



Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service

Focus Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 7 July 2022

We wrapped up June in a big way at SUMC! Children, youth, and volunteers all joined us at the church to take part in Vacation Bible School and Youth Mission Week. Read about all of the happenings inside!



Upcoming Events

Leonard's Dept Store Museum Outing	Thursday, July 14	11:00 am
Ladies Day Out at the Kimbell Art Museum	Saturday, July 16	10:30 am - 2 pm
Endowment Committee Meeting	Monday, July 18	7:00 pm
Glenlake Summer Fun Day	Saturday, June 23	11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Ice Cream Social	Sunday, July 31	12:00 pm
Trustee Meeting	Monday, August 1	6:45 pm
Choir Practice Resumes	Wednesday, August 3	7:00 pm

Prayer List

These prayers have been shared with your church family. Please help us lift these requests to the Lord. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Prayers for Terri Sullivan, who is in the hospital for internal bleeding.

Prayers for Bob Pressler and his family after the death of his father and brother.

Prayers for Honor Flaim.

Prayers for Olive Jacob who fell and broke three ribs. She is the mother of Diane Woods.

Prayers for Eric Corgi, who had a stroke.

Prayers for complete healing for Sue, aunt of Don Rutherford. She recently underwent knee replacement surgery.

Prayers for Jimmy Henley's brother Larry Henley. He was admitted to the hospital with a possible heart attack.

Prayers for Barbara Henley's niece, Cathy Tudor. She is being moved to a hospice facility.

Prayers for continued healing for Shawn Bell's parents, Richard and Norma Jean.

Prayers for Gary Umsted, uncle of Randy & Ada Umsted. He is in the hospital with heart problems.

Prayers for healing for Connie Henry. She is in the hospital after a fall.

Prayers for Barbara Henley. She is having knee replacement surgery.

Prayers for Charlotte Unland, sister of Gary Matthes. She is in the hospital with an infection.

Prayers for Kevin Pearson who was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. He is a friend of Laurene McLaughlin.

Prayers for Dub Williams who was rushed to the hospital for surgery for colon cancer. He is the son of Laurene McLaughlin's good friend.

Prayers for Brian who is in the hospital for blood clots.

Prayers for the family of Charles Williams, who passed away on June 29.

Memorials/Honorariums

Given to the Children's Wing Renovation Fund

*In Memory of Courtland Canterbury
Given by Pam Tope*

Given to the Memorial Fund

*In Memory of Rex and Roy Pressler
Given by Adrian & Jenny Cardenas*

Given to the Memorial Garden

*In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Susan Hidy*

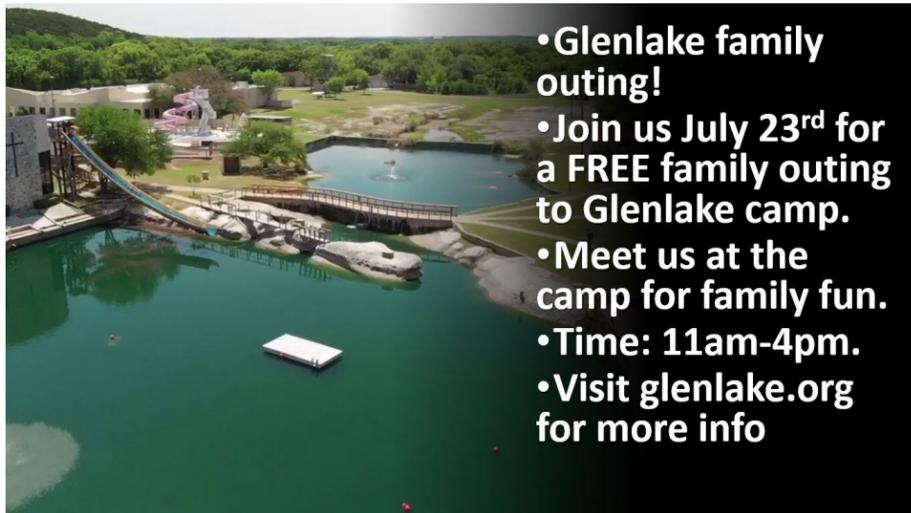
Given to the Endowment Fund

*In Memory of Rex and Roy Pressler
Given by Dale & Londa Pontius*

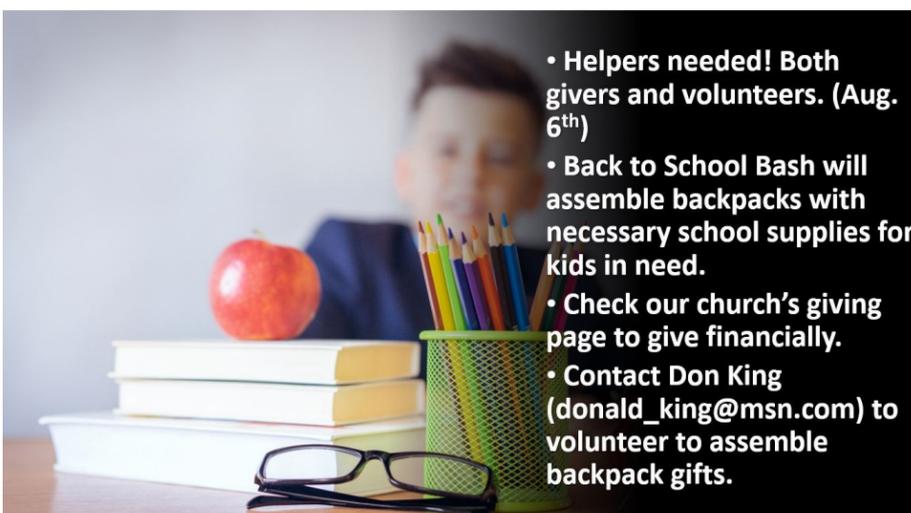
Given to the Trustee Contingency Fund

*In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by the Shaffer family*

Connection Opportunities



- Glenlake family outing!
- Join us July 23rd for a FREE family outing to Glenlake camp.
- Meet us at the camp for family fun.
- Time: 11am-4pm.
- Visit glenlake.org for more info



- Helpers needed! Both givers and volunteers. (Aug. 6th)
- Back to School Bash will assemble backpacks with necessary school supplies for kids in need.
- Check our church's giving page to give financially.
- Contact Don King (donald_king@msn.com) to volunteer to assemble backpack gifts.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

We are currently searching for a new Children's Director. We have posted this parttime position and are prayerful we will find the perfect candidate to take Charity's place. If you know anyone interested, they can send a resume or ask for more information by emailing Sandy Thompson at sumc_sprc@att.net.

From Pastor Ramon Smith—Saginaw UMC: A Caring Church

Who Will Be a Witness! Part 2



The population growth in this area is tremendous. Recently, someone said, “This is destroying our town.” I had not considered that some people would view the growth of our area from an opposing point of view. I understand that this area is losing its small-town feel. Traffic is making our daily commutes or even trips to the grocery store longer. We don’t know our neighbors how we used to, and the demographics are changing. Let’s not forget all the noise pollution from construction and cars. The truth is that we cannot put the toothpaste back in the tube. The growth is happening whether we want it to or not. Please consider the words of Jesus Christ and choose to view all the newcomers through the eyes of Jesus.

³⁶ Now, when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. ³⁸ Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.” (Matthew 9:36-38 Common English Bible)

My friends, we are the workers. As a result, our Administrative Council approved the creation of the Witness Committee. Since then, many people have asked, “What is a witness committee?” Therefore, I am writing a series of articles about Witness. The United Methodist Church defines a witness team in the following way, “The witness team coordinates, plans, carries out, and evaluates the congregation’s witness ministries, helping all know and respond to the love of God in Christ. This includes planning evangelistic outreach and setting goals for congregational growth.” The remainder of this article will focus on defining evangelism, biblical foundations for evangelism, cultural and generational contexts, and practical steps for moving forward.

Evangelism is a holistic journey inviting all people to 1) Experience the good news of Jesus Christ, 2) Join the Body of Christ, 3) Grow in faith, 4) Transform the world by our **WITNESS**.

According to the New Testament, Jesus is the focal point of the gospel and the first evangelist. John 4:1-25, 28-30, 39-42 provides us with a definition of evangelism through the model that Jesus Christ provides in the text. Thus, John 4 will be the primary text for this article.

Evangelical

Jesus is the evangel, and he evangelizes. In the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus shared the good news with the Samaritan woman. Jesus mentions the gift of God and living water in a way that is appealing and makes her want to know more. She realizes Jesus’ comments’ paradoxical nature:

“you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep.” She realizes that Jesus is offering her water that does not come from Jacob’s well. Jacob’s well was a cistern that collected rainwater, while Jesus is offering “a spring of water which wells up to eternal life.” The spring water was naturally pure, and she would never thirst again. Thus, Jacob’s well was inferior to the well that Jesus offered her. As a result, she asks for living water, so she does not keep getting lousy water. Finally, Jesus reveals himself as the Messiah to the Samaritan woman at the well.

Likewise, we must share the good news in a way that is not coercive or judgmental. Jesus does not condemn the woman. Instead, Jesus offers the woman something she desperately needs, living water. We must appealingly share the good news. The good news makes people desire to know more. Unfortunately, what some evangelists share with people is not good news. It sounds a lot more like doom and gloom. Several years ago, a young man came by my office to encourage the congregation I was serving at the time to participate in an evangelism effort in Tarrant County. He impressed me with his knowledge of statistics relating to unsaved persons in Tarrant County. I asked him how his church evangelized those who were unsaved. He said they started by asking a person, “if you died tonight, would you go to heaven or hell?” So, fear is the motivating factor for the person who becomes “saved” due to this kind of evangelism. The spreading of the good news through preaching, teaching, and healing does not seek to manipulate or force one into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ evangelized by giving a powerful message of hope even during suffering. Evangelizing is sharing a message of hope that inspires people to look beyond their present condition. Through the spreading of the good news the holy and spiritual law is written on the hearts of the believers. It is in this way that we see Christ’s kingly office expressed in the body of Christ.

Engaging

Jesus showed that he was engaged in the life of the Samaritan woman when Jesus told her everything that she had ever done. The woman recognizes Jesus as a prophet. John Wesley believed that “Christ’s prophetic office is directly linked with God’s salvific work to deliver the believer from the power of sin.” Although he never calls her by name in the passage, he knows her personally. Bishop Richard C. Looney, former Episcopal Director of The Foundation for Evangelism, says that people who choose small churches are looking for a place where the Shepherd knows them by name. Unfortunately, we are not all knowing like Jesus Christ in the gospel of John. Therefore, evangelism does not take place overnight. The church must become engaged in the lives of those who it is trying to reach, which takes time through the building of relationships. The Modern Church can not be effective in reaching a post-modern world if the church is not engaged in the post-modern world. The emerging churches seem best equipped to engage the post-modern world because they are missional in their evangelism. One challenge facing our churches in becoming more engaging is that we live in an increasingly more self-centered world. “Me, Myself, and I!” takes on a greater meaning than the community. Christians must be careful not to become victims of this “Meism.” Instead, evangelism must raise the individual’s consciousness above one’s self-interest. Who are we willing to meet at the well? Are we ready to be workers? The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

If you are interested in joining the Witness Committee, please get in touch with me at

Ramon@saginawumc.org



Youth Mission Week 2022 "Grow Where You Are Planted"



WE DID IT!! Youth Mission Week succeeded to go above and beyond our expectations! Whether it was those who worked behind the scenes to make sure we had all of our supplies, those on the "front lines" working with the youth on work teams, those who spent 4 nights sleeping in the same space as teenagers, or those who made sure we were WELL fed morning, noon, and night....we could not have made this happen without you!

A few wondered why in the world would we do Youth Mission Week and VBS at the same time?! If you happened to be at the church for any amount of time during the week, you would see

why! We had multiple ministries working together, side by side, to serve and minister to our children and our community! That is what being a church is all about!

Our theme for the week was "Grow Where You Are Planted." Each day we focused on one part of growing a garden; the soil, the seed, watering and finally harvesting. We spent time each night singing, praying, and worshipping in our own beautiful SUMC Garden and were blessed to have Pastor Ramon and Nathaniel come out to speak to us on a few occasions.



We enjoyed AMAZING food, thanks to Amber Haltom and Sheri Rann, who would arrive well before the sun would rise to begin preparing to feed us all breakfast. They then would jump right in and begin preparations for dinner, ALL of which were made from scratch! FYI be on the lookout for a special "Mission Trip Cookbook" to come your way sometime soon!

Of course, Mission Week would not be Mission Week without our incredible youth! Fifteen youth chose to give up a week of their summer, without cell phones or outside distractions, to serve. And serve they did! We had 3 work teams each with a different "garden" to plant.



Five of our youth served on the VBS team. They spent the week doing whatever was needed with VBS. Whether it was helping to lead games, singing songs, or helping with crafts, they gave it their all.

Our second work team remained on campus and constructed picnic tables and a Ga-Ga Ball Pit. If you are not sure what that is, just ask any teen! Better yet, step out to the field by the Boy Scout building and check it out for yourself! In addition, this team completed several other small projects around our church campus; helped put up decorations for our Fourth of



July celebration, cleaned out closets, and helped Orlando with some drywall repair in the children's wing. What ever was asked of them, they did!



The third work team had the privilege of serving an elderly man who lived across town and needed some sprucing up around his home. The project was coordinated with a program called REACH of Fort Worth, which is a nonprofit organization that works to keep elderly folks in their homes for as long as possible. They do this by connecting these folks with other organizations, i.e. local youth groups, who could complete home improvement projects such as

building wheelchair ramps, painting, and yard work. This work team power washed the exterior of the home, trimmed trees and bushes, painted, and planted flowers. The "harvest" came by way of a passerby who rolled down their car window and shouted, "God bless you for helping him!"

We ended our work week with a car wash. It was not only a cool and refreshing way to work, but it also served a very good purpose. All donations are going to Community Link to help with their Back to School Bash. Thanks to you and others from our community, SUMC Youth raised \$575!

Special thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Mission Week a success! We simply could not have done it without your support and encouragement!

It is truly hard to list all of the incredible moments that occurred during the week. And last, but certainly not least, all praise and thanksgiving goes to God, our Master Gardener. He was present in each of those moments.



Be sure to join us on July 31st following the 11:00 am service for an ice cream social hosted by our Youth Mission teams. We will have ice cream, sherbet, and all of the fixings to go on top. This special event will give you the opportunity to see and hear all about our incredible mission week. Mark your calendars now!



Vacation Bible School was in full swing the last week of June, with over 50 children attending. The theme was Food Truck Party. God is Great! Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a



reminder that everything we have comes from God – and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met. At the center of the Food Truck Party was a special food truck called "On a Roll." Here, Kids (or "Chefs") learned from the food truck's Top Chef, along with DJ Skillet (an adorable



cupcake puppet), about the Daily Specials (Daily Learnings), which were lines from the well-loved prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet our needs.

We learned about the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 with just 5 loaves of bread, 2 fish, and 1 prayer. Through the story of Elijah, the Widow, and the Endless Oil in 1 Kings 17, we see God's goodness shine as he helps provide food and water through a drought. We learned that "The Good Stuff" God provides, like vegetables and water, make us healthy and lead us in the right direction.



At Mission station, the children put together close to 100

bags for a program called Laugh Out Loud (LOL). LOL is a ministry program which serves the homeless in downtown Fort Worth by providing care bags. These bags contain a t-shirt, a bandana, socks, wet wipes, tissue, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, snacks, and a positive note of encouragement.



Each and everyday, the children met in the sanctuary to sing. If you had children attending, you surely heard them singing those catch songs at home. Even Mr. Tom and Mr. Gary got in involved in the fun! It was great having VBS again!



UNITED METHODIST MEN



Thank you to all of the Methodist Men that turned out on July 3 to prepare and serve at the 4th of July patriotic hot dog and apple pie lunch. Thank you to Tom Jumes, Tom Griffith, Ken Sippl, Mike Momper, Dale Pontius, Jerry Avery, Sam Thompson, David Ranney, Ray Jordan and Lenny Moore.

Methodist Men also provided guidance and instruction to the youth on the 3 projects they worked on during Mission Week. They built 2 picnic tables, a large Ga-Ga ball pit, and went to the home of an elderly man to help fix up his house.



Coming Up:

- **July 13-15**, we will be install drywall in C-9 to get it ready as a classroom,
- The next Methodist Men's breakfast will be held Saturday, **August 13th** at 8 am in the fellowship hall. Cook helpers are welcome to arrive at 7 am. After breakfast, work for the Children's wing renovation will continue.
- SUMC is joining other churches in the community to provide backpacks and school supplies to 1500 students in EMSISD. To date, we have raised \$3,500 . The Back to School Bash will be held Saturday, **August 6th** at the Hollenstein Career and Technical Center. We are proud to be involved in this outstanding ministry! Volunteers also needed to fill backpacks on **August 4th**. Contact Don King at 817-556-1829 if you would like to help.
- Save the Date! The Elmer & Claire Watson Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on **Friday, September 23rd, 2022**.



Connection Opportunities

Sisterhood Updates



**WOMEN'S
MINISTRY AT SUMC
COMMUNITY LINK DONATIONS**

Our next collection date is Saturday, August 6, 10-11 am. We will be at CL's location, 300 S Belmont St. They are collecting chicken noodle soup, mac-n-cheese, kid's 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. Our next collection date is October 1st (there is no collection date in September) Contact Shirley Stephens at 817-683-5289 if you have any questions.

JULY'S LADIES DAY OUT

We hope you can join us on Saturday, July 16th at the Kimbell Art Museum. We will leave the church fellowship parking lot at 10:30 am. The exhibition is called "The Language of Beauty in African Art." We will have lunch at Panera Bread on University. If you need handicap accommodations or nursery for your little ones please let Shirley Stephens at 817-683-5289 know so she can make arrangements.

AUGUST'S LADIES DAY OUT

We will meet in C5 on Saturday, August 13th at 9:30 am to learn to make glass beads. Debbie Wade (Sara Richter's daughter) is a talented crafter and will lead us that morning. Please park in front of the _____ church on _____



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

We would be honored to have you join us for our one-day Women's Conference on Saturday, September 10th from 9:30 am to 2 pm in the fellowship hall. Our own Lou Ann Pressler will open our meeting and Dorie McLemore will lead with her message. Dorie is a Christian comedian and if you haven't had a chance to hear her, check her out at www.doriecomedy.com. She is hilarious. We look forward to fellowship, a great message and lots of fun.

A light breakfast will be served in the morning -and a catered meal at lunchtime. If childcare is needed, please let Shirley Stephens (817-683-5289) know as soon as possible. Registration information forthcoming. Invite your family and friends. The more ladies, the more fun!

Connection Opportunities

CHURCHWIDE EXCURSION

After a long break due to COVID-19, it's time to enjoy another excursion! Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 14. We will meet at the Leonard's Department Store Museum, 200 Carroll St. in Fort Worth (near Montgomery Plaza) at 11 am (carpooling is highly recommended). For those of you who are not Fort Worth natives, Leonard's was a huge downtown department store where you could buy almost anything and they owned the only private subway in the world. The great-granddaughter of one of the founders will give us an overview and then you are free to wander on your own. We will have lunch next door at the M&O Grill . As a bonus, there is one of the subway cars on display in a building downtown; if there is enough interest we can carpool to go see it as well. All are welcome. If you would like to join us, please contact Bonnie Dodyk at 817-377-3886 (home), 817-948-1308 (cell) or bonnielwill@yahoo.com as I will need to give a count to the restaurant. So happy to be doing this again!!

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SAGINAW UNITED METHODIST ENDOWMENT FUND?

The SUMC Permanent Endowment Fund was created to receive gifts and bequests which are then prudently invested through the Texas Methodist Foundation to create income that can be used to extend our ministries and missions. The Fund provides perpetual support for the mission and work of Saginaw United Methodist Church. It is intended for the ministries, missions and outreach programs not supported by our annual operating budgets or specific capital campaigns. Think about the part that you want to play in that future. Naming the SUMC Permanent Endowment Fund as a beneficiary in your estate plan can assure your continued participation in the life and mission of SUMC far into the future.



Doorstep volunteers recently met to assemble goody bags to be given to first-time visitors--many hands got the job done quickly! If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry please contact **Bonnie Dodyk** at bonnielwill@yahoo.com



Bluebo



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 August 2nd with submissions due to office@saginawumc.org by July 26th. 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