

The FIRST LOOK

NEWSLETTER

First United Methodist Church

June 2017 Edition



A Word from the Senior Pastor

Dr. Jerome Brimmage

with man
THIS IS impossible,
but WITH GOD
all things are
possible
MATTHEW 19:26

The colors are vibrant: dark blue and gold, purple, green and gold, twisted red and gold, light blue and gold, and silver. These are the colors of the various cords representing National Honor Society in English, Science, Spanish, and Mu Alpha Theta. These cords are elegantly draping around the neck of a smiling young girl. She has just walked across a stage where her entire senior class stood up and cheered as school personnel hugged her and handed her high school diploma.

She smiles in her graduation gown and light blue scarf (rather than a cap). High School graduations happen all over the U.S. during this time of year. However, this one is different. This is an extraordinarily special moment.

In March of her sophomore year, it was discovered that her body was infected with an incurable bone cancer called Ewing Sarcoma. The past two years have been filled with hospital visits, chemotherapy, radiation, medications, scans, tests, and more. She has had times where she could not go to school and had to do her school work at home or in the hospital.



It would have been easy to claim "sick" and unable to do the school work. Not this gal. She took advanced courses and did the work her junior and senior years. She took the SAT and applied for various colleges, including her dream of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., who accepted her.

In addition to her school work, she has maintained her school's motto: Enter to Learn and Go Forth to Serve. This year she has volunteered 70 plus hours in non-profits to help others. Those cords around her neck represent hard work, perseverance, and never giving up.

You see, this is my niece Rebecca. She is a remarkable inspiration to so many people and me.

Pastor Jerome



Thank you to all who attended the Join Us At The Table Church Family Meeting on Sunday, June 4. We are working through the questions and comments from the cards turned in and will be responding as needed in the next couple of weeks. People in attendance were asked to give a response: 93% marked I'M IN and I'M INTRIGUED; 7% marked I'M IN LIMBO; no one marked I'M IN A DIFFERENT PLACE. If you were not able to attend the meeting, we are working to get a video presentation produced and will post it in an upcoming issue of our weekly First Look. In the meantime, we are asking you to pray! We are inviting you to join us in a season of prayer. As we ask God to provide us with grace, love, and purpose. He will work within us to provide **immeasurably more** than we can imagine. Below are prayer points for your prayers. If you would like to join the Prayer Team, please contact Tammy Sees, the church office, or email prayerteam@lufkinfirst.com.

Prayer Points

- Pray for God to heal FUMC of past hurts and unite members in the purpose of seeking God's perfect will for this church.
- Pray that God will fill our hearts with love that motivates all that we do and all that we say, so that we may have a culture of grace that lifts one another up.
- Pray that God will guide our pastors, staff, and lay leaders to a clear understanding of His purposes and plans for FUMC.
- Pray for God to energize and empower us to fulfill the mission of the church and to make disciples for Christ. Pray for lives to be transformed by coming to a true, deep, and lasting relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- Pray for God to amplify our desires to reach outside the FUMC family to reach the lost, and heal the poor, and the marginalized.
- Pray for God to show us ways to reverse the attendance decline, gain stability, and innovate to draw others to FUMC and to Christ.
- Pray that FUMC would be a place of grace, love, and purpose.

Prayer Contract

Yes, I will lock arms with the church leadership and the congregation to support FUMC Lufkin in prayer.

Thursday Fellowship

The Spiritual Growth Committee is sponsoring a new ministry that is called Thursday Fellowship. The purpose of this ministry is to build neighborhood connections through dinner and fellowship.

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of the people." Acts 2:46-47.

This verse in Acts gives us a window into the life of the early Christian Communities. We see that much of their time would have been spent in the homes of community members sharing a meal and engaging in fellowship and support for each other.

On June 22 we will have our first Thursday Fellowship. Please visit www.lufkinfirst.com to sign up. For more information, please email Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

Five Stars of Excellence Award

The Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church Committee for Faith-Forming relationships and Spiritual Formation and the Texas Conference Christian Educators Fellowship sponsor an award each year. This award is the Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education. We are very excited to announce that we were awarded this honor for 2016-17. Churches submit an application to show that they exemplify the Core Values of the Texas Conference. There are five areas that are addressed in the application:

- Mission statements and goals for the ministry of Christian Education and faith formation that reflect a connection to the overall mission of the local congregation,
- Involvement of clergy in Christian Education,
- Calling, equipping, and affirming leaders,
- Caring, inviting, and reaching out,
- And providing resources and support for all persons involved in faith formation.

Our church has many wonderful ministries and outreach opportunities that not everyone knows about. From children to youth and adults to missions, there is always something happening and many opportunities to volunteer! If you would like to see the completed application and all that we do, call the church office and we will be glad to get you a copy.

Worship and Sunday School Time Change Coming August 20

God is calling FUMC to Immeasurably More! Join us in prayer for God to energize and empower us to fulfill the mission of the church and to make disciples for Christ. Pray for lives to be transformed by coming to a true, deep, and lasting relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Please begin to invite your neighbors, friends, and family for a new worship time.

Early Service: 8:30 AM

Sunday School: 9:30 AM

Traditional & Contemporary: 10:45 AM

These new times will begin Sunday, August 20.



Mil Voces Worship Series

Mil Voces - *For A Thousand Tongues to Sing* will begin Sunday, June 11 and will continue through Sunday, July 30. We will enjoy looking at songs that have informed our faith and have helped us grow closer to God and one another.



Senior Sunday 2017

On Sunday, May 17, FUMC honored 20 graduating high school seniors in the Senior Sunday Celebration. Graduating this year from Lufkin High School were Sarah Beth Bates, Camille Cumbie, Caroline Deaton, Lucy Gabriel, Caleb Harris, Josef Harris, Sara Kate Harris, Kaylee Jones, Jarret Raley, Kyle Roper, Jacob Sanders, Travis Spore, and Dylan Valentine. Graduating from Hudson High School were Helena Collmorgen, Roma Fenley, Natalie Floyd, Whitney Floyd, Lauren Glass, Kristina Johnson, and Parker Robbins. Receiving a FUMC Senior Scholarship were Roma Fenley, Natalie Floyd, Whitney Floyd, Kaylee Jones, Parker Robbins, Jacob Sanders, and Travis Spore. Sarah Beth Bates and Josef Harris received both a FUMC Senior Scholarship as well as a FUMC Music and Arts Scholarship. Congratulations to all these wonderful students and may God bless their future.

Spring Fling

Well, FUMC Church Family, you've done it again! You have gone above and beyond to love on the children of this congregation! On April 30th, the Children's Council hosted our annual Spring Fling. We had almost 250 people in attendance, enjoyed delicious desserts, had fantastic auction items, and celebrated the children and youth in our hand chimes and steel drums ensembles, as well as those in My Growing Place and My Growing Place 2.0! We raised over \$5,500 for the Children's Ministry. Thank you to everyone who prepared a dessert, shared an auction item, supported us that evening, and celebrated the children. We are blessed because of you! And a very special thanks to our Children's Council: Kathy Thompson, Mary Ridings, Joanne Saunders, Rachel Dale, JonAnna Arnold, Felicia Arnold, Jaclyn Hults, Jenny Capps and Dustee Knapp. FUMC is such a blessing!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Primetimers Trip Wednesday, June 20

The Primetimers will be traveling to Hemphill to visit the Patricia Huffman Smith NASA Remembering Columbia Museum on Tuesday, June 20. They will leave the church at 9 AM and return at 3 PM. Lunch will be at The Feed Store Cafe. Cost for the trip and lunch will be \$5. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

It's Bunco Time! Wednesday, June 20

Join us for an evening of fun on Tuesday, June 20 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.

Coffee with the Pastors Sunday, June 25

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, June 25 at 9:50 AM in Hebrew's Cafe.

Emmaus Gathering Monday, July 10

Join us for a Emmaus Gathering on Monday, July 10 at 5:30 PM at FUMC Lufkin. Pastors Jerome and Laura would like to meet those who have been on Emmaus walks in our church. We will have a potluck dinner, music, 4th day speaker, and communion. Wear your name tag and bring your worship guide. For more information, please contact Debbie Anderson at 936-465-3989.

Summer Hours for Church Office

The church office summer hours are in effect and will end August 4. During this time, the church office will close at 1 PM on Fridays.

Health Kit Supplies

We are working to put together over 3,000 health kits for the Back to School Bonanza and we need your help! We are collecting shampoo and bar soap to put in these bags. Please use the Market to Mission bags to bring your bottles of shampoo and bar soap on Sunday mornings in the summer. You may drop those off in the red wagons located in both worship spaces.

FUMC Kids Summer



2017 Vacation Bible School
June 12-16, 2017 • 8 AM - Noon



MONDAYS • 1-5 PM
JUNE 5 & 19
JULY 10 & 24

Camp Create

July 17-21, 2017
8 AM - 12:30 PM

POOLSIDE JR.

July 9, 16, 23, and 30 • 4-6 PM
2506 Hanks St.

Lakeview-District Camp

June 25-30 • Palestine

Let's Party!

School's Out Party Sunday, June 4
End of Summer Party Friday, August 4



For more information about any of these events, visit www.lufkinfirst.com, or contact Sarah Scott at sscott@lufkinfirst.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



— LOVING GOD, LOVING NEIGHBOR —

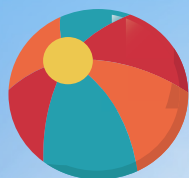
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June Events

June 15 - VBS Youth Helper Party • Hosted by the Cook's • 459 Post Oak Rd.
12:30 - 3:00 PM

June 21 - Zip Nac Trip • 9 AM - 1 PM • Cost is \$30 • Register at www.lufkinfirst.com
Join us for a fun morning zip lining in Nacogdoches

June 20 - High School/College Volleyball • 7-9 PM • CLC Gym

June 24 - UM Army Tool Day • 9 AM



Poolside Bible Study

Sunday Evenings

Middle School: 4-6 PM • Knapp's House • 1403 Mulberry Ct., Lufkin

High School: 6:30 - 8:30 PM • Harris' House • 5313 Daniel McCall Dr., Lufkin

June 11 ONLY - High School Host will be the Croley Home -
240 Quail Creek Dr., Lufkin

