



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

March—April 2021

614 Texas, Sulphur Springs, TX

www.wesleysst.org

facebook

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

903-885-3383

903-438-2324 Fax

And now these three remain:

**FAITH, HOPE
AND LOVE.**

*But the greatest of
these is love.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Richard Adams	Ester Allen	Jade Ausbrooks	Tommie Barkley
Charles Batty, Sr.	Marilyn Baxter	Delana Beadle	John Boles
Chelsea Batty and Family	John Bostick	Melissa Bosworth	Richard Brown
Pastor Steve & Dicie Rue	Wanda Clayton	Brenda Cupps	Johnny Darrow
Ronny Darrow	Benny Deaton	PFC Ryan Dixon	Steve Fitch
Renee Francey	Ricky Gammill	The Harris Family	Rebecca Hathcoat
Pam Hollingsworth	Frank Hernandez	Kristi Hodgkiss	Mindi Horne
Junior and Lois Horton	Kaycee Ivey	Ronnie Jenkins	Louise Jones
Roy & Gina Lynn Herman	Lynn Kincade	Corena Korth	Muriel Lucas
Morris and Jean Krodle	Beverly Morgan	Forest Mullins	Carol Ann O'Dell
Devyn & Jaxon Riggs	Rose Raines	Carolyn Roland	Sylvia Sellers
Jim and Vera Skaggs	Velma Swatsell	Allan Thar	Milly Townsend
Becky & Danny Walker	Randall Voss	Betty Warren	Jo Watts
Kati and Jerry Voss	Leslie Wisdom	David Woody	

Those suffering from COVID-19 **Our country and our leaders.**

Schools-Teachers, Students, Administrators, Staff

Texas residents who are coping with the recent cold spell; loss of power, broken water pipes, homelessness and hunger.

Wesley UMW News

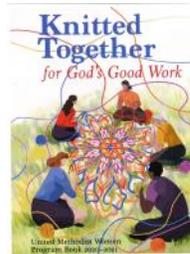
Even though 2020 was a difficult year, the UMW managed to meet almost half the time. We even met in the park in June. We were able to support our district missions and several local missions.

We met in January and February of 2021 with a district officer, Mary Campbell of Bonham, a guest speaker in February.

Our program for March and April will be given by Barbara Williams. The theme for this year's programs is:

The title of the March program is: "Persistence in Mission."

We have been socially distancing at the meetings. The UMW will be supplying Easter lilies for your purchase for our Easter service.



Our annual bake sale will be held in Wesley Hall on Sunday, May 2, after worship. There will be a variety of foods for your selection. Please come and worship and stay to buy and attend Sunday school.

Ongoing activities of the UMW will be published in the newsletter and bulletins.

Come and join us for good programs and fellowship.

Diane Dixon, President

Lent

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021), and ends on Holy Saturday (April 3). Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word **lencten**, meaning "lengthen" and



refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

The United Methodist Church

March Birthdays

Esther Cox	Mar 7
Rachel Lewis	Mar 8
Barbara Williams	Mar 10
Jake Gibson	Mar 11
Marieke deWitte	Mar 12
Hendrick and Marieke deWitte	Mar 13
Brenda McKinzie	Mar 16
Katherine Glass	Mar 17
Gail Clark	Mar 23
Jo and Bill Watts	Mar 24
Rheston Sills	Mar 27
Paul and Dennis Jordan	Mar 28
Jana Prochaska	Mar 29
Peggy Gregg	Mar 29
Jordan Krause	Mar 30
Varie Ramos	Mar 31

April Birthdays

Joe Batty	Apr 2
Harper Clark	Apr 7
Debbie Nichols	Apr 9
Donna Nelson	Apr 9
Wanda Winfrey	Apr 13
Charles and Michelle Griffith	Apr 13
Jaci Zeringue	Apr 16
Jo Watts	Apr 17
Kathy Steele	Apr 17
Max Massey	Apr 18
Steve Cook	Apr 18
Dorothy Moser	Apr 21
Gloria Batty	Apr 27
Pam Hollingsworth	Apr 28
Gary and Rachel Lewis	Apr 29

From
Pastor
Steve

Plodding along in holiness

Taking long trips with children or extended family often grow old before reaching his/her destination (beach, national or state park, museums and historical sites, etc.). Most of us think these words although we may resist saying them, “**Are we there yet?**” Often, they are just said without thought!

At Wesley, and all Protestant/Christian churches), we are halfway through our **2021 journey of Lent**. The Scriptures I have been using in my Lenten preaching have all been from **The Revised Common Lectionary**, specifically chose Biblical sections from 4 sources (two from each the Old and New Testaments.). I opt to use one from each of the Testaments, although 4 are offered each Sunday, 1 from Psalms and the other from anywhere else in the Old Testament, and 1 from the Gospels and the other from anywhere else in the New Testament. Especially during **Lent**, Scriptures are tied together to help us maintain a focus and **Lent**.

Lent is a Christian season and an individual journey comprising **40 days**. The number 40 reflects the number of days Jesus confronted Satan, the Devil, in the Wilderness. Luke 4:1-13 gives the larger experience of Jesus with Satan. However, it is Matthew 4:1-11 that declares **Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights**. This notion of fasting has become the emphasis over the years of what the **journey of Lent** represents - until we get to **Holy Week - Palm Sunday—Easter Sunday**. For whatever purpose, most Christian believers seem to gravitate toward giving up foods such as chocolate, candy, meats, etc., drinks, such as coffee, tea, wine, etc., or losing weight. Perhaps, these are important first steps on this journey, but perhaps we should be giving up biases, prejudices, untruths, sarcasm, hurtful comments, and harboring grudges and grievances. These are attitudes and aptitudes of our heads and our hearts. “God helping us,” and through our personal times alone at home or work or alone in our vehicles, we can proclaim a **FAST** to overcome these afflictions. **“Cast your cares on Him, for He cares about you.**

During the mid-eighteenth century, it the Methodist Church that lead in a **Holiness of Heart and Life Revival**. **Holiness**, is the Doctrine of Sanctification. It is from St. Paul’s words that note as Christians, we being saved daily as we practice Wesley’s **Works of Piety** which are **reading, meditating the Scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith, etc., and his Works of Mercy** which include **doing good works to all, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others, etc.**

These two types of works are the **Means of Grace** whereby God in Christ provides ways we mature in our faith in the walk of **Sanctification**. Recall the Apostle Paul’s words in Philippians: **“Work out your own salvation in Jesus Christ.”** Like an unattended flower or plant, should we decide we have arrived at perfection, we will die for lack of attending to the ways we CAN grow. Ultimately, it is a personal decision to stop growing or even having the desire to stop. My hope for us is that we commit at least to **plod along in holiness of heart and life!. Amen.**

Perhaps timely verses from God’s Word will encourage us today”

“So don’t get tired of doing what is good. Don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time. Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters. Galatians 6:9-10

Laughter - The Best Medicine

Two dogs and a barn cat arrived in heaven at the same time and were met by God, sitting on His throne. He smiled and asked each, “Why should I let you in?”

The first dog, a German Shepherd, thought for a short time and replied, “I am a devoted, caring, and loving pet to my owner and his family.” God nodded okay.

The next dog was a Doberman Pincher. Quickly he said, “I am loyal and obedient to my owner and very alert as a guard dog. Once again, God nodded okay.

Finally, it was the barn cat’s turn. He was licking his paws and arose and said, “I think you are sitting in my chair!

Lily Order Form

United Methodist Women are taking orders for lilies to be placed in the sanctuary Holy Week. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. Please make checks out to UMW. Deadline to order is March 28, 2021.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Snowmageddon February, 2021



Notes from the Lay Leader

It has been a year since the pandemic began. As more and more of us get vaccinated, things should start to improve. We are still wearing masks and social distancing so I feel it is safe for all to attend church. Thanks to Stanley Foster and Rick Spears for disinfecting the premises for us each Sunday.

Barbara Williams has started a class for our three to five year-old children. Marieke teaches the older children and hopefully, Joe will be getting a class going for our teenagers. Please say thank you to these people for giving of their time and talent. Barbara and Marieke are volunteers. These children are the future of our church so it is of the utmost importance that we nurture and grow them in the faith.

We are seriously behind in our tithes and offerings and it is only March! Please remember to give and do so generously. We have to pay our staff and utilities, as well as fund our ministries. It is a constant challenge to meet our expenses.

We are missing seeing so many of you who are not attending church. I know some of you are watching on Facebook but it is not the same as in-house worship. We look forward to worshipping with you again.

Please continue to pray for our church, for Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue, and for all who are in need of prayer.

As Easter Sunday approaches, let us remember that we serve a risen Savior! To God be the glory!

Lou Jane Drummond, Lay Leader

Congratulations to Emily Glass Appointed to Sulphur River Basin Board of Directors

Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Emily Glass and reappointed Kirby Hollingsworth to the Sulphur River Basin Authority Board of Directors for a term set to expire on Feb. 1, 2027.

The board has the responsibility to construct, maintain, and operate inside the state and in the watershed of the Sulphur River and its tributaries inside or outside the boundaries of the authority any works considered essential to the operation and for its administration in controlling, storing, preserving, and distributing the water off the Sulphur River and its tributary streams, including the storm water and floodwater.

Sunday School Classes are up and Active

Wesleyan Class in their classroom - teachers are on a rotating schedule.

Cornerstone Class - in the library

Lifeway Café - in their room upstairs. Teachers, Diane Dixon and Amanda Clark are using a video curriculum.

Youth - 12-18 years - in their room upstairs with Joe Clark

Older Children - 6-11 yrs. Upstairs with Marieke deWitte

Younger Children - 3-5 yrs. In the Community Room with Barbara Williams

Nursery for the littles

All classes begin after church and end at 11:30 a.m.



Congratulations, Kenna, on the sale of your goat and for receiving first in class!



Kenna is also an FFA Area 6 officer!

Wildcat Jazz Band includes Kaden Kirkland and John Moser.



SSHS Wind Ensemble received straight ones today at UIL concert & sight reading contest — and brought home the SWEEPSTAKES trophy!! Congratulations to Kaden Kirkland and John Moser!



The Wesley Witness
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



1:30 p.m.
Tuesday
March 16

Program: Barbara Williams
Hostess: Barbara Williams



On Wednesday evening, March 17 at 6:30 p.m., we are meeting in Wesley Hall to make some plans for the remainder of 2021 based on the survey** results.

EVERYONE is invited to help us make decisions about home groups, Bible studies, monthly potluck lunches after church, attending a Rangers baseball game, a picnic in the park, and MORE. **If you want to see the results of the survey, type this address into your URL:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-P62ZMKNK9/>

We anticipate the meeting last 2 hours. Coffee and cookies will be available. If you want to attend but don't want to drive in the dark, please call Bonnie. We will make arrangements to pick you up. We hope to see YOU!

Pastor Steve, Joe, Marieke, and Barbara