



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 2019

614 Texas, Sulphur Springs, TX

903-885-3383

facebook

www.wesleysst.org

903-438-2324 Fax

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

*Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things
Psalm 98:1*



PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Richard Adams	Patsy Ardis	Jordyn Ausmus
Charles Batty, Jr.	Delana Beadle	The Beers Family
Allison and John Bostick	Kristie Bryant	Wanda Clayton
Beverly and Michael Chapman	Erick (Butch) Coffman	Mason Delbridge
Antonio Cummings	Virginia Emerline	Cindy Evans
Eddie Fenstermaker	Sharon Gaines	Jayne Glenn
Don and Mary Gilmer	Jeff Godfrey	Dorothy Hargrave
Donny and Baulah Godfrey	Ashley Harris	Frank Hernandez
Jack and Janie Godfrey	Mark Heisler	Mindi Horne
Magan, Tim, Easley, and Baby Finn	Henderson	Pam Hollingsworth
James and Pat Hulen	Patty Hudson	Lucille Jenkins
Jeff and Pat Johnson	Louise Jones	Dana Jordan
Laura and John Lee	Lynn Kincade	Jase Mable
Zane Magan	Sandra Parker	David Phillips
Rose Raines	Varie Ramos	Vera Skaggs
Elton and Louise Stewart	Michael Spurlock	Nancy Stobough
Betty and Mark Warren	Anna Mae Stolz	Allan Thar
Hays Warren	Sean Wells	Ron Zitterick

Our Schools, Students, Teachers, Staff

Community Chest/Cupboard North Texas Food Bank

Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center Holy Highway Girls Home

Dallas Bethlehem Center – Wesley-Rankin Community Center

New additions to the prayer list are in **BOLD**

Note: Names added to the prayer list will remain on the list for 30 days. They will be relisted by request. Please help us to keep the list current

WESLEY HOMBOND

Marvin & Louise Jones Sandy Heisler Sandra McIntire
Reid Rawls Marge Johnson Muriel Lucas Elton & Louise Stewart

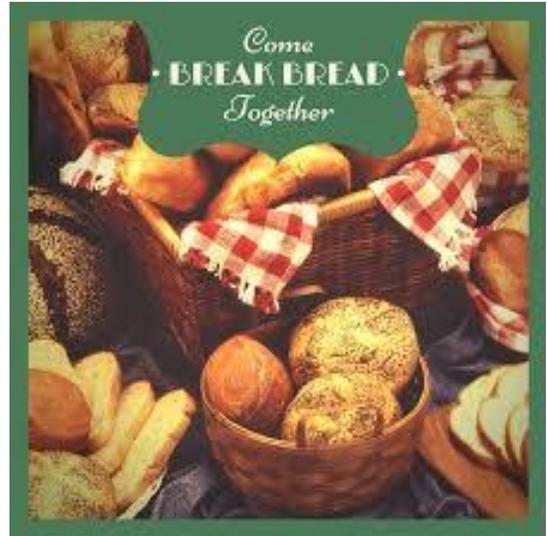
**Wednesday Night Dinners and Activities
will begin September 4.**

**The Breaking Bread Together
Servants will cook and serve
the meal.**



August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Donna Korth	August 2
Betty Green	August 3
Michelle Griffith	August 3
Cal Clark	August 12
Keith Griffith	August 14
Cheryl Spears	August 14
Kathy and Chris Steele	August 14
Mike Gilmer	August 17
Shirley Brock	August 17
Konnie Cross	August 18
Frances and Billy Daniels	August 18
Didi and Logan Thurman	August 22
Joyce Davis	August 26
Jim Skaggs	August 26
Chelsea Batty	August 26
Kathy and Ronny Darrow	August 30
Louise Jones	August 31



Wesley United Methodist Church

614 Texas

(Corner of Texas & Bellview)

FREE lunches

Every Monday & Friday at NOON

**Break Bread Together
with Us!**

Ad Board Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13

From
Pastor
Steve

Remember Ephesians 2:10

Methodists are grace-oriented people. It's in our Christian DNA. It was first formulated and Bible-tested by our founder, John Wesley. It contains kindness, love, mercy, acceptance, forgiveness, reconciliation, eternal life—and many other Biblical words (faith, hope, joy, etc.). Grace is generally defined as God's unmerited (unearned) favor toward humanity. It is God's gift to us who believe. I like that. Wesley would like it. After all, it is God's gift to us!

Early on in my evolving as a Methodist pastor, my new clergy friends and my mentors poured it on thick about the grace of God. That and the fact that Methodists are a connectional people—wherever we are located as a local church, we worship alike in more ways than we differ. I've found this to be true as well. These four Methodist pastors taught me and loved me in ways I had never been taught: Burt Palmer, Doug Miller, Pete Adrian, and Charley Pierce. Burt and Doug are current pastors (Houston and Dallas) and Pete and Charley are retired. What I learned by being in a pastors' group from 2001-2004 with these four and at least 10-12 others in Paris, TX is a testament of acceptance and love of a brother. I thank God upon every remembrance of them!

I had never heard of prevenient grace: that grace of God that is given us before we ever can respond (baptizing an infant is an example). Justifying grace is what many other Christians call saving grace (when we say yes to God and accept Jesus as Savior and Lord by faith). Sanctifying grace is also similar to what other Christians called sanctification (once we have been justified by God—saved—we spend the rest of our life on earth growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, but there is more...

John Wesley knew and personally experienced how he and everyone else could grow in grace. He referred to them as works of mercy and works of piety. As long as we just make a decision—but not a commitment—to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, we never grow. The Bible describes people like that as newborn babes dependent on milk. However, when we choose to grow, the Bible then says we are able to chew on the meat of God's Word. A baby starts with milk to survive and then eventually can mature to a point of being able to eat meat.

The works of mercy are the means of grace (or channels of grace) defined by Wesley as feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and the person in prison, working for social justice for all, welcoming the stranger, and caring for the poor. In fact, anything that extends the Gospel of love of neighbor could be works of mercy: baking bread, taking a meal, helping to move in or out, caring for pets when the owner is away, etc. It is based on Matthew 25:40: "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it unto me."

The works of piety are those means of grace (or channels of grace) where a person grows in his or her faith such as the

following: Personal and private prayer, searching the Scripture, reading, hearing and meditating, taking the Lord's Supper, being baptized and participating in other baptisms, and fasting and abstinence (food, alcohol, or even chocolate—giving it up for Lent!). Piety is practicing your faith as holiness to God. Therefore, these works mentioned above are ways we together and not alone grow in grace of the Lord Jesus.

As Methodists, we honor the two Sacraments (an outward sign of an inward grace) of Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) and Baptism. We see the table as the Lord's Table and invite anyone willing who love Christ, is willing to confess their sin, and seek peace to come to the Lord's Table. In using fermented grape juice (developed by a Methodist layman) as opposed to wine, it is a more family friendly experience. Baptism is simply being initiated into our family of grace and the Church eternal. In both sacraments, Wesley believed it was an experience that could lead to one's conversion to Christian discipleship.

We sing *Grace Greater than Our Sin* and *Amazing Grace* to give thanks to God and praise God's goodness and mercy following us all the days of our lives and providing the dwelling place in the House of the Lord forever. And by the way, Methodists are great singing people.

I have shared all of this with you to point you back to Ephesians 2:10. The two verses before (2:8-9) are the chief saving grace directives: "For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works so that no one can boast." But then, 2:10 extends this good news of what salvation means: "for we are God's workmanship (handiwork) created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God prepared beforehand that we should do." Grace is God's way of saving us: God initiates it as pure gift to us. Faith is our way of responding to God's grace. Good works is the way our Christian life and discipleship grows. When we accept God's gracious gift of salvation by our faith in Jesus as Savior, Lord, and God's Son, this is just the beginning of what we can call eternal life. Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly." Grace (God's) + Faith (ours) = discipleship (good works or works of mercy and piety!). Good works will not save us, but when we are saved (experienced salvation), our desire is to bear fruit and grow in grace by any means! Let us aspire to be an Ephesian 2:10 church at Wesley! *Soli deo Gloria!*



George Lewis joined
the Wesley Family
July 14.
Welcome!

New Sunday School Study Offered

When: Regular Sunday School Hour

Where: Church Library

Teacher: Bill Watts

Facilitator: Rhonda Alley 501-920-3303

Subject: Practical Christianity

Study Materials: The Bible plus teacher-provided sundry materials

Age Restrictions: None imposed, however, young single or married adults seeking a closer and more personal life with God would, no doubt, find the study to be of greater benefit.

Study Format: Fifteen percent information, then 85% life application. Lecture, discussion, questions, and answers (hopefully) with time allowed for personal prayer needs.

Samples of Subject Matter:

1. Ten basic convictions of life.
2. Logos and rhema.
3. What does it mean to be “wholly” saved?
4. Ministry, motivational and manifestation gifts of Holy Spirit.
5. Characteristics, abuses and misuses of spiritual gifts.
6. What are God-given visions and why are they so important?
7. “It’s a Wonderful Life” in the Body of Christ.
8. Prayer: What, where, when, how, successes, and hinderances.
9. What are some Christian principles we might consider adopting?
10. Developing love in the Body of Christ.

We could go on and on because, in the life of a Christian, study and learning ought never to cease and list of possible subjects should be as varied as life itself.

Interested? Questions? Speak with facilitator, Rhonda Alley or Bill Watts, or simply attend an organizational meeting in the church library on Sunday mornings following worship.

Wesley Kids Noisy Offering

We are donating \$125 to Lil 4s Kids Club After School Program.

Lil 4s is a nonprofit organization that helps get kids off the street.



The Supply Kit

We also are donating \$390 for school supply kits for Travis Primary and for SS Elementary.

Wesley Summer Fun Adventure Day



Life isn't always fair... even the adults were reminded to that when the teams had different cups in the relay race.



Making GUTSY bears: God's Unique Talented Special You!



Allie and Mattie Thurman teaching us that God made us for a reason!



The Wesley Witness
Wesley United
Methodist Church
614 Texas Street
Sulphur Springs, TX
75482

(903) 885-3383 Church Office
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

facebook

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

United Methodist Women



1:30 p.m. Tuesday
August 20

Program: Bonnie Gilmer
Hostesses: Joyce Davis
Sandra Parker

Back to School Bash

Sponsored by the Children and Youth Ministries



Water Slides and Games
Picnic Supper



Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks, Dessert
You may bring cookies or homemade ice cream to share.
We will celebrate the August birthdays!

Everyone is encouraged to attend!