

*in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2024

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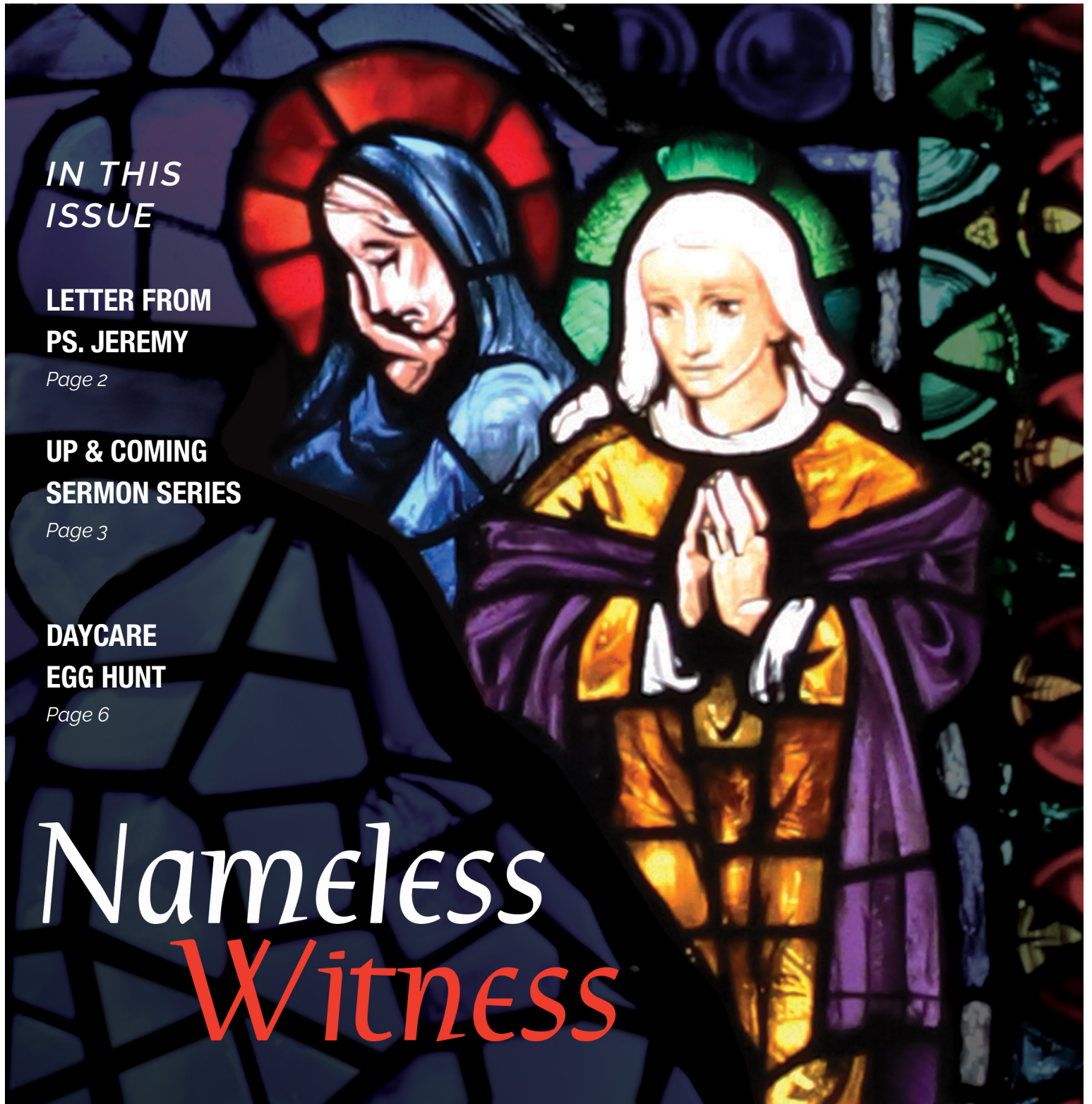
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A letter from PASTOR JEREMY WESTER

With the Heart of Christ...

In order to move forward with a shared sense of purpose, our church's primary goal and challenge for the season ahead will be to clarify what it means to love the city with the heart of Christ. I wrote a series of posts on the pastor's blog — fumcbeaumont.org/pastorsblog to articulate why that is the case and to give a first glance at some of our next steps. Some highlights:

It is the final words - with the heart of Christ - in our mission statement that are especially compelling to me. The story of Jesus is the story of Immanuel - God-**with**-us. What God does **for** God's people makes an impact and matters greatly. But even Jesus Christ did not exploit his power and authority as God, as though it was enough to send down blessings from high in heaven above. Instead, Jesus humbled himself to be **with** us. And by doing so, Jesus clearly shows us that to love **with the heart of Christ** requires us to overcome our unspoken assumptions.

Doing for others so often implies that 'we' have something that 'they' need. And 'we' who have what 'they' need have all the power and authority to decide whether to give or teach anything to anybody. That assumption is what leads us to act as though what we do for our under-resourced neighbors is the all important question. When we are seeking to love with the heart of Christ, the more important question is how do we choose when and whether to act in a way that creates the space for us to love one another in the way that Jesus Christ first loved us - to love with humility; to love as equals; to journey **with** each other in the family of God?

The problem with our current mission statement is that there is no obvious connection to any practical, strategic, administrative, or programmatic decisions. Over the next

year and a half, my main focus will be developing sermons, teams, and structures that guide us toward putting love "with the heart of Christ" into practice. I anticipate a congregational vote sometime around the end of 2025 to affirm the steps our leadership is now taking to develop a shared understanding and a coherent vision for our future.

To grow the kind of disciples who love with the heart of Christ, three core teams will be developed. These teams will be modeled after a Wesleyan understanding of grace and will be responsible for developing and coordinating our ministry efforts. The Teams will initially be called the **Hospitality Team** (responsible for teaching us how to show God's love to outsiders in a way that says 'you are welcome here'); the **Connections Team** (responsible for helping every person find the connections that make them feel accepted as part of this community); and the **Generosity Team** (responsible for developing opportunities to share from the abundance we've received in a way that reminds us we are enough to change the world).

We will seek to do everything in ways that develop and deepen **relationships**, challenge each and all of us to **grow**, and start with the **gifts** we already have in place. As we clarify our mission and strategies, it is **FAR** more important that you, the church, gain a shared sense of purpose and direction than it is for me (as an itinerant UMC pastor) to dictate what you need to do. If I am missing or misreading something, please say so!

Pastor Jeremy

Rev. Jeremy Wester, Lead Pastor



COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

April 7, 2024

Seafarer's Center

April 21, 2024

Society of St. Stephen's

May 5, 2024

Methodist Home in Waco

May 19, 2024

Charlton Pollard Elementary

THIS PRAYER IS FOR YOU –

Please share the name and mailing address of a school, organization, or church that you would like to add to the list by emailing prayerforyou@fumcbeaumont.org or speak with Mary or Neil Early for more information and ways to support this effort!

March 31– April 6

Redeemer Lutheran Children's Center
Wesley Foundation at Texas A & M
Beaumont Founders Lions Club

April 7– 13

Vincent Middle School
Beaumont Heritage Society
Redeemer Lutheran Church

April 14-20

Boy Scouts of America
Legacy Christian Academy
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

April 21-27

Regina Howell Elementary
Parent Teacher Association
St. Anne's Catholic Church

April 28– May 4

Alcoholics Anonymous
Caldwood Elementary
One City Church



UP AND COMING SERIES – NAMELESS. WITNESS.

The stories of nameless women in scripture provide a profound witness into the kind of bold and transformative faith God invites us to embrace. Each Sunday during this series, we'll dive deeply into these brief scenes and explore what they reveal about a life of faith. The series begins on April 14th and continues through June 2nd.



RECAP – AGO LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

Area music lovers were offered a real treat on the Wednesdays of Lent as they came to FUMC for the Lenten Organ Recital Series co-sponsored by the Beaumont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the church. Each of the 6 recitals was very different, showcasing a wide variety of music while featuring our wonderful organ and piano. Two of the recitals also brought other instrumental soloists to play with the organ. The series was also a fund-raiser for the Beaumont Rainbow Room, which stocks supplies needed by CPS workers helping children and families in times of crisis; the generous donations totaled over \$2,200.00. Every Wednesday concert goes also had the option of a fellowship lunch offered by the church. Many thanks to Charlie Snoek and his various helpers who provided the tasty meals, and thank you to all those who supported the recital series and the Rainbow Room. Tentative plans are already being made for a similar series in 2025.

WEEKLY RHYTHMS

SUNDAYS

Morning Prayer Time
9:20 a.m.

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Family Worship Service
11 a.m.
In-Person & Livestream

Small Group with Robin & Charlie Snoek
6-7 p.m.

MONDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous Meeting
7 - 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Connect Group with Liza Nelson
Noon

Narcotics Anonymous Meeting "The Brown Bag" Meeting
12:15-1:15 p.m.

Zoom Small Group
7 p.m. | Contact Gail Wilson

WEDNESDAYS

Handchime Practice
10 a.m.

Chancel Choir Practice
6 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous Meeting
7 - 8:30 p.m.

STAY CONNECTED

 @fumcbeaumont

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 First UMC Beaumont


 fumcbeaumont.org

 (409) 920-PRAY

APRIL & MAY DATES TO KNOW

APRIL

WED., APRIL 10

 **Games Day**
10 a.m. | Fun & Fellowship.

Contact Ruby Nelson

THU., APRIL 11

 **United Women in Faith Feeding The Wesley at Lamar University Students**

SAT., APRIL 13


 **SHP Bed Build**
8:30 a.m. - noon | 2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Pre register at bit.ly/shpevent


 **Second Saturday Faith Seminar**

Parlor (Faith Questers) | 9 a.m. - Noon


MON., APRIL 15

 **Leadership Board Meeting**
6 p.m. | Library


TUE., APRIL 16

 **United Women in Faith**
6 p.m. | Laura Stelly, Hostess

FRI., APRIL 19

 **Some Other Place Service Day**
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SAT., APRIL 20

 **SHP Delivery Day**
9 a.m. - Noon
2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX
Bring your cordless drill with charged up batteries.

SUN., APRIL 21

General Conference Town Hall Potluck
After Worship Service

Graduation Notice & Photos Due

First UMC Members – Please send notice of your graduation and photos to erika@fumcbeaumont.org to be included in our graduation celebration and May announcements!

SAT., APRIL 27

 **Kairos Family Supper**


Rothwell Hall
Set up: 2 - 5 p.m.
Serving: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Clean up: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

MAY


SAT., MAY 4

Concert on the Lawn
4-7p.m. | First UMC Lawn | Featuring the First UMC Praise Singers & Friends | Admission is free Offerings Benefit The Wesley at Lamar University

WED., MAY 8

 **Games Day**
10 a.m. | Fun & Fellowship.
Contact Ruby Nelson

SAT., MAY 11

 **SHP Bed Build**
8:30 a.m. - noon | 2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX
Pre register at bit.ly/shpevent

 **Second Saturday Faith Seminar**

Parlor (Faith Questers) | 9 a.m. - Noon

SUN., MAY 12

Mother's Day

FRI., MAY 17

♥ **Some Other Place Service Day**

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SAT., MAY 18

♥ **SHP Delivery Day**

9 a.m. - Noon

2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Bring your cordless drill with charged up batteries.

SUN., MAY 19

Graduation Sunday

Celebrate our high school and college graduates from Fall 2023 – Spring 2024.

MON., MAY 20

🗨️ **Leadership Board Meeting**

6 p.m. | Library

TUE., MAY 21

♥ **United Women in Faith**

6 p.m. | Charlotte Seeley, Hostess

SAT., MAY 25

♥ **Kairos Family Supper**

Rothwell Hall

Set up: 2 – 5 p.m.

Serving: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Clean up: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.



GRADUATION SUNDAY – MAY 19

GRADUATE INFO & PHOTOS DUE – APRIL 21

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, May 19, we will be celebrating all First UMC Beaumont members who are high school or college graduates from Fall 2023 through Spring 2024.

Please send your graduation photos, name, school, graduation date, and degree to Erika Clabough – erika@fumcbeaumont.org before Sunday, April 21 to be included in our graduation celebration!

GENERAL CONFERENCE TOWN HALL

POTLUCK LUNCH – SUNDAY, APRIL 24

General Conference Town Hall & Potluck - Sunday, April 21st immediately after worship. Bring a dish to share and learn about the legislative and policy making body of the United Methodist Church. You'll also hear the latest on what will be considered when General Conference meets Apr 23rd to May 3rd and have a chance for Q&A with me. For basic info on what General Conference is and why it matters, visit –

umnews.org/en/news/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference.



Once Upon A Dream Daycare Egg Hunt

Members and staff enjoyed a fun Easter egg hunt throughout the church on Monday, March 25th. The kids from Once Upon a Dream Daycare walked over for this time of fun and fellowship. The daycare is a registered non profit that serves our community, in part, by providing childcare services to teenage moms and others who could not otherwise afford the help. We're proud to host their daycare center, to play with the kids, and to continue exploring new ways for us to serve the community together!





FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG

CONCERT ON THE LAWN

4 MAY | 4-7 P.M.

FEATURING FIRST UMC'S -
**PRAISE SINGERS
& FRIENDS**

701 CALDER AVE.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

A CONCERT OF PRAISE & FAMILY FUN

ADMISSION IS FREE • OFFERINGS BENEFIT THE WESLEY AT LAMAR UNIVERSITY