



Focus Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 1 January 2023

Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 14

- Methodist Men's Breakfast
8 am
- Sisterhood Ladies Day Out
10:30 am - 12 pm

Sunday, January 15

Administrative Council
Meeting 12:15 pm

Monday, January 16

- Office closed in observance
of MLK Jr. Day
- Endowment Committee
Meeting 7 pm

Tuesday, January 17

- Trustee Meeting 6 pm

Saturday, January 21

- Leadership Training 9 am
for admin council,
committee chairs, and staff
- 10 am - 11:30 am for all
other committee members

*Kindness
Sermon
Series*

Begins January 15th

Announcements



Please welcome our new members!

- Ben Campbell and Alemara Castillo

We are thankful that you have made Saginaw United Methodist Church your home!

The church office
will be closed on
Monday, January
16 in observance of
Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day

Connection Opportunities



Join the
Sisterhood for
a boot-scootin'
Ladies Day
Out

SATURDAY | JANUARY 14 | 10:30 AM - 12 PM
Fellowship Hall



Methodist Men's
Breakfast

Saturday, January 14
in the fellowship hall



Sunday After

Adult Sunday School Class

Meets @ 9:45 in Room C-5

An invitation is extended to anyone
wanting to engage in an open
discussion, a deeper perspective, and a
better understanding of the previous
Sunday's sermon

Samaritans

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

*Wisdom Group
Potluck*

Bring a dish to share and meet us
in the fellowship hall on the second
Tuesday of every month at 6 pm.

**MEN'S BIBLE
STUDY**

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM IN C1

A word from Pastor Ramon Smith



Thank You

Thank you for your extravagant generosity. Saginaw United Methodist Church reached and exceeded its budget goals for 2022. As a result of your gifts, eighteen people joined our community of faith, the children's wing was refreshed, and the most vulnerable members of our community were given water, food, and warm clothing through the Saginaw Water Project, Community Link, and the Friends of Lancaster, respectively. Additionally, thank you for the generosity you have shown to my family and me during Christmas and the celebrations of our anniversary and birthdays.

Focus for 2023

I am excited about 2023. I know that God has some great things in store for this year. The focus of 2021 (July to December) was a relaunch of programming suspended during the pandemic's start. The focus of 2022 was taking care of the infrastructure needs of our church facility, reaching new members, and providing care to current members. The focus of 2023 will be an outreach to newcomers in our community and members of our church who have not returned to in-person worship. Additionally, we renew our focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Saginaw and Northwest Tarrant County.

Leadership Training

To accomplish the goals for 2023, it is essential to ensure that our church leadership has the training to implement the systems and programming. Therefore, on January 21, 2023, there will be leadership training for the church's committees. Members of the administrative council, committee chairs, and staff will meet at 9:00 am will participate in a presentation by Alberto Garcia-Jurado. Alberto is the CEO of InZynch LLC. He is an expert in organizational leadership. Alberto has helped major corporations, non-profits, local governments, and churches harness the full potential of collaboration to reach their goals. The session will last 50 minutes and will include Q & A. The training for everyone else will begin at 10:00 am and conclude at 11:30 am. In addition, new leadership will be installed during worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am services on January 22, 2023.

Kindness Cards

Moving forward, we will have an act of discipleship to correspond with every sermon series. We will begin our Kindness Sermon Series on January 15, 2023. Therefore, we will provide the congregation with kindness cards. Here's the idea, do a random act of kindness for someone. Then give them a card that says, "A random act of kindness from Saginaw United Methodist Church." The card will be the size of a business card and contain our address, website, and worship times. On the opposite side, the card will have a QR code and the words "Pass it on." Many of you currently perform acts of kindness. The tool is the corresponding outreach tool.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Ramon Smith



Happy New Year! The children's ministry was very active in December. It was really exciting to see the children and their families play a big part in the Advent season at SUMC. On December 18th, we had our Christmas pageant "Christmas from A to Z." There were 7 performers that all had individual speaking parts and the group sang together about the birth of Christ as Our Best Gift Ever! We had a fun celebration after the performance with reindeer games, hot chocolate with cookies, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. It was a really great performance and a fun celebration. Thank you to those that came to watch and support our children and their very hard work. We were honored to have a wonderful audience. I am so proud of each of the children that performed. Performers included Catherine Herrera, RJ Smith, Isabelle Smith, Lily Anne Robertson, Caden Buchanan, Carson Buchanan, and Carter Hickman. Many thanks to our volunteers and helpers; Annie Cardenas, Annie Robertson, Craig Robertson, David Herrera, Mary Watson, May Kilgore, Stephanie Morgan, Ron Mayo, Tom Griffith, James Young, Shawn Bell, Orlando Martinez, Rev. Ramon Smith, Londa Pontius, and the ladies of SUMC who provided cookies.





The Children's Christmas Eve service was a very special time that included scripture readings by our youth and children. Each reader helped to tell the story of the birth of Christ from the angel appearing to Mary to the Wise Men bringing gifts to honor the newborn King. Thank you to RJ Smith, Isabelle Smith, Matthew Cardenas, Annie Cardenas, and Cooper Villegas. Thank you also to the Hickman family that led us in the lighting of the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle. Nathaniel Metz did a wonderful job creating our visual slides and our A/V team made it flow so seamlessly. There were interactive opportunities in the service that allowed children to create their own manger scene using stickers and even cheer for their favorite wise men in the wise men race. My wise men didn't win the race, but they all made it with their gifts and I guess that's what matters. The joy of Christmas is a beautiful time and we are reminded to carry the good news of Jesus to others all year.. Jesus is the best Gift Ever. He was given for all because of God's love for all.

Our children's Sunday School class for children ages 3-12 is beginning a study about how to love like God loves in a study called "Vroom." We meet at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings in room C20. SUMC Children's Ministry looks forward to meeting new volunteers in 2023 who are willing to share God's love with our children by serving as teachers in our Sunday School and Nursery classes. Please contact Sandra Young at children@saginawumc.org to learn more about volunteering in children's classes or the nursery.

If you are interested in serving on the Children's Council to set and plan activities for SUMC children's ministry, please contact Sandra Young at children@saginawumc.org to receive more information.



A New Year Invitation

As the new year gets underway, you may be looking for a place to plug-in and get involved. If this describes YOU, please read on!

Are you a youth looking for a group that would accept you just as you are and welcome you with open arms? Perhaps you are an adult looking to serve somewhere while also having a fantastic time? Whichever situation applies, this is an open invitation to COME and SEE what SUMC Youth has to offer!

We meet each Sunday morning at 9:45am in the Youth Room (upstairs), for Sunday school lessons (always an adventure!). Sunday Night Youth is from 5-7pm and geared towards fellowship and fun! Our mid-week What's Up Wednesdays is an opportunity to come up and catch up on homework, read, snack, or simply have a place to unplug and relax with friends. In addition, each year our youth group spends time serving our local community through mission work and outreach projects as well as taking time to draw closer to God through spiritual retreats.

If SUMC Youth sounds like your kind of place, then you are invited to come and see for yourself. You will not be disappointed! For more information, contact Michelle Burkholder, Director of Youth Ministries (michelle@saginawumc.org).

It's Baaaaaack!

SUMC Youth and the Sisterhood Ministries are excited to announce their third annual **Electronics Collection Fundraiser!** We will be partnering once again with Bubbs Fundraising, a company whose mission is to help answer the growing environmental problem of waste, through recycling. They currently recycle over 100 different item types and are working towards accepting more non-perishable consumer goods. Your donations help ensure proper recycling of e-waste and will save valuable landfill space.



What better way to start the New Year off than by cleaning out your closets and garages. Got an old computer that is just taking up space? How about old cell phones, printers, or tablets? Have your power tools lost their power and need a final resting place? We have the perfect solution! And the best part is...it's both environmentally friendly and supports our ministries. Items may be in any condition – damaged, non-working or fully operational.

How can you help? Take part in donating and dropping off your items on one of the designated collection dates (see below). Can't make the collection dates? No problem! Contact Michelle Burkholder (michelle@saginawumc.org) or Shirley Stephens (ss4541@swbell.net) to arrange a drop off time that works for you!

Collection Dates/Location:

Saturday, February 25th 9:00am-noon/Outreach Building garage

Saturday, March 25th 9:00am-noon/Outreach Building garage

Saturday, April 15th 9:00am-noon/Outreach Building garage

Saturday, May 6th 9:00am-11:00am/Outreach Building garage **Item pick-up from

Bubbs Fundraising





Community Link

The Sisterhood will continue to support Community Link's effort to end hunger in our community in 2023. 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. Our next collection date is February 4.

Ladies Day Out

Our next scheduled Ladies Day Out is scheduled for Saturday, January 14 from 10:30 am until 12 pm. In honor of the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, we will be line dancing! We will have plenty of chairs to rest in and refreshments. If you are not interested in trying out a few

“boot scooting” moves, please join us regardless for fellowship. There will be plenty of fun and laughter.



Who doesn't need that?

Prayer Partners

As we begin to plan out 2023, I know a lot of you really enjoyed your prayer partners. Some of you may have gotten overwhelmed with life and never really had a chance to get to know your partner and share in prayer. We draw strength from each other, in prayer, love, and support. If you're interested in a partner for 2023 just let me know. We're stronger when we have the support of each other. If you have questions or want to select your partner contact Shirley Stephens, 817 683-5289.



**IS YOUR CHILD
READY FOR
KINDERGARTEN?**

WE CAN HELP!

Little Blessings will have openings in our pre-k classes as soon as January 3rd!

CALL OR EMAIL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR.

817.232.4380

LITTLEBLESSINGSPRESCHOOL@YAHOO.COM

WWW.SAGINAWUMC.ORG/PRESCHOOL

209 BLUEBONNET ST, SAGINAW TX 76179

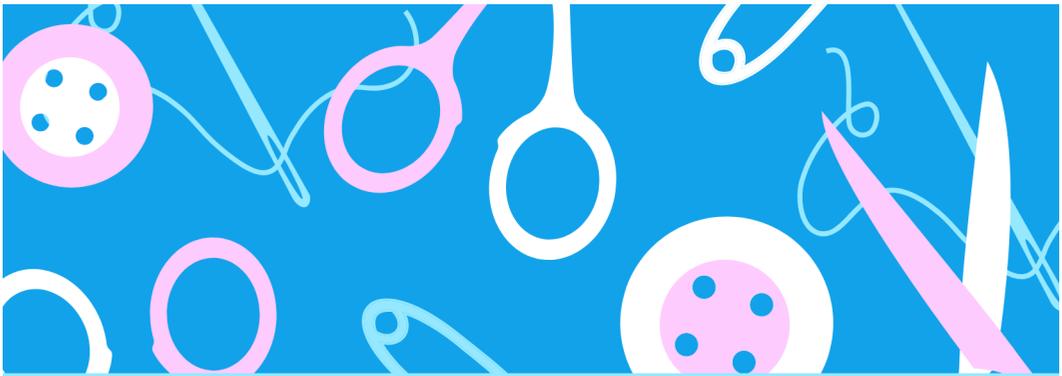
Connection Opportunities

Women of Grace



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

Contact Janet Page or Susie Rhoades for more information



Join the Quilters Group

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS IN THE QUILTERS
BUILDING



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209 S. Blue Bonnet St.
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Focus Newsletter Schedule

The Focus Newsletter a monthly publication of Saginaw United Methodist Church. The next publication will be on January 10 with submissions due to office@saginawumc.org by January 3. 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