



## Message from the Pastor

We are fast approaching the season of Lent, which begins on March 1 with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the time in the Christian Year when we prepare our hearts and minds for the death and resurrection of Jesus. It begins with the solemn reflection on our mortality and inherited propensity to sin.

As we move through the seven weeks of Lent, we consider what it has taken God to provide a way of saving us and what it took Christ to be that way. We consider how and why we have taken God's gracious act for granted and how we can recapture the awe and wonder of "Amazing Grace" in our lives again.

In many faith traditions there is the "giving up something for Lent" as an act of self-sacrifice. And that's not a bad practice, as long as you replace what you gave up with something of God. So if you decided to give up your favorite TV show for Lent, you might use that time reading through the Gospel of John following the schedule later in the newsletter, or watching an inspiring movie like "The Gospel of John" or "The Passion of the Christ." If you choose to give up some favorite food or beverage, donate what you would normally spend on them to a charity or food pantry. The point is for you to find a new way to use your time and resources, a way that leads you closer to God.

May you find that this year Lent draws you closer to God and the blessings God has in store for you.

I am so thankful and proud to be your pastor,

**David**

## 40 Cans of Lent

One of the common practices during the season of Lent is to make a daily practice of giving something up during the 40 days of Lent. The Missions and Outreach Team is requesting that each of us give up one can of food for each of those 40 days. You can bring your cans to the church each Sunday and they will be placed on a table at the side of the Sanctuary. All the donations will be delivered to the Robert Duran Food Pantry after Easter Sunday.



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## Missions Corner

News from the Missions and Outreach Team:

- **February's Communion Rail Offering** of \$116.25 was designated to support Corpus Christi Metro Ministries. This thriving ministry is supported by our Coastal Bend District.
- **January's Noisy Offering** of \$133.22 was sent to the Methodist Children's Home in Waco.
- **March's Rail Offering** is designated to our church's Helping Hands Fund. This fund was created to offer emergency assistance to people in our community and those passing through. See the article on this page for more information on the Helping Hands Fund.
- **Mmm...mmm...Soup!** January's soup count was 128 cans plus \$50 donated to purchase more soup. Congratulations for exceeding the monthly goal of 100 cans. As of February 21<sup>st</sup>, 124 cans of soup were already collected. The Robert Duran Food Pantry is very appreciative of our extra support. Way to go!

March is our last month to collect soup, so keep up the great work. **40 Cans of Lent** will also help to support our local food pantry.

- **Mission by the Sea** is returning on June 4<sup>th</sup>. If you or a neighbor or friend need their help, you may get an application from Pastor David or Carl or Marty Rieck. First UMC of Palacios has been of great support in a variety of ways to this youth program in the past. If you would like to help in some way, please let either Marty or Carl know.

The **Missions and Outreach Work Team** is continuing the creation of a "Community Resource Catalog" that will provide information about what and where social services can be obtained in Palacios. If you are interested in being a part of this team, you are welcome. The next meeting will be at the home of Mary and Carl Reick on **Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 PM**. A light meal will be served. If you are planning on attending, please let Marty know at [m.jo.rieck@gmail.com](mailto:m.jo.rieck@gmail.com) or call her at 512-632-6568.

*And the second like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

*Matthew 22:39*

### Joys and Concerns

Our sympathies go out to Myra Brhlik and family on the death of her son, Rusty.

## Helping Hands Fund

The Missions and Outreach Team is establishing a fund to assist people with short-term financial needs such as medication, transportation, lodging, food and utilities. This will replace the Ministerial Alliance Fund that will now only be used for assistance with catastrophic events.

For those seeking assistance, an ID and an application will be required, and they will be given assistance once per year. The Helping Hands Fund will be administered by the Pastor and updates will be given to the Administrative Council each month. Our Communion Rail offering in March, July, and October will go to the Helping Hands Fund.



## Walk to Emmaus



Crossroads Emmaus Community is hosting two Walks this year: a **Men's walk** on **June 22-25, 2017** and **Women's walk** on **July 20-23, 2017**. If you are or know someone who would like to attend, please contact Pastor David or Barney or Janie Gulley.

Crossroads celebrates every month with a gathering of the community. If you want to know more about Emmaus, or you have been on a walk you are welcome to attend. The next gathering will be at **FUMC Ganado** on **March 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 PM. Contact the Gulleys if you want to carpool.

## United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women of Palacios will meet on **Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** at Noon in Weimer Hall. Please come and bring your brown bag lunch and hear an interesting program given by Janie Gulley on the Regional Missionaries supported by the United Methodist Church.

## Wesley Nurse

- March 20, at noon, Friends and Family CPR at the HUB. This is a free class to teach basics of CPR on all ages but will not give you a certification.
- Free exercise classes at the HUB every Tuesday and Thursday 11am-12pm.

Office hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 9am-4pm, at the HUB. Diaper Pantry will be moving to the HUB and will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you know someone with Diabetes, that has no insurance and needs help with supplies, send them to me.

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

Thank you,

Leslie Machicek, Wesley Nurse



The **Youth Sunday School Class** will begin the Adam Hamilton series "24 Hours that Changed the World" on March 5. The class meets in the room at the back of Weimer Hall at 9:00 AM.

The **Adult Sunday School** is studying the book of Hebrews for valuable life lessons. Join this great class in the Parlor of Weimer Hall as they discuss and learn the lessons from this important book of the Bible. This class meets at 9:00 AM.

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

## Conducting the Business of the Church

### First United Methodist Church -- Palacios, Texas Administrative Council Agenda – February 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Individuals present: Dennis Schuetz, Barney Gulley, Erwin Janszen, David King, Maxine Kubecka, Bill Law, Thelma Holloway, Mary Jo Neeley, Becky Johnson, Dane Kubecka, Carl Rieck. Ken Johnson agreed to serve as Secretary for this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Maxine Kubecka at 6:05 PM.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David King reported on the upcoming Clergy Convocation this next week and indicated he will report back on this event at the next meeting. David also mentioned Myra Brhlik's appreciation of the support of the church during her loss.

Minutes: Maxine indicated that the minutes had been emailed to all members for the last meeting. On a motion by Barney Gulley and seconded by Becky Johnson, the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### Reports from Ministry Teams:

Nurturing Ministries—Becky Johnson, no report

Missions and Outreach—no report, meeting next Tuesday

Witness Ministries—no report

United Methodist Women—Thelma Holloway reported that UMW will meet on Thursday. Topics will include the UMW 5-Star goal, use of the prayer calendar and obtaining Pledge Cards from all members

Youth Ministries—Zach Seaman, no report

Lay Leader/Lay Speaker—Erwin Janszen reported that David, Dennis, Barney, and Erwin attended the recent Ministry Workshop 2017 "Tools for the Ministries of the Church" held at FUMC Rockport, TX. Workshops were held covering the PPRC/SPRC Role and Responsibilities; Local Church Finance; Key Elements of a successful Children's Ministry in the morning. All participants attended the session on "Safe Sanctuary, Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults." Sessions were held in the afternoon covering Lay Leadership, Fostering Civility, and the Role of the Trustees. Erwin reported that the sessions were very well presented and valuable for all who attended. Erwin also reported that the Lay Speaker Calendar for 2017 is being worked and should be completed shortly. Lay Speaker training will be held in Beeville, TX on March 17 and 18.

Small Church Initiative Implementation Update—Pastor David reported that he will put together a group to work on the Vision Statement.

Treasurer's/Finance Committee Report—Barney Gulley presented a letter from the District congratulating the church on meeting its obligations for apportionments and becoming a 5-Star Church. Barney also reported on a grant from the Palacios Community Fund for \$4,000. Pastor David suggested that the money be used for the purchase of a musical keyboard for the music ministry of the church. Barney requested that the board ask a knowledgeable member of the church to review the electrical contracts that have expired to obtain the best contract for the church going forward. Maxine will review the results and authorize new contracts. Barney discussed the need for an Assistance fund to be administered by the church to needy individuals and to authorize a contribution by the church of \$25 to get the account started. On a motion by Becky Johnson and seconded by Carl Rieck, the board approve the contribution unanimously. Barney led a discussion of the Financial Report presented to all members. On a motion duly made and seconded, the report was approved.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Report—Pastor David reported on his suggestion that Matt Graff be appointed as Intern this summer and that a stipend is being considered to provide compensation to Matt for this next summer session.

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations) Report—Pastor David reported that the church needs to fill one position as Trustee for the 2019 position. This position should be filled by the next meeting.

Board of Trustees Report—Bill Law reported that Joni Flores had agreed to review the insurance coverage for the church with various companies to discuss appropriate coverage for the church, including values, etc. Mary Jo Neeley presented a well-thought-out presentation on the need for new Pew Cushions in the church, pointing out the problems with the existing cushions and costs for replacement. A good discussion was held on the project for new cushions and Maxine asked Mary Jo if she would meet with Finance and Trustees and report back to the Board on the recommendation of this group on where to go next with this project.

Lay Member of Annual Conference—Becky Johnson, no report

New Business—None

Old Business and Planning Calendar Update—Pastor David discussed a list of upcoming meetings and events and passed out a list to all members.

Maxine informed all that the next Administrative Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

Maxine led the Board in Closing Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ken Johnson

## Financial Update

The Finance Committee is pleased to report the Church's finances as of the end of January. With the congregation's generous support we were able to pay our Property Taxes in full from available General Funds. The Administrative Council chose to wait until February to make a decision on implementing a plan to tithe our giving to payment of Apportionments.



2017	January	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
OFFERINGS & MEMORIALS	\$ 15,342	\$ 15,342	\$ 13,475
MISSIONAL GIVING	\$ 287	\$ 287	\$ 275
APPORTIONMENTS		\$ -	\$ -
RENT	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
OILWELL	\$ 493	\$ 493	\$ 100
OTHER		\$ 53	\$ 53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 16,872</b>	<b>\$ 16,872</b>	<b>\$ 14,653</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
APPORTIONMENTS	\$ 212	\$ 212	\$ 1,584
FIVE STAR CHURCH GIVING	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 25
PASTOR SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$ 5,142	\$ 5,142	\$ 5,883
STAFF SALARY	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,155
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 3,732	\$ 3,732	\$ 3,717
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$ (50)	\$ (50)	\$ 100
MISSIONS	\$ 231	\$ 231	\$ 250
CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,088	\$ 3,088	\$ 921
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,905</b>	<b>\$ 14,905</b>	<b>\$ 14,636</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 1,967</b>	<b>\$ 1,967</b>	<b>17</b>

## Daily Scripture Readings for Lent



March 1—Matthew 24:45-25:46  
 March 2—Matthew 26:1-56  
 March 3—Matthew 26:57-27:44  
 March 4—Matthew 27:45-28:20

March 6—John 1:1-18  
 March 7—John 1:19-51  
 March 8—John 2  
 March 9—John 3  
 March 10—John 4:1-42

March 13—John 4:43-5:9  
 March 14—John 5:9-47  
 March 15—John 6:1-25  
 March 16—John 6:26-71  
 March 17—John 7:1-52

March 20—John 7:53-8:29  
 March 21—John 8:30-59  
 March 22—John 9  
 March 23—John 10  
 March 24—John 11

March 27—John 12  
 March 28—John 13  
 March 29—John 14  
 March 30—John 15  
 March 31—John 16

April 3—John 17  
 April 4—John 18  
 April 5—John 19:1-24  
 April 6—John 19:25-42  
 April 7—John 20  
 April 8—John 21

### Holy Week

April 10—Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11  
 April 11—Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
 April 12—Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32  
 April 13—Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
 April 14—Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42  
 April 15—John 14:1-4; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66

## Coastal Bend District



The Coastal Bend District is hosting **Lay Servant Ministry** training will be held on March 25 in Beeville. Contact Barney Gulley if you are interested in attending.

The Coastal Bend District United Methodist Women is hosting an Information Fair on March 4 at FUMC Odem. The purpose is to connect women with the mission of UMW and learn about the roles and responsibilities of UMW in our communities. Contact Janie Gulley if you are interested in attending.

## Calendar for March



- 1 – Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:00 PM  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- 2 – Ladies Bible Study in Weimer Hall – 10:00 AM
- 3 – World Day of Prayer
- 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent/Communion Sunday  
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; **Matthew 4:1-11**  
Sunday School -- 9:00 AM -- Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM
- 8 – Hand Bells in Sanctuary – 5:30 PM, Choir in Sanctuary – 6:30 PM
- 9 – Ladies Bible Study in Weimer Hall – 10:00 AM
- 12 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS  
Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; **John 3:1-17**  
Men’s Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church – 7:30 AM  
Sunday School -- 9:00 AM -- Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM  
Communion after worship
- 14 – Administrative Council in Weimer Hall -- 6:00 PM
- 15 – Hand Bells in Sanctuary – 5:30 PM, Choir in Sanctuary – 6:30 PM
- 16 -- Ladies Bible Study in Weimer Hall – 10:00 AM  
United Methodist Women in Weimer Hall -- Noon
- 17 – Crossroads Emmaus Gathering, FUMC Ganado – 6:30 PM
- 17-18 Lay Servant Training, FUMC Beeville
- 19 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; **John 4:5-42**  
Sunday School -- 9:00 AM -- Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM  
Communion after worship
- 20 – Alpha Club in Weimer Hall  
Pastor David in San Antonio
- 21 – Pastor David at District Pastor’s meeting in Refugio  
Missions Team Dinner and Meeting at Rieck’s, 6:30 PM
- 22 – Hand Bells in Sanctuary – 5:30 PM, Choir in Sanctuary – 6:30 PM
- 23 -- Ladies Bible Study in Weimer Hall – 10:00 AM
- 26 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; **John 9:1-41**  
Sunday School -- 9:00 AM -- Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM  
Communion after worship

## Celebrations in March

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



## Other Dates on the Horizon

### APRIL

- 9 – Palm Sunday
- 9—Men’s Breakfast in Weimer Hall
- 13 – Maundy Thursday –  
Worship at 6:00 PM
- 14 – Good Friday – Worship at  
6:00 PM
- 16 – Easter Sunrise Service at  
Baptist Encampment – 6:30 AM
- Easter Sunday – Worship at  
10:00 AM
- 20 – United Methodist Women  
in Weimer Hall – Noon
- 28-30 – Coastal Bend District  
Clergy Family Weekend
- 29 – Patchwork of Life  
Conference at First Baptist  
Church
- 30 – Fifth Sunday Noisy  
Offering for Methodist Home in  
Waco

## First United Methodist Church Palacios

PO Box 947  
Palacios, TX 77465  
Church: 361-972-3013  
Email: palaciosumc@nwcable.net  
Pastor's Cell: 361-655-1497  
Parsonage: 361-972-6005

Find us on the Web:  
[www.fumcpalacios.org](http://www.fumcpalacios.org)



## Assisting with Worship in March

Liturgist—Myra Brhlik

Greeters—Neva Taylor and Lisa Harrison

Ushers—Zach Seaman and Robert Bari

## 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).



First United Methodist Church Palacios  
PO Box 947  
Palacios, TX 77465

ADDRESS