

DECEMBER 2018

The Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



First Methodist Heartbeat: Conversations About Life

By Michelle Holland

You can't begin to know and appreciate another person until you sit down together and talk about life and the joys and struggles we all experience. This past year has been full of stories, and each one has shown me how much we are alike and how much we can learn from one another.

I spent one morning at Dr. Bill Graber's house on Audubon Place, which is a bit humorous since he is an avid birder. When I thought about him and the stories he shared, I realized that all of them seemed to drift back to his beautiful, late wife Laura Lee, his children, and his medical practice. We did talk about birds and his life list of over 700 different species, and he told me when he was in the second grade, the teacher divided the class according to their ability to sing. The best were redbirds, the next were bluebirds, and the kids who couldn't sing, those were the crows. We had a good laugh when he told me he was one of the crows.

I noticed the love and pride in the tales of his children and my heart was warmed with joy and sadness when we talked of Laura Lee. There was a beautiful painting of her above the sofa where we sat. I also realized that he didn't talk about his accomplishments as much as he sang the praises of others. We spoke of Renee Kloes and her incredible piano skills and of John Wright and his meal planning talent at Kairos kitchen. Dr. Graber is a faithful Kairos kitchen helper and has cut up more onions than most people do in a lifetime. He started attending FUMC when he was eight years old and told stories of kids trying to count the pipes in the organ when things got boring.

Did you know there are three generations of Graber doctors who have provided continuous medical care for almost 100 years or that in addition to birds he also likes to identify butterflies when he goes to Mexico every year? You learn all sorts of things when you listen and sharing stories connects us and draws us closer together. The Christmas season is an excellent time to share a story with someone you see every Sunday but don't really know anything about. God made all of us different and the more we know about each other, the more love we can share, and sharing love is really what life is about.



Christmas Eve at First Methodist

CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE

6:00 P.M.



A Service of Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY, DEC. 16TH

11:00 A.M. 

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

DEC. 9TH // 2 PM

Join the Chancel Choir in visiting our shut-ins around town. After worship, go grab some lunch and be back at church to head out at 2PM.

LITTLE GIVING TREE

GIFTS DUE BY DEC. 16TH

The Little Giving Tree for Some Other Place can be found near the church office. Pick a tag, write your name by the number, purchase a new gift, wrap it and deliver it to First Methodist by December 16th, or to Chrissie Joyner at Some Other Place (1240 McFaddin, Beaumont) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.





breakfast with santa

Dec. 9th  9:30 a.m.

First Methodist Weekly Rhythms

Chancel Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Handbell Practice

Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.

Lectionary Bible Study

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. - Church Library.

Calder Woods Retirement Home Service

Dec. 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Collier Park Retirement Home Service

Dec. 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Pelican Bay Retirement Home Service

Dec. 18th at 10:30 a.m.

Dates to Know

Christmas Caroling For Our Shut-ins

Dec. 9th, 2:00 p.m.

Little Giving Tree Gifts Due

Dec. 16th

Sanctuary Poinsettias Order Forms Due

Dec. 19th

Church Offices Closed

Dec. 24 - 26

Family Life Retreat at Lakeview

Jan. 4- 6 (sign up by Dec. 9th)



**REMEMBER THESE
FAMILIES IN PRAYER:**

Alberto Family, Booker Family,
Neil Early, Hataway Family,
Martin Family, Medlin Family,
Rebecca Rankin, Sanchez Family,
Sharon Smith, Stouffer Family,
Jim True, Mary Woodland,
Woodland Family.

serve Together

**First Methodist Service Day
at Some Other Place
December 21st
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

5TH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
DECEMBER 15TH // 4PM
WEISS PARK IN DOWNTOWN

Kairos Kitchen

will be preparing the meal for this event
starting at 2 PM // First Methodist



Thank you Jana!

After 18 years of serving as the director of youth ministries at First Methodist, Jana Windle will be retiring at the end of this year. We want to celebrate her faithfulness and hard work, as well as offer our prayers and well wishes for this next season of her life and ministry, during a luncheon in her honor on December 16th after worship. Join us!



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BEAUMONT

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP | 11:00 A.M.

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