

The FIRST LOOK

NEWSLETTER

First United Methodist Church

September 2017 Edition



A Word from the Senior Pastor

Dr. Jerome Brimmage

An eclipse, a hurricane, and flooding. All part of the earth where we proclaim: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

An eclipse that is rare, gives a sense of awe and wonder to so many as we get a chance to watch and experience what occurs in our lifetime.

Hurricanes and flooding are also part of God's earth. We may not like it, but it is part of the way the earth's ecosystem works. The truth is, in hurricanes, vast destruction is also awe-inspiring.

Where is God? This is an easy question to answer when looking at a non-life threatening eclipse. This is more difficult to answer when there are people who are suffering and displaced.

Where is God? In the Exodus story, God says he has heard the cries of his people who are in misery and distress. God responds by sending Moses. It is not a quick fix. It takes time, but God does hear the cry and he sees the difficulties.

Where is God? God is in the professional first responders, the trained Red Cross volunteers, the neighbors from near and far who show up and begin to assist and help in whatever way possible. God is in the people who love their neighbor as themselves. In a crisis, there is no discussion about race, color, creed, nationality, etc. There is simply the human spirit working hand in hand.

When people come together, we are community. I want to invite every person within FUMC, and invite your friends, to join us for the GOOD and BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY worship and church-wide study. The church is a unique community and is needed in our world that is hurting.

As a church, we will be responding. We will point people to give financially through UMCOR and we will wait to see what labor is needed or what specific supplies will be needed. For now, I would invite you to join me and others in prayer for those who are

devastated from the aftermath of the storms, for those who have responded and seen the destruction, and for those who are displaced.

May God bless you! I look forward to seeing you Sunday.

Peace,

Pastor Jerome

Inclement Weather Procedure

Hurricane Harvey has certainly made an impact on our state. The continuous rain, possibility of flooding in our area, and tornado watches and warnings made us realize that not everyone may be aware of what action to take should they be at church when a warning is issued. We wanted to share with you all how we should respond should we have a weather emergency during worship, Sunday School, or other church event. Remember, the most important thing is to be in an interior area (no outside walls.) Also remember, it's very important to be on the first floor of the buildings during tornado warnings.

Sanctuary Evacuation Plan: Leave the sanctuary and move to the Primary Wing/Nursery Wing. Both of the hallways in this building are interior and safe during a tornado warning. DO NOT use the hallway in between the two buildings where the stain glass windows are located, as this is a completely exposed hallway.

Worship Center Evacuation Plan: Leave the worship space and move to Rooms 103 and 105 in the Y&W Building or the hallway of the Elementary Wing.

Sunday School Evacuation Plan: If you are on the second floor of the buildings, please move down to the first floor and to an interior room. Be mindful of the areas that are interior of the building that you are in at the time. Most of the hallways are interior and would be safe.

Remember – our biggest concern is your safety! Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Susan Davis at sdavis@lufkinfirst.com.



Immeasurably More Update

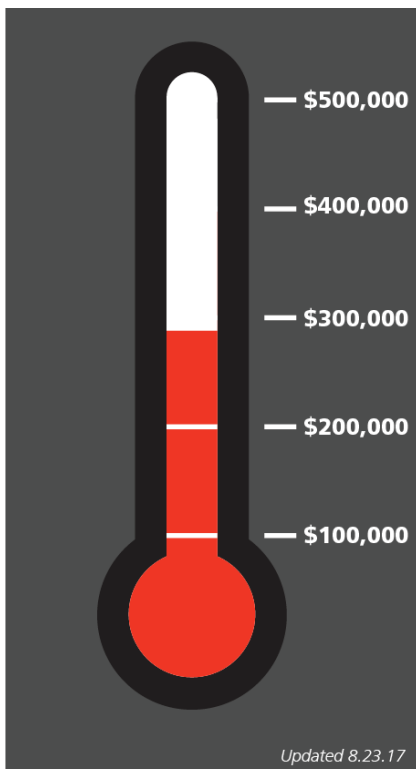
*"Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."* Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

We have started to address the areas lined out in our Immeasurably More Capital Campaign. The Children and Youth areas are almost completed and they are looking fantastic! At long last, the bats are gone. The wall that the bats were using as their summer home has been torn out and replaced with a new wall. The scaffolding is owned by a company out of Beaumont, so we do not have an ETA on the removal at this time. We will begin the process of assessing the restoration needs of the Chapel once the scaffolding is removed.

The Board of Trustees continues to work toward completing the projects identified. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Susan Davis or Jesus Salaiz.

Items still needing to be completed are:

- 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.



Our goal is to raise the funds necessary to complete this list by the end of October. Today, we are almost to \$300,000! Thank you for the outpouring of support and love for our church! If you have not already given to the Campaign, we ask you to join in this effort to support and prepare our church for the next generation. To donate to the Immeasurably More Capital Campaign, you may bring your donation to the church office or in the offering plate on Sunday. Look for a blue envelope in the pews or you can get one in the office. You may also donate online by visiting www.lufkinfirst.com and click on the "Donate Now" button and choose "Immeasurably More" in the drop down box.

We Welcome New Members



Meredith Stanford
Olivia & Claire

Joined August 20, 2017 in the Contemporary Worship Service.



Lacey Keath
Alex, Clara, & Hill

Joined August 20, 2017 in the Contemporary Worship Service.



Gene & Allison Moyer
Oliver & Henry

Joined August 20, 2017 in the Contemporary Worship Service.



Bryan & Kristie Sloma
Drew & Dylan

Joined August 20, 2017 in the Contemporary Worship Service.



Darin & Jade Tiemann
Max, Drake, & Conrad

Joined August 20, 2017 in the Contemporary Worship Service.



Dow & Amy Harris

Joined August 20, 2017 in the Traditional Worship Service.

Fall at First Methodist

Fall Bible Studies

We have several Bible studies happening this fall.

Women's Bible Studies

• **"First Corinthians, Living Love When We Disagree"** by Melissa Spoelstra

Mondays @ 9 AM beginning September 11 or

Tuesdays @ 9 AM beginning September 12

Youth and Worship Center Room 103

• **Bible Study Fellowship - Book of Romans**

Thursdays @ 6:30 PM beginning September 14

Location TBA

Adult Bible Studies

• **Disciple 1**

Mondays @ 6:30 PM beginning September 11

Adult Wing Room 102

Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. FPU is a nine week video study taught by Dave Ramsey in a small group setting. Kits and lesson materials will be available at the first class. Class will be held on Sundays this fall beginning September 10 at 3 PM in the Youth and Worship Center. Cost is \$90. For more information, please contact Joy Killam at joykillam@gmail.com.

Good and Beautiful Community Small Group Gatherings

There will be several small groups this fall gathering to explore The Good and Beautiful Community.

- Sunday Evenings at 6 PM led by Steve and Cecelia Floyd
- Tuesday Evenings at 7 PM (Transitions) led by Steve & Joy Killam
- Wednesday Evenings at 6 PM led by Pastors Jerome and Laura
- Thursday Mornings at 10 AM led by Carolee Brink

Most Sunday School classes will also be doing this study. For more information, please contact Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

Fellowship Thursday

We will 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. Please look for the sign up card on Sundays, or email Carolee Brink at cbrink@lufkinfirst.com for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Council Meeting Tuesday, September 12

Our next Church Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin the evening with a covered dish 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 side dish

Last name begins with an I - P - bring a dessert

Last name begins with a Q - Z - bring a main dish

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

Primetimers Fall Kick-Off Saturday, September 16

The Primetimers will kick off the fall with a cook-out on Saturday, September 16 at the Morgan Farm from 4 - 6 PM. For more information, please contact Carolee Brink cbrink@lufkinfirst.com.

It's Bunco Time!

Tuesday, September 19

Join us for an evening of fun on Tuesday, September 19 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.

Welcome Interim Pianist

As we continue with the search and interview process for an organist, Matthew Maglaya will serve as interim pianist. Matthew is a first year graduate student studying piano performance at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. Matthew will be playing for our two Traditional Worship Services, accompany the choir, and also rehearse with the choir on Wednesday evenings. Matthew comes highly recommended by his professor, Andrew Parr who is professor of piano at SFA. Matthew is truly humbled and honored to serve as our pianist. Please join us in welcoming Matthew.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:7 NRSV

**Congratulations 2017 Little League
U.S. World Series
Champions!
We are so proud!**



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

— LOVING GOD, LOVING NEIGHBOR —

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Lufkin, Texas 75901



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#ImmeasurablyMore

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Student Ministries

WELCOME BACK!

School is back in session which means we are too! Please join us on Wednesdays and Sundays as follows:

Wednesday Nights

6-8 PM in the Youth & Worship Center

Sunday Mornings

Youth & Worship Center

9:30 - 10 AM - Meet in The Hangout for breakfast

10 - 10:30 AM - Meet upstairs for Sunday School

SUNDAY FUNDAYS - SAVE THE DATES

Middle School - September 10 & 24

High School - September 17



For information about these events, or about the Youth Group, please contact Lisa Gill at lgill@lufkinfirst.com or text @lisagill to 81010 to be added to text notifications.

FUMC Kids

SAVE THE DATES!

SEPTEMBER 10

- The Good & Beautiful Community FOR KIDS!
5:30-7:00 PM in the CLC
- Children's Hand Chimes Begins
4:00 PM in the Youth & Worship Center Room 104

OCTOBER 13

- Kid's Night Out
6-10 PM in the CLC

OCTOBER 18

- Glow Night for Kids
6-8 PM in the CLC

OCTOBER 29

- Boo Bash 2017
4:30 PM in the CLC
- CANDY DONATIONS WELCOME! Please drop off in the church office

Connect with the Children's Ministry through: Weekly Newsletter

Email sscott@lufkinfirst.com to be added

Remind 101

Text @fumckids1 to 81010 for updates