

*in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2024

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Greetings!

I'm excited to begin another year in Beaumont as we seek new ways to faithfully serve our neighbors and our God. I strongly encourage you to find one new way to plug in and take a step forward in the new year. Serve a meal with Kairos, join a prayer group, build a bed, write welcome letters, support our partner daycare, ask a neighbor how we can serve them - these are just a handful of the ways you can grow in love and service for the year ahead.

While we continue to serve and learn and grow, our new Leadership Board has begun its work to help lay a strong foundation for our future. This is the group responsible for helping us clarify and build around a clear vision for our future. Join the Board for its initial Town Hall February 24th in Rothwell Hall (gather at 9:45am, conversation starts promptly at 10am). Go to fumcbeaumont.org/pastorsblog for more details on their initial meeting. Or head to fumcbeaumont.org/board to find all available Board records.

As we acknowledged in worship throughout November and December, times of change are always challenging, even when change is for the better. Please continue offering your feedback and sharing your dreams for our church's future. I am grateful for your support and generosity as we build on the legacy we've been handed in a way that will bless our community for generations to come!

Pastor Jeremy

Rev. Jeremy Wester, Lead Pastor



COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

February 4, 2024

Some Other Place

February 18, 2024

Rainbow Room

March 3, 2024

Sleep In Heavenly Peace

March 17, 2024

Letchford Missionaries

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!

February 4 - 10

Charlton Pollard Elementary
Wesley Foundation at Lamar University
Buda-Kyle Young Life

February 11-17

Little Cypress Mauriceville High School
Alzheimer's Association
Wesley Methodist Church, Beaumont

February 18-24

All Saints Episcopal School
Temple Emmanuel
Daughters of American Revolution

February 25-March 2

Jones-Clark Elementary School
Some Other Place
St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

DID YOU KNOW?

The earliest recorded First UMC Oyster Supper was in 1937 in the dome church's basement. In 1937 you could enjoy "all you can eat oysters with the trimmings" for the flat sum of 25¢, prepared by the Methodist Men's group.

Below is an article from the Beaumont Enterprise archive, originally published on February 8, 1937.

Monday, February 8, 1937

DETERS

METHODIST MEN PREPARE FOR 150

Fellowship Class Members
Will Cook and Serve
Dinner Tonight

About 150 guests are expected at the regular monthly dinner of the Young Men's Fellowship class of the First Methodist church tonight at 6:30 o'clock in the church basement. A novelty program has been planned with Joe Singleton acting as master of ceremonies.

The dinner will be in the form of an oyster supper and a novel feature of it will be that the oysters will be prepared and served by the men themselves.

With B. N. Kiker in charge of the kitchen forces the chances are considered good that the fellows will enjoy their feed. Derrill Jones will head the attendance committee and David Hearn the entertainment committee. All the oysters one can eat—with trimmings—have been guaranteed for the flat sum of 25 cents.

A male quartet composed of Sam Foster, Ray Hucker, Homer Howell and Jim McGrew will entertain and George Fulton will sing a bass solo. Keith Hotchkiss will make a short talk.



OYSTER & GUMBO SUPPER

FEB. 29
THURSDAY
4:30 - 6:30 P.M.

IT'S BACK! – OYSTER & GUMBO SUPPER
THURSDAY, FEB. 29 | 4:30-6:30 P.M.

Come be our guest and join us in our mission of loving the city with the heart of Christ. Proceeds benefit various local non profits and community partnerships – Some Other Place, Rainbow Room, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Lamar Wesley Foundation, Kairos Kitchen, and Charlton-Pollard Elementary School.

Tickets can be purchased for \$35 online at fumcbeaumont.org or at the church office before Sunday, February 25th. Tickets can also be purchased at the door, unless sold out. Dine-in or carry-out available. Kids 10 and under can eat free. Tell your friends!

ON THE MENU

Fried & Raw Oysters
Chicken & Sausage Gumbo
French Fries
Cole Slaw



GET TICKETS



Pantry Plea

Dear Friends,
Some Other Place is instigating a “new”, old program to support their Food Pantry. Twelve supporting congregations are each being challenged to take one month of the year to “Stock the Pantry.” Marianne Kondo and I as FUMC’s representatives have chosen March to be “our” month. As you are aware, food insecurity is one of the most significant issues facing American families and the elderly. We hope to make a difference by ensuring that the Pantry is well stocked every March.

The Pantry manager would like us to know that it is best to buy in smaller sizes as Board of Health regulations will not allow them to re-package any food into smaller portions. Therefore, 1 lb. bags of rice, beans, lentils, pasta, etc. are preferred to larger ones as are smaller bags of sugar and flour. In February, the Pantry manager will provide me with a list of those items most needed at the time. A complete list of preferred items can be found below. I suggest you keep a copy of it for future reference.

Items from our pantries are fine provided the best by dates have not passed. I know that many of us still will use goods that are a bit out of date, but regulations prevent them from being used by the Pantry.

If you would prefer not to shop or lug items into the church, checks and gift cards are also appreciated. I would prefer that everything donated be delivered at the same time near the beginning of the month so that FUMC will be recognized as having fulfilled our part of our partnership with Some Other Place.

I know we are appreciated for our long standing and generous relationship with Some Other Place. Let’s show them how it’s done! Feel free to contact me, Liza Nelson, if you need further information or have ideas or suggestions. I would love hearing from you.

Liza Nelson

— The Some Other Place Pantry List —

Canned Veggies

Any kind of beans
Peas
Carrots
Spinach
Greens (any kind)

Soups and Stew

Beef Stew
Noodle Soup
Minestrone
Lentil
Clam Chowder

Seasonings

Salt/pepper
Garlic/onion powder
Chili powder
Mrs. Dash

Snacks

Puddings
Jell-O
Peanut butter crackers
Crackers and cheese
Sandwich cookies

Dry Goods

Sugar (white/brown)Flour
Pasta
Jiffy Cornbread
Coffee
Teas
Dry Milk
Potato flakes

Canned Meats

Chicken
Tuna
Vienna Sausage
Spam

Produce

Potatoes
Onions
Bell Peppers

Juices

Kool-Aid
Apple
Orange
Cranberry
Grape

Miscellaneous

Peanut butter
Jelly (grape, strawberry, blackberry)
Mustard
Mayonnaise
Ketchup
Cooking oil

Breads

Sandwich (white/wheat)
Hamburger/hotdog buns
Frozen garlic bread

Dairy

Cheese slices
Yogurt
Butter
Eggs (half dozen carton)
Shelf milk 2%

Meats

1 lb. ground beef Hotdogs
Breakfast sausage
Deli meats (turkey, bologna, ham, salami)

REFLECTIONS ON OUR FIRST LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2024, BY REV. JEREMY WESTER

Our Leadership Board had its first meeting on Monday January 22nd. We began the meeting with a reminder that where we focus our attention determines what we are capable of seeing. We streamlined our Leadership structure in part so that less people would be required to serve on our administrative committees and more members would be freed up to do the vital work of ministry. But perhaps even more importantly, we did so to ensure that there is a group of church leaders focusing their attention on the overall mission and vision of the church. If we don't develop a clear and shared set of goals and priorities aligned around our mission, it will be impossible to know if we're making the most faithful decisions for how we accomplish that mission.

Most of our meeting time was spent becoming familiar with the various reports and documents for which the Board is responsible. But the heart of our conversation was centered on figuring out how clear we are about what our mission is and getting a sense of where we can start the work of fulfilling that mission. The United Methodist Church's mission is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We have a great statement on the website meant to define our particular way of fulfilling that mission - "Loving the city with the heart of Christ." We reiterate that statement all the time in worship. And I know it is a statement that many of our church members believe is the heart of all that we are called to do.

What we have to determine is 1) whether this statement is clear enough that we have a shared understanding of what we mean when we say it, and 2) whether this is the statement around which we are ready to explicitly align the whole work of the church (budgets, priorities, goals, teams, staff, etc). If the statement is clear and we're ready to reaffirm it, our work will focus on how to make the kind of people who love the city with the heart of Christ. And if that's not the right framing for our part of God's mission, then we must determine how to discern a more accurate statement.

The process of finalizing a decision will be led by the Board, but the Board will not make any decision alone. You'll have opportunities for feedback and input along the way, beginning with our first Leadership Board Town Hall on Sunday February 25th. We'll gather in Rothwell Hall at 9:45am and the conversation will begin promptly at 10am. You'll have a chance to hear more about what the Board is discussing and a chance to ask your questions or share your concerns.

It may take all of the next two years to fully discuss and reaffirm (or rewrite) our mission statement - but the work of the church will not slow down while the big picture comes into focus. While my attention and last few updates have been focused on the Board, I want to remind you that the work of the Board is meaningless if it does not encourage, inspire, and make possible the hands-on work of ministry that we

are all called to as a church. In service of that further work, the Nominations Committee is working to clarify a list of all current ministries taking place and the leaders of those ministries. Be on the lookout for updates and/or information requests from that group in the next month or two as we develop the work of that crucial group.

Finally, you can always access all public records from the Board by going to fumcbeaumont.org/board or you can stop by the office and view a hard copy of those records. Included in both places is a list of all of our elected leadership (the Leadership Board and our Nominations and Leadership Development Committee). And please check out the Spire, our worship bulletins, and/or get on our email list for regular updates on all the many upcoming activities and opportunities for service.

I am so grateful for all that you have done for generations to love the city with the heart of Christ! And I feel so lucky to help guide us through the process of laying a solid foundation for generations to come.

PASTOR'S BLOG

Stay up to date with the ins and outs of First UMC in Pastor Jeremy'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

**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.

FEBRUARY & MARCH DATES TO KNOW


FEBRUARY

SAT., FEBRUARY 10

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

Pre register at bit.ly/shpevent


WED., FEBRUARY 14

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


Contact Ruby Nelson

 **AGO Lenten Organ Recital Series Begins**


Performance by Janie Greenway
Noon | Sanctuary


 **Ash Wednesday Service**
6:30 p.m.

FRI., FEBRUARY 16


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

SAT., FEBRUARY 17


 **Second Saturday Faith Seminar**
Parlor (Faith Questers) | 9 a.m. - Noon
(Rescheduled from Sat., 11/11)

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

MON., FEBRUARY 19

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

WED., FEBRUARY 21

 **AGO Lenten Organ Recital Series**
Performances by
Dwight Peirce & Orvalee Husband
Noon | Sanctuary


SAT., FEBRUARY 24

 **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., FEBRUARY 25

 **Quarterly Leadership Board Town Hall**
9:45-10:45 a.m. | Rothwell Hall

WED., FEBRUARY 28

 **AGO Lenten Organ Recital Series**
Performances by Masako Gaskin & Chris Richter
Noon | Sanctuary

THU., FEBRUARY 29

 **Oyster & Gumbo Supper**
4:30-6:30 pm
Tickets \$35 at fumcbeaumont.org

STAY CONNECTED

 @fumcbeaumont

 @fumcbeaumont

 First UMC Beaumont

 fumcbeaumont.org

 (409) 920-PRAY

MARCH

WED., MARCH 6

AGO Lenten Organ Recital Series

Performance by Katya McMahon

Noon | Sanctuary

SAT., MARCH 9

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

(Rescheduled from Sat., 11/11)

SUN., MARCH 10

Daylight Saving Time Begins

WED., MARCH 13

Games Day

10 a.m. | Fun & Fellowship.

Contact Ruby Nelson

AGO Lenten Organ Recital Series

Performances by Rachel Stiles & Thomas Furlow

Noon | Sanctuary

FRI., MARCH 15

Some Other Place Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SAT., MARCH 16

SHP Delivery Day

9 a.m. - Noon

2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Bring your cordless drill with charged up batteries.

MON., MARCH 18

Leadership Board Meeting

6 p.m. | Library

WED., MARCH 20

AGO Lenten Organ Recital Series

Performance by Jerome Wells

Noon | Sanctuary

SAT., MARCH 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., MARCH 24

Palm Sunday

11 a.m. Worship Service

THU., MARCH 28

Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. Worship Service

FRI., MARCH 29

Good Friday

6:30 p.m. Worship Service

SUN., MARCH 31

Easter Day

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m. Worship Service



AGO LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS AT FIRST UMC

The Beaumont chapter of the American Guild of Organists and First United Methodist Church Beaumont invite you to our Lenten Organ Recital series. Members of the Beaumont AGO will be performing short organ programs on Wednesdays at noon, beginning February 14 through March 20. A love offering will be collected each week to benefit the Rainbow Room. A light lunch will be provided each week that may be eaten on site or as take-away.

MARDI GRAS ROAD CLOSURES

The following dates & times are when the church will be cut-off for Mardi Gras traffic.

Fri., Feb. 9 | 5pm - 8pm

Sat., Feb. 10 | 7am - noon & 5pm - 8pm

Sun., Feb. 11 | 12:30 - 4pm

FEB. SECOND SATURDAY FAITH SEMINAR RESCHEDULED

The Faith Seminar will be held in the Faith Questers Classroom/Parlor on February 17th from 9-12. Note change of date due to Mardi Gras Parade Activities on the 2nd Saturday, which is February 10th.



Loving the city with the *Heart of Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS

Wednesdays at Noon
Benefitting the Rainbow Room

*Presented by the American Guild of Organists, Beaumont Chapter
& First United Methodist Church Beaumont*

Performances by

Janie Greenway 2/14

Dwight Peirce &
Orvalee Husband 2/21

Masako Gaskin &
Chris Richter 2/28

Katya McMahon 3/6

Rachel Stiles &
Thomas Furlow 3/13

Jerome Wells 3/20

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