

The FIRST LOOK

NEWSLETTER

First United Methodist Church

August 2017 Edition



A Word from the Senior Pastor

Dr. Jerome Brimmage

*Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!.....
Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

I am beyond excited about the Spirit moving at FUMC Lufkin! We are entering a new season in our faith home. August will bring a celebration of Missions on August 6, 2017, Blessing of Educators and combined worship on August 13, 2017 and the launch of a new worship schedule on August 20th.

We have been praying about this moment for a long time. God has been answering prayers in many ways. We will continue to be in prayer together. If you have not already, please join us in the 21 Days of Prayer leading up to August 20. Did you know, the average Methodist invites someone to church once every 38 years? Although our membership covenant says we will support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness, rarely do we actually witness and invite people into the life-giving relationship with Jesus in worship.

We are claiming YEAR 38 right now. I am asking every member to look to the left, right, front, back, social media, etc. See who is your neighbor and invite anyone and everyone who does not actively have a church home to come be part of a new thing at FUMC Lufkin.

I hope that you are getting excited about what God is doing!

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. Ephesians 3:20-21 (MSG)

**Glory to God in the church!
Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!
Glory down all the generations!
Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Jerome



21 Days of Prayer

Join us over the next 21 days as we earnestly pray with thanksgiving. From July 31 to August 20, we ask that you join us as we seek God's guidance and love for the body of FUMC and the community in which we live in. You can see the daily prayers at www.lufkinfirst.com/im



Immeasurably More Update

*"Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)*

By now, you may have heard about our Family Meeting on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017. In case you missed it and want to hear the meeting, we have it recorded with the slides that were shown. Simply email Vicki Shimer at vshimer@lufkinfirst.com and she will send you a link. As a church, we believe God has our best days ahead of us. We have goals to stop the decline in worship, create stability, and to add growth.

Our Goals

Prayer

Tammy Sees is leading our prayer team of over 50 people. If you want to be part of this foundational team, email Tammy at prayerteam@lufkinfirst.com.

Immeasurably More Class

CCAP - Connect Card Action Plan - led by Pastor Laura Campbell - Wednesday, August 16 at 5:30 PM in the Elementary Wing.

New Worship Times Launch August 20

The time is almost here! Our new worship times will begin on Sunday, August 20. Please join us at 8:30 AM for Early Worship Service in the Sanctuary or at 10:45 AM for either our Traditional or Contemporary Worship Service. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 AM. We hope to see you all on August 20 for our new schedule!

Immeasurably More Capital Campaign

Last year, the Trustees began looking at the campus to identify areas in need of update and repair to be a more inviting (and safe) church in the community. Below, is a list of projects that the Trustees identified as urgent:

- **Youth and Children's Areas** - Update both areas – furniture, paint, etc.
- **Henderson Chapel and Allen Parlor** - Immediate need to remedy the bat infestation of the Henderson Chapel and surrounding areas. This includes sealing of sanctuary and adult wing buildings to keep bats from relocating in those vulnerable buildings. Other areas to be addressed in the chapel and parlor: flooring, pew recovery, media updates for chapel, and parlor kitchen renovation.
- **Fellowship Hall** - Painting, new flooring, replace existing tables.
- **CLC** - Replace all six HVAC units due to no heat in building.
- **Awnings** - Address areas that are not covered and connect to existing structures.
- **Ramps** - Install ramps for ADA accessibility to buildings.
- **Digital Sign** - Install a digital sign at Two-Point.

This list was then given to the Finance Committee to find the necessary funds to complete these projects. The total cost to complete these urgent needs is \$500,000. To be able to fund these projects, the Finance Committee and the Church Council have approved an Immeasurably More Capital Campaign. The goal is to raise these funds in the next 90 days. To give to the campaign, visit www.lufkinfirst.com to donate online. You may also bring or mail your check to the church office.

New Worship Times
Beginning August 20

- 8:30 AM**
Early Worship Service
Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM**
Sunday School Classes
- 10:45 AM**
Traditional Worship Service
Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM**
Contemporary Worship Service
Youth & Worship Center

Back to School Celebration
Sunday, August 13
Combined Worship Service
10 AM
Sanctuary



Haiti Mission Trip

In July, members from FUMC, Marvin UMC, and Keller UMC traveled to Haiti to distribute water filters in the village of Mellier. Most of Haiti's water sources are contaminated, leaving the majority of Haitians with little or no access to clean water in any form. Families are regularly battling illness and even death because of contaminated water. This team was able to pass out over 200 filters to families in Mellier and surrounding villages, providing much needed clean water to these beautiful people. The next mission trip to Haiti is scheduled for March 10-17, 2018. If you are interested in joining this trip, please contact Bob Ford at (936) 465-1187.

Let's Do Lunch! Women's Lunch and Devotional

During the month of July, the Women's Ministry hosted the first Let's Do Lunch. Each week was a wonderful time of Fellowship and devotionals from pastors in the surrounding area. Pastor Laura Campbell, Pastor Cindy Doran from Kelty's UMC, Pastor Karen Jones from Center FUMC, and Pastor Lorraine Brown from Nacogdoches FUMC all gave amazing devotionals. We had over 70 women in attendance from as many as five different churches each week. The meals were planned and cooked each week by an amazing group of ladies. Debbie Anderson, Candy Wadsworth, Joyce Sperry, Leslie Brimmage, Betty Harrison, Cindy Kadlec, Judy Berghuis, and Thalia Tierney worked hard each week to make sure we had a great meal, complete with dessert. Let's Do Lunch was so well received, we are looking at having another series in September, and possibly each month. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

Fellowship Thursday

We had our first Fellowship Thursday on June 22 which was a huge success! Just think how much bigger it will be when we have our second Fellowship Thursday on September 21. Fellowship Thursday is an evening of food and fellowship in your neighborhoods. It is an opportunity to connect with people you might not realize go to the same church as you or live in your neighborhood. Mark your calendars, and if you are interested in being a host home, we would love to have you. Being a host home just means that you will plan how the meal will be coordinated. If you have questions, or would like to sign up as a host home, contact Carolee Brink at (936) 631-3233 or cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

Now Hiring for MGP 2.0 and Cross Court

My Growing Place 2.0 and Cross Court after school programs are now hiring for the 2017-18 school year. These positions are part-time and will work Monday through Friday, 2:30 - 6:00 PM. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Claudine Kindred at ckindred@lufkinfirst.com or Valerie Salaiz at vsalaiz@lufkinfirst.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Girl's Night Out Tuesday, August 8

Join us for an evening with the girls at Manhattan's in Downtown Lufkin on Tuesday, August 8 at 6:30 PM. We will enjoy great company and a nice meal. If you have questions, or would like to sign up, please contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

It's Bunco Time! Tuesday, August 15

Join us for an evening of fun on Tuesday, August 15 at 6:30 PM in the CLC game room. The nursery will be open for the evening. If you have questions, or would like to sign up, please contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

Staff Spotlight



Valerie has been in a couple of roles at FUMC. She started with us about ten years ago as an afterschool worker, has worked in the front office, and now loves her current role

as the Assistant Director of Christian Recreation. She also manages our afterschool program for older students, Cross Court. She is married to Jesus and together have a little yorkie named Harley.

Baptism



Timothy Joseph Button,

born December 25, 2016 and the son of Zachary and Emily Button, was baptized July 30, 2017 in the Contemporary Worship Service.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

— LOVING GOD, LOVING NEIGHBOR —

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August Upcoming Events

Service Opportunity • August 6

Join us on Sunday, August 6 from 12-2 PM in the CLC Gym to stuff backpacks for Back to school Bonanza. If interested in helping, please contact Lisa.

Promotion Sunday • August 20

All children and youth are invited to meet their new Sunday School teachers! We will be having a Meet and Greet on Sunday, August 20 in the CLC Gym at 9:30 AM. Breakfast will be provided. Parents can turn in their 2017-18 Parental Consent forms for their child.

Children's and Youth Parent Meeting and Lunch • August 20

All parents of children and youth are invited to a meeting about the upcoming 2017-18 year. This meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 12 PM. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Lisa Gill at lgill@lufkinfirst.com or Sarah Scott at sscott@lufkinfirst.com.

Ichthus 9th Grade Retreat • September 9-10 • Camp Cho-Yeh

All 9th graders are invited to Ichthus at Camp Cho-Yeh. The retreat will start with lunch at noon on Saturday, September 9, and will end at 3 PM on Sunday, September 10. The cost of the retreat is \$50. Please RSVP to Lisa Gill at lgill@lufkinfirst.com.

Confirmation Class begins August 20 at 3 PM in Youth & Worship Center

Wednesday Night Youth begins August 30 from 6-8 PM



**For information about these events, or about the Youth Group,
please contact Lisa Gill at lgill@lufkinfirst.com**