

*in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2024

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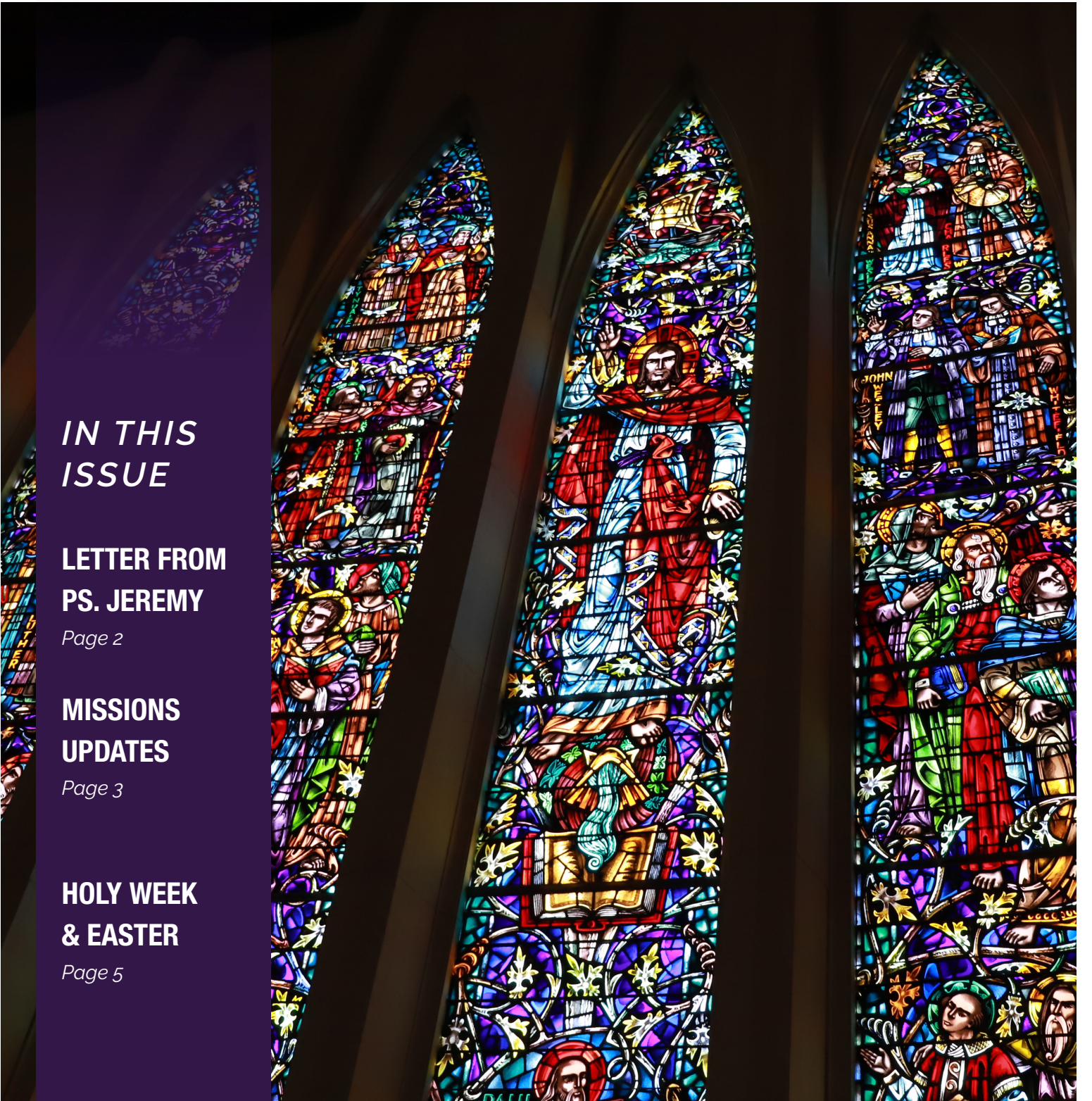
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A letter from

PASTOR JEREMY WESTER

Greetings!

Our Leadership Board held its second ever meeting on Monday, February 19th. The primary focal point of the meeting was continuing the conversation on how to reaffirm (or reimagine) our mission statement. Clarifying our mission is vital so that we can begin to align all that we do around a shared sense of purpose and direction. On some level, our mission is already clear and dictated by our membership in the United Methodist denomination - we are called "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." While all United Methodist churches participate in this shared work, discipleship can take on many different forms depending on the context. Our challenge as a local congregation, then, is to translate "making disciples" in a way that clearly speaks to our time and location.

In light of that challenge, I asked the board to reflect on two questions leading up to this week's meeting - "what is a disciple?" And "is our current mission statement adequate to guide us toward making that kind of people?" We had a fruitful discussion and some of our notes can be found in the meeting packet at fumcbeaumont.org/board. It is crucial to invite you into the conversation as well, which is why we focused on these two questions at the Leadership Board Town Hall on Feb 25th.

The direction in which our church moves over time and how quickly we can move forward will be dictated by how similarly our church members think about the answers to these two questions. I'd be grateful to hear your feedback any time. You can email or call me, or find time to talk with another Board member.

In addition to moving forward in this vitally important conversation, the Board accomplished a great deal of practical, concrete work as well. A few highlights that I'd like to share:

1) I'm excited to announce that the Board unanimously approved a proposal to bring Erika Clabough on full time.

The two main reasons for the move are to help us develop more externally focused communication strategies and to help us through the next two years as we develop a clear vision and plan for our long term future.

2) The Board committed to reading through a book called *Canoeing the Mountains* over the rest of the year. The book speaks to the challenges of leading into uncharted territory and offers guidance for how a church can more effectively adapt and grow.

3) Judy Brunton was approved to do some work on the gardens around the church grounds. She is developing a small group around gardening and spirituality - Board approval was only necessary since the group will do work that alters the church grounds. If you like to garden, I recommend checking in with her as the plans are finalized and the group begins meeting.

4) We are exploring a potential partnership with Spoonful of Love. This is a non profit that provides after school meals for kids as a means of sharing the love of God. They are based in Houston, but looking to establish a presence in Jefferson County. We'll be sure to update you if an agreement is reached to host this great organization.

As always, you can go to fumcbeaumont.org/board - there you will find all meeting packets, agendas, minutes, budget reports, etc. Please reach out to me or another Board member anytime with your questions, concerns, and comments. And please continue to pray for all the incredible work that our church will do long into the future!

Pastor Jeremy

Rev. Jeremy Wester, Lead Pastor



COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

March 3, 2024

Sleep In Heavenly Peace

March 17, 2024

Letchford Missionaries

April 7, 2024

Seafarer's Center

April 21, 2024

Society of St. Stephen's

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 25-March 2

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

March 3-9

Rotary Club of Beaumont
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Stephen F. Austin Elementary, Baytown

March 17-23

Catholic Charities
Peter E. Hyland Center, Baytown
Calvary Baptist, Beaumont

March 24-30

Girl Scouts
Cedar Bayou Kr. High, Baytown
West Gate Church of Christ



KAIROS KITCHEN

Our February Kairos dinner was a huge success! A few highlights: We welcomed **over 100 guests** for dinner. The day began at 2pm with 45 folks playing bingo and eating popcorn. We hosted a Spiderman themed birthday party. We gave away all our food and all the back up food and most of the dessert! Join us next month at 2 for more bingo and popcorn, help cook from 2-5, or help serve, eat, and clean from 5-7!

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Since forming in 2019, The Beaumont chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace delivered their **3,500th bed** this February. SHP's goal for 2024 is to build 120 beds per month. If you would like to volunteer or donate to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, visit – shpbeds.org/chapter/tx-beaumont/

About SHP – Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a non-profit organization that builds and delivers beds to children who do not have a bed. They are a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need.

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 May.

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 Snook
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.


MARCH & APRIL DATES TO KNOW

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

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


TUE., MARCH 19

 **United Women in Faith**
6 p.m. | Rothwell Hall
Mary Early, Hostess

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

STAY CONNECTED

 @fumcbeaumont

 @fumcbeaumont

 First UMC Beaumont

 fumcbeaumont.org

 (409) 920-PRAY

APRIL

WED., APRIL 10

Games Day

10 a.m. | Fun & Fellowship.

Contact Ruby Nelson

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.

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.



PALM SUNDAY — MARCH 24 • 11 A.M.

The name comes from a story in the Bible in which Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem were super-excited that Jesus was coming to their city to celebrate a big religious festival. In their excitement, the people grabbed palm branches to wave around and threw their cloaks before Jesus on the road. The whole scene might have looked something like an ancient ticker tape parade. Today, we still commemorate Palm Sunday. It starts off a week of remembrance for Christians, often referred to as Holy Week. The week ends with the celebration of Easter, and throughout this week we mark the different events that led to Jesus' Resurrection and Easter. This means that Palm Sunday is a kind of paradoxical celebration. The paradox is that we celebrate knowing full well what came next in the story, after Jesus' triumphal entry: he was rejected, betrayed and crucified. Our Sunday morning service will be a joyous one, a feast of prayers, palms, and music!

MAUNDY THURSDAY — MARCH 28 • 6:30 P.M.

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." As recorded in the gospels, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them. Our Maundy Thursday service will likewise include a symbolic "foot washing" and communion service.

GOOD FRIDAY — MARCH 29 • 6:30 P.M.

Good Friday proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world even in the face of human rejection and cruelty through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is holy and makes us holy because God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ. Our worship service will feature a traditional stripping of the sanctuary, a solemn service of readings, prayers, and music.

EASTER SUNDAY — MARCH 31 • 11 A.M.

The Easter Season is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace. Our Easter Sunday service is also joyous and celebrative, filled with beautiful flowers, glorious music, and an up-lifting message!



Pantry Plea

Dear Friends,

As we shared last month, 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. We are asking you to do what you can to help!

Most of the items that are urgently needed are perishable items (such as ground beef, eggs, and cheese). Therefore, we are asking you to primarily consider making a monetary and grocery store gift card donations in support of the food pantry and we will purchase those items in bulk. Doing so will make it much easier to ensure food stays fresh and their most pressing needs are met. Find the link to our online donation platform at fumcbeaumont.org/give and select “Some Other Place Fund” in the drop down menu OR write “Some Other Place food pantry” in the memo line of a check to ensure your donation goes to support this effort.

We will continue to receive canned goods and other items from the list if preferred. Remember 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. And smaller portions are better to avoid having to repackage.

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)

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	Masako Gaskin & Chris Richter 2/28	Rachel Stiles & Thomas Furlow 3/13
Dwight Peirce & Orvalee Husband 2/21	Katya McMahon 3/6	Jerome Wells 3/20

701 Calder Avenue, Beaumont, TX • fumcbeaumont.org

AGO LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS AT FIRST UMC

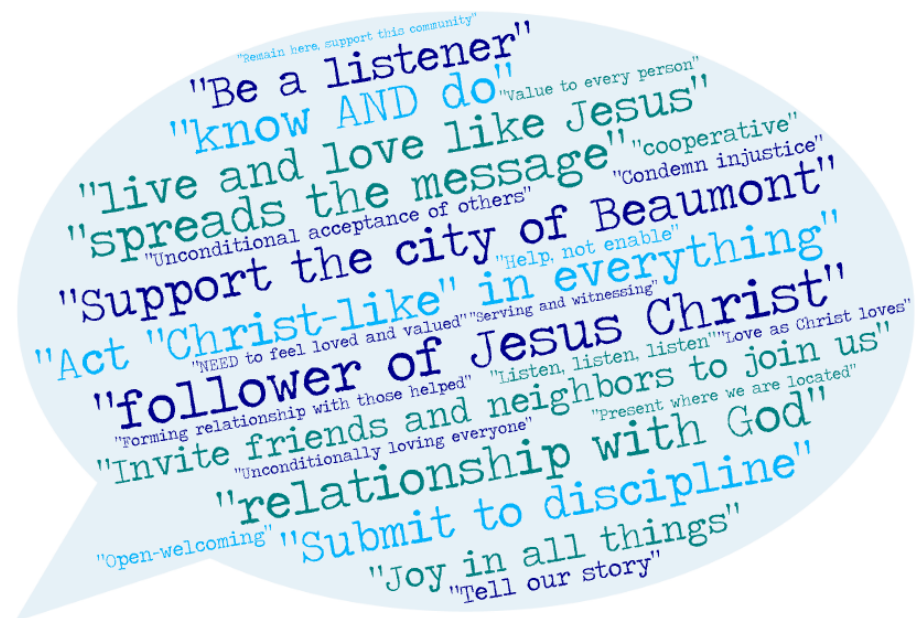
The Beaumont chapter of the American Guild of Organists and First United Methodist Church Beaumont invite you to our Lenten Organ Recital series. Members of the Beaumont AGO will be performing short organ programs on Wednesdays at noon, beginning February 14 through March 20. A love offering will be 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.



Oyster & Gumbo Supper 2024

Thank you everyone for supporting this year's Oyster & Gumbo Supper! We appreciate our patrons, congregants, volunteers, donors, and everyone who helped make this year's benefit a success.

Proceeds from this year's supper benefit Charlton Pollard Elementary School, Kairos Kitchen, Rainbow Room, Some Other Place, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and The Wesley at Lamar University.



Leadership Board Town Hall

Our Leadership Board Town Hall provided an invitation for the church to join in our conversation about the mission and future of our church congregation. We were asked "what is a disciple?" and "what does it look like to love with the heart of Christ?" You'll find initial reflections on the meeting at the Pastor's blog (fumcbeaumont.org/pastorsblog) as well as a link to all the feedback received. And remember, you can always go to fumcbeaumont.org/board to find notes and records on everything the Leadership Board is doing.



Loving the city with the *Heart of Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday

March 24 • 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

March 28 • 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

March 29 • 6:30 p.m.

Easter Day

Sunday, March 31

Breakfast — 9:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt — 10:15 a.m.

Worship Service — 11 a.m.