

# *in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2021

HOPE  
LOVE  
JOY  
PEACE

*Advent 2021*

FIRST FAMILY NEWS—  
MEET JOSH ORTEGO

STEPHANIE DENHAM—  
GUIDING LITTLE  
HANDS & HEARTS

CAN CHRISTMAS CHANGE  
THE WORLD? —  
LEARN MORE INSIDE

# Stouffer's

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I saw this poem on a picture online and it reminded me of the juxtaposition of what is likely the busiest month of the year for all of us and the beginning of a season of dormancy in much of nature. We don't see it as



sharply on the coast of Texas as some regions do, and if we were further south (of the equator) we would be nearing the summer equinox! Anyway, I received this poem as a gift to remember to include time in this busy month to be still in order to better prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. It is my prayer for each of you and all of us that God's grace may guide our preparations and celebrations in such ways that we know and experience God's love more deeply than ever so that we may share God's love with others in new and adventurous ways.

*November comes  
And November goes,  
With the last red berries  
And the first white snows.  
With night coming early,  
And dawn coming late,  
And ice in the bucket  
And frost by the gate.  
The fires burn  
And the kettles sing,  
And earth sinks to rest  
Until next spring.  
– Clyde Watson*

May God's grace and peace be with us all!

*Jon*

Rev. Jon Stouffer, Lead Pastor

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

### The Round Table

Library

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

The Round Table class is a relatively new class with members from all ages and backgrounds. The class gives the opportunity for discussion of books and scripture presented in a contemporary manner. The choice of topics for discussion is made by the class in response to their questions, concerns and suggestions for materials.

The class is led by Hank Hamilton. He and his wife, Pam, especially appreciate the role Sunday School has played in their lives. Finding a class of other young families led them to First UMC in 1990.

**Contact Hank Hamilton,  
409 658-2772**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep our entire First UMC Beaumont 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](mailto:prayer@fumcbeaumont.org)**

## STAY CONNECTED

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

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

 **[First UMC Beaumont](https://www.youtube.com/FirstUMCBeaumont)**

 **[fumcbeaumont.org](https://www.fumcbeaumont.org)**

 **(409) 920-PRAY**

# Loving the City

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



### BED BUILD

**Saturday, December 11 | 2950 Milam, Beaumont.**

**Morning Shift - 8:30 a.m. – Noon**

**Afternoon Shift - 12:30 – 4 p.m.**

This November, 46 kids received new twin beds, mattresses and bed clothes thanks to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and their many volunteers! SHP's goal is to deliver 100 beds this December.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Beaumont needs your help. After delivering over 1,050 beds, they are in need of financial donations. Each bed costs \$200 to produce and deliver, plus twin size Bed in a Bag Sets. Charitable donations can be mailed to, and Bed in Bag sets shipped to SHP, 5660 Longwood St, Beaumont, 77707. Tax deductible receipts can be provided.

Contact Jack Seeley, SHP for more information.

**To pre register go to – [bit.ly/shpvolunteer](https://bit.ly/shpvolunteer)**



### ESTATE SALE COMMITTEE

The estate committee is one of the many ministries of First United Methodist Church that empowers us to love the city with the heart of Christ. For over 18 years, the church has offered this ministry to its members and non-members as an opportunity to liquidate estates in a caring manner.

The Estate Committee consists of church members who are well-trained in estate sales and they are service oriented. These volunteers are known throughout the area for presenting organized, honest and well displayed sales. Community participation is excellent and is enhanced by the fact that the percentage charged goes directly to the work of First United Methodist Church and to local charities such as Some Other Place, Henry's Place, Boys' Haven, The Rainbow Room, The Empty Stocking Fund.

Sales are advertised in the classified section of the Beaumont Enterprise and in church publications. An e-mail list is also used for notification of upcoming estate sales.

**For additional information, contact – [fumc@fastmail.net](mailto:fumc@fastmail.net)**

*The FUMC Estate Sale Committee of First United Methodist Church of Beaumont, Texas is a nonprofit organization conducting estate sales in southeast Texas.*

# First Family News



## GUIDING LITTLE HANDS & BIG HEARTS

The ever-enthusiastic Stephanie Denham is our Family Ministries Director.

Stephanie grew up in Beaumont. She and husband, Dustin, have two children, Abigail, 17, and Dylan, 14.

Before coming to First UMC in 2018, Stephanie taught preschool and served as the director of children's ministries at another Methodist church. She works directly for Bishop Scott Jones of the Texas Annual Conference as the Coordinator of Child Care.

With Stephanie, First UMC gained a whole family who saw the

**“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’”**

MATTHEW 19:14 NRSV

opportunity to serve other families and encourage interconnection between them.

Stephanie gives the children's message and a beautiful smile in the sanctuary each Sunday. The children then follow her to the chapel for children's church. There, she follows the order of worship experienced by the adults.

Stephanie does not “believe in babysitting at church.” She teaches the children the meaning of each part of the service and the appropriate behavior during the service. Stephanie also prepares a Sunday School lesson for children and youth each week.

# FOCUS ON – JOSH ORTEGO

Josh Ortego serves First UMC in many ways, from singing as a choral scholar and working with our Livestream Worship team on Sundays, to serving as Secretary of the Trustees and on the Sanctuary Improvement Committee in 2019.

When in-person services were suspended during the darkest weeks of the pandemic, Josh and a bare-bones team faithfully assisted in maintaining the weekly message to the at-home congregation.

“I feel like I contribute behind the scenes technically and out front musically. When a plan comes together you can feel it. Those Sundays, the message was spread. Those Sundays make it worth it,” Josh said.

Josh came to First United Methodist after being recruited by choir director, Renee Khloes. Josh finds the physical space in our church unique, with an unusual musical space as well, and says the general atmosphere is unique.

Josh is a native of Nederland who graduated from Nederland High School. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Lamar University in 2019. Industry did not appeal to him, so he chose a career as a teacher.

“I’m good at explaining things,” Josh says, and he explains things to chemistry students at Silsbee High school.

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

COLOSSIANS 3:15 NRSV

## **Stephanie Continued**

She is working with the other ministries of the church to encourage families' involvement. Stephanie considers the relationships she and Dustin have developed with other families as key to their personal growth and enjoyment of First UMC.

Stephanie's prayer that more children and youth attend First UMC is already being answered. Each Sunday more children are attending our worship service.

## **FIRST FAMILY MINISTRIES**

At First United Methodist Church Beaumont, we love to create space and time for our children and youth to be able to grow in faith together.

At First UMC, students to grow as followers of Jesus and build friendships while sharing food,

fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. We want every child and teenager to be able to experience the love of God in an atmosphere created by a safe and loving community.

**Contact Stephanie Denham**

Director of Family Ministries

**[Stephanie@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:Stephanie@fumcbeaumont.org)**

Email us your good news, updates, and prayer requests for publication. January Spire submissions – **due December 16th**

**Darline & Mickey Rouse**  
**[familynews@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:familynews@fumcbeaumont.org)**

# Worship Together NEAR & FAR

Did you know, First United Methodist Church Beaumont offers five ways to worship together?



## IN-PERSON

**701 Calder Avenue • Downtown Beaumont**

Gather with us Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. for our In-Person Family Worship Service. Join us beforehand at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School classes.



## FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG/LIVESTREAM

**Worship online**

Our website livestream video feed can be viewed on computers, smart phones, and tablets. You may also click “Please Register Your Attendance” and enter your name from any computer, smart phone, or tablet to let us know you are watching.



## FACEBOOK

**@fumcbeaumont**

Join our livestream community on Facebook. Comment and say hello in real time. Like our livestream video, and let us know you are watching!



## YOUTUBE

**Search First UMC Beaumont and click subscribe.**

YouTube can be viewed on computers, smart phones, tablets, and smart TVs.



## 409-920-PRAY

**First UMC's telephone broadcast system • Listen on any phone**

**Call 409-920-PRAY or 409-920-7729**

Audio from our livestream worship services can be listened to over the phone in real time, or afterward at your convenience. This option allows you to listen without needing internet or a computer, from anywhere with a phone connection. Email [info@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:info@fumcbeaumont.org), or call our church office (409)-832-0295 during office hours to learn more.

Our services can be watched or listened to in real time beginning at 11 a.m. on Sundays, or afterward at your convenience through all of our livestream providers.

## WEEKLY RHYTHMS

### SUNDAYS

**Sunday School**  
9:45 a.m.

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

### TUESDAYS THROUGH DEC. 21

**Advent Small Group Begins**  
Noon - In-Person (Lunch & Learn)  
First UMC Welcome Center  
7 p.m. - Via Zoom

### WEDNESDAYS

**Chancel Choir Practice**  
6 p.m.

## DO YOU HAVE UPCOMING EVENTS?

Email event info and pictures to –

**Erika@fumcbeaumont.org**

**January Spire Deadline for entry –  
December 16.**

## DECEMBER DATES TO KNOW

### SUNDAY, DEC. 5

**A Celebration of JOY!**  
11 a.m. Family Worship Service  
Cookies, Wassail, Fun & Fellowship

### MONDAY, DEC. 6

**Called Session of Charge Conference**  
7 p.m.

**Annual Charge Conference**  
Immediately following Called Session

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

**Games Day - Fellowship & Fun**  
10 a.m. - noon | Small Dining Room  
Contact Ruby Nelson (409)-781-6798

### SATURDAY, DEC. 11

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build**  
8:30 a.m. - noon, 12:30 - 4 p.m. 2950  
Milam Street, Beaumont, TX  
Pre register at [bit.ly/shpvolunteer](http://bit.ly/shpvolunteer)

**Neal Early Workshop**  
9 a.m.

### SUNDAY, DEC. 12

**Breakfast with Santa**  
9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
Rothwell Hall

### FRIDAY, DEC. 17

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

### SUNDAY, DEC. 19

**Lessons & Carols**  
Brunch at Amelia Farm & Market following our worship service. Caroling at 2:30 p.m., meet at the Marshall Middle School parking lot.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22

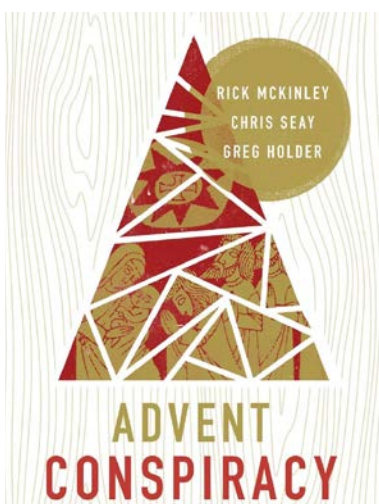
**Birth of Christ Celebration #1 - 7 pm**

### FRIDAY, DEC. 24

**Birth of Christ Celebration #2 - 4 pm**  
**Birth of Christ Celebration #3 - 7 pm**

### SUNDAY, DEC. 26

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**  
Family Worship Service



## ADVENT STUDY 2021

**Tuesdays**  
**Through Dec. 21**  
**Noon - Lunch & Learn,**  
**In-Person 7 p.m. via Zoom**

Christmas is coming! Here comes the decorations. Here comes the carolers. Here comes the lines, to do lists, and ugly sweaters. Ho, ho, ho becomes go, go, go, and before you know it's Christmas. Did you know we spend over 1 trillion dollars globally on Christmas?

If you are looking for a different way to prepare and celebrate Christmas by moving away from consumerism back to the heart of the gospel we will be reading and discussing the book – Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World.

There will be a lunch and learn on Tuesdays in Advent at noon in person in the welcome center. We will also gather at 7 p.m. over zoom. These small groups will provide opportunities to connect with one another and grow in grace. This book can be found on Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, and other book retailers.

**For more information contact Pastor Julius Wardley at**  
**[julius@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:julius@fumcbeaumont.org) or 832-588-6413**

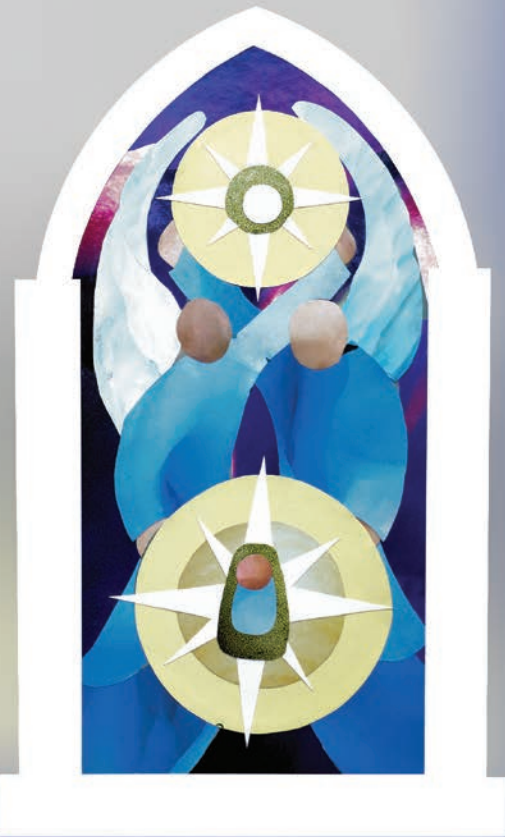


**First United Methodist Church**  
701 Calder Ave.  
Beaumont, Texas 77701



*Loving* the city with the *Heart* of *Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT



# *Birth of Christ Celebration*

WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday, December 22 • 7 p.m.  
Friday, December 24 • 4 & 7 p.m.

RSVPs encouraged at [fumcbeaumont.org/christmas21](http://fumcbeaumont.org/christmas21)

FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG • (409) 832-0295 • INFO@FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG