



209 S. Blue Bonnet St.
Saginaw, Texas 76179

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Fort Worth, Texas
Permit No. 570

Focus Newsletter Schedule

The Focus Newsletter a monthly publication of Saginaw United Methodist Church. The next publication will be September 7th with submissions due to office@saginawumc.org by August 31st. Visit saginawumc.org/contact-us/email-sign-up/ to sign up to receive the newsletter by email and to receive special e-news blasts.



[Facebook.com/saginawumc](https://www.facebook.com/saginawumc)

Sunday Morning Worship in person and online 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Office Hours Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

www.saginawumc.org

817.232.0390



Saginaw United Methodist Church

Focus Newsletter

Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service

Vol. 10, Issue 8 August 2021

Welcome the Newest Members of Saginaw UMC!



Mavis Myers



James and Sandra Young

Upcoming Events

Sisterhood Collection for Community Link	Saturday, August 7	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Sisterhood Ladies Day Out	Thursday, August 12	10:45 am - 2:00 pm
Blessing of the Backpacks	Sunday, August 15	11:00 Service
Newsletter Folding	Tuesday, September 7	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
3rd Grade Bible Presentation	Sunday, September 12	11:00 Service
15th Annual Women's Retreat	September 17-19	
UMM Golf Tournament	Friday, September 24th	12:00 pm
3rd-5th Grade Bible Camp	November 5-6	
Lord's Acre	November 6	
UMM Annual Retreat	November 12-14	

Prayer List



These prayers have been shared with your church family. Please help us lift these requests to the Lord.

Continued prayers for the health of Joyce Byrd.

Prayers of comfort for the family of Christian Orozco, age 20, who passed after a car crash.

Prayers of healing for June Miller, sister of Susie Rhoades, and her husband, who were in a car accident and are healing from their injuries. It was then learned that June has kidney cancer after a full body cat scan. Prayers for June, June's medical team and Junes family as they determine how to proceed.

Prayers for Susie Rhoades as she emotionally supports her sister.

Prayers of healing for Laurene McLaughlin after surgery on July 1st.

Prayers for Manning Cook who is recovering after a fall.

Prayers of recovery for Ed Reedy who had surgery on Friday, July 9th.

Prayers for Jerry Warren and his family as he is moved to hospice.

Prayers for Andrea Ward as she travels for surgery.

Prayers for Honor Flaim who is home after a hospital stay

Prayers of healing and strength for Theresa lacy, friend of the Birkners, as she undergoes surgery for uterine cancer.

Prayers of healing for Kathy Smith, niece to Sue Banfield, after successful surgery removing part of her colon. And prayers of joy that there was no cancer found.

Prayers for Richard Salazar in his job search.

Prayers of joy for Gary and Kay Pederson who celebrated 52 years of marriage on July 19th.

Prayers of good health for Steve Ragsdale.

Prayers of healing for Cora Mae Thompkins who is home from the hospital after a fall.

Prayers for Liz and Randy Hatley as Liz is fighting a new variant of COVID.

Prayers for Jayden Allison who is in the hospital.

Prayers for Hanna and Sarah Drake, Barbara Henley's granddaughters, who are both positive with COVID.

Traveling mercies for those who are traveling this summer.

Prayers for Brett, Dr. Scott Youngblood's brother, who had back surgery July 26th.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Memorials/Honorariums

Given to the Memorial Garden

In Memory of Faye Dell Bicknell

Given by Mike Retz

Given by Linda Brown

Given by Patsy, Lisa, and
the late Kala & DiAnn Bicknell

Given by Sandi Shelby

Given by Rusty and Sandra Carter

Given by Marilyn Yates

Given by Brian and Felecia Eaton

Given by Ray and Juanita Jordan

Given by Angie Averhoff

Given to the Endowment Fund

In Memory of Faye Dell Bicknell

Given by Wayne and Ashley Owen

Given to the Quilter's Fund

In Memory of Faye Dell Bicknell

Given by Randy and Ada Umsted

July Newsletter Correction

The July newsletter listed a donation in memory of Linda Johnson on behalf of Adrian and Jenny Cardenas. This was an error, the donation was in memory of Chuck Wheeler to the Memorial Fund.

A Note from the Finance Committee

Our congregation's commitment and faithful giving has been sufficient to meet our minimum monthly expenses to date. We are still having abnormal expenses to complete the kitchen restoration and the Parsonage Updating. Many thanks from the Finance Committee to you for your continued faithful giving to SUMC.

Dale Pontius,

Finance Committee Chairperson

Ushers

Would you like to serve our church? Is your time limited? I have the perfect position for you and we don't have meetings. Being an Usher is an important part of our church. You are usually the first person they meet. You greeting them with a smile and welcoming spirit means so much to someone coming in for the first time. We need several for the 8:30 and 11am services. If you are thinking about this but want information, please contact Shirley Stephens, 817 683-5289. It's an easy position and the best part... you're already at church.

Connection Opportunities



Saginaw United Methodist Samaritans

People of Faith who respond to the needs of our church and community. We have a Sunday School class to learn more about what God wants us to do.

The Samaritans invite you to join us Sunday Mornings in
Room C-20

9:45am – 10:45am for adult Bible fellowship (Live)

Or by Zoom

ZOOM MEETING ID: 730 753 4881 PW: 704 664

For information, please contact Bee Thompson @
817.690.7784 or be.escobar.thompson@gmail.com

Study Dates August 1 – September 12

Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Com-
mandments Today
by Adam Hamilton

What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules, but a guide to experiencing the good life today?

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of “thou-shalt-nots” found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. These ten ancient “words” were given to us by a loving God who longed to set safe boundaries, create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully, and protect us – often from ourselves.

In this book of Scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving “thou shalt.” He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholicism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

Come join us for fellowship and study.

Choir

Greetings SUMC Family!

Beginning Aug. 4th, the SUMC Sanctuary Choir will be back in full swing with rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. You are hereby invited to come join us!! Whether you've sung in the past or not, we welcome you!!

Women 's Journey Group

The “Slightly Off-Balanced” Journey Group would like to invite any ladies who are looking for a small group to join us on Sunday evenings from 7 to about 8 p.m. The group has single and married women with high school and adult aged children. We meet by Zoom, so if it sounds good to you to stay home while taking part in Bible study and friendship, this might be a great fit for you. For more information or the Zoom link, please contact phrainone@gmail.com

Women of Grace

Women of Grace meet in C2 on Sundays at 9:45, located by the Blue Bonnet door and Memorial Garden in the adult classroom wing. You are invited to join them and bring a friend to share with. We ask that you pray for this group. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Page, 210 846-5306 or Susie Rhoades, 765 748-0272.

Lord's Acre 2021

Mark your calendars! Lords Acre 2021!

Saturday, November 6th, 2021. Details to come.

Stephen Ministers available

If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please let us know by contacting Donna Anderson, Director of Stephen Ministry, stephenministry@saginawumc.org 817-269-5919. Although these calls may be or different from a Stephen Ministry caring relationship, confidentiality aspects still apply, making it easier to share sensitive information or difficult feelings.

Connection Opportunities (cont.)

Men's Bible Study

We meet in room C-20 and via zoom each Tuesday at 7:00 pm and any man interested may contact Rev. Dr. Scott Youngblood, scott@saginawumc.org.

Methodist Men

Big thanks to Dale Pontius, Jerry Avery, Tom Griffith, Mike Mompers, Don King and Orlando Martinez for hard work and job well done in taking down the July 4th decorations..

The Annual Elmer & Claire Watson Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by SUMC Methodist Men will be Friday, September 24th at the Golf Club at The Resort. Opportunities for players and hole sponsors. Registration 11:00 - 1:00 and tee off at 1:00 with a shot gun start. Prizes. Hamburger BBQ on the patio after golf.

The Methodist Men's annual retreat is scheduled for Friday, November 12 to Sunday, November 14 at Lake Murray, OK. All men of the church are welcome. More details to follow.

Chuck Kilgore is scheduling a work day on tAugust 14th starting at 7:30 AM. Therefore the Men's Breakfast and projects is cancelled. In its place, Methodist Men will provide donuts for workers that day.

Chuck described the work day projects as primarily focusing on children's ministry areas. Mostly the playground, but there may be other areas too. As you know, Children's Ministry is a high priority for SUMC, so this is a key day as we lead up to school opening.

If you can help out that day, please let Chuck know directly so he knows how many hands to count on. If you have others in your household that could help, please let him know and bring them along. Chuck's cell number is 817.946.8002

Sisterhood Updates on Women's Ministry at SUMC

Ronald McDonald House

We continue to collect pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Fort Worth. Parents and families are able to rest at the RMD while their children are at Cooks Children's Hospital receiving treatment. You can bring your pull tabs to our Community Link donations or you can bring them to church on Sundays. We have 2 buckets located by the open doors for you to put them in. Thank you for helping in this worthy mission.

Community Link

The next collection date is Saturday, August 7th. We will be at CL's location, 300 S Belmont St, 10-11am. You can go to their website to see what they are needing and they are accepting bags now. They need peanut butter, flour, sugar, rice, instant potatoes, cereals, Mac n Cheese, kid's pastas, crackers, can meats, can vegetables, cans of fruit and fruit bowls. Toiletries, toothbrush & paste, soap, toilet paper, washing powder, fabric softeners, diapers, feminine hygiene products and anything else you can think of that they might need. The next donation date is September 11th. Thank you for your generous spirit.

15th Annual Women's Retreat

Ladies, you can now start signing up for our 15th Annual Retreat to Waco, Sept 17-19, 2021. Belia Thompson and her team will lead us in our study. Debbie Wade will lead us in Pilates for those who want to participate and your committee is making plans for us to check out all the cool things going on there. Each room will have two queen size beds for two ladies for \$150.00 per lady. You can also have a single room for \$300.00. We hope you will feel comfortable joining us.

We will be staying at the Hampton Inn & Suites South. If you would like a registration form just let Shirley, 817 683-5289 know. Also, you can pay on the church's website. If you want to write a check please make it out to SUMC and **on the memo line put Women's Retreat**. The last day for sign up and paying is Sunday, Aug 29th.

Ladies Day Out

Ready for a break from the heat? Join the Sisterhood on Thursday, August 12th for a visit to the Kimbell Art Museum and lunch. We'll leave the church parking lot at 10:45 in the church van and view the free displays. We'll enjoy a gourmet lunch (\$10-\$12) and return no later than 2pm.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to sign up for the outing. Jean King (817) 556-7942

From Pastor Ramon Smith

Why?

In the Fall of 2001, I received word from the head of the International Business Program at Mississippi State University that I was accepted into the internship program at the multinational company where I had always dreamed of working. I started working in the Spring of 2002. I felt extremely fortunate because many companies had hiring freezes in the aftermath of 911's impact on the economy. It was a tough time for everyone, and our nation was trying to heal. The semester flew by as I took a couple of classes online and worked long hours at the office, including coming into the office on the weekends. Upon graduation, I was not offered a full-time position in the finance department where I interned. However, I was offered the opportunity to interview for a job working in the sales department. I foolishly declined.

I started looking for work, constantly revising my resume to cater to specific employment opportunities. I went on countless career fairs and job interviews. I played the waiting game, hoping every number that appeared on my caller id was an employer calling to make a job offer. I received so many rejection letters that I could have hosted a city-wide paper football tournament.

When I started my job search, I thought it would take a month at the most instead it took seven months. During that time, I felt hopeless and angry. I wanted to know why this was happening to me. I thought to myself, "Why would God allow this to happen? After all, I am a good person. This shouldn't be happening to me." "If God is good why is God allowing all of this bad stuff to happen to me. If God is all-powerful, why doesn't God change my circumstance for the better." Is God not powerful enough to change my circumstance or is God unconcerned about me? If you are unemployed or job insecure perhaps you are asking similar questions. Why doesn't God stop this pandemic? Why did God allow me to lose my job? Is God even listening to my prayers? Questioning is perfectly natural. God is Big Enough to hear our questions and laments. Although some people in our lives may feel uncomfortable with us asking these questions. Many of the people closest to me, who deeply love me, did not know what to say to me. At one point a family member asked, "Where is your faith?" when I refused to pretend like everything would be okay if prayed enough, went to church enough, and cried out to God enough. I was going to multiple church services at various churches. I was church-ed out. I had spent so many nights on my knees crying and praying to God. I had run out of things to say to God. I felt like heaven was shut off from me. Although my faith was at its lowest, I did not appreciate others reminding me that I was failing in my faith as well as my job search.

At a time when little made sense in my life, my faith was not absent. I was seeking to better understand my faith. Questioning can be a good thing when seeking to understand anything, especially our faith. One of the things that I learned is that God is not the cause of all things, but God does work in and through all things for our good. God has given humanity the gift of freewill. Without freewill, it is impossible to truly love God. We aren't puppets controlled by God. We can use our freewill for good or for evil. The evil actions of men on 911 impacted the economy and made the job market tougher. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we don't have an evil person to point to or blame. However, we can call the virus evil. It sickens and sometimes it kills people. How we exercise our freewill during this time matters. For example, some people purchased bulk quantities of face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, and disinfectant to sell them at a substantial mark up. While others have decided to do good: picking up groceries for homebound neighbors and friends and sharing their resources with others who are in need.

From Pastor Ramon Smith

Eventually, my hopelessness and anger transitioned to shame. I took a part-time job making just above minimum wage at a Christian Bookstore selling books. It was at that time I realized the critical error in judgment I had made by turning down the interview in the sales department at the multinational company. I felt ashamed. "Why was I so stupid?" was the refrain playing repeatedly in my head.

Furthermore, my shame was rooted in how I understood the role of work in my life. There was a pretty simple equation I had floating around subconsciously in my head: Good Work=The Good Life. The more prestigious and lucrative the work the better the life. Therefore, without the right kind of work, the good life is not possible, at least that is what I thought at the time. I did not have the good life as I had dreamt about it, and it was all my fault.

At the same time, I started to compare myself to other recent graduates and other people that I knew. It appeared everyone else was accomplishing their dreams, while mine were either deferred or had become a nightmare. "Why were they doing so well, and I was doing so poorly?" I kept wondering, "What is wrong with me?"

The store manager was an Ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church with a Master of Divinity degree from Duke. After a few months, the store manager suggested that I start the candidacy process for ordained ministry. A couple of weeks after that conversation, a customer whom I had never met before asked me if I was a pastor. I said, "no." She then said, "You have a voice that people need to hear." These two people along with many others didn't see my failures; they saw my potential. Now I see clearly that I was exactly where I needed to be at the time. If I had not been in the place where I was at the edge of my resources, I would not have moved forward to accept my call to become an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church.

Saginaw Water Project

The Saginaw Water Project has been helping residents of Saginaw pay past due water bills since May, 2018. People who are in danger of having their water turned off can be referred to SUMC by the City of Saginaw Water Department, Community Link or others who have received help. Sometimes, there is a water leak which makes the bill astronomical, but most often, the family is experiencing an emergency situation, such as a job loss or medical crisis. Without fail, the recipients of this blessing are so grateful and they express their heartfelt thanks to our extremely generous congregation for your donations. July has been shaping up to be a particularly busy month! We've been able to assist 17 families for a total of \$3,601.77. One lady asked me to pass on her thanks and say that they were deciding between paying the car payment and the water bill when she found out that SUMC was able to take that choice off the table for her family. It's because of you that we are able to give people this gift of fresh water. Thank you for your donations, and for your prayers for our neighbors who are experiencing difficult times.

Peace,

Karen

Little Blessings

Little Blessings Preschool is happy to announce the position of Little Blessing Preschool Director has been filled! Kristin Buskey, who has been teaching for LB the last few years will take over as director effective August 9. I'm excited to see the great things she has in store for Little Blessings!

I want to take a minute and thank the Little Blessings board members/ hiring committee for helping me throughout this process, I appreciate your love and support!



The preschool will open its doors again at the end of August. Please join me and pray for this transition, for the health and safety of the students and the staff, and for a great school year!

This is my last newsletter article as director of LB it truly has been a pleasure. Thank you for allowing me to do what I love! I'm excited what the future holds for my family as well as the school! See you at church!

Little Blessings is excited to announce registration has begun for the next school year and spots are filling up fast! Just a wonderful thing to see after such a difficult year. Our best form of advertisement is YOU spread the word, or if you see someone ask about a preschool in the area on your neighborhood Facebook pages send them our way.

Little Blessings is a preschool ministry of Saginaw United Methodist church. It is a Tuesday/Thursday school from 9am - 2pm, for ages 18 months to 4 year old PreK.

For more information you can check out our page on the church website www.saginawumc.org You can also obtain an enrollment packet there as well or pick one up in the church office. If you have any questions you can also contact Shelley at 817-232-4380 or shelley@saginawumc.org

Children's Ministry



THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Sunday, September 12, 2021
11:00 service

If you have an upcoming 3rd
grader, please let Charity know
at children@saginawumc.org.

One of our favorite Methodist traditions is the milestone of third graders presented with their own Bible! This marks a new and exciting step on their faith journey. It is our job, as a church, to emphasize the importance of God's Holy Word in their lives, and to show children that the Bible is the book of God's great love for us and that we should use the Bible to guide us, comfort us and challenge us all our lives.

Saginaw UMC will mark this special occasion by presenting Bibles to our new third graders on Sunday, September 12 at the 11 am worship service. Please make every effort to be in attendance. Friends and family are most welcome. Plan to sit with your child in the front middle section of pews. We also ask that you arrive at least 10 minutes before the service begins so I may walk through the logistics of the presentation with your child.

Please register your child for a Bible here: <https://forms.gle/7Yvb34UaC8SXrDxN8> This online registration form will help us prepare for the presentation and ensure the exact spelling of your child's name.

Upcoming Events: (stay tuned for more information)

- Blessing of the Backpacks & Back to School Celebration- August 15th
- Acolyte Training (3rd - 6th grade)
- 3rd grade bible presentation - September 12th
- Glen Lake Bible Camp for 3rd - 5th graders - November 5-6



Blessing of the Backpacks is coming Sunday, August 15th during the 11:00 service. Students, teachers, workers, non-workers, everyone, are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, diaper bag, or whatever it is that you carry around daily to be blessed.

After the 11:00 service will be a small Back to School celebration. More information is to come soon on this.

Summer of Kindness: Sharing God's Love

We are wrapping up our Summer of Kindness and each week in Sunday School we are discussing a different story from the bible and discussing how we can be kind to others and acknowledge how others are kind to us. This summer we have talked about how Kindness is Welcoming, Compassionate, Caring, Thankful, Loving, and Hard.

Don't forget to participate in Kindness Bingo this summer. In the first five bingos, children can bring their sheets and receive a prize for each bingo. After five bingos, they are encouraged to try for a blackout, after which they will receive an SUMC kids shirt.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers for our summer Sunday School now that we have moved to two classes. All volunteers must be Ministry Safe current. You can view the dates needed at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45ABAF2FABFF2-summer1> or email Charity Dragna at children@saginawumc.org. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to serving the children.

Youth Ministry

Mission Trip 2021

WOW! What an incredible week we had in Corpus Christi! The trip may be over, but the impact it made continues on.

It goes without saying, the success of this year's Mission Trip could not have happened without a lot of help from some amazing people within our church family. There truly aren't enough words to adequately express my sincere appreciation and love! But, I would like to take a minute to recognize and thank those who played a vital part in making this trip happen.

Heartfelt Thanks to:

Orlando Martinez & Tom Griffith - for making sure our van and trailers were ready to go and safe to make the trip to Corpus!! You guys ROCK!

Michael & Condi Graham - for giving up a week of your summer to drive 9 hours (each way) and work alongside teens in extreme heat and humidity...and frequent down-pours! Your dedication and commitment to our youth is a blessing beyond measure. I could not have done it without you.

Amber Haltom and the Kitchen Crew (Sheri Rann & Norma English) - for showing us what "grace under pressure" looks like! You faced unbelievable challenges and STILL managed to serve us amazing meals with a smile and a song each day (even if your feet, knees, arms, and legs were screaming to sit down!).

Our AMAZING Youth - for your incredible spirit and willingness to serve! You faced, heat, humidity, thunderstorms, mud, and more and continued to give your best with such an incredible attitude! I seriously do not have adequate words to convey how blessed I feel to know you and be in ministry with you.

Parents of our Youth - for allowing your youth to join us! When I say they are amazing....I mean they are AMAZING...all capital letters!! They represented your families, the church and most importantly, Jesus, so well! I am truly grateful for your support and trust.

Saginaw United Methodist Church - for all of your support, encouragement and prayers. Your generosity ensured that we had enough snacks to last us the whole way down to Corpus and back (with plenty of left-overs!). It also enabled us to rent an additional van, pay for gas and treat our youth and adult volunteers to lunch (both ways!). Your prayers could be felt each day we were there! What a blessing it is to be a part of this loving congregation.

Mission Trip Impact:

Here is a snapshot of the impact Mission Trip 2021 had in the community of Corpus Christi.

- 3 Wheelchair Ramps were constructed
- Tree trimming, mowing and yard clean-up for client
- Replaced back step, handrail and straightened fence for client
- Fence constructed for St. Luke's UMC
- Yard clean-up at St. Luke's UMC
- Completed framing of Habitat for Humanity home
- Helped at the Habitat ReStore
- 15-20 Bags of Trash picked up at Mustang Island State Park
- Shower dividers constructed for our mission teams at Veteran's Memorial High School
- Asbury UMC parking lot striped
- Asbury UMC prayer garden cleaned up
- Asbury UMC VBS decorations taken down
- Coastal Bend Food Bank: 26,944 lbs of donations sorted and inspected creating 8,981 meals

Stats:

There were a total of 107 youth and adults that worked approximately 8 hours/day with prep and clean up included, equaling a total of 3,424 hours of service over 4 work days (Monday-Thursday), giving an economic impact of \$51,360 to the community of Corpus Christi!

ALL GLORY AND THANKS BE TO GOD!!

Youth Ministry

