

The FIRST LOOK

NEWSLETTER

First United Methodist Church

July 2017 Edition



A Word from the Senior Pastor

Dr. Jerome Brimmage

Do you remember this? Folding your hands and saying "Here is the Church, here is the steeple, open it up and see all the people?"

While cute, this understanding of the church is flawed! What do you get when you put 120 plus children in a week of singing, crafts and bible story time? What do you get when you send 37 youth and adults to a summer camp with singing, small groups, worship, and fun? What do you get when you send 40 youth and adults on mission trips to Tomball, Beaumont, and Haiti to work in the heat of the summer for people they do not know, to worship and build new and deeper relationships? What do you get when you get 101 people together in eight homes across the community to eat and fellowship with one another? What do you get? You get a church that loves God and loves our neighbors. You get a church that realizes and lives out: The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people (We Are the Church, UMH 558).

First United Methodist Church Lufkin is calling upon God through prayer to help us be IMMEASURABLY MORE than we can think or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). This summer, God is showing us that our best days are ahead of us. I want to remind you, when God calls us into ministry, our tithes and offerings need to overflow for spiritual formation of those we know and to invite those we who do not know the love of Jesus into a life-giving relationship. I know you will want to continue your generosity. The church is the people! My joy is overflowing because I am blessed to be part of FUMC!!! I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! (We Are the Church, UMH 558).

See you Sunday!

Pastor Jerome



Adopt a Roadrunner

The ball goes up for a three point shot. IT'S GOOD! The AC Roadrunners win the game!

In the post game interview, the reporter asks the young player - How did you have the confidence to shoot that shot from so far out as the time ran off the clock?

Player: I want to thank my host family from First United Methodist Church Lufkin! They have been there for me all season. Living away from home, they have taken me and all the players in and really helped us have confidence.
Reporter: Well there you heard it. Adopting an AC Basketball player makes a difference in their lives!

I am excited that Angelina College Athletic Director Guy Davis, President Mike Simon, and the Men's Basketball Coach have opened the door for FUMC to become host families for the AC Basketball team. What does this mean? We are looking for about 15 families that will become a host family to go to basketball games, host a player for a meal every once in a while, pray for and build a relationship with one player.

Many of the players are far from home and simply need to know there are people in the community who support them. We will be hosting an interest meeting soon as the players come to the AC campus in August. There are specific NCAA rules and guidelines that we will need to follow in order to be supportive.

Again, we need about 15 families willing to try out this ministry for the fall and spring. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jerome at the church office or email pastor@lufkinfirst.com in the subject line put AC.



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 then 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.

Worship Time Changes

Beginning August 20, 2017

9:30 AM – Sunday School

10:45 AM – Traditional Service - Sanctuary

10:45 AM – Contemporary Service - Youth and Worship Center

*8:30 AM early service will be added late Fall 2017

Why are we delaying the 8:30 AM Service?

We currently have bats inhabiting the Henderson Chapel. The bats will not be removed, nor will the Chapel space be ready by August 20.

Why are we not simply having the 8:30 AM service in the Sanctuary?

First, we have been in prayer about this service and our timing and God's timing. In prayer, we are hearing "Wait, its not time just yet." While we are waiting, our hope is to make a very big deal of the reopening of the remodeled Henderson Chapel when the time comes. We will promote this to the entire community, many of whom know the Henderson Chapel and will want to come and see it. We will continue to pray and when we sense that God is saying it's time, we will move forward.

Classes

We will have two Immeasurably More Classes in July.

CCAP - Connect Card Action Plan - led by Pastor Laura Campbell - Thursday, July 6 at 5:30 PM in the Elementary Wing.

Get Their Name - led by Pastor Jerome Brimmage - Wednesday, July 19 at 10 AM and again at 6 PM in the Musselwhite Classroom.

Facility Update

The trustees have reviewed and approved the objectives for removing the bats, installing a digital sign at two-point, updating the children's and youth spaces, updating the Fellowship Hall, updating Henderson Chapel, adding ramps, repairing HVAC units, etc. The finance committee will meet in July to discuss how to fund the objectives for ministry to happen. Following that, a Church Council meeting will be called.



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

The Women's Ministry will be hosting Let's Do Lunch! each Thursday in July. Women are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall from noon to 1 PM for lunch and a devotional from a guest speaker. Guest speakers will be:

July 6 - Pastor Laura Campbell - FUMC Lufkin

July 13 - Pastor Cindy Doran - Keltys UMC

July 20 - Pastor Karen Jones - Center FUMC

July 27 - Pastor Lorraine Brown - Nacogdoches FUMC

Cost for lunch is \$5. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

Sager Brown Mission Trip

The annual mission trip to Sager Brown has been scheduled for September 4-8, 2017. This mission trip is open to any adult that would like to attend. The UMCOR Sager Brown Depot, located in Baldwin, Louisiana, is the hub of UMCOR's relief-supply operations. Each year, more than 2,000 volunteers prepare about \$6 million in supplies for shipment from the Baldwin facility for disaster relief. Cost for this mission trip is \$180. Register today at www.lufkinfirst.com. For more information, contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

Chancel Choir on Vacation

The Chancel Choir will be on vacation during the month of July. Some of our Sunday School classes have graciously agreed to sing a special song during the time for tithes and offering each Sunday in July.

July 2- David Lawson and Dr. Earnest Boamah

July 9- The Second Mile Fellowship Class

July 16- The Musslewhite Sunday School Class

July 23- Explorers and Cross Roads Classes

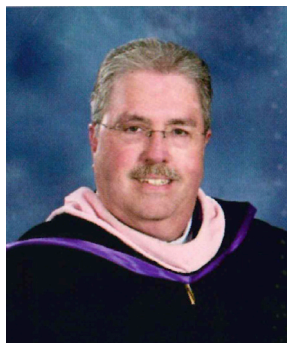
July 30- Guest Soloist

Thank You...

"Dear FUMC, Thank you so much for the scholarship you have awarded me! It has been a blessing growing up in such a great church. I appreciate all that has been done for me throughout the years, and I hope we can always keep this great sense of community alive." Josef Harris

"Dear FUMC Choir, Thank you so much for the scholarship! I appreciate all y'all do the church, and I know the best part about waking up early on Sunday mornings is getting to hear y'all's lovely voices. Thanks again!" Josef Harris

"Dear FUMC, Thank you so much for the blanket and for the scholarship I received! I truly cannot explain how much I appreciate it! I am thankful for such an amazing church!" Kaylee Jones



David Lawson

As we prepare for new worship times this fall, David has other obligations that prevent him from being the organist at FUMC. We have been blessed by his music for 37 years and he will be missed on Sundays. An appreciation reception will be set for a Wednesday in the near future. David's last Sunday with us will be July 30, 2017. We know you will want to thank him for his ministry among us.



Gadgets & Gizmos VBS

Gadgets & Gizmos VBS was a HIT! We had 140 children and 75 youth and adult volunteers throughout the week! During the week of VBS, our children collected 1,517 bottles of shampoo and bars of soap for the Back to School Bonanza Health Kits. They learned how they are uniquely wired and wonderfully made by God through crafts, music, snacks, games and missions. What a creative God we serve and love that he makes us unique and wonderful! Thank you to everyone for all of your prayers and donations that made VBS possible. And a resounding "thank you" to each adult and youth volunteer that served with us. They were the hands and feet of Jesus for our children. A very special thank you to the "head honchos" of the week: Dustee Knapp, Erin Hubert, Diane Tropeano, Jaclyn Hults, and Megan Landers and Joanne Saunders. Our FUMC family loves our children well!

Camp Create

Zumba, art, drama, science and music!!! Those are the exciting things that will happen during Camp Create. Join us July 17-21 from 8 AM to 12:30 PM as we celebrate "Creation". Camp Create, for completed kinder through fifth grades, incorporates a week of "create-ing" with a final showcase of the week's projects and activities! Cost is \$25. Visit www.lufkinfirst.com to register or contact Sarah Scott at sscott@lufkinfirst.com.

Mighty Mondays

We have two Mighty Mondays left this summer! Sign up today!

July 10 - Mad Scientists! Science experiments and messy games. Cost: \$5

July 24 - Splashing at Splash Kingdom! Join us for a trip to Splash Kingdom in Nacogdoches.

Cost: \$20 (extra for concessions if desired)

Visit www.lufkinfirst.com to register or contact Sarah Scott at sscott@lufkinfirst.com for more information.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will be starting soon. Mark your calendars for these important dates.

August 1 - Parent/Mentor Meeting

August 20 - Promotion Sunday - First Day of Class

August 25-26 - Kick-Off Retreat at FUMC

For more information, please contact Lisa Gill at lgill@lufkinfirst.com.

Generosity

We are halfway through 2017! FUMC has had an exciting first half full of activities from Cook and Serve, several worship arts performances, Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations, and lots and lots of children's and youth activities. We had fun at Spring Fling and celebrated our graduating High School seniors. The second half of 2017 is proving to be just as busy. This summer so far, we have had over 200 children and youth in Vacation Bible School, been to Big House Mission, gone to Lakeview Summer Camp, had several Mighty Mondays and Pool Side Bible studies, hosted four interns, and had our first Fellowship Thursday with over 100 participants. July will be filled with UM ARMY, more Mighty Mondays and Pool Side Bible studies, Youth Week, and two new Bible Studies. Whew! We have a lot happening at FUMC! While we have great ministry happening, our financial giving has not kept up with our ministry needs. Generosity is a spiritual gift. We sincerely thank you for your generosity and want to encourage you to keep your tithes and offerings so that God's ministry can continue at FUMC.

FUMC At A Glance

Year to Date Actual:

Revenue: \$763,519.84

Expenses: \$868,772.35

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Council Meeting Tuesday, July 18

Our next Church Council Meeting will be Tuesday, July 18 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come and hear about the ministry of the church and enjoy being part of an evening of worship with communion.

It's Bunco Time! Tuesday, July 18

Join us for an evening of fun on Tuesday, July 18 at 7 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.

Girl's Night Out Friday, July 21

Join us for a fun evening with the girls! We will be doing ceramics with Jaclyn Hults at The Very Thing. There will be two sessions, 4-6 PM and 6-8 PM. If you have questions, or would like to sign up, please contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

Preschool Water Play Sunday, July 23

We have a fun afternoon planned for our preschool children on Sunday, July 23 from 4:00 - 5:30 PM on the FUMC Lawn. We will have water pools, bubbles, a water slide, and sno-cones! For more information, please contact Jaclyn Hults at nursery@lufkinfirst.com.

Emmaus Gathering Monday, July 31

The Emmaus Gathering has been rescheduled for Monday, July 31 at 5:30 PM at FUMC Lufkin in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

Health Kit Supplies Bring Shampoo Only

We are still collecting items for the Back to School Bonanza Health Kits that will be given to area school children. We have plenty of bar soap but we still need bottles of shampoo. We need to collect 3,000 bottles to fill our health kits so please keep bringing shampoo to put in these bags. Use the Market to Mission bags to bring those on Sunday mornings. You may drop them off in the red wagons located in both worship spaces. You may also bring them to the church office during office hours.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



— LOVING GOD, LOVING NEIGHBOR —

805 E Denman Avenue
Lufkin, Texas 75901

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#ImmeasurablyMore

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July Events



July 5 - Movie Night • Time and Place TBD

July 6 - High School/College Volleyball • 7-9 PM
CLC Gym

July 8 - UM ARMY Load Day • 9 AM

July 9-15 - UM ARMY

July 18 - High School/College Volleyball • 7-9 PM
CLC Gym

July 19 - Pinterest Party • 12:30 - 3:00 PM
Fellowship Hall • \$10 for lunch and supplies

Youth Week - July 24 - 29

Join us for a fun week in the Summer! Sign up for all events by July 9 and save! Cost is \$65 and includes a t-shirt. Register at www.lufkinfirst.com.

July 24 - Illumanight 7-10 PM • CLC • Cost: \$10

July 25 - Christmas in July 6-8 PM • CLC • Cost: Free

July 26 - Water Color Wars 5:30 - 8:00 PM • FUMC Lawn • Cost: \$15

July 27 - Bring It ! 6-8 PM • CLC • Cost: Free

July 28-29 - Epic Jumpapalooza Extravaganza Fest 10 PM - 8 AM • Hijinx • Cost: \$45



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

