FEBRUARY 2022

First United Methodist Church Palacios

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In January, I preached from 1 Corinthians 12 and 13 about love and grace. Love and grace are at the heart of Christianity and Methodism. Our founder John Wesley explained grace this way: First, *Prevenient Grace*-This is God at work before we know it. God is with us even before we are aware that we can be in relationship with God. Wesley described it as the porch on a house of faith. Second, *Justifying Grace*-this is the grace of forgiveness. Our sins are forgiven, and we are made right in relation to God. Wesley likens this moment in our spiritual development to a door. At the moment of justification, we cross the threshold from unbelief to belief. And then, *Sanctifying Grace*-the grace of the interior. Wesley said this is our ongoing growth as followers of Jesus Christ. Sanctifying Grace draws us towards Christian perfection which Wesley described as having a heart "habitually filled with love of God and neighbor." Sanctifying Grace does not mean we are perfect. As Rev. Gary Henderson of United Methodist Communications says, "We are reminded that we are under construction. We are becoming all God created us to be." We are drawn by God's love to love God. As we grow in our relationship with God, we are drawn to love our neighbor and ourselves as beloved of God.

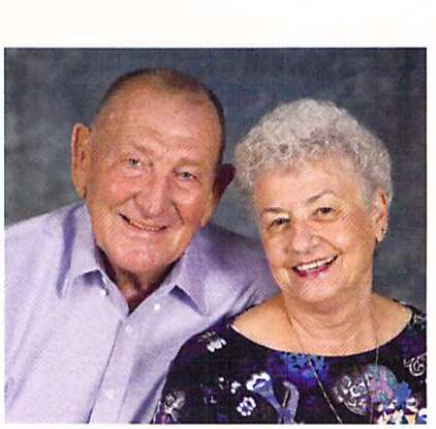
This means that love does not exist without grace. The grace that God embodies, has created and offered to us brings us into knowledge of God and knowledge of what love is. This understanding of love and grace applies to every part of our lives, including romantic situations. From the pulpit I have said every single aspect of our lives needs grace and love. Loving others and extending grace is our calling as disciples of Christ. This includes groups and individuals who may have turned away or rejected us as well. We are not called to love and serve only those we love and who love us in return. We are called to continually offer the gift of grace through thought, word and deed. This applies to our family members and our church family equally. No family can remain close and loving or become loving without grace. God's gift of love before we knew it brings us to God. Our gift of grace to others helps mend and restore damaged relationships or create new ones. As we celebrate Valentine's Day this year, let us remember that grace precedes love. Let us commit to offering grace to one another and ourselves in Christian love. Grace is the gift of hope for relationship and understanding. Grace precedes and sustains love. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is not only about love, but also about grace because as he wrote: "It (love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." For how can Love persist without the wisdom/gift of grace?

If you want to read more about the Wesleyan concept of Grace, here is a link:
https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-wesleyan-concept-of-grace

Síockán/Paz/Peace, Dave

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ruben & Melinda Cruz celebrate their wedding anniversary on February 24!



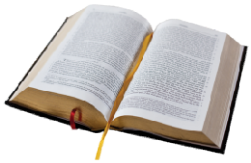
Pat and Rosie Jewell will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary on February 15!! Congratulations, you two!

Billy and Sharon Peacock will celebrate their wedding anniversary on February 17!

Brooke Vandenbergh has earned a place in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean's Honor Roll for the Fall 2021 semester. What a terrific accomplishment!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, February 6 – Communion
Monday, February 14 – Valentine's Day
Monday, February 21 – Presidents' Day



SCRIPTURES FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 6-Lk 6: 1-11 See Ps 138
Feb 13-Ps 1
Feb 20-Lk 6: 27-38
Feb 27-Lk 9: 28-36(37-43) See Ps 99

A CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A HAPPY LIFE

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13).

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4)

Healthy Church Protocol

MASK OR FACE SHIELD REQUIRED

In response to the dramatic rise in COVID19 cases in Matagorda County at the beginning of January, we are returning to requiring masks for those in attendance at all church activities. The Administrative Council met on Tuesday, January 11, and voted to return to wearing masks. Jesus calls us to love and care for one another, so we do this to protect those in our congregation and community who remain vulnerable to infection. Masks, face shields and hand sanitizer are available in the narthex as you enter the church. We hope and pray this surge will recede soon, and the masking protocol will be dropped when our county positivity rate returns to below 15%. Until then, thank you for your cooperation and continued prayers for those currently affected by this virus.

Below are links and contact information where you can send donations to help those affected by natural disasters. To help with the recent tornado victims in Kentucky and other states, click on the UMCOR link below.

Give to UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery through Advance #901670. UMCOR

For information on relief supply kits, visit https://umcmission.org/umcor-relief-supplies/

Sunday worship services are a wonderful opportunity for everyone to become more involved in the life of the church. Our worship services always need readers (liturgists) and ushers to be welcoming witnesses for God. Please consider offering your time and presence as a gift of love to God and our church community. If you're nervous, get a friend or family member to join you! Readers will be provided a copy of what they are to read in the service ahead of time, so that they can review and practice their part if needed. Training can be arranged, or duties discussed for both ushers and liturgists, if requested. Your participation helps create a welcoming and loving worship experience for yourself and others. Contact Pastor Dave for details and for times.

ENHANCED WORSHIP SERVICE HAS RETURNED TO YOUTUBE.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of

Please send prayer requests to me or turn in a prayer request card while in church. Indicate if you want your request included in Sunday worship and added to the published church prayer list. Also, if a name can be removed from the list, please send that information as well.
Pastor Dave

Join us Sunday for live-in-person worship and sing hymns led by our Music Director Joni.

"The Gift of Love"

By Hal H. Hopson ❤️

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Among the most prominent New Testament texts is the discourse on love found in I Corinthians 13. Hal H. Hopson has paraphrased part of this beautiful text in what has become one of the most popular late 20th-century hymns, appearing in many major hymnals published in the U.S. since 1980.

Mr. Hopson (b. 1933) is a native of Mound, Texas, and now resides in Dallas. He has an international reputation as a clinician and composer, and has published more than 1,300 compositions. On any given Sunday, one can probably hear an anthem published by Mr. Hopson in churches across the country and beyond. Few composers can claim such a wide exposure.

Our deep appreciation goes out to all those who help during this time – our health care workers, grocery employees, and first responders!
Mary Bari has our deepest gratitude!

Thank You!
Ginny and I wish to thank congregation for the generous Christmas love offering. We are grateful!

FEBRUARY

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Mission and Outreach Corner

In **December**, First UMC of Palacios members made a positive impact on the community.

* Five pairs of shoes along with socks were delivered to East Side Intermediate School for some students in need.

* Seven boxes were delivered to the Sea Farers in Port Comfort to be distributed in December and January.

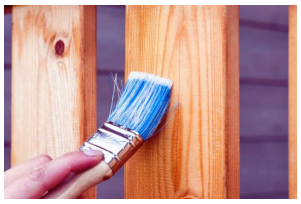
*

Many members helped with the Pat Allen Christmas Dinner in a wide variety of ways.

There will be a Noisy Offering on Sunday, January 30th, the fifth Sunday of the month. This will be sent to the Methodist Children's Home in Waco.

There was not an opportunity to give at the rail during January, so February's rail offering will be divided between our church's *Helping Hands Fund* and the *Society of St. Andrew.*

During 2021 the Society of St. Andrew gleaned, gathered, and distributed 46,515,865 pounds of fresh produce in 6,840 events, with 21,485 volunteers. Food donated by 913 farmers was distributed to hungry people through 1,965 feeding agencies. That's a total of 139,547,595 servings of fresh food shared.

 Mission By the Sea is returning on June 5, 2022. More information will be coming in March. We are happy to see their return.

OPEN MINDS OPEN HEARTS OPEN DOORS

FUMC COMMITTEES FOR 2022 (FYI-Contact Information)

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR 2022

Chairperson – Jimmy Neeley – JimmyMary@NeeleyFamily.com

Secretary – Melissa Law – law@tisd.net

Lay Leader – Erwin Janszen – Ejanszen.jr@gmail.com

Lay Delegate/Alt. – Erwin & Betty Janszen – ebjanszen@gmail.com

UMW – Thelma Holloway – 361-972-2453

Youth – Rhea Wise

Treasurer – Martha Law – marthal@tisd.net

Pastor – Rev. David J. Moreno - palaciosumcpastor@gmail.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE 2022

Vanessa Kunefke – vkunefke@gmail.com (2022 Chairperson)

Ken Johnson – rar.johnson49@yahoo.com (2023 Chairperson)

Jovanne Han – Jovanne.m.han@gmail.com (2024 Chairperson)

SPRC COMMITTEE 2022

Bill Law – basco@tisd.net (2022 Chairperson)

Leland Singer – augustbird1@aol.com (2023 Chairperson)

Michele Colura – colura@nwcable.net (2024 Chairperson)

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE 2022

Tony Barber – janicebarber8@gmail.com (2022 Chairperson)

Bill Miller – billm@tisd.net (2023 Chairperson)

Craig Glasscock – craigglasscock72@gmail.com (2023 Chairperson)

First United Methodist Church – Palacios, Texas
Administrative Council Minutes – January 11, 2022 6:00 PM

Jimmy Neeley, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05. Jimmy Neeley opened with a prayer.
In attendance: Bill Law, Melissa Law, Tony Barber, Wanda Johnson, Pastor Dave, Vanessa Kunefke, Leland Singer, Craig Glasscock and Bill Miller. Jimmy Neeley welcomed our incoming Trustee member, Bill Miller.
Included in the Council packet: Agenda, Balance Sheet, Monthly Profit and Loss and Profit and Loss Budget Performance.
Minutes from the previous meeting on December 14, 2021 were approved. Motion made by Tony Barber. Second by Wanda Johnson. All in favor.
Financial Reports were provided and explained by Wanda Johnson.
Profit and Loss Budget Performance – December, 2021

Income from giving	$ 16,624.71
Church Expenses September	($24,742.50)
Net	($ 8,117.79)

Balance sheet as of December 31, 2021

FFB-Checking Account	$16,274.98
MF-Johnson Foundation	$38,544.78
Total Funds – First United Methodist Church	$54,819.76
TMF-Josh Hebel Scholarship Fund	$28,435.41
TOTAL checking/Savings	$83,255.17

Notes

1. Based on our bank balance after all expenses were paid for 2021, the committee decided to send $5000 towards the 2021 Apportionments, along with 5- Star Giving projects – Heifer International $55 and World Advance Special of $35, for a total payment of $5090.00. I mailed it Certified/Priority Mail on Dec. 30. Our check cleared the bank on January 6, 2022.
2. This month (Dec.) our church expenses of $24,742.50 contributed to the $8,117.79 loss for the month.
3. As of December 7, there is $17,555.85 in the Fundraiser for Electrical Work – Church and for the Weimer Hall air conditioning units. (For the beginning of Jan. 2022 we have collected $1,670.)
4. Martha Law will be assuming the treasurer's job as soon as possible.

Trustees Report was given by Tony Barber. Timer in the Narthex needs to be replaced. Carl Rieck volunteered to install it. Bill Law will donate a new manual one. Jimmy Neeley would like to get one that's electronic because every time the lights go out you have to reset the timer, which is very hard to get to. Tony will check on one.

Missions Report from Marty Rieck was reported by Pastor Dave.

1. Wanda Johnson and I are still sorting through boxes of files. We are keeping important documents and all minutes. Next we, Vanessa, as well, will organize all items so all should be easy to find. We are aiming to have hard copies as things have been hard to find as much has been on computers and between the different pastors, storage approaches different computers, clouds, etc. it is hard to find items.
2. There are many papers regarding the oil well…most not needed. May John Harrison sit down with Wanda and I to sort through them?
3. I am doing odd little jobs while tending the church office on Mondays from 1-3pm. May I sort through folding chairs and get rid of those broken and beyond repair? I will recycle metal and dispose of bad seats.
4. Plates and albums have been sitting in church office and need a home. Do you have suggestions? Plates like these are already in display case in Narthex. Someone suggested selling the plates.
5. Joni Flores and I want to update membership along with Pastor Dave. Joni did this with Pastor King and it is on a computer somewhere. Once this is done the hodge podge of membership papers can be sorted and streamlines.

Members will have to be contacted to see if they want to keep their membership. Council agrees to get rid of broken chairs.
Pastor Dave provided an oral **Pastor's report**– I will be working in the office 1 day this week, 2 days the next week, 3 days the next week and 4 days after that. Wanda Johnson and DeeDee Stork need to get certified to work with the children.
Covid 19 in Matagorda County is up to 38% positivity rate. I think we should go back to wearing masks and require them. After a lengthy discussion, Craig Glasscock made a motion to require adults to wear a mask and children under 10 will not be required to wear a mask until the positivity rate drops to 15% or less. Second by Tony Barber. All in favor.
Administrative Council chairs for 2022 –
Finance – Vanessa Kunefke
SPRC – Bill Law
Trustees – Tony Barber

NewBusiness -None
Old Business- None
Motion to Adjourn: Pastor Dave closed the meeting in prayer at 7:13 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Law

Action Item List

Description	Who will manage this?	Date to complete	Actual Date Completed
Electrical problems affecting the sanctuary and meter loop	Trustees	August 2021	November 2021
Clean up of church storage areas	Trustees and Church families		
Roof on sanctuary repaired- Choir Room	Trustees	November 2021	November 2021
Get a bid on replacing the sanctuary floor tile.	Erwin		
Get bids on replacing the Plexiglas on stain glass in the sanctuary	Trustees		
Find out if the church has Directors and Officers insurance coverage through our liability with Church Mutual	Pastor Dave		
Hearing devices for members	Pastor Dave		
Background check information	Pastor Dave and Wesley Nurse		January 2020
Security Cameras	Jimmy Neeley and Trustees		

Reminder: Date for submitting contributions to the Newsletter to Miss Murphy, murphy_miss@yahoo.com *and* Candice Neese, cneese1012@hotmail.com, and Mary Jo Neeley, JimmyMary@NeeleyFamily.com is usually by or before the 21st of each month.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Peacock – February 4

Ayden Cruz – February 6

Leala Kahlich – February 6

Rhea Wise – February 29
She's a Leap Year Girl!

James R. Weed – Feb. 1
Taylor Turner – Feb. 2
Douglas Kubecka – Feb. 4
Levi Scott Wagner – Feb. 4

Rosemary Cornett - Feb.20
James Hebel – Feb. 23
Robert Bari – Feb. 24
Heidi Turner – Feb. 27

(Would you like to include pictures on birth dates and anniversaries? If you or family members have upcoming birthdays or anniversaries, please send me a photo: murphy_miss@yahoo.com. The photos can be updated over time).

First United Methodist Church Palacios PO Box 947 Palacios, TX 77465