FEBRUARY 2021

First United Methodist Church Palacios

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

In preparing for this month's newsletter, I read some articles posted on the United Methodist website. One article, a discussion starter for families, included this simple, but wonderful prayer.
Dear God, Help me to discover your good plan for each part of my life. Amen.
Reflecting on Romans 12:2, "Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is---what is good and pleasing and mature", the meditation reminds us that we are at the beginning of a new year, a time we traditionally consider ways to examine who we are and how we live. My thoughts drift to the quarantine we find ourselves still enduring. In this time, perhaps more than ever, we need to turn our attention to our relationship with God and the ongoing transformation that this relationship calls us towards. A second post, reminded me that as United Methodists we believe our transformation into faithful followers of Jesus Christ takes "time and practice."One of the unique foundations of our United Methodist tradition is our understanding of grace. God's grace constantly accompanies us as we go through our life. Wesley explained that God's grace prepares us, redeems us, and continually shapes us into the people we were created to be. Within this wisdom, is the concept of *sanctification,* the grace that shapes us and helps us mature as Christians. John Wesley wrote that goal of this experience is to know and share a "universal love filling the heart and governing the life." We are transformed by God's love through both private and public moments with God. I recently shared with a church member that I begin each day in silent prayer for church members with health, family or other issues that have been made known to me. These private prayers connect me with God and with my community, locally and beyond. God works within me during these prayers and in the lives of those I lift up. I am blessed and transformed by this practice. Looking for opportunities to be of service to others can also lead to moments of transformation. Gin and I were fortunate to be able to begin delivering food for our local food pantry. Those of you who support this community outreach know the blessing can be. We are grateful for the hands and hearts from across our community, that reach out to those in need. This work clearly transforms and blesses our community and the lives it reaches. As we find ourselves separated and apart as a congregation, let us continue to support one another through our prayers and service. A question was posed at the close of one article that I want to share. "How will you

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participate in God's work of transformation this year?"It is a good question for all of us to address as we journey into 2021. It is good to know God's grace accompanies and supports us in all that is to come.

Síockán/Paz/Peace, Dave

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Pat and Rosie Jewell will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary on February 15!! Congratulations, you two!

Here's a picture of the new little princess in the Cruz family…Annamarie Eden Cruz. Can't wait to be back in church and see Ruben and Melinda with all those sweet kids!

The Robert Duran Food Pantry wants to thank FUMC for collecting plastic bags and donating them to the pantry! You are helping in such a big way. The pantry needs about a thousand bags each month to carry on the mission of feeding the hungry families in our area. Covid has made this a bigger job, but your community pantry continues to provide additional food items to those in need. This quote is above the door: *"…For I was hungry and you gave Me food."* Matt.25:35

NURSE'S CORNER

Wesley Nurse, Leslie Machicek, our Wesley nurse's phone number: 361-288-1116.

* Office Hours: T-TH 9-4 Call or Text for Appointment
* Services offered: Blood Pressure Screenings, Health Education, Diabetic supplies, Medication Assistance, Diapers & Toiletries, Spiritual Programs, Specialty Referrals, Vision Screenings with Prevent Blindness monthly, Healthy South Texas Diabetic Program with A&M Quarterly.
* Services provided one-on-one or as a group
* If you would like to help with donations: Size 5 & 6 diapers and shampoo are needed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Susie Simons and the family and friends of Barbara Wilson.

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

We want to thank those in the congregation who do so much for our Services. And no one does more than Mrs. Ginny Moreno! In the good ol' days, we paid a secretary/assistant to handle office work, bulletins, the pastor's schedule, etc.. Then later when budget didn't allow a salary for this, a group of folks stepped in to take over some of this work. Now we are blessed with the preacher's wife. Ginny sees that the bulletins are done, and emailed to everyone when service is virtual. She is our camera person for facebook and Youtube events. And she does all this with a smiling, loving heart! We are so fortunate to have her in our church family and this community. Thank you, Ginny, for all you do and for being the person you are!

COVID TEST NOTICE

We have been notified that we will have testing in Bay City. Testing is Thursday and Friday, February 4th and 5th. The State of Texas is providing a free COVID-19 testing site, both days from 8 am to 4 pm. The testing site is located at the Bay City Civic Center located at 201 7th Street, across from the high school and the hospital. It is a drive thru testing site so you don't have to leave your vehicle. This is a new company doing the tests, and we understand it is not the deep nasal swab. There is no cost and you can register in line or you can visit Vendor Registration link http://www.docshealthtesting.com or the patients can text the word "DOCSTX" to 41411 to get the link as well.
You will need to provide them with a phone number or email to get your results. The results are returned, depending on how many get the test, but normally within 3 to 5 days.

Mission and Outreach Corner

- **Rail Offerings** may be mailed in to our church address (P.O. Box 947, Palacios, Texas 77465) with the designation placed in the memo line. Our February Rail Offerings are dedicated to our Wesley Nurse's Diaper Ministry. Size 5 diapers are desperately needed.
- **The Blessing Box** was temporarily moved to the HUB. However, very few people accessed it there. It is once again in front of our sanctuary. It has items in it but more items could be placed in it. If you see someone in need of food or personal items, you may direct them to the Blessing Box at the front of our church. Also, if you can think of a better place in our community to place it, please contact Marty Rieck at m.jo.rieck@gmail.com.

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

HEALTHY CHURCH COMMITTEE

For the well-being of our Congregation, our Healthy Church Committee continues to meet and discuss when it appears safe to meet in person in the Sanctuary for Sunday Service and when it appears to warrant having Sunday Service virtually. Pastor Dave will keep church family informed as to upcoming Sunday Service through the email Weekly Updates. Please pass the information along to those who do not have email. We greatly appreciate Joni Flores, Erwin Janszen, Amy Kubecka, Jimmy Neeley, and Pastor Dave diligently keeping track of information concerning covid numbers in this area. You may sign up for the vaccine by adding your name to a waitlist at one of a number of locations, including our hospital, the Palacios Prescription Shoppe, Matagorda Regional Hospital, H.E.B. and MEHOP. You can find current information about the virus at the following link: dshs,texas.gov/coronavirus.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 2 – Groundhog's Day
February 7 - Communion Sunday
February 14 – Valentine's Day
February 15 – Presidents' Day

Jimmy Neeley, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m. Jimmy Neeley opened with a prayer. In attendance: Pastor Dave Moreno, Bill Law, Melissa Law, Tony Barber, Maxine Kubecka, Erwin Janszen, Leland Singer and Vanessa Kunefke.

Included in the Council packet: Agenda, Balance Sheet, Monthly Profit and Loss and Profit and Loss Budget Performance.

This meeting was held through Zoom in order to continue social separation due to the Coronavirus.

Minutes from the previous meeting on December 8, 2020 were approved. Motion made by Tony Barber. Second by Vanessa Kunefke. All in favor.

Financial Reports were provided and explained by Maxine Kubecka.

Profit and Loss Budget Performance –December 2020

1.	Income from giving-December	$13,282.44
2.	Income from other sources	47.57
	Total	$13,330.01
	Church Expenses (December)	$13,037.02
	Net	$ 292.99

Balance sheet as of December 31, 2020

FFB-Checking Account	$20,933.55
MF-Johnson Foundation	$70,318.88
TMF-Josh Hebel Scholarship Fund	$23,328.63

Total Apportionments paid for December = $1755.00. This includes $105.00 paid into at least 5 of the Five Star Categories of Apportionments. We paid 75% of our allocated 2020 Apportionments in a difficult year.

As for the Josh Hebel Scholarships – I have funded 2 scholarships thus far for the 2021 Spring Semester. Wanda will need to request the additional $5000.00 to fund the remainder of Josh Hebel Scholarship recipients, once verification of enrollment has been received from Melissa Montava.

Our church has been relatively frugal with its expenditures and has been supported by very thoughtful members; that is reflected in our P & L Budget Performance. Thanks to everyone for your support. HOWEVER, please be mindful that we have utilized some funds (to support the church) this year that have come from the sale of some of our assets, i.e the mission house. This coming year will need equal or even more care and caution and support.

Wanda Johnson will be assuming the Treasurer's job at the end of this month.

Bill Law made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Tony Barber. All in favor.

Bill Law made a motion to perform the 2020 audit. Second by Maxine Kubecka. All in favor. Jimmy Neeley will form a committee to get the audit done.

Trustees Report – Provided by Tony Barber. The janitor's closet faucet and sink are leaking. The sink is corroded in the back. He got the parts but hasn't gotten it repaired yet. Plexiglas is broken and needs repair. Bill Law said they got bids 4-5 years ago and council chose not to repair at that time. Bill will try to find the bids and give them to Tony. This is Tony Barber's last meeting to report. Craig Glasscock is to resume the reports as chairman.

Pastor Dave provided an oral **Pastor's report.** He is very grateful to the members that 75% of the Apportionments were made. Window in front of the parsonage had been shot by a bb gun and a ball finished it off. It needs to be replaced. Pastor Dave will get it replaced. The shower drainage is backed up and the tub drains very slowly. Erwin Janszen will get a plumber to look into it.

Church Worship will be cancelled for two weeks. Healthy Church Committee met. Covid 19 is over 15% in Matagorda County. Increasing numbers are in our community. Healthy Church Committee agreed to cancel worship for two weeks. The Bishop wants everyone to be safe and cancel worship when needed. Eight members have tested positive and we have had one death in our congregation. Pastor Dave is very grateful for the Healthy Committee Members and all they do.

Pastor Dave had some extra funds so he purchased himself a new desk top and will donate his old desktop to the church.

Old Business- None

New Business- None

Motion to Adjourn: Pastor Dave closed the meeting in prayer at 7:11p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Action Item List

Description	Who will manage this?	Date to complete	Actual Date Completed
Electrical problems affecting the sanctuary	Trustees		
Clean up of church storage areas	Trustees and Church families		
Repair shower and tub plumbing in the parsonage. January 2021	Trustees and Erwin Janszen		
Get a bid on replacing the sanctuary floor tile.	Erwin		
Emergency Preparedness Plan	Joni writes the draft plan and sends on to Erwin, Bill, Pastor of input/consideration	Joni sent draft plan in August 2018	
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 – Feb. 4

Ayden Cruz – Feb. 6

Leala Kahlich – Feb. 6

Annette Stonedale – Feb. 15

Rhea Wise Han – Feb. 29

James R. Weed – Feb. 1
Taylor Turner – Feb. 2
Douglas Kubecka – 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