



Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service

Focus Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 6 June 2022

Congratulations, 2022 Confirmands!



Congratulations to our 3 confirmands who took their vows on June 5th to be confirmed members of Saginaw United Methodist Church. We are so proud and we thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your spiritual journey!

Pictured above (left to right) Derry Tutt, Caroline Dreese, and Caitlin Armstrong

Upcoming Events

Ladies Quilting Night	Thursday, June 9	7:00 pm
Methodist Men's Breakfast	Saturday, June 11	8:00 am
VBS Volunteer Meeting	Sunday, June 12	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Staff Meeting	Sunday, June 12	12:00 pm
Annual Conference	June 12 - June 14	
Wisdom Group Potluck	Tuesday, June 14	6:00 pm
Finance Committee Meeting	Tuesday, June 14	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Father's Day	Sunday, June 19	
Juneteenth	Sunday, June 19	(Office closed June 20)
Youth Mission Trip	June 26 - July 1	
Vacation Bible School	June 27 - July 1	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Fourth of July Celebration	Sunday, July 3	After 11:00 am service

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 health concerns for Bill Payton, brother-in-law of Ada Umsted.

Prayers of healing for Rick & Connie Henry.

Prayers of comfort for Al Watson and those who grieve after the passing of his wife Dianne on Saturday, April 30th.

Prayers for Jack Fanning, friend of Norma English. He has been admitted to the ICU at Harris Hospital .

Prayers for baby Pena, born 2 1/2 months early. He is doing great in the NICU.

Prayers for all the moms and grandma's not with us.

Prayers for health concerns for Charlie Williams. He is in the hospital and son of Betty Williams.

Prayers for health concerns for Sam Birkner. He is in the hospital.

Prayers for victims and their families of recent shootings.

Prayers of healing for Hank Lopez. He is in the hospital.

Prayers for Brett Jenkins. He is having major surgery on Thursday.

Prayers for Terry Sullivan. She is having surgery on Tuesday.

Prayers for Bob Pressler and family. His father, Roy, passed away.

Prayers of healing for Kim Marklie. She has covid and cancer.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for a successful surgery for Honor Flaim.

Prayers for those affected by hate.

Prayers for families/friends affected by Uvalde shooting.

Prayers for healing for Terry Sullivan.

Prayers for healing for Connie and Rick Henry.

Prayers for healing for Linda Strause's 6 year-old grandson with 2 degree burns.

Prayers for family and church of Michael Plantz. He was the choir director of Arborlawn UMC.

Prayers for safe travels and joy for Charles Schlichenmeyer. He is traveling to Kentucky with the Saginaw High School debate team.

Memorials/Honorariums

Given to the Choir

In Memory of Clarence Hidy
Given by Susan Hidy

Given to the Children's wing renovation

In Memory of Clarence Hidy
Given by Julie Ann Dietderich &
Elizabeth Van Lieshout
Given by Barbara Hidy
Given by Susan Hidy

In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Dave & Diane Weaver

Given to the budget

In Memory of Rosemary Yount
Given by Terry Timms

In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Honor Flaim
Given by Terry Timms

Given to 2022 Infrastructure Maintenance

In Memory of Clarence Hidy
Given by Susan Hidy
Given by Tim & Jane Ann Kret

In Honor of Pastor Ramon
Given by Susan Hidy

In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Sunday After class
Given by Tim & Jane Ann Kret

*In Memory of Dianne Watson, Clarence
Hidy, Roy Pressler, and Lorne Banfield*
Given by Barbara & Jimmy Henley

Given to the Endowment Fund

In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Don & Jean King
Given by Dale & Linda Pontius

In Memory of Roy Pressler
Given by Don & Jean King

Given to the Saginaw Water Project

In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Adrian & Jenny Cardenas

Given to Music Ministries

In Memory of Rosemary Yount
Given by Adrian & Jenny Cardenas

Given to the Trustee Contingency Fund

In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Jay & Millie Beavers
Given by Chuck & Janice Rader
Given by Judith Scott
Given by David & Nancy Taylor

In Memory of Clarence Hidy
Given by Jay & Millie Beavers

Given to Community Link

In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Sunday After class
Given by Judith Scott

Given to Children's Ministries

In Memory of Dianne Watson
Given by Andy & Brenda Hockaday

Given to the Memorial Garden

*In Memory of Dianne Watson, Clarence Hidy,
Roy Pressler, and Lorne Banfield*
Given by Barbara & Jimmy Henley

From Pastor Ramon Smith—Saginaw UMC: A Caring Church

Who Will Be a Witness! Part 1



Since the beginning of my appointment as the pastor of Saginaw United Methodist Church, hundreds of people have moved into the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District. Many of these newcomers are from young families, but a significant number are retirees. As a result, I have preached, written, and spoken about the need for a Witness Committee. During our last Administrative Council meeting, the creation of a Care Ministry and a Witness Committee were approved. 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**.

Biblical

As a United Methodist, I believe scripture is the primary source for right practices and right teaching. Through scripture, we are introduced to the Living Word, Jesus Christ. Therefore, I have used scripture as my primary source for defining evangelism. Matthew 28:19-20 NIV, commands us, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Many Christians desire to be faithful to this command, yet many of us struggle with “making disciples” and “teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” At the heart of this struggle are deficiencies in the non-biblical models used for evangelism. These models focus on coercive and manipulative measures that either scare the “Hell out of people” or further alienate people from the church. Martin Luther said, “The bible is a cradle in which we find the Christ child.” To become effective evangelists or understand what it means to evangelize, we must look inside the cradle. There we find the Christ child who grows into a man who is both fully divine and fully human. Jesus experiences hunger, thirst, anger, and persecution. 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.

Cultural Context

Jesus Christ took on our culture and our practices through his incarnation. He participated in Jewish life and its cultural context. In John 4, Jesus is on a journey through Samaria when he stops in a town called Sychar. Jesus traveled to a different cultural context. Jews and Samaritans were enemies due to a dispute over the correct location of the cultic place of worship. Jesus knew that Jews should not speak to Samaritans especially Samaritan women, and should not drink from a Samaritan vessel. Jesus' request for water was not because he was ignorant of his cultural context. On the contrary, the request for water opened the door for a transformative conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The request provides a segway to communicate the good news.

Likewise, the culture of the church is modern. Yet, we live in a post-modern world. Therefore, the church must follow Jesus' example by adapting to the culture of the world that he came to save, recognizing the cultural differences, and using those differences as a means of dialogue.

Many modern churches fail to reach the post-modern Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z because they do not understand the post-modern culture. Without a proper understanding of post-modern culture, one can not effectively share the good news of Jesus Christ. Thus, "the church must embody the gospel within the culture of postmodernity for the Western Church to survive the twenty-first century."

The Samaritan woman probably expected Jesus to treat her harshly because she was a Samaritan. In "The Mission," the native South Americans were treated harshly because they were of a different culture. The Jesuit priests discovered that music was a means of finding common ground with the native South Americans. Both Jesus and the Samaritan woman were thirsty; their thirst brought them both to the well. Evangelism means finding out what brings us to the well. Jesus thirsted physically, while the Samaritan woman thirsted physically and spiritually. Their thirst transcended their cultural differences. Our needs bring us to the well, and those needs transcend cultural differences. Jesus saw her needs and met them at the well.

So what does all of this mean for Saginaw United Methodist Church? First, we need to learn all we can about the generational and cultural differences within a three-mile radius of where we live and within a three-mile radius of the church. Second, we need to understand the needs of the people within those communities. We have common ground at the intersection of our needs and their needs; that is the well. Third, we need a group of people to serve on the witness committee who, in consultation with the pastor, work on a plan of evangelism. Also, we need to adequately fund the committee to help us reach the growing population in our area. Fourth, all of our ministries need to align their discipleship and mission goals to address the needs of the mission field (you live in the mission field, so this includes your needs). Fifth, witness/evangelism is the work of the entire church. We all need to participate in this work. Remember the words of Jesus,⁸ *Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8 CEB)

My friends, we have been given the Spirit to be witnesses. Let's lay claim to that power so that others will experience the life-transforming good news of Jesus Christ.



Youth Mission Week 2022 "Grow Where You Are Planted"

Mission week is less than a month away! This year we are focusing on LOCAL missions and outreach projects, hence the theme for the week: *"Grow Where You Are Planted."*

Here is a brief overview about Youth Mission Week:

WHEN: JUNE 26 - JULY 1 (Sunday to Friday)

WHERE: Saginaw UMC - we will be "camping" out at the church for the week!

WHAT: We will be serving in a variety of ways throughout the week! We have projects that require some building/constructing, some outreach projects within the community, as well as serving as VBS volunteers! Our last day of Mission Week will be spent at the beach!

HOW: Sign up in the Youth Room during Sunday School or Sunday Night Youth! You can also contact Michelle Burkholder directly to sign up. (See contact info below)

COST: \$100 per participant (discounts for members of the same family). Checks made payable to SUMC with Youth Mission Trip notated in the memo line are accepted, as well as through the online giving portal. PLEASE contact me if you are in need of financial assistance.

We are really excited for this week of mission work! We are in the midst of planning and preparing, so the sooner we have a headcount, the better prepared we can be. Please consider jumping on board and joining us! We need a final headcount no later than **June 15th**.

For more information or to register for Mission Week, please contact Michelle Burkholder at michelle@saginawumc.org.

We are still in need of one more adult male volunteer to serve as a second adult in the male sleeping





Youth Sunday School - "HEROES" (9:45 am)

Summer blockbuster movies usually contain at least one "Superhero" themed movie. So, I thought it would be cool to do the same! We will be diving into a series entitled "HEROES" for the summer. This series will lead us through the book of Judges in the Old Testament. Before you yawn toooooooo much...trust me when I tell you, this is one of the most intriguing and thrilling books of the Bible!! It has all the elements of a great movie: action, tragedy, love, and loss. Please join us Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45 am in the Youth Room!

What's Up Wednesdays

Due to summer work hours changing and folks traveling, we will suspend our WUW's for the summer. We will reconvene in August!! Stay tuned for date and time!

Welcome to SUMC Youth

Beginning June 5th, we will be welcoming all youth who have completed 6th grade to our SUMC Youth family! If you fall into this category or you have a youth who does, please consider making a trip "upstairs" to check us out! You will find a group that is not only warm and welcoming, but also, a bit wacky and always fun to be around!

SUMC Youth offers Sunday school beginning at 9:45 am in the Youth Room. We dive into a variety of subjects as well as engage in good old-fashioned Bible Study. Please note: Bible knowledge is NOT a prerequisite! We are all on this faith journey together.

We also gather together on Sunday Nights from 5 -7 pm. This time is geared more towards building relationships, having fun with games/activities, eating (it's a Methodist thing that starts young!), engaging in community service projects, and a host of other activities.

SUMC is more than just another Youth Group...it is a family, where all are welcomed! Please feel free to contact Michelle Burkholder, Director of Youth Ministries (michelle@saginawumc.org) for more information, or better yet, come on up and join the fun!

Sunday Night Youth - 5-7 pm

June 12 - Water Olympics - Get ready to get wet!! Join us on the lawn by the Boy Scouts building and be sure to wear something you don't mind getting wet! Bring a towel! We will provide the "cool" refreshments!

June 19 - Father's Day - no SNY on this night. Spend the night celebrating all of the amazing "dads" in your lives!

June 26 - YOUTH MISSION WEEK KICKS OFF!!!



Summer is here! We had a wonderful Pre-K graduation and 'water day' to cap off our year. On Tuesday, May 24th, our 12 Pre-K students walked proudly through the sanctuary, sang their songs and recited their poem, and then crossed the stage to tell the audience what they wanted to be when they grew up. Answers ranged from an astronaut to a teacher to a cat! A HUGE thank you to Mr. Tom for his help in the sound booth to keep all the songs cued up and on time! I couldn't do it without your help. Families were able to enjoy refreshments in the fellowship hall after the ceremony, and the rain even held for a little while for pictures in the garden!

We may have wrapped up the school year, but our work hasn't stopped. Even though our children are no longer in the building, our teachers were on campus this week cleaning out their room, sorting through toys, and boxing up their belongings, all in anticipation for the painting that is going to begin. If you were to walk through the halls of the children's wing right now, you would see ladders, paint rollers, and new light fixtures, where just days ago there were chairs, cubbies and classroom supplies. It took a whole team of people to remove all the items from the classrooms, and I would like to thank the Little Blessings teachers, the Methodist Men, and specifically Orlando Martinez, for all the hard work that was put into prepping the rooms for their upcoming facelift.



We may not be able to be in the building for a few weeks, but the work won't stop for Little Blessings! We are still enrolling children for the 2022-2023 school year. I am also looking for a new worship curriculum to use in our classes to help us continue our mission of reaching even the smallest of those for Christ. We are also hoping to expand and open another classroom, which means more staff! Please partner with me in prayer that the Lord will direct the right people to our ministry. It is my hope that we can open at full capacity, with a full staff, in the fall!

Little Blessings is hiring!

If you enjoy working with children to provide a fun, safe, and educational environment, this may be the position for you. Our program is searching for qualified workers for our preschool classrooms to lead children in activities throughout the day. Classroom teachers will work to engage their class with activities, stories, and play, all designed to help reinforce a monthly theme or lesson. Experience in Education not necessary, classroom training will be provided.

Hours: Tues/Thurs 8:30 am-2:30 pm (summers off)

Qualifications: Applicant must be able to pass a background check and have a high school diploma.

Please send inquiries to Kristin at littleblessingspreschool@yahoo.com, or call the preschool office at 817-232-4380.



Spend Summer With Us!

During the summer we know families travel so we will be spending time on one concept for several weeks instead of moving stories each week. We will continue with our one room Sunday school in C-20 and explore our Bible stories in fun and creative ways. WE NEED YOU! We need volunteers on Sundays, please email Charity Dragna at children@saginawumc.org to sign up as a helper at 9:45 am or 11:00 am.

One Year of Children's Ministry

It is hard to believe it has already been officially one year since I took on the role as Director of Children's Ministry. Never would I have imagined this is where I would be when I started attending church at Saginaw UMC in 2016. It has been a roller coaster of a year as we continued to pull out of Covid and move into a new normal. I have enjoyed my time with the children of the church and hope they have enjoyed their time with me. Our ministry continues to move forward and grow and I want to thank all of those who have supported me in this journey.

- Charity Dragna, Director of Children's Ministry

Kids Hope Returns

One Church * One School * One Mentor * One Child * One Hour

I have begun Director training for Kids Hope and I truly wish for this to be a successful program again. Covid did not make the need for mentors disappear. If you feel a call to serve, we will be in need of mentors and prayer partners for the 2022-2023 school year. Please contact Charity Dragna at children@saginawumc.org if you are interested or would like more information.



2022 Food Truck Party VBS

June 27 - July 1 9 am - 12 pm



Great music, exciting science experiments, interactive Bible storytelling and team-building games will teach kids that God's power can take them anywhere!

Entering Pre-K (4 years and potty trained) - 6th grade.
Please register for the grade your child will enter in the fall 2022.

Cost: \$5 per child—Your child will receive a Chef Kit and snacks each day. Scholarships are available.

Volunteers Needed!

If you're an adult or youth entering 7th - 12th grade, we need your help at Vacation Bible School!

Adult volunteers are needed as station volunteers and shepherds. Youth volunteers will help assist children in the classrooms and participate as co-leaders in music, science, games, and storytelling. Plus, youth can earn up to 20 hours of community service!

Join us as we go on a roll with God at our Food Truck Party! Join us for music, crafts, science experiments, games, stories, mission projects and more!

Kids of volunteers come for free! Adults must commit to the entire week of VBS and complete the registration form before becoming eligible for free registration.

Register as an adult volunteer! <https://forms.gle/8EJJXm3yMbLF4zZAA>

Register as a youth volunteer! <https://forms.gle/rv1tjVeNTHzFh95b7>

If you would like more information, please contact Charity Dragna at children@saginawumc.org.

UNITED METHODIST MEN



The Methodist Men had a busy May! During the last month, they installed 3 new monument signs at the corners of the campus and have helped clean classrooms in preparation for renovation. Special thanks to Jerry Avery, Tom Griffith, Gary Hill, Ray Jordan, Don King, Orlando Martinez, Mike Momper, Dale Pontius, Bob Pressler, David Ranney, Mark Repogle, Ken Sippl, Dave Weaver, and David White for your hard work on these projects.



Coming Up:

- The next Methodist Men's breakfast will be held Saturday, June 11 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.
- During the week of June 26 - July 1, Methodist Men will provide guidance and supervision on work projects during the Annual Youth Mission Trip. Details to follow.
- On Tuesday, June 28, volunteers are needed to help decorate the outside of the church. If you are able to help, please meet in the front of the church at 1 pm.
- On Sunday, July 3, Methodist Men will purchase, prepare, and serve hot dogs, fixings, and chips after the 11 am service. Preparation will begin around 9 am. Help is needed for this event.
- Save the Date! The Elmer & Claire Watson Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, September 23rd, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact Don King at 817-556-1829.

Connection Opportunities

SISTERHOOD UPDATES ON WOMEN'S MINISTRY AT SUMC

COMMUNITY LINK DONATIONS

Our next collection date is Saturday, July 9th, 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 August 6th. Contact Shirley Stephens at 817-683-5289 if you have any questions.

LADIES QUILTING NIGHT

Thursday, June 9th we invite you to join us for an evening with the quilters and stitchers. Come out to learn how to quilt, make stitches, and tie blankets. I am told there is something for all skill levels. They are looking for others to join in their ministry. We will meet in the quilters building (behind the church) at 7 pm. Hope to see you there! For any questions, contact Paula Wood at 214-675-3826 or pjw627a@gmail.com.

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.

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 or call 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.

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



Saginaw United Methodist Church Samaritans

People of Faith who respond to the needs of our church and community.

Join our Sunday School Class to learn more about what God wants us to do.

Samaritan Sunday School Class:

Sundays 9:45am to 10:45am: Room C1/C2

Current Book Study: Max Lucado: He Chose the Nails

- Learn just how much God loves and cares for you.
- Take comfort that Jesus understands everything you face in this life.
- Remember that there's nothing you can do to earn God's gift.
- Stand firm in the promise that you are forgiven, and you are welcome in God's presence.

Contact Belia Thompson for more information:
be.escobar.thompson@gmail.com

Women of Grace

Sundays at 9:45am room C2

You are invited to join them and bring a friend. We are studying *Heaven, My Father's House*.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Page, janetpage002@gmail.com

or

Susie Rhoades, sbigchew@gmail.com



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





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 July 5th with submissions due to office@saginawumc.org by June 28th. 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