



FUMC NEWS

DEVINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



For God so lo**V**ed the world
 that he g**A**ve
 His on**L**y begotten Son
 that who**E**ver
 believes i**N** him
 shall no**T**
 per**I**sh but have
 everlasti**N**g
 lif**E**.

John 3:16



VOLUME 2

February

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Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

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*** Calendar Highlights***

It's been a while since FUMC has fried fish for church and community. Wait no longer...just in time for the season of Lent, the **Richard Moore Memorial Fish Fry** Fundraiser will be hosted by the United Methodist Women's and Men's groups. **Date:** Saturday, Feb.29th **Location:** FUMC Fellowship Hall **Serving Time:** 11am-1pm. Dine in or take out. **Menu:** Fried Catfish, Hush Puppies, French Fries, and Coleslaw **Cost:** \$8.00/plate **Tickets:** Available from any UMW or UMM member or at the church office. **Proceeds:** will be divided between the UMM and the UMW and go towards funding youth activities, scholarships, church ministries and community outreach.

When you serve in children's ministry, you...

add to your family of faith.



rediscover your inner child.



renew your view of Jesus—through the eyes of children.



leave your fingerprints on the next generation of Jesus' followers.



have so much fun you might just explode in a ball of sparkling glitter!



Sign up today to serve!

CONTACT: Church office 830-663-3185

YOUTH & CHILDREN

February 2 12pm Vacation Bible School VBS **Helpers Meeting**—Sandwiches Provided
 February 9 12pm **BRAINSTORM Meeting:** Need **ALL Sunday School Teachers** (present, future & past) and **ALL Parents** of kids and youth 0-18years
 February 16 11am Youth & Children's Sunday—Lead Worship, Noisy Offering



*** Adult Bible Studies ***

Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings

9:00am

Asbury Room

We continue with the study

What Matters Most—A Study of Philipians by Karen Ehman

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:9-11

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings

9:00am

Asbury Room

Continuing:

**Max Lucado — Unshakable HOPE:
Building Our Lives on the Promises of God**

There are things that seem unsteady in this life, but when we belong to God, it allows us to filter our problems through the promises of God. When we choose to be people of the promise, we choose to build our lives on promises of God, not the circumstances of life.

If you want the class books, please call the church office 830-663-3185.

Men's Bible Study

Led by Francis Davidson in Kevin Hicks' home

6:30-8:00pm Mondays

For Address Contact Kevin Hicks: eight three zero 708-9293

We are currently studying

“The Life of David”

In the books of 1 & 2 Samuel

* **UMW** ***United Methodist Women**

The United Methodist Women met Sunday, January 19th with 17 ladies present. Our business meeting was held after a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship.

Dinah Argo presented an inspirational program titled "Taking the Unexpected Path".

Thank you, Dinah!

Debbie Strickler reported on our "Books for Kids" program. She stated she had received about 350 books from Hospice. Plans are to provide children's books to organizations which deal with children in need, as well as, make books available to our church family. If you have gently used books we would be happy to take them off your hands.

During the meeting, we voted to donate \$500.00 to the Wesley Nurse Fund. Our Wesley nurse, Georjean Burnell, does such amazing and heartfelt work with her outreach ministry to those in crisis/need in our community. I know she appreciates the ongoing support she receives from this church family.

There is a need in our area for small suitcases or duffle bags to donate to children who have been displaced from their homes. Right now if the children are able to take any of their clothes and/or toys they are placed in garbage bags. I don't know about you, but that just breaks my heart. If you can help with this, please bring the items to the church and they will be given to Cindy Billebault for distribution. The children can at least have a suitcase to take to their next destination.

The United Methodist Women in partnership with the United Methodist Men will hold a community fish fry fundraiser on Saturday, February 29th from 11am to 1pm. The fundraiser will be called the Richard Moore Memorial Fish Fry. You may recall Richard suffered from and finally succumbed to cancer. Richard provided fish for several years to our church for fish fries. The proceeds were donated to our church Relay for Life team. The proceeds this year will be divided between your UMW and UMM so we can continue our ministry to provide support and assistance to our church and community. I know we can count on your support.

The next Food Fair will be on Thursday, February 6th. Volunteers are needed. You can be a blessing and receive blessings by participating in this ministry. Volunteers are asked to be at the church by 8am.

The United Methodist Women will meet again on Sunday, February 16th after church. All ladies are welcome to attend. The nursery will be available.

Blessings,
Judy

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



* Men's Ministries *



United Methodist Men

The UMM met on January 15, 2020 with 14 men in attendance. Cliff Redus opened with prayer. The host team of Cliff, Kevin, Doug and Francis treated the men to a meal of BBQ sausage, baked potato, green salad and dessert. Food at our meetings is always a surprise...always plentiful...

and always delicious.

Kevin Hicks presented a devotional on the value of generational integrity and Godliness and its impact on each generation. He emphasized the importance of male guidance to young people and encouraged each attendee to be active in children and youth Sunday School leadership. It was an excellent devotional and very timely for some of the needs in our church. All attendees were inspired by his presentation.

Treasurer, Francis Davidson, reported that the financial condition of the UMM is sound. UMM enters 2020 in the best financial condition in its history.

In other action, the men approved a motion to hold a fish fry fundraiser in conjunction with the UMW on February 29th. Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Felix Bazan advised the group that the Somerset Church of God had a fire recently that destroyed the kitchen at the church. This is a small church that has been active for many years in providing meals for poor and underprivileged children in the Somerset community. The men approved a donation of \$500.00 to the church to help with restoration of the kitchen. If you want to donate to that cause, please see Felix.

The scholarship committee will meet in late January to discuss procedures for receiving applications for scholarships for 2020. Details will be discussed at the next UMM meeting and will be reported in the next FUMC Newsletter.

The men are very thankful for the support of the congregation in past years and respectfully request a continuation of your support in 2020. It is through your direct donations and support of fundraisers that the UMM can provide financial support to FUMC youth and other ministries, Wesley Nurse and many community programs.

The next UMM meeting will be on Wednesday, February 5th at 6:00 pm in the Asbury Room. Dinner, prayer and devotional hosts for the meeting will be Tex Eaddy, Lewis Stroud, George Wall & Rick Maxwell. All men of the church are invited to attend. There are no membership requirements and no dues. You will be treated to a fine meal prepared by men of the group and will be inspired by a devotional presented by a member of the host team. Best of all, is the fellowship with Christian men dedicated to doing God's work in church and community.

IRON SHARPENS IRON (Proverbs 27:17)



* Wesley Nurse's News *

Dear Devine Congregation and Community Members,

My work with the Devine South Texas Rural Health Clinic to provide Specialty Referral Services to those in need within our community continues to be successful. This program will provide medical appointments with specialist to those who qualify free of charge. If you or someone you know may need this service, please have them make an appointment with me for more information.

At this time, I will continue to assist in covering the Hondo WN position for already existing clients. That has added an additional 14 revolving clients to my schedule and requires me to spend some time during the month in the Hondo office. I'm asking everyone to please call in advance if you need to see or speak to me. If I am unavailable, please leave a message on my machine and I will get back to you as soon as I return to the office.

The Texas Diaper Bank and "My Healthy Child" class is ongoing the next class is set for February 5th, 1-2pm. If you know of anyone who could use this assistance, please have them see me to register. Our 13-week Grief Share sessions began again on January 22nd on Wednesdays from 6-8pm. If you or someone you know could use this type of support please have them contact Dinah Argo, Kay Shultz, Rob Stolzman, Lisa or myself to register. Also, if this sounds like a ministry you would be interested in helping with please contact me, Dinah or Lisa, additional facilitators are always welcomed. Josephine Redus, the Atascosa ACOG coordinator, & I have begun Texercise on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-2:30pm. This class will be immediately followed by a Matter of Balance class. They are open to the public and free of charge.

I would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to all who have and continue to donate to the WN fund. Continued support of the Wesley Nurse program has allowed the program to assist those in need, increase our community's educational opportunities and provide various medical assistance. If you feel led to support this program there is a Wesley Nurse Fund established for donations.

As always, if you would like to see a program, information, or event that you feel would benefit you or the community please contact me. You don't have to be a member in the Healthcare Ministry Team to partner with me in service to those in need in our community. Membership in this committee is appreciated but not necessary for a one-time project or event. Thank you for continuing to provide your support, encouragement and assistance.

God Bless,
Georjean Burnell, MSN, RN - Devine FUMC, Wesley Nurse
Office Hours: M-F 8am-5pm
830-663-6108



*** Church at Work ***

BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>December</u>	<u>January-December</u>
<i>Operating Donations</i>	\$27,432	\$190,335
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	14,775	191,230
<i>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</i>	12,775	(895)
<i>Designated Gifts</i>	\$1,640	\$ 35,051



TRUSTEE NEWS

At the Trustees' meeting in January we elected our new officers for 2020. Phillip Fitch was elected as President/Chair, Francis Davidson as Vice President, Kay Shultz as Treasurer, and Josephine Redus as Secretary.

While construction work on the Annex project has been completed, the Trustees are working on furniture upgrades for the classes that moved, and on toy storage solutions for the new nursery. The Trustees also reviewed the maintenance schedule, coordinated the inspection of all fire extinguishers, and provided for a number of small repair projects.

In February, the Trustees will be reviewing a recently completed energy audit of our facilities, looking for improvements that will make our facilities more energy efficient, and will secure a new electric utility contract.

The Trustees want to thank the congregation for their financial support, and remind everyone that even though several recent large projects have been completed, everyday maintenance of our facilities, especially our air-conditioning systems, is an ongoing expense and needs your ongoing support.

God bless you,
The Trustees





*** 2020 Church Teams ***

STAFF/PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPPRC)

Bill Sinclair (Chair)
Nancy Davidson
Doug Goodwell
Chris Redus
Krystal Caddell
Joyce Bennett



ADMINISTRATION BOARD (anyone may attend)

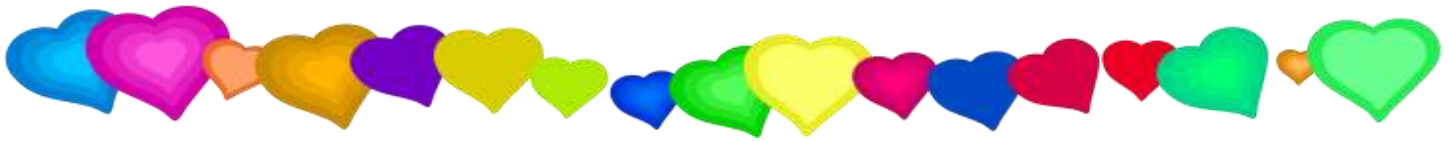
Cliff Redus (Chair)
Beverly Crain
Nan Gengler
Emm Key
Tom Key
Philip Fitch
Felix Bazan
Olga Bazan
Harold Dailey
Judy Eaddy
Kevin Hicks



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Philip Fitch (President)
Francis Davidson (Vice-President)
Kay Shultz (Treasurer)
Josephine Redus (Secretary)
Colby Cashion
Kevin Hicks





* A WORD OF GRACE*

“A Time of Turning”

There is a problem even in the church today in that many are *turning* away from the Gospel, instead believing in whatever the majority say is true rather than the teachings of the Gospel. Unfortunately, this trend is nothing new. Paul speaks of this *turning* away in Galatians 1:6-7, saying, ***“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.”*** Paul later warns in his second letter to Timothy about a coming time when people will only listen to what they want to hear, saying, ***“For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths”*** (2 Timothy 3:3-4). But Paul also reminds us that God has provided us with the truth we need to hear in the scriptures, saying, ***“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work”*** (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Lenten Season is a time for *turning* back to God, and it begins in February with Ash Wednesday. The aim of our Lenten journey is the renewal of our faith. In this season, the believer suffers and dies with the Lord, so that they might also rise to newness of life with the Lord. The passion and death of Christ are not ends for the believer but means; you cannot be raised from death without first dying to sin. Lent is a period for repentance, *turning* from our sinful ways back to God’s Way.

This year, we are planning to begin Lent with both a “Fat Tuesday” pancake supper on February 25 and an Ash Wednesday service on February 26. The day before Ash Wednesday was once known as *Shrove Tuesday*, an Anglo-Saxon word

meaning “to cleanse.” The faithful would seek cleansing of their sins through confession. The term “Fat Tuesday” evolved from the custom of collecting all the fat, that was forbidden during Lent, and using it to make doughnuts (German custom), or pancakes (English custom), and eating them before Lent began. The term “Ash Wednesday” results from ashes being the ancient symbol of repentance and grief. Priests developed the custom of burning the leaves of the previous Palm Sunday fronds, which they would sprinkle on the congregation, as they solemnly pronounced the words: *“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”* The ashes were later imposed on the forehead. The imposition of ashes is not intended as disfigurement, which was forbidden when fasting by Jesus (Matthew 6:16), but as an outward and visible sign of our internal and sincere desire to *turn* our hearts to God.

Lent occurs at a time when the seasons are *turning* from winter to spring. The heart of our Lenten experience will revolve around our *turning* through repentance, reconciliation and renewal. It is my prayer that we will *turn back* to our Creator (re-creation), *turn back* to His Son (redemption), and *turn back* to our brothers and sisters in Christ (reconciliation). Together we will become better disciples as we are transformed from sinners into saints by the power of the Holy Spirit. Please find time every day to read your Bibles, listening to what the Holy Spirit will reveal to you. The Apostle Peter said, ***“First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God”*** (2 Peter 1:20-21). Please also make an effort to attend worship, and pray and devote yourself to being a better Christian as we *turn back* to Jesus every day for forgiveness, grace, strength, and guidance.

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Pastor Harold



* February Readings *

February Scripture Readings:

The following themes and Scripture readings are provided as a means to draw closer to God. They come from the Revised Common Lectionary, which groups Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel readings together for each Sunday in a three year cycle. Read them prayerfully listening for God's voice.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, February 2

Theme: God's saints are humble in spirit.

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, February 9

Theme: God's children are light in this world.

Isaiah 58:1-9a 9b-12)

Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, February 16

Theme: Get right with your neighbor before worshipping God.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Transfiguration Sunday, February 23

Theme: The transfiguration of Christ was an experience of divine transcendence. The Spirit gifts God's children with a glimpse of the transcendent Christ and the life to come.

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday, February 26

Theme: Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten observance. God's people are called to turn from their sins and, from the depths of their being, return to the Lord with fasting, weeping and mourning.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



*** BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES ***



FEBRUARY

- Cynthia Patterson
- Marvin & Jessica Knoeber 
- Carl Pfeiffer
- Van Cashion
- Bonita Hall
- Bill & Laura Sinclair 
- Jon Outlaw
- Lee McDonald
- Sheldon Ford
- Doug Goodwell
- Vincent Lilly
- Evie McElwee
- Pam Boehme
- Korbin Purchis
- Rose Garcia
- Dez McElwee
- Ira & Donna Keown 
- Gordon Stolzman
- Julie Prugh
- Elizabeth Ford
- Kelly Hurst



February

Rail Offering

February 3 - World Advance Special

This year we are donating to Give Them to Eat, an organization that trains Mexico villagers to become self-sustaining through agriculture, health and appropriate technology.

Noisy Offering

February 17 - Mission Devine

Mission Devine is a ministry of the Devine Ministerial Fellowship. Volunteers from all over the area form crews to do work on and at homes for people who don't have the resources to do it themselves. This year it will be the week of June 8th. If you want to volunteer or know someone who need work done, we have the applications in the church office and you can find them at missiondevine.org.

On Valentine's Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.





FEBRUARY 2020



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

<p>Note: Note: <u>SUNDAYS</u> 9: 45am Sunday School 11am Worshi p Servi ces</p>	<p>Note: <u>YOGA</u> 8: 30am Mon-Thurs</p>	<p>Note: <u>WALK</u> <u>AWAY THE</u> <u>POUNDS</u> 9: 00am Mon-Thur</p>	<p>Note: <u>Sit &</u> <u>Stretch</u> 10: 00am Mon & Thur</p>	<p>Note: <u>Mother's</u> <u>Day Out</u> 8: 30am- 12: 30pm Tues & Thur</p>		1
<p>2 12pm VBS Helpers Meeting</p>	<p>3 1pm Texercise 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Women's Emmaus 7pm Jubilee Singers</p>	<p>4 9am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>5 9am Women's Bible Study 1pm My Healthy Child Class 1pm Texercise 6pm UMMen 6pm Grief Share 7pm Choir</p>	<p>6 8:00 Food Fair 4:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Women's Emmaus 7:00pm Men's Emmaus 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	7	8
<p>9Scouting Ministries Sunday 12:00pm Brainstorm of All Teachers, Present, Past, Future and All Parents of Kids & Youth</p>	<p>10 1pm Texercise 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Women's Emmaus 6:30pm Trustees 7pm Jubilee Singers</p>	<p>11 9am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>12 9am Women's Bible Study 1pm Texercise 6pm WWW 6pm Grief Share 7pm Choir</p>	<p>13 11am Women's Brunch 4:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	14	15
<p>16 11am Youth Lead Worship 12pm UMW Meeting and Lunch</p>	<p>17 1pm Texercise 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Women's Emmaus 6:30pm Admin. Board 7pm Jubilee Singers</p>	<p>18 9am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>19 9am Women's Bible Study 1pm Texercise 6pm Grief Share 7pm Choir</p>	<p>20 4:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Women's Emmaus 7:00pm Men's Emmaus 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	21	22
<p>23</p>	<p>24 1pm Texercise 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Women's Emmaus 7pm Jubilee Singers</p>	<p>25 9am Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Pancake Supper</p>	<p>26 9am Women's Bible Study 1pm Texercise 6pm Ash Wednesday Service 6pm Grief Share 7pm Choir</p>	<p>27 4:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	28	<p>29 11-1pm Fish Fry Fund Raiser</p>