

# Church Chat

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## From the Pastor's Desk

No one can deny that Easter is a very special event in the life of every Christian, and everyone in the world. Jesus not only died on the Cross carrying our sins but He rose from the dead by the power of God and offers that new energized life to us.

It's easy to get wrapped up in all the trappings and details of the Easter season, to gloss over or glide through it without giving any real consideration to what this means for our lives and the world. This is revolutionary!!! In fact, it could be said that Jesus came to start a revolution of the human soul...a renovation of the human heart.

The way things are in the world today are and have been controlled by humans whose hearts have been filled with ideas of worldly power and prestige and control. All these things are what define the human soul, and we suffer the consequences individually and collectively. Look at the rise of extremists through the ages.

Jesus came to offer an alternative. Jesus offers us a different way of living, of being in the world today. Jesus offers a way of being different, from the inside out, of reshaping the human soul so that it reflects His.

Jesus came to offer more than just forgiveness of sins. Jesus came to offer a new way to live. This new way involves the transformation of the human character into the image of Himself. Our hearts perceive and respond as He would, as our hearts are transformed. This is the only hope for humanity and creation.

We often forget this as we go about our busy-ness of the church. We are a means to an end, not an end in itself. As one of my favorite authors, Frederica Mathewes-Green wrote, the Church "is not primarily an institution, but a spiritual path. The institution exists for the sake of the path. Every element you meet has the same purpose: to help you be filled more completely with the life and presence of Christ."

The path to the spiritual transformation of the individual and society is the Church's to maintain and to guide people to and accompany them on. My prayer this Easter season is that we will be reminded of this and will reorient how we "do church" to reflect it.

May each of you have a blessed and holy Easter season.

I am so thankful and proud to be your pastor,

David

## 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 meet in March. The date will be announced in church and emailed to the families.

## 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.

**Chancel Choir**—practices at 6:30 PM each Wednesday in the Sanctuary.

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

## Dates on the Horizon to Remember

### April

- April 2—Colorful 5K by the Bay Fun Run
- April 10—Men's Breakfast, Weimer Hall, 7:30 AM
- April 10—Fellowship Luncheon after worship
- April 14-17—Men's Walk to Emmaus at Spiritual Renewal Center
- April 22—Crossroads Emmaus Gathering at Grace Presbyterian, Victoria
- April 23—Patchwork of Life Women's Conference, First Baptist Palacios

### May

- May 5—Ascension of the Lord; Scriptures: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
- May 8—Mother's Day and Festival of the Christian Home
- May 12-15—Pastor David in College Station for Ruth's graduation
- May 15—Pentecost Sunday, Barney Gulley preaching
- May 20—Crossroads Emmaus Gathering at John Wesley UMC, Victoria
- May 29—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Noisy Offering
- May 30—Memorial Day

## 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 **March 11 at 6:30 PM at FUMC Ganado** 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, March 1, 5 PM—Teen Support Group, Teen Center
- Thursday, March 3, 9 AM-12 PM, Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screening, HUB
- Tuesday, March 15, 5 PM—Teen Support Group, Teen Center
- Saturday, March 19, 8:30 AM—Bunny Run at Point Comfort City Pool
- Tuesday, February 23, 5 PM—Diabetic Support Group, Marine Center

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bunny Run is a FREE 5K on March 19! Registration will be at 8:30 AM and the race will begin at 9 AM. There will be prizes! The Point Comfort UMC will also be hosting an Eggstravaganza at 10:00 AM with over 1,000 eggs hidden! Free hotdogs, crafts, and games! Come join us!

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 Marine Center. Open for diabetics and family members.

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

Thank you,

--Leslie Machicek, Wesley Nurse

## 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*

- The March 12th Family Mission Trip from Bethany UMC, Austin, was canceled. However, their Middle School youth and some families will be here as a part of Mission by the Sea from **Monday, June 6th through Wednesday, June 8th**. Applications will be available in April from Pastor David and Marty and Carl Rieck.
- March's Communion Rail Offering will be dedicated to the "**One Great Hour of Sharing.**" The United Methodist Committee on Relief (**UMCOR**) is present in times of crisis and disaster around the world, acting as the hands of Christ in the most difficult or tragic times. This organization is able to provide fast and meaningful relief in the aftermath of disasters thanks in large part to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected by local congregations every year. When our congregation contributes to this offering, we help pay for the general operating costs of UMCOR. Because of this offering, UMCOR is able to direct 100% of other donations directly to specific disaster relief.
- February's **Communion Rail** Offering helped support the Ministerial Alliance. In 2016, First UMC of Palacios has donated **\$540** to the alliance.
- January's **Noisy Offering** went to the Methodist's Children's Home in Waco. So far in 2016, our church donated **\$414.09** to them. On July 31st, a fifth Sunday, a representative from the MCH is scheduled to make a presentation during our service.
- The next Missions Work Team meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 1st at 6:00** in Weimer Hall. All who are interested are invited to attend.

## Restarting the Shepherd Program

A Shepherd is a person who "adopts" different families in the church to pray for. The role of a Shepherd is to nurture the families in our church, drop them an occasional note, notice when they are absent or ill and check on them. It doesn't take much time to send someone a quick note to let them know they were missed, or to wish them happy birthday.

If you think this is something you would like to do, contact one of the following: Janie Gulley, Myra Bhrliek, Joan Bates, or Marty Rieck. We hope to get the Shepherd program up and running again, and we promise not to have a lot of meetings! The purpose is to nurture the members of our congregation.

## United Methodist Women



The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is a special program the United Methodist Women have every year which allows us to donate a special offering for a particular ministry. This year's offering supports the United Methodist Women mission institutions that support Deaconesses and Home Missionaries.

Volunteers of the late 1800-1900s organized deaconess and missionary services based on the needs of women and

children. United Methodist Women carries the responsibility to undergird active and retired missionary personnel services and needs. 100% of the offering collected goes directly to these mission services.

Come join us on **March 17** when Candice Neese will present the program on Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. We will be taking up an offering at that program. Bring a sack lunch and join us at 12 Noon in Weimer Hall.

## Making New Chrismons for Our Church Christmas Tree

Every year at Christmas we have a beautiful Christmas tree in our Sanctuary. It is decorated with lovely hand-made Chrismons that have significance in our faith. Unfortunately, many of the older ones are in need of repair or replacement.

If you would like to help with this project, contact DeeDee Stork. If we start now, we can have many new Chrismons to decorate our tree this Christmas!

## Small Church Initiative

*See, I am doing a new thing!*

*--Isaiah 43:19*



Starting **February 1**, our church began 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, March 8**, at 7:00 PM in Weimer Hall.



## Church Calendar for March

- 1 Missions Team meeting, Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM
- 2 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 3 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
- 4 World Day of Prayer
  
- 6 Fourth Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday  
Scriptures: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
- 7 Trustee Meeting, Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM
- 8 Finance Committee meeting, Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM  
Administrative Council meeting, Weimer Hall, 7:00 PM
- 9 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 10 Pastor David in Calallen for District Pastor's meeting  
Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
- 11 Crossroads Emmaus Gathering at FUMC Ganado
- 12 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS—TURN CLOCK FORWARD ONE HOUR!**
  
- 13 Fifth Sunday Lent  
Scriptures: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;  
Philippians 3:4B-14; John 12:1-8  
Men's Breakfast, First Presbyterian Church, 7:30 AM  
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM
- 16 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 17 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM  
United Methodist Women, Weimer Hall, 12 Noon
  
- 20 Sixth Sunday in Lent, Passion/Palm Sunday  
Scriptures: Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Sunday School 9:00 AM, Worship, 10:00 AM
- 21 Holy Week Scriptures: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11;  
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
- 22 Holy Week Scriptures: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 7:1-14;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
- 23 Holy Week Scriptures: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70;  
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32  
Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 24 Holy Thursday Scriptures: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14;  
Psalm 116:104, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM  
Maundy Thursday Worship Service, 6:00 PM
- 25 Good Friday Scriptures: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;  
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42  
Good Friday Worship Service, 6:00 PM
- 26 Holy Saturday Scriptures: Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66
  
- 27 **Easter Sunday**  
Palacios Ministerial Alliance Easter Sunrise Service at Baptist Encampment, 6:30 AM  
Scriptures: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 11:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 23:1-49  
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM
- 30 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM  
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 31 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM

## Celebrations in March

### Birthdays:

1—Jeffery Poessel; 2—Brooke VandenBergh, Bill Miller; 5—Margie Holst; 6—Lydia Schuetz; 8—Bryson Huitt; 9—Heidi Turner; 12—Donna Dillard; 17—Tess Bates, Betty Stork; 21—Mark Kubecka; 22—Christopher Harvey, Jr.; 28—Maxine Kubecka



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We're on the Web!

*Visit us at:*

**www.fumcpalacios.org**

### Joys and Concerns

We welcome **Marty and Sharon Lang** to the Palacios UMC church family. Marty and Sharon transferred their membership from First Christian Church – Disciples of Christ – El Campo.

### Assisting with Worship in March

Liturgist—Barney Gulley

Greeters—Sharon and Marty Lang

Ushers—Kyle and Zachary Seaman

### 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.

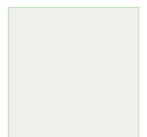
### Newsletter Articles for April

If you have an article or announcement for the April newsletter, please get the information to Janie Gulley **by March 24** at 972-3185 or [janiegulley@hotmail.com](mailto:janiegulley@hotmail.com).

PALACIOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ADDRESS