



Saginaw United Methodist Church

Focus Newsletter

Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service

Vol. 11, Issue 1 January 2022

Meet Nathaniel Metz – New Digital Media and Ministry Assistant

We are excited to welcome Nathaniel Metz to our staff and Saginaw United Methodist Church family. Nathaniel will be serving as our Digital Media and Ministry Assistant. Nathaniel is passionate about making theology accessible to everyone through teaching and liturgy. He has discerned a call to be a Deacon in the United Methodist Church but has not formally started the process.

So what will he be doing? Nathaniel will be responsible for updating and creating social media and website content for our growing online ministry. Likewise, he will be serving in worship leadership, assisting with worship planning, and leading a bible study.

I have known Nathaniel for about four years, and he is a person who is passionate about Jesus Christ and desires to help people become disciples of Jesus Christ. Over the next several weeks, he will be getting to know members of the congregation and the community.

Nathaniel Carter Metz was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy and a minor in religious studies from Baylor University. In December 2021, he received a Master of Theological Studies degree from Duke Divinity School. His passions include the philosophy of church liturgy, theology and the arts, the aesthetics of sacred atmosphere/spatial theology, eco-theology, and non-human animal theology.

Nathaniel has held part-time positions in churches for approximately 5 years and has been active in volunteering to facilitate small groups and lead Bible studies since high school.

Nathaniel is an avid animal-lover with two dogs named Molly and Baxter. He loves the Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Mavericks, and especially Duke Basketball.

Upcoming Events

Office Closed - MLK	Monday, January 17	
Youth Electronic Collection	Saturday, January 22	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Spring Acolyte Training	Sunday, January 23	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Newsletter Folding	Tuesday, February 1	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Sisterhood Community Link	Saturday, February 5	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Baby Celebration Sunday	Sunday, February 6	11:00 am service
Ladies Night Out	Thursday, February 10	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Methodist Men's Breakfast	Saturday, February 12	8:00 a.m.

Prayer List

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

Continued prayers for Rachel Jordan's medical issues

Prayers for the family of the Mesquite Police officer killed in the line of duty.

Prayers for Charles Williams who has health concerns.

Prayers for those suffering with the flu.

Prayers for those suffering from seasonal depression.

Prayers of continued healing for Vince De La Torre, father to Charity Dragna, after spinal surgery.

Prayers for all the tornado victims and families affected.

Prayers of healing for Russ Birkner for his shingles

Prayers for Aaron Smith, grandson of Terry Timms, for medical issues.

Prayers of joy for the safe return of Justin, Lenny and Jane Moore's grandson.

Prayers of healing for Ben Schumer, youngest grandson of Terry Timms.

Prayers for the family of Linda Dumis after her passing on Christmas Day.

Prayers for Jeff Gastineau, friend to Terry Timms, who is recovering from Guillain-Barre Syndrome and has been unable to work.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Memorials/Honorariums

Given to the Budget

In Honor of our ushers and sound
Given by Terry Timms

In Memory of Linda Dumis
Given by Jay & Millie Beaves

In Memory of Eleanor and Elwood Barkey
Given by Gary Barkey

In Honor of all 2021 volunteers to church service
Given by Ray and Juanita Jordan

Given to the Christmas Offering

In Honor of the Quilters
Given by Ada Umsted

Given for Community Link

In Honor of Pastor Ramon Smith and Family
Given by Barbara and Jimmy Henley

In Honor of Bea and Sam Thompson
Given by Barbara and Jimmy Henley

In Honor of Samaritan
Given by Barbara and Jimmy Henley

Given to the Honorarium Fund

In Honor of the Worship Team
Given by Karen Ranney

Given to the Saginaw Water Project

In Honor of Howard and Louise
Given by Cissy Rae Watkins

Children's Ministry

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make the Christmas Festival a success. I want to especially thank the Children's Ministry Team (Katie Deen, Mindy Hickman, Mary Kilgore, and Rachel Mash), Chrissy Martinez, Dale and Londa Pontius, Tim Mash, Orlando Martinez, the Watchmen, Charles and Shirley Stephens, Michelle Burkholder and all the youth volunteers, Rebecca Altizer, Country Critters Farm, and the Saginaw Santa.

I hope for this to be a recurring, annual event that we make bigger and better each year. Advent is the season when we celebrate the coming of our Savior and I feel we should have an event to celebrate that is as well known as our Easter event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers for the winter and spring during Sunday School, Wee Worship, and events. WE ARE IN SPECIAL NEED DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. All volunteers must be Ministry Safe current. It would be wonderful if you are able to dedicate a month at a time for Sunday School and/or Wee Worship, but I completely understand that everyone has their own schedules to be mindful of. Please contact Charity Dragna, children@saginawumc.org, if you are interested. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to serving the children.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class Begins February 6th

Students in 6th grade and above are invited to participate in Confirmation. Confirmation will meet in the Confirmation Room C1/C3 at 9:45 AM. Confirmation refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace by public-

ly reaffirming his or her baptismal vows before the congregation with intentional commitment. We call it "Confirmation" because we're confirming our baptisms. Confirmands will "remember their baptism" (or, if they have not yet been baptized, anticipate their baptism). Confirmation is a way to claim and affirm the work done by the Holy Spirit.

During Confirmation class, Confirmands learn about the meaning of Christian faith, the history and teachings of the United Methodist Church, and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows they will be professing. Confirmation preparation aims at leading students to embrace their vocation: the calling to live and witness to the reign of God announced in Jesus Christ.

Youth Ministries will be excited to welcome Confirmands after Confirmation Sunday on June 5th. Until then, 6th graders are welcome to participate in any Children's Ministries events.

How do I register my child? Email Charity-children@saginawumc.org.

Upcoming Events: (stay tuned for more information)

- Spring Acolyte Training - January 23rd 12:30 - 2:30 pm
- Baby Sunday - February 6 11:00 service
- Scout Sunday – February 13
- Easter Eggstravaganza - April 16th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Youth Ministry

Christmas Blessings

In November, SUMC Youth along with youth groups from Alliance UMC, Couets UMC, and Smithfield UMC gathered to feast and fellowship at their Friendsgiving event. The evening had one special focus, Operation Christmas Child. Youth and adult volunteers packed 73 shoeboxes with special gifts and treats to be sent overseas to countries where needs are great. Each youth group chose one shoebox to “track” and see where it would be delivered. We have learned that our box is headed to Gabon, Africa!! Please join us as we pray that this shoebox blesses the life of the precious child it goes to in Gabon! Let it be a reminder that the love of Christ goes beyond all borders.

Gabon, Africa

GABON IS LOCATED ON THE WEST COAST OF CENTRAL AFRICA. IT IS LARGELY COVERED IN RAINFORESTS THAT ARE HOME TO MONKEYS, GORILLAS, ANTELOPE AND ELEPHANTS. ITS POPULATION CONSISTS OF ROUGHLY 40 DIFFERENT PEOPLE GROUPS. SAMARITAN'S PURSE BEGAN DELIVERING OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES TO CHILDREN STARTING IN 2006.

Saginaw UMC Youth

The Christmas blessings did not stop there! SUMC Youth, along with the support of the Quilters group, helped to make some Christ-

mas wishes come true this holiday season for two local families. Each family member received a beautiful, hand-crafted quilt from our Quilters! Generous donations made by the youth, members of our Quilters group and a few local teachers were put towards the purchase of such needed items as shoes, clothing, and coats. In addition, several of the Christmas “wish list” items were able to be purchased, as well.

I have to say, the truest blessing of all was found in the GIVING! Thank you to all who helped to make these Christmas wishes come true.



New Year's Closet Clean Up

SUMC Youth and the Sisterhood Ministries are excited to announce their second 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

Youth Ministry

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? Be sure to stay tuned for collection dates to be announced SOON and simply bring your items up to our designated collection location. Can't come to us? No problem! We will have designated "pick up" dates as well.

Keep your eyes open for more information to come your way. Until then, start collecting!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUTH – JANUARY

Jan. 9 – A Night for Weldy – Come and read the latest letter and update from our sponsored youth in Indonesia, Weldy. We will be taking some time to write back to him.

Jan. 16 – Underground Church – We will resurrect an old youth favorite! Come find out what it's all about.

Jan. 22 – Tentative date for our FIRST ELECTRONICS COLLECTION! More details to come!

Jan. 23 – Youth Retreat Information Night – Come find out more about this amazing weekend retreat and see how you can plug in to make it all happen!

Jan. 29 – Paintball Event at DFW Adventure Park - **combined event with Smithfield, Alliance and Coutts UMC. Info on times and cost to coming soon!

Jan. 30 – Cookie Bake and Delivery – Join us for a night of baking and delivering treats to local community members.

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)**



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

COLLECTION DATES & TIMES:

Saturday, January 22nd (9:00-noon)

Saturday, February 12th (9:00-noon)

Saturday, March 12th (9:00am-11:00am)

**SUPPORT
SUMC YOUTH
&
SISTERHOOD
MINISTRIES**

**WHILE ALSO
HELPING
THE
ENVIRONMENT!!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Burkholder (michelle@saginawumc.org)

OR

Shirley Stephens (ss4541@swbell.net)

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

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

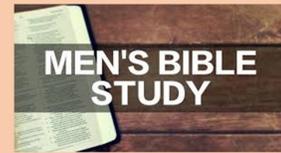


Women of Grace

Sundays at 9:45am room C2

You are invited to join them and bring a friend. We will be studying *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton

If you have any questions, please contact
Janet Page, 210 846-5306 or
Susie Rhoades, 765 748-0272.



A Self Directed Discussion

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Room C-20 or via zoom

any man interested may contact

For more information, please contact
the Church Office

Sisterhood Updates on Women's Ministry at SUMC

Community Link Donations

Our next collection date is Saturday, February 5th, 10-11am. We will be at CL's location, 300 S Belmont St, 10-11am. They are collecting Chicken Noodle soup, Mac-n-Cheese, kids pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, etc), Ramen Noodles, Canned tuna, chicken or Spam, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, snacks for kids, rice, dry beans, pasta, spaghetti sauce or canned tomatoes, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, body soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo/conditioners, baby items like diapers, wipes & formula. Diapers for babies and adults.

Presbyterian Night Shelter

If you have anything you would like to share with PNS (not furniture please I can't haul furniture) just contact Shirley Stephens, 817 683-5289. We can meet at the church or I can come to you to collect your items.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out has been postponed due to the rising number of Covid cases. We hope to meet again Thursday, February 10th, 7:00-8:30 pm in the fellowship hall instead of going out to dinner. For the February meeting, we will have Karen Jumes and Lou Ann Pressler share their information with us. Bring a snack to share and with the recipe if you would like.

Connection Opportunities (cont.)

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.

Methodist Men

January Methodist Men breakfast and project will be Saturday, February 12. Meet for breakfast at Jr's at 8:00, then off to the church to work on a project.

BIRTHDAY CARD MINISTRY

Ever wonder who sends the birthday cards to you from the church? We have a birthday card ministry that has been functioning for about 3 years now. The committee consists of JoAnn Avery, Linda Strauss, Dee Griffith, Betty Young, Terry Timms, and Paula Wood. Make sure the office has your birthday and updated address so that we can celebrate you each year. Interested in joining the committee? Contact Paula Wood at pjw627a@gmail.com or 214-675-3826

Choir

Greetings SUMC Family!

The SUMC Sanctuary Choir is 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!!

Saginaw Ringers

The SUMC handbells rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Join us in the choir room!

Doorstep "Revisited"

The Doorstep visits have been an important ministry for SUMC for many years and have been put "on hold" for nearly two years due to COVID. However, with a few changes, we are hoping to re-start it soon. Many people who attend first service did not want to return after second service and gather the information sheets from the registers. And, sometimes visits could be as far apart as Haslet and Lake Worth! So, the thought is that for each service someone would be at the sanctuary exit(s) and distribute small "goody" bags--no plants, no driving, no keeping track in a master book; Pastor Ramon would invite first-time visitors to stop by and introduce themselves. There are still details to be worked out but if you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Bonnie Dodyk, bonnielwill@yahoo.com, 817-377-3886 (home) or 817-948-1308 (cell).

GROUP EXCURSION

COME JOIN YOUR SUMC FRIENDS!

It's time to travel once again! Bonnie Dodyk has reserved a block of cabins on the Celebrity Equinox sailing round trip Fort Lauderdale and visiting Grand Cayman, Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. Departure is October 15, returning October 24 (will make hotel arrangements for the night of October 14). Prices will include beverages, tips and Wi-Fi; presently there is a promo with second person in cabin paying only 50%! For further details please contact Bonnie at bonnielwill@yahoo.com, 817-377-3886 (home) or 817-947-1308 (cell).



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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 February 1st with submissions due to office@saginawumc.org by January 25th. 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

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