

*In hard times, good times
and even over abundance, the
seeds to the kingdom of
God is present.*

I don't think anyone needs to be reminded about the drought we suffered through just recently. Our lakes dried up, we worried about our drinking water and green lawns were basically on their own. Driving through the country side from North Texas to the Pan-Handle was downright depressing. The ground was dried up and cracking open. It looked as if the earth itself was in pain. While I knew that the rains would return and once again the crops would flourish and the lakes would fill, I found myself becoming a little weary. Sometimes it's hard to believe good times can return.

During this time, I planted a small wildflower garden. It required little water, the occasional rain and condensation captured from the air conditioner was enough to keep it going. It didn't exactly flourish, but the variety of plants kept blooms in the yard through most of the spring and summer. I let the plants go to seed and composted everything in its time. Even when I had forgotten about them the stems, dry flowers and seeds were at work creating a new and rich soil. Nurturing this little garden gave me a way to resist the dry times and it brought some color into the landscape.



Eventually the rains did come, over and over again. In fact, we went from little to no rain to an overabundance, seemly overnight. The lakes over flowed, some homes were flooded and the crops needed to be harvested but, the mud was too deep to get into the field. It looks as if we move from one extreme to the other. There is rarely that perfect middle ground when life seems to be in balance with just enough rain, but not too much, and just enough sunshine, but not too hot and dry. So we often find ourselves searching for a perfection of ease in life. Unfortunately, this sets us up for disappointment and frustration. We may even ask ourselves, where is this kingdom of God Jesus said was so near.

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”
Mark 1:15

Christians are expected to play a part in this kingdom, yet it seems nowhere to be found. Our soul, our church, our world struggles with the stresses and pains and even abundance.

But the goodness of life in Christ is real, even when the world around, or even inside of us, seems to be living out a lifeless drought. So we find we have to look deep within our own souls for the seed God has planted within us. In the give and take of our unpredictable world we have been given a constant, the power to grow and work in God's kingdom. In life with Christ we find the rest and refreshment we need. It is grace, a gift and we are fortunate to have a part in God's blessings to our world. When Jesus was asked about the kingdom of God he responded with a story about the mustard seed. From the Gospel of Mark 4:30-32 we read;

“³⁰ ... *“With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”*”

The kingdom of God is a seed planted deep within us. As we water and feed this seed with prayer, communion, and worship, the kingdom grows within. But it's not just for us to hide away. There is work to be done so that the seed within us, like the mustard seed, grows and prospers. We are blessed with the gift and the task to provide the world with nourishment and shelter.

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Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

We look for someone whom we consider faithful to us. Even the best of friends has the tendency to fail us at times. We want to be able to trust someone and be able to depend on them. How disappointing it is when we cannot be able to rely on a friend.

God, on the other hand, is that faithful friend. He wants us to be able to communicate with him at all times, and ever better, he wants us to depend on him for even the tiniest of needs. No request is too big or too small! All we have to do is ask! Great is his faithfulness!!

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22,23

Prayer: Loving Lord, we are so very blessed to have you as a faithful friend. May we learn to rely on you in every situation! Thank you for your faithfulness! Amen.

Carole 🎵

News from Trustees Committee

The outside doors of the Church building have been re-keyed. If you need access to the church building, you will need to check out a key from Stacia and return it when you have completed your activity at the Church. A key policy is being worked on and will be adopted by the Trustees at a later date.

The front of the Sanctuary will be painted and the shutters removed, starting sometime in June.

The air-conditioning unit for the Chapel/History Room has been replaced and is now in working order.

Please report any concerns you have about the building and grounds to a member of the Trustees Committee or fill out a maintenance request. Thank you for your continued help in keeping our building clean and in good working order.

Carolyn Lalk, Trustees, Chairman

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What work we do in the church today, carries the seeds of tomorrows prosperity. Our church abounds in good work for the kingdom of God. Yet, we look around and there are areas of drought. We need a youth director, we need to renovate our sanctuary, and our numbers are not increasing. However, the seeds to our future have already been planted within each of us. Remember, God is faithful and will bring the rains for those who continue to work the field. The seeds of our future youth program are within us, the power to renovate our sanctuary is in us.

When I moved to Iowa Park I brought some of my compost. I was thinking about the richness of the soil and using it to start a new garden. What I didn't think about was all those wild flower seeds. When mixed back into the garden they began to sprout. Now I am blessed with a wide variety of flowers, ranging from Blue Bonnets, Black eyed Susie's, Butter Cups and more. And recently Tracie pointed out some Passion Vine. In hard times, good times and even over abundance, the seeds to the kingdom of God are present.

Pastor Rick

iowaparkumc.org

Our new Web site is up and running. People can find out about us and even make contributions on our web page. Our desire is to use this site as an outreach ministry as well as a source for information about our church. We will continue to add to our site as new ideas, programs and ministries come about. If you have any suggestions, please let the church office know.

June 2016 @ FUMC



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 9:30 Prayer 6:00 choir 6:30 Trustee mtg.	2 7:00 WFF	3 5:00 Sanctuary in use - wedding	4 10:00 wedding Come Alive @ Gordon Lake Pavilion
5	6	7	8 Pastor Rick - cataract surgery 9:30 Prayer	9	10	11 9:00 - 11:00 Food Box distribution
<p style="text-align: center;">N. TX. Annual Conference @ Plano</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vacation Bible School - Surf Shack - 5:30 - meal 5:50 - 8:00</p>						
12	13 6:30 Church Council 7:00 WFF	14 6:30 combined U.M.W. meeting	15 9:30 Prayer 6:00 choir	16 7:00 WFF	17	18
19 	20 7:00 WFF	21	22 9:30 Prayer	23 4:00 Commodities distribution 7:00 WFF	24	25
26	27 7:00 WFF	28	29 9:30 Prayer	30 7:00 WFF		



Where? First United Methodist Church

When? June 5th (Sunday) to June 9th (Thursday)

What time? Light Dinner 5:30 p.m. VBS 5:50 - 8:00 p.m.

Activities for VBS

Sunday - wear yellow shirt - bring corn - crazy hat night

**Monday - wear blue shirt - bring canned fruit -
sunglasses night**

**Tuesday - wear red shirt - bring canned meat -
crazy hair night**

**Wednesday - wear black shirt - bring canned beans -
flower lei night (provided)**

**Thursday - wear tie dyed shirt - bring any canned food -
flip flop night**



Summer time has arrived. Many of us will be heading out to enjoy a well deserved break. Traditionally, this has meant a dip in attendance. Fortunately, the church doesn't shut down for the summer. It's always here and ready to serve.

However, this means the cost of operating the church continues. Please do not forget your offerings during the Summer break. Like most churches, our budget is tight and we need all of our members continued support, even in the summer. Thanks and have a fun filled and blessed summer.



2016 NORTH TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Welcome to Witness:
The 2016 North Texas
Annual Conference!**

Encounter inspiration and insight with United Methodist from across North Texas so we can become a more powerful witness for Jesus Christ!

**June 5 - 7, 2016
St. Andrew UMC
Plano, Texas**

Featuring:

Bishop Michael Mckee, preacher

Bishop William McAlilly,
guest preacher
Rev. Danielle Shroyer,
keynote speaker

Rev. Scott Chrostek,
keynote speaker
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson,
worship leader

All conference attendees must register online. Conference work-book and detailed information are available at ntc2016.org

Thank you!

Dear FUMC Family,

Thank you very much for your contributions to the *Farmer Scholarship Fund*. Best of luck to our graduating Seniors in their future endeavors.

Linda Springer,
Farmer Scholarship Coordinator

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In God We Trust

The New Collage Sunday School Class is selling “*In God We Trust*” bumper stickers. The cost is \$2.50 and all proceeds will go to the *Sanctuary Renovation Fund*. Please contact Carolyn Lalk at 733-5772 or the Church Office to purchase.

Looking Ahead!



In our May planning session we came up with a few new ideas for our church’s outreach ministries. Let’s do Whoop-T-Doo! ParkFest was a lot of fun and showed the community the joy and unity within our congregation. The O.W.L.S. are looking to expand their adventures and would love to have people of all generations join in their fun. They will be meeting in the Fall to consider new ideas. The U.M.W. are looking at a clothing drive for Faith Refuge and a ministry for homeless mothers and their children. How about a fall festival in October or November? This will be similar to V.B.S., but concentrated to one day, possibly the Saturday before Halloween. We’re thinking about bringing back our pumpkin patch and all the fun activities that go with it! Our Christmas parade was a joy for the kids last year, how about we do this again? Pastor Rick is considering a Marital Bible study for couples of all ages. The occasional combining of services with fellowship meals afterwards will help to remind us of our strong connection. We are one church, one people. These are good ideas for the life of our church. If you have any interest in any of these events, please contact the office. We will only pursue the activities where there is interest.

*In moments of doubt, Pray!
In moments of stress, Pray!
In times of peace, Pray!
Prayer makes a difference,
it's a gift from God.
It is grace!*

