



“Happy Thanksgiving!”

Pastor Cathie Evins

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NRSV)

Are you kidding me? Really? Rejoice ALWAYS? Even in the year 2020? Give thanks in ALL circumstances? Even when we are masked and isolated? Hmmmm.....

The Apostle Paul’s letter to the Thessalonian church encompasses 5 chapters and I recommend it to you....take a moment to read those chapters this week! The Thessalonian church was commended by Paul for their deep faith and steadfast commitment to the Lord, despite persecutions they had experienced in the past. They had been Gentiles before their conversion to Christianity, but had since evidenced a strong and growing maturity in their faith. So after affirming his joy in their journey thus far, he writes the verse above, basically exhorting them to “keep on keeping on”.

We may find it difficult to find things to give thanks for in this season of Thanksgiving. It’s been a year that we all wish would have never happened. But I believe that we have much to be thankful for, as individuals and as a church. Even when times are hard and we are struggling, we can still be thankful - thankful that God has promised to be with us always and never forsake us. Thankful that he’s promised to be our refuge and helper. Thankful that he always hears our prayers. Thankful that we have brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage us and support us when we need it most. We can be thankful for friends, family, our church, and our community. I pray that during this month of Thanksgiving, you will find much to give God thanks for. Please know that I am thankful for YOU!

Blessings, Pastor Cathie



Advent Bible Study

An Advent Bible Study for women will begin November 8. There will be 5 sessions: November 8, 15, 29; December 6 and December 13. All sessions will meet in Hierholzer Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Each session will last about 90 minutes. Teri Nash and Judy Johnson will be the facilitators.

Women of the church are invited to participate. The book we will use is “The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem,” by Adam Hamilton. The cost of the book is \$13 and is available by emailing judithmjohnson617@gmail.com. You may pick it up before the Sunday School hour in Hierholzer Hall.

Hanging of the Greens: join the tradition

Christmas will be here before we know it and preparations have already begun. Poinsettias have been pre ordered, choir is planning for the cantata and the date is set for decorating the church. All we need is you.

Monday, November 23 beginning at 9:00 a.m. we will hold our annual Hanging of the Greens. Trees will be trimmed and wreaths will be hung as Christmas tunes help us bring in the season. Who knows, we might even get to enjoy a Christmas cookie or two.

Join your church family as we prepare to celebrate His coming.

The Scroll is a monthly publication of FUMC, Seguin.

The next deadline will be December 11. Articles may be submitted to office@fumcseguin.com



**Pastor Ray
Perales**

Typically, for a November church newsletter, I write something related to Thanksgiving. That is, after all, the subject on so many people's minds around this time of year. Where are we going to go to celebrate? Who is going to be there? What are we going to take? Is so-and-so bringing their (insert name of dish)? This year, however, as we have seen for several months, is not like most years. Walking through Wal-Mart and Home Depot the other day, I couldn't help but feel a sense of exasperation as I looked at the Christmas decorations displays being set up. On the one hand, I thought, "It's not even November yet!" On the other hand, I can't blame people for wanting 2020 to be over already.

What is on people's minds? This month, I'd wager (if I were a gambler man) that it's our nation's elections. We have our national elections for president, statewide elections for Congress, and local elections for various offices. At every level, there is division and conflict. Each side blames the other, gathering in camps rather than searching their own individual hearts. People are voting against

rather than for, and based on party rather than principle.

Now, I would never deign to tell someone how they should vote. I will, however, say two things: first, vote. If you have not done so already, and I know that many have, make sure to vote if you are able. Second, truly research the candidates. Base your decision on knowledge and discernment. Vote based on principle, on a sense of right and wrong. There are some issues that, admittedly, allow for a "gray area," but God has gifted us with a sense of morality, an ability to distinguish what is righteous from what is evil. In those instances, choose righteousness.

We wonder whether God is "on our side." God does not change that He should be on anyone's side. Instead, let us focus on whether we are on God's side. We serve a perfect God, and while there is no perfect candidate, no one aligned completely with the Word of God, we are called upon to make use of wisdom, to live out a Christian witness, and no matter the outcome of an earthly election, to remember that we are an eternal people of the Eternal God.

Thanksgiving Baskets for Those In Need

As we have in years past, we will be giving out Thanksgiving baskets to under-served families in our community. We are working with Arlan's in providing items for families to pick up and pray for involvement from our members. This is one of the many ways that we, First UMC of Seguin, serve as the hands and feet of our Savior Jesus Christ. If you are able and willing to help, you can provide a monetary donation at Sunday worship or at the church office. We will be accepting a "communion rail" offering on November 1 which will go entirely toward the purchase of food items for our Thanksgiving baskets. You can also help by volunteering to be a part of the team that prepares the bags of food at Arlan's. If you have any questions, please speak with Troy DePalermo or Pastor Ray.



Memorials Gifts

In memory of:

Gene Bachman

From:

Jo Blake, Jim & Judy Price

In memory of:

Mary Beth Coslett

From:

Jim & Judy Price

In memory of:

John Nash

From:

Jo Blake, Rickey & Martha Robbins, George & Marie Nisson, John Wegner, P.A. Weber, James & Sharon Berg, Nell Martin, mark & Marcia Boone, Bill & Suzi Hughson, Ron & Sandy Frohmann, Ed & Merry Douberly, Phyllis Dahlke, Nona Kay Scales, Linda Dietz, Kellie Raske

In memory of:

Frances Wegner

From:

Jo Blake, Anil & Janice Nath, Nell Martin, Mark & Marcia Boone, Kellie Raske, Clyde & Sara Schumann

In memory of:

Lydia Woehler

From:

Kellie Raske

In memory of:

Cherre Woods

From:

Jim & Judy Price

Year-to-Date Financial Report September, 2019

Donations	\$602,898.00
Expenses	\$589,699.00
Donations Exceed Expenses by:	\$13,199.00
Checking Account Balance	
Beg. Balance as of 1/1	\$52,710.00
End. Balance as of 9/30	\$65,909.00



Eric and Lauren Trammell, along with sons Zander and Zane, joined on October 11.



Wayne and Wren Dilworth, along with sons Brychan and Aidan, joined on September 27.



Will Gray Mahaffey (above left), Rebeka Wilke (above right), and Rylie Wilke (below right) were confirmed on October 11th.



Luke Vogel (above) and Mason Berry (right) were confirmed on October 18th.



Habitat for Humanity Update

We started the month of October with a slab poured, the walls off the trailer (and scattered about the build site), and a fair sized crew to start raising the walls.

With good weather during the month, some great volunteers, as well as a lot of blessings from above; we ended the month with the walls up, trusses up, windows installed, roof decking installed, soffit/fascia installed, siding installed, and the electrical trim-out well on the way to being completed.



Reminder, if you're interested in volunteering, please contact Robin Roark (512-695-3125 or TXRoarks@yahoo.com). No prior home building skills needed and no tools needed. We'll be glad to help you learn and we have all the tools needed.

And of course, there are always opportunities to shop, donate, or volunteer at the GVHFH store at 256 W. Court St. The Re-Store hours are Tue-Sat from 10:00am to 5:00pm. As well, if you have some good stuff you need to get rid of - think about donating to the GVHFH. Give them a call (830-401-0422) and they will even schedule a time to come pick it up for you.

Texas Ramps Project

The Ramps Team was back in full swing during October. Through the warehouse, we provided supplies and pre-built materials for two ramps in Guadalupe County – one that the FUMC team built and one that was built by the First Baptist Church. The materials we supplied for the First Baptist Church was for a 54 foot long ramp.

The ramp that the First United Methodist Church team built was for two ladies that live just a couple blocks from the Church. We had a great build on Friday morning, October 16th. We worked fast and hard, but with the cooler weather we didn't have to work up much of a sweat. As we pulled up that morning, the caregiver for the two ladies was also arriving - with breakfast tacos for the build crew. That's always a great way to start the morning. We got started unloading a little before 7:30am and finished a little before 10:00. During the build process, several family members came by to thank us for helping their family.



We did hit one snag that as we got close to finalizing the ramp - we were short a few pieces of lumber. The good news is that we were only two blocks from the Church so we could quickly make a couple treks over to the warehouse to fill the void. And it just didn't click what the problem was that caused us to be short on materials. But once we were able to step away and think about it, we realized why we were short - the ramp was longer than planned. To meet ADA specs, we build a foot of ramp for every 1 inch of drop and at the steps the drop was 36 inches. So with an extra 4 foot flat

landing in the middle of the ramp, we expected to build a 40 foot ramp. But it turned out to be a 43 foot ramp - apparently the ground sloped away a little as well.

A secondary goal of that day was to complete the ramp in time to also be back to the church in time to assist with the pumpkin delivery that morning. We also accomplished that goal - especially since the pumpkin truck didn't arrive until after 10:30. We even had enough time for a couple of us to do a little fixing up at the warehouse before we started unloading pumpkins.

It was also worth noting later in the day we got a call from a nearby neighbor commenting on the great job we did building the ramp and how much this is going to help the girls that live there. This person was also interested in getting a ramp built for her mother who is also low income and has advanced Parkinson's. So I told her about TRP, the need for a health care worker referral, and referred her to the www.

TexasRamps.org website for further information



Children's Ministry News

We would like to thank the congregation for the warm welcome we received after the announcement of the new Children's Ministry Team. We have enjoyed getting to know the children and families here at FUMC, Seguin. Please have your child join us in room 208 at 9:15 on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and you can pick them up at 10:15 in Knolle Chapel after choir.

For November we will be learning about "Gratitude" by encouraging our students to be grateful for their blessings and showing them how we can bless others through a fun service project. We are partnering with the Youth Ministry and Weekday School in a food drive to help the Christian Cupboard. Our students will be passing out reusable bags with a list of items that The Christian Cupboard is requesting for their Thanksgiving meal distribution. Our hopes are to be able to provide 100 Thanksgiving Meal Bags from our church.

We are looking forward to and planning our Children's Christmas Pageant. Save the date for Sunday, December 13, 2020, Something Great is Going to Happen!!

Please like our Facebook page, "FUMC Children's Ministry" and join our Remind group. You can text "@fumcsegu" to 81010. We will be posting events to the Facebook page and we will be sending you notifications through Remind. You can message us on Facebook, Remind, or email us at childrensministry@fumcseguin.com.

Give thanks no matter what happens.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Blessings,

Michelle, Veronica, and Kiana



We had 10 3rd grade Bibles given out on Sunday, Oct. 18th.



Come join our FUMC Children's Choir during Sunday School hour 9:15-10:15 Sunday mornings

The young people of FUMC Seguin will be holding a food drive for The Christian Cupboard this month. The Children's Ministry, Youth to Thrive and Weekday School are collaborating to help with the Thanksgiving Meals the Christian Cupboard is providing for those struggling in our community and we are asking for your support. Our students will be passing out reusable bags with a list of items that The Christian Cupboard is requesting for their Thanksgiving meal distribution. We are asking that you take the bags home with you, fill it with the items requested and return the bags no later than November 15th. Our hopes are to be able to provide 100 Thanksgiving Meal Bags from our church.

Thank you for Blessing others,
Pastor Mel



Wednesday Youth to Thrive
 5:30 - 5:45 pm Games, Hanging Out
 5:45 - 6:15 pm Dinner
 6:15 - 7:00 pm Devotional

Pastor Melissa Lind
 Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adult Ministries

What a joy it has been to confirm our Confirmation class of 2020. These students have waited so patiently to be confirmed. I hope you have had a chance to be a part of one of the 4 worship services that celebrated these faithful students. When our students are being confirmed they are asked to take a vow of Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith. Our students then join the church as a member of their own. Many of them have been coming to this church for years with their parents or other family members, but they get this opportunity to become members on their own. This is a huge step into their walk of faith. They are making a statement to faithfully participate in the ministries of our church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

If you have participated in one of the confirmation services you have renewed your vow to faithfully participate in the ministries of this church. This is a great reminder for all of us. So often we are asking what the church can do for us. We come to be spiritually fed and want to just sit back and allow the others to feed us. But I want to challenge you to take a look at how you might be participating with the ministries of this church. The United Methodist Church is centered around the members of the church.

You are the church. As pastors and leaders we are here to support your endeavors and spiritual walk. It is so important that the ministries of this church are led by the congregation so that the ministries will thrive even after the pastors have moved on.

Last month we celebrated Consecration Sunday and you were asked to make a pledge for your annual giving. What a joy it was to see the dedication so many of you have in financially supporting this community of faith, but now lets look at the other aspects of our vows as members of the United Methodist Church. How can you pray more for or with others? What does it look like for you to be more present in your walk of faith and here at the church? How can you better serve God and your community of faith? What does it look like for you to witness the Good News that through Christ we will find abundant love, forgiveness and grace? We have renewed our vows. so the time is here to take action and live into the vows we so faithfully want to practice. I can't wait to see where God leads us!

With love in Christ,
 Pastor Mel

Pumpkin Patch 2020



Much like everything else in the year 2020, Pumpkin Patch has been different. Bill Hughson & Barbara Vinson did their homework for weeks figuring out how to make it happen and be safe for all. Plans were made. Simplify, but keep the spirit of the Patch, and then things began to happen. Delivery was late and then the next delivery was early. People showed up to help and the Patch became reality. Sales were excellent and the community was very appreciative. The final report will come later. As 2020 style as the Patch was, we can say. . . God is good all the time and all the time God is good. And we look forward to 2021.

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