



FUMC NEWS

DEVINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



VOLUME 5



Contact Information:

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

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* Restarting In-Person Worship *

April 22nd, Governor Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton announced “easing restrictions” on churches, and provided guidelines for reopening churches to in-person worship. Anticipating a formal announcement regarding reopening churches in Texas, our Bishop held an online “Clergy Conversation” on April 27th to discuss, and provide guidance for United Methodist Churches in the Rio Texas Conference. The Bishop stated he will not prevent churches from reopening, BUT based on recommendations from the medical community, **STONGLY URGED** churches to delay reopening. The medical community is recommending that churches stay closed to in-person worship until there are no new community cases for two weeks. Cases in Medina County continue to rise and have not yet peaked. Pastor Harold talked to Georjean, who is in regular communication with Medina County health officials, and she recommends we not reopen at this time. Therefore, contrary to Pastor’s announcement on Sunday, April 26th, we will not be reopening to in-person worship yet, and will not be setting a date for reopening at this time.

When we reopen, the following conditions will be put in place based on recommendations from the State of Texas:

1. We will continue to urge our older and most vulnerable members to stay at home and watch services via live streaming. *(Live streaming will continue even when we reopen for in-person worship.)*
2. We will maintain social distancing, allowing only one household per pew, or in the case of individuals, one person at each end of a pew. *(We have roped off every other pew, and placed markers on the Narthex floor and church center aisle with 6’ spacings. We have placed signs on all entrances requiring 6’ social distancing be maintained in the building.)*
3. Face masks will be required. *(We have placed signs at all entrances stating that face masks must be worn in the building, and we have acquired a beginning supply of masks to distribute to those who arrive without a mask.)*
4. We will require everyone to enter only through the main parking lot entrance, but all doors will be unlocked for exiting only. *(Signs will be placed on non-entry doors restricting entry, and directing people to the parking lot entrance.)*
5. We will not pass the collection plates, or allow the “Noisy Offering” until it is safe. *(Worshipers will be instructed to use the giving boxes.)*
6. People will be dismissed one pew at a time, beginning from the back pews, and instructed to maintain social distancing as they leave.

Because we can only accommodate about 30-40 people while maintaining social distancing, we will hold two services, one at 9:30 and the other at 11:00 am. While we will not restrict who can come to which service, we will encourage our most vulnerable members to attend the 9:30 am service because we will not have time to completely re-sanitize the sanctuary between services.



* Children and Teachers *

Vacation Bible School Postponed

Our VBS was schedule for June 8-12th, the same week as Mission Devine, but both have been postponed until further notice.

Planning on helping with VBS or Sunday School when we Resume?

Safe Gatherings Training is **REQUIRED** by our Church Conference to volunteer with anyone under 18 year old, a senior citizen, or with any handicap. If you haven't yet been trained or re-trained, go to our website, devinefumc.com to the **Safety** tab, where you will find:

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 expect to be transporting children or adults for church events.

Complete: the two hour online basic training. You are taken to this step when you complete the application. (You will set up a user name and password to access the training module as part of your application and be able to leave and return to finish it, if needed.)

Register and complete: "Trusted con Confianza" training. This two-hour module can be completed online at scheduled times. Click **SCHEDULE** to see available dates and times, and to register.

You will need to finish all three of the above steps (Application, Basic Training, and Trusted con Confianza training) ASAP to help with Vacation Bible School, which is currently scheduled for June 10-15.

* Trustees & Budget *



Trustees' Corner



The Board of Trustees did not meet in April due to CODIV19, but some of their projects have been completed by volunteers, including.

The **Prayer Garden** has been completely renovated. Old plants, mulch and rotted weed barrier were removed, being replaced with three evergreens (symbolic for Trinity and everlasting life), and four knockout rose bushes (seven total plants symbolic for God's number for completeness). All memorial stones were arranged into family groups, and placed "inside" the garden. New weed barrier and river stone were used to cover the remaining area. An automatic watering system was installed to insure the health of the new planting. Members are invited to drive by and take or look, or even better, stop and spend some time in prayer, thanking God for those we remember who have gone home ahead of us.

A new on-demand water heater has been installed to serve the Annex bathroom used by nursery and Mother's Day Out children and workers.

The blinking antique street lamp near the choir entry ramp has been repaired.

The defective toilet in the Asbury bathroom has been replaced.

While many small projects will remain on hold until it is safe to schedule a church workday, the Trustees continue to strive to keep our facilities ready for service. Donations to support this important work are always needed, especially now when there is no revenue coming in from facility rentals. The Trustees want to thank those who so generously volunteered their time to complete the above projects. May God bless you, and bless our wonderful church.

The Board of Trustees

CHURH BUDGET SUMMARY

| | <u>March</u> | <u>Jan - Mar</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Operating Donations</i> | <i>\$21,019</i> | <i>\$47,337</i> |
| <i>Operating Expenses</i> | <i>15,773</i> | <i>50,745</i> |
| <i>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</i> | <i>5,246</i> | <i>(3,408)</i> |
| <i>Designated Gifts</i> | <i>\$2,625</i> | <i>\$8,062</i> |

Ways to Donate

Although there are no actual activities at our facility, there are still bills to pay and ministry is still going on. Your tithes and donations are still needed. You may bring a check by. Call when you arrive, 830-663-3185, and Lisa will walk out and get it. You may mail a check to PO Box 526, Devine, 78016. You may give on our website, devinefumc.com, with the **GIVE** button. The **GIVE** button takes you to Tithe.ly which is a secure site that you can set up your own login and give. Or you may use your on-line banking's bill pay.



*** Food Fair/Help/Worship/Prayers ***

Food Fair in Hondo Only

The San Antonio Food Bank has canceled all individual Mobile Food Fairs for the time being. They will have one county-wide food fair per month. The next one is on Thursday, May 7th, at the Medina County Fairgrounds. The address is 733 FM 462, Hondo. They need 3 to 5 volunteers from our group who are not in the high-risk category. Please let Lisa know if you can volunteer, so she can give you more info. They will only have one food fair per month, per county. This one will only feed 400 families, for the whole county. We average feeding 130 families at our food fairs. If you know anyone who needs food, please have them call the church office ASAP to pre-register 830-663-3185. Please pray for those who cannot travel there or can't get the food for any other reason.

**Are you in Need of Something or
Can you Help?**

There are many people in need at this time. And there are many people who are going stir-crazy and would love to help. Tell Lisa if you need help or if you want to help and she will hook you up. The church number is 830-663-3185.

Ways to Watch Our Church Service

YouTube: [Devi ne Methodi st Church Worshi p](#)

FaceBook: Devi ne Fi rst Uni ted Methodi st Church

Websi te: [devi nefumc. com](#) on each page or
under [Worship YouTube Videos](#)

FaceBook: Col by Cashi on (Castrovi l l e)

Submit Prayer Requests

Sundays: email pastor.harold.dailey@gmail.com or text 830-355-7037

Weekdays: email fumcdevine@sbcglobal.net or call 830-663-3185



*** Women's Ministries ***



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will not have our usual May meeting due to many members being in the at-risk for COVID-19 category. Our next scheduled meeting is the third Sunday in August, 16th. If there is a need for a vote before then, I will send out an email.

The next Food Fair is scheduled for Thursday, May, 7th in Hondo at the Medina County Fair Grounds. They need volunteers to distribute food to those in need. Please register with Lisa in the Church Office, 830-663-3185. Volunteers need to be at the Fair Grounds by 7:45AM.

Blessings,
Judy

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

Women's Bible Study

We will notify people when Study is Resuming

We will continue with the study when it is safe

Tuesday Mornings

9:00am in the Asbury Room

What Matters Most—A Study of Philippians 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.

* Men's Ministries *



UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM will meet again when it is safe enough. Meetings are usually on the first Wednesday of each month, from 6:00-7:00pm, in the Asbury Room and Kitchen. All men and teenage boys 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.

In the mean time, if you know of a need for the UMM to do, text Tex Eaddy, two-one-zero 289-9738, and he email the men for a vote.

Tex will email the volunteers the lawn maintenance schedule. Also you can check the bulletin weekly to see if it is your turn.

IRON SHARPENS IRON (Proverbs 27:17)

Men's Bible Study

We will notify people when Study is Resuming

We will continue with the study when it is safe

6:30-8:00pm Tuesdays

In the Wesley Room, accessed through the Fellowship Hall

We will continue studying

“The Life of David”

In the books of 1 & 2 Samuel



* Wesley Nurse News *

Dear Devine Congregation and Community Members,

Hopefully by the time you read this newsletter we will have begun to regain some sense of normalcy. I want to thank all of you as a congregation and a community for your efforts in working with me to help those most in need during our crisis. Together we have been able to continue to exemplify God's grace and love to those who need it most despite these trying times. Throughout this event Lisa, our church secretary, has gone above and beyond to ensure that as many benevolence services as possible could continue to be provided. With the help of several congregation and community members prescription assistance has been able to continue. As a Wesley Nurse, this opportunity has allowed me to really research and test my and our communities' resources and resiliency and I have discovered we can prevail with Christ's guidance, for that I thank all of you.

The Devine South Texas Rural Health Clinic continues to work with the Wesley Nurse program to provide Specialty Referral Services to those in need within our community. Once the crisis is over, this program will continue to provide medical appointments with specialist to those who qualify. If you or someone you know may need this service, please have them call me for more information.

At this time, I will continue to assist in covering the Hondo WN position for already existing clients. 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 through tele-education and social distancing delivery of supplies. If you know of anyone in need of this service, please have them call me and arrangements can be made. As with all other group gatherings and in person contact, once we can meet again the classes will resume. Our 13-week Grief Share sessions are on hold for now, but will resume when able. Dates and times are TBD. If you or someone you know could use this type of support please have them contact Dinah Argo, Kay Shultz, 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 completed our second session of Texercise and are in anticipation of beginning an ACOG sponsored and WN supported Matter of Balance class. Please see Josephine Redus for the potential dates and times regarding this class. As always, these 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.

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.

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

* A WORD OF GRACE*

“Hoping for the Best”

I cannot imagine anyone that is not “hoping” that this unprecedented time of trial due to CODIV19 will end soon. Likewise, we are all “hoping” that life can return to normal—the way things used to be before our world was turned upside down. Our world has quickly and dramatically changed, perhaps forever, for we also fear that things may never be the same again, or at least not for a very long time. Although all of us are experiencing many of the same trials, many of us are dealing with unique and personal losses. For example, those with a loved one in the hospital or in a care facility, are suffering terrible separation because of visitation restrictions. Some of our older and homebound members who live alone, are suffering from isolation, being separated from their friends. Families are struggling to work from home, and to home school their children. Many are filled with worry regarding shortages of money, food, and perhaps even toilet paper. I can assure you that it was never my “hope” to end my ministry preaching to a camera, and separated from those God called me to serve. All of us are sharing in this tragedy, each with different stories, but all hurting and “hoping” for a better tomorrow that cannot come too soon.

The Good News is that God is with us. He knows our suffering, and through Jesus’ death and resurrection, He has given us a “living hope” that no disease or disaster can take away. Even in such trying times, we can be thankful for the “hope” that God gives us through Christ. The Apostle Peter writes: **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”** (1 Peter 1:3-5).

The Apostle Paul even tells us that we can “boast” in the blessing of “grace” and “hope” that we have received through Jesus’ sacrifice, and the gift of God’s Holy Spirit. Because of Jesus Christ, even the

trials we endure can make us stronger and increase our “hope.” He writes: **“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given us”** (Romans 5:1-5).

Each Easter we flower the *Resurrection Cross of Hope*, remembering that because of Christ’s death and resurrection, death is no longer the end of life, but the beginning of life eternal, with our Lord and those we love, but have been separated from us by death. The “hope” we have in God’s promises is not a “wishful hope,” but a “real expectation” for a better future. When we put our “hope” in God we are “hoping for the best.” If our hope is not in God and His promises, as revealed in His Word, then our hope is in vain. Only the One who made us and saved us is worthy of our trust and faith. Let us put our trust, faith, and HOPE in God. Expect God to hear and answer prayers. Expect God to keep His promises. Expect God to provide grace adequate to every need. Expect God to never give up on us, so let us never give up on Him. Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ our Lord; not even CODIV19. God has not abandoned us. God is with us! Especially in this time of trial, God is saying, **“Trust in Me, trust in Me!”**

I will close, quoting Paul’s blessing to the church at Rome, saying, **“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”** (Romans 15:4).

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Pastor Harold

* May Readings *

May 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 of Easter, May 3

Theme: The risen Christ is the Good Shepherd who cares for His own and leads them to our heavenly habitation.

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Fifth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day, May 10

Theme: Jesus leaves His disciples a legacy of love.

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 17

Theme: God's people are people of vision.

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Ascension Sunday, May 24

Theme: The crucified and risen Jesus has ascended to the Father.

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Pentecost Sunday, May 31

Theme: The Holy Spirit gives birth to the Church at Pentecost and provides power and direction for ministry.

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39

*** BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES ***



Birthdays

MAY



Arianna Bishop

Jerry & Cara Thomas 

Eli Knoeber

Trinity Black

Mike Darter

Brett & Nadean Gutierrez 

Dennis & Denise Woody 

Linda McCulloch

Camryn Caddell

Joshua Fitch

Maverick Bollman

Genie Norris

Phyllis Redus

Joe & Kristy Brand 

Georjean Burnell

Rick & Gail Cooley 

Avery Bollman

May 10th Mother's Day



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 25th Memorial Day



May Offerings

Rail Offering

May 3– Native American Ministries Sunday

Noisy Offering

May 17– Vacation Bible School

Children attend our VBS for free, but the program, snacks, crafts, decorations, etc., still need to be partially or completely purchased from money donated.



MAY 2020

SUN

MON


TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|--|----|----|
| <p>Note: <i>SUNDAYS</i> Worship 11am online</p> | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 7:30pm AA Meeting | 8 | 9 |
| <p>10 Mother's Day</p>  | <p>11 6:30pm Trustees Meeting</p> | 12 | 13 | <p>14 7:30pm AA Meeting</p> | 15 | 16 |
| <p>17 YOUTH SUNDAY Senior Recognition</p> | <p>18 6:30pm Admin. Board Meeting</p> | 19 | 20 | <p>21</p>  <p>Ascension of Lord</p> <p>7:30pm AA Meeting</p> | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | <p>25 OFFICE CLOSED</p> | 26 | 27 | <p>28 7:30pm AA Meeting</p> | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | <p>memorial DAY</p>  | | | | | |