exactly the same, the effects of a brain injury are complex and vary greatly from person to person, and the effects of a brain injury depend on such factors as cause, location in the brain, and severity.

One brain injury that we may encounter in our lifetime with a family member is a **stroke**. A stroke is a medical emergency. Strokes happen when blood flow to your brain stops. Within minutes, brain cells begin to die. There are two kinds of strokes. The more common kind, ischemic stroke, is caused by a clot that blocks or plugs a vessel in the brain. The other kind, called hemorrhagic stroke, is caused by a blood vessel that breaks and bleeds into the brain. “Mini” strokes, or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), occur when the blood supply to the brain is briefly interrupted.

Symptoms of a stroke are:

- ***Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg (especially on one side of the body)**
- ***Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech**
- ***Sudden severe headache with no known cause**
- ***Sudden trouble walking dizziness, loss of balance or coordination**
- ***Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes**

If you have any of these symptoms, you must get to a hospital quickly to begin treatment. Acute stroke therapies try to stop a stroke while it is happening by quickly dissolving the blood clot or by stopping the bleeding.

Stroke is America’s #3 killer and leading cause of a severe, long-term disability. Since **managing high blood pressure** is the most important thing you can do to lessen your risk for stroke, **treatment for high blood pressure can save your life. High blood pressure damages your arteries so they burst or clog more easily.** High blood pressure weakening arteries in the brain puts you at much higher risk for stroke. 13% of strokes are hemorrhagic, which occur when a blood vessel ruptures in or near the brain. When it ruptures, it can bleed into the deep tissues in the brain or in the space between the skull and the brain. Chronic high blood pressure or aging blood vessels are the main cause of a hemorrhagic stroke. **Remember is critical to keep your blood pressure within acceptable ranges to protect your brain from this often disabling or fatal event.** *“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” Proverbs 4:23*

The American Heart Association defines normal blood pressure as a value of 120 systolic/80 diastolic and less. Prehypertension is defined as systolic level of 120-139/80-89 diastolic and high blood pressure as 140-159/90-99.

Discuss your history and family history with your primary health professional to determine risk factors for hypertension and stroke. The next step is to create a plan to change or impact those risk factors and follow your doctor’s advice. It is imperative that we find out about our individual needs and address them. *“The Lord is my strength and shield I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy.” Psalms 28:7*

Your Wesley Nurse, Janelle Lester, RN, BSN

References: Merila, N. & Slutz (2009) Seasons of Wholeness Monthly themes and programming for faith community ministry. Volume VI. International Parish Nurse Resource Center; St. Louis, Mo., WWW.BIAUSA.ORG. Brain Injury Association of America, Centers for Disease Control-www.cdc.gov.

Upcoming Events – Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 13th from 8 am – 12 pm. The South Texas Blood & Tissue Center of Victoria will be here and we will be having a blood drive out in front of the church. At this time, the STBTC is expected to lose donors because of the current travel restriction associated with the Zika Virus. Now more than ever, they need every available donor to come out and support them. Help save a life today, by *donating blood* to those in need.

Children's Corner

"Don't let anyone think less of you because of you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity"-1st Timothy 4:12. Regardless of your age, God can use you. Our very own 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class is living this scripture. This class is very mission minded and always looking for ways to help people. They just finished a blue jean shoe project called Soul Hope that shipped to Uganda. 5th and 6th graders are volunteering to help deliver meals to senior citizens one Saturday a month. Now, they have come up with a new project. They, along with the 5th and 6th grade pioneer club kids, are hosting a Food Drive for the community. A collection site is located in the Narthex-Here are some particular food items that are needed: baby formula, jars of baby food, fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs (all perishable foods will be refrigerated/frozen and then distributed immediately), dried beans, pastas, ketchup, BBQ sauce, Spaghetti Sauce, canned goods, crackers, peanut butter and jelly. Food items will be collected through March 19. Thank you to Carol Farek for organizing and inspiring these kids to help others!

Calendar of Events:

Wed, Mar 2 – Pioneer Club afterschool – 5:30pm.

Sun, Mar 6 - Butterfly Caterpillars have arrived! Help me transfer to their new home during the Sunday School time. Meet in the Kindergarten Sunday School classroom, upstairs education building.

Sun, Mar 6 - Hosanna Choir Practice in choir room after 2nd service. Preparing for Palm Sunday, March 20.

Sun, Mar 6 - Help Pastor Andy with Worship and Communion at Romberg House. Meet at Romberg 2:30. The residents love to have visitors! Great opportunity for Confirmands to serve!!

Sun, Mar 6 - Confirmation Class - 4pm in youth room.

March 7-18 - Start filling Easter Eggs! Please let me know if you can help! I have plenty of eggs and will provide candy.

Wed, Mar 9 - Pioneer Club afterschool - 5:30pm.

Wed, Mar 9 - Hosanna Choir Practice at 5pm in Choir Room.

Sun, Mar 13 - Hosanna Choir Practice in choir room after 2nd service.

Mar 14-18 - Spring Break for GISD. **Prepare Spaghetti Supper tickets** this week!

Wed, Mar 16– **No Pioneer Club**, but activity planned for Thur, Mar 17.

Wed, Mar 16 - Hosanna Choir practice in Sanctuary. Very important practice! Hosanna choir singing on March 20 for Palm Sunday!

Thur, Mar 17- Children's event at church. More details to come! Join us for a Service project around the church, Fun, Fellowship and Legos! Come build and get creative! Lunch provided. Parents and volunteers welcomed/needed!

Sat, Mar 19 - Youth Rally at Cathedral Oaks. 10am-2pm. Pastor Andy is taking the Confirmation Class.

Sat, Mar 19 - 2 service opportunities: Help deliver meals to senior citizens for 5th graders and up! - Meet at church at 9:15am. Let Willa know if you are helping, parents encouraged to help with their kids. Volunteer at Legacy Ranch Foster & Adoption Agency for their Easter retreat with the kids. Noon-6pm (or any time you can give) Prior to volunteering at Legacy Ranch, Background check must be completed. Contact church office or Legacy ranch for form. Volunteer must be at least 15 years old.

Sun, Mar 20—Palm Sunday-Hosanna Choir leads Palm Processional. All Children participating in Palm Processional gather in the Narthex @ 8:25 for 1st service and 10:40am for 2nd service. **Hosanna Choir meets at 8am in Sanctuary for warm up.**

Sun, Mar 20 - Confirmation Class - 4pm in youth room.

Wed, Mar 23 - Pioneer Club afterschool - 5:30pm

Wed., Mar 23 - Easter Egg Hunt at 5:15pm. Meet in fellowship hall by 5:10pm. "Hunting Sacks" provided.

Sun, Mar 27 – Happy Easter and Butterfly Release between services. Gather in Narthex at 10:20am.

Wed, Mar 30 - Spaghetti Supper Tickets go on Sale and sign up to help!

Wed, Mar 30 – Pioneer Club, afterschool – 5:30pm.

Important Upcoming Dates

Wed, April 13 - Last Day of Pioneer Club

Apr, 18-Apr 22 - Spaghetti Supper preparations

Fri, April 22 - Spaghetti Supper

Camping Opportunities

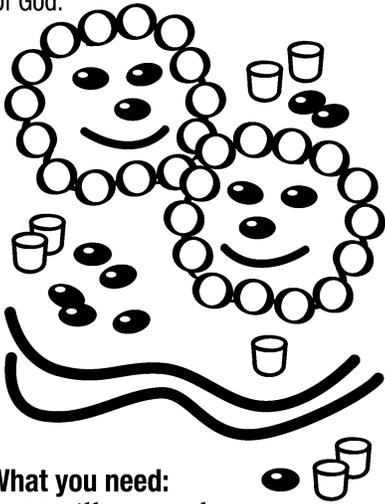
July 11-15 - SAVE THE DATE for Vacation Bible School! Theme this year is **"Surf Shack, Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love"** 5:30pm-8:30pm. Start thinking about how you can help with this awesome community wide event!!

Basic Training Camp at Cathedral Oaks-July 24-27. For all exiting 3rd through exiting 5th grade. Contact Willa for more information and if interested in attending! Camp fills quickly. Registration forms not available yet.

Lego camp- August 1-5, \$85 before registration deadline Monday, July 25, \$125 after. Registration open for congregation. 3 classes offered. for ages 5-7, 8-12.

LITTLE LAMBS

Make these cute treats as a reminder that Jesus our Savior is also the Lamb of God.



What you need:

- Vanilla cupcakes
- Vanilla frosting
- Butter knife
- Mini marshmallows
- Jellybeans
- Red licorice

What you do:

1. Bake and frost the cupcakes.
2. Place marshmallows around the edge of each cupcake.
3. Cut green or blue jellybeans in half and place two on each cupcake as eyes. Cut pink jellybeans in half and place one below each pair of eyes as a nose.
4. Cut thin strips of licorice, and place one on each cupcake as a mouth.
5. Enjoy!



OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5 who was R aised | 8 R ight hand | 6 T o life |
| 3 d iEd | 4 m o R e than that | 7 I s at the |
| 2 J e S us who | 11 i nt E rceding | 9 O f God |
| 12 f or U s | 1 C hrist | 10 a nd is also |

... 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____, 5 _____

_____ 6 _____ 7 _____

_____ 8 _____

6 _____ 10 _____

11 _____ 12 _____.

Romans 8:34, NIV

RESURRECTION

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

Easter Joy

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy.

A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.

—Mother Teresa

All Things Youth...

When you were a kid, what did you look forward to most? Was it taking off the training wheels? Being tall enough to ride the roller coaster? Getting to drive a car? It seems there's something in every little kid that loves the idea of growing up. That doesn't



really go away as we get older. Middle school makes us wish for high school. High school makes us wish for college. And most of the time, we know what it takes to get from one level to the next...**but what about spiritually?** How do we know we're moving forward in our faith? And what are the things that help us get there?

God wants us to grow, and He doesn't make it complicated! We're talking about spiritual growth at Wednesday Youth and how we can propel our faith forward...

Youth Schedule

5:15 - 6:15pm Jr. High Youth (Jr. High can still come at 4pm to hang out. A snack will still be served.)

6:30pm. Dinner for Sr. High **7pm - 8pm. Sr. High Youth**

Here are some ways you can support our Youth Ministries...

- **Please pray! The church is actively looking for a new Youth Minister.**
- **Volunteer to help prepare and serve a dinner! Please contact Melissa Schauer for the current schedule and to sign up!**
- **Youth Sunday School...we currently rotate volunteers to teach on Sunday morning. Please contact Pastor Andy if you can take a Sunday.**
- **Serve as an Adult chaperone at Wednesday Youth.**



This summer we have mission trips for both Jr. High and Sr. High Youth through U.M. ARMY. Each mission team will travel to a local church where we will sleep, eat, worship, and enjoy fellowship. During the days we break up into teams to complete mission projects in local neighborhoods. Work teams might build a ramp, do yard work, or paint. Evenings are filled with fun activities like swimming, bowling, or games.

Spaces are limited so it's important that you sign up! Deadline is May 1! Find registration forms at church or by visiting: <https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Single/Southwest/>

Trip Details:

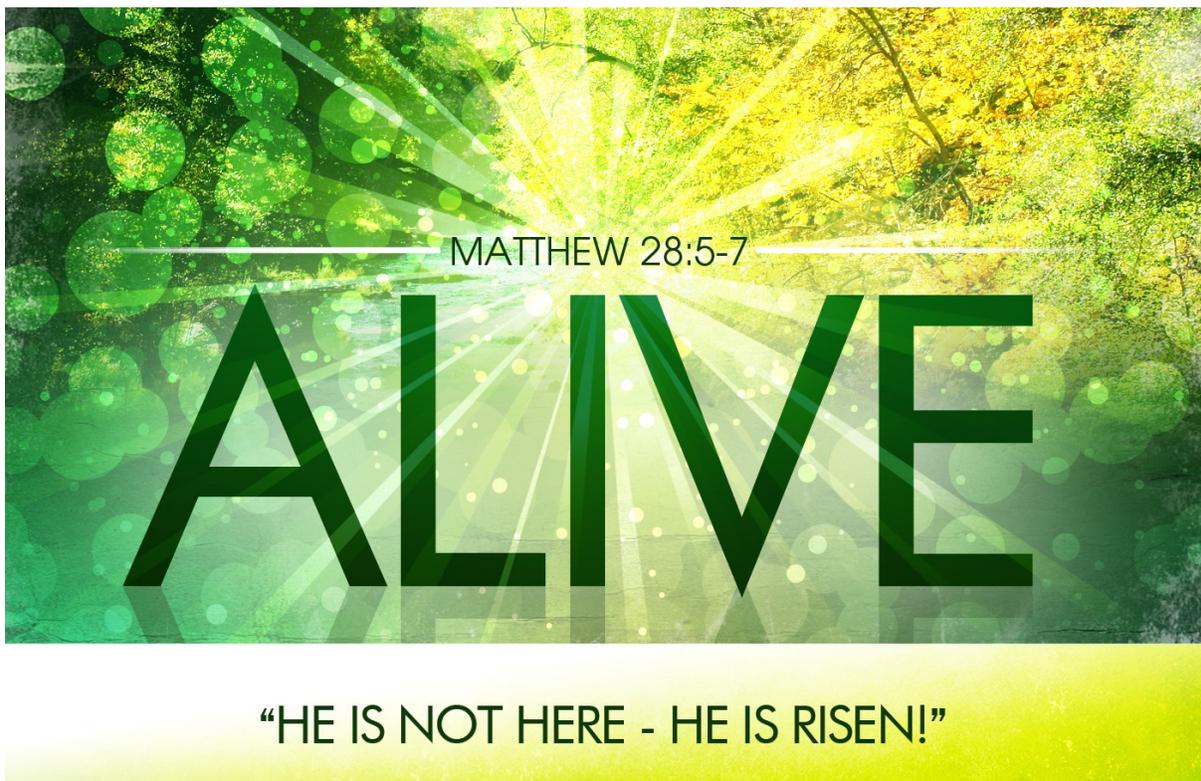
Jr. High: June 26 - June 30 in San Antonio. (Sunday through Thursday) Cost is \$150.

Sr. High: July 10 – July 16 in Bandera. (Sunday through Saturday) Cost is \$250

First United Methodist Church
426 St. Paul Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629

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“HE IS NOT HERE - HE IS RISEN!”