

# *in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2023

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# ***TRANSITIONS***



## Greetings!

I continue to be amazed at the spirit of hope and possibility that I have seen in my short time here in Beaumont. Our church leaders are willing to ask all the hard questions and do the hard work of experimenting, researching, and planning for whatever may happen next. There is one guiding question underneath all the discussions we've had and changes we're considering - what is it that will make people want to join us in the work of God here at FUMC Beaumont?

As we consider opportunities to grow our church and revitalize our ministries, one reality that we have to contend with is the fact that there are a multitude of church options that people can choose from (not to mention all the other non-profit or community organizations that people may join). Because of our location, we may not be the closest church in town for anyone - we have to give people a reason for "why this church?"

Through at least the end of 2024, that will be the question I will keep challenging you to answer. We have a wonderful mission statement - "Loving the city with the heart of Christ." Where we have a lot of work to do is in gaining clarity about what it looks like to align everything we do around the fulfillment of that mission. What does a budget and staff aligned around this mission look like? What programs do we prioritize and how do we free our people up to do the things they are passionate about and have the skills to do? What organizations can we partner with or host and what is our unique role in helping people experience the love of Christ?

I am confident that a community that loves the city with the heart of Christ in every word and deed is the kind of compelling church that people will drive from miles around to take part in. It will take time to gain that clear vision and find ways to tell our story to the surrounding community. As we do so, I will continue to lean into the things our church members are passionate about so that we can build on the momentum that y'all got started before I even arrived. And we'll keep learning, experimenting, and adjusting to find what our part of God's mission looks like for generations to come.

***Continue to page 7 for more details on the concrete steps being taken to help us lay a solid foundation for our future.***

## COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

**October 1, 2023**

World Communion Sunday Offering

**October 15, 2023**

Golden Cross

**November 5, 2023**

Some Other Place

**November 19, 2023**

Rainbow Room

## UPDATED ONLINE GIVING

Now is a great time to set up an online account for recurring or one time donations to support the ministries of the church! We will complete our transition to Church Center Giving this month and we'll close our Easy Tithe account. **To find out more about making the switch and create your donation account visit [fmcbeaumont.org/give](https://fmcbeaumont.org/give)**

## FRED SIMON MEMORIAL BENCH UPDATE

We have received all the funds needed to purchase the memorial bench for Fred Simon! The bench will be placed next to that of his beloved wife, Gene. Thanks to all who supported the Chancel Choir in this project.

## SMALL GATHERINGS WITH THE WESTERS

Pastor Jeremy and Sallie want to meet you over coffee, lunch or dinner. We will go deeper in the town hall conversations and would love to hear your history with the congregation.

**If you are interested in hosting or attending a small get-together, please contact Robin Snoek 409-926-8511.**





## About ReVision

ReVision works to break the cycle of isolation among the most profoundly disconnected youth. By connecting one youth at a time to caring adults, positive peers, and a program that works, we offer disconnected youth the opportunity to re-vision hopeful pathways. The teens and young adults we work with are normally “system-involved” in some capacity meaning that they have experience in the juvenile justice system, the immigration system, the unstably housed system, and/or are often experiencing disciplinary actions in schools.

Houston reVision exists to leverage the power of community and kinship by connecting disconnected system-involved youth with mentors, positive peers, and life-changing resources. We want to partner with communities who care about the intersection of justice, equity, and love for all people of all genders, races, sexualities, and socio-economic statuses.

Although reVision started out of Harris County, we are looking to expand work of its kind throughout the state of Texas where there are youth who are experiencing disconnection. We are looking to partner with Jefferson County specifically because we know there is a need for juvenile justice reform within the county. ReVision takes a faith-informed approach to all of its work knowing that God has called us through action to build and create sustainable relationships founded on mutual love and care for one another.

**To learn more about reVision, you can visit our website [houstonrevision.org](http://houstonrevision.org) or email Rev. Jordan Czichos at [jordan@houstonrevision.org](mailto:jordan@houstonrevision.org)**

### REVISION AT FIRST UMC

**October 8th** - Staff from reVision will join us in worship. After worship, they will host an orientation to describe the reality and needs of Jefferson county. No commitment needed - all are invited to come and hear more. Food provided.

**October 15th** - reVision leaders will be back following worship to provide mentor training for all those interested in serving in this vital role when the program gets off the ground in the next few months. Food provided.

### SECOND SATURDAY

#### FAITH SEMINAR

**Saturday, October 14th | 9 am – noon**

**Faith Quester's Classroom (Parlor)**

How we think of God dictates how we perceive each other and how we treat the planet Earth. Perception dictates our reality. Come join us as we explore what this “perception” is all about. You are invited to attend and join this Exploration Event on 14 October from 9 until noon at First United Methodist Church, 701 Calder, Beaumont. Bring a friend or two or three- we always have room for more smiling faces and inquiring hearts and minds.

**Contact Neil Early at 409-651-0206**

### EMMAUS COMMUNITY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, October 14th | 5 pm**

**Rothwell Hall | Potluck Supper**

October 14th we will be hosting an Emmaus Gathering to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Emmaus community in the Golden Triangle. All 4th day are asked to attend. Everyone who has attended a Chrylsis, Journey, or Emmaus walk are invited. Even those who haven't gone on their walk yet can come. Hope to see you there. **Questions? Contact Charlie Snoek — 409-926-8533**

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Fall is in the Air!!! October 17th is the next meeting of the United Women in Faith. Charlotte Seely will be serving as the Hostess and the program will be “The Lord's Prayer and Pumpkins” shared by Ruby Nelson and Cheryl Charlton. The meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. in the small dining room in Rothwell Hall. All women are encouraged to attend and bring a covered dish and a friend. **Questions? Contact Mary Early 409-651-0206**

# 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

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

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

## THURSDAYS

**Handchime Practice**  
10 a.m.

## STAY CONNECTED

 @fumcbeaumont

 @fumcbeaumont

 First UMC Beaumont


 fumcbeaumont.org

 (409) 920-PRAY

# OCTOBER & NOVEMBER DATES TO KNOW

## OCTOBER


### SUN., OCTOBER 1

 **FUMC Town Hall Meeting**  
Potluck Lunch in Rothwell Hall | After Worship |  
Fried Chicken Provided


### SUN., OCTOBER 8

**ReVision Orientation**  
After Worship | Lunch Provided


### TUE., OCTOBER 10

 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**  
6 p.m. | (Rescheduled from Wed. 10/11)


### WED., OCTOBER 11

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

### FRI., OCTOBER 13

 **Confirmation Retreat**  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Any student who is in the 6th grade or older who has not been confirmed is welcome. Confirmation retreats will be held at the church, meals and snacks will be provided. **For more information or to sign up, contact Jana Windle at 409-656-2148.**

### SAT., OCTOBER 14

 **SHP Bed Build**  
8:30 a.m. - noon  
2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX  
**Pre register at [bit.ly/shpevent](https://bit.ly/shpevent)**

### **Second Saturday Faith Seminar**

Parlor (Faith Questers)  
9 a.m. - Noon

### **Confirmation Retreat Continued**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Contact Jana Windle.

### **Emmaus Gathering – 30th Anniversary Celebration**


5 – 7 p.m. | Rothwell Hall | Potluck Supper |  
Contact Charlie Snoek — 409-926-8533

### SUN., OCTOBER 15

 **Confirmation Sunday & Bible Dedication**  
11 a.m. Family Worship  
Will be giving Bibles to current 3rd through 5th graders. **If you have a child in 3rd-5th grade, please send their name to Jill Frantz at [jill@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:jill@fumcbeaumont.org) by Monday, October 1.**

**ReVision Mentor Training**  
After Worship | Lunch Provided

### MON., OCTOBER 16

 **Board of Trustees Meeting**  
6 p.m. | Library


### TUE., OCTOBER 17

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

### FRI., OCTOBER 20

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

### SAT. OCTOBER 21


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

### SUN. OCTOBER 22

**Candy Due – Trunk or Treat**  
All Candy is due by Sunday, October 22.  
Allergy Alert – No candy containing peanuts, peanut butter, or other nuts.

### MON., OCTOBER 23

 **Finance Committee Meeting**  
6 p.m. | Library

 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**  
6 p.m. | (Rescheduled from Wed. 10/25)

### WED., OCTOBER 25

 **Trunk or Treat!**  
Charlton Pollard Elementary School  
5 pm - 7 pm  
**Contact Phyllis Fernandez.**

## SAT., OCTOBER 28

### First UMC Crafting Circle

Rothwell Hall  
10:30 am - 2 pm  
Contact Robin Snoek

### ♥ 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., OCTOBER 29

### ♥ SOP Food Drive Begins

## SUN., NOVEMBER 5

### ♥ All Saints Day

11 a.m. Family Worship

## WED., NOVEMBER 8

### 👤 Games Day

10 a.m. | Fun & Fellowship.  
Contact Ruby Nelson

## SAT., NOVEMBER 11

### ♥ SHP Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - noon  
2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX  
Pre register at [bit.ly/shpevent](https://bit.ly/shpevent)

## SUN., NOVEMBER 12

### 🎵 Beaumont Inter-Faith Concert

3 pm | Sanctuary

## WED., NOVEMBER 15

### December Spire Deadline

Please send your December newsletter content to [erika@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:erika@fumcbeaumont.org) before Nov. 15 to be published.

## FRI., NOVEMBER 17

### ♥ Some Other Place Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## SAT., NOVEMBER 18

### 📖 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., NOVEMBER 20

### 🗣️ Board of Trustees Meeting

6 p.m. | Library

## TUE., NOVEMBER 21

### United Women in Faith – UMW

6 p.m. | Rothwell Hall

## THU., NOVEMBER 23

### Thanksgiving Day

Church office closed.

## FRI., NOVEMBER 24

### Church Office Closed

## SAT., NOVEMBER 25

### First UMC Crafting Circle

Rothwell Hall  
10:30 am - 2 pm  
Contact Robin Snoek

## MON., NOVEMBER 27

### 🗣️ Finance Committee Meeting

6 p.m. | Library



Welcome  
Sharon  
Mistrot!

The SPRC is pleased to announce that we have hired Sharon Mistrot to fill our open office administrator position. Sharon officially started on September 12th, please offer a warm welcome the next time you see her!



## FUMC TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Join Pastor Jeremy and members of our leadership task force to begin talking about what our future leadership structure may look like.

**Sunday, October 1 | After Worship | Rothwell Hall  
Potluck Lunch (Fried Chicken Provided)**

**Sunday, November 19 | After Worship  
| Rothwell Hall | Potluck Lunch**





## FOREWORD

*A primary goal of mine going forward is to find ways to capture and tell the stories that matter. One of our newest church members, Scott Gittinger, has been gracious enough to write out the introduction to one such story here. Below, you'll find the first bit of Anthony's Story. — Pastor Jeremy*

## PART 1

As we drive around downtown Beaumont, we can see the evidence of our “unhoused community” or what we used to refer to as the homeless. So often our society looks past these individuals and doesn't notice them or their needs. While working with FUMC, and specifically Kairos Kitchen, I've had the pleasure of meeting a gentleman many of our church family may already know, Mr. Anthony Salvato. During my personal outreach to our friends, Anthony and I have had many conversations, shared meals at the Salvation Army, and discussed his “next steps.” It is with his blessing that I share the introduction of his story.

Often, we think of someone who is unhoused as being a delinquent, a school dropout, an uneducated person, or frankly someone with no motivation or desire to improve or change their circumstances. But as you come to know them, Anthony and so many others do not fit this image. Anthony is highly educated, even holding a master's degree. He was raised in London and traveled to many cities across Europe during his teen years. By his own admission he had a privileged upbringing.

Although while growing up, the only person he could always depend on was his grandmother. She would allow him the ability to escape his verbally abusive home that lacked the love he sought and needed. He has struggled with the communication and closeness of his parents because they were and are not supportive of him, or his life. They are more concerned with their social standing than accepting and loving him for

the person he is. Anthony feels his upbringing caused many of his severe anxiety and panic issues. Additionally, he has been diagnosed with a “skittles bag” of emotional disorders and even now at 53, his longing for love is still the focus of his life.

Galveston became his home, and his roots were planted in the community for many years. He traveled through Houston and central Texas completing his education, obtaining both his bachelor's and master's in history from the University of Houston. While in grad school he was selected as the 2003 History Student of the Year, ultimately graduating Cum Laude (top 10% of his class). He was involved in five fraternities for honors and attended many events recognizing him for his excellence in education. He went on to teach at Lamar University and his life was stable...until it wasn't. His life started to crumble when he lost his job at Lamar and started to experience mental issues including mood swings and severe anxiety. Certainly, issues that many Americans' struggle with on an ongoing basis. As his world spiraled, he sought relief from the pain in the form of meth which quickly turned into an addiction.

Many people have a safety net of family or friends to catch them when they fall due to life's challenges. Anthony did not. That is how his situation led him into becoming one of our nation's homeless. He has survived on the streets of Beaumont for the past twelve years.

**♥ His story continues in next month's newsletter.**

## LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE

A group of church leaders has been meeting weekly to develop a recommendation for restructuring our administrative leadership. The group is using the book *Mission Possible* by Kay Kotan (a UMC pastor) to explore a model called the Simplified Accountability Structure (SAS). In short, the Church Council, Finance committee, Trustees, and SPRC would be rolled into one group called the Leadership Board. The change would facilitate better, more strategic decision making at the budget, goals, and policy level of our church. And it would free up a lot more leaders to focus on the hands on ministry needs and desires of our congregation.

The group will host two town hall meetings to explain what we're discussing and answer any questions or concerns you may have. Both will include potluck lunches after worship.

The first town hall will be held October 1st and be focused more on the basic nuts and bolts of the model we're considering. We'll share a bit about why the change is worth considering and what we believe we'd gain by making it. The second town hall will be November 19th. We will present the final proposal that will be up for a vote a couple of weeks later.

On one level, the proposed changes will be somewhat technical and you might never notice them if you aren't on one of the committees. But the more important goal is to put our church leadership in a position to make the decisions that will help us build on the incredible legacy we've been given.

## LIGHT IN THE DARK

Throughout November and December, our worship and events will follow a series of messages entitled *Light in the Dark*. We'll be reminded that even in the darkest moments, we find light by remembering and telling the stories of the people and places that have made us what we are.

The book of Joel tells the story of God's people going through one of the darkest seasons imaginable. As we move through the book of Joel, we will seek to name and grieve the darkness that we have faced. And we will remember and tell our stories in a way that helps us ensure the light of hope continues to shine brightly in this place for generations to come.

In November, we'll display a number of treasures from our past alongside pictures of the people and ministries that have blessed us greatly. You may even be able to take home a piece of our history. In every worship service, we'll include a clear moment to remember and tell the stories that matter to us.

In December, we'll start to look around and look forward to how we can build on that legacy in a way that makes sense for who we want to be generations from now. We'll offer an activity outside of worship each week that is tied in with the lesson for that week (we'll share more details soon and in next month's Spire).

Throughout the season, we'll encourage our Sunday School classes and small groups to engage in conversations around the book that I have used to plan out our Sunday morning lessons. I'll also host a new small group on Wednesdays at noon that will also do so. Whether or not you can be in worship or are in a small group, I hope that you will spend some time in prayer and reflection about the incredible gift of our past and the hope of our future together.

## 2024 AND BEYOND

A big part of our November/December focus will be laying the groundwork for developing a clear vision and strategy for our future. The leadership task force is meant to help us structurally prepare for change. *Light in the Dark* is meant to help us spiritually and emotionally prepare. None of that will matter without our willingness to actually go out and try new ministries, make new connections, and open ourselves to what God desires to do in and through us.

This is an incredibly exciting season in the life of our church. We are blessed that we still have the people and the resources to lay a solid foundation for us to pass on the love of Christ for generations to come. I will be grateful to hear your questions and concerns along the way. I'm still new and I know there is so much more to learn! The only reason we are moving so quickly is because our church leadership made it very clear to me that you've been talking about what's next for a long time and you are ready to see what God has in store for your future.

I am grateful for the chance to be your pastor in this season. And I promise you will never offend me or hurt my feelings if there are things you think I need to know about or concerns you need to share about what got us to this point or what comes next. We have an incredibly important opportunity to decide what the next chapter of our story is going to look like. We can't do that without openness and honesty about who we have been and what it will look like to build on that legacy in the world as we know it now. I'm excited. And I cannot wait to see the abundant and incredible things that God will do when we are willing to dream, to try, and to step out in faith!

*Pastor Jeremy*

**Rev. Jeremy Wester, Lead Pastor**





Loving the city with the Heart of Christ

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

## CHARLTON POLLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# TRUNK OR TREAT

**FIRST UMC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

CONTACT PHYLLIS FERNANDEZ — [PHYLLISBEAUMONT@FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG](mailto:PHYLLISBEAUMONT@FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 5 – 7 P.M.**

## DONATE CANDY!

**NEED BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**ALLERGY ALERT! NO CANDY WITH  
PEANUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER!  
ALL CANDY MUST BE FACTORY WRAPPED.**

