



FUMC NEWS

DEVINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Monday - Thursday
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* Children's Ministry Needs *

We NEED YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Commitment: One Three-Month Season
As a Sunday School Co-Teacher or
Children's Church Co-Leader**

Our Church Conference requires we have TWO ADULTS present when we have children's classes or activities.

Can you co-lead in Sunday School or Children's Church for **one** three-Month Season of the year? We have curriculum and fun activities.

Which season would you like to be yours? Please, let Lisa in the office know what you are willing to do: 663-3185 or email fumcdevine@sbcglobal.net

If you are not Safe Gathering Certified, (only four hours of training are REQUIRED by our Church Conference), go to devinefumc.com and go to the Safety tab. Read and follow the instructions. It isn't hard. We are even planning a group session for the part you "Schedule," ask Lisa when it is: 830-663-3185.

Feel Called to Be Our Sunday School Superintendent?

Talk to Pastor Harold, if you feel called to oversee our Sunday Schools.

Planning on helping with VBS?

Things you need to do ASAP:

- 1) Let Dez McElwee know: 210-744-1978
- 2) Do the training or retraining, for Safe Gatherings that is REQUIRED every two years by our Church Conference. Start, at our website, at the Safety tab: <http://www.devinefumc.com> where you will find the following links:

Complete: Safe Gatherings **APPLICATION**. Be prepared to provide e-mails and phone numbers for two references. Do not use Pastor Harold as a reference because he will be required to provide an additional reference. When asked for your church's name, type "Devine" in the search field. Designate in the application if you anticipate transporting children or adults for church events. (Make sure your references watch their email.)

Complete: the two-hour online initial training. (You will have a login to access the training module as part of your application and be able to leave and return to finish it, if needed. Be sure to write down your username & password.)

Register and complete: "Trusted con Confianza" training. This is a two-hour webinar that can be completed separately online at scheduled times, or taken together at a live event. Click **SCHEDULE** to see available dates and times, and to register. Check in our office on the date we are doing this as a group.

Bad internet? Use a computer at church. Call Lisa 830-663-3185



* Calendar Highlights *

Lenten Season Events

Tues, Feb 25, 6pm: Pancake Supper—This is a gift from the UMM, invite family and friends.

Wed, Feb 26, 6pm: Ash Wednesday Worship Service. Invite those who don't have this service at their church.

Sat, Feb 29, 11am-1pm: Fish Fry Fundraiser—Dine in or Carry Out—Tickets are \$8 and are being sold by UM Men & Women—Fried Catfish, Hush Puppies, Coleslaw & French Fries

Sat, Apr 4, 2-4pm: Our Community Easter Egg Hunt—start bringing small candies that won't melt and don't have nuts. Sit and stuff some eggs—it's fun.

Sun, Apr 5, PALM SUNDAY:

12noon: Palm Sunday Picnic—An appreciation gift from the UM Men & Women to our Church Family, held on the back patio and playground. Enjoy picnic food, games and activities for all, including miniature pony rides for children under 50 pounds.

Thur, Apr 9, 6pm: Holy Thursday Worship Service. Invite those who don't have this service at their church.

Fri, Apr 10, 12 noon: Community Good Friday Service—Location to be announced

Sun, Apr 12, EASTER:

7am Sunrise Service in Parking Lot

8am Easter Breakfast—covered dish

9am **Early** Worship Service

10am Children's Easter Egg Hunt

11am **Traditional** Worship Service

Food Fair THURSDAY, March 5th

Our Next Food Fair will be on Thursday, March 5th. The truck has been coming early, so we will need Volunteers by 8:00am, if possible. If you can't volunteer, you can still pray. We request prayers for lots of nutritious food, a timely truck, and the perfect weather. In February we received frozen meat, a rarity, and just as rare, we had freezing weather that morning. God knew! But He also allowed it to warm up. God is Good, All the Time!

Church Work/Clean up Day, March 28

Come join your church family with some Spring Cleaning. There will be a list of minor repairs, things to clean, yard work, etc. There will be plenty to do, but the work will be fun and go fast, if all who can pitch in. Start time will be announced in the bulletin.



*** BIBLE STUDIES ***

**Women's Bible Study
Tuesday Mornings
9:00am in the Asbury Room**

We continue with the study

What Matters Most—A Study of Philipians by Karen Ehman

We need to get into God's Word, so his Word can get into us. Continuing in God's Word doesn't just mean learning religious concepts. It means experiencing the actual truth of God's Word in a totally transformational way. It constitutes genuine action on our part. To recognize, realize, ascertain, and to come to properly understand a truth through personal first hand experience.

**Women's Bible Study
Wednesday Mornings
9:00am in the 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.

**Men's Bible Study
6:30-8:00pm Tuesdays
In the Wesley Room, accessed through the Fellowship Hall**

Led by Francis Davidson

We are currently studying

“The Life of David”

In the books of 1 & 2 Samuel

*** NURSE'S NEWS ***

Dear Devine Congregation and Community Members,

The Devine South Texas Rural Health Clinic works with the Wesley Nurse program to provide Specialty Referral Services to those in need within our community. 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 March 6th, 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 are on Wednesdays from 6-8pm, except for the first week of the month when the class is held on Thursday. Classes will continue weekly from now until April 8th. 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 starting in April. All classes 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

* Women's Ministries *



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met Sunday, February 16, 2020, with 14 ladies present. Delicious food and wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Angela Upchurch gave the program titled “How the Light Gets In.” She told how “This Little Light of Mine” was one of her grandmother’s favorite songs. Angela said her grandmother believed we each carry the light of God within us and it shines outward. Thank you, Angela!!

During our business meeting Debbie Strickler reported on the Books for Kids ministry. She stated she had distributed books to the HANK home in Devine, the Devine Food Pantry and our Wesley Nurse’s parenting class. Dinah Argo will check with the Hondo Hospital and the new clinic to see if we can place books in the waiting rooms. Thank you, Debbie and Dinah.

The United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women will hold a Palm Sunday Picnic for the church on April 5th after church. We will serve hamburgers, hotdogs, sides and desserts. There will be activities for the adults and kids. This year we will have a special treat. Faye Caskey will bring her miniature pony, Peaches, for the little kids to ride. She says the maximum weight Peaches can carry is 50 pounds. We are having this event as a thank you for all your support to our organizations over the years. There will not be a charge for this. If you would like to make a donation to one of the church’s organizations or your favorite charity, please do so. The goal is for everyone to have wonderful fellowship with each other.

The next Food Fair is scheduled for Thursday, March, 5th. Volunteers are asked to be at the church by 8AM.

The UMW will meet again on Sunday, March 15th after church. All ladies attending church are welcome to attend. This is an informal gathering and we would love to have all you ladies join us. The nursery will be available, if needed.

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 February 5, 2020 with 17 men in attendance. Tex Eaddy opened with prayer. The host team of Tex, Rick Maxwell, George Wall & Lewis Stroud treated the men to a meal of chili, tamales and dessert. It was delicious. Thank you, guys!!

Rick Maxwell presented a devotional on the value of taking responsibility for our actions and the consequences of those actions. He also discussed the difficulty that men have of asking for and giving forgiveness. It was an excellent devotional and all attendees were inspired by his presentation.

Treasurer, Francis Davidson, reported that the financial condition of the UMM is good. However, donations to help support UMM activities and charities are always welcome.

In other business, the men finalized details related to the Fish Fry Fundraiser on February 29th.

The scholarship committee announced that it is now accepting applications from local high school seniors. Forms are available in the church office.

UMM will host a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tues, February 25th at 6pm. Paul Gengler has the lead on this event. Everyone is welcome to come and partake of this gift from UMM to everyone.

UMM will co-host, with UMW, the annual Palm Sunday picnic immediately after services on April 5th. There will be games and activities for all ages. Please plan to attend and enjoy the food and festivities.

Mother's Day activities and VBS needs were discussed and will be items for action at the March meeting.

UMM President, Kevin Hicks, advised the men of the annual Rio Men's Conference meeting on March 25th at University Methodist Church in San Antonio. He hopes a representative number of men will want to attend the one-day meeting.

Francis Davidson advised the UMM that we need to recruit more youth & families to help with grounds maintenance around the FUMC-Devine campus. We will advertise for volunteers via pew bulletins and personal contact. It is a 1 to 2 hour per month commitment one Saturday each month. If you want more information, please contact Francis at 830-688-8479.

The next UMM meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:00 pm in the Asbury Room. 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)

*** A WORD OF GRACE*****“Love Each Other!”**

This was Jesus' commandment to His disciples after He had washed their feet and on the night He gave Himself up for us all. Jesus said to them: ***“I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are My disciples, when you love each other”*** (John 13:34-35).

The real question is what did Jesus mean when He said love each other? Was He talking about warm fuzzy feelings or something more tangible? To answer this, we must first look at the circumstances in which Jesus gives this command. The beginning verses of Chapter 13 of John's Gospel informs us that Jesus knew He had already been betrayed and that His time was at an end. We are told that ***“Jesus knew the Father had given everything into His hands and that He had come from God and was returning to God”*** (John 13:3). And so, at this final meal with His disciples He decides to show them that He ***“loved them fully”*** (John 13:1). Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, kneels before His disciples and washes their feet. The washing of feet was usually relegated to the lowest servant in the house because it was a disgusting job. The streets of Palestine were not paved with stone, but animal droppings and dust.

Peter first refuses to allow Jesus to wash his feet, but submits when Jesus tells him: ***“Unless I wash you, you won't have a place with Me”*** (John 13:8). What Jesus was saying is that we must first submit to God before we can serve Him. Unless we are willing to receive the Lord's grace and follow His instruction, we will not be effective instruments of His grace to others.

After Jesus has washed their feet, He confirms that He is what they believe Him to be, their “Teacher and Lord.” And so His instructions carry authority when He says, ***“If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do”*** (John 13:14-15).

Jesus again confirms that they must submit to His instruction rather than doing things their own way, saying, ***“I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them”*** (John 13:16). Christians have often made the mistake of thinking they know what they are to do, while failing to ask for His direction. Only God knows how we may best serve, and therefore, we must submit to His way and be led by His Spirit.

The bottom line is that Jesus is teaching us that loving one another is not about good feelings, or limited to words and prayers. Loving one another is lived out through **service**, by acting on what the Lord has commanded, doing what He has instructed, and following the example He has provided. The Apostle James certainly understood this, saying, ***“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says”*** (James 1:22). James also said, ***“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead”*** (James 2:17). Serving is critical to our faith, and Jesus teaches us that serving others is the same as serving Him. Remember that Jesus said: ***“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me”*** (Matthew 25:40).

The Lord has commanded us to love one another, which means **serve** one another. There are many people in our community with acute needs, suffering from a lack of the necessities of life such as food, clothing, and shelter. There are many in our community also suffering from a lack of knowledge regarding the teachings, hope and healing that can only come through Christ in their lives. Many of our own children and youth are also lacking the spiritual teaching they need due to a lack of teachers and youth leaders. We must shift our priorities, doing more to **serve** others. I will be doing all I can to encourage and empower you to step up and **serve**. Christ is counting on us all to do our part to **serve** the needs of our community. Please help!

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Pastor Harold

* March Readings *

March 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.

First Sunday in Lent, March 1

Theme: Christ confronts Satan.

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Second Sunday in Lent, March 8

Theme: Christ confronts Nicodemus—the new birth.

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

Third Sunday in Lent, March 15

Theme: Christ confronts a Samaritan woman—God's grace and forgiveness.

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 22

Theme: Christ confronts a blind man and heals him.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29

Theme: Christ confronts Lazarus and raises him from death to life.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45



* Church at Work *

BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>January 2020</u>
<i>Operating Donations</i>	<i>\$13,284</i>
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	<i>17,678</i>
<i>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</i>	<i>(4,393)</i>
 <i>Designated Gifts</i>	 <i>\$2,983</i>



TRUSTEE'S CORNER



The Trustees met on February 10th. All the Trustees were in attendance.

The Maintenance schedule was reviewed and everything was brought up to date.

A Church-wide Spring Cleaning Workday has been scheduled for Saturday, March 28th. Time will be announced as the date draws near.

We would like to have as many help as who can, so we can make light of the work of indoor and outdoor tasks to prepare our facility for Easter.



OPEN YOUR HEART TO WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR

Sunday, February 23, during Worship, who our new Pastor will be is going to be announced. (You will have this newsletter by then, but at the time of printing it hasn't been announced.) Open your heart to God and what He is doing in and through our new Pastor. Pray for our new Pastor and his/her family. Pray for our Congregation. Pray for God's Will to be done.



*** BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES ***



MARCH



- Darla Bacon
- Colby Cashion
- Kathy Wilkins
- Tex & Judy Eaddy 🔔
- Monica Malone
- Kyle Cummings
- Lilly Sagemuehl
- Mike & Katherine Darter 🔔
- Lewis & Marsha Stroud 🔔
- Lily Lawless
- Tristan Cashion
- Cliff Redus
- Martha Torres
- Tena Squire
- Andrew Redus
- John Rotramel
- Garren Ford
- Nan Gengler
- Devin Rotramel
- Nathan Rotramel
- Leslie Vail
- Tommy Williams

March

Rail Offering

March 1 -

UMCOR Sunday

Your generous gifts enable UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to:

- Respond to disasters, like Hurricanes - and to remain on the scene long after others have left.
- Support community development efforts that enrich the lives of God's children around the world.

Noisy Offering

March 15-

Relay for Life

Relay for Life donations go to the American Cancer Society.

The Medina County Relay for Life Event will be Friday, April 25th, from 5pm-Midnight. It will be held at the Medina Valley Track & Field in Castroville.



MARCH 2020



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

<p>1</p>	<p>2 1pm Texercise 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Emmaus 7pm Jubilee Singers</p>	<p>3 9am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>4 9am Women's Bible Study 1pm Texercise 1pm Diaper Class 6pm UM Men 7pm Choir</p>	<p>5 8:00 Food Fair 4:30pm Girl Scouts 6-8pm Grief Share Class 6:30 Women's Emmaus 7pm Men's Emmaus 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>8 Time Changes</p> 	<p>9 1pm Texercise 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Emmaus 6:30pm Trustees 7pm Jubilee Singers</p>	<p>10 9am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>11 9am Women's Bible Study 1pm Texercise 6pm WWW 6-8pm Grief Share Class 7pm Choir</p>	<p>12 4:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 11am Youth Sunday & Noisy Offering 12pm UM Women</p>	<p>16 1pm Texercise 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Emmaus 6:30pm Ad. Board 7pmJubilee Singers</p>	<p>17 9am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>18 9am Women's Bible Study 1pm Texercise 6-8pm Grief Share Class 7pm Choir</p>	<p>19 5pm Girl Scouts 6:30 Women's Emmaus 7pm Men's Emmaus 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23 1pm Texercise 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Emmaus 7pm Jubilee Singers</p>	<p>24 9am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>25 9am Women's Bible Study 1pm Texercise 6pm WWW 6-8pm Grief Share Class 7pm Choir</p>	<p>26 4:30pm Girl Scouts 5:00pm AA Dinner</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Church Work Day—All Can Help</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30 2pm Line Dancing 3:30pm Emmaus 7pm Jubilee Singers</p>	<p>31 9am Women's Bible Study 6:30pmMen's Bible Study</p>	<p>Note: <u>SUNDAYS</u> Sunday School 9: 45am Worshi p 11am</p>	<p>Note: <u>YOGA</u> 8: 30am Mon- Thurs</p>	<p>Note: <u>WALKING</u> 9: 00am Mon- Thurs</p>	<p>Note: <u>Mother's Day Out</u> 8: 30am- 12: 30pm Tue&Thur</p>