



Wesley's Vision

INVITE all in the Name of Christ  
GROW disciples with the Word of Christ  
SERVE all with the LOVE of Christ.

# ***Wesley Witness***

Wesley United Methodist Church  
**August-September 2021**

614 Texas, Sulphur Springs, TX

[www.wesleysst.org](http://www.wesleysst.org)

facebook

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

903-885-3383

903-438-2324 Fax

"The grass withers,  
the flower fades,  
but the word of our  
GOD stands forever."

Isaiah 40:8 NASB



## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Richard Adams    Stephen Andersen    Ester Allen    Charles Batty, Sr.    Marilyn Baxter    Pastor Steve & Dicie Rue    Delana Beadle  
John Bostick    Melissa Bosworth    Cassie Cavaliere    Benny Deaton    Debra DeGross    Tammy Duffy    Betty Ferrell  
Steve Fitch    Stanley Foster    Renee Francey    Jim Gregg    Dora Gross    Janet Hamner    Rebecca Hathcoat  
Gina Lynn Herman    Kristi Hodgkiss    Mary Harris    Frank Hernandez    Louise Jones    Pam Hollingsworth    Kara Lane  
Forest Mullins    Rosemary Norman    Jason Oldham    Jana Prochaska    JoAnn Roach    Carolyn Roland    Betty Warren  
Paul West, Sr.    Louise Stewart    Allan Thar    Barbara Williams    Leslie Wisdom    Karen Zitterich    Jim and Vera Skaggs  
Becky & Danny Walker    Bob and Mary Ann Wilder    Our Country and our leaders    Known military:    PFC Ryan Dixon-Army    Devyn & Jaxon Riggs-Marines



### United Methodist Women News

There will be a brief called meeting Wednesday, August 11, at 11:00 a.m. in the Wesleyan Classroom. Discussion—mission projects.

The District Meeting of UMW will be in Leonard on Saturday, September 18. We will meet at Wesley and carpool.

The regular meeting of Wesley UMW is Tuesday, September 21, at 1:30 p.m. Be prepared to vote on Special Recognition pins. Please bring someone with you!

Be thinking of ideas for 2022 UMW to be better and do more to promote missions for women, youth and children here in the U.S. and around the world. What can WE do? What can YOU do?

#### PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



The family of Elton Stewart sends their thanks and love to each of our Wesley Methodist Church family. To those who prepared food and helped serve the delicious lunch to our family was so appreciated.

So many lovely cards, floral pieces and kinds words as each of you could say to console our hearts in time of our sorrow.

The celebration of Elton's life was so comforting to the family a it was prepared and spoken by our faithful pastors Jerry Putman and Steve Cook. We will cherish the memories forever.

The visits to our home during Elton's final days as he was making his way to his eternal home were so meaningful to the family.

Thanks so much for the many church memorials.

The Elton Stewart Family  
Louise, Randy, Judy, Billy Bob and Linda Stewart

I want to send my thanks to the faithful ladies that visited my sister, Marge, and for the many who sent cards.

The lunch that was served before the service was delicious.

I know everything you did was out of love for Marge. Wish I could mention you all by name but fear I would leave someone out.

Much love and blessings,

Carolyn Nance

Dear Wesley UMC,

Mary Brooke and I are sincerely grateful for the wonderful hospitality and generous reception we were given by Wesley UMC last month. We have enjoyed our time in the East District and have truly been blessed by our relationship with Wesley UMC. We always felt at home and part of the family when we were with you.

Blessings to all in the year ahead and know that you will always be in our prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Vic and Mary Brooke Casad

### Notes from the Lay Leader

Wesley Members:

We had a board meeting last night and it was a long, painful, and sad meeting for us. The finances of our church took most of our time. Decisions have to be made as to how we are going to be able to keep the doors of Wesley Methodist Church open, and do we want to? Well, for me, the answer is yes. I hope you feel the same way.

The facts are: we are hanging by a thread, we may have enough to pay our bills and staff this month, but may not be able to next month. We are not even talking about apportionments. We are talking about the basic monthly expenses we have. It is a sad day for Wesley Methodist Church. We have to look deep into our hearts and dig a little deeper in our pockets to try to hang on.

The Board looked at various fundraisers and we will kick them off with a luncheon on August 15, after church and Sunday school. This NOT for apportionments, it is for our general expenses. The Wesleyan Class will be heading this up, with help from all the classes. I hope you will stay and be very generous in your giving. Please mark this on your calendar.

The leaders of our church will be looking at more options in the near future. Please be in prayer for us as we continue on our journey of faith.

Our very own, Bonnie Gilmer, or BG, is retiring September 15. Another sad day for Wesley. She had worked for us 19 years, and she has gone above and beyond her job description, and most certainly above what she had been paid. She will be missed. She is appreciated so much. BG, we love you! Please prayerfully consider what you can do for your church.

In His Name, *Lou Jane Drummond*



In loving memory of Gaylon O'Dell

By: Mr. & Mrs. Elton Stewart

In loving memory of Muriel Lucas

By: Mr. & Mrs. Elton Stewart Janie Godfrey

Mr. & Mrs. Max Massey Vera Ann Johnson

Rhonda Alley

In loving memory of Dorothy Davis

By: Mrs. & Mrs. Elton Stewart

In loving memory of Dave Spears

By: Mrs. & Mrs. Bill Wilder Hendrik & Marieke deWitte

Diane Dixon

In loving memory of Wanda Clayton

By: Lou Jane Drummond Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilder

Diane Dixon Mr. & Mrs. Max Massey

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Spears and Family

Janie Godfrey Vera Ann Johnson

In loving memory of Elton Stewart

By: Mr. & Mrs. Ronny Darrow Lou Jane Drummond

Mr. & Mrs. Doyle McKinzie Diane Dixon

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilder Mr. & Mrs. Max Massey

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Spears and Family Janie Godfrey

Martha Ann Tivis or Joshua Boelte JoAnn Johnson

The family of Ralph & Harriett Casey Judy Temples

(Rick & Debra Jackson, Jerry & Becca Hathcoat)

Johnny & Kathy Lennon Gary & Rachel Lewis

Jim & Wanda Winfrey Vera Ann Johnson

Stanley & Mary Lou Foster Myra Grant

Mr. & Mrs. James Cross Ann & Carlisle Clement

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Crouch Dorothy McCaig

Charlotte Henderson Rhonda Alley

Kenny & Ruth Ann Crowson Hendrik & Marieke deWitte

In loving memory of Ronnie Jenkins

By: Diane Dixon Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilder Janie Godfrey

In loving memory of Marge Johnson

By: Dorothy McCaig Diane Dixon

Carolyn Nance James & Annada Jones

Rick & Cheryl Spears Stanley & Mary Lou Foster

JoAnn Johnson Gary & Rachel Lewis

Jimmy & Wanda Winfrey

In loving memory of Billy Crowson

By: Diane Dixon

In loving memory of Roy Herman, Jr.

By: Gary & Rachel Lewis Diane Dixon

Rick & Cheryl Spears Hendrik & Marieke deWitte

In honor of Emily Glass

By: Lou Jane Drummond

In honor of Barbara Williams

By: Dorothy McCaig



## When Is Labor Day 2021? What to Know About the Holiday and Why We Celebrate It

Labor Day is often thought of as summer's last hurrah. The holiday weekend usually offers a chance to spend time relaxing with friends and family and enjoying delicious grilling recipes and summery drinks. But of course there's a much deeper meaning behind Labor Day.

Labor Day is a time to pay tribute to American workers, and all of their many contributions and achievements through the years. Created by the labor movement in the late 19th century, Labor Day honors the men and women who fought tirelessly for workers' rights, especially the eight-hour work day we have now. So when your Labor Day 2021 celebration is in full swing, be sure to take some time out to reflect and pay respect to all the workers, past and present, who have made America the country it is today.

This year, Labor Day falls on Monday, September 6, 2021. This means that Labor Day weekend—the three-day span that encompasses Labor Day—will take place from Saturday, September 4 through Monday, September 6.

Labor Day is always the first Monday in September. Though the holiday is always held on the first Monday in September, the calendar date changes each year.

*The Pioneer Woman*

**Wesley had a reception for Rev. Dr. Vic and Mary Brooke Casad, outgoing East District Superintendent, May 23.**



From  
Pastor  
Steve

## “The Pandemic of the Soul!”

Here we go again! Yet another round of **COVID-19**. This particular variant is called **Delta**. In all honesty, most of us are where King David was in Psalm 39:9-11; 22.

**“O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it is also gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbors stand far off...do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me; make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.”**

In the midst of constant medical announcements and updates, we have learned to either listen and respond positively or negatively or simply turn a deaf ear to all forms of media. I confess there have been times when I just wanted to enjoy a time of peace and comfort away from all of the pandemic-related news, the forest fires in the west, the floods in Europe, assassinations of leaders in nations, political ping pong gamesmanship in our own country, and the great divide that has existed forever between the have and have-nots!

Now there has been a record number of fights aboard airlines, pushing and shoving in handout lines for food, and intentional name-calling and derogatory, nicknaming of our elected leaders by other elected leaders. I am convinced we have lost our sense of decency and respect for one another and it is played out over forms of media we use: internet, tv, radio, i-phone, etc.

I have said consistently for years that what happens on Main Street, USA will make its way into all local churches—small and large. This means when we arrive for worship on any Sunday morning, we have endured a constant replay of the negative and the rumor-mongering game for the preceding 6 days. Instead of us arriving to be filled with the Spirit of God in searching the Scriptures, we are much more likely to be replaying the preceding week’s news and often applying our opinion or viewpoint of our daily life in the USA. A result is our being weighed down by all the news noise obviously filtered through media viewpoints. Whom can we trust to speak the truth? Whom can we befriend to interpret and/or explain the best way to respond with integrity?

**The Pandemic of the Soul** affects all living beings. Our Christian faith is one of **The Three H’s: Head, heart and hands**. To be born anew, born again, or saved is an experience prompted by the Holy Spirit. **Romans 10:8-10; 13** declares:

**“But what does the Scripture say? The Word (of God) is near you, and on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

When human beings are prohibited from living their normal daily lifestyle—whatever it may be—then there are losses of freedoms that negatively affect his or her emotions and well-being. Normal routines such as shopping, walking, visiting family, friends or neighbors stop. Suddenly, our heads, hearts, and hands are unable to do or go. Most often, an unsettling fear accompanies these

losses. Confusion may result. Hugs and touches may stop. We see one another, yet we cannot enter into each other’s space—even at church much less family! We feel helpless to help ourselves and others. The joy of living is suspended.

**Pandemic is defined as “an event in which a disease spreads across several countries and affects a large number of people.”**

It is a challenge to offer a way of having being church during a pandemic. Wesley had to offer first a drive-in church in our parking lot., then online with less than ten of us as worship leaders, then wearing masks and encouraging members and guests to join the worship team in Wesley Hall (still online), and finally returning to our sanctuary while still wearing masks at first, and then without masks (and online!).

It was a glorious day when our Sanctuary Choir finally rejoined our Sunday worship! We had to offer Communion in a different way without fingers touching the bread or the juice. We have followed guideline given to us by our Bishop and the CDC (Centers for Disease Control). We chose to relocate our Church nursery to Wesley Hall until we deemed it safe to return to the shared space with our Little Acorn School folk. **Continuous change** has been the operative phrase. All of the this affects **The Pandemic of the Soul**.

It is noteworthy that Jesus spoke these words to his Disciples in Matthew 11:

**V. 27: All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and ANYONE to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. V. 28 “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. V. 30 “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

Psalm 55:22a reminds all of us to **“Cast your burden on the Lord and the Lord will sustain you.”** Hebrews 13:5b is a repeat of Deuteronomy 31:8 and is the source of our help in time of need:

**“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”**

May we always remember our God is our Creator God who is **“with us always.” (I Peter 5:7)** In Jesus Christ, we have been adopted as sons and daughters **in the Family of God, forgiven of our sins, and make new by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

The hymn, “The Lily of the Valley” sings it well for us:

**He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here, while I live by faith and do his blessed will; A wall of fire about me, I’ve nothing now to fear, with His manna my hungry soul shall fill.**

God is good, **all the time, and all the time**, God is good.

Pastor Steve

Children’s  
Sermon  
July 18



# Muffins with Mom May 9



The Ad Board met on Tuesday, July 27, and discussed the church finances at length. The decision was made to ask the Trustees to request some of our money being held in the Texas Methodist Foundation be moved into our general fund. This money has been held there as a "back up" for major rainy day expenses, but will instead be used to help cover monthly utilities, insurance and salaries. The church cannot be sustained long term with these funds. Please understand that this is an action taken with heavy hearts. Giving is down considerably, and is NOT covering our expenses. The sale of the church bus is also on the next Trustee agenda. The Ad Board will be meeting again on Tuesday, August 31, to discuss more options. All members are welcome to attend. Some difficult decisions will need to be made to keep Wesley moving forward.

MANY fundraising options have been discussed and approved. Some are in-house fundraisers and others have us moving into the public. There are SEVERAL participation options available for our members. Please check the big bulletin board in Wesley Hall and sign your name on one or more of the papers that Emily Glass has posted. YOUR time and talent are needed.

Respectfully,

Barbara Williams

**Fundraising Opportunities are Listed on the Bulletin Board in Wesley Hall  
There are many opportunities to be in service. Where can you help?**

### **Fundraising Opportunity #1**

**Selling Homemade Craft Items and Baked Goods at  
Celebration Market (on the downtown square)**

**August 21, 2021 5pm—9pm**

Contact Person: Emily Glass 903-243-6222

### **Fundraising Opportunity #2**

**We're taking the church outside and will  
be showing The Wizard of Oz and selling  
meals at Celebration Market (on the  
downtown square)**

**Date TBD - Fall 2021**

Contact Person: Emily Glass 903-243-6222

### **Fundraising Opportunity #3**

**Church Cookbooks!**

**Date TBD - Fall 2021**

Contact Persons: Mary Lou Foster 903-349-7073  
& Sarina Williams 903-340-7213

We simply want to let everyone know we will be collecting recipes soon for Wesley's church cookbook! We have so many wonderful cooks, and we want to share that with the world.

### **Fundraising Opportunity #5**

**BBQ sandwiches to be delivered to area businesses/schools**

**Date: August 27, 2021**

Contact Person: Joe Clark 903-335-1388

### **Fundraising Opportunity #4**

**Stew and Chili - Fall Roundup**

**TBD - Fall 2021**

Contact Person: Emily Glass 903-243-6222

### **Fundraising Opportunity #?**

**This is YOUR opportunity!**

**Date TBD**

Contact Person: Emily Glass 903-243-6222



The Wesley Witness  
Wesley United  
Methodist Church  
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Sulphur Springs, TX  
75482

(903) 885-3383 Church Office  
(903) 438-2324 Fax

[www.wesleysst.org](http://www.wesleysst.org)

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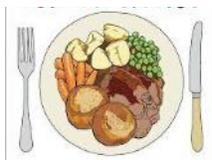
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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

Lunch following  
Sunday school

August 15

Wesleyan Class is  
Coordinating



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