

*in*SPiRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2022

CHARLTON POLLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TRUNK OR TREAT

FUN, GAMES & CANDIES | MONDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 5-6:30 P.M.

FIRST UMC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CONTACT PHYLLIS FERNANDEZ — PHYLLISBEAUMONT@FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG

GET READY TO VOLUNTEER – CP TRUNK-OR-TREAT IS ALMOST HERE!

We are so excited to share with you an opportunity to be creative, to raise awareness of our church and to meet the needs of our community. On Monday Oct 31st from 5-6:30 p.m. we will be participating in Trunk or Treat at Charlton Pollard Elementary. At this outreach event we will be sharing the love of Christ by decorating our trunks and passing

out candy and treats to children. If you are interested in volunteering your trunk for this special event please let Phyllis Fernandez know. **Sign up your trunk today for Trunk or Treat with Charlton Pollard Elementary! Find out more from Phyllis Fernandez - phyllisbeaumont@fumcbeaumont.org**



DONATE CANDY & TREATS NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 30

For our members that can't participate the day of, we hope you will help us by donating candy or treats for Trunk-or-Treat. There will be baskets set out on Sundays and Wednesdays for candy donations.

IMPORTANT! CANDY MUST BE FACTORY WRAPPED. NO CANDY CONTAINING PEANUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER, BECAUSE OF ALLERGIES. Find out more from Phyllis Fernandez - phyllisbeaumont@fumcbeaumont.org



Celebrating Holy Communion

Breaking bread together is one of the most essential practices among people of all cultures and all times. Each time we celebrate Holy Communion together, we are reminded that Jesus took the every-day actions of sustenance and transformed them into the life-giving celebration of giving thanks and feasting together.

On the first Sunday of October, World Communion Sunday, we will restore the option of intinction to our celebration. At each station, there will be three servers, the bread, a cup for dipping the bread in the cup, and a tray of individual cups. Each recipient may choose either to dip their bread or receive an individual cup as we celebrate together. The feast is prepared, come to the table.

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

Before we ever sit down at a table to break bread together, someone has prepared and serves the meal. The very same is true every time we celebrate Holy Communion. There is an opportunity to serve God by helping prepare the cups and trays and the altar twice a month. There is another opportunity to assist serving the people on Sunday morning. **If you feel God's leading and are willing to serve by preparing communion, please contact Jamie Greenway at janiegreenway@hotmail.com or Phyllis Fernandez at phyllisbeaumont@fumcbeaumont.org.**

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – OCTOBER 2

On October 2, Christians around the globe will unite in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, instituted by Jesus himself as a means of grace for his followers and, ultimately, his church. Through participation in the ritual and the taking of bread and wine, we believe that we are “in communion” with Jesus the Christ, with others gathered around the Lord’s Table, with those in other churches and other lands who are also partaking, and with the saints of the church who have led us in the faith.

On this Sunday, United Methodist Churches take a required offering designated for scholarships for women and men attending graduate school or seminaries in preparation for ministry. Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U. S. and other countries. Thirty-five percent supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry (deacon or elder) and includes a mentoring program. Fifteen percent funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions in every level of the church and its ministry.

World Communion Sunday began in 1993, and as a church family we participate in this celebration every year.

Stouffer's FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Wow! What historical times surround us! Sometimes it seems we may be surrounded and out numbered! We are not, for Christ is always with us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. This truth is a great starting place for our planned worship themes for October and November as we will be considering what is the foundation of Wesleyan Christianity and why we are part of First United Methodist Church of Beaumont, Texas.

I remember thinking "this will never happen in my lifetime" when in history classes we studied things like plagues and church schisms. And here we are! I also remember learning first hand of the impact of a glancing blow from a hurricane when we lived in St. Croix, US VI, and then the named storms that hit the Texas Coast Rita, Ike, Harvey, and Imelda. And here we are!

I share these thoughts to say what one of my mentors always said, "Stay the course. Keep the faith. Fulfill God's call." My mentor would also often remind me of the writings of Julian of Norwich in her work Revelations of Divine Love. In this great work, St. Julian shared these words of Jesus spoken to her in a vision while she was so sick she nearly died,

"but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

My mentor also introduced me to Frederick Buechner, who in his book *The Final Beast*, wrote,

"The worst isn't the last thing about the world. It's the next to the last thing. The last thing is the best. It's the power from on high that comes down into the world, that wells up from the rock-bottom worst of the world like a hidden spring. Can you believe it? The last, best thing is the laughing deep in the hearts of the saints, sometimes our hearts even. Yes. You are terribly loved and forgiven. Yes. You are healed. All is well."

In these magnificently historic times, I am convinced that as a church family we are called to and poised for being stronger and healthier than ever before. As we seek to proclaim God's grace in familiar and new ways reaching out to our communities deepest needs, shall we not stay the course, keep the faith, and fulfill God's call to love this city with the heart of Christ? Let's gather for worship this fall to do all that and even more than we can ask or imagine, even in our wildest dreams of God's Kingdom! (Ephesians 3:20). (Remember to keep praying through Eph 3:14-21)

See Ya Sunday! (If not sooner!)



Rev. Jon Stouffer, Lead Pastor



NEW FACES!

I know many of you are wondering about the new singers you've seen in our women's sections of the Chancel Choir. Here is a brief introduction, in alphabetical order! Laci Johnson is a junior at West Brook High School. She is the granddaughter of Chancel Choir soprano Wynnelle Guidry! Jamie Scott is a graduate of Hardin-Jefferson High School. She is the granddaughter of Janie Greenway. Katelyn Singh is graduate of Liberty High School. She is a freshman music major at Lamar University. These are fascinating and talented young singers. I hope you'll get to know them better by introducing yourselves and making them feel welcome!



Loving the city with the Heart of Christ

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

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.

OCTOBER DATES TO KNOW

SAT., OCT. 8

District Lay Servant Training

WED., OCT. 12

Games Day – Fellowship & Fun

10 a.m. – Noon | Rothwell Hall

Contact Ruby Nelson (409)-781-6798

SAT., OCT. 15

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

MON., OCT. 17

Board of Trustee's Meeting

6 – 8pm | Library

TUE., OCT. 18

United Women in Faith – UMW

6 pm

FRI., OCT. 21

Some Other Place – Service Day

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SAT., OCT. 22

Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Delivery Day

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

Bring your cordless drill with charged up batteries.

Kairos Kitchen

Rothwell Hall

Set up: 2 – 5 p.m.

Serving: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Clean up: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Volunteers can contact Charlie Snoek for more info. charles.snoek8533@gmail.com

MON., OCT. 24

Finance Committee Meeting

6 – 7pm | Library

SUN., OCT. 30

SOP Food Drive Begins

MON., OCT. 31

Trunk or Treat

Charlton Pollard Elementary School

5pm - 6:30pm