

*in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2023

HOPE
LOVE
JOY
PEACE

LIGHT IN THE DARK
ADVENT 2023

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Greetings!

Greetings!

As we near the end of 2023, I want to take a brief moment to say THANK YOU! I have never seen (much less helped lead) a church that was so ready and determined to try a new way of doing things. I've rehearsed a portion of what we've already accomplished in previous editions of the Spire and in prior emails, so I'll keep my brief comments here focused on what's next.

First, please pray for our church's leadership. We'll soon vote on a resolution from the Leadership Task Force that would streamline our administrative decision making process. Whatever the results of that vote, our church leaders will have a lot of work to do in the new year to establish goals, budgets, policies, and more in service of developing a clear vision for the church's future.

Second, please pray for Jefferson County reVision. I am confident that they will be a strong ministry partner in the coming year. Pray for their leadership as they finalize paperwork and legal filings to establish the non-profit and pray for all the leaders, staff, and volunteers who will soon begin mentoring the youth of our community.

Finally, please pray for the ministry efforts and kingdom impact of our church. There is a Spirit of newness and a desire for greater impact all around. As we experiment and plan and keep trying new things, pray that God would use all our humble efforts to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors near and far.

We will continue through most of December to focus on the Light in the Dark. And we will continue to remember and tell the stories that have made us what we are SO THAT we can build upon the foundation we've received from the saints that went before us. Please keep talking, keep asking questions, and keep praying that God will strengthen us to follow boldly wherever God leads us next!

Pastor Jeremy

Rev. Jeremy Wester, Lead Pastor



COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

December 17, 2023

Providence Place in San Antonio

WINTER CLOTHES DRIVE LAMAR UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Let's bless the Lamar University international students with clean and gently used, warm clothes for the winter months! October 2023 - January 2024. Clothing may be dropped off at First United Methodist Church Beaumont, to be delivered to Lamar University's International Education Office.

GIVING TREE

The deadline to return gifts and make donations to support our community kids is December 12th.

Please bring back gifts with the name tag (so we can identify the right child) and do not wrap any presents.

You can also make a donation of ANY AMOUNT to help with part of a gift, filling in gaps for a family, or to adopt a whole family. **Again, label your in person donation "Giving Tree" or at fumcbeaumont.org/give designated to The Giving Tree.**



Breakfast with Santa Photos

Photos will be available for download on December 18th at www.fumcbeaumont.org/photo-gallery. Please email erika@fumcbeaumont.org if you have any questions.

NEW YEARS EVE – EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

Worship on Sunday, December 31 will begin early at 10 a.m. instead of our typical 11 a.m. service time. We look forward to bringin in the new year with you and your family on this first Sunday after Christmas.

FIRST FAMILY GATHERING – CAROLING TO OUR HOMEBOUND CHURCH FAMILY

Gather with us as we go Christmas Caroling to our homebound church family. Meet at 2 p.m. at the church. **Contact Renée Kloes for more information. renee@fumcbeaumont.org**



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

\$16.50 by check, or \$17.35 by credit card online. The deadline for reserving a plant is Sunday, December 17, 2023.

These will be placed in the sanctuary prior to Christmas Eve and may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one.

Plants may be purchased online at fumcbeaumont.org/poinsettias or by completing the form below. Completed forms may place it in the offering plate during worship or put it in Sonya's box in the work room.

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

DONOR(S) _____

PHONE NUMBER _____



Ines Alvidres

*"I create "FRIENDLY ABSTRACT STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART,"
Always with the hope to put a smile on your face."*

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

On Sunday, December 3rd, local artist Ines Alvidres brought her talents to First United Methodist Church Beaumont as part of a hands on congregational painting event. We explored the theme of "Hope in the Dark".

Artist's Bio

I was born in the land of the "inexhaustible runners," The Tarahumaras. I remember seeing them for the first time as a child in the markets of downtown Chihuahua and immediately felt a connection. When they came together in the markets, they stood out and became a composition of color. They truly embodied every element of art, and it moved me.

My upbringing was a humble one surrounded by community, friendships, and education. My family and I are very close, and our relationships are full of love and memories. My father taught me what hard-work and dedication are. He started a business from nothing and

showed me what it is to be resourceful on the path of achieving your dreams.



My mother was another great example of being resilient. She stayed home to take care of my three brothers, sister, and me, and she started making

menudo to sell every Saturday to help with the household expenses.

She became so well-known for her delicious soup that 20 years later our neighbors from Mexico still talk about it.

I remember walking to school at a young age. My mother walked with me until I was old enough to go alone when the journey became my own. The distances varied; the backpacks got heavier, but the weather never changed. It was always extreme, either too hot or too cold. I was developing an endurance that was preparing me to tackle future challenges with a positive perspective.



My inspiration mainly comes from my surroundings, especially nature. The best part of being an artist, I believe, is the fact that there are no limits.

I can be creating a series of birds and flowers, but there will be a need to use the leftover paint on my brush to create a new raw and abstract piece.

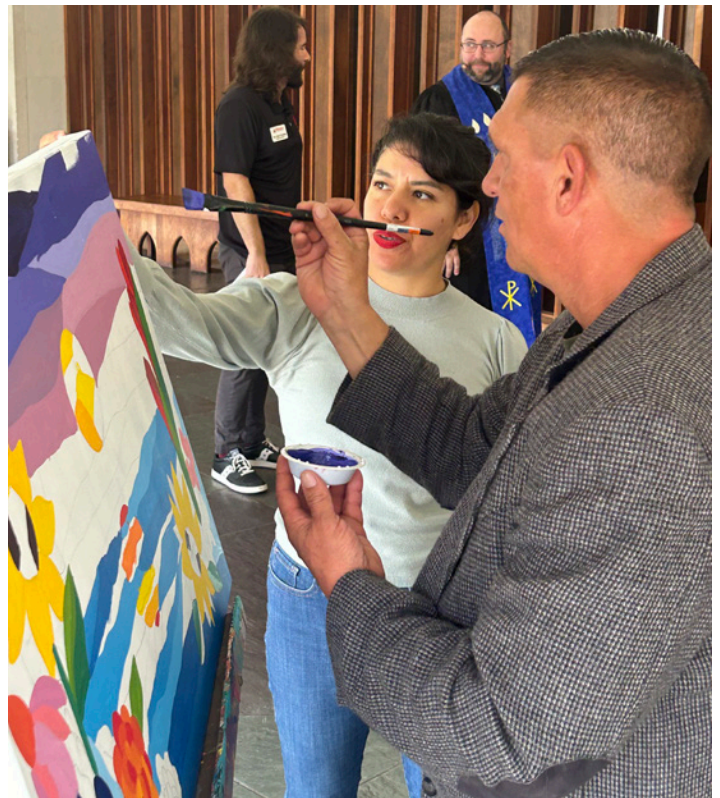
I was once asked by a friend what I thought about a piece of art work at a museum. He interrupted me before I could answer, saying, "I don't want you to tell me if you like it or not, but how does it make you feel?"

After that experience every time I saw a painting, a sculpture, or even listened to a song, it was never about what I thought, but how it made me feel. Everything changed especially the way I create. My hope is that when you encounter my artwork, I can create a positive emotion in you.

When I decided to become an artist, I asked myself, 'are you willing to do this or not?' Either answer was fine, but saying 'yes' meant hard-work and challenges. I felt that I had a solid foundation to follow my dreams. When I decided to do more research on The Tarahumaras, I found that they are so much more than just the colorful impression I had of them as a child. They are mainly known for their endurance, and I then understood why I was drawn to them on a deeper level. Growing up, we do not realize what is preparing us for the stages of our life. When I look back on the challenges, experiences, and connections, these impactful moments inspire me to share the power of art anywhere life takes me.

Since the beginning, the main ingredients for my artwork have been the variety and combination of bright colors that I use in my paintings.

I always trusted that my artwork and I were going to evolve with the years and with experience.



Watch for the completed group painting to be on display later this winter.



OYSTER AND GUMBO SUPPER

Volunteer Commitments Needed

Oyster and Gumbo supper has been a huge event and offered us an opportunity to connect with our community and support a variety of missional organizations. We are considering whether or not we can bring the event back next year on Thursday February 29th. If we are going to bring it back, we need your help now! If you or an organization you work with are able to commit to volunteering for at least a 4-hour shift that day OR if you are willing to help develop sponsorships to underwrite the cost of the event, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing –

office@fumcbeaumont.org.

Leadership Task Force

CHURCH CONFERENCE RESULTS

From the December 5, 2023 Pastor's Blog entry –

I am excited to share that last night's Church Conference meeting went very well and the resolution from the task force was unanimously affirmed! 31 of our church members came out to participate in our official Church Conference vote. As I shared last night, this is a great and meaningful step that proves what we've been saying for a while now - you are ready and determined to do what it takes to lay a solid foundation for the future of what God will do in and through us.

AND... now is when the real work begins!

Last night's vote is only the first step in developing a clear and compelling vision for our future, while also aligning our people and resources in service of that vision. I am confident that the steps we are taking now will help us make better decisions and develop more fruitful and effective ministries. It will be vital for us to take advantage of the reduced administrative requirements in order to invest more time and energy in the hands on work of Christ.

There will be much more to say and do as we begin to live into a new structure of leadership beginning January 1st. For now, I'll simply share a couple of details:

Board meetings will generally happen on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6-7:30pm. The 3rd Monday in January is a holiday, which means the meeting will actually take place on the 4th Monday (Jan 22nd).

Board meetings will always be open to the public, although only Board members will have voice or vote

(unless specifically noted on the Agenda or recognized by the Board chair). You are encouraged to attend so that you can listen to what the Board is discussing and reach out to Board members between meetings if you have questions or concerns.

Note: Certain personnel or legal matters may require the Board to enter executive session in which all discussion and votes would remain confidential.

Public board documentation will be available via a public Google Drive link that you can preview by clicking here (currently, the approved leadership list and Church and Charge Conference minutes are uploaded - new documents and resources will be added over time). Agendas and meeting resources will be added by the end of the week prior to a Board meeting. Minutes and other updates will be available shortly after the meetings. Personnel records, legal documents, and staff salary information will be kept separate to remain confidential.

I am grateful for your input, feedback, and questions throughout this two month + process. Please keep asking questions and keep imagining new ways to be faithful so that we can continue to expand our impact and more fully love the city with the heart of Christ!

For current drafts of the documents and more ways to participate or learn, go to our new Pastor's Blog at fumcbeaumont.org/pastorsblog

WEEKLY RHYTHMS

SUNDAYS

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

Light in the Dark Study with Pastor Jeremy
Noon | Library | Nov. 8 - Dec. 21

Chancel Choir Practice
6 p.m.

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


THURSDAYS


Handchime Practice
10 a.m.

DECEMBER DATES TO KNOW


DECEMBER

SUN., DECEMBER 10


 **Breakfast with Santa**
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Rothwell Hall

 **First Family Gathering – Feeding Our Neighbors**
Preparing – 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. | Serving – 3 p.m.
Gather with Scott Gittinger as we prepare food for our neighbors.

TUE., DECEMBER 12

 **Giving Tree Gifts Due**
Please return your fulfilled giving tree tags before 12/12 to First UMC Beaumont.


WED., DECEMBER 13


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

FRI., DECEMBER 15

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


SAT., DECEMBER 16

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

 **First UMC Choir Concert – JOY! Light Dawns**

7 pm | Sanctuary
A sharing of the Light of Christmas to benefit Sleep in Heavenly Peace by the FUMC Beaumont Chancel Choir and friends.

SUN., DECEMBER 17


 **First Family Gathering – Caroling to Our Homebound Church Family**
Meet at 2 p.m. at the church

Poinsettia Orders Due
Order online at fumcbeaumont.org/poinsettias or with an order form.

TUE., DECEMBER 19

United Women in Faith – UMW
6 p.m. | Rothwell Hall

SAT., DECEMBER 23

 **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.

SUN., DECEMBER 24

 **Sunday Worship Service**
Early Time! – 10 a.m.

 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
4 p.m.

MON., DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
Church office closed December 25 – January 1.

SUN., DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve

 **Sunday Worship Service**
Early Time! – 10 a.m.

MON., JANUARY 1, 2024

New Years Day
Church Office Closed

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Christmas to New Years Day
December 25 – January 1
Office open by appointment only.
Office reopens January 2

STAY CONNECTED

 @fumcbeaumont

 @fumcbeaumont

 First UMC Beaumont

 fumcbeaumont.org

 (409) 920-PRAY



Loving the city with the *Heart of Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

First United Methodist Church Beaumont Presents

JOY!

CONCERT

featuring the FUMC Chancel Choir

Light Dawns

DECEMBER 16, 2023 | 7 PM

Directed by Renée Kloes | Organ & Piano by Janie Greenway
Benefitting Sleep in Heavenly Peace

First United Methodist Church | 701 Calder Ave., Beaumont, TX, 77701 | (409)-832-0295 | fumcbeaumont.org

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