



Focus Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 6 Summer 2023

Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 28

- Scouts Troop 151 Blood Drive
12 pm - 6 pm

Thursday, August

- EMSISD supply packing event
6 pm - 8 pm

Saturday August 5

- Methodist Men's Breakfast 8 am
- EMSISD Back to School Bash
9 am
- Sisterhood Community Link
Collection 10 am

Sunday, August 6

- Administrative Council Meeting
12:15 pm

Tuesday August 8

- Wisdom Group Potluck 6 pm
- Finance Committee Meeting
7 pm

Congratulations to our 2023 confirmands!



The 2023 confirmands are Adalynn Hazelton, Hailey Hazelton, Ryan McIntyre, Lena Sutton, Natasha Sutton, and Cooper Villegas. A big thank you to their mentors: Rebecca Altizer, Liz Slagle, David Sutton, Diane Weaver, and Sandra Young.

Announcements



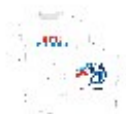
DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

Blood Drive
Saginaw
United Methodist Church
Boy Scout Troop 151

Fellowship Hall
209 S. Blue Bonnet Street
Fort Worth, TX 76179

Friday, July 28, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: `saginawumc` to schedule an
appointment or scan the QR code below.



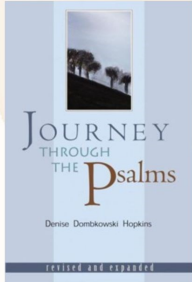
**Come give July 17 thru 31 for an exclusive Shark Week
shirt from Discovery, while supplies last!**

[41] - order ID: 1523265 - item ID: 9857503 - qty: 1 of 1 - 0698 B07 - 3303-APL-03-03 - AP-9 - 24-307

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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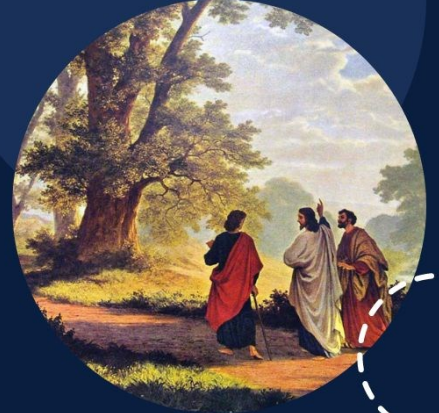
Connection Opportunities



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

currently studying the book of Psalms

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM IN C1



Walk to Emmaus Reunion Group
Meets on the First and Third
Wednesday at 6 pm and on the
Second and Fourth Sunday at 5:15 pm
in the fellowship hall

Samaritans

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

Women of Grace



Now studying *Angels* by
Dr. David Jeremiah

Contact Janet Page or Susie Rhoades for more information

Young Couples

A Sunday school class created to help Young Couples grow in their faith and encourage one another. This class also addresses the unique challenges of couples under 50.
Meets in C21 at 9:45 am

You are invited to join us!

Sunday After

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



Community Link

Our next collection date is **Saturday, August 5**. 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 September 2, October 7, November 4, and December 2. You are invited to join us on the first Saturday of each month from 10-11 am to serve the community and represent our church. It is a very rewarding experience! Community Link is located at 300 S. Belmont Street, just minutes from the church.

Presbyterian Night Shelter

The Sisterhood has restarted our monthly collection for the missions we support. We will be collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste for Presbyterian Night Shelter for the month of July. There will be a collection box in the Fellowship Hall.

In August, we will be collecting children's underwear for the local elementary schools. The schools don't have the funds to pay for underwear when the little ones have "accidents."

September through December, we will be collecting socks for the Presbyterian Night Shelter.

A dark blue poster with a starry night sky background. At the top, it reads 'THE SISTERHOOD PRESENTS THE Women's Retreat SATURDAY, SEPT 16 9:30 - 2'. Below this, it says 'Join us for:' followed by a list of activities: '• Christian comedian Renetta Nail', '• Games & Music', '• A lite breakfast & lunch', and '• Door prizes!'. At the bottom, it states 'TICKETS ARE \$25 REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.SAGINAWUMC.ORG'. The background features faint silhouettes of women's faces.

THE SISTERHOOD PRESENTS THE
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SATURDAY, SEPT 16 9:30 - 2

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TICKETS ARE \$25
REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.SAGINAWUMC.ORG

A word from Pastor Ramon Smith



Summary of Central Texas Annual Conference 2023

Grace and Peace,

Saginaw UMC Lay members to the Annual Conference include Sam and Belia Thompson and Rebecca Altizer (Alternate who served in place of Jean James). The Annual Conference began on Sunday, June 4, 2023, with opening worship at 7:00 pm in the Waco Convention Center. The Conference preacher was Rev. Derek Jacobs from the Village UMC (North Texas Annual Conference), and the One Fellowship UMC Mass Choir (Central Texas Conference) provided the worship music for the service.

The theme of the sermon was “It’s a New Season.” The sermon was inspirational and instructional: Don’t live in the past. Focus on the future. The hardships of the past have made us stronger, and we are prepared to walk into the destiny that God has promised.

On Monday, June 5, 2023, the Annual Conference was called to Order by Bishop Ruden Saenz, followed by worship. Bishop Saenz gave his Episcopal Address encouraging us to: “Be Strong, Take Heart, and Hope in the Lord.” Our Conference Teachers were Rev. Dr. Aqueelah Ligonde of Valley Stream, NY, and Trey Wince of Oklahoma City, OK. They both work for Ministry Incubators, which helps people launch new ministry ideas outside the church. I will provide a separate summary of the teaching sessions.

Additionally, we voted on disaffiliation matters. The CTC had 38 more churches disaffiliate. Some Oasis Communities have formed as a safe haven for hurting United Methodists whose churches have disaffiliated. And we have already launched and chartered a new United Methodist Congregation with over 100 people and it’s name is **REVIVE United Methodist Church** in Azle, TX.

Following the disaffiliation vote, the laity elected two new delegates to the General Conference to replace delegates who could no longer serve. Kevin Walters was elected on the second ballot. Pam Phinney was elected on the third ballot.

On Monday night at the Ordination and Commissioning Service, we commissioned and ordained the largest class of candidates in the last ten years; Rev. Rhonda Chambers was commissioned and is appointed to serve as associate pastor at Saginaw UMC on July 1, 2023. Sarah Boyette was ordained as deacon and will continue to serve at First Hurst United Methodist Church.

On Tuesday morning a memorial service was held to celebrate the lives and ministries of the

clergy, clergy spouses, and Central Texas laity who have died. Next, we voted on three resolutions:

Resolution to Provide Menstrual Products
In Support of Creating A US Regional Conference
Supporting the Removal of Discriminatory Policies.

All three of the resolutions passed. The resolution “Supporting the Removal of Discriminatory Policies” was passed with an amendment that urged the delegates to General Conference to consider the diverse theological perspectives (progressives, centrists, and traditionalists) in our conference when casting their vote. A fourth resolution was tabled indefinitely.

These votes are aspirational. None of these votes change anything in our Book of Discipline. General Conference is the only body of the church that can do that. Delegates to the general conference will vote their conscience in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the Spring of 2024.

Summary of the Teaching Sessions at Central Texas Annual Conference 2023

Aqueelah and Trey’s teaching sessions were entitled: “Know Thy Neighbor Gen Z and the Faith of Emerging Generations.” Here is a summary of the sessions.

Why?

Why should we be interested in reaching Generation Z, and what role do we have to play? The conference preacher and the bishop reminded us, “Our young people are the future.” Additionally, these young people are our children, grandchildren, and neighbors. This requires us to make strategic decisions today that will enable us to grow the church of tomorrow. Rev. Dr. Aqueelah reminded us of the story of Samuel and Eli. Samuel, the boy, could hear the call of the Lord, but Eli could not. Yet, Eli served as his mentor. Young people may hear God’s call to do something new that we cannot hear, but they need mentoring. They need kind of mentors who listen and are empathetic. Unfortunately, we often skip the listening part.

Who is Generation Z? (2023). Another way to consider it is to consider all the kids in pre-kindergarten through college age.

- Ages 4 to 22
- Population 77.9 million
- Spending power 10.7 million
- Differentiators:
 - Diversity (It is the most diverse generation in the history of the US.)
 - 22% Silent Generation
 - 28% Boomers

(continued on next page)

- 40% Generation X
- 45% Millennial
- 50% Generation Z
- Digitally driven
 - Find community through technology
 - Correlation between depression/anxiety to the amount of time spent on social media
- Grew up in times of crisis
 - School shootings/mass shootings
 - Pandemic
 - Economic uncertainty
 - Anxiety of going through security in the airport (post 9/11)

Core Values of Gen Z

- 89% of Gen Z believes that mental health is as important as physical health
- 81% of Gen Z buy from brands that support causes they believe in
- Work life should not be severed from their core beliefs

How do we become more curious and better listeners?

When launching a new ministry, we must first start with empathy. We need to listen and be curious. We don't need to assume we know what they need. We must understand the hopes, pain, assumptions, loathes, and loves of the people we are trying to reach. Marketing firms understand the value of this kind of research. This is why you see tire commercials about mental health. Even though tires and mental health have nothing to do with each other, mental health is important to the tire company's target consumer. We must also understand what is essential to the people we are trying to reach.

- Do one on ones. (5 Meetings with 5 People)
- Ask Good questions (how do you feel or tell me about a time....)
- 4 Key Points: How to get interested and curious about people.
 - Purpose (Let them know why you want to meet with them)
 - Exploration (Ask good follow-up questions.... tell me more about...)
 - Exchange (resources/tools) (values/stories ...it should not feel like an interview)
 - Commitment (Who else can I talk to, and what are you willing to do?)

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Ramon F. Smith

Newsletter Spotlight: Church Leadership 101

This is Part 4, and last, in a series of articles on church leadership opportunities.

We hope this series of articles has been informative and will help you as members of SUMC identify where your spiritual gifts would be best used. Please reach out to the Pastor or members of the Nominations Committee for more information or to get “plugged in.” **1 Corinthians 12:4-7.** *Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are his. The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church.*

Discernment

The Discernment team is dedicated to helping discern the way the Holy Spirit is calling the church to live and move and be in our community and world. To this end, the basic tasks include: 1) Begin a membership roll clean up when at least 100 names are listed as members who have not attended worship at least 3 times in the previous 18 months; 2) Being mindful of input from the congregation, create, lead and facilitate ministry goals for the church and develop ways to measure progress toward those goals; 3) Create and facilitate congregation-wide conversations around large issue topics facing the church.

This committee is not designated by the Book of Discipline but established by our church for the purposes listed. It follows the same structure as most other committees of three rotating classes of three members each for continuity and to avoid burnout. It reports to the Administrative council, and the chair is designated at the committee’s discretion.

Current members include: Ron Mayo (Chair), Judy Scott, Brie Kilgore, James Young, Thomas Buchanan, Belia Thompson, Karen Ranney and Pastor Ramon Smith.

Endowment Committee

While the Finance Committee has the task of resourcing the year-to-year ministry and mission of the church, the Endowment Committee is tasked with resourcing ministry and mission goals outside or just beyond those annual goals. This committee’s main tasks are: 1) Oversee contributions made to this fund; 2) Ensure legacy gifts are acknowledged, invested and in line with the UMC social principles and Book of Discipline; 3) Accept requests for disbursement and insure they are used for the intended purpose and do not exceed the limits in the bylaws; 4) Educate members of SUMC regarding opportunities for making legacy gifts.

Church Leadership, cont.

The committee should not have more than nine members divided into three classes for a three-year term. The chairperson is elected by the Nominations Committee. It should also have representation from Finance, Trustees and the Administrative Council Chair. Current members are: Don King (Chair), Sheri Rann, Diane Weaver, Dale Pontius, Ken Sippl, Tim Kret, Gary Schiffner, Rosa Jordan, David Ranney and Pastor Ramon Smith.

Nominations and Leadership Development

This committee elected by the charge conference serves throughout the year to guide the Administrative Council on matters of lay leadership of the congregation. They should be sensitive to the leadership needs and be able to recognize the capabilities, gifts, skills and experience of people in the congregation. In addition, they should work toward offering training opportunities for identified or potential leaders.

Besides those mentioned above, other tasks include: 1) prepare job descriptions for leadership positions; 2) invite potential leaders to serve in those positions; 3) present recommendations to the charge conference. The committee should not exceed nine members, plus the pastor (chair) and the lay leader. All should be members of the local church. Members may include a youth and should include a young adult. Like most others, it is divided into three classes, each elected for a 3-year term. Current members include: Pastor Ramon Smith (chair), Jane Ann Kret, Juanita Jordan (Lay Leader), Jay Beavers, Joan Sippl, Liz Slagle, Dee Griffith, Gloria Doss, Belia Thompson and Jean King.

Saginaw Water Project

This committee is not required by the Book of Discipline but was created as a Holy Focus project in 2017 from our congregations' desire to help those in our community struggling to pay their water bill. The committee partners with the City of Saginaw to identify appropriate candidates who go through a vetting process before funds are transferred to the city on their behalf. This project has been well funded by generous donations made by church members. In 2022, 25 families were assisted with a total of \$6260.56 paid directly to the water department. This year, eight families have been helped, and the need generally increases after July.

Current members of this committee include: Robert Pressler, Juanita Jordan, Rhonda Schiffner, Chuck Kilgore and Caroline Dreese (Youth.) They serve three-year terms in classes of two. Rev. Rhonda Chambers, pastor of caring ministries, will chair this committee by vetting applicants according to the guidelines, assessing the spiritual and material needs of the applicants, and offering pastoral care or a Stephen Minister when appropriate.



YOUTH MISSION WEEK 2023

Who would have thought that a song by the rock band, Journey, would have inspired the theme for this year's Youth Mission Week, but it did! The song's origins came from the advice of a father who believed in the gifts and talents of his son, who, at the time, was experiencing some tough times and was ready to give up.

During our week together we focused on the trustworthiness of God's plans and promises for us, remembering that when



tough times come, we have a Father who will always be there to encourage us to not stop believing, praying, being present, giving, serving and sharing the good news!



What an incredible week it was! Fifteen youth and multiple adult volunteers stepped up to serve and help lead various work projects. We were blessed to have enough youth

and adults to work both on-site at SUMC and off-site at a client's home. In triple-digit temps, these youth and adults truly were the hands and feet of Christ! Praise God!



There are SO MANY folks to thank! From those who went out to do site visits with us before our Mission Week even started, to those who worked alongside our youth, teaching, guiding

and mentoring...we say THANK YOU! And we simply cannot forget those amazing angels in the kitchen, who arrived way before the sun came up to make sure we had full and satisfied bellies each and every day...we say





THANK YOU! To those who showed up for “night duty” and those who provided our favorite snacks to last us all week...we say THANK YOU!



To our Pastors, who took the time to visit each worksite and serve Holy Communion (and cupcakes!)...we say THANK YOU! To our church family, who through your support and

encouragement have helped to make Mission Week possible...we say THANK YOU! To our Father in Heaven...who is our biggest fan...we say THANK YOU! Though these two words seem so small, we hope they convey the immense gratitude that we sincerely hold in our hearts. THANK YOU!

SUMC Youth Mission Week Projects

With the help of many amazing volunteers and 15 incredible, dedicated and hardworking youth, here is a little snapshot of the “kingdom work” that we accomplished during our Youth Mission Week 2023.

On-site at SUMC:

- Power washed and painted the eaves and railing at the Outreach building
- Filled the hole in the church parking lot (left by the large tree that was cut down)
- Cut down and cleared away all of the overgrown bushes/trees across the street (along the fence line)
- Cleaned out and organized the Mission Trip room and Youth room closet
- Resealed the Ga-Ga Ball pit and all of the picnic tables on campus
- Washed and cleaned the church van

Off-site at client Judy’s house:

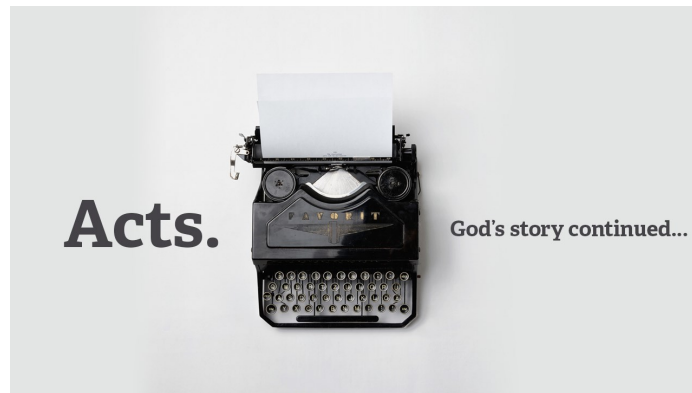
- Installed insulation and drywall to water heater closet
- Sealed and secured outside access to attic & water heater
- Painted access panel to blend with rest of house
- Built stone patio in backyard
- Power washed patio furniture
- Repainted porch and front door
- Painted garage door
- Hung up pictures inside the home



What's Happening in Youth!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUMC Youth are beginning a new Bible Study series! We will be diving into the Book of Acts. This 8-week study will help us discover that God's story didn't end when Jesus returned to heaven but continued on through the lives of the disciples. We will learn that the story carries on today through the lives of Jesus' followers everywhere (that's US!). All youth grades 7-12 are invited to join us each Sunday up in the youth room beginning at 9:45am.



SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH – Jul/Aug

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us on Sunday nights for fellowship, food and FUN!

Here is a look at what is coming up in the next few weeks (events are subject to change, be sure to sign up for group emails & Remind messages for updates):

Jul 30 – WELCOME TO SUMC YOUTH!! Don't miss this event as we officially welcome all of our new confirmands into our Youth Family with.....WATER GAMES!! More info to come next week!

Aug 6 – Off-campus event...TBD

Aug 13 – NO SNY – Get a good night's rest!! School starts Monday (for most!)

Aug 20 – Movie Night

Aug 27 – Farewell to Summer

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join us each Sunday night from 5:00-7:00pm for SNY Activities.

For more information and to get signed up for email messages, please contact Michelle Burkholder, Director of Youth Ministries (michelle@saginawumc.org).

UNITED METHODIST MEN



The Methodist Men announce their Annual Watson Memorial Golf Tournament which raises money to fund the many Methodist Men ministries. It will be held September 8th at the Golf Course at the Resort in Fort Worth. Registration begins at 11:30 am and tee time is at 1 pm. The green fee is \$75 if paid in advance and \$100 on the day of. The green fee includes cart, practice balls, BBQ lunch; prizes and awards. There will also be

fun competitions such as Best Ball; Shot Gun Start, etc. You can register on the church website or many places in the church.

At their July meeting Methodist Men voted to contribute \$500 to the Back To School Bash which raises money for school supplies and back packs for students in EMISD who can not afford them.

Following their July Meeting, Methodist Men undecorated the outside of the campus from the July 4 holiday.

Methodist Men worked with the youth in their Mission Week projects to fix up/ renovate homes for elderly in Fort Worth and an asphalt project in the church parking lot.



The Methodist Men also purchased, prepared and served the hot dog lunch after the 11 am service on July 2 to celebrate our Nation's freedom

The next Methodist Men meeting is August 5 in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast is served at 8 am. If you want to help cook, plan to be in the kitchen about 7. This meeting will be focused on many details to get ready for the golf tournament. All men in the church are welcome to attend and enjoy the great breakfast and fellowship.

Announcements

Please join us in welcoming our new members: Richard, Veronica, Richard Jr, Erick, and Christopher Salazar! (not pictured: Richard Jr.) The Salazars joined on Sunday, June 23.



Friends of Lancaster Homeless Ministry

Current Needs:

- pillows & blankets
- sleeping bags
- tents
- travel size toiletries
- men's shoes
- men's underwear
- men's socks
- women's shoes
- women's underwear
- women's socks
- individually wrapped chips & cookies
- water
- gatorade



Please bring donations to the fellowship hall



Children's Ministry

We had an amazing VBS Knights of the King's Castle June 19-21. It took many volunteers to make VBS such a successful event where the kids learned about how to armor up with the armor of God.

My thanks could go on forever to the many people who took time to decorate, make tunics for the kids, manage media/AV, secure our areas, clean, prepare crafts, purchase materials, donate monetarily, prepare snacks, teach groups and lead in the assembly time.

And there are many other things I probably did not see that were expertly done to help the VBS run so smoothly. It is truly a blessing watching the Saginaw UMC family work together as a body to meet so many different needs using their gifts and talents. Praise God!



We had 38 registered children that attended VBS all 3 nights. There were 42 volunteers that participated each evening as well. The Youth helpers were the absolute best leaders I've ever worked with as they took the initiative to take care of needs instead of waiting for direction. Thanks also to Pastor Ramon for leading an adult class for parents and guests during the children's activities.

Thursday was a Knight's Out Adventure to Alley Cats Entertainment where some serious bowling and go kart riding lead the way in fun.

During our Sunday School classes, we are continuing the study of the Ephesians 6 and the Armor of God as we remember to suit up with God's armor every day.

"Put on the full armor of God..." Ephesians 6:11a.





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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