



THE *Spire*

BEAUMONT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2019

BIBLE READING PLAN

- 1 Isaiah 2:1-5
- 2 1 John 1
- 3 1 John 2
- 4 1 John 3
- 5 1 John 4
- 6 1 John 5
- 7 **Selah**
- 8 Isaiah 11:1-10
- 9 2 John
- 10 3 John
- 11 Jude
- 12 Matt. 1:1-17
- 13 Luke 1:1-25
- 14 **Selah**
- 15 Isaiah 35:1-10
- 16 Psalm 98
- 17 Luke 1:39-45
- 18 Luke 1:46-56
- 19 Luke 1:57-66
- 20 Luke 1:67-80
- 21 **Selah**
- 22 Isaiah 7:10-16
- 23 Luke 2:1-20
- 24 Matt. 1:18-25
- 25 Luke 2:21-35
- 26 Luke 2:36-40
- 27 Mat. 2:1-12
- 28 **Selah**
- 29 Isaiah 52:7-10
- 30 Matt. 2:13-23
- 31 Luke 2:41-52



PURPOSE & INTENTION – 2019 HEARTBEAT STORIES IN REVIEW

Story and photography by Michelle Holland

Do you find yourself wondering where this year went? Weren't we just getting ready for oyster supper and VBS? Scientists say time passes faster as we get older because we get caught up in routine, repetitive days that all seem to run together. We don't experience as many new events, so our brains don't have to work as hard writing memories. Every heartbeat story from this past year had an important lesson to teach, and each

person had something unique to share. I considered all of them together and realized they can show us how to live with purpose and intention.

Lance Orta started the year by telling us about purpose. He explained how it feels to be a part of this community and how music brought him here. Samantha Boutte taught us to be the best we can because we represent more than just ourselves.

STOUFFER'S

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

O GLORIOUS ADVENT - 2019

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian calendar year for us with the celebration of Hope! Every year during Advent we light four candles in the advent wreath symbolizing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Some time ago, I learned the proper order for the use of these words and in every congregation I've served there has been confusion and questions about which one matches with which Sunday! I've gotten so confused about which word goes with which Sunday, I've decide to focus on one word each year. This year, for us, the advent word is Hope. It is my hope that in all things in our life as a congregation we foster hope in ourselves and in each other! I believe we have many reasons to hope, beginning with our return to the renewed sanctuary for Sunday morning worship!



Our Sunday celebrations in Advent will be wonderful! On the first Sunday, December 1, we will return to our renewed sanctuary after all the work is complete! We will celebrate with great joy and with the hope that God's people will worship in this space for generations to come! The second Sunday, December 8, is Breakfast with Santa and Commitment Sunday. After we've feasted and photoed with Santa we will share our renewed commitment to Christ and our congregation, renewing our covenant to pray, participate, provide, perform, and proclaim. (Membership Vows: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness). On the third Sunday, December 15, we will welcome our former pastor and sister in Christ, The Reverend Karen Dorris, who will preach in our renewed sanctuary. This vision

for greater accessibility and flexibility in our sanctuary began while Karen was the presiding elder here. I believe it is fitting to celebrate this great work with our dear sister. I am confident that because of your love for Christ and this congregation you will join me in welcoming her home to Beaumont! On the fourth Sunday, December 22, we will celebrate with a service of Lessons and Carols, enjoying all the music and readings that make this season bright with hope!

As I write, we are approaching Thanksgiving Day. Please know that every day I give thanks for you, for the ministry God has entrusted to us, for the work that we are doing to make disciples of Jesus who love this city with the heart of Christ. I am thankful for your prayers for my family and for me, for each other, and for this city and for all the cities we call home. I keep you in my prayers every day knowing that God is faithful and will fulfill the hope we have that is in Christ alone. May our gratitude give way to great Hope this Advent!

P.J.

Rev. Jon Stouffer, Lead Pastor



UMCOR

UMCMission.org/umcor

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR works with vulnerable communities to strengthen self-sufficiency and encourage partnerships. UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases of poverty, ministers to refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and actively works to reduce hunger.

COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

UMCOR

December 1

Undesignated Fund

December 15

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep our entire BFUMC community in your prayers.

If you have a specific request, our prayer team would love to be praying with you. Email us –

prayer@fumcbeaumont.org.

FIND US ONLINE

 [@fumcbeaumont](https://www.facebook.com/fumcbeaumont)

 [@fumcbeaumont](https://www.instagram.com/fumcbeaumont)

What brings you Joy?



"That we know Christ was born and that we remember what this is all about."

- JOHN WILLIAMS



"My family and friends."

- EMMA CORTEZ



"When I praise the Lord from my heart."

- ROBERT BRAXTON JR



"The story of the birth of Christ touches me every year."

- TOOTSIE CRUTCHFIELD



"The Chrismon symbols on the tree in the narthex."

- SARA WOODS



"Time with family."

- KEVIN CREDEUR

Henry Joyner showed us the value of slowing down and examining the details. Carving wood is a process, just like becoming more like Jesus is a process. Robin Snoek reminded us to tend the fruits of the spirit so that others could realize and achieve their potential. Remember memorizing the fruits this past year? Shelby Boutte advised us to build our story by being kind, lending a hand, and being generous with our time. She reminds us to play.

Liza Nelson's story teaches us to practice our faith by showing love and acceptance to others. It takes action to follow Jesus and do what he taught us. Billie Crockett told us to be the hands and feet of Jesus, you must stop thinking about yourself and focus on others. Glen Moon is our example of how to love the city, even after seeing it at its worst. We can rely on Jesus, surround ourselves with a faith community, and do a lot of praying.

Phyllis Mann is a role model for giving things our best effort. She said, don't give up, keep trying, and take advantage of opportunities that may never come around again. Gene Soper suggested we think, question, and examine everything about life. You can't watch from the sidelines, or you will miss out on what helping others is all about. You should strive to be better and never stop learning.

Science tells us we can slow time by making our days less repetitive, so let's make that happen with our service to others. We can get outside of our comfort zone, do something unique and unfamiliar, and give our brains something different to process. Let's do things that challenge us, perform random acts of kindness, and find creative ways to serve others. We can learn from each other and make the most of the time we have together. A new year is coming, full of opportunities to serve Jesus, build community, and live with intention. Time may still fly, but just think of all the great things we can do together, as a community, serving others for Jesus. ❤️

Loving THE City

Ministries Moments

UMW BECOMERS

The Becomers UMW Group will be hosting a **Giving Tree party** at Some Other Place's Activity Building, on **Tuesday, December 3 at 6 p.m.**

Anyone is welcome to come. We will enjoy a gumbo meal, then proceed to empty our Christmas storage closet and setup the room for Christmas activities. Activities include wrapping, labeling bags, addressing envelopes and cutting out stockings beside emptying the closet. Guests are asked to bring wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper, and either a salad or a dessert to share. **Wrapping Christmas gifts** will commence on **Wednesday, December 4 through Monday, December 16, from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.** Come and go as you please.

Call **Chrissie Joyner** at **409-832-7976** if you are interested in coming.

BED BUILD

This November, Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteers helped deliver 234 beds. Currently there is a waitlist of 412 children needing beds, many of which from Hurricane Harvey. Plan to join SHP and FUMC for the next build day on **December 14 at 2950 Milam, Suite 4.**

Christmas Eve Communion & Candle Light



Join us this Christmas Eve for our annual candle light service. Receive communion, sing Christmas carols, and listen to the reading of the Christmas story.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019 - 6 P.M. - SANCTUARY

FAITH QUESTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for our **Christmas Party, Friday December 13, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.** at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. The admission fee is \$20 per person, should be turned in to Betty Walters with Faith Questers sunday school class. **Admission fees are due by December 10, 2019.**

Each month we will feature
some of the additional ways
our congregation lives our motto
“to love this city with the heart of Christ.”

Email your “Loving the City” moments to
Erika@fumcbeaumont.org

FIRST KIDS

In November, during First Kids chapel, we spoke often about what being thankful really means. We learned about being truly satisfied with what we have and what God provides for us. We now enter this beautiful season of giving. However, this is also the time of year where our focus so easily drifts back into the gift list, grocery list, to-do list and the ever busy calendar. In the very same way, our children can easily get caught up in the glitz and glitter of the season. Encourage your family to be intentional with acts of kindness this month. Look for times this Advent season to remember and discuss the real reason we gather together, to celebrate the birth of our Lord and to show the love of God to others! Don't forget to join us for food, fun, fellowship and children's crafts on December 8th for 'Breakfast with Santa'.

FIRST FRUITS

The Welcome Center once again greets each visitor with the sound of trickling water and bright green seedlings. Our Tower Garden is alive and busy growing the next crop of vegetables to be served at the first Kairos Kitchen of 2020. As we look back on the beginning of First Fruits, it is encouraging to see the way God has grown this initiative in just a few short months! The food produced is only one small part of the bigger vision. Our goal is to inspire other indoor gardens to serve a greater community. Look for an article all about First Fruits coming from the Texas Annual Conference this month! We have also had members from the Illinois and Connecticut UMC Conferences reach out for information about beginning a First Fruits Initiative in their own state within their local churches. What began as a little seed of faith has already grown and began to produce fruit well beyond our walls. Prayerfully consider fully sponsoring or donating toward the purchase of another Tower Garden, to grow our garden and fill our church with the beauty of God's creation!

UNITED COMMUNITY

Have you looked around and wondered about the people you see each Sunday? How many folks do we greet in passing but we can't tell you their name? FUMC is a large community of people, reaching every demographic. The United Community group is your chance to get to know the people who serve the Lord right alongside you each week! Join us for eating, laughing and a chance to grow together the last Sunday of every month in the Dining Room! Lunch and childcare is provided - Youth are welcome to attend.

Already involved with United Community but looking to connect more? Join our Morning Crew every Sunday, for Communion Service at 9:15 a.m., then hang out for acoustic worship, scripture discussion, service opportunities and more!

RE-GIFT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 29

Join us immediately following service for food, fun and plenty of laughs! Re-wrap that gift that doesn't match, that thing you'll never use, or that candle you already have two of and bring it with you! Let's relax together after a busy holiday and enjoy some community. **Children may bring a wrapped book for a gift exchange party!**

UNITED YOUTH

The smell of freshly baked rolls still lingers from the Youth Tuffy's Rolls Bake Sale in November! Thank you to all who supported this effort! As the roof repairs are underway, we are gearing up for some maintenance, cleaning and redecorating of the Youth Room. We are compiling a wish list of items that would help facilitate this transition and re-launch of 'The Post'!

Our youth enjoy meeting from 5-7pm, on the first and third Sundays of each month, for food, fun, fellowship, and learning about God as we discuss daily life. We welcome all youth, from

all backgrounds, from grades 6-12! Know someone hesitant about giving United Youth a try? Want more information? Email Stephanie@fumcbeaumont.org

United Youth is cancelled for December 1 due to scheduling conflicts.

UNITED YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 15, 5-7pm

Invite a friend and come dressed in your ugliest Christmas sweater or shirt! For our gift exchange, wrap up a pair of (new) crazy socks for an evening full of laughs and fun surprises.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY CONTRIBUTIONS

JANUARY - NOVEMBER 2019

CHARLIE ALBERTO

Billy & Patt Tubbs
Charles & Lettie Goehringer
Dorendia & Frank Watkins
Faith Questers Class
Frances Saladin
Janet McClendon
John & Faye Seaberg
Lane & Becky Nicols
Leonard Juncker
Marilyn Higgins
Oris Vaughn
Regina Rogers
Ruth Wade
Stewart & Shirley Coffman
Jeanette Kuhlman
Jerome & Barbara Fertitta
Jose & Phyllis Fernandez
Frank & Molly Messina
Tim & Donna Lewis

Cheryl Charlton
Sleep In Heavenly Peace

Janie Greenway
Chancel Choir Fund

Jennie Atkins
Chancel Choir Fund

Betty Walters
Estate Committee Endowment

Carol Hamm
Estate Committee Endowment

Jim & Helen Balfanz
Estate Committee Endowment

Floyd & Patti McSpadden
General Fund

James & Anna Lee Ruby
General Fund

Phyllis Mann
Youth Summer Camp

GERALDINE "JERRY" BISHOP OF HOUSTON

Kirby & Debbie Lastinger
Betty Walters

MERLE BOOKER

Alan & Barbara McNeil
Anita Woods
Bob Brandes
Carol Hamm
Carol Hodges
Curtis & Gail Wilson
Dorendia & Frank Watkins
Frances & Charlie Alberto
Henry & Chrissie Joyner
James & Anna Lee Ruby
Janet McClendon
Jean & Frank Williams
Jean Lindsey
John & Faye Seaberg
John & Melissa Woods
John & Susan Garner
Lane & Becky Nicols
Lee Dell & Bob Poole

Liza Nelson
Oris Vaughn
Sandra Arrington
Tim & Donna Lewis
Tootsie & Buddy Crutchfield
Virgie & Laura Branick
Frank & Molly Messina
Jose & Phyllis Fernandez

Phyllis Mann
Rainbow Room

Betty Walters
Benevolence Fund

Ron Alexander
Children's Minsitry

Janie Greenway
Chancel Choir Fund

Jennie Atkins
Chancel Choir Fund

Betty Walters
Estate Committee Endowment

Faith Questers Class
General Fund

Cheryl Charlton
Sleep In Heavenly Peace

Jim & Helen Balfanz
Estate Committee Endowment

SPARKS DORRIS

Lane & Rebecca Nichols
James & Anna Ruby

Floyd & Patti McSpadden
Society of St. Stephen

NANCY EVANS

Alan & Cherrie Heffty
Missions & Outreach

JOHN T. FRANKS

Betty Walters
Family of Monk Dishman
Frances Alberto
John Alden Wright & Bernie Hughes
John & Faye Seaberg
Oris Vaughn
Jose & Phyllis Fernandez
Jeanette Kuhlman
Don & Lynnette Wilson
John & Sharon Passmore

Tom & Mary V. Engelking
Chancel Choir Fund

Lane & Becky Nicols
Estate Committee Endowment

Carol Hamm
Estate Committee Endowment

Jim & Sue Mutch
Estate Committee Endowment

Frank & Molly Messina
Estate Committee Endowment

Jim & Helen Balfanz
Estate Committee Endowment

James & Anna Lee Ruby
General Fund

Janie Greenway
Sleep In Heavenly Peace

Jennie Atkins
Sleep In Heavenly Peace

Shirley Wheeler
Sleep In Heavenly Peace

Cheryl Charlton
Sleep In Heavenly Peace

KENSLEY MAE FRANKS

James & Anna Lee Ruby
General Fund

DR. MIKE HIGGINS

Charles & Lettie Goehringer

SALLYE KEITH

Lane & Rebecca Nichols
Phyllis Mann

Jennie Atkins
Chancel Choir Fund

HOLLY KIRKLAND

John & Faye Seaberg
Ray & Janet Cline

James & Anna Ruby
Chancel Choir Fund

Lane & Rebecca Nichols
Chancel Choir Fund

JOYCE LEWIS (TIM LEWIS' MOTHER)

James & Anna Ruby

Lane & Rebecca Nichols
Estate Committee Endowment

Glen & Sara Moon
Estate Committee Endowment

Betty Walters
Estate Committee Endowment

Dorris Burris
Estate Committee Endowment

Tim & Laura Stelly
Chancel Choir Fund

RICHARD PHILIP MEDLIN

Lane & Rebecca Nichols
Carol Hamm
Curtis & Gail Wilson

Florence Medlin
Janet McClendon
Oris Vaughn
Anita Woods
James & Anna Ruby
Ron Alexander
Wilma Halbert
Martha Sue Rathburn
Faith Questers Class

Billie Crockett
Some Other Place

Tom & Mary Engleking
Some Other Place

Phyllis Mann
Some Other Place

Eliza Nelson
Some Other Place

Patricia & Lawrence Whitmire
Some Other Place

Lydia Green
Some Other Place

Betty Walters
Estate Committee Endowment

Tim & Laura Stelly
Chancel Choir Fund

Janie Greenway
Friends of Music

Frances Alberto
Backpacks

ALVIE MORGAN

Alan & Cherrie Heffty
Missions & Outreach

ANN PIERCE

Alan & Cherrie Heffty
Missions & Outreach

TOM REAGAN

Alan & Cherrie Heffty
Missions & Outreach

CHARLOTTE ANN SEABERG

Alan & Cherrie Heffty
Missions & Outreach

BETTY STORMS (CINDY WOODLAND'S MOTHER)

James & Anna Ruby

Janie Greenway
Chancel Choir Fund

HUGH E. THOMPSON SR.

Sara Thompson
Sleep In Heavenly Peace

BOBBIE TRUE

Alan & Cherrie Heffty
Missions & Outreach

Jim & Helen Balfanz
Estate Committee Endowment

BRYAN VAUGHN

Faith Questers Class
Tom & Mary V. Engelking

CLARA WALKER (DONNA LEWIS' MOTHER)

James & Anna Ruby

Betty Walters
Estate Committee Endowment

Dorris Burris
Estate Committee Endowment

SLATS & LUCILLE WATHEN

Alan & Cherrie Heffty
Missions & Outreach

***GINA & COLBY CRENSHAW**

Floyd & Patti McSpadden
Society of St. Stephen

***TOOTSIE & BUDDY CRUTCHFIELD**

Floyd & Patti McSpadden
Society of St. Stephen

***DONNA LEWIS**

Lane & Rebecca Nichols
Estate Committee Endowment

Tim & Laura Stelly
Chancel Choir Fund

***SILVERIO SANCHEZ**

Floyd & Patti McSpadden
Society of St. Stephen

***TERRY STELLY'S WIFE, DIANA**

Tim & Laura Stelly
Chancel Choir Fund

***JON & HOLLY STOUFFER**

John, Sandra, Kim & Kelley Williams

KEY

IN MEMORY OF

* - IN HONOR OF

Donor

Recipient

WEEKLY RHYTHMS

SUNDAYS

Prayer & Holy Communion Service

9:15 a.m. | Longe Chapel

Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

Family Worship Service

11 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Handbell Practice

5:45 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice

7 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Lectionary Bible Study

1 p.m. | Church Library

RETIREMENT HOME SERVICES

Calder Woods

December 3 | 11 a.m.

Collier Park

December 10 | 10:30 a.m.

Pelican Bay

December 17 | 10:30 a.m.

DECEMBER DATES TO KNOW

DEC. 3

Giving Tree Party

6 p.m.

Some Other Place's Activity Building

DEC. 4 - 16

SOP Wrapping Christmas Gifts

8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Some Other Place's Activity Building

DEC. 5

Veritas Christmas Program

6 p.m. Sanctuary

DEC. 6-7

Estate Sale

Location and Time TBA

DEC. 8

Breakfast with Santa

9:30 a.m.

DEC. 13

Bikes & Bibles Setup

Ford Park

Faith Questers Christmas Party

11:30 a.m.

Art Museum of Southeast Texas

Tickets - \$20 - Due 12/10 to Betty Walters

Joy Concert

7 p.m.

DEC. 14

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - Noon

Bikes & Bibles Volunteering

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Ford Park

DEC. 15

United Youth Group

Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

5-7 p.m. | Youth Center Upstairs

DEC. 20

Some Other Place Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DEC. 24

Christmas Eve

Communion & Candellight

6 p.m.

DEC. 25

Christmas Day

Office Closed

DEC. 29

United Community Group

Immediately following

Family Worship Service

DEC. 31 - JAN. 1

New Year's Eve & New Year's Day

Office Closed

JAN. 3-5

Family Life Retreat at Lakeview

Sign Up ASAP in the Narthex

JAN. 12

Organ Recital

3 p.m.

JAN. 17

Some Other Place Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

JAN. 18

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - Noon

JAN. 25

Kairo's Kitchen

5 p.m.

Do you have upcoming events? Did you take pictures at your last event?

Email event info and pictures to Erika@fumcbeaumont.org to put your events in our weekly E-Blasts and the monthly Spire.

January Spire Deadline for entry – December 16.



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



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

BEAUMONT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP TOGETHER
SUNDAY AT 11 AM

DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
COMMUNION & CANDELLIGHT | 6 P.M.



LISTEN ONLINE

Miss a Sunday?

Visit [lovebeaumont.com /podcasts](http://lovebeaumont.com/podcasts) or search "First United Methodist Church Beaumont" on Apple Podcasts & subscribe to our podcast channel.



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