

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	

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

August 28, 2016

Worship Attendance: 98

Sunday School: 44

Counters

9-4 Shirley/Brian

9-11 Sandra/Don

Finance to Date

2016 Budget \$166,818

2016 Income: \$96,212

2016 Expenses: \$97,507

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 insure that your/group/committee news is shared on time.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Connexion 9-4-16

From the Pastor's Desk

Another month is behind us, and 4 more months to go in 2016. Although fall doesn't officially begin until September 22 in the northern hemisphere, the weather is most telling of the season. I am enjoying the rainy summer season. I hope you are too.

As you may have heard, this past Sunday, our 8:30 service went a little over an hour because apparently I preached longer than 20 minutes. At the 10:30 service, I didn't have time to preach because everything else went long. Somehow, I need to be a better time keeper, and I need your help. For important announcements, please send it to the office so we can communicate that to the congregation via our weekly newsletter, posting it on our website, social media, and other channels. Of course, you may still share your concise announcements during worship. Another option is for us to plan to be in worship until 11:45 a.m. That's only 15 minutes longer! Most Sundays, worship will conclude by 11:30, but occasionally it may be a few minutes over.

Our message for this past Sunday was from Matthew 13:1-23, the parable of the sower. Jesus told the story of the four types of soil and compared them to people. I had asked the 10:30 crowd to take the passage and meditate on it. Did you do it? It's like homework; no one else can really do it for us if we want to learn something new. If we're going to get something out of the passage, then we must be open to hearing it again, learn new things, see with new eyes, and open our hearts and minds to hear God's words. Here's a recap of the types of soil:

1. Well-trodden/paved path soil. Seeds can't sink in because the soil is too hard. Jesus explained that it's like someone who hears but really don't get it. Their heart is hard and not open to hearing and receiving. There's no proper nourishment. Thereby they can be easily led astray because there's no good foundation.
2. Rocky soil. Seeds quickly sprout up but it also quickly fades away and dies because there are no roots. Jesus compared this soil to people who are quick to receive God's word but quickly abandons it at the first sign of trouble. This kind of soil represents people with a shallow heart who are excited when they first come to hear Jesus' messages, but then they don't really do anything more to till and nourish the soil of their hearts. They expect to keep feeling excited over and over like a quick-fix for their troubles. When that doesn't happen, they are quick to move on to something else.
3. Thorny soil. The seed in this type of soil also dies because the roots from the weeds grow up to choke off the good seed. It represents someone with a distracted or crowded heart for they allow life's distractions like adversity and prosperity to mislead them. Sure, we all face adversity in life, some more than others, and for some of us it's prosperity, but we need to keep our focus on God and keep Christ at the center to help get through those tough and tempting times.
4. Good soil. It is the soil that is well nourished like a well-nourished heart that is ready to receive the word and grow in every aspect of their lives. This is the type of heart that is open, understanding, and forgiving. This is the type of heart we should be after.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 12

Goal: 100% of Members Involved in Bible Sunday!
Sunday 9:45 am, Monday 9:15 am or Tuesday 6:30 pm
Scriptures we will study on Monday Morning, Sep. 12

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

Cont. on insert

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September Events

- Sep. 5 Office Closed for Labor Day
- Sep. 6 Mother's Day Out Begins 2016-2017 School Year
- Sep. 11 Family Game Night 5-7pm
- Sep. 12 Committee Meetings (Finance, Ad Council & Trustees)
- Sep. 21 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- Sep. 25 United Methodist Women's Sunday
Fellowship Luncheon following 10:30 service
Pumpkin Patch Set-up

October Events

- Oct. 2 Pumpkin Delivery
- Oct. 4 National Night Out
- 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
- Oct. 23 Fellowship Luncheon following 10:30 service

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

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	Resume Aug 31st	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

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change"
James 1:17

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School will be starting August 21st. Classes will include Nursery (ages 0-2), Preschool (ages 3-5), Elementary (ages K-5th), Middle School and High School.

Exciting News! Blythe will be starting a Children's Church during the 10:30am service starting September 4th.

Mother's Day Out

Mother's Day Out will be starting September 6th and be every Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm. We are looking forward to seeing all of the smiling faces and hearing the busy activities from the hallways.

This past Tuesday the preschool had a full house for their "Meet the Teacher" night. It was exciting to see so many parents and children eager to come together under our roof and learn about the word of God in a safe and fun environment.



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

Cont. from cover

The question we should ponder is “What kind of soil are you today?” If we’re not the good soil that is healthy and can grow and bear fruit, what do you need to do to nourish and prepare your heart so that when the seeds of God’s word fall on you they will take root and grow?

This next Sunday, I invite you to read along with me as our message will come from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 “Many Members, Yet One Body”

See you Sunday!

Sela



Cleaning Bucket Materials

- **5-gallon bucket with resealable lid**
 - Buckets from fast-food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned;
 - Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner;
 - Advertisements on the outside are acceptable.
- **Liquid laundry detergent**
 - One 50-oz. or two 25-oz. bottle(s) only.
- **Liquid household cleaner**
 - 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water;
 - No spray cleaners.
- **Dish soap**
 - 16-28 oz. bottle any brand.
- **1 can air freshener**
 - Aerosol or pump.
- **1 insect repellent spray**
 - 6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover.
- **1 scrub brush**
 - Plastic or wooden handle.
- **18 cleaning wipes**
 - Handi Wipes or reusable wipes;
 - No terry cleaning towels;
 - Remove from packaging.
- **7 sponges**
 - No cellulose sponges due to mold issues;
 - Remove from wrapper.
- **5 scouring pads**
 - Remove from wrapper;

- No stainless steel, Brillo pads, or SOS pads (nothing with soap built in).
- **50 clothespins**
- **Clothesline**
 - One 100-ft. or two 50-ft. lines;
 - Cotton or plastic.
- **24-roll heavy-duty trash bags**
 - 33- to 45-gallon sizes;
 - Remove from the box.
- **5 dust masks**
- **2 pairs kitchen dishwashing gloves**
 - Should be durable enough for multiple uses;
 - Remove from packaging.
- **1 pair work gloves**
 - Cotton with leather palm or all leather.

Assembly Directions

Place all liquid items in the bucket first. Place remaining items in the bucket, fitting them around and between the liquid items. Sponges, scouring pads, clothespins, and trash bags can be separated in order to fit all of the items in the bucket. Ensure the lid is closed securely.

Important Notes

- All items must be new except for the actual bucket and lid.
- All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic containers. No powders, please.
- If you cannot find the requested size of a liquid item, use a smaller size. Including larger sizes of any item will prevent the lid from sealing.
- If all of the items on the list are not included, please put a label on the bucket indicating what has been omitted.
- Cleaning buckets are only used within the United States. They are not opened to verify the contents unless there is indication that some items have been omitted.

Packing & Shipping Instructions

- **Box Weight:** Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.
- **Complete 2 packing lists:** one for your records and one to put on the shipping box.
- Paste the shipping label / packing list on the outside of each box you send. The shipping list helps the depot to quickly process kits.
- **Processing & Shipping Costs:** Please enclose an envelope containing at least \$1 for each kit you send. This donation enables kits to be sent to areas in need. For Cleaning Buckets, please enclose \$1.50.



Cleaning Buckets for LA

Attached you will also find a list of needed items to create Cleaning Buckets for the Louisiana Flood victims. If you are interested in donating a bucket, please bring them to church by Sunday, September 11th. They will be picked up and shipped to those in charge of helping in Louisiana. You may also donate some of the items listed and they will be paired with others to make a bucket, or you might consider partnering with other families to create a bucket.



Family Game Night

Our first Family Game Night for the 2016-2017 year will be September 11th, 5-7pm. We will be having a bake sale during this fun event, to raise money for the Louisiana Flood victims. Please join us for a fun night of games and snacks and help support a good cause.

Thank you!

Have you noticed the path way to the small prayer chapel is cleaned up and you can see our little red door? Big thanks to Geneva & Terry Cochran, Debi Tucker and her friend Barbara Sladek for coming up this week and cleaning up the entrance.

2016 Evangelism Summit

The summit will be September 19th at White's Chapel UMC, Southlake from 9am-4pm. If any Lay Leaders are interested in attending with Pastor Finau please contact her for more information, registration is required.

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.

Do you find yourself living paycheck to paycheck? Do you wonder if you have enough savings for retirement? Starting this January FUMC would like to help our community get "gazelle intense" and become debt free. We will be starting a 9 week, Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class. More information coming soon!

10th Street UMC Bible Study

The 10th Street Bible Study on Wednesday evenings will be October 5- November 2, at 7:00 pm in the church's fellowship hall. Each session will last an hour. They will be studying Adam Hamilton's "Half-Truths." Travis says they would love to have any of FUMC church members who wish to join them.

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.



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 25th

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.