

# Beacon



## Vol 1

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*“ When day comes we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid  
The new dawn blooms as we free it  
For there is always light,  
If only we are brave enough to see it  
If only we are brave enough to be it*

*- Amanda Gorman*

I have spent the last few weeks reflecting on 2020. Not just about what has happened in our nation, in our city, and in our homes but what has happened in our church. Last year my focus was to keep our church doors open and repair the major structural damages of the church. I tried to think of ways we could use our space to reach out to our community. First, by installing the new windows in the kitchen, so that food could be served to the patio and we could utilize the courtyard for outdoor dining and food pickup during our plate sales. This had the added benefit of brining light and a new energy to our kitchen. Although we were closed for in person services and classes for many months; we did receive visits from former members who were really excited by the changes they were seeing.

Secondly, we seized the opportunity of an empty campus to clean, organize, and repurpose some of our spaces, in hopes that when we open, we will be ready to receive God’s people. Think of that line from *A Field of Dreams*, “If you build it, they will come.”

As I think about 2021 and the uncertainty of our ability to re-open for in person services, classes, and events. I find myself wondering how we can build our ministry without being physically together. God willing, the vaccines for COVID-19 will continue and as the months tick by we will start to get back to our regular routines. In the meantime, we must face the challenges together.

In March we will turn 75 years old. When Wheeler Chapel was built there were only 150 charter members. Over the next ten years the church grew to 1,300 members holding multiple services and bible study classes. As we look toward the future of Jefferson Community Church, we can use the foundation we have been gifted to build a place of worship where all are truly welcomed and loved.

I encourage us all to search our hearts and open our minds to the messages God is sending. Our church is a beacon in the Jefferson Community and now we must focus on finding ways to fulfill our mission of shining God’s light for all. In the spirit of our mission we are renaming the monthly newsletter to The Beacon. Let us fill the pages with the love we are creating and the light we are shining.

May the peace of Christ be with us all,

*Olivia Downen-Walker*

*“Be a beacon of faith in your community; shining God’s light for all!”*

## February Birthdays

**07 – Ella Bridgewater**

**11 – Jaze'l Feliciano**

**13 – Bethany Milligan**

**15 – Linda Fraser**

**17 – Frank Pena**

**27 – Clara Tamez**



## Let's Get Physical!

Tired of being couped up? Ready to get fit? Looking for new friends? You have come to the right place! Join us Wednesday and Friday at 10am for a walkabout the Jefferson neighborhood. We will meet in front of the Marquee in front of Wheeler Chapel and walk for approximately thirty minutes.

We will be following social distancing guidelines.

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## Thrift Shop

We are happy to announce the grand re-opening of the Jefferson Thrift Shop. We have been hard at work for the past few months collecting, sorting, and organizing donations to fill our shelves.

The temporary home of the thrift shop will be located in Jackson Hall until renovations can be made to the Pastoral office in the sanctuary. This does give us the added bonus of opening a concession stand during the thrift shop. So come hungry for treasures and treats!

The thrift shop will be open from 8am-3pm the first Saturday of every month. We are hopeful that this will help replace some of our lost income due to the closure of the Hall as a result of COVID-19 and social gathering restrictions in the city.

You can help spread the word by sharing the event on the church Facebook page and of course telling all your friends!

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## Spring Flea Market & BBQ

It's spring cleaning time! Bring your treasures down to our annual Flea Market or come down and do some treasure hunting!

Open 8am-3pm  
Spaces with no table provided are \$15  
Spaces with a table provided are \$20.

Spaces will be designated to ensure proper social distancing.

BBQ plates will be available from 10AM-3PM  
\$8.00 includes chicken, sausage, rice, beans, potato salad, bread, and trimmings or for \$10.00 add your choice of desserts. Either our famous fudge cake or strawberry shortcake

## Contact us

To be apart of the community you can contact us at:

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Visit us on the web at:

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Find us on Facebook @jeffumc