

# *First United Methodist Church* *Newsletter*

*August 17, 2021*



AUGUST 16TH, 2021

## **"The Divided Methodist Church: The Road Ahead"**

**"We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps."**

— Proverbs 16:9, NLT

It's been said more than once that *"The Texas Panhandle is so flat, that if your dog ran away, you could stand on the porch and watch him run to the next town."* Around here, people are used to driving on interstates and highways where the lack of landscape lets them see what lies ahead for the next two to three miles. If you're a native West Texan like me, then you also probably take for granted the ability to "look ahead" and see every step of your journey with clarity. Unfortunately, not everything in life has a clear view like the Panhandle of West Texas.

**THE REARVIEW MIRROR** - Since 1968, The United Methodist Church has been a three-lane interstate where United Methodists who lean to the left, to the right, or down the middle, could all drive side-by-side. Each lane has its own understanding of the Wesleyan way to allow Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience to guide them in discipleship and ministry. Yet the congregations and clergy in all three lanes agreed to drive by the "rules of the road" laid out in the *Book of Discipline*. However, **infighting and blatant disregard of the *Book of Discipline* by multiple UMC congregations and clergy caused a rift within the denomination** on hot-button issues like human sexuality, to the core beliefs like the resurrection of Jesus. In May 2019, at The General Conference of the UMC, these differences regarding our understanding and interpretation of Scripture, our theology, and our practice, caused delegates to reach an impasse at the meeting, with no clear way forward for the denomination. Then, a worldwide pandemic happened, and the international and domestic travel restrictions put in place by governments caused the regularly scheduled 2020 General Conference to be postponed -not once, but twice. In other words, the gridlock brought the UMC three-lane interstate to a standstill, with people in both the left lane and right lane trying to find an exit.

**THE ROAD WE'RE ON** - Simply put, the time has come for the three-lane interstate to become a junction. After the General Conference in 2019, key leaders from each of the factions within the denomination met to try and find a way forward, as well as a way out for those who desired to leave the UMC. Together, they composed *"The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation,"* which outlines how **the denomination will divide into three (or more) denominations**: (1) a new left wing progressive denomination, (2) the post-separation United Methodist denomination, and (3) a new right wing traditional denomination. *"The Protocol"* will be presented to the General Conference delegates at their next session, currently scheduled for August 29 - September 06, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**THE EXIT AHEAD** - At the 2021 Northwest Texas Annual Conference, our delegates were presented with details and information on the topic of separation by the NWTX Transition Team. On Saturday, August 14th, during the final business session, our **NWTX Conference delegates discussed and passed a resolution with three primary directives**: (1) the NWTX Conference endorsed *The Protocol*, and urges the General Conference to adopt it substantially unchanged; (2) the NWTX Conference declared its intention to align with a new, to-be formed traditional Methodist denomination; (3) the NWTX Conference called upon all its members to treat one another with respect and love during this process. The Resolution wasn't a vote for separation, but a statement on the direction that NWTX Conference will be taking. It'll be at least one more year before *The Protocol* is acted on, but once that happens, it will layout all the steps for the NWTX Annual Conference to join the Global Methodist Church - a new, traditional denomination pending formation.

Once the NWTX Conference votes on separation, **FUMC Stanton will have to decide** whether it will also exit with the Conference, or remain a part of the post-separation United Methodist Church. In the meantime, I ask that you continue to pray fervently and reverently for our delegates, our NWTX Conference, and the United Methodist Church!

*BHFL*

~~YES~~

**IMPORTANT**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE  
RECEIVING A PAPER NEWSLETTER CALL  
THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 432-756-2303  
OR EMAIL [briana@stantonumc.com](mailto:briana@stantonumc.com)  
Stay up to date on our website with our  
digital newsletter, Instagram, Facebook  
and our Ministry One APP!

~~NO~~





**KID'S CLUB** (Room 204)

**Pre-K – 2nd Grade**

*Contact: Karyn Pylant*

**CHILDREN OF GOD** (Room 201)

**3rd – 5th Grade**

*Contact: Amanda Louder*

**YOUTH** (Room 103)

**6th – 12th Grade**

*Contact: Edward Alberts*

**AGAPE CLASS** (Room 203)

**Co-Ed Young & Middle Age Adults**

*Contact: Kelli Holland*

**THE GALILEANS** (Room 002)

**Co-Ed Older Adults**

*Contact: Leah Mitchell*

**PARLOR CLASS** (Room 101)

**Co-Ed Senior Adults**

*Contact: Martha Matthews*

**THE FRANCIS CIRCLE** (Room 003)

**Senior Women's Bible Study**

*Contact: Francis Biggs*

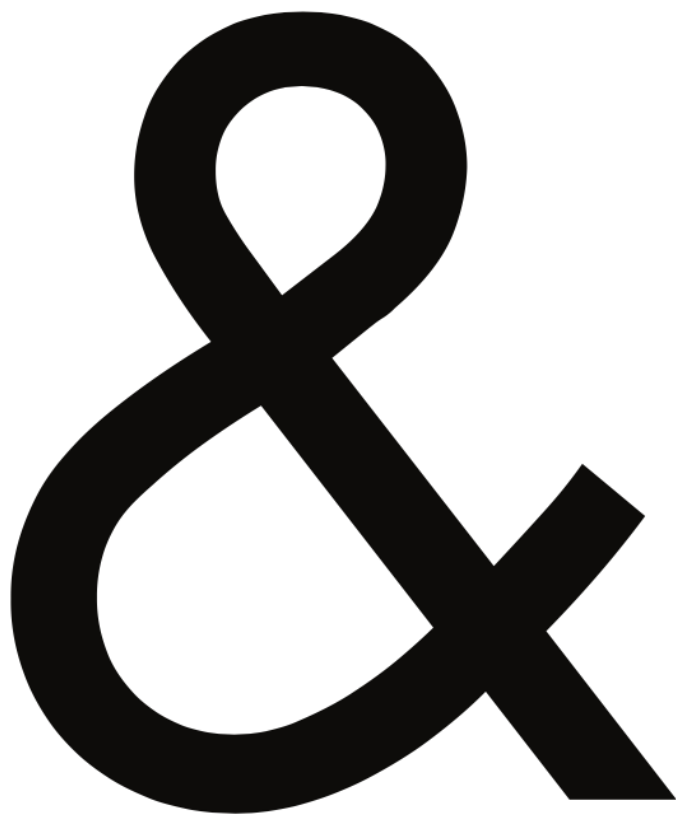
**NEW! REUNION GROUP** (Room 202)

**Co-Ed Adults of all ages** who have been on a "Walk to Emmaus," or a "Chrysalis" flight, and anyone else interested in these ministries.

*Contact: Pastor Benji*

**FOR MORE INFO, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 432-756-2303**

# CHURCH ACTIVITIES



# WORSHIP

## Sunday

10:00 AM - Sunday School  
10:50 AM - Worship Service  
4:00 PM - Choir Practice  
5:00 PM - Handbell Practice  
5:30 PM - Home Group  
6:00 PM - Youth

## Wednesday

10:00 AM - Upper Room  
5:45 PM - Kids & Youth  
(w/meal)  
6:15 PM - Diakonia (w/meal)  
7:15 PM - Praise Time

## Nursery

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

## Wednesdays

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

# HOST A MEAL FOR OUR YOUTH GROUP



FUMC YOUTH GROUP IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS  
TO HOST THEIR SUNDAY NIGHT MEALS. MEALS  
CAN BE AT THE CHURCH OR THEY CAN COME TO  
YOU!

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO BE A HOST!

**432-894-0542**

# **FUMC STANTON**

**REPORT  
DATE  
08/16/21**

## **INCOME**

## **TOTAL**

**July**

**\$45,835.21**

**August 1-16**

**\$24,680.00**

**YEAR TO DATE**

**\$368,240.40**

THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES  
OF  
FUMC STANTON  
TO FURTHER GOD'S KINGDOM  
AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF  
JESUS CHRIST FOR THE  
TRANSFORMATION OF THE  
WORLD!



# Mark Your Calendars

8/18 @ 6:00 PM Youth Parent  
Meeting

8/22 School Spirit Sunday ; Dress  
casual in favorite school colors;  
Lunch to follow; “Amazing Grace  
Race” @ 1:30pm

8/25 Diakonia Begins! See Schedule

8/29 Youth Sunday Nights Begin

9/3 & 9/6 – Office Closed

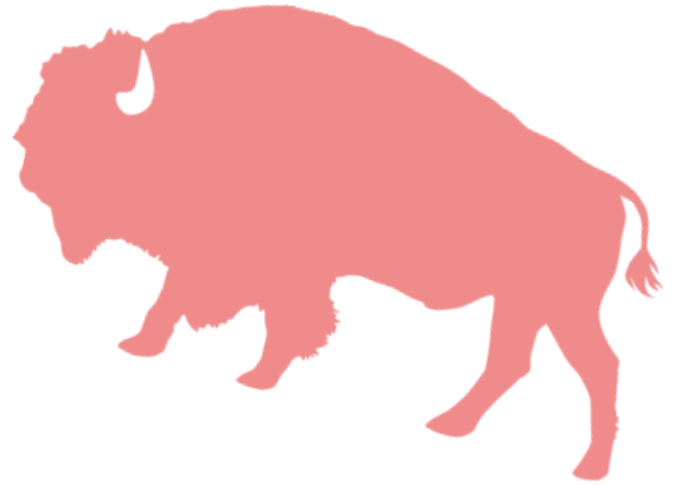


# **School Spirit Sunday!**

## **August 22nd**



**Dress Casual in  
School colors**



**Amazing Grace will  
begin at 1:30 There  
will be bounce houses  
for the small children  
& games in the fellowship  
hall for those who are  
not participating in  
the race**

## **For Those Who are Near and Dear to Our Hearts:**

Brian Allen - Lorez Avery- Danon Alred- Kim Anderson - Liz Barren - Kyle Blocker-Melinda Blocker - Debbie Brown - Allan Carby - Ronnie Caruth - Feller Chambers - - Carey Cleland - Christina Clanton - Tricia Cook - Rob Dolan - Delida Evans - Imogene Evans - Rob Dolan- Roger Fleckenstein- Carol Gassiot - Mary Haislip - Terry Harrel - Lorenda Harrod - Nelda Hazlewood - Kelly Hardin - Pinky Jones - Lee Lewis - Bud Lindsey - LuBecca Long -Paula Markel - Tommy Mckinsey - Johnny Neatherlin - Patti & Tracy Pollard - Daniel Porter - Tim Porter - Carolyn Reynolds - Dale Ruth - Vicki Smith - Tracy Spinks -Mac Stevens - Walter Tailor -Wade Turner - Lance Welch -Jeanine Wheeler - Richard & Charlotte White - Marie Woody - Stanton VFD, EMS, & Police, All Elected Leaders, Out Church & Community

## **For those Bereaved by the Passing Of:**

Danny Ireton - Kay Kennemur - Roberta Mae Carroll - Karen Watson - Todd Smith - Melissa Valles - Mario Rodriguez - Gene Gordon - Alice Capps - Cecil Townley - Woody Kathy - Rick Arndt - Colten Huckaby