

# The Herald

# March 2018

A Monthly Publication of First United Methodist Church of Iowa Park, TX

The United Methodist Women of FUMCIP met on February 13 to focus on what direction the Lord wants us to go this year. Guidance from the District office asks us to reflect on sacred spaces—our encounters with God and neighbors. We create sacred spaces whenever we interact with God, when we discover something deeper about ourselves, and realize God’s purpose for us. While our response to the world included a discussion of the issues involved in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, closer to home we are determined to Increase emphasis in several areas where we can effect change:

- Volunteering to assist in establishing/maintaining a Sunday morning program for our children
- Reaching out in fellowship to the women in our church and community
- Providing more opportunities for recycling in our church.

We ask that all members of our church look for opportunities to help us as we move forward in these endeavors. Become a part of creating sacred spaces all around us!

We will meet on March 6 at 10:00 am in the FUMCIP library, followed by the program for Susannah Wesley Fellowship. The Elsie Sullivan evening Fellowship will meet on March 13 at 6:00 pm with Linda Springer as hostess this month. We invite YOU to join us at whichever fellowship meets your timeframe, as we seek God’s will in our lives.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20 KJV

- Holy Thursday (March 28th) and Good Friday (March 29th) services will be held at 7:00 p.m.
- There will be an Easter Sunrise Service at the pavilion at Gordon Lake on April 1st. The time will be released at a later date.
- Sunday School will be held at 9:00 a.m. that same morning. A combined Easter Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. An Easter Egg Hunt will follow after the service.

“I would like to thank my church family because you are my family during my celebration for my 100 year birthday. I have been blessed by the UMW and the Kum Dubl Sunday School class. I have enjoyed being a member of this church for over 80 years.

God bless you and thank you.”

-Evelyn Thompson

## The Pastor's Page

Easter is coming! It's a wonderful time of year. There are choices to be made for the big day. Easter clothes for young and old, will there be a big dinner afterward and where? They are all important in their own way, but they are not likely to be life changing. However, Easter is life changing. The celebration of Easter reminds us of how Jesus can bring about an eternal change in our lives starting today. If we take a hold of this holiday season and let the events of that time seep deep into our soul, Easter will take hold of us. Such a valuable time justifies thoughtful preparation, that we may receive all that God desires for us. During the month of March, we will be in the season of Lent, the 40 days of preparation for Easter Day.

During this time of Lent, there is so much to consider. The love of God for us that looks beyond our selfishness and pride, calling us to live a greater life in his way and truth. The grace of God in Jesus Christ that joined humanity in the middle of our sin and hate, putting himself in our unworthy hands, only to be cruelly rejected and killed. The days of Lent are an opportunity to walk humbly with Jesus and learn more about ourselves and our Creator.

So, take some extra time, daily if possible, and let the

works of God into your heart, thinking about what it means to be saved and loved every day by our Lord. I believe we each have our own place in life where we meet or have met God in the events that surround us. What kind of difference did it make, or still does in the life we lead? Are we so caught up in the struggles, both inside and outside of us, that we have forgotten or possibly never see the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our world? There is a big picture of Christ' redemption of the world and the very personal one of his redemption of our own souls. And of course, they are interwoven in the life we lead. You may want to think about how God's work in the past teaches us and blesses us today. When feeling surrounded by challenges remember how real God is in our lives. He is not just a creed or belief statement, but more tangible than the evil that surrounds us, more real than the hate that seems to fill the world, more real than financial challenges or the temptations that weigh us down.

He is a refuge that calls you home to a place we may have never been before. The disciples had no idea what they were in for, how their life would change and how they would help change the world. And God's Holy Spirit has not rested after the first few generations of the church. We are all called to pick up

our cross and our lives, and journey with Jesus to a place we haven't been before, a place where we will be reborn in "water and the Spirit" (John 3:5). A place where the journey and the destination will change ourselves and the world.

In the story of the Transfiguration, where the disciples Peter, James and John witnessed the glory of God pour out of Jesus as he met with two ancient prophets, Moses and Elijah, Peter states the obvious, "it is good for us to be here" (Mark 9:5). As Peter continues to talk out of his fear and awe, they hear God the Father tell them to "Listen to His Son Jesus." What I find remarkable thing about these men and the generations that followed them, is they did just that. They listened to him, and followed him into a new world, even as the old one raged around them. The world still rages in its anger and abuse, and God still calls us to listen to him. Listen to him and help the Almighty change the world as well as ourselves. Listen to him and find out what it means to have peace beyond understanding. Listen to him and enjoy eternal life, now and forever. Easter is coming, Easter is life changing, Easter is now. This Lent, let us take some extra time to listen to Jesus. And may the Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us.

*Pastor Rick*

# March 2018

## @ FUMC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:00 Commodities 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 WFF	2	3
4	5 7:00 WFF	6 10:00 UMW/ Susannah Wesley 6:00 HCI 6:30 Holy Yoga	7 3:30 K. Klub 4:00 MS Youth 5:30 Chicken Sandwiches 6:15 Choir 6:30 HS Youth 6:30 Trustees Mtg 7:00 CrossFire	8 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 WFF	9	10
11 Daylight Saving's	12 7:00 WFF	13 6:30 Holy Yoga	14 No Wednesday Night Activities due to Spring Break	15 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 WFF	16	17
18 Bible Sunday Handbells	19 6:00 Admin Council 7:00 WFF	20 6:30 Holy Yoga	21 3:30 K. Klub 4:00 MS Youth 5:30 Spaghetti 6:15 Choir 6:30 HS Youth 7:00 CrossFire	22 4:00 Commodities 7:00 WFF	23	24
25 Palm Sunday Handbells	26 7:00 WFF	27	28 3:30 K. Klub 4:00 MS Youth 5:30 Mexican Pile-On 6:15 Choir 6:30 HS Youth 7:00 CrossFire	29 7:00 Holy Thursday Service	30 7:00 Good Friday Service	31



IN OUR



# Thoughts and Prayers

## Prayer Concerns

*Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

**Cancer - Lynda Beckett, Jim Binion, Leza Boone, Traci Boyte, Terry Crow, Peggy Crowley, Sandra Cummings, Michael David, Nancy Davis, Kathy Fuller, Sally Gary, Kelvin Graves, Hayley Hill, Terry Holmes, Sharon Baston Hughes, Mike Jensen, Roger Jensen, Jeremy Johnson, Scott Morris, Gregg Oliver, Ethan Owens, Justin Ozuna, Albert Rhoades, Leslie Richter, Cheryl Roberts, Richard Smith, Terry Spiegel, Doris Stephens, Janice Stine, Laura Talley, Gerald Thatcher, Tina Vance, Dale Ward, Mike Young, Scott Young.**

**Heart & Stroke - Johnny Barker, John Bata, John Frederick, Randy Lovelady, Lorene Mahler, Stanley McCloud, Wade McCloud, Katherine Ratliff, Kathlene Robins, Martha Smith, Sandy Walden, Gary Warner.**

**Various Health Issues - Don Beals, Nicole Bryson, Bailey Butler, Mrs. Carter, Casey Churney, Rita Cogdell, Martha Crawford, Bob Doan, Jim Farris, Peggy Ford, Lennie Fowler, Bailey Fudge, Robert Gary, Richard Griffith, Patrick Haswell, Rhonda Holmes, Jeff Hughes, Wanda Hughes, Tommy Jones, Heather Jones, Tom Jones & family, Missy Lonston, Jimmy Lee, Xavier McCloud, Billy Mashburn, Elliott Message, Keith Meyers, Tina Mills, Piper Murgy, James Overstreet, Earnie & Annetta Reusch, Joan Robinson, Louis Sefcik, Michael Sewell, Parker Shelton, Kellon Simontos, Evelyn Skinner, George Smith, Kathy Smith, Rachel Spears, Richard Spears, Archie Stewart, Evelyn Thompson, Kitten Thompson, Melinda Torres, David Veigl, Tom Venhaus, Terrie Willett, Brad Winn.**

**Military/Overseas - All Military personnel serving worldwide, especially those in harms way; Missionaries at home and abroad.**



**3x your impact! From March 12-31, Amazon is tripling the donation rate on your first smile.amazon.com purchase! Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/75-0883103](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-0883103) and Amazon donates to First United Methodist Church.**



## **Bible Sunday**

**Our Bible Sunday for the month of March will be held on the 18th. The word this month is, “Hope”.**

### **“How Firm a Foundation”**

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**When any building is built, it is important that the foundation be exceedingly sound. The builder will look for a solid place to begin his project, choosing only one that will support the building he will erect.**

**Just as the builder searches for a firm foundation, so are we to have a firm foundation in our faith. God provides that firm foundation through his word...the BIBLE. All true instruction comes from him. He has given us the Ten Commandments as a basis for what is righteous living. He sent his Son, Jesus, to be an example of right living. What more can we ask?**

**As we study God’s word and follow Jesus’ teachings, we can build for ourselves a strong foundation. The very success of our lives as Christians is based on the foundation that he has set out for us.**

**SCRIPTURE: But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lords depart from iniquity.” 2 Timothy 2: 19**

**Prayer: Lord, may our foundation for life be strong because we have studied your word and followed Jesus’ teachings. When we seem to fail, Lord, build us up with your strength. May we always learn from your example, so that we may be the children you would have us be. Amen**

*Carole* 🎵



**FUMCIP Worship Committee  
Congregational Survey Report  
Fall, 2017**

<b>A. Which Service do you normally attend?</b>	First Service 44	Second Service 42
<b>B. How long have you attended FUMCIP?</b>	0 - 3 Years: 5	3 - 6 Years: 7
	6 - 12 Years: 8	More than 12 Years: 59

**C. Age:**

Under 20: 3	21 - 30: 0
31 - 40: 2	41 - 50: 4
51 - 60: 22	61 - 70: 16
Over 70: 33	

<b>D. Communion</b>	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
I prefer communion be served using individual cups for the juice.	41	9	23
I prefer communion be served by dipping a piece of bread into the juice. (intinction)	12	31	29

<b>E. Music</b>	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
I would like a greater variety of new/different songs in my service.	32	14	29
My tastes tend toward traditional church hymns.	42	14	21
My tastes tend toward more contemporary worship music.	24	23	27
I would prefer more songs during the service.	14	28	34
I would prefer fewer songs during the service.	4	40	33
I enjoy CrossFire Sundays.	60	2	15
I enjoy children/youth performing during the service.	72	1	5
I would prefer more children's choir performances.	50	1	26
I enjoy the bell choir (Anderson Ringers).	73	0	5
I would prefer more bell choir performances.	37	4	37
I would prefer hearing more instrumental-only performances.	22	21	34

<b>F. Liturgists</b>	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
I would prefer the same liturgist / worship leader every week.	1	52	25
I prefer hearing a summary of announcements every week.	53	10	15
Skip reading the announcements, I'd rather read them in the worship guide.	15	40	22

<b>G. Sermon</b>	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
The sermons are too short.	1	48	28
The sermons are too long.	18	28	31
I prefer to see the slide shows illustrating the sermons.	33	17	27
The slide shows are appropriate and well-delivered.	29	12	34
I don't think slide shows enhance the sermons.	15	31	3

## Congregational Survey Report, continued

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
<b>H. Ushers</b>			
The ushers should be used in a different manner.	4	36	37
The collection should just be dropped in containers as I'm leaving the service, no need of ushers in the service.	0	63	14
<b>I. Audio / Visual</b>			
I like recorded music prior to the start of the service.	32	17	27
The quality and sound levels during worship are satisfactory.	64	9	3
Visual displays are inappropriate during worship service.	13	49	14
<b>J. Other Topics</b>			
I'm glad that I have the option of attending worship at two different times.	59	10	10
I'm glad that there are two different styles of worship offered.	52	10	17
I Wish the styles of worship would switch times.	11	46	21
I'm happy with the way things are currently.	38	24	14
I would prefer that we only have one service instead of two.	26	32	19
If we only have one service I would prefer it be held at:	8:15- 30		10:40- 47
If we only held one service I would prefer that the style of worship be:	Traditional: 34		Blended: 38
If we only held one service and it was at a time or in a style I don't enjoy, I would likely stop attending that church.	14	47	17
If we only held one service it wouldn't matter the style or time, I'd attend this church regardless.	50	16	12
The ultimate failure of success of FUMCIP will primarily be the result of the Worship experience.	42	28	7
I believe the decline in attendance is due to the worship experience.	30	40	9

*Our vision is to be a community of Christ followers by modeling God's love.*

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Please review the Congregational Survey Report concerning the results of the survey conducted by the FUMCIP Worship Committee in the fall of 2017. The survey was intended to allow the Worship Committee to receive guidance on various elements of the worship experience, e.g. music, communion, sermon, etc. and other questions in general.

Each member of the WC is responsible for a particular element of the worship service. Comments were solicited as well, and the survey results and comments received under each element were sent in their entirety for review, to the respective member responsible for that element. The comments respective to those particular elements, and some responses, were not shared with the other committee members or the congregation at large.

This is in no way a scientific survey, or a poll. Some people didn't answer all the questions, some answered both questions if an "either/or" choice was offered, and some who attend both services indicated as such, so the numbers won't "add up". It was merely a gauge of the congregation's feelings on worship, for general committee guidance. On behalf of the Worship Committee I wish to thank you for your participation and guidance.

**Worship Committee Chairman:  
Richard Smith**

**Communion: Bob Doan**

**Music: Carole Venhaus, Pat Doan**

**Liturgists, Sermon: Pastor Rick**

**Ushers: Tom Venhaus**

**Audio/Visual: Kellie Gibson,  
(Richard Smith), Lisa Jensen**

**Congregational reps:  
1st Service - Freda Parks,  
2nd Service - Linda Springer**

\* Carole Venhaus, Minister of Music  
\* Pat Doan, Keyboardist  
\* Sara Falnes, Secretary

**FUMCIP  
Staff**

**Contracted by Trustees**

**David & Ginger Falnes, Custodians**

**Dub Ewing, Grounds Maintenance**