

*in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2022

RELY•RELAY•RELAX•RELISH•RELATE
RELENT•RELIGHT•RELEASE•RELEGATE
RELOCATE•RELAUNCH•RELINQUISH•2022



**THE LIGHT THAT SHINES
– STAINED GLASS**
Details Inside

**PHYLLIS FERNANDEZ
AND HER MANY HATS**
Read More

**CHURCH-WIDE
LENTEN STUDY**
Begins March 1

Stouffer's

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Happy New Year! WOW! As we say goodbye to 2021 and hello to 2022 I am thankful for God's Amazing Grace that has brought us here together to this place. The morning of Christmas Eve I was reflecting on my hopes and dreams for the new year. I began to write down what I know I can do to bring those dreams and hopes into reality. There will be many things beyond my control - that's just life. As I thought about my health in particular, I thought about how I struggle to "stop the thinker" in my mind and am always turning something over or around inside my brain. And I know, I've heard it for years, "let it go, relax a little more." So I wrote that down. As I wrote, for whatever reason I noticed my shoulders were particularly tense, so I wrote "Release the tension." Then I looked up the "Rel-" words in the dictionary. I found twelve that made my list for the new year -

Twelve "Rel's" for the New Year!

Relate with people.

Relaunch our dreams.

Relax more.

Release the tension.

Relegate the unimportant.

Relocate the important.

Relay Christ's Love.

Relent of grudges.

Relight passions for the Kingdom of God.

Relinquish our will.

Relish Joy.

Rely on God.

Years ago a friend pointed out a couple of verses in the letter to the Ephesians [see right side column, EA³]. I have seen this to be true in my life and the lives of so many others. May it become more and more true for us in 2022. I'd love to share, hear, or read some of your hopes and dreams for 2022, and more especially what you know you can do to bring your dreams and hopes to reality. Even more, I'd love to explore how we can help each other know what are God's hopes and dreams for our congregation and our lives. And then discover what we can do to make God's dreams and hopes a reality for us and for the city we love with the heart of Christ!

Looking Forward to All God has for us & for the world!



Rev. Jon Stouffer, Lead Pastor

EA³

**Exceedingly Abundantly Above All
we can ask or imagine**

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.

Amen. **Ephesians 3:20-21**

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

**Faith Journeys
(and the Rest of the Story)**

Room 124

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Teens to Senior Adult

This class offers a sometimes serious, sometimes humorous, - always filled with faith, hope, and love - journey of discovery through the Scriptures and our shared Faith Journeys. We generally offer a multi-sensory, multi-perspective, multi-learning approach when possible which often leads us to parts of the story that are often missed - hence, the rest of the story.

Contact Neil Early, 409 651-0206



Photography by Michelle Holland

The Light that Shines

First United Methodist Church enjoys a priceless treasure in the glasswork that graces the sanctuary. Joan Hataway has a long-time interest in the stained glass of First UMC and can be considered our resident authority on its origin and the message it displays.

Her interest began with her concern about the fate of pieces from the 1906 dome church when it was decided to dismantle it and build the present spire church in the 1960s. A couple of pieces of glass work were salvaged, and after miraculously surviving a fire in the restorer's shop, were altered for home use and installed in the Hataways' previous and current homes.

Joan tells us that our church and its glass work were inspired by a church designed by the architect, A. Hansel Fink, in Corpus Christi. She goes on to say that the glasswork of the Apostles' Creed above the chancel choir is done in the Gothic style, as is the facade (balcony) glasswork of the Great Commission. All glasswork in the church was executed by the Willett

Studios of Philadelphia.

The nave lancets (sanctuary windows) are graphic depictions of biblical incidents from Genesis through Revelation. They are executed in Modern style and harmonize with the overall Gothic Modern architectural style of the church. Joan reminds us that the origin of stained glass work in the great cathedrals of Europe came from a time when few could read and a graphic rendering of biblical messages was essential in telling the story.

First UMC is fortunate to have a few pieces of glasswork retained from the dome church. They can be found in the east narthex as well as the chapel.

For many years Joan has conducted tours of First UMC's glass work for the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, Sunday school groups, and the church anniversary. In addition, she has assisted in the development of the guide pamphlet that has been distributed to tour groups in the church.

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

COLOSSIANS 3:15 NRSV



Phyllis Fernandez

AND HER MANY HATS

Photography by Michelle Holland

Phyllis Fernandez wears many hats. As the Director of Involvement, Phyllis supports First UMC by generating excitement within the life of the church.

Her many hats include enlisting volunteers to support the church's missions and day to day activities, helping the church foster a relationship with Charlton Pollard Elementary School. Additionally she creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere with her decorating, and organizes family retreats at Lakeview.

Phyllis was born in Woodville and moved to Beaumont when she was four. She attended Beaumont ISD

schools and graduated from Lamar University with a degree in Education. She taught elementary school students for nineteen years in BISD, retiring in 2004. Her education and experience teaching school prepared her for the many tasks she manages at First UMC.

Phyllis' personal relationship with God is very important to Her. She and her family joined First UMC in 1977, and attended the Cornerstones Sunday School class. Their three children participated in the children's program. She made a profession of faith in Christ at age 9 and has experienced God's presence and blessings all her life.

"I believe with all my heart that God can bring about blessings from difficult or tragic circumstances," Phyllis said.

She experienced this first hand when her then seven year old son needed a kidney transplant. Phyllis matched her son as a suitable kidney donor, and was able to donate her kidney to him.

Among Phyllis' blessings is her marriage to Jose Fernandez nine years ago.

Her prayer is "that our Church will see a revival of love and spirit within our congregation, God will bless our church in whatever way He sees fit, and that we will be open to God's leading."

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:16 NRSV

Loving the City

ESTATE SALE

5395 Margaret Beaumont, TX

Thursday, 2/3 | 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, 2/4 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, 2/5 | 9:00 a.m. - noon

**For additional information, contact – fumc@fastmail.net .
Learn more on Facebook [@fumcestatesales701](#) or on their website –
Fumcestatesales.org .**

The FUMC Estate Sale Committee of First United Methodist Church of Beaumont, Texas is a nonprofit organization conducting estate sales in southeast Texas.



GAMES DAY

Wednesday, Feb. 9

10 a.m. - noon | Rothwell Hall

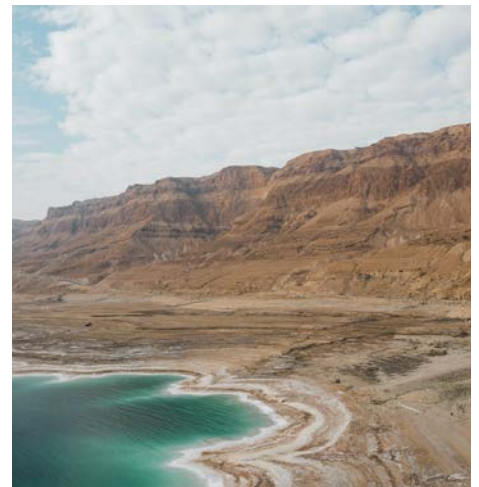
Contact Ruby Nelson (409)-781-6798

Stop by for fellowship, fun, and games on the second Wednesday each month!

THE HOLY LAND – A SECOND SATURDAY FAITH SEMINAR

The Holy Land is a dream destination for many of us, but for many of us, we never get to go. The Holy Land is coming to us in a way. This concept designed by Neil and Mary Early will bring stones and potshards from Israel. Neil brought them back from a millennia trip to Israel. The artifacts/slides/scriptures, and open discussion will be the February 12th, Second Saturday Faith Seminar. All are welcome. There is no cost. We start promptly at nine and end at noon. We will be in the Parlor. Follow the signs and the balloons.

**For more information contact Neil Early –
409-651-0206 or mnealy@bayou.com.**



Groups & Studies

THE WALK STUDY

Via Zoom – Book Based Study - Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

**In-Person in Welcome Center – Video Based - Wednesdays at Noon, Lunch Provided
Led by Pastor Julius Wardley – julius@fumcbeaumont.org**

Sometimes I need help and community to stick with my new year resolutions. Maybe you do as well? I want to invite you to go on a walk with me. This January, we will discover and rediscover five spiritual practices to help us walk closer with God to start this new year. This six-week study will focus on how we walk with Christ—follow him daily, grow in him, and faithfully serve him.

In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught how to walk with Christ in their writings, and the Church has too, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life.

In The Walk, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

CONNECT GROUP

– with Liza Nelson

Tuesdays | noon

8498 Oak Meadows Dr.
Beaumont TX 77706.

Contact Liza Nelson for
more information.
cherokee_liza@hotmail.com

SMALL GROUP

– with Robin & Charlie Snoek

Sundays | 6 p.m.

Reading –
The Great Divorce by C.S Lewis.

1135 North 23rd St.,
Beaumont, TX 77706.

Contact Robin or Charlie Snoek for
more information.
charles.snoek8533@gmail.com



GOOD ENOUGH – CHURCH-WIDE LENTEN STUDY & SMALL GROUP

Embracing the imperfections of life and faith.

GOOD ENOUGH SMALL GROUP

Via Zoom Begins Tue., March 1 at 7 p.m. • In-Person Begins Wed., March 2 at Noon

Led by Pastors Jon Stouffer & Julius Wardley – julius@fumcbeaumont.org.

We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to evermore-likable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do “the right thing.” But life happens, right?

Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we’ve just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.

First UMC is gearing up for a church wide Lenten study on Kate Bowler’s new book – Good Enough: 40ish days devotionals for a Life of Imperfection . We will be using this book for our sermon series, some of our small group offerings, children’s ministry and throughout our ministry in Lent.

Visit fumcbeaumont.org/goodenough to learn more and order your book online.

WEEKLY RHYTHMS

SUNDAYS

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Family Worship Service
11 a.m.
In-Person & Livestream

WEDNESDAYS

Chancel Choir Practice
6 p.m.

DO YOU HAVE UPCOMING EVENTS?

Email event info and pictures to –
Erika@fumcbeaumont.org
March Spire Deadline for entry –
February 20.

STAY CONNECTED

 @fumcbeaumont

 @fumcbeaumont

 First UMC Beaumont

 fumcbeaumont.org

 (409) 920-PRAY

FEBRUARY & MARCH DATES TO KNOW

FEB. 3, 4, & 5

Estate Sale

Thu., 2/3 | 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fri., 2/4 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sat., 2/5 | 9:00 a.m. - noon
5395 Margaret Beaumont, TX

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9

Games Day - Fellowship & Fun

10 a.m. - noon | Rothwell Hall
Contact Ruby Nelson (409)-781-6798

SATURDAY, FEB. 12

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - noon, 12:30 - 4 p.m.
2950 Milam Street, Beaumont, TX
Pre register at bit.ly/shpvolunteer

The Holy Land –

A Second Saturday Faith Seminar

9 a.m. - noon
Contact Neil Early for more information –
409-651-0206, or mnearly@bayou.com

FRIDAY, FEB. 18

Some Other Place - Service Day

8:00am – 1:00pm

SATURDAY, FEB. 19

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Delivery Day

9 a.m.
2950 Milam Street, Beaumont, TX
Bring your cordless drill with charged up
batteries.

THURSDAY, FEB. 24

Gumbo Night

Times TBA
Exclusively To-Go.
Gumbo Only event.
We will not be serving oysters.
\$10.00 frozen or hot
More information to come!

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

Kairos Kitchen

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAR. 1

Good Enough Small Group - Zoom

Begins via Zoom, 7 p.m.
Contact Pastor Julius Wardley
julius@fumcbeaumont.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 2

Ash Wednesday

Good Enough Small Group - In-Person

Begins In-Person, Noon

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 9

Games Day - Fellowship & Fun

10 a.m. - noon | Rothwell Hall
Contact Ruby Nelson (409)-781-6798

SUNDAY, MAR. 13

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Set clocks forward one hour Saturday
night.

FRIDAY, MAR. 18

Some Other Place - Service Day

8:00am – 1:00pm

SATURDAY, MAR. 26

Kairos Kitchen

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



First United Methodist Church
701 Calder Ave.
Beaumont, Texas 77701



Loving the city with the *Heart* of *Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

Good Enough

FIRST UMC LENTEN STUDY 2022

Begins March 1 & 2
Online & In Person

LEARN MORE INSIDE

fumcbeaumont.org/goodenough

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