

# The FIRST LOOK

## NEWSLETTER

First United Methodist Church

February 2017 Edition



### A Word from the Senior Pastor

Dr. Jerome Brimmage

What does 38 mean?

Our Leadership Huddle was a few weeks ago where we had over 90 leaders gather for the afternoon. While there, I shared some information about a book I am reading called: *Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships*.

This book has offered me a fresh wind about evangelism and what it means in 2017.

Briefly, the authors speak about:

- Elementary Evangelism - relational evangelism through service
- Middle School Evangelism - faith sharing in small group
- High School Evangelism - faith sharing in worship
- College Evangelism - inviting others to attend worship

Like many congregations, we at FUMC are fabulous at being servants. We feed people, we offer clothes, we mentor, we partner... in short: We Serve! This is a very good characteristic of a church with deep roots.

However, we are not as enthusiastic about sharing our faith stories in small groups and even less excited to share in worship.

The FUMC culture is not currently one of an invitation to attend worship. I know some people who will invite people in. But what struck me in the book was this quote:

"Did you know that the average United Methodist member invites someone to



come to worship once every thirty-eight years?" (P. 21 *Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships*).

You read that correctly! One time every 38 years it occurs to us to say to someone, "I attend a great church and I would like you to attend with me. Can I pick you up on \_\_\_\_ date and we will go together?"

I am proclaiming 2017 as our YEAR 38!!! Year 38 means we will all begin to pray and then make an invitation for a friend, co-worker, neighbor, acquaintance, or someone to come to worship. This year, we will be providing you with help in making this a reality. We will also offer special worship events to make this Year 38 an opportunity to invite someone.

Will you accept the Year 38 Challenge?

See you in worship Sunday morning!

Pastor Jerome

P. S. When your new person comes, please introduce them to Pastor Laura or me.

## Spring Concert Series

FUMC Worship Arts presents a variety of concerts throughout the year. These concerts feature both local and out-of-state artists. All concerts are presented to the public at no charge. Donations and love offerings are accepted to support our guest artists.



### AURORA in Concert | Feb. 26

FUMC Worship Arts will present Aurora in concert on Sunday, February 26 at 4 PM in the Henderson Chapel. They will be presenting an afternoon of tantalizing time-travel music as they explore music spanning five centuries. A flute, harp, and cello trio based in Houston, this trio embraces classical repertoire while championing contemporary music and commissioned works by emerging composers.

## School of Fine Arts Ministry

The School of Fine Arts Ministry is designed to provide instruction in music and fine arts. Private lessons are available for piano, organ, voice, and guitar. Please contact Dr. Ernest Boamah at [eboamah@lufkinfirst.com](mailto:eboamah@lufkinfirst.com) for more information. There will be an end of year recital on May 7 at 4 PM in the Henderson Chapel for current pupils. Please join us!

## Volunteers needed for Tech Team

We are in dire need of volunteers for our Tech Team. The Tech Team plays a very important role in the overall worship experience. You do not have to be "techy" to be part of this team. All you need is a willing and faithful heart. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact Lance Scott at [lscott@lufkinfirst.com](mailto:lscott@lufkinfirst.com) or Dr. Ernest Boamah at [eboamah@lufkinfirst.com](mailto:eboamah@lufkinfirst.com).

## Communion Helpers Needed

Have you wondered how communion is prepared? We are in need of volunteers who will help prepare Holy Communion in both Traditional and Contemporary Worship Services. If interested, please contact Dr. Ernest Boamah at [eboamah@lufkinfirst.com](mailto:eboamah@lufkinfirst.com).



## Cook & Serve Ministry

Cook and Serve is a wonderful ministry of our church, through which a variety of our Lufkin neighbors are fed! It is held the second Saturday of every month in the parking lot of Herty Primary, and the third Saturday of every month in the parking lot of 807 S. Second Street.

Mr. Reggie Stephens has regularly attended the Second Street Cook & Serve for over three years. He is a retired and disabled veteran of the U.S. Army and served three years in Germany. When he attends Cook & Serve, he is almost always accompanied by his grandson, Jaylon, and occasionally Mr. Stephens' wife. Jaylon likes to come and play with the kids from our church who help serve the meal. He also enjoys baseball, football, and playing outside. He

has a sister who is two years old and a brother who is nine years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephens have fostered two godsons and a grandson for many years. He enjoys coming to Cook & Serve because he feels it is a Godly experience and he can make connections with us through conversations. He has been able to pick up and deliver food for others who could not get there, and he is also able to bring others to get meals with him. Mr. Stephens thinks Cook & Serve is an especially important ministry to single mothers without means. He said it is a great way to spread the Word of God and also help with needs in the community at the same time.

There are many ways you can contribute to Cook & Serve! You can volunteer to help set up and/or serve the meal, donate food items, provide a short devotional, contribute money to the Cook & Serve fund, or pray for this ministry! If you are interested in learning more, please contact Dustee Knapp, Cindy and Jim Tierney, or Joy and Steve Killam.

## Bible Olympics

We are having great fun at Bible Olympics! The teams are working to earn the coveted Spirit Stick (AKA a brand new plunger!). We have competed in the Javelin Toss (AKA "throw a pool noodle across the gym"), relays, and had lots of cheering and laughing as we celebrate the awesome aspects of being a unified team in the Body of Christ! Our kiddos are learning all 66 books of the Bible and can do motions and singing to help remember them all! We have studied the greatness of Jesus through some of his parables and miracles, and we are excited to know the importance of the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. Our kiddos are having a ball while sharing in the goodness of the Lord together. Come celebrate the wonderful things the children have learned in our Bible Olympics Closing Ceremonies on Sunday, February 26 at 6:30 PM in the CLC Game Room. We will meet at 5:30 PM for our final Bible Olympics and then will celebrate following.



## Sping Emmaus Walks

The East Texas Emmaus Walk Community has several walks scheduled for this spring. Emmaus Walks are a spiritual retreat to deepen your personal relationship with Jesus. There is a Women's Walk scheduled for February 16-19 and a Men's Walk on March 23-26, both at Water's Edge Encampment. They will also have an Emmaus Community gathering on Saturday, February 25 at Nacogdoches FUMC. If you are interested in attending a walk, or need more information, please contact Debbie Anderson at 936.465.3989.







## Thank You Rev. John Bingham

The SPRC would like to express its gratitude for the service of Rev. John Bingham for Pastoral Care during the interim period between Pastor Rebecca and Pastor Laura. His assistance during the transition period greatly supported the staff. Rev. Bingham's hospital visits, community contacts and prayers are greatly appreciated. -SPRC

## Primetimers Trip | Feb. 12

The Primetimers will be going to Nacogdoches on Sunday, February 12 for lunch and to see Our Town at Lamplite Theater. For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact Carolee Brink at [cbrink@lufkinfirst.com](mailto:cbrink@lufkinfirst.com).

## Children's Ministry Needs You!

The Children's Ministry needs volunteers to help with the following:

- VBS Small Group Leaders
- Camp Create Helpers
- Summer Sunday School Relief
- District Camp Counselors

If you are interested in helping, please contact Sarah Scott at [sscott@lufkinfirst.com](mailto:sscott@lufkinfirst.com)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Boy Scout Sunday | Feb. 12

On Sunday, February 12, we will be recognizing the contributions of our young people in scouting in both traditional and contemporary worship services. Some of them will help lead worship, serve as ushers, and greet. Our advanced hand bell group, Voices in Bronze will also play in the traditional worship service.

### Church Offices Closed | Feb. 20

The church offices will be closed Monday, February 20. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, February 21.

### It's Bunco Time! | Feb. 21

Join us for an evening of fun on Tuesday, February 21 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](mailto:cbrink@lufkinfirst.com).

### MEN'S Breakfast | Feb. 22

Come to the Fellowship Hall (aka the Man Cave) on Wednesday, February 22 from 6:30-7:30 AM. Eat breakfast burritos with MEN, talk about all things MANLY, and get to know other MEN in the congregation. What happens in the Man Cave stays in the Man Cave! Except for cool events MEN plan together at the MEN'S BREAKFAST. For more information, please contact Pastor Jerome at [pastor@lufkinfirst.com](mailto:pastor@lufkinfirst.com).

### Coffee with the Pastors | Feb. 26

Have questions about the Christian faith? The United Methodist Church? Or how to connect with our church family? We would love to meet with you and answer questions over a cup of coffee. Join Pastor Jerome and Pastor Laura on Sunday, February 26 at 9:50 AM in Hebrew's Cafe.

### Church Council Meeting | Feb. 27

Our next Church Council Meeting will be Monday, February 27 at 6 PM in Henderson Chapel. Come and hear about the ministry of the church and enjoy being part of an evening of worship with communion.

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

— LOVING GOD, LOVING NEIGHBOR —

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## Upcoming Events

### Dinner Night Out

February 13: 7th Grade  
March 6: 6th Grade

### Lakeview District Camp | June 25-30 Registration Now Open!

One of hallmarks of the Methodist Church is connection. We are connected with United Methodists all over the world. We believe in Lakeview District Camp because it helps set a faith foundation for our students in the Wesleyan theology, helps foster a connection and relationships with other students in the Methodist faith, and provides fellowship and fun. This year, camp is for students going into 3rd grade – 12th grade and begins Sunday afternoon. The dates we will go are Session 3 (June 25-30). When registering, there are ways to pay for camp through installments or all at once with the total due by May 22. You will register online at [www.lakeviewmcc.org](http://www.lakeviewmcc.org). Good news! We are all going to work together for a FAT Tuesday PANCAKE SUPPER to help reduce the cost of camp for every student. Our goal is to reduce by at least \$50 per student (more if possible). If you want your student to attend this great camp and finances are a barrier, please let Lisa Gill or Sarah Scott know and they will assist you in setting a plan to get your student to camp. We believe Lakeview District Camp is important and makes a difference in our students lives. FUMC Lufkin will continue to send students and we hope your students will join us.  
PS. If you want to scholarship a student for camp, please

## FAT TUESDAY Pancake Dinner

*Tuesday, February 28*

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Youth & Worship Building

**Cost: \$5 per person**

Join us for a plate of yummy pancakes and help 2nd-12th graders attend District Camp at Lakeview. Proceeds will help offset the cost of the camp for the kids and help cover the cost for adults.

**See Sarah Scott or Lisa Gill to purchase tickets. Tickets also available at the door.**

FIRST UNITED  805 E. Denman Ave.  
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