

FEBRUARY 2019

The Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



First Methodist Heartbeat: Follow and Shine

By Michelle Holland

I couldn't help thinking about dynamite in small packages after I heard Samantha Boutte's story of what it was like to attend the firefighter training academy and I learned that when you are loaded with grit, determination, and a lot of devotion to God, there is not much that can get in your way. She never had dreams of being a firefighter, but when your prayers open another path and everything lines up completely, you can be pretty sure God has you there on purpose.

Fire academy training is demanding, and when you are the smallest person in your class, and one of two women, you must be ready to hold your own. Samantha prepared mentally by setting two goals. She would not be the last person to finish anything, and she would not show weakness. Samantha prayed and relied on God and adrenaline to get her through. The training was demanding, but the hardest part was being separated from her kids because everything she does is centered on caring for them, teaching them values, and being a role model. Samantha works with hazmat reports and safety issues, and she is training to be an EMT, someday she may be part of the suppression team.

She is on a mission to be the best person she can be, to do what God calls her to do, and to support this church with a willingness to work and give back to the community. Samantha told me she knows when leaving her house every day that she is representing more than just herself, she also represents her faith, her parents, her church, and her job.

I considered Samantha's journey and how she never expected firefighting to be a part of her life, yet when she looked back, she could clearly see how everything fell into place. I thought about what Pastor Jon said last Sunday when he told us to live into our intended purpose and how God's light is inside all of us and that light must come out. He explained how one person can't shine the light for the entire world, but we can shine it wherever we find ourselves. Samantha prayed, listened, and followed the path to find her purpose and her place to shine, and with her determination and grit, sunglasses may be needed at the fire station.



“Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your Heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.”

- John Wesley, from *Directions for Singing*, first included in the 1761 publication *Select Hymns*.

MISSED THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY MESSAGE?

CATCH UP ONLINE:

Visit lovebeaumont.com/podcasts or search “First United Methodist Church Beaumont” on iTunes and subscribe to our podcast channel.

OYSTER SUPPER

SAVE THE DATE: FEB. 28TH

Our biggest fundraiser for missions of the year supports our work alongside many local and regional partners such as: Some Other Place, the Rainbow Room, the Seafarer's Center of Beaumont, Providence Place in San Antonio, and the Methodist Children's Home in Waco.

STOUFFER'S 7-Ups

FOR SERVING AT OYSTER SUPPER

SIGN UP TO SERVE

SELL UP ALL THE TICKETS

BUY UP LEFTOVER TICKETS

SERVE UP THE BEST OYSTERS

EAT UP THE BEST OYSTERS

CLEAN UP AT THE END





Dear Friends,

You may be aware that the General Conference (the highest decision making body of the United Methodist Church) has called a special session that will meet February 23-26, 2019. This special session has been called to receive and consider action on three plans regarding the organization of the United Methodist Denomination in particular as to how it relates to our official stance on human sexuality. These three plans have been developed by the Commission on the Way Forward that was formed by the Council of Bishops in April, 2017. The Commission, comprised from United Methodists from around the world had many meetings that concluded in May, 2018 when they presented three plans to the Council of Bishops. These plans will be presented before the General Conference this month. There may be a decision made at this General Conference, there may not.

So that we may be informed and aware of the plans before General Conference, we are having an informational meeting and time of worship on Sunday, February 17, 2019, at 4:00 pm in Rothwell Hall. Much as Bishop Scott Jones did last fall, the three plans will be presented in summary with strengths and weaknesses for each plan. The resources that will be presented are available now on the Texas Annual Conference Website: www.txcumc.org/thewayforward.

Following a brief overview of the United Methodist Church's organizational structure, we will share the presentation of the three plans. Following this presentation, we will spend some time with our congregation's mission, vision, and values before we share in worship of Songs for Sacred Discernment including the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

One of the absolute beauties of our congregation as a people is that we have found the way to live beyond our differences and distinctions by placing God's mission to make disciples of Jesus who love this city with the heart of Christ as our first priority. I was told this as I was informed I would be appointed to First UMC and I have experienced this among all of our people in the many places we gather. I believe that our desire to love this city with the heart of Christ will continue grow within, around, and beyond us!

May Christ be our sufficiency,

Jon



Oyster Supper

FEBRUARY 28  4:30 - 6:30 P.

tickets on sale now @
lovebeaumont.com/oysters

Weekly Rhythms

Prayer and Holy Communion Service

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. - Longe Chapel

Sunday School

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Family Worship Service

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

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.

Dates to Know

Estate Sale

Feb. 7 - 9 | fumcestatesales.org for info.

Oyster Supper

Feb. 28th

Ash Wednesday: Songs for Sacred Lent

March 6th, 6:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday: Songs for Sacred Supper

April 18th

Good Friday Service

April 19th

Easter Sunday Celebration

April 21st

Texas Annual Conference

May 26 - 29

A note from the Missions & Outreach Team

FEBRUARY COMMUNION RAIL OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 3RD - THE LETCHFORD FUND

God has placed Steve and Sherri in Kenya at the AIC Kijabe Hospital which is a ministry of the African Inland Church (AIC).

For the past 17 years, their ministry focus has been to disciple, mentor, and train Christian African health care professionals to show Christ's love and grace to those who don't know him, through compassionate and loving health care.

FEBRUARY 17TH - SOME OTHER PLACE

Helps meet the needs of less fortunate residents in the Beaumont community. Funded only by donations from local congregations, religious organizations, business, civic groups and individuals.

REMEMBER THESE FAMILIES IN PRAYER:

Alberto Family,
Flores Family, W.C. Hall,
Martin Family, Medlin Family,
Rebecca Rankin, Sharon Smith,
Linda Thompson,
Woodland Family.

For prayer requests,
email [prayer @ fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:prayer@fumcbeaumont.org).
Our prayer team would
love to be praying with you.

serve Together

**First Methodist Service Day
at Some Other Place
February 15th
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Kairos Kitchen
in Rothwell Hall
February 23rd
5:00 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church
701 Calder Ave.
Beaumont, Texas, 77701



BEAUMONT

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP | 11:00 A.M.

LOVEBEAUMONT.COM



Loving THE CITY WITH THE *heart* OF *Christ*



701 CALDER AVE. BEAUMONT TX. 777701 | (409) 832-0295 | INFO@FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG