



THE *Spire*

BEAUMONT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2019

BIBLE READING PLAN

- 1 Matt. 19:1-30
- 2 Selah**
- 3 Luke 6:20-31
- 4 Matt. 20:1-9
- 5 Matt. 20:20-34
- 6 Matt. 21:1-22
- 7 Matt. 21:23-46
- 8 Matt. 23:1-12
- 9 Selah**
- 10 2 Thess. 2:13-17
- 11 Matt. 23:13-39
- 12 Matt. 24:1-35
- 13 Matt. 24:36-51
- 14 Matt. 25:1-30
- 15 Matt. 25:31-46
- 16 Selah**
- 17 Psalm 98
- 18 Matt. 26:1-16
- 19 Matt. 26:17-35
- 20 Matt. 26:36-56
- 21 Matt. 26:57-68
- 22 Matt. 26:68-75
- 23 Selah**
- 24 Col. 1:11-20
- 25 Matt. 26:57-75
- 26 Matt. 27:1-26
- 27 Matt. 27:27-44
- 28 Matt. 27:45-66
- 29 Matt. 28:1-20
- 30 Selah**



THINK, LEARN, DO

He has an excellent voice for reading scripture, shows up every month for Kairos and SHP bed builds, wearing fighter pilot sunglasses, a great smile, and wielding a quick wit, but how well do you know Gene Soper? I knew enough to expect lively conversation and of course, a good dose of laughter. I always start with a person's childhood, learning what they liked to do, and the early experiences that helped them become the person they are today. I learned about a boy who changed schools often, attending 16 different schools in 12 years, a boy who loved to read and learn, a boy who wanted to fly airplanes. I asked about a life lesson that changed him in some way, and he told me about a professor from his

Story and photography by Michelle Holland

college days and a discussion about how many Jews were killed in WWII. He let them argue about the numbers before making the simple statement that they were missing the point because one was too many. Gene realized that learning to think, to question,

"If you only watch from the sidelines and never participate, you miss so much of what helping others is all about."

to examine everything was what a college education was all about. You shouldn't accept an answer because it is easy or

STOUFFER'S

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SPLAGCHNA

From the Side Burner

A couple of weeks ago I mentioned a couple of words used in the Greek New Testament and that I had a third favorite word in Greek. That word looks like this: **σπλάγχνα, ων!** When transliterated into English letters it looks like this: splagchna, on! Part of what I like

about is the three consonant sounds of the 'g', 'ch', and 'n' together. I find it fun to pronounce!

Even more than saying it, I am intrigued by its meaning: literally it means "intestines" and figuratively it means "the part of me without which I cannot live." It is often translated as "heart" as in the Apostle Paul's letter to Philemon in verse 12. Paul uses this word three times in that one very brief letter to convey the depth of relationship among Christ-followers both in the church Colossae and in the larger Body of Christ.

One of my favorite things to do is to cook meals, though sometimes I get stuck focussing on what's cooking on a side-burner and miss paying most attention to the main course. Funny words like

splagchna are like that for me sometimes too. I can become so micro-focused that I miss the big picture. I'm thankful that the very word that leads me to distraction reminds that the depth of our relationships as friends and Christ-followers is the main purpose in our course of life. And sharing our hearts with one another and with the world around us is the reason we are hear together. I'm thankful that we're all here together to fulfill God's call upon our lives to make disciples of Jesus who love this city with the heart of Christ!



Rev. Jon Stouffer, Lead Pastor



SOME OTHER PLACE

Excerpt by Bonnie Madden

Some Other Place, a local faith-based mission, was initiated in 1968 by a group holding its first meeting at First United Methodist Church. Who would have thought this small group of well wishers who offered sewing classes and dispensed clothing would grow into a community resource, attempting to meet the needs of individuals who have exhausted all other sources of assistance? Last year alone Some Other Place helped over 4,000 families, over 10,000 individuals, and served over 10,829 soup kitchen and home delivered meals, plus provided a Thanksgiving store, back-to-school materials, and Christmas giving Trees.

COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

Some Other Place

November 3

Society of St. Stephen

November 17

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)

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What are you most **THANKFUL** for?



"God."

-SHANE BOUTTE

"I am grateful for the many years Merle and I had together, and for my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren."

-JIMMY BOOKER



"Friends."

-DENNIS MOORE

"the ability to enjoy life no matter what happens."

-CHARLOTTE SEALY



"the opportunity to help others through mission projects"

-LYDIA GREEN

"Shelter."

-NATHAN BIKSEY



"I would maintain that **THANKS** is the highest form of thought; that **GRATITUDE** is **HAPPINESS** doubled by **WONDER**."

-G. K. CHESTERTON

... Think, Learn, Do continued from front page

because someone gives it to you, you need to think and learn for yourself. We talked about life as a series of lessons and how sometimes terrible things happen to us that we don't understand at the time, but when we look back, we can see God was always at work, patiently teaching us to trust him, and bringing us better days and blessings we never expected.

I heard fantastic tales of Gene's mother, a nurse, stationed at Pearl Harbor during WWII, and I could tell by his stories, she was a significant influence in his life. She was a tough lady with a soft side, a military nurse, but also a faithful member of the Methodist church, and she made sure Gene was there every Sunday. She forced him to wear a suit and tie, much to his dismay, since no one else had to. He told me about hiding from her on Sunday mornings, but she always managed to find him. When Gene was 10, his mom did something that he never forgot. She reached out to a homeless man, asked if he was hungry, and bought him lunch at the restaurant where they were eating after church. She would be happy to see Gene at the grill every month for Kairos, serving up one of John's Wright's exclusive recipes.

We talked about action and how working with the homeless has changed him. If you only watch from the sidelines and never participate, you miss so much of what helping others is all about. He told me how Kairos has enabled him to really see people, and the feeling you get from giving of yourself can't be compared to anything else. It's not about Sunday service or the act of going to church, but what we do with the things we learn and the actions we take. It's how we live out our principles and do what we can in the time and space we find ourselves. I asked him for words of wisdom, something life has taught him, and this is what I learned, "You may think you're doing good, but are you just doing enough to get by? Strive to be better, try harder, and never stop learning." I couldn't agree more. ❤️

KEEPING UP WITH FIRST KIDS

Story by Stephanie Denham, Photography by Michelle Holland



We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, meeting the needs of this city, even the littlest among us! First UMC has had a long-standing mission to reach our community, and our First Kids Ministry is no different! We are focused on growing the future of our church and standing alongside our existing ministries. Each Sunday, we strive to offer a

unique and hands-on experience for our First Kids. Our focus is not merely reading the traditional Bible stories but finding ways to relate those stories to our daily lives. We learn about real-world issues and find practical ways that we can help. First Kids and United Youth have been inspired by the love continuously shown at Kairos Kitchen and has found a way to

support this wonderful ministry and beyond!

FIRST FRUITS

First Fruits is an initiative to develop the fully sustainable production of fresh, high-quality fruits and vegetables to be grown indoors, year-round, to serve our church, our partnerships, and our community.

Although First Fruits was only established this past August, our children were already able to participate in their first harvest! Together with Mr. Charlie Snoek, we cut and served our church family over 60 servings of our freshly grown salad mix. For seven weeks, our children have watched and tended the Tower Garden to serve this first harvest to us all. We

are so proud of their dedication, willingness to help, and their ability to see others through the eyes of Christ!

KAIRO'S KITCHEN

Kairo's Kitchen will be closed for November and December. The next opportunity to serve is **January 25.**

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.

EJ STOCKING FUND 105TH ANNIVERSARY

Info courtesy of the Beaumont Enterprise

ORIGINS

Florence Stratton, a good-hearted society editor, created The Beaumont Journal Milk and Ice Fund in 1914 to provide services for the poor in the hot summer months. It was moved to the holiday season in 1920. When the Beaumont Journal and the Enterprise newspapers merged in 1983, the name was changed.

E.J., the adorable toddler mascot in footed pajamas, was brought to life in 1982 by editorial sketch artist Gene Dumatrait. His name stands for The Enterprise and Journal.

Donations of all amounts are appreciated and can be made in memory of loved ones. The lists of donations will run every weekday in The Enterprise and at **BeaumontEnterprise.com** until Christmas Day.

INTERVIEWS

The Christmas Bureau will interview applicants at the **First United Methodist Church on November 4-7.** Interview hours are Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Those applying for assistance with toys MUST bring proper documentation.

DISTRIBUTION OF TOYS

The Christmas Bureau will distribute toys at the **Compro Event Center on December 3-5** to all applicants who previously were interviewed and qualified in November. Clients must bring with them the Return Slip they received at Interviewing.



Loving THE City

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



UNITED COMMUNITY GROUP

United Community Group served at the Texas Energy Museum's Dinosaur Day on October 26, blessing families with well over 300 servings of warm popcorn on this chilly morning!



TRUNK OR TREAT

FUMC set up Trunk-or-Treat tables inside Charlton-Pollard Elementary's gym on October 31. Volunteers shared candy and smiles with the children and families participating.



BED BUILD

This October, Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteers helped deliver 178 beds. Currently there is a waitlist of 506 children needing beds, many of which from Hurricane Harvey. Plan to join SHP and FUMC for the next build day on **November 16 at 2950 Milam, Suite 4.**

SOME OTHER PLACE

Some Other Place is gearing up for the next couple of busy holiday months – Thanksgiving Store & Christmas Giving Tree. Below are some of the numerous ways you or your group can be involved –

- **Collect canned goods for the Thanksgiving Store**
Accepting Donations Until **November 25th**. Items and monetary donations welcome. **Visit fumcbeaumont.org/events for more info.**
- **Volunteer with set up and distribution of groceries**
- **Collect items to fill stockings for Nursing Homes & Meals on Wheels**
- **Cut out and or sew felt stockings**
- **Wrap gifts**
- **Collect toys for Giving Tree**
- **Adopt a child and or family to provide gifts**

If you are interested in participating in any of these projects please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

THANKSGIVING FOOD LIST

Canned Vegetables, any type

Canned Pumpkin

Canned Milk
(evaporated or condensed)

Cranberry Sauce

Yams

Chicken Broth

Stuffing Mix (packaged or boxed)

Jello or Pudding Mix

Canned Fruit, any type

Rice (#1 bag or box)

Cornbread or Other Bread Mixes

Macaroni & Cheese Mix

Pie Shell or Pie Crust Mix

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

November 5 | 11 a.m.

December 3 | 11 a.m.

Collier Park

November 12 | 10:30 a.m.

December 10 | 10:30 a.m.

Pelican Bay

November 19 | 10:30 a.m.

December 17 | 10:30 a.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.

December Spire Deadline for entry –
November 16.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER DATES TO KNOW

NOV. 3

All Saints' Sunday

11 a.m.

In our worship service we will honor the lives of our "saints," those FUMC members who have joined the Church Eternal since November 4, 2018.

United Youth Group

Movie Night

5-7 p.m. | Youth Center Upstairs

NOV. 9

Women's Retreat

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | Rothwell Hall

Child Care will be provided. Please email Stephanie for your childcare needs.

stephanie@fumcbeaumont.org

NOV. 15

Some Other Place Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NOV. 16

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

8 a.m. - Noon

NOV. 17

UMW Bazaar

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Narthex

Family Worship Service

Rev. Karen Dorris Preaching

11 a.m.

Beaumont Interfaith Choral Society Concert

3 p.m.

United Youth Group

Baking for Youth Bake Sale

5-7 p.m. | Youth Center Upstairs

NOV. 24

United Community Group

Immediately following

Family Worship Service

NOV. 25

SOP Thanksgiving Store

Last day for donations

NOV. 26

UMW Becomers Meeting

6 p.m.

NOV. 28 - 29

Thanksgiving Holiday

Church Office Closed

DEC. 3

Giving Tree Party

Hosted by Becomers UMW

6 p.m.

Some Other Place's Activity Building

DEC. 4 - 16

Wrapping Christmas Gifts

Hosted by Becomers UMW

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

Joy Concert

7 p.m.

DEC. 14

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

8 a.m. - Noon

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

6 p.m.

DEC. 29

United Community Group

Immediately following

Family Worship Service



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

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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