



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

July 2020

614 Texas, Sulphur Springs, TX

www.wesleysst.org

facebook

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

903-885-3383

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Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the
Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17



July 4, Independence Day

Independence Day, or July 4, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence.

The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free and independent states. The Congress has voted to declare independence two days earlier, July 2, but it was not declared until July 4.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

Wikipedia

According to the History Channel, prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, people living in the American colonies used to celebrate the king's birthday with "the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions, and speechmaking." During the summer of 1776, some colonists held mock funerals for King George III to celebrate the nation's new freedom.

In Loving Memory of Jack Godfrey

By: Billy & Frances Daniels Rick & Cheryl Spears Rhonda Alley
Vera Ann Johnson Lou Jane Drummond Beverly Ann Bryant
Joe & Amanda Clark Bill & Gina Wilder Hendrik & Marieke deWitte
Jim & Wanda Winfrey Stanley & Mary Lou Foster Lisa Phillips
Max & Ilene Massey David & JoBeth Brewer

In Loving Memory of Memory of Sandra Parker

By: Plano Street Neighbors Joe & Amanda Clark
Betty Green Lisa Phillips Vera Ann Johnson Rhonda Alley
Rick & Cheryl Spears Billy & Frances Daniels
Shirley Brock Jim & Wanda Winfrey
Jerry & Peggy Gibby JoAnn Johnson
Ronny & Kathy Darrow Lou Jane Drummond
Mike & Alice Parker, Shirl, Richard & Amber Lee
Chris, Scarlett & Mollie Gibbins Stanley & Mary Lou Foster
Ronald & Betty Stewart Rick & Rebecca Stewart
Max & Ilene Massey David & JoBeth Brewer
Bill and Gina Wilder Hendrik & Marieke deWitte

In Loving Memory of Cindy Evans

By: Lou Jane Drummond Vera Ann Johnson Lisa Phillips
Max & Ilene Massey Billy & Frances Daniels Kara Lane

In Loving Memory of Shirley Glossup

By: David & JoBeth Brewer

In Loving Memory of Mack Phillips

By: David & JoBeth Brewer

In Loving Memory of Max Drummond

By: David & JoBeth Brewer

From the Finance Chair

This year has been interesting, to say the least. We are all adapting to a different, hopefully temporary, way of life. Many members of our church aren't comfortable attending church in person, and I'm grateful for the technology that allows us all to be together, even when we're physically apart.

Most in our church know that my husband and I belong to different churches. He is a part of a group called The Knights of Columbus, which began as a type of insurance group that provided funds to families, that, ultimately, allowed the children of a widow to remain together and intact. It was a hedge of protection during a time when the widow would have been required to provide proof that she could provide financially for her children after her husband died or she would lose guardianship of her own children. In 2020 this is hard for me to comprehend, or at least I thought it was.

Our church needs a hedge of protection that will allow us to remain together. As finance chair, I would not be doing my job if I didn't let the members know we are in dire need of funds. During this pandemic I can speak from experience that it's easy to get out of the habit of giving. I've had to play "catch up" at different times with my giving. We have averaged around \$1500 a week in giving, and the church needs \$4,000 per week in the general fund to operate. While I know the difference seems overwhelming, as your finance committee, we have tossed our various ideas on how to increase the giving. If you have ideas, we wholeheartedly welcome them, as well. In the meantime, I ask that you pray over any amount you give and thank you for being part of our Wesley family.

Emily Glass, Finance Committee Chair

Wesley members,

I miss seeing you at church! We are having services in Wesley Hall and attendance has been pretty good. We are sanitizing chairs every time, wearing masks, and sanitizing our hands. Come join us; I believe it is safe.

Joe Clark is preaching for us while Pastor Steve is on a leave of absence. Joe has brought us two excellent sermons. Pray for him as he leads us. Also, pray for Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue as they both face medical procedures in the near future. We owe a debt of gratitude to our media team, who have continued to see that our services are online. These people are not paid for this service, so be sure and say a word of thanks when you see them. Stanley and Mary Lou Foster and Rick Spears are at church early and stay late to bring our service to you. Joe and Amanda Clark have ministered to us every Sunday through songs of worship. Amanda is also unpaid. Their special music ministers to us in a very special way every Sunday. Please express your gratitude to them also. Mary Ellen and Carol Ann are also playing for us and Rhonda Alley has shared some special music for us and also Paul Clark. To God be the glory for these people.

Please remember to send in your tithes and offerings. We are seriously behind on our giving. I know that we cannot afford to let our church get so far behind. Please be diligent in your giving. God bless you all as we continue to serve God at Wesley United Methodist Church.

Lou Jane Drummond, Lay Leader

From Pastor
Steve

What Has Happened to the Church?

Our world has forever changed. And I am not happy about it at all. I miss church and community events. I just miss seeing and being around people period. I am still struggling with what the Apostle Paul told the joyful Christians at Philippi he had learned; *"I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances!"*

But Paul, we have all these wonderful sporting events we watch live and/or on tv. We have game shows, musicals, great movies—both on tv and in our theaters. We even close off streets downtown in Sulphur Springs in order to celebrate arts and crafts and even beer drinking and country music. We even often say, "Wow! We sure have it good in Hopkins County and Sulphur Springs!" AND THEN, the pandemic (COVID-19) frankly overwhelmed us and flat our interrupted our good life!

In the midst of all this angst and turmoil, where is the church in our lives? Have we gotten so accustomed to what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called "cheap grace?" This is grace that says once to God, gets that free ticket to heaven, and then simply marks off the years until that Ticket can be cashed in? In his own words....

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the Cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate... Cheap Grace is grace without price, grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?"

Bonhoeffer died just a few weeks later in a German/Nazi concentration camp. These words are from his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*.

I, along with many of our active Wesley members, am in the high risk category during his health crisis/pandemic. This is a first for me. And now all my doctors are younger than me (My dad told me this would happen!). Since late February, a needed heart cath has been postponed and/or rescheduled 3-4 times. My energy level has dropped and my stamina has almost halted. 2020 has been the toughest year of my personal life. Alas, I keep pressing on!

And yet, I know where Wesley Church is; in acts of faith and obedience; in prayers of comfort and ease; in finding a way to gather safely each Sunday at 10 a.m.; in the cards and notes people send; in phone calls and text messages sent and shared; in practicing the Golden Rule; in the wearing of face masks to protect you from others and others from you (a necessary part of the Golden Rule, 2020 version); and being both the presence and face of God to our crippled world filled with both hate and fear. After all, the Church is the Body of Christ! What would Jesus do? "Inasmuch as you have done it to one of these—the least of my brothers—you have done it unto Me."

The least, the loss, and the marginalized was always the top priority for Jesus. In fact, Jesus said more about this than He said about what salvation is all about. And the Apostle Paul picked up His theme: *"...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (care and diligence—John Wesley); for it is God who is at working in you, enabling you both to will and to work for His good pleasure."*

The work of the Church is never done. Experiences and events often require course or mid-course corrections. Together, we can do all things through Christ who gives us the strength to be the Church.

I am the Church. You are the Church. We are the Church together and *"nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!"*

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Richard Adams	Jade Ausbrooks	Deborah Balkcom	Marilyn Baxter
Delana Beadle	The Beers Family	Melissa Bosworth	Karey Brice Pastor
Steve and Dicie Rue	Jane Ann Craft	Wanda Clayton	Hazel Collins
Johnny Darrow	Natalie Darrow	Pfc Ryan Dixon	Chuck Eoff
Eddie Fenstermaker	Steve Fitch	Renee Francey	Mike Gilmer
Don and Mary Gilmer	Rebecca Hathcoat	Sharon Helm	Frank Hernandez
Roy and Gina Lynn Herman	Kristi Hodgkiss	Mindi Horne	Talatha Horton
Kaycee Ivey	Ronnie Jenkins	Louise Jones	Lynn Kincade
Gerald Lehnhoff	Becky Moore	Beverly Morgan	Forest Mullins
Pvt. Devyn Cpl Jaxon Riggs	Debbie Nichols	Rose Raines	Sylvia Sellers
Jaye and Roger Stone	Nancy Stobough	Allan Thar	Will Van Mater
Becky and Danny Walker	Katii Voss	Randall Voss	

The Warren Family Rosemary Adams Wakefield

Don and Norma Gadt sold their house and are moving to Longview.

Janie Godfrey and Family. Her great grandson and Barbi's son, Broc's wife, Taylor, passed away June 27. The Family of Gwen Parker.

Joys! Andi Clark is getting married July 25.

Jackson James Clark was born June 2.
Paul and Taylor Clark are the proud parents.
Harper is his big sister. Grandmother is Gail Clark.



Wesley Family,

We are so thankful for Wesley and all of our church family. We have been so blessed during this difficult time by all of your prayers, phone calls, food and visits. A special thank you to the Bereavement Committee for providing lunch for the family. Mother loved Wesley and she loved all of you.

The Sandra Parker Family

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bill Wilder	July 2
Rick Spears	July 3
Konnie & Ronnie Cross	July 8
Dana Jordan	July 10
L.B. Jordan	July 12
Danny & Jana Prochaska	July 12
Doyle & Brenda McKinzie	July 12
Magan & Timmy Henderson	July 14
Marisa Jones	July 16
Gary Lewis	July 22
Jim & Peggy Gregg	July 22
Julie Weir	July 23
Phoenix Pullen	July 23
Brantley Jones	July 24
Marge Johnson	July 26
Mike & Rhonda Brock	July 26
Allie Thurman	July 29
Mattie Thurman	July 29
Malcolm Kirkland	July 31



The Wesley Witness
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Methodist Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on



Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



In-Person Worship 10:00 a.m. Don't forget your tithes and offerings!

The Trustees chose to have worship in Wesley Hall because of cleaning requirements. A few directives. These are either recommended or mandated by the North Texas Conference or the State. More directions will be in effect as we receive them from the Conference.

1. It is up to each individual to decide if they feel safe enough to attend in person, no restrictions on age.
2. Masks are required.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available.
4. Maintain a six-foot distance.
5. No hugging or hand shaking.
6. Chairs will be set up to maintain distance but family members may sit together without the 6 foot distance.
7. Bring your own coffee. The coffee bar will not be open.
8. Restrooms will be available.
9. A nursery will be provided in the Cornerstone classroom.

The service will be streamed on our Facebook page for those who aren't ready to attend in person or unable to attend.



June 28 Worship Service



Pictures by Mary Lou Foster

