



**Pastor Cathe  
Evins**

## **Back to School? Back to Worship? Back to Normal?**

Along with many others, you may be asking yourself these questions.....are my kids going back to school and if so, when and where and how? Will they go to their classrooms or home school or a combination of both? What about sports? Will there be a football season? Yes so far for the high schools, but not for TLU, but yes for some other colleges in our area. And maybe not in the Fall, but perhaps in the Spring....?

What about worship? When will we resume public worship and how? Will we still need to social distance? Will we be able to have a choir and praise band? Will we be able to sing? How about Sunday School classes? What about the way we take communion and give our offering? Will we ever be “back to normal”, or will we have to change the way we do things from now on?

I’m asking myself the same questions and I’m prayerfully trusting in God’s guidance and wisdom for the answers. As I’m writing this, Texas is still one of the “hot spot” states for COVID. I’ve checked on other churches around our Conference and find that most are still not having public worship. Like us, they are providing digital worship for their congregations through radio or YouTube or Facebook or a combination of methods. We will continue those methods, even after we resume public worship, because I realize that it may be longer for some than others to become comfortable going out into public in a group setting. But also, it provides a wonderful outreach to our community!

I eagerly anticipate gathering for public worship again! I know you do too. I can’t wait until visitation restrictions are lifted in our hospitals and nursing homes! I’m more than ready to put this “pandemic phase” behind us. I pray that will happen as soon as possible and I’m optimistic that it will. In the meantime, let’s trust in God’s perfect timing and be patient. Thank you for being faithful in your prayers and giving and worship attendance through KWED and Facebook. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will resume gathering together on Sundays in the beautiful church of FUMC that we call home.....and I can’t wait!

Blessings, Pastor Cathe

## **Communion and Baptism**

During the past few months, the inability to gather for public worship has presented many hardships. It has been particularly frustrating in the area of sacraments – baptism and communion. Since we are unsure of how much longer the COVID-19 restrictions may affect our ability to publicly gather, I’ve decided that we will conduct our sacraments differently.

**COMMUNION:** We are going to offer “communion by appointment” in Knolle Chapel. If you and your immediate family would like to make an appointment to come and receive communion, simply call the church office and make an appointment that works best for your schedule. Appointment times may be made Monday through Friday. You will enter through the side door of Knolle Chapel at the appointed time and pick up an individual communion cup from a basket. One of our pastors will be present and you will be able to share prayer concerns and then the service of communion will be observed.

**BAPTISM:** If you wish to be baptized or have someone in your family baptized, you may call to make an appointment for the baptism through the church office. Choose the Sunday you prefer and please limit your group to immediate family ONLY. A pastor will contact you to discuss pertinent details related to your scheduled baptism. The baptismal congregational response will be provided for our radio and Facebook listeners, so that they may participate in the baptism digitally.

Our prayer here at FUMC Seguin is that you will know and experience the love and care of Christ in the deepest ways possible, despite the times that we are in. Please do not hesitate to call us at the church office - (830) 379-4112 to schedule your sacramental appointments, or you may contact one of us directly, by email. Blessings, Pastor Cathe

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**Pastor Ray Perales**



## Texas Ramps Project Update

Have you ever hung up a frame or sign? You use your level, making certain that everything is straight, both horizontally and vertically. The bubble lines up perfectly between the reference lines, you mark the place or places for your nails or screws, maybe even measure and level one more time just to be sure. Once you hang it up, however, it just does not look right. You check it again, and it is perfectly level.

What happened? Why does the instrument say the object is level and straight but your eyes say different? Perhaps it is because our eyes are imperfect. Maybe it is because we compare the straightness of the object with everything around it, walls, doorframes, poles, trim, windows, etc. We do so unconsciously.

The same can happen to us spiritually. We use our own judgment, and things seem askew. They just don't seem right. We look at attitudes and actions, and they appear crooked, but we are comparing them with the culture around them. The question is whether something measures as "level" against God's Word, against God's standard. God's standard supersedes race, nationality, political party and culture. With our present climate, these can be highly charged words, but the fact is that only God's grace can carry us through these times, as God's grace carries us always.

We had a great build on Friday morning, August 14, 2020. The good news - considering the heat these days - was the build was entirely in the shade since we were building the ramp under the owner's carport. But the really good news was the work that Ms Whitaker had done a couple days before our build date. When we did the initial measurements, we noted that the first 20 feet of the area we were going to build in was about 4 feet deep filled with stuff. So we had it in mind that our first task was going to be moving that stuff. But when we pulled up Friday morning, it was nearly all cleared out. A friend of hers from church had come over and moved nearly all of it. All we had to move was a window A/C unit and the table it was sitting on.

So 7 masked builders from First United Methodist Church (Carl, Eric, Howitt, John, Bill, Robin, and Tom) got that moved and started building the ramp at about 7:30am. We had to make a custom unit for the area right out of the door, so we got off to a slow start. But we quickly got moving and built the 41 foot ramp in about 3.25 hours. As with each ramp, there were a few unique circumstances we had to work around.

Regardless, once we got the ramp finished, she can now pull her vehicle into the carport and she will have about a 6 foot walk to the entrance of the ramp. So as you can see from the attached picture, we were able to build a safer and easier way for Ms Whitaker to enter and exit her home. She was very grateful for our work.

A side note – we have the TRP warehouse up and running. We have only done one pre-build so far, but we are ready to serve the other Guadalupe County ramp building teams.



### Year-to-Date Financial Report July, 2020

Donations	\$491,806.00
Expenses	\$458,853.00
Donations Exceed Expenses by:	\$32,953.00
Checking Account Balance	
Beg. Balance as of 1/1	\$52,710.00
End. Balance as of 6/30	\$85,663.00



## Habitat for Humanity Update

With the current situation being what it is, we are still limiting our community volunteers. But that doesn't mean that we stopped building. As noted last month, we completed the house on Bowie St. Then we moved on to making some fence modification at the house we built last fall on Newton St. But by mid-August we had moved on to starting the next house at 725 Shannon Ave.

Of course there is always a little clean-up before we can start laying out the foundation. So we spent the last couple weeks of August getting the site cleared and the new fence installed. Over the next few months, we are still planning to limit the number of community volunteers. So for most work days, there will only be a few of us working on site. However, there will be a few times when we are going to need to enlist some outside help. So stay tuned, you may see a request for some assistance at some point.

And of course, there are always opportunities to shop, donate, or volunteer at the GVVFH store at 256 W. Court St. The Re-Store hours are Tue-Sat from 10:00am to 5:00pm. As well, according to all the social media data, everyone spent their downtime this past 6 months cleaning out their garage, house, and attic. So if you have some good stuff you need to get rid of - think about donating to the GVVFH.



## Hygiene Product Collection

With our church offices now reopened (Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-2pm), even if with reduced hours, we are preparing for continued ministry, the business of the church. For the month of September, we will be accepting hygiene products for our hygiene kit ministry. In our current circumstances, this is of great importance. Typically, we provide deodorant, shampoo, soap/body wash, toothpaste and a toothbrush in our kits. In addition to these products, however, we will also accept hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. We currently have dental hygiene products in stock, as well as bar soap. This is not to say that we will not accept those as donations, but simply to point out where the greater need is. As always, thank you for your generosity and your dedication.



**Pastor Melissa Lind**  
**Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adult Ministries**

It is hard to believe that summer is basically over. What a challenging summer it has been; the uncertainty of our day-to-day life is exhausting. The summer of 2020 has caused us to rethink how we vacation and forced us to stay home more. This pandemic has turned our worlds upside down and feels a little bit like a hurricane. Living here in Texas we know very well what kind of devastation a hurricane can cause and as we are in the peak of the hurricane season, we have already experienced Hurricane Hanna on July 25th with Corpus Christi feeling the brunt of the pain.

I happened to be on the Texas coast on July 25th and experienced Hurricane Hanna firsthand. My time and experience with the first hurricane of 2020 was the inspiration for our message today. It was an amazing weekend, a weekend that connected me to God in a way I would never have imagined. You see, I needed to get away. I needed this weekend vacation badly. As many of you know this time of year is my busiest between work and school, and even though our youth mission trip and other youth activities had been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, my schedule has still been full with issues dealing with the coronavirus and adapting to the new way of doing things in the midst of a pandemic. So just like so many of you I was just exhausted needing a break.

The Thursday before that weekend a friend's parents unexpectedly offered me their condo on South Padre Island. I was so thankful for this opportunity to get away but had no idea that a hurricane was headed to the Texas coastline until Friday morning as I was packing the car to leave. I contemplated not going, but I really needed to get away!! So, off I went heading right into the storm, not knowing what this storm would bring, if I would have to turn around and come home or if maybe I was making a bad decision. I went just trusting that God would keep me safe and out of harm's way. In the 5 hour drive I began to reflect on how often I face the storms in my life head on,

not always knowing what the outcome will be, maybe a little afraid or even unaware of what I might be getting myself into.

When I got to the island, I prepared myself for the storm to come. I went to the grocery store and filled the tank up in the car just in case I was evacuated. As I went about preparing myself for the storm I could feel the tension of the other people I encountered; the air was heavy with anxiety. When I returned to the condo which sits just off the bay on the opposite side of the beach, I walked over to the dock and looking off to the west was one of the most beautiful sunsets I have ever seen. The sky was filled with the most vibrant reds, oranges, and pinks. God was so present in that moment as I sat for the first time in some time so very still taking in God's beauty. It was the calm before the storm.

Saturday morning, I woke up. The sky was a little gray but the storm had not come in yet. I had come wanting to spend time on the beach, so I walked down to see if there might be the slightest chance I could dip my toes in the water. The sun was still shining although there was a slight overcast. Big billowy gray clouds lingered overhead and the wind was picking up. The huge waves had already begun to move inland and only a few brave souls ventured to see the crashing waves as the storm headed our way.

As the storm began to hit the coast I sat on the porch of the condo praying, reading and reflecting on God's mighty power, thankful that I was safe, knowing that I was to stay put and just take in God's creation, grace and peace. I observed the palm trees bending in the wind as though they were made of rubber, just swaying, and not resisting or snapping with the force of the wind. I sat quietly listening to the wind and rain, and as I sat in this hurricane, I felt this amazing sense of peace and awe. I thought about how Jesus is like the eye of the storm. We can have complete chaos going on all around us, but if we stay grounded and connected to Christ, he will calm the storm.

## It's Pumpkin Patch Time

We are preparing for the annual Pumpkin Patch. Even though it will be a scaled down version with major differences in order to consider the safety of everyone due to COVID-19, the committee feels strongly that the Pumpkin Patch will mean a lot to the community as it has in other major crisis years.

This year we will not be having Story time, science projects, scavenger hunts, coloring tables, etc. for groups of school children. We will open at 10:00 am instead of 9:00 am. Closing time will remain at 7:00 pm. We will be using all the precautions that are recommended: wearing masks, limiting access and numbers of people in the Patch, using hand sanitizer, and social distancing. We will not need any cookies this year, but we do request more prayers. Unloading will be different.

If we have resumed public gathering for worship, Sunday, September 27 is ORANGE SUNDAY. We invite everyone, young and old, to WEAR THE ORANGE and celebrate the Pumpkin. There will also be a Pumpkin Training session (but no lunch) after worship that day in Hierholzer Hall immediately after the 10:30 am worship services. This is very important this year as we will be explaining guidelines specific to this year's Pumpkin Patch. If we have not resumed public gathering for worship, the training and special instructions will be explained when you sign up for work.

The first load of pumpkins is scheduled to arrive on Saturday, October 3. It is imperative that we have a good turnout from the church to help unload. The pumpkins generally arrive between 8:00 & 9:00 am and we unload rain or shine. Masks will be required and gloves will be used as well. We will have a different way of unloading that will eliminate the need for close encounters of volunteers.

Sign up will be similar to previous years. Bulletin inserts and sign up sheets will be available at the church on and before September 27, if we are having public worship. If not, sign up can be done from home any time by clicking on the Pumpkin Patch link at [fumcseguin.com](http://fumcseguin.com) and using Sign Up Genius or by calling Terry Loehr at 830-660-9566.

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Articles may be submitted to [office@fumcseguin.com](mailto:office@fumcseguin.com)*