

# Church Chat

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## From the Pastor's Desk

Some years ago I was serving a church that hosted "Lenten Lunches." Each week during Lent the Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and other churches would gather for a lunch and a devotion by one of the pastors. Following one of these lunches the pastor of an independent, non-denominational church asked me, "Why do you call these things Lentil Lunches, we haven't had a single dish with lentils in it?" I went on to explain to him about how the Church tells time, going from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany to Lent to Easter to Pentecost and back to Advent. He thought that was the coolest thing he had ever heard!

One of the ways that we stay rooted in our faith is by observing the various church seasons. That's how we tell time in the Church. Each season has a designated color and emphasis. The color for Lent is purple, the color of preparation. We are preparing to follow Jesus from the first Sunday of Lent (his fasting and temptation in the wilderness) though to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (when he washed the disciples' feet and instituted the Lord's Supper), Good Friday (when he was crucified). This leads us to Easter and Jesus' resurrection then his ascension and then to Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

These reminders through the year give us roots into our faith. And with good roots we bear good fruits. I invite you to spend some time each week reading the scriptures for that week. I also invite you to attend the worship services that are held with this season. They begin with Ash Wednesday, on February 10. Each service helps us get into the season a little deeper and get more out of it. This would also be a good time to read through Luke's Gospel, just one chapter each week day. Follow Jesus through his birth, life and ministry, his death, his resurrection and ascension. Also during Lent we will begin offering a brief communion service each Sunday following our regular worship service.

May each of you have a blessed and holy Lent.

I am so thankful and proud to be your pastor,

David

On **Sunday, March 6** our Communion Rail offering will be our **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. This offering goes to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This offering provides major support to UMCOR, which gives immediate assistance in the wake of natural or human-caused disasters and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace.

## Youth News

**Youth Sunday School**—The class is for all youth in grades 6-12 and meets in the classroom at the back of Weimer Hall at 9:00 AM.

**Youth Fellowship**—will not meet in February.

## Announcements

The **Seaside Ringers** meet at 5:30 PM each Wednesday to practice. They play the bells during worship on the third Sunday of each month.

**Adult Sunday School**—is reading and discussing the Gospel of John. They meet in the Parlor at 9:00 AM each Sunday morning, led by Josh Harper.

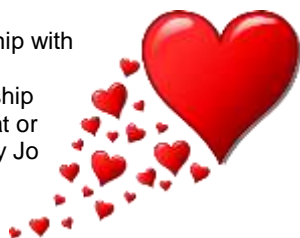
**Kyle Seaman** will bring the message to us on **Sunday, February 7**. Come and support Kyle and be blessed by his message.

**Chancel Choir**—practices at 6:30 PM each Wednesday in the Sanctuary. Thanks to Perry Dean, Mignon Smith, and the choir members from our church and First Presbyterian Church for all the many hours they devoted to preparing for and presenting the Combined Choir Cantata.

**Young Children's Sunday School**—We now have a young children's Sunday School class! Linda and Elena Contreras are using the Play and Pray material for children who are ages 2-5. They meet in the Nursery at 9:00 AM every Sunday.

## Fellowship Luncheon in February

Let's join together and fellowship with our **luncheon on February 14** immediately following the worship service. If you can bring a meat or main dish, please contact Mary Jo Neeley.



## Walk to Emmaus/Chrysalis

The next Crossroads Walk is a **Men's Walk to Emmaus on April 14-17, 2016**. The next **women's walk is July 21-24, 2016**. If you, or someone you know desires a deeper experience of the Christian life and community, please contact Barney or Janie Gulley or Pastor David.



Crossroads celebrates every month with a gathering of the community. If you want to know more about Emmaus, or you have been on an Emmaus walk, you are welcome to attend. Come share in fellowship on **February 19 at 6:30 PM** at **FUMC Edna** for potluck dinner and worship. Contact the Gulleys if you would like to carpool.

## Wesley Nurse News



**Office hours: Tuesdays 9 AM-4 PM, and Thursdays 9 AM-2 PM.**

**Diaper Pantry**—Tuesdays 1-4 PM

- Tuesday, February 2, 5 PM—Teen Support Group, Teen Center
- Thursday, February 5, 9 AM-12 PM, Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screening, HUB
- Tuesday, February 16, 5 PM—Teen Support Group, Teen Center
- Tuesday, February 23, 5 PM—Diabetic Support Group, Marine Center

If you know someone with Diabetes that has no insurance and needs help with supplies, send them to me. I am starting a Diabetic Support Group on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Martine Center. Open for diabetics and family members.

I still have smoke detectors available for anyone that needs one.

Thank you,

--Leslie Machicek, Wesley Nurse

## Ministry Workshops Available

The Coastal Bend District is offering its **Ministry Workshops** in **Kingsville on Saturday, February 6**.

All members of the Administrative Council and various committees in the church are encouraged to attend one of these events.

A brochure for the events has been sent to all current and incoming church leaders, and is available from Pastor David.

## Missions Corner

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me. - Matthew 25:35- 36*

### Calling All Interested in Missions Work Team!

Do these words found in Matthew resonate within you and/or do you already participate in Ministries of Compassion within our community, region, state, country or world? If so you may wish help guide our **Missions Work Team**.

The first meeting will be organizational in nature. What our church is already doing needs to be documented (which is a lot for a small congregation) and ideas people may have for the use of the "Mission House" will be shared. Ways we could further help our community's ministries such as the Food Pantry will be discussed. How "Missions" fits into the apportionment's component of the United Methodist Church will be reviewed and ways **Missions Work Team** will report mission activities to our church will be decided. The first meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM in Weimer Hall**. For further information contact Marty Rieck at 512-632-6568 or m.jo.riek@gmail.com.

### Family Mission Team Coming to Palacios March 11th-14<sup>th</sup>

Bethany UMC of Austin is having their first "Family Mission Trip" and they are coming to Palacios. Examples of jobs they can do are; window washing, yard work, cleaning, small painting jobs, and light repairs. They will work all day on Saturday March 12th, worship with us on Sunday, then work the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> and return home. It will be different than their other mission trips in that the youth will be working with their family members. If you have some odd jobs that need to be done and don't mind being a guinea pig for this mission experience, contact Marty or Carl Rieck. 512-632-6568 or m.jo.riek@gmail.com.

Thank you!

## February 2016 Finance Committee Update

Thank you for making 2015 a successful year for the church's finances. Not only were we able to meet all the church's routine needs, we were able to start putting funds back into our Johnson fund.

In 2016, our goal will be to strengthen our Christian commitment with our support of the mission of the church. In the past, our giving to the mission field has not been apparent, instead it has been hidden. We will be correcting this in our accounting so that we can see all the good work that the church is doing.

The Finance Committee wants to emphasize the importance of giving as part of our Christian vows and our Christian lives. From the earliest times, we were instructed by God to give back to him our first fruits in thanksgiving for what God has done, and continues to do in our lives. Please pray upon what God is doing in your life and how you can respond with your gifts of time, talent and money to further God's kingdom here on earth.

## United Methodist Women

Did you know that United Methodist Women support local AND global mission efforts? In 2015, Palacios UMC's United Methodist Women unit pledged funds and raised money to support the following local missions:

- Palacios Boys & Girls Club
- Palacios Friends of Elder Citizens
- Rainbow Daycare
- Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry
- FUMC Palacios Scholarship Fund
- Pat Allen Memorial Christmas Dinner
- Methodist Children's Home



In addition, their yearly pledges and special offerings go to support national and global mission projects support by UMW, such as:

- Regional missionaries to places like Cameroon, Africa
- Education for women and children in places like Chile to equip women to provide for their families
- Support for National Mission Institutions which care for children, provide education, and advocate for social justice issues
- Support for the Deaconess and Home Missioner programs

Come learn more about United Methodist Women on **February 18** at noon in Weimer Hall. Bring a sack lunch and join us for fellowship and an interesting program presented by Janie Gulley!

## Small Church Initiative

*See, I am doing a new thing!*  
--Isaiah 43:19



Starting **February 1**, our church will start work on the Small Church Initiative. The Small Church Initiative is designed to help the church find effective ways to energize itself around the needs of the local community, and to reach out in Christian friendship to bring others in our area to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Prayer Team is already at work. In fact, they have been praying for each of our church family, by name. For the next few months, each of us will be prayed for daily that God will be present in our lives and that the Holy Spirit will be present among us to lead our lives according to God's plan for us.

Other teams will evaluate where the church has come from, where we are now, and where are the opportunities for us to be God's hands, feet, and hearts in our community. Our hope is that through these reflections, we will see God's direction for our church to be engaged in the world.

There are still opportunities to participate in the process. Please ask Pastor David, Erwin Janszen or Barney Gulley how you can be involved in helping the church examine what directions our future lies.

## 2016 Administrative Council

Effective January 1, 2016, the following persons begin their terms on the Administrative Council of the church:

- Chairperson—Erwin Janszen
- Council Secretary—Janie Gulley
- Lay Leader—Barney Gulley
- SPRC Chair—Leland Singer
- Trustee Chair—Long Han
- Finance Chair—Bill Kubecka
- Church Treasurer—Barney Gulley
- President of UMW—Thelma Holloway
- Youth Representative—Zachary Seaman
- Pastor—Rev. David King
- Nurture Chair—Becky Johnson
- Outreach Chair—Marty Rieck
- Witness Chair—Erwin Janszen
- Lay Delegate to Annual Conference—Janie Gulley

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, at 7:00 PM in Weimer Hall.



## Church Calendar for February

- 1 Pastor David in San Antonio
- 2 Presentation of the Lord  
Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18;  
Luke 2:22-40  
Mission Work Team, Weimer Hall, 6 PM
- 3 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 4 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
- 5-6 Pastor David in Kingsville
- 6 Coastal Bend District Ministry Workshops, Kingsville,  
8:30 AM-3 PM
- 7 Transfiguration Sunday, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany,  
Communion Sunday, **Kyle Seaman preaching**  
Scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43  
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM
- 9 Finance Meeting, Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM  
Administrative Council, Weimer Hall, 7:00 PM
- 10 ASH WEDNESDAY Service, 6:00 PM  
Scriptures: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 11 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
- 14 First Sunday in Lent, VALENTINE'S DAY  
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13  
Men's Breakfast at First Baptist, 7:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:00 AM, Worship, 10:00 AM  
Fellowship Luncheon following Worship
- 17 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 18 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM  
United Methodist Women, Weimer Hall, 12 Noon
- 19 Crossroads Emmaus Gathering, FUMC Edna, 6:30 PM
- 21 Second Sunday in Lent  
Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;  
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35  
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM
- 22-23 Pastor David at Bishop's Convocation at Mt. Wesley in  
Kerrville
- 24 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 25 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
- 26-27 Pastor David in Austin
- 28 Third Sunday in Lent  
Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9  
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM

### Dates on the horizon to remember:

#### March

- March 6-13—Pastor David at 5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in San Antonio
- March 13—Men's Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church, 7:30 AM
- March 20—Palm Sunday
- March 24—Maundy Thursday
- March 25—Good Friday
- March 27—Easter Sunday, Sunrise service at Texas Baptist Encampment

## Celebrations in February

### Birthdays:

2—Taylor Turner; 4—Doug Kubecka; 6—Leala Kahlich; 15—Annette Stonedale;  
23—James Hebel



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We're on the Web!

*Visit us at:*

**www.fumcpalacios.org**

### Joys and Concerns

We welcome **John and Lisa Harrison** to the Palacios UMC church family. Lisa and John transferred their membership from St. Luke's UMC in Houston.

We extend our sympathies to **Mary Jo Neeley** on the death of her brother, **Benny Kay**.

We also want to welcome **Clint Andrew Kubecka** (son of Kristin and Dane Kubecka) and **Adam Dean Werner** (son of Brittany and Nick Werner) who we baptized into Christ and His Church and Palacios UMC on Sunday, January 24.

We bid a fond farewell to Annette and Jim Haven who transferred their membership to Christ UMC in Sugarland.

### Assisting with Worship in February

Liturgist—Janie Gulley

Greeters—Leland Singer and Donna Dillard

Ushers—Shelly Johs and Bill Miller

### Newsletter Distribution

Do you know someone who needs to be on the mailing list or email distribution list to receive the newsletter? If you receive the newsletter by mail, would you consider switching to email distribution? This would let us save a few trees and a little money in postage. Please contact Janie Gulley at 361-972-3185 or [janiegulley@hotmail.com](mailto:janiegulley@hotmail.com) to update our distribution lists.

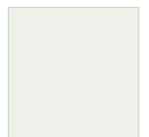
### Newsletter Articles for March

If you have an article or announcement for the March newsletter, please get the information to Janie Gulley **by February 25** at 972-3185 or [janiegulley@hotmail.com](mailto:janiegulley@hotmail.com).

PALACIOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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