

### Prayer Requests:

*Paula Jackson	*Terry Dyer
*Charlotte Underwood	*Steven Lee
*Trisha Copeland	*Florence Finn
*Carolyn Briggs	*Melissa Hill
*Donna Saylor	*Charles Chenault
*Harry Richardson	*Vera Schwartz
*Jamie Avery	*Cal Robbins
*Mary Pearl Sutton	*Jamison Family
*Elissa Ray	*Donna & Bob Keller
*Suzie Barber	*The Daniel Family
*Jack Winterrowd	

### Assisted Living/Nursing Home/ Homebound/ Rehabilitation Center

Fred Switzer-home	Florence Finn-home
Edna Cowan-home	Paula Douglass-rehab
Corene Dodson-SPJST	Millie Whittington-home
Vera Schwartz-home	
Betty Ashworth-San Gabriel Rehab&Care Cetr RR	
Sarah Schwartz-nursing home	

**Please notify the office of any changes or updates  
512-352-2593**

### Church Business

*September 18, 2016*

**Worship Attendance: 91**

**Sunday School: 36**

### Counters

9-25 Charlene/Jim

10-2 Shirley/Brian

### Finance to Date

2016 Budget \$166,818

2016 Income: \$107,372

2016 Expenses: \$109,438

### Connexion Deadline

If you would like information added to the Connexion, please have it submitted to the church office by 3pm each Monday. This is to ensure that your/group/committee news is shared on time.

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**The Connexion 9-25-16**

### From the Pastor's Desk

Happy Autumn!

Each year, September 21 is marked as International Peace Day. Many countries around the globe celebrate or acknowledge this day in some form or another. The idea behind International Day of Peace is to promote peace among nations and peoples. The goal of this day is for all of humanity to put aside our differences and commit to peace and continue building a culture of peace.

Each Sunday in worship, we pass the peace to one another which is a sign of love, reconciliation, and blessing. Although we often use this time to also greet one another and share the latest gossip and what awesome things we did over the weekend, we should always remember that it's a time where we offer not just our peace but the Peace of Christ.

If you have been watching the news this week, there's a developing story out of Charlotte, North Carolina. People are on the edge. A community in chaos. And leaders trying to find solutions. Before we pass judgment on what happened and on any particular group, perhaps we need to pause and try to understand through prayer. Before we engage in heated conversations whether in person or on social media, always be considerate of all people involved. Opinions are not factual; rather they're our emotional expressions from deep within us. The more we identify with something or someone, the more emotional we become. We must try to remain objective.

May we always remember that peace in the world always begins with us. How we treat one another, how we love and forgive one another is where peace begins. As Mahatma Gandhi, once said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." Or, as Francis of Assisi prayed: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love."

This last Sunday, we talked about the parable of the wheat and weed. It's a story that Jesus told about harvest time (the end of time) where there will be separation of the wheat and weed (good and evil). Instead of trying to pluck up the weed in someone else's yard, we need to attend to our own. Within each of us there's wheat and weed (good and evil), we just need to make sure that the weed within us doesn't take over the wheat because essentially, the one that we nourish is the one that grows. May we continue to feed the wheat within us and become a little less weedy.

This coming Sunday, we will celebrate the ministries of women in the church through United Methodist Women (UMW). Our message will come from the gospel as written by Mark where Jesus encounters a woman of faith.

Peace!  
Sela

### BIBLE STUDY

Goal: 100% of Members Involved in Bible Study!

Sunday 9:45 am, Monday 9:15 am or Tuesday 6:30 pm

Scriptures we will study on Monday Morning, Sep. 26

### Book of Acts for the next several weeks

Tuesday night **Glory Bound Bible Study**

Jim Curik 512-352-6782

First United Methodist Church  
907 West Lake Drive  
Taylor TX 76574  
512-352-2593

For emergencies outside of office hours,  
please contact Pastor Finau @ 817-874-3533

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September Events

- Sep. 24 UMCOR Volunteer Day  
 Sep. 25 United Methodist Women's Sunday  
     Fellowship Luncheon following 10:30 service  
     Pumpkin Patch Set-up  
 Sep. 27 Circle 6 Meeting- making poppers @ 3pm in Fellowship Hall

## October Events

- Oct. 2 World Communion Sunday  
     Pumpkin Delivery 12:30pm  
 Oct. 4 National Night Out 5:30-8:30pm  
     Financial Peace University starts Tues. for 9 wks. 6:30pm  
 Oct. 8 Harvest Blessing 9am-3pm  
 Oct. 9 Family Game Night 5-7pm  
 Oct. 10 Committee Meetings (Finance, Ad Council & Trustees)  
 Oct. 19 Men's Fellowship Breakfast 7:00am  
 Oct. 20 FUMC Serve Meal to Taylor HS Football Team  
 Oct. 23 Fellowship Luncheon following 10:30 service  
 Oct. 30 FUMC Pumpkin Patch Carnival 4-6pm

## November Events

- Nov. 7 Charge Conference at FUMC 6pm  
 Nov. 12 Christmas Bazaar  
 Nov. 13 Fellowship Luncheon & Silent Auction  
     Family Game Night 5-7pm  
 Nov. 14 Committee Meetings (Finance, Ad Council & Trustees)  
 Nov. 16 Men's Fellowship Breakfast 7:00am  
 Nov. 19 FUMC 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch

### WEEKLY & MONTHLY SCHEDULED

#### MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Sunday School (all ages)	Every Sunday	9:30 am	Edu. Hall & FH
Monday Bible Study	Every Monday	9:15 am	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday Night Bible Study	Every Tuesday	7:00 pm	Call Jim Curik
Chancel Choir	Every Wed.	6:00 pm	Choir Room
Chime Choir	Every Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir Room
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Every 2nd. Thurs.	2:30 pm	Room 2
Al-Anon	Every Thursday	6:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
A. A.	Every Thursday	7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
UMW Women's Circle 1	Every 1st Sun.	9:30 am	Sept.- May
Family Game Night	Every 2nd Sunday	5-7 pm	Sept.-May
Men's Breakfast	Every 3rd Wed.	7:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Women's Circle 6	Every 4th Tues	3:00 pm	Sept.-May

## Children and Youth Corner

*"So God blessed he seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation."*

Genesis 2:3

### Children's Ministry

We will be studying Fruit of the Spirit until Advent.

Children's Sunday School classes include Nursery (ages 0-2), Preschool (ages 3-5), Elementary (ages K-5<sup>th</sup>), Middle School and High School.

Children's Church is during the 10:30am service.

### Mother's Day Out

We had a wonderful time celebrating grandparent's day. The children were excited to "show off" their families.

This upcoming week we will be discussing "My Family"

Our Bible story will be Adam & Eve, Genesis 2 & 3

On Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> we will be having **Water Day** on the playground at 2:15pm



*Welcome! We hope you enjoy your time with us today!*



### Mark Your Calendars

FUMC's October Pumpkin Patch is a Taylor community tradition that is loved by residents and schools in the area. This is also a huge fundraising opportunity for the church! Everyone's help is needed to make this event successful.

#### **There are multiple ways you can help, so plan ahead:**

Pumpkin Patch Decoration September 25<sup>th</sup>

Pumpkins are scheduled to arrive Sunday, October 2 @ 12:30pm. *Help will be needed to unload and arrange pumpkins on display.*

Volunteer as a children's story time reader and/or patch worker. *We will have signup sheets located in the church office starting in September.*

Provide homemade baked goods for the bake sale or crafts to be sold.

*Please contact Maureen Gray or Shirley Ball for details.*

### Ready to Work!

We will be setting up the Pumpkin Patch Sep. 25<sup>th</sup>, following the Fellowship Luncheon. Come ready to work and dressed appropriately.



### Member Spotlight

#### **Carmen Tucker**



Carmen Tucker was born in Waco, but moved to Austin and grew up there. Her mom is from New Jersey, is an attorney and a vice president at a college, as well as running a catering business. Her father is from California and is a head hunter for executives and is semi-retired now. Her mother and father divorced when Carmen was a girl, and her mother remarried. Her stepdad is a retired police officer.

Carmen's mom loves to say that Carmen is creatively inclined, and that she thinks outside the box. (Thanks, Mom!) Carmen's creativity led her to earn her bachelor's degree in art, which she uses in her hobby of finding broken antiques and restoring them into something beautiful. She is particularly proud of fixing chairs that came from her grandma, screwing them by hand since she doesn't have a drill. She also restored a table top into a piece of art that she has hung on the wall. But her best friend has put the brakes on Carmen adding more furniture to her house, threatening to put tags on any new items and having a sale!

All that creativity, and restoration, as well as Carmen's keen ability to show compassion plays right into Carmen's profession and passion: teaching kids. She says it isn't always about fixing something, but about getting it where it needs to be. Before starting in the classroom, Carmen earned her master's degree in Human Services.

Carmen now is a special education teacher as well as a resource and inclusion teacher. This is her first year in the classroom, but she previously was engaged in college and career counseling as well as after-school programming at LBJ High School. Carmen loves her job, and she likes best to watch students' faces light up when they come in her room. Students know her room is a safe place, and Carmen feels like she is doing God's work with her students. She says, "Pay scales fade into the background when the students come in and we begin to work together."

Carmen's hidden talents are cooking, a talent she got from her mother. She loves crock pot cooking, and baking. Her specialty is strawberry cake. I sure hope she brings that to a fellowship luncheon one day!

*Cont. next page*

#### Cont. Member Spotlight

Carmen joined Taylor FUMC in July, and she was welcomed most warmly by Mitch and Lisa Drummond. She loves the size of the congregation, and the casual and friendly approach of the church. She always dreamed of living in a small town where she can slow down and recharge. She finds the church to be her refuge.

Carmen's favorite scripture is from Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." She says she hasn't always been strong, and it reminds her to stay strong.

Be sure to give a hearty welcome to Carmen. What a blessing to have all that talent and dedication that Carmen brings!

#### Circle 6 Meeting

Circle 6 will be meeting September 27 at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall to make poppers for the Pumpkin Patch booth. Please join us for this craft making event!

#### Financial Peace University

Do you find yourself living paycheck to paycheck? Do you wonder if you have enough savings for retirement? Starting this October FUMC would like to help our community get "gazelle intense" and become debt free. Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class will be Tuesday evenings at 6:30 to 8:00 starting on October 4<sup>th</sup> and will run for 9 weeks. The price is \$93 + shipping per family and they will need to purchase through the web site [www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1027407](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1027407) otherwise it will be more expensive. If you have any questions, please contact Mitch Drummond.

#### UMCOR Volunteer Day September 24th

Glynn Tucker will be heading up a group of volunteers to work with UMCOR here in Taylor this Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The team will work part of the day, mainly in the morning. We will meet in the FUMC parking lot at 7:30am.

#### Lights, A/C, Doors, Oh My!

To keep our church safe, please make sure that all exterior doors are locked and shut properly, as well as thermostats used and lights are turned off when leaving the building.



#### Keep Our Earth Clean

We need volunteers to take our recycling to the Recycling Center here in Taylor. It will only require being taken one or two times each month. Please call the church office to sign up for your month.

#### Upcoming Classes

Do you have questions about your faith? Do you wonder what it means to be a Christian? What and why we believe? This fall, Pastor Sela Finau would like to offer a class for those new to the Christian faith. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 512-352-2593 or email her at [sela@fumctaylor.org](mailto:sela@fumctaylor.org).

#### Charge Conference

FUMC will be having an individual Charge Conference on Monday, November 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Any church member that would like to attend is welcome to do so.

#### Taylor Christmas Parade

Christmas is fast approaching. Every year FUMC participates in our community Taylor Christmas Parade the first Saturday in December. If you would like to help with planning the churches float for the parade or participate in the parade, please contact Frieda Isbell 512-352-6042.



#### Sunday School Class Lessons

The Mighty Mini Methodists (3-4yr.) – **Fruit of the Spirit**

Elementary & Youth Groups – **Fruit of the Spirit**

The Builders (Adults with Rev. Bob Walker) – **Making Sense of the Bible**

The New Horizons (Adults with Lisa & Mitch Drummond) – **The Wired Word**

New Adult Class (Rev. Sela Finau, substitute) – **When Christians Get It Wrong**