

*in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2022

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Cover: Watercolor by Erika Leggett Clabough



Stouffer's

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Happy St. Patrick's Day! (I'm writing this on March 17, 2022!)

From the middle of the season of Lent, our congregational book reading this year, *Good Enough*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, is by far the best reading I've ever read

during the season of Lent. I am struck by the timely nature of the writings. The truth of God's love rings out from each day's devotion. And the beauty and mercy of God's grace showers upon me as I consider steps to take that are good enough for today.



Years and years ago, my mom began learning this prayer on St. Patrick's Day:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things that I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen."

Known as "The Serenity Prayer," it has been a mainstay in my journey since I learned it some time after mom did.

I think the place I struggle, sometimes still, is knowing the difference between what needs changing and what is beyond

me to change. Some time on the way to seminary or in seminary, I discovered that Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr wrote this prayer. In its original writing it reads:

"God, give us the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardships as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen."

I don't know what, if anything, you gave up for Lent. As well as giving up, I believe in "taking up" something new. Praying this prayer, in its original form, is something I've taken up this Lent as a means to take hold of life, embracing each moment of each day. May our work this Lent continue to bear good and lasting fruit for years and years to come.

Jon

Rev. Jon Stouffer, Lead Pastor

Loving the City



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Bed Build

Saturday, April 16 | 2950 Milam, Beaumont.

Morning Shift - 8:30 a.m. – Noon

Afternoon Shift - 12:30 – 4 p.m.

Bed Delivery

Saturday, April 23 | 2950 Milam, Beaumont.

9 a.m. – Noon

Congratulations to SHP on building and delivering over 1,400 beds for children in Southeast Texas! If you would like to serve with SHP, Contact Jack Seeley for more information.

To pre register as a volunteer go to – bit.ly/shpvolunteer

KAIROS KITCHEN

Saturday, April 23 | Rothwell Hall
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Kairos Kitchen is a monthly opportunity to connect with our neighbors here in Downtown Beaumont, and provide nutritional meals for those facing food insecurity. It's a time of sharing good food, fellowship, prayer, as well as Holy Communion. All are welcome to come and serve. This March, Kairos Kitchen served 40 folks.

If you would like to serve with Kairos Kitchen, contact Charlie Snoek for more information. charles.snoek8533@gmail.com



SERVING STUDENTS – LAMAR UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

This March, First UMC and the UMW made dinner for over 60 Lamar University Wesley Foundation Students, serving hungry stomachs and minds.

United Women in Faith

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A LEGACY OF MISSION

In 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. They raised money to send two missionaries to India, a woman doctor and woman teacher. United Methodist Women is the successor to that and other women's missionary societies. Today, United Methodist Women is the largest faith-based women's mission organization in the world, changing lives for women, children, youth, and families down the street and around the globe.

The United Methodist Women unit of First UMC Beaumont has a history of participating in hands-on mission projects, financial support of missions both local and foreign, and studies on social issues and spiritual growth.

Our studies for 2022 include the criminalization of black women and girls, finding peace in an anxious world, and the Luke 13 description of what it means to be a community.

The United Methodist Women of First UMC Beaumont are now meeting on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1pm in the church parlor. This meeting will not include a meal. Simply coffee and cookies. All women of the church are invited to be a part of this meaningful, historic, missions organization.

If you have any questions, please call Mary Early at 337-274-4782, Ruby Nelson at 409-781-6798, or Liza Nelson at 409-767-0021.

Our Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, April 27 | 1:00 – 3:00pm
First UMC Parlor**



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN IS NOW UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

March 7, 2022, Courtesy of United Women in Faith. 2022. Resource UMC

NEW YORK, N.Y., Mar. 2, 2022: United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith! The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

The organization announced the new operating name in the March-April edition of response, its bimonthly magazine for members, and is launching the rebrand with a new website and Face Book event March 3 at 1 pm ET.

The new programs are fruits of research conducted over the past five years with more than 24,000 United Methodists and women of other Christian traditions participating in the surveys, focus

groups and interviews. This input informed the prayerful discernment of staff and elected leaders.

The changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women and expand options for membership and engagement. The new name also aims to welcome current members whose local churches may choose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join.

New and innovative programs will be rolled out throughout 2022, including:

- **A new, easier to navigate website** with a homepage designed to pique new women's interest in United Women in Faith and a special portal set to come online later this year

where members can log in to access additional resources.

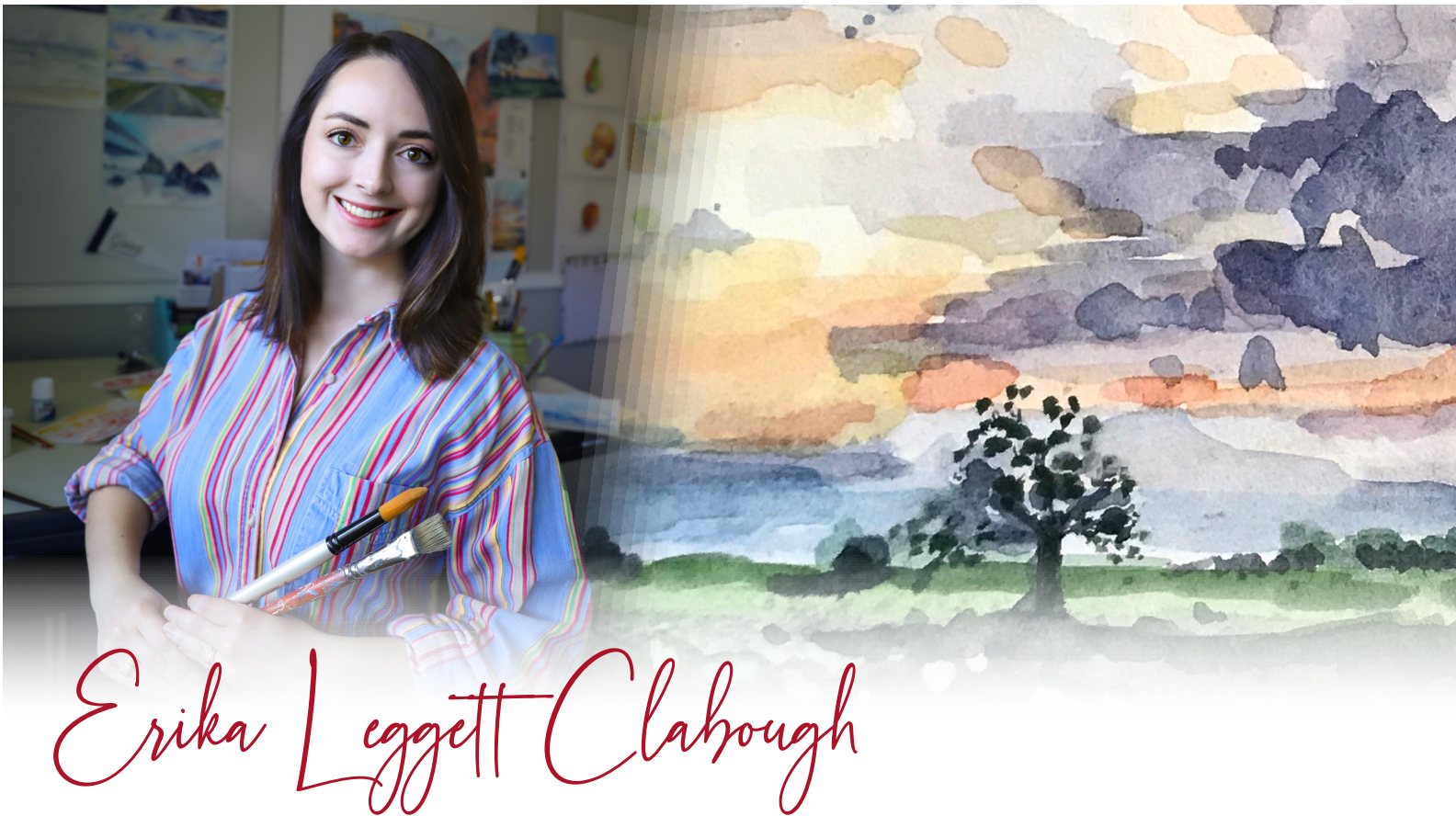
- **A new “All-Access” National Membership Option** enabling women to join United Women in Faith via the new website and participate online or in person at local units or larger events
- **Soul Care Retreats**, a pilot recruitment program for members and their nonmember friends and new women focused on nurturing women's bodies, minds, and spirits.
- **Innovations to Mission U**, the organization's longtime spiritual growth and transformative education program. Beginning in spring 2022, Mission U will introduce new curricula each year—one for children, one for youth and one for adults—all focused on a shared biblical theme. The new Mission U curricula will be more adaptable for use in small groups, local churches, vacation Bible schools, retreats, and other settings. Through these vibrant, relevant, justice-oriented, and biblically centered curricula, Mission U will continue its commitment to learning together for the transformation of the world and expand its impact.

“This is an exciting time for our organization!” said Harriett Jane Olson, CEO of United Women in Faith. “Looking back, we see the through lines for our organization—faith in God, love for each other and commitment to putting our faith into action supporting women, children,

UWF continued on p. 10

“This combination of a new look, more accessible resources for members and new ways to participate, positions us for impact in our own journeys and in how we engage the world that God so loves.”

HARRIETT JANE OLSON, CEO OF WOMEN IN FAITH



Erika Leggett Clabough

SALT, LIGHT, & BEAUMONT

According to the Beaumont Convention Visitors Bureau, “The localist is a group of passionate residents who embody the Beaumont spirit...They are individuals who already see Beaumont as a vibrant place with untapped potential.” **I am a localist, but this wasn’t always true.**

Growing up in Beaumont often felt like living in the largest small town I would ever find. Beaumont is large enough to have rush hour traffic, but small enough that strangers ask if you are “kin to so-n-so.”

In Jack Kerouac’s “On the Road: The Original Scroll”, he describes traveling through our area with a vivid mysticism that so perfectly describes Southeast Texas:

We were surrounded by a great forest of viney trees in which we

could almost hear the slither of a million copperheads. The only thing we could see was the red ampere button on the Hudson dashboard... We wanted to get out of this mansion of the snake. this mireful drooping dark and zoom on back to familiar American ground and cowtowns. There was a smell of oil and dead water in the air. This was a manuscript of the night we couldn’t read. An owl hooted. We took a chance on one of the dirt roads and pretty soon we were crossing the evil old Sabine river that is responsible for all these swamps. With amazement we saw great structures of light ahead of us. “Texas! It’s Texas! Beaumont oiltown!”

After graduating from West Brook High School, I eagerly sought to finally bolt away from our small town for greater adventures. I

scoured the nation for any and every graphic design program in search for a vibrant art culture and an atmosphere to flourish within.

In the fall of 2012 I began studying Graphic Design at Lamar University with every intention of transferring the next year. I continued applying to art programs and touring other campuses, determined to find a community passionate about their own culture and arts.

After narrowing my search for transfer universities, and facing the imminent reality of losing a year’s worth of college credits, I decided to stay and get involved in our community. I joined art clubs on campus, worked with the University Press off and on, joined Alpha Delta Pi sorority, and started attending art openings and cultural events in our community. I connected with people, made friends, and met

my future husband Cole Clabough.

I slowly opened my senses, past the smell of oil and dead water in the air to find a bewitching culture. Every weekend through college I worked as a student interpreter for the Texas Energy Museum, greeting visitors and answering questions about the exhibits and the locale. I met visitors from around the world, both ordinary folks and corporate CEOs, eager to experience Beaumont – my hometown. They would comment on our unique landscape, crawfish season, Zydeco music, tex-mex cuisine, the insufferable heat and humidity, and abundance of industry. They saw a community buzzing with life beyond the mosquito hawks and cicadas.

It wasn't until taking photography classes from Keith Carter, and listening to his anecdotes of Southeast Texas that I began taking pride in my roots. He encouraged us to elevate our language, and articulate our photographs into life. Keith's words narrated our area with a delicate web of anthropological insight observed through a camera lens and cultivated from traveling the world.

In his April of 2019 interview with the Lamar University Press, Keith Carter describes Southeast Texas:

"...where I live is flat, tangled, deeply green, hurricanes roll in, you have four out of the five poisonous snakes in North America and three out of the four carnivorous plants," he said. "You have white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. You have black imagination. You have Vietnamese industry. You have mexican mythology, crackers, peckerwoods and rednecks, all in this gumbo culture, and I thought, 'My God, that should be my subject matter.'

As my passion for Beaumont grew, so did my desire to share our culture with others, and serve non-profit organizations that form the vibrant tapestry of Beaumont.

In the summer of 2019 I began working for First United Methodist Church Beaumont as the Director of Communications and Graphic Design. My job is to clearly communicate information and amplify the voice of our church to our current and future First UMC Family. I do this through designing materials for print and online, including the Spire newsletter, bulletins, postcards, maintaining our website, social media, and emails. I seek to create items that are a genuine and positive representation of First United Methodist Church, while serving the greater design needs of our First UMC family.

Working for First UMC showed me what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ. While watching our congregation serve week after week, I witnessed a group of passionate, Christ filled people grow food and cook to feed our hungry neighbors, build beds for kids so they could sleep off the floor, clothe our community after flood waters ravaged their homes, supply students and teachers with tools to learn, and many more blessings.

After listening to our services online, and promoting our volunteer work, I fell in love with our mission of loving the city with the heart of Christ, and chose to be baptized in January of 2020. My husband Cole Clabough and I made the decision to join First UMC Beaumont.

While COVID forever changed many things, it has not shifted our church's desire to be a warm and welcoming community for everyone,

and to amplify our mission with the greater Beaumont area.

My hope for our church is that we can all be localists. We can be the hands and feet actively showing everyone the love of Christ. We can be vocal and proud for the future of Beaumont. We can be the salt and light. I challenge you to become a localist – to participate in community events and share our local opportunities with people who haven't met First UMC. Lets work towards creating a unified Beaumont and inspire others to do the same by loving this city with the heart of Christ.

SALT AND LIGHT

¹³ "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:13-16,
THE MESSAGE

Holy Week & Easter Services

PALM SUNDAY FAMILY DAY

Everybody Loves A Parade

Sunday, April 10 • 11 a.m.

**Family Bible Presentations
During 11 a.m. Sunday Worship**

**Taste of Beaumont
After our Worship Service –
Restaurant TBD**

And that's exactly what happened on "Palm Sunday" when Jesus and his followers entered Jerusalem on their way to celebrate that year's Passover. There were crowds of people shouting to God and waving branches and coats and anything they could find. Everyone thought that Jesus - a teacher and leader - would usher in a new order of governing, ending many years of Roman rulership. They thought Jesus would be a king like King David so many years before. Jesus had other ideas. On Palm Sunday, April 10, we will have a parade of our own and wave branches but probably not coats or other things we might find. As we seek to listen to God, we may even discover that we're better working together than we could possibly on our own! Come join the parade!

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HOLY THURSDAY

The Best Meal Ever

Thursday, April 14 • Noon & 6 p.m.

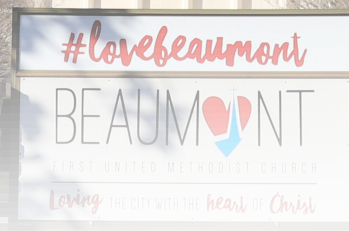
When Jesus and his followers gathered to celebrate The Passover, as was their tradition, they met in what the Bible calls an "upper room." In the midst of that great celebration, Jesus began a new tradition that has become for us what we call "Holy Communion" or "The Lord's Supper." We believe that it is the best meal ever! When we remember the beginning of this tradition on the Thursday before Easter, we remember the story of God's great love we find in Jesus. This is when Jesus first shared this meal he told his followers, "I give you a new command to love one another as I have loved you." We will gather at Noon and at 6:00 pm to remember and retell this great story!

GOOD FRIDAY

The Audacity To Call This Day Good

Friday, April 15 • Noon & 6 p.m.

This is the day we remember that Jesus died on the cross, an anti-victory of sorts as the world sees wins and losses. When we remember the crucifixion, death, and burial of God's Son Jesus, we proclaim this action of self-giving is the greatest act of love in all the world. The "good" on this day is an indication of the sacredness of the day - it could be called "Holy Friday." We will gather at Noon and at 6:00 pm to remember and retell this story of the greatest love.





EASTER DAY CELEBRATION

The Day That Reshapes All Creation

Sunday, April 17

**Bring your family to our Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt! • 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Easter Service • 11 a.m.**

Much of our society knows about Easter because of the traditions surrounding the Easter Bunny and the new life of spring blossoming all around us! For us, Easter Day is the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead as the beginning of new life for all creation. In one letter of our sacred texts, the writer tells that all creation is bound to decay with the “shackles of mortality” and Jesus rising from the dead is the beginning of creation being restored to God’s original plans. This new life also begins in those who follow Jesus in their faith practice knowing that in God’s love we are restored and renewed for the life we live now! On this Easter Day, we will have a community breakfast beginning at 9:30 am in our fellowship hall, an Easter egg hunt for kids of all ages, and worship together at 11:00 am in the sanctuary!



EASTER LILIES

The Easter lily has traditional spiritual meaning. Mentioned many times in the Bible it is most often associated with the birth and resurrection of Jesus:

White petals – purity, rebirth, new beginnings, and hope

Golden anthers – the radiance of Mary’s soul

Trumpet shape – a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus rose from the dead

Bulbs – live underground for at least three years, then, transformed, they bloom; Christ’s transformation and resurrection after being buried three days

Jesus’ reference to the lily –
(Matthew 6:25-29, KJV)

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Great is our God

a concert of praise

with First United Methodist Church Beaumont

Saturday, May 21

701 Calder • On The Lawn
afternoon – early evening
more details tba!



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

games
live music
food trucks

and youth. These commitments have been expressed in different ways at different times using different names, always calling women to world changing action. This combination of a new look, more accessible resources for members and new ways to participate, positions us for impact in our own journeys and in how we engage the world that God so loves.”

‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, United Women in Faith board president, said the changes express the organization’s core values in ways that will excite current members and invite new women to join us.

“I’m confident our members will be excited about these changes,” she said. “Together we are creating more opportunities for engagement with more women through new programs and updates of long-standing programs that embody our core values. Things change. People change. But God remains, and that continues to be the purpose behind everything that we do in this organization.”

The organization remains incorporated in New York as United Methodist Women and is doing business as United Women in Faith.

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

Learn more at UWFaith.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep our entire First UMC Beaumont community in your prayers. If you have a specific request, our prayer team would love to be praying with you. Email us – prayer@fumcbeaumont.org.

IF THESE STONES COULD TALK – A SECOND SATURDAY FAITH SEMINAR

Saturday, April 9 | 9am – Noon

**Parlor of First UMC –
Corner of Willow and Broadway**

**Facilitated by Neil W. Early -
409-651-0206 or mnealy@bayou.com.**

What, the Holy Land in the Church Parlor???

Well, pieces, anyway! We will be continuing the “If These Stones Could Talk” Second Saturday Faith Seminar. Even if you have missed the sessions prior to this one, come anyway! Each session is a contained unit. Mary Early coordinates refreshments. We feed the body and the soul. Love to see you.



WEEKLY RHYTHMS

SUNDAYS

Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

Family Worship Service

11 a.m.

In-Person & Livestream

Small Group with Robin & Charlie Snoek

6-7 p.m.

MONDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

7-8:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Connect Group with Liza Nelson

Noon

WEDNESDAYS

Chancel Choir Practice

6 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

7-8:30 p.m.

DO YOU HAVE UPCOMING EVENTS?

Email event info and pictures to –

Erika@fumcbeaumont.org

**May Spire Deadline for entry –
April 20.**

STAY CONNECTED

 @fumcbeaumont

 @fumcbeaumont

 First UMC Beaumont

 fumcbeaumont.org

 (409) 920-PRAY

APRIL DATES TO KNOW

WEDNESDAY, APR. 6

Outreach - Once Upon A Dream

2-5 p.m.

SATURDAY, APR. 9

If These Stones Could Talk – A Second Saturday Faith Seminar

9am – Noon | Parlor

Facilitated by Neil W. Early

409-651-0206 | mnealy@bayou.com

SUNDAY, APR. 10

Palm Sunday

Family Day

11 a.m. Family Worship Service

Taste of Beaumont Lunch after service

WEDNESDAY, APR. 13

Games Day - Fellowship & Fun

10 a.m. - Noon | Rothwell Hall

Contact Ruby Nelson (409)-781-6798

THURSDAY, APR. 14

Holy Thursday

Services at Noon & 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, APR. 15

Good Friday

Services at Noon & 6 p.m.

Some Other Place - Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, APR. 16

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - noon, 12:30 - 4 p.m.

2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Pre register at bit.ly/shpvolunteer

SUNDAY, APR. 17

Easter Day Celebration

Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt –

9:30-10:45 a.m.

Service – 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, APR. 23

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Delivery Day

9 a.m. | 2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Bring your cordless drill with charged up batteries.

Kairos Kitchen

5:30 – 7:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 27

UMW Meeting

1-3 p.m. | Parlor

SUNDAY, MAY 8

Mother's Day Celebration

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Games Day - Fellowship & Fun

10 a.m. - Noon | Rothwell Hall

Contact Ruby Nelson (409)-781-6798

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - noon, 12:30 - 4 p.m.

2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Pre register at bit.ly/shpvolunteer

FRIDAY, MAY 20

Some Other Place - Service Day

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Delivery Day

9 a.m. | 2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Bring your cordless drill with charged up batteries.

Great is Our God: A Concert of Praise & Church Family Fun Day

In The Afternoon – Early Evening

More Details TBA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

UMW Meeting

1-3 p.m. | Parlor

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Kairos Kitchen

5:30 – 7:30p.m.



Loving the city with the Heart of Christ

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT



Palm Sunday Family Day

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

FAMILY BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

DURING 11 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE A BIBLE AT - [VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/FUMCBIBLES](https://vbspro.events/p/fumcbibles)

TASTE OF BEAUMONT

Lets break Bread together and support our local restaurants!

AFTER OUR WORSHIP SERVICE - RESTAURANT TBD

FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG • (409) 832-0295 • INFO@FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG