

*in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2023

FOUNDATION WORK

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UMC RECAP**

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A letter from

PASTOR JEREMY WESTER

Greetings Church!

Each of the last three weeks of worship in August, we revisited a miraculous story in Matthew 14 in which Jesus blessed 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish in order to feed well over 5000 people. We read this scripture in conversation with other gospel stories in order to ask a different question each week.

First, we asked “who is the recipient of the miracle?” Each and every child of God because people are not the problem, people are the point.

Next, “how do you make a miracle happen?” Use the gifts you have and trust in the abundance of God for the rest.

And finally, “why should we believe such miracles are possible?” Generosity has defined God from the very start, which is why we know that we are enough, we have enough, God will show up and use us.

The foundation of each answer is not found in personal faith or intelligence - the foundation is God’s abundance. I shared this series in part because it can be easy to look at the challenges facing our church and make 1 of 2 common errors. We might look at the declining influence of church in society, the aging demographics of our membership, the declining financial and attendance numbers here, and so many factors working against us and either 1) assume there is no hope so we might as well refuse to change anything at all; or 2) assume it is the past that weighs us down and we need to forget what we’ve known and try something else entirely.

But God never calls us to quit or to forget. Our calling is to learn how to share the unchanging gospel in a way that a rapidly changing world can hear it. That means holding fast to the heart and soul of what has truly mattered in our community, and holding loosely to everything else. I’m going to challenge our church in November and December to have some deep conversations about what has given us life in the past. Those conversations will shape the ways we gain clarity and alignment around our mission to love the city with the heart of Christ.

All of this work is done with gratitude to the men and women who have gone before us to show us the way. And all of it is done knowing that the impact our church has made in our lives and community is too important to do anything but boldly follow wherever God leads us next. We will seek to trust in the abundance of God as we lay a strong foundation for generations to come!

Pastor Jeremy

Rev. Jeremy Wester, Lead Pastor

COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

September 3, 2023

Sleep In Heavenly Peace

September 17, 2023

Methodist Children’s Home in Waco

October 1, 2023

World Communion Sunday Offering

October 15, 2023

Golden Cross

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Through September, the church office will only be open consistently from 9am to Noon, Monday to Thursday.

You may contact Pastor Jeremy, jeremy@fumcbeaumont.org or another staff member for an appointment at any other time.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The scholarship recipients and the schools they are attending are as follows:

Sarah Hamilton,
Texas State University

Ethan Holder,
Lamar University

Synia Thomas,
Lamar University

Sarah Woods,
Lamar University

STAY CONNECTED

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 [lovebeaumont.com](#)

 [\(409\) 920-PRAY](#)



Blessing of the Backpacks

Many thanks go out to our First UMC family and friends for helping raise \$3,576 for our annual school supply fundraiser benefitting Charlton Pollard Elementary School. Pictured above are the CPE faculty and staff who attended our Blessing of the Backpacks service on August 6th.



FROM SOME OTHER PLACE —

“As we transition into fall we wanted to recognize how incredible the month of August was for Some Other Place. We kicked off August 1st with our Back-to-School Program and were able to assist over 620 kids with getting the school supplies they needed. On August

15th we hosted our 21st annual Tasting for Some Other Place and had an amazing turnout. Thank you so much to everyone who came out and all the volunteers that made this possible. At Henry’s Place, we were able to host a free flu shot clinic on August 24th and this past weekend were able to host another free clinic with Beaumont House Call Doctor. All of this is on top of the services being offered. It’s truly wonderful to see! There is a lot planned for the upcoming months and we are so excited for what is to come.”

REMEMBERING FRED SIMON



The Chancel choir is sponsoring a drive to raise \$5,000 in memory of Fred Simon. The bench will be placed next to that of his beloved wife, Gene.

We remember the many musical contributions Fred had made to the church and to the community at large. He sang in our choir. His rich bass voice graced the stages of the Beaumont

Civic Opera, and the Beaumont Community Players, the Interfaith Choir, and the Symphony Chorus. We found that Fred had been singing a Jazz concert in Wisconsin for years with an old army buddy, John Harmon. John is a nationally known Jazz pianist and composer. Fred had John come down and join him in a benefit concert for the choir in Rothwell Hall a few years ago, and it was a big success. They knew Fred up in Wisconsin as Soulful Si.

Fred also had many interests outside of music. He received a degree in Elementary Education from Huston-Tillotson College and taught in Beaumont for 43 years. He was a long-time member of the Beaumont Founders Lions Club. His other big passion was Martial Arts, which he first witnessed during a trip to NYC when he was six. Fred began training in Taekwondo in 1956 and progressed to teaching it for many years. A highlight was when the National leaders came and installed him with the 10th degree black belt here in our church. His title became Grandmaster Simon. Even though he was over 80, he actually broke bricks in a demonstration during that ceremony. Fred was the first African-American to achieve that status. During the choir’s Christmas Caroling in July I asked him how he was doing, and he replied what he always did to that question “TOP OF THE LINE”. He Certainly Was!

The choir hopes you will support us on this project in addition to your regular stewardship. Please send your contributions to FUMC and designate it for the Fred Simon bench.

**Mail to –
F.U.M.C.,
PO Box 3247
Beaumont, TX 77705**

Thank you for your support.

Ron Alexander

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.

STAY CONNECTED

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 First UMC Beaumont


 fumcbeaumont.org


 (409) 920-PRAY

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER DATES TO KNOW

SEPTEMBER

SAT., SEPTEMBER 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


MON., SEPTEMBER 11


 **Church Council Meeting**
6 p.m.

WED., SEPTEMBER 13


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


FRI., SEPTEMBER 15

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

 **Confirmation Retreat**
6 – 9 p.m.

SAT. SEPTEMBER 16

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

 **Confirmation Retreat**
9 – 3 p.m.

MON., SEPTEMBER 18


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

TUE., SEPTEMBER 19

United Women in Faith – UMW
6 p.m. | Location TBA

SAT., SEPTEMBER 23

First UMC Crafting Circle
Rothwell Hall
10 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.

MON., SEPTEMBER 25

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

OCTOBER

SUN., OCTOBER 1


 **FUMC Town Hall Meeting**
Lunch in Rothwell Hall | After Worship

Collecting Candy – Trunk or Treat
All Candy is due by Sunday, October 29.
Allergy Alert – No candy containing peanuts, peanut butter, or other nuts.


MON., OCTOBER 9

 **Church Council Meeting**
6 p.m.


WED., OCTOBER 11


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


FRI., OCTOBER 13

 **Confirmation Retreat**
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Contact Jana Windle.


SAT., OCTOBER 14

 **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

 **Confirmation Retreat**
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Contact Jana Windle.

SUN., OCTOBER 15

 **Confirmation Sunday & Bible Dedication**
11 a.m. Family Worship

MON., OCTOBER 16

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

TUE., OCTOBER 17

United Women in Faith – UMW
6 p.m. | Location TBA

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.

MON., OCTOBER 23

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

SAT., OCTOBER 28

First UMC Crafting Circle
Rothwell Hall
10 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

Trunk or Treat
Candy Donations Due.
Allergy Alert – No candy containing peanuts, peanut butter, or other nuts.

 **SOP Food Drive Begins**
See items collection list.

TUE., OCTOBER 31

 **Trunk or Treat**
Charlton Pollard Elementary School
4 pm

CONFIRMATION RETREATS

First Retreat — Fri., Sept. 15, 6-9 p.m. & Sat., Sept.16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Second Retreat — Fri., Oct. 13, 6-9 p.m. & Sat., Oct. 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Confirmation — Sun., Oct. 15.

Confirmation consists of 18 lessons designed to give students a basic understanding of the Christian story, and teach the students about the core beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church. We will explore with the students the vows they will take if they choose to be confirmed. During the retreats we will cover nine lessons as well as have some fun! 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.**

BIBLE DEDICATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 15 we 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 by Monday, October 1.**



FUMC TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Sunday, October 1, & November 19
Lunch in Rothwell Hall After Worship

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

SMALL GATHERINGS WITH THE WESTERS

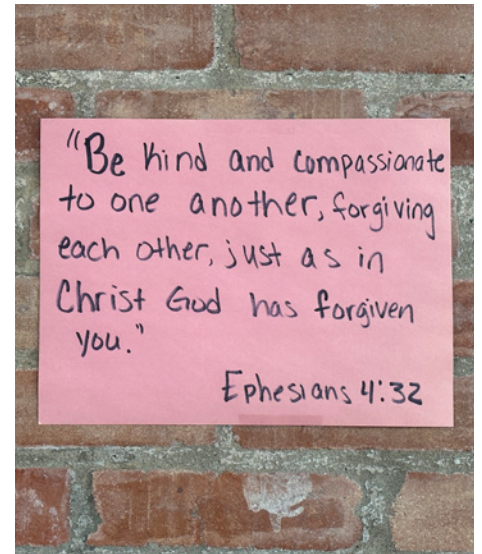
Pastor Jeremy and Sallie want to meet you over coffee, lunch or dinner. We will go deeper in the town hall conversations and would love to hear your history with the congregation. **If you are interested in hosting or attending a small get-together, please contact Robin Snoek 409-926-8511.**

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

News Flash!!! Are you looking for something exciting to learn and a special event to attend? Well look no further! The United Women in Faith will be meeting at First United Methodist Church, 701 Calder, Beaumont in Rothwell Hall on September 19th at 6:00 pm. All women are invited to attend. Liza Nelson will be serving as our hostess. Bring a delicious dish and a lady friend too. More information will be heading your way soon. **Questions? — call Mary Early 409-651-0206**

SECOND SATURDAY FAITH SEMINAR

On September 9th we will continue exploring the books that did not make it into the Bible and why. If all the books that had been considered had gone in, the Bible would take up several feet of bookshelf. Those who participate in the Seminar will have the opportunity to browse through samples of those books. You are invited to join us in these discoveries. We will be meeting in the Faith Questers Sunday School Class / Parlor at First United Methodist Church, 701 Calder, Beaumont, from 9 until noon on September 9th. Come with a hunger for knowledge. Refreshments will be provided. Watch for the "Faith Seminar Signs and Balloons." **Questions? Contact Neil Early — 409-651-0206**



Field Trip! – Galveston Central UMC

A group of our church leaders traveled to Galveston Central UMC on August 31st. Central has a long and rich history. Perhaps most noteworthy is a decision made a decade ago by the 4 members who remained. Those 4 members discerned a call to step aside and allow a partner United Methodist Church to try something new in their facility.

What has taken root is an inspiring and innovative community that prioritizes people who are often overlooked. Central provides showers and laundry for their unhoused neighbors. They have

computers and couches for anyone to use. They host a UTMB clinic that provides free medical care. And they purchased an apartment complex for use as transitional housing. Their concrete impact on the community is incredible.

Even more inspiring is the culture that makes the work possible. People matter more than programs. Central is not a community that meets the needs of their less fortunate neighbors; and decisions are not made by one group for another. The gifts, knowledge, and desires of all people are honored from start to finish. And their whole

community has flourished because they honor and value every person who walks through the door.

My hope is that Central will challenge and inspire us to think deeply about how we live out God's calling here. We're not going to become just like Central, but we are going to have to rethink many of our assumptions in order to lay a solid foundation that lasts for generations to come. Our challenge, our calling, our blessing is to love this city with the heart of Christ. I'm excited to see where God leads us as we follow boldly in the season ahead!

KAIROS KITCHEN

Our First UMC Family served over 77 neighbors at our most recent Kairos Kitchen! Our next Kairos family supper will be Sat., September 23. | Rothwell Hall

Set up: 2 – 5 p.m.

Serving: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Clean up: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Sign up to serve at fumcbeaumont.org/kairoskitchen

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteers have built and delivered 2,855 beds to date. The Bunks Across America Build Day is September 9th. All 350+ chapters will attempt to collectively build 10,000 beds in a single day. Come help! Delivery Days are the 17th and 26th.

Contact Jack Seeley for more information.

Pre register to serve at bit.ly/shpevent

Finance Report

Our finance team has been hard at work to better understand our financial realities, find ways to be more transparent with the congregation, and make adjustments to ensure that we are good stewards of the gifts we have been given. A few key highlights -

1) We are in a good financial position overall, with normal income of about \$15,000 more than we've spent.

2) We are pleased that we have not had to make an extra withdrawal from our endowment income

thanks to the decisions we've made over the last 6 months.

3) A few specific savings - we were able to reduce bank fees by about \$300/mo; we adjusted our phone and internet account to reduce costs by more than \$250/mo; we'll switch to a new online donation platform and save more than \$50/mo; our utility costs have dropped due to better maintenance; and we're in the process of changing our computer networking set up and save over \$1,000/mo.

4) Staff changes and adjustments have allowed us to reduce costs by over \$100,000.

5) We still have work to do as we have not yet been able to fund our share of apportionments and we will work to develop a year round generosity strategy that should begin with the new year.

We are grateful for your generosity and your continued investment in all that God is doing through our church family!

	2023 Budget	Budget to Date	Actual to Date	Difference
Household Donations:	\$380,000.00	\$221,654.00	\$211,203.00	-\$10,451.00
Rental and Use Income:	\$28,100.00	\$16,390.73	\$18,520.00	\$2,129.27
Recurring Endowment Income:	\$176,750.00	\$103,098.28	\$116,068.00	\$12,969.73
Total Income:	\$584,850.00	\$341,143.01	\$345,791.00	\$4,647.99
I. Life				
Administration (office basics)	\$11,450.00	\$6,678.79	\$8,168.00	\$1,489.22
Action (work areas, programs)	\$25,900.00	\$15,107.47	\$8,440.00	-\$6,667.47
Apportionments	\$73,936.00	\$43,126.87	\$-	-\$43,126.87
Total Life:	\$111,286.00	\$64,913.12	\$16,608.00	-\$48,305.12
II. Leaders				
Total Leaders:	\$455,549.00	\$265,721.73	\$197,060.00	-\$68,661.73
III. Location				
Insurance	\$45,000.00	\$26,248.50	\$18,481.00	-\$7,767.50
Utilities	\$130,500.00	\$76,120.65	\$54,304.00	-\$21,816.65
Maintenance & Security	\$69,800.00	\$40,714.34	\$44,136.00	\$3,421.66
Total Location:	\$245,300.00	\$143,083.49	\$116,921.00	-\$26,162.49
Total Expense:	\$812,135.00	\$473,718.35	\$330,589.00	-\$143,129.35
Income minus Expense	-\$227,285.00	-\$132,575.34	\$15,202.00	\$147,777.34

FUMC SIMPLIFIED BUDGET REPORT

To date as of July 31, 2023



Loving the city with the *Heart of Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT



*Make a
Joyful Noise!*

Chancel Choir Practice
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Handchime Practice
Thursdays from 10-11 a.m.

Contact Renée Kloes –
renee@fumcbeaumont.org

CHOIR DEDICATION REHEARSAL

This August, First UMC launched this year's choir season at their annual choir dedication rehearsal. We welcomed our choir back to rehearsals that evening and offered prayers for our new choir season. If you have been thinking about joining our Chancel Choir, or would like to participate in our handchime choir contact Renée Kloes — renee@fumcbeaumont.org!

HANDCHIME PRACTICE BEGINS

Were you ever in a band or choir? Do you want to brush up your music skills or learn to read a little music? Do you enjoy laughing with friends? Then join us on Thursday, September 21 (the THIRD THURSDAY!) from 10 to 11 a.m. as we dust off the hand chimes and our memories and RING IN THE FUN!

Some handchimes will be in the narthex for the next week or 2 so you can see how light-weight they are and how easy to play! All are welcome to join us, but please email Renee — renee@fumcbeaumont.org so we can save a place for you. Or you can indicate "Handchimes" on the dark blue connect card in the pews on Sunday with your name and email address. This a limited-time event & it's guaranteed to be fun! We hope you'll join us!