



Focus Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 2 February 2023

Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Ser-

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 14

- Wisdom Group Potluck 7 pm

Sunday, February 19

- Children's Ministry Reception
9:45 am

Tuesday, February 21

- Trustee Meeting 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 22

- Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm

Tuesday, February 28

- SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 4

- Sisterhood Community Link
Collection 10 am

Saturday, March 11

- Methodist Men Breakfast 8 am

Monday, March 20

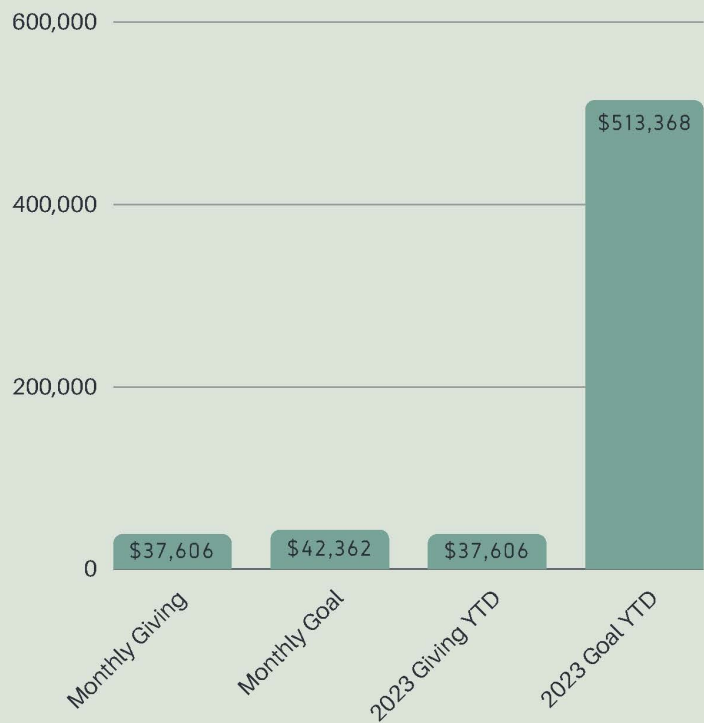
- Endowment Committee
Meeting 7 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent Begins

Announcements

Giving Summary January 2023



2022 INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN
BALANCE \$107,051



Connection Opportunities

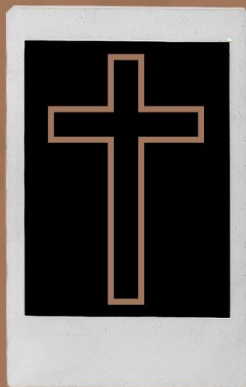
Lent Study Series: "Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws"



Register Online

saginawumc.org

**A Guided study through the Gospel of Luke
Starting Wednesday, February 22nd at Noon**



WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAYS

YOUTH GROUP MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 5:30PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM UPSTAIRS

CONTACT MICHELLE BURKHOLDER FOR MORE INFO:
MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG



SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

MEETING EVERY SUNDAY
NIGHT FROM 5-7PM
UPSTAIRS IN THE YOUTH
ROOM

CONTACT YOUTH MINISTER:
MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG





BE KIND!

February is Random Acts of Kindness month and February 17th is National Random Act of Kindness Day! In honor of this, SUMC Youth are challenging one another and YOU to consider one or more ways you can show kindness to someone this month. Here are just a few ideas:

- Help someone with their groceries and offer to take the cart
 - Let someone cut in front of you in line
 - Leave a quarter in the shopping cart at Aldi
 - Hold the door for someone
 - Pay someone a compliment
 - Make breakfast in bed for a family member
 - Do one of your siblings chores without them asking
- Leave an encouraging note on someone's car

back



There are hundreds of ways to show kindness to others...even a simple smile can make the difference in someone's day! For more Random Acts of Kindness ideas, visit www.randomactsofkindness.org.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth have begun a new Bible study series on the book of John entitled, "Encounters With Jesus". In this series we will be working through John's Gospel taking a deeper look into the lives of those who encountered Jesus. Topics of discussion include: Dealing With Doubt, Respecting God, Coping With Crisis, and Accepting God's Love, just to name a few. All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join us each Sunday morning beginning at 9:45am up in the youth room. For more information, please contact Michelle Burkholder at michelle@saginawumc.org.

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH – February

What's happening on Sunday nights with the youth? Take a look below and make plans to join us! Sunday nights are typically very laid back and designed for youth to engage with one another through games, discussions, activities and of course food! It is a place where we can relax and just be ourselves. If this sounds interesting and a place you would like to check out, please accept this invitation to "COME AND SEE"! We meet every Sunday night from 5:00-7:00pm up in the youth room.



February Events:

Feb 19 – Random Acts of Kindness Hike (Kindness Rocks!!) weather permitting, we will head to our favorite hiking trails at Eagle Mountain Lake to place little messages of kindness along the paths.

Feb 26 – Letters to Weldy w/games to follow. We will spend some time writing to our sponsored youth in Indonesia, Weldy. This is Wendy's last year in "high school" before he applies for higher education opportunities. We have sponsored Weldy since 2015!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb 25 - Electronics Collection Drive begins!

SUMC Youth and the Sisterhood Ministries will be kicking off their annual Electronics Collection Fundraiser on Saturday, February 25th from 9:00am-noon. We will be collecting all donated items at the Outreach Building garage. Youth will be present to help unload and store all items. For a list of accepted items please see the posted flyers around the church, or listed in our weekly announcements and slides at the beginning of worship.

Additional collection dates are as follows:

Saturday, March 25th; Saturday, April 15th; and Saturday, May 6th. Collection times are from 9:00am-noon.

For more information, please contact Michelle Burkholder michelle@saginawumc.org or Shirley Stephens ss4541@swbell.net.

**Monies generated by this fundraiser are used to help offset costs for Women's/Youth Retreats, Mission Trip and other special events.

Apr 28-30 - SUMC Youth Spring Retreat @ Glen Lake Camp!! RSVP now to save a spot! \$100/participant (half off for additional members of same family!). Please do not let cost determine your participation! For more information and to sign up, please contact Michelle Burkholder at michelle@saginawumc.org.

July 10-14 - SUMC Youth Mission Week!! We are working to put together another amazing week of local mission work and outreach projects! Stay tuned for more info to come!

A word from Pastor Ramon Smith



Lenten Activities

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. The season of Lent is forty days, not including Sundays. Forty days represent the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness before he called the disciples. During Lent, we will focus on four areas of our spiritual lives: Prayer, Reading Scripture, Fasting, and Generosity (acts of kindness).

Prayer and Fasting

Members of our congregation have contributed heartfelt personal stories of faith to our Lenten Devotional Guide, which will be available online on February 22nd and printed copies at the Ash Wednesday Service. These stories are inspirational and transformative. Our Youth, children's ministry, and Little Blessings children have contributed artwork. I do not doubt that they will serve as a source of encouragement as you pray, read scripture, fast, and engage in acts of kindness. Inside the Lenten devotional, you will find a 10-day fasting guide. Don't worry if you haven't fasted before; you can do this! ***Please note: those who have a history of food-related disorders, such as anorexia or bulimia, or have serious dietary restrictions should avoid fasting with food, and should instead look for alternatives, such as social media, movies, Netflix, etc.***

Reading Scripture

On Wednesday, February 22nd, at noon, we will begin our Lenten bible study, *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Rev. Adam Hamilton. The class will be held weekly in the fellowship hall. The class is a potluck, so bring your favorite dish. Please visit the church website and order your book by **February 15th**. [Click HERE to register](#). If you cannot attend the class or want additional scripture reading, we have a Luke 30-day reading plan available for download on our website.

Ash Wednesday Service

There will be a traditional Ash Wednesday Service on February 22nd at 7:00 pm. This service will include the imposition of the ashes. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and even your frenemies.

Lenten Acts of Kindness (Generosity)

Over the past few weeks have discussed the importance of random acts of kindness. Small acts can make a significant impact on someone's life. We have been encouraging the members of Saginaw United Methodist Church to perform random acts of kindness: buy someone's coffee at Starbucks, give someone a basket or a quarter at Aldi, or take a welcome neighbor box to a new family in the community. I am sure there are many other ways that you have performed random acts of kindness. Along with your act of kindness, we asked you to leave a kindness card as a personal witness to your faith in Jesus Christ and an invitation to worship with us at Saginaw. From February 26, 2023, to March 4, 2023, we are asking members of our congregation to engage in Seven Days of Intentional Acts of Kindness. The Welcome Neighbor Ministry has come up with some suggestions for each day such as dropping off individually wrapped snacks and/or drinks to a fire/police station or for teachers at a local school, donating pet food and other supplies to Saginaw Animal Services, or reconnecting with an old friend or relative. These suggestions and more will be included in a worship bulletin insert and posted to our website.

Online we will have a form where you can share the stories about how your small act impacted someone else's life. [Click HERE to access the form.](#) We will also have forms available in the sanctuary if you would prefer. We understand that you are not looking to boast or for credit. However, we would like to collect this information to determine how effectively we could do outreach in the community.

I am looking forward to walking alongside you on this Spiritual Journey!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Ramon Smith



Community Link

The Sisterhood will continue to support Community Link's effort to end hunger in our community in 2023. Our next collection date is March 4. We always appreciate your commitment and generosity to others. They are always in need of shelf stable items such as peanut butter, crackers, jelly, canned vegetables and fruit, rice, beans, instant potatoes, pasta, ramen noodles, spaghetti sauce, flour, and sugar. Household items and hygiene products are always appreciated as well; such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, laundry detergent and fabric softeners, and toilet paper. Dates

for the rest of the year are April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, with more dates to be announced.

Birthday Card Ministry

We began sending out birthday cards again in January and have received positive feedback. If we miss someone, please let us know. We have plenty of cards but would appreciate any stamp donations. If you are interested in being involved in this ministry, stamp donations are always appreciated! For more information, please contact Shirley Stephens at 817-683-5289.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

Computers
LCD Monitors
Cameras
Office Equipment
Video Games
Gaming Systems
Printers
Sports Equipment
Power Tools
Vacuum cleaners
Cell phones
DVD's/Music CD's
And much more!
(no tube/box televisions)**



**SUPPORT
SUMC YOUTH
&
SISTERHOOD
MINISTRIES**

**WHILE ALSO
HELPING
THE
ENVIRONMENT!!**

Items may be in any condition – damaged, non-working or fully operational

COLLECTION DATES & TIMES:

Saturday, February 25th (9:00-noon)
Saturday, March 25th (9:00-noon)
Saturday, April 15th (9:00am-noon)
*Saturday, May 6th (*pick-up 9:00am-noon)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Burkholder (michelle@saginavumc.org)

OR

Shirley Stephens (ss4541@swbell.net)

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men have been hard at work helping with the Quilter/Scout building remodel. Walls, doors, replace bathroom fixtures, new handicap ramp, and remodel the other bathroom in the building for use by Boy Scouts. The plumber will install fixtures and redo plumbing in the Quilters bathroom. More work to come.



Our last monthly meeting was held on Saturday, February 11. After breakfast at JR's the guys went to the church to work on 2 projects:

1. Hauled the construction debris from the Quilters Building to the dumpster. Involved cutting doors, etc, to fit in the dumpster
2. Straightened/cleaned/organized the 3 storage rooms in the balcony
 - Moved 3 storage racks from C21 to the balcony area

- Tossed out junk
- Stored stuff in totes, on shelves and on the storage racks
- Vacuumed each of the rooms
- Removed stuff stacked in front of the stained glass windows.

It is extremely important for everyone using the storage areas to maintain the organization and cleanliness that the men worked so hard on.

Thank you to David White, Tom Griffith, Dave Weaver, David Ranney, Lenny Moore, Dale Pontius, Ken Sippl, Orlando Martinez, Jay Beavers, Don King, and David Witter for your help on these projects. A big thank you to Londa Pontius for being the trail boss and managing all of the hands!

Our next meeting is Saturday, March 11. We will have breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 8 am followed by working on a project or two.





Greetings from your Staff-Parrish Relations Committee.

We are excited to announce that we have found our new Director of Children's Ministry. We want to welcome Alyssum Power to our Church Staff. Alyssum comes to us from a rich background in ministry, most recently as the Children's Director at Azle UMC. She has experience in building strong programs and working with volunteers. Alyssum is a seminary student at Brite Divinity School TCU and is a certified candidate for



Ministry through the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Roles she has held include welcoming ministries coordinator, communications coordinator, and Children's Ministries. Her combined experience working in the main conference office, the local church, and through UMCOR feeds her passion for the UMC and allowed her to see the many ways we are the hands and feet of Christ. She is excited to serve here at Saginaw and we are thrilled with the ideas and plans she is bringing with her. She is married to Grant Newman, and we look forward to getting to know him as well.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank our dear Sandra Young for caring for our Children's Ministry while we searched. What a blessing she is to us in so many ways. Sandra will continue to participate in the life of the church, and we are thankful for that.

Please plan to join us, Sunday morning, February 19, 2023, between services for a Welcome/Farewell reception. Both Sandra and Alyssum will be here to celebrate the passing of the baton. We will serve donuts, juice, and coffee.



Connection Opportunities

Women of Grace

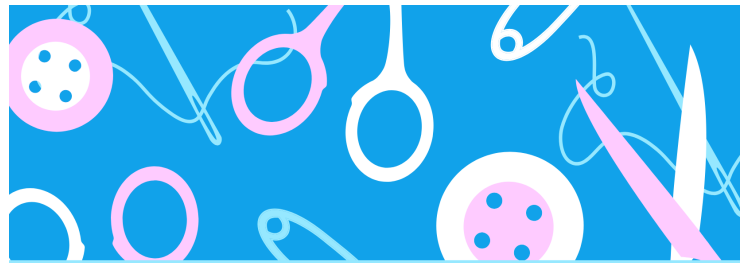


Now studying *The Seed of a Woman* by Nana Dolce

Contact Janet Page or Susie Rhoades for more information

**MEN'S BIBLE
STUDY**

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM IN C1



**Join the Quilters
Group**

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS IN THE QUILTERS
BUILDING

Samaritans

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN C1

Sunday After

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS
SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN C5



209 S. Blue Bonnet St.
Saginaw, Texas 76179

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Focus Newsletter Schedule

The Focus Newsletter a monthly publication of Saginaw United Methodist Church. The next publication will be on March 14 with submissions due to office@saginawumc.org by March 7. 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 3 p.m.

www.saginawumc.org

817.232.0390