



Wesley's Vision

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

# ***Wesley Witness***

Wesley United Methodist Church

**October 2020**

614 Texas, Sulphur Springs, TX

903-885-3383

facebook

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

903-438-2324 Fax

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



O sing unto the LORD a new  
song: sing unto the LORD,  
all the earth. Psalm 96:1

## Fundraiser Alert! "Wesley Will Cook for You"

We have raised money for apportionments by providing lunches after worship about once a month for the past two years.

Since we cannot do that in 2020, here is an alternative. We hope you will participate by ordering food and giving generously. Beginning the first week of September, and continuing until November 15, you can call and order a special dish from one of the following volunteers. Please give them a few days notice. When you pick up your order, or when it is delivered to you, we hope you will make a generous donation for apportionments to the cook, who in turn will give it to the church. There is a minimum amount for the items listed, but we know you will give unselfishly. You may share this fundraising list with your family and friends. If you are interested in cooking something, please call Diane (903-243-3459) and your name will be added to the list. Thank you for your sup-

Name	Phone Number	Dish	Minimum Donation
Dorothy McCaig	903-885-4908	Chicken 'n Dumplings (1 quart)	\$15.00
Rachel Lewis	903-439-8337	Autumn Soup (1 quart)	\$15.00
Cheryl Spears	903-348-6459	Taco Stew (1 quart)	\$15.00
Frances Daniels	903-885-2483	Black Eyed Pea Soup (1 quart) Mild Medium Hot	\$15.00
Mary Ellen Kirkland	903-243-7812	Chicken and Wild Rice	\$20.00
Julie Weir	904-440-5307	Chicken Spaghetti	\$20.00
Ilene Massey	903-243-3690	Taco Bake	\$20.00
Carol Ann O'Dell	903-513-5958	Enchiladas (1 dozen)	\$20.00
Betty Phillips	903-485-4612	Chicken Stew (1 quart)	\$15.00
Bonnie Gilmer	317-628-0223	Breakfast Casserole King Ranch Chicken	\$20.00 \$20.00
Gina Wilder	903-243-1297	Chicken and Dressing	\$20.00
Diane Dixon	903-243-3459	Rum Cake (Bundt) Homemade Bread (1 loaf)	\$25.00 \$ 8.00
Cheryl Spears	903-348-6459	Guacamole (1pint or 1 quart)	\$ Check with Cheryl
Wanda Winfrey	903-885-4428	Coconut Cake (Layer Cake)	\$25.00
Lou Jane Drummond	903-243-4911	Coca Cola Cake (Sheet Cake)	\$25.00
Janie Godfrey	903-885-3956	Banana Nut Cake	\$25.00
Emily Glass	903-243-6222	Choice of Pies	\$20.00
Vera Ann Johnson	903-885-7279	Choice of Pies	\$20.00

From the Administrative Board Chair,

Blessings,

Special thanks:

to the IT team of Rick Spears, Stanley Foster and Mary Lou Foster. They have gone above and beyond for seven months to make sure that we stayed connected on Sunday mornings. There are not enough words to express our appreciation to them.

to Stanley Foster and Rick Spears for all the times they have met with insurance adjusters, contractors, laborers, plumbers, exterminators, and HVAC workers in the last months. You have spent innumerable hours trying to manage the upkeep on our buildings and are truly appreciated.

to Gina Wilder, Cheryl Spears and Emily Glass for their countless hours of managing the day-to-day and long-term financial obligations of our church. Your knowledge, skills and expertise are gifts to all of us.

to our music director, Joe Clark and his team of Amanda Clark, Mary Ellen Kirkland, Carol Ann O'Dell, and Paul Clark.

Our church is blessed to hear your talents every week.

to Dicie Rue Cook for nursing Pastor Steve so he can return to us.

to our members who have continued to attend our church virtually or in person.

to everyone to everyone who has continued to make financial donations during these past seven months. The bill would not have been paid without your generosity.

to Bonnie Gilmer for all the extra things she does for our church...wiping out all the kitchen cabinets, re-organizing closets and cabinets, etc.

to Rhonda Alley, Mary Ellen Kirkland, Rachel Lewis, and Betty Phillips for their hard work and elbow grease to ready our sanctuary for worship.

*"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:25*

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Williams, AD Board Chair

From Pastor  
Steve

## Church Work Amidst COVID-19

The understatement of the Year: “We didn’t need this Pandemic [COVID-19] and still be ‘The Church!’” As far as I know, no one asked for it. Everyone has suffered because of it. And yet, we are still “The Church.”

From the very beginning, our Church Media Team quickly adjusted to a new form of worship for our Church: Online—Wesley Facebook. We first tried this different fork of worship in Wesley Hall, but the emptiness of our Fellowship Hall/Gym eventuated in sound echoes. So, realizing this, the Media Team suggested we move into The Wesleyan classroom and convert it to a worship setting. It worked! The 6-8 of us in charge of Worship enjoyed a new and vital working relationship. I even did my Mon/Wed/Fri “Words From Wesley in this setting.

And then we decided to move into a combination of Online and Live Worship back into Wesley Hall. Alleluia! We were first set up with the Pulpit area facing a basketball goal at the other end [long way] and then decided to set up with the Pulpit area adjacent to the outside wall of The Wesleyan Classroom looking toward The Choir Room. With the addition of various crosses made by Barbara Williams posted above the Pulpit area, we were in a different mode of worship, but always the same worship of God in Jesus Christ. Attendance has been around 50-60 folk gathering inside while a growing number of folk worshipping Online. [We even had a former member worshipping with us recently while in the Washington, DC area! Thank you for checking in with us David Stribling, Jr.]

And now, we are ready to return to our Sanctuary to worship on Sunday, October 4, 2020!

Let me say a “word of appreciation” to our Wesley Ladies who have cleaned our Sanctuary quite thoroughly the past few days. Rhonda Alley has led this volunteer effort assisted by Rachel Lewis, Betty Phillips, Barbara Williams, Mary Ellen Kirkland as well as Church Secretary, Bonnie Gilmer. [Rhonda started her cleaning by herself last week! Many thanks!] The additional ladies spent most of today, September 22nd, working as The Sanctuary Cleanup Team. To each of you, thanks and God bless you!

We have learned over the years that The Church is not just a building, but really The People of God living and working as a Team. As the limerick many of us learned years ago “The Church is not The Steeple, but is really The People.” As we respond to the Grace of God and saying Yes I believe Jesus is the Son of God and my Savior, we are responding to God’s Saving Grace. When we declare we are Followers of Jesus Christ, we are then experiencing God’s Sanctifying Grace [“Growing in the Grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is a Prevenient Grace that is offered to us by God before we even realize it. God has been with us all along. When we say “Yes” to God in Jesus Christ, it a converting Grace. Salvation is the result. We are transformed and become Believers and Disciples [Followers]. For the rest of our lives on earth, we are experiencing God’s Sanctifying Grace.

And how do we experience Sanctifying Grace? [Glad you asked!] By practicing The Means of Grace as experienced in the following ways: Works of Piety = Prayer, sharing Communion,

searching the Scriptures [Bible Study; Sunday School]; Fasting, and attending Christian gatherings [conferences; meetings]. We also “grow in the Grace of God by practicing “Works of Mercy” such as Visiting in nursing homes, jails, and private homes; Feeding the Hungry; Clothing the Naked; delivering Meals and other needs to sick, elderly, and hurting and suffering folk; and really offering any type of assistance to folk in times of need.

In reality, the “Means of Grace” [whether Works of Piety or Works of Mercy] are outward signs, words, or actions given to us by God and are ordinary channels whereby we might convey to all folk the Preventing, Justifying [Converting], and Sanctifying Grace of God. These differing yet united Means of Grace as understood by John Wesley, our spiritual father, act as the ONE Grace of God. Wesley added: “(1)God is above all means; (2)There is no power in the Means; (3)they are not meritorious; (4)Grace is dispensed by the power of God’s Holy Spirit and the merits of His Son, Jesus Christ; and (5)Seek God alone.

As The Church known as Wesley United Methodist, we are at work at ALL times as The Body of Christ. When one hurts, we all hurt. When one excels, we rejoice in their rewarded effort. When we are in need, we practice both The Works of Mercy and The Works of Piety—for whatever need(s) our sisters and brothers in Christ are facing. I cannot say it enough: “WE are The Church!”

So, we’ll gather as The Church back in our Sanctuary the first Sunday in October 4, 2020. For months, it has felt [for some] like an Exile. And that is an appropriate, biblical model. And I rejoice that NO MATTER WHAT OR WHERE, God is WITH US. He loves each of us the same. Through The Son of God, Jesus the Christ, we have been saved, we were saved, and we will be saved. In the meantime, let these words from The Apostle Paul guide us:

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature. Shall be able to separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [Romans 8:38-39]

### October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Casey Nichols	Oct 1
Charlotte Ferrall	Oct 8
Kathy Darrow	Oct 8
Mike Brock	Oct 10
Donna and Larry Nelson	Oct 11
Dicie Rue Cook	Oct 15
Gina and Bill Wilder	Oct 18
Jerry Glossup	Oct 23
Grant Glass	Oct 27



Dear Friends at Wesley,

Thank you so much for the donation to Wesley Church in honor of Amanda’s stepfather, Joe Bybee. He was a loving husband to me and was good to our large blended family. Last count there were about 40 of us.

Sincerely,  
Carol Bybee and Family

## Notes from the Lay Leader

We will be back in our sanctuary for worship on October 4, 2020. I, for one, will be glad to be there!

These are trying times for all of us and I believe we have handled things pretty good at Wesley. We have continued to have worship services; sometimes on the parking lot, sometimes in Wesley Hall, and also in our homes. However, I believe we are better together so I hope you will come join us on October 4 as we gather again in the sanctuary. We know that where two or three are gathered in His name that He is there also. We will be vigilant about sanitizing the sanctuary as best we can, we will continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Our media team has gone above and beyond to bring our service to all who desire to watch it. They have worked, without pay, to see that Wesley United Methodist Church has continued on through these trying times. Stanley and Mary Lou Foster and Rick Spears have been tireless workers for us. I believe Cheryl Spears has also worked from home to help them. PLEASE thank these people for their efforts. Joe and Amanda Clark have provided us with leadership and special music almost every Sunday. Paul Clark, Mary Ellen and Carol Ann have also been faithful to provide music for us. Pastor Steve is back with us and ready to bring the gospel to us.

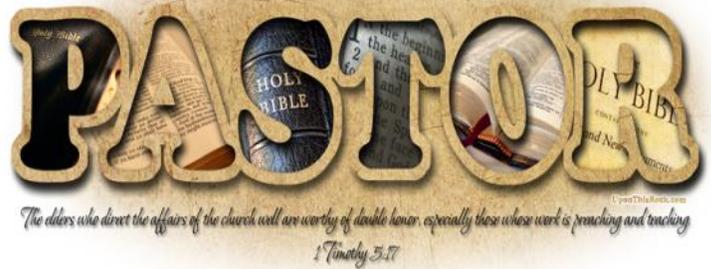
If you are not attending Wesley in person, please be vigilant in sending in your tithes and offerings. We are behind on our apportionment payments and the end of the year is coming soon! Please be generous in your giving.

We have started choir practice and the choir will be singing once again. It may look a little different but we are excited.

I hope to see you at Wesley Methodist church in the days ahead.

Lou Jane Drummond

# Pastor Appreciation Day Sunday, October 11



## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Richard Adams	Stephen Andersen	Jade Ausbrooks
Marilyn Baxter	Delana Beadle	Wanda Clayton
Hazel Collins	Brenda Cupps	Johnny Darrow
Pastor Steve & Dicie Rue	Benny Deaton	Diane Francey
Pvt Ryan Dixon	Steve Fitch	Renee Dixon
Eddie Fenstermaker	Don Gilmer	Mike Gilmer
Steve Gilmer	Jerry Glossup	Janie Godfrey
Rebecca Hathcoat	Frank Hernandez	Kristi Hodgkiss
Roy & Gina Lynn Herman	Mindi Horne	Kaycee Ivey
Ronnie Jenkins	Louise Jones	Lynn Kincade
Becky Moore	Beverly Morgan	Forest Mullins
Debbie Nichols	Rose Raines	Carolyn Roland
Devy & Jaxon Riggs	Sylvia Sellers	Nancy Stobough
Velma Swatsell	Allan That	Kati Voss
Jayne & Roger Stone	Randall Voss	Betty Warren
Becky & Danny Walker	Sara Wilkinson	The Harris Family

## WESLEY HOMEBOUND

Marvin and Louise Jones Reid Rawls Marge Johnson  
Muriel Lucas Elton and Louise Stewart Lois Shannon

## MEETINGS, ETC.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 28

Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 29

Committee on Nominations and Leadership 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 30

Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 5

The Administrative Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 6, in preparation for Charge Conference.

Wesley's Charge Conference has been set for 2:30 p.m. Monday, October 26, via ZOOM.

Beginning Sunday, October 4, we will be worshipping in the sanctuary. Time TBD. The sanctuary has been thoroughly cleaned and will be sanitized each week. Please wear face masks, wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, and maintain social distancing. Some pews will be closed. Bulletins will be on a table in the back. Drop your offerings in the baskets on the table in the back. Communion will be served.

Groups such as United Methodist Women, Emmaus, and church committees will be allowed to use the building. All CDC guidelines apply. At this point, no outside groups will meet because of ongoing repairs to the building. ATMOS turned the gas off so a line could be replaced. It has not been turned back on. Stay tuned for updates to the schedule!



The Wesley Witness  
 Wesley United  
 Methodist Church  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on



Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

### Fundraiser #2



Because Fall Roundup is cancelled for 2020, it will be replaced by a similar activity. On November 21, our usual stew and chili cooks will gather under the canopy and cook their special recipes. The stew and chili will be sold in a “drive-through” and will be sold by the quart. No other items will be sold with it. Times and other details will be finalized closer to the date. Advertising will begin early in November. There will not be access to Wesley Hall other than restrooms for cooks and their assistants.



### United Methodist Women

will meet

Tuesday, October 20

1:30 p.m.

Cornerstone Classroom

Program: TBD

Hostesses: Bonnie Gilmer/Diane Dixon

### Ad Board Meeting



6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

October 6