

The FIRST LOOK

NEWSLETTER

First United Methodist Church

May 2017 Edition



A Word from the Senior Pastor

Dr. Jerome Brimmage

Have you ever experienced something and you simply couldn't get the image out of your mind? That has happened to me a few times in my life. I have experienced a few auto accidents both as driver and passenger, and those images are etched in my memory. I have been called upon in some tragic deaths and those memories are still clear to me. The most recent image playing in my mind is from Confirmation Sunday. We had thirteen students who were ready to profess Jesus as Lord. The images that keep coming back are the four baptisms. Reid Hensley kneeling on the prayer rail and Jake Barrett, Jackson Powell, and Paige Rawlinson who chose immersion in the sacred stock tank. These young people made a public profession and were baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I remember the face of each one as the water touched them. Through baptism, these students are marked by Jesus for his kingdom. This is the beginning of a new life in Christ. As I remember all the students on Confirmation Sunday, I began to be in awe as I thought about all that led to just that moment. The parents, grandparents, pastors, Sunday School teachers, Vacation Bible School leaders, youth directors, mentors and guides who have helped shape the faith of each one.

We do not come to faith in isolation. Rather, we come to faith in community. The faith community of First United Methodist Church takes this role seriously.

I cannot get these baptisms out of my mind. I look forward to what God is doing in the lives of the younger children and what God is working in the lives of those who have already stood before us and said, "Jesus is Lord."

Lord, thank you for imprinting the image of baptism on my mind. I ask that you never let me tire of being part of and supporting people who are ready to give their lives to Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Jerome



Confirmands: Jordan Armstrong, Lauren Gentry, Katie Davis, Andrea Lawrence, Paige Rawlinson, Jake Barrett, Wade Capps, Gabe Kerr, Jackson Powell, Aidan Henson, Reid Hensley, Carter Williams, Peyton Mathis.

Confirmation Class of 2017

Congratulations to the 2017 Confirmation Class! These 13 awesome students have spent the school year walking through the Biblical narrative, learning about the history of the United Methodist Church, discovering what United Methodists believe about theological concepts like the Trinity, Grace, Baptism, and Communion, and what it means to be a full member of First United Methodist Church. The Confirmation Class was also given the opportunity to attend the conference-wide Mid-Winter retreat in February and spent a weekend in March attending a Jewish Shabbat service at Temple Sinai and touring the Holocaust Museum in Houston. We are so proud of all they've accomplished and are excited to welcome them as full members of First United Methodist Church. We pray that God continues to work in their lives in mighty ways as they continue their faith journey. Please be sure to congratulate them as you see them around campus! Thank you to all the parents, mentors, church members, and staff who have walked with them throughout this year.

New Members



**Gary Benoit &
Bertha Plowman**
joined April 2, 2017



Hallie Wallace
joined April 30, 2017



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 morning. You may drop those off in the red wagons located in both worship spaces.

Church Council Meeting

Our next Church Council Meeting will be Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 PM in Henderson Chapel. We will begin the evening with a covered dish in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 PM. To be sure we have a well rounded assortment of food, please bring a dish as follows:

Last name begins with an A - H - bring a main dish

Last name begins with an I - P - bring a side dish

Last name begins with a Q - Z - bring a dessert

Come and hear about the ministry of the church and enjoy being part of an evening of worship with communion.

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 22nd we will have our first Thursday Fellowship. We are in the process of getting host homes in different parts of Lufkin and surrounding areas. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information and sign ups. For more information, please email Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

Texas Annual Conference 2017

The UMC meets every year to celebrate ministries and look toward the future. This is called an Annual Conference. This year, the Texas Annual Conference will be held in The Woodlands. You can attend the conference in person or you can read and keep up through the website <http://www.txcumc.org/tac2017>.

Summer Hours for Church Office

The church office will begin summer hours on June 2 and will end August 4. During this time, the church office will close at 1 PM on Fridays.

Women's Ministry Summer Activities

In addition to our regular BUNCO on June 20, July 18, and August 15, our Women's Council has some other exciting events in July! Each Thursday in July (6,13,20,and 27), we will have a women's lunch from noon to 1PM. There will be lunch, fellowship, and a speaker. The first Thursday will be our own Pastor Laura! On Friday, July 21, we will have a Ceramics Girl's Night Out at The Very Thing. There will be two times, 4 PM and 6 PM, so more can join in the fun. More information coming soon.

Sunday, July 23 will begin a six week Sunday Evening Bible Study. We will be studying *Creed, What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton. We are excited about opportunities we have for the summer and hope you mark them on your calendars!

Beyond Here

Did you know that a few people have named FUMC in their estate planning? This a generous way to continue to support ministry beyond today. Consider including FUMC in your will. For more information about an endowment, please contact the church office.

Financial Update

Our tithes and offerings make a difference for Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, Worship, and more. The finance committee asks that you please help us keep up to date with our pledges so ministries can continue.

Extra Dollar Commitment

More and more of our faithful members and regular guests make tithes and offerings by mail, direct deposit, bankcard, or through our app. Because so many now give their gifts in these ways, the offering plates often pass several rows before any gifts are placed in the plates. As a part of our witness to our children, youth, and guests, our church members and regular guests are asked to consider making an "extra dollar" commitment. Placing an extra dollar in the offering plates, in addition to our tithes and regular offerings, is a witness of the priority we give Christ's Church in our lives.

FUMC Kids

The Children's Ministry needs you! We've got lots of exciting things coming up this summer and would love your involvement. If you love kids, like kids, know a kid, or think kids are crazy, we have somewhere for you to serve.

Gadgets & Gizmos Vacation Bible School June 12-16 from 8 AM to Noon

If you have a heart for children and are interested in meeting some great ones, we'd love to get you plugged into a service opportunity with VBS.

- Rotation Helpers - Crafts, Missions, Snacks, Music, Games, Small Group Leaders, Pre-K Leaders, Sound & Technology, Greeters, Supplies, & Registration
- Donate supplies - a display is coming soon, so be on the look-out in both worship spaces

Mighty Mondays • June 5 and 19, July 10 and 24 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Put on your cape and your mask and join us for four weeks of service. Our children will demonstrate Christ's love through various service opportunities while having a blast too! We need drivers, grown-up helpers, and people who like to have fun!

Camp Create • July 17-21 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

If you've ever been an artist, a musician, an actor, or a scientist, join our children for Camp Create! They will showcase a musical as well as participate in dancing, science, and art. We need small group leaders and adults experienced in art, science, and theater.

Summer Sunday School

Come see how fantastic our kiddos are on a Sunday morning, as we learn about God's love and goodness! Help share a Bible story, gather supplies, and build relationships with the littlest followers of FUMC. We'd love for you to join us with our children ages 0 - 5th grade!

Prayer Partners - The last, but CERTAINLY not the least!

We covet your prayers for our children throughout our summer events. If you are interested in being a prayer partner for a specific event/ministry, child, or time period, let us know!

For any of the above opportunities to minister to our children, please contact Sarah Scott at sscott@lufkinfirst.com. We appreciate you!



Enjoy a night out while we watch the kids! Kid's Night Out will be on Friday, May 12 from 6-10 PM in the CLC Gym. Cost is \$10 per child or \$25 per family. There will be dinner, games, movies, crafts, and snacks. Don't miss an opportunity for a quiet night out! Register online at bit.ly/MayKNO. For more information or questions, please contact Sarah Scott at sscott@lufkinfirst.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

It's Bunco Time!

Join us for an evening of fun on Tuesday, May 9 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.

Men's Breakfast

Come to the Fellowship Hall (aka the Man Cave) on Wednesday, May 10 from 6:30-7:30 AM. Eat breakfast 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.

Painting Party with Suzy Lou

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 13 from 1-3 PM for a Painting Party with the awesome Suzy Lou! Cost will be \$25 and will cover all your supplies. Visit bit.ly/suzylouparty to register or contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com for more information.

Primetimers Trip

Primetimers will be traveling to the Fish Hatchery in Athens on Tuesday, May 16. The group will meet at the bus at 9 AM and will be eating lunch at the Railway Cafe before returning to Lufkin. Cost for lunch will be \$4.50. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.



You Can't Stay Here Worship Series

We hope you are enjoying our current worship series, You Can't Stay Here. This series will continue until Sunday, June 4 which will be Pentecost Sunday. Don't forget to wear red!

Mil Voces Worship Series

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



— LOVING GOD, LOVING NEIGHBOR —

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Upcoming Events

Family Game Night Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6 - 8 PM • CLC

All children, youth, and parents are invited to join us for a special game night as we draw close to the end of the school year. We'll have dinner, play some games, and participate in a special project for our graduating seniors. Be sure to mark your calendars for this awesome night!

Hello Summer Party! Thursday, June 1, 2017 6 - 8 PM • Hijinx

All students are invited to join us for a party at Hijinx as we celebrate the start of summer! Cost is \$15 and includes two hours of jumping fun, plus socks and snacks. Visit bit.ly/JuneHijinx to sign up today!

MONDAYS
1-5 PM
JUNE 5 & 19
JULY 10 & 24
CHILDREN
KINDER - 5TH GRADE

BE A SUPER HERO AS WE SERVE OTHERS IN SUPER WAYS!

JUNE 5 LET'S ROLL
SKATING, AIR-POWERED RACE CAR COMPETITION,
GIANT CRAB SOCCER
COST: \$5 PER CHILD

JUNE 19 MOVIE MANIA
MOVIE THEATER WITH SNACK PACK INCLUDED
COST: \$15 PER CHILD

JULY 10 MAD SCIENTIST
SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS AND MESSY GAMES
COST: \$5 PER CHILD

JULY 24 SPLASHING AT SPLASH KINGDOM
TRIP TO SPLASH KINGDOM IN NACOSDOCHES
COST: \$20 PER CHILD PLUS EXTRA FOR CONCESSIONS (IF DESIRED)

REGISTER FOR ALL 4 DAYS FOR \$40!

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE! REGISTER AT BIT.LY/2017MIGHTYMONDAYS
CONTACT SARAH SCOTT AT [SSCOTT@LUFKINFIRST.COM](mailto:sscott@lufkinfirst.com) FOR MORE INFO

SERVICE PROJECTS INCLUDE:
WINNIE BERRY ANIMAL SHELTER
BLANKET MAKING FOR KIDS IN NEED
BACK TO SCHOOL BONANZA KIT COLLECTION

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