



Volume 32, Issue 8

First United Methodist Church

August 20, 2020

Greetings in the Name of Hope of Christ!

In August, I typically look with great excitement and anticipation to the fall 'after-summer-get-back-to-church' reunion... but, as you may have noticed, this year-2020- has been different. The Covid 19 global pandemic has finally made its way to Ellis County and the City of Hays, and so, we, or at least many of us, finally began to take seriously wearing of masks, social distancing, and washing our hands. Worship, which began solely (or soul-y) on-line in late March, has opened up with a number of restrictions included to help keep our members and attenders much safer from the virus. Small numbers have returned, with many staying home and participating in on-line worship. Within communities all over this nation, going back to school has been both a priority and a problem. Some studies show that both students and teachers learn and teach better in-person than on-line. However, all studies show that students and teachers learn and teach better when they are alive, in this realm, at least. Our church Education team has struggled with the same dynamic: how can we safely have Sunday School and the very popular Wednesday evening programming known as W.O.W. in the midst of a global pandemic? Not only does the church offer and encourage classes and events for children to participate, but also we offer and encourage adults to participate in the classes and events. And adults, especially those with health conditions, seem to be less apt to survive the Covid 19 virus than that of younger children, although too many children have died from the disease already. To make matters worse, the pandemic and how we respond to it, has become a political problem, rather than a community health problem. The last several years have been rancorous in the political arena, and the pandemic has only exacerbated the problem, especially in a national election year.

I could go on and on, but you know all of this...and you are living all of this. It can feel overwhelming and hopeless at times... and yet, through it all, I see a ray of hope. Long ago, the prophet Isaiah, was living with God's people in dark times, too. Israel felt overwhelmed and hopeless, and Isaiah wrote "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined..." (Isaiah 9:2). The Light was the coming of the Messiah, the Christ. He came as a baby named Jesus, who taught us 'the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6) and we are called to follow him. But first, we must get to know him, because his was and is the way of love. I have been teaching of love all summer through the 'Gifts of the Spirit' and now, the 'Love Is...' series. I invite you to experience a ray of light, a ray of hope on Sunday mornings either in person or on line. I also invite you to be a part of the upcoming study and sermon series on the Book of James, entitled "James: Put Your Faith to Work". The series will begin the Wednesday evening after Labor Day, on September 9th at 6:15 p.m. and will be on ZOOM. If you would like to be a part of the class, please call the church office and give us your email address for the class...or simply email me at mikerose56@me.com. The class size is limited so, please enroll as soon as possible.

In August, I typically look with great excitement and anticipation of the fall 'after-summer-get-back-to-church' reunion... and this year is no exception!

Grace and Peace

Please email your OUTREACH item to haysumc@hotmail.com before Sunday, September 20, 2020

Please place the name "Outreach" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, September 20, 2020**. The next Outreach should be received by **Sept. 24**.

Pastor Mike

Thank You

Thank you to Phil Stahlman for sanding and repainting the railings on the south entrance of the church. Phil and others have given the entrances some much needed attention and made them look inviting.

The Ellis County Landfill is no longer accepting alkali batteries for recycling so they will no longer be collected at the church.

If you or a family member are in the hospital, please call the church office (625-3408) if you would like to be on the *Prayer Concern's* list or desire a phone visit.

If your contact information has changed, please notify the church office, 625-3408. To receive text messages, a cell phone number and your cell phone provider are needed.

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Mike Rose
Congregational Care Director, Troy Miller
Director of Music: Johnny Matlock
Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
Organist: Sarah Wyse
Pianist: Sarah Wyse
Handbell Choir Dir., Shawn Henderson
Children's Ministry Director: Jo Swayne
Asst. Children's Director: Melissa Pyle
Youth Ministry Director: Matt Dumler
Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
Financial Secretary: Don Forssberg
Childcare Director: Melissa Pyle
Building Supervisor: Joe Edwards

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

*Dixie & Ed Janzen on the death of their brother-in-law, **James Robinson**, who died May 22 and Dixie's sister, **Donna Brewer**, who died June 5.*

***Colleen Kopfman**, who died July 8.*

*Sally, Kelly, Adam & Ethan Klausmeyer on the death of Sally's father, **Francis Hey, Jr.**, who died on July 23.*

*Marilyn & Glenn Ginther on the death of Marilyn's mother, **Alberta Kraus**, who died August 5th. Alberta was 105 years old.*



If you could bring a salad or dessert to the United Methodist Campus Center's Thursday night meal, please call the church office (625-3408).



*Love is patient;
love is kind;
Love is not envious
or boastful
or arrogant
or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never ends.*

I Corinthians 13:4-8

When you're lonely
I wish you hope
When you're down
I wish you joy
When you're troubled
I wish you peace
When things are complicated
I wish you simple beauty
When things are chaotic
I wish you inner silence
When things are empty
I wish you hope.

St. Andrews's Presbyterian Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma



WE DID IT! WE GOT SLIMED AT FUMC 2020! What a great week of fellowship, silliness and of course slime! **KIDS CORNER** plus 22 youth, 7 adult volunteers and lots of parents attend our week long slimed event on the West Lawn. Matt taught us Jacob's story and how even though he slimed others and got slimed himself, God was faithful to him and saw him as His own masterpiece. And that's the way our God sees us, we are all God's Masterpiece, slime and all. Be sure to check out the great pictures of our event! They can be found on our church website and Facebook page. By the way, the drive-in movie on the North parking lot was a huge hit and might become a regular event

The Nursery is now available for all three worship services. We do have something for the children during The Gathering on Sunday evenings. Around 5:30 when the adults and youth break into groups for Bible study and discussion, we are taking the children upstairs to the Dining Room for a Christian video or two.

The Education team will meet on August 24 to map out what Sunday School and WOW will look like this fall. We will not be offering either until after Labor Day.

If you would like to share your opinions on how fall programming looks, please do!! We have a survey on our Facebook page and the link is also below. This will help our team determine where our church people are at so that we can structure ministry to best meet people's needs.

If you are the parent of a 2nd Grader, we will eventually be sending an invitation to attend a service to receive their Deep Blue Bible from the church family!

We know that things will be different this fall at school, WOW, sports, church and others...but we can stand firm in our faith and look to The One who is never changing. We are all God's Masterpiece. He is bigger than all of our slime and if we step out in faith, not fear, we allow Him the opportunity to make a masterpiece out of our slimy mess! With Hope..... Melissa Pyle (pyle_melissa@hotmail.com) & Jo Swayne (jswayne33@gmail.com).

~~I wake up these mornings fighting off the anxiety that seems to have lain in wait for me while I slept. Will there be more frightening news today? Will the Covid-19 infection rate start to decline? Are my family and friends safe and healthy? Am I? Will things ever go back to the way they were? I didn't know how much I liked the way things were until it was swept away by this awful virus, this invisible enemy.~~

Then there is the crazed robin in my yard. Every morning he flings himself at my windows. *Thunk. Thunk. Thunk.* Sometimes the noise makes it impossible to work. He finally ceases his attack only to lay siege to the side-view mirror of my car, turning the black finish white in the process. It drives me and Gracie crazy. "You're a bird dog," I say to her. "Do something!" But she only paces back and forth, a worried expression on her face, tail drooping.

Finally I appealed to our vet, Dr. June. "What do I do about this crazy bird?"

"He's not crazy, just territorial," Dr. June told me. "This is nesting season and he's staking claim to your yard. He sees his reflection in your windows or in the side-view mirror of your car and he thinks he sees a rival, an enemy. Close your curtains and hang a towel over the mirror. That should stop it."

Dr. June's advice worked. No longer agitated, the robin flew off. But something else my vet said stayed with me. What the bird took to be his enemy was really just his own reflection. I am the same way. I think my anxiety is something prompted by the uncertainties of the day. Yet those are external factors. My fears and worries are internal. They do not lie in wait but arise within me. And too often they occupy the space where grace should be, where the one thing I can be certain of—God's protective love—can abide. Yes, I wake up to a troubled world these days, but I also wake up to a loving God who has lain in wait for me while I slept.

God of love and protection, abide with me during these difficult times.

Edward Grinnan, Guideposts

First Step Housing

The Foundation of Hays First United Methodist Church is partnering with First Call for Help of Ellis County in order to raise funds to help prevent homelessness in Hays and our immediate area. The partnership comes by way of creating a "Matching Grant," of up to \$12,500, that takes the money we raise as a church for the project, and matches it dollar for dollar, thereby doubling every contribution. You can receive more information, and have questions answered, by contacting the church offices, members of The Foundation Board, or Greg Daughhete or Troy Miller directly.



The vision and mission of the First Step Housing project, which involves constructing an actual living quarters inside their location at 607 E. 13th Street in Hays, is simple and straightforward. It will provide temporary housing to families in Ellis County who are struggling with homelessness but are committed to working and overcoming the obstacles they face in securing permanent housing for themselves and their families. In addition, it will help families with the skills needed in order to create a life-long foundation of stability, self-sufficiency, and security through solid employment, personal money management, and positive family care and nurturing skills.

The need is great. In one year, First Call for Help has assisted 90 households to prevent homelessness, impacting 215 people, including 89 children. However, that left an additional 187 people in need of housing who had to be referred to federal housing waiting lists or were transferred to shelters over 90 miles away. The Hays Housing Authority reports a current waiting list of over 80 applicants with a wait time of 12-24 months. Surveys conducted in Hays over the past three years have shown that, at any given time, there are 5-21 homeless people in our community. The toll on children is especially challenging because it affects their physical and mental health, learning and academic achievement, and higher probability of involvement with social services and homelessness as adults.

The goal is great but achievable. First Call for Help has begun construction after having raised a little more than \$25,000 of a complete project estimate of \$250,000. With the commitment of The Foundation, our generosity could be the next \$25,000 needed in order to keep building. Please prayerfully consider if you might be able to help us reach this goal together as a church.

Homelessness impacts all of us in one way or another. Yet, it is an opportunity where we can truly make a difference in the lives of people that will last for generations to come. What a great example of Christian love and charity we can be for our friends, neighbors, and community by presenting a gift from the people of Hays First United Methodist Church to First Call for Help of Ellis County's First Step Housing project. Please join us in this life-changing endeavor. Every gift, no matter how large or small, will make a huge difference.

Thank you for your love and support.

Troy Miller Director of Congregational and Community Care



Punching Fear In The Face

In the book of Joshua, we find the Israelites come to the entrance of the promised land and ultimately seize it from the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and the Jebusites. Long before this, God promised Abraham that he would take possession of the land and a nation of people more numerous than the stars would be birthed. With this promise in hand, the Israelites were entering into a battle that had already been won. The Israelites swept through the land conquering city after city. The time came for the people to take possession of the land and Joshua began the transition to new leadership. In his last words, we see Joshua challenging the people to make a choice. He knew that sooner rather than later, new ideas and beliefs would be presented to them and they would be on their own to go one direction or the other. He gives them these words “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your father served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” – Joshua 24:15. We have to understand one thing about all these other gods and that is this: They were driven by fear. By design, the gods kept the people in fear. Everything they did was out of fear. They gave everything they had, created all morality, lived every day of their lives out of fear. The God of the Israelites, however, was a God who told his people to have hope, that he was their shelter, commanded them to be bold and courageous, and reminded them that he would never leave them nor forsake them. This God had been with them and had guided them every step of the way. He reminds them that in every battle, he had gone before them and had already won the battle before a step was taken on the battle field. Now that the battle was over, he wasn't leaving and he was still promising to fulfill the promise He had given to Abraham. However, the other gods weren't leaving and they had a choice to make: faith or fear.

In many ways, we face a very similar choice. God has given us so many promises that we have been able to lean on for so long. Things have been going smooth for so long for us that faith seemed easy most of the time. However, we now stare fear in the face every day. Our world has been rocked and fear has been allowed to run wild. Fear will steal all the promises that God has for you. It will steal the identity that God has given you. It will make you believe things that simply aren't true. When Joshua told the people to choose, he was saying that there wasn't room for both fear and faith. Simply put, walking in faith requires surrendering fear. That doesn't mean that choosing faith is choosing blind faith with the belief that nothing can happen because I believe. It simply means that while I don't understand, I trust that God has gone before me and won the battle. It means that while we are in the midst of something we simply can't understand, we still maintain hope that on the other side of this is an incredible future, a future that will resemble the promised land, if we choose faith. You see, if we allow fear to conquer during this time, there will be no going back. Once fear has a hold on you, it won't let go simply because we ask it to.

So the challenge is this: choose. Choose faith or fear, there isn't room for both. The future depends on the choice we make today in the midst of a world we don't understand. If you choose a future full of uncertainty and a constant things out of our control. If you choose faith, you can have a future that isn't shaken during this time. So choose.



Matt Dumler, Youth Ministry Director

August OUTREACH
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Upcoming Events

Events subject to change

August 19	Youth to Precision Valley Golf - 7:00 p.m.
August 25	American Red Cross Blood Drive
August 26	Peddler's Fair Planning Meeting

