FUMC NEWS

DEVINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HAPPY FALL

VOLUME 9

Contact Information and Office Hours

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

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"Serving God by Serving Others"

OPERATION CHRISTIAN LOVE
OPRACION DE AMOR CRISTIANO
August 2020

Operation Christian Love is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization. It is an interdenominational group made up of volunteers. Donations may be sent to: John E. Heiligman, PO Box 117, Charlotte, TX, 78011

* OPERATION CHRISTMAS WILL BE DIFFERENT *

Our area of southwest Texas & adjacent border area in Coahuila, MX., has many who are suffering. No jobs, no income, no food & no schools, have taken their toll. Some of the children have been removed from the eight Mexico orphanages OCL works with. More & more COVID cases are spreading in some of the areas.

Christmas is approaching. There must be changes to how the OCL Christmas Ministry will have to function. We cannot have 80 plus volunteers meet in Eagle Pass to sort, prepare, deliver gifts & host Gatherings for Christ. All of the Gatherings for Christ have local people prepared to lead them. OCL will just provide the gifts. It will be local outreach for Christ. **OCL is asking that each church or group prepare complete gifts. Shoe boxes or bags & individual gifts need to have the item/items inside. They do NOT have to be stuffed full. Simple caring gifts or even a single gift.** The gifts will then be boxed & marked with age & sex appropriate for. The adults in these homes or ministries will decide which gift best fits the needs of the individual. We do not need to have individual names on them.

Other gifts such as **small coverlet quilts, crocheted or fleece blankets & lap robes** will be given to each child or adult in the orphanages, homes, nursing homes or ministry. It will be theirs to keep. We ask that **each coverlet will have a cross on it somewhere.** If children are jerked out of the home, the quilt goes with them as a memory that someone cares for them in Jesus' name. We saw a boy in Quemado, TX receive a small toy car as a gift at a Gathering for Christ. After playing with it, he carefully replaced it in the package & returned it with a sweet thank you. When told it was his to keep, the joy on his face spoke a million words. His parents, with tears in their eyes, expressed their deep gratitude for this simple car, the only gift, other than Jesus, he would receive.

It is the wish of OCL that families & individuals purchase the gifts they choose to give. It is a wonderful teaching tool for our children & families. It teaches the joy of giving. Blessings received from this act are innumerable. In the past, **children have made cards to accompany the gifts.** We can get these notes translated or have the words translated so they can be copied. Small revolving groups, social distancing & masked, can prepare all the gifts to be blessed, loaded, & taken where waiting hands take them on the next step of their Christ journey.

The eight orphanages we work with are struggling to survive. The churches & other ministries in the area are working together to help how & where they can. Their love for the Lord gives them the strength to continue, to march forward leading God's army to tell others of Christ. Let us be active in the ranks supporting them. Leaders without an army behind them are vulnerable. Together, let us make the commitment to God to serve how & where He directs.

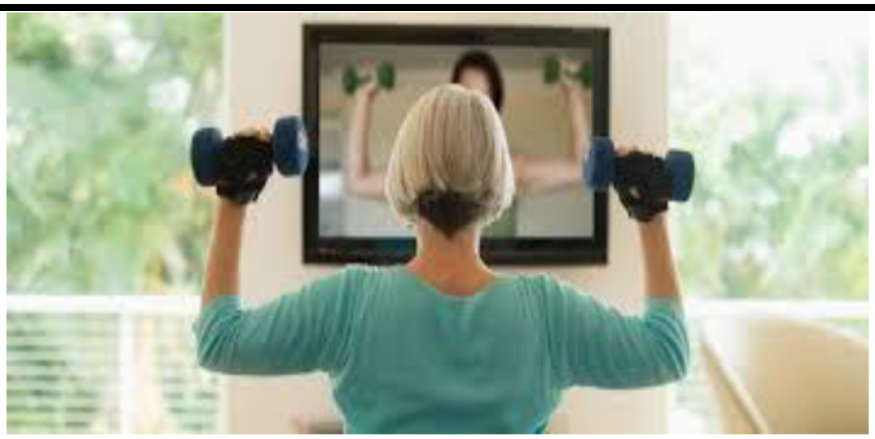
Since the number of children in the orphanages has decreased, the numbers that come to the street side Gatherings for Christ has greatly increased. **Gifts are given to these children (plus adults & elderly) from families that are struggling to survive, as well as the children in the orphanages.** In addition, gifts like **warm jackets, sweaters, sweats, crocheted scarves & caps** are also given to family members & elderly. Something so simple is so appreciated. **Used clothing & toys cannot be accepted due to COVID.**

We ask that you think & pray about what way you can help. Look around you for someone nearby that has a need. Let us all, as a team, fill that need. Share ideas & get excited about the "Power Within Us".

As we all continue with our lives during this special time, may we gather new insights into how to "Serve God by Serving Others."

Beth Ann Noak Brundrett

* Texercise Online*



VIRTUAL TEXERCISE SELECT CLASS SERIES
JOIN US TWICE A WEEK
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
2 SEPTEMBER – 6 NOVEMBER 2020
10:00-11:30 A.M.

Exercise and Nutrition

Texercise is a statewide **10 week fitness program** developed by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to educate and involve Texans and their families in physical activities and proper nutrition. The Texercise program promotes activities among individuals, as well as community events that support fitness in all areas of life.

Texercise can help you:

- Promote a healthy lifestyle
- Minimize the impact of disease
- Reduce the cost of medical care

AACOG
Alamo Area Council Of Governments

Area Agency on Aging
Alamo Area Council of Governments

TEXERCISE

We will be exercising **remotely** (together) to help keep us independent and strong as we age. We will also discuss the benefits of physical activity and healthy eating. The only equipment required is a **computer or smart device**. FREE class

Contact
Kimberly Beasley
AACOG, Health & Wellness Specialist
by 31 August 2020
at
kbeasley@aacog.com
(210)918-1279

* Prayer Team/United Methodist Men & Women *

Prayer Team

Are you interested in being on a prayer team with me, Pastor Valli? A prayer team is different than a prayer chain. I am seeking a few people who are interested in praying together in small groups at the church one day or night per week. We will also offer prayer for individuals who are need of prayer or a prayer partner. **Our first meeting will be Wednesday, August 26th, at 5:00pm in the Asbury Room**. Please wear a mask.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women have set a 2021 budget. Meetings are still suspended at this time.

United Methodist Women of the Los Misiones District will hold their annual meeting via zoom on September 12. At the District meeting we will elect officers, approve the 2021 budget, and have the candle burning ceremony which recognizes either in honor of or in memory of specific women. Women and UMW units will be recognized as 5 star women and units.

Blessings,
Judy
Philippians 4:13

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men's meetings are stilled suspended at this time. The UMM continue to preform church and parsonage yard maintenance. If you can help with the yard maintenance, please contact Tex Eaddy.

IRON SHARPENS IRON (Proverbs 27:17)

* The Walk Study *

In-Person Class
Wednesday Mornings

Wednesday Mornings
11:00am-12:00pm
Asbury Room or Fellowship Hall, if attendance is large
August 26th—Sept 30th

Please wear a mask, and maintain social distance. There will be no refreshments, but you may bring your own drink.

This in-person time is especially for those who can not do the zoom class meetings. We will watch the video during class.

Zoom Class
Wednesday Evenings

Wednesday Evenings
6:30-7:30pm
August 26th—Sept 30th

The Zoom link for ALL of these meetings is:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980553246?pwd=STFvYTdSZ3NCd2YxRXdvK1IxWWZ3UT09

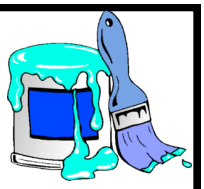
To Join by **telephone** call: 346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 879 8055 3246
Passcode: 535117

The Link, Phone number, PassCode and Meeting ID will be the Same for ALL of these classes.

* Church at Work *

CHURCH'S BUDGET SUMMARY		
	July	Jan - July
Operating Donations	*$ 8,598*	*$100,047*
Operating Expenses	*17,549*	*119,093*
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	*(8,951)*	*(19,046)*
Designated Gifts	*$277*	*$10,167*

Trustee's Corner



The Board of Trustees held their monthly scheduled meeting in the Asbury Room on August 10, 2020. Members present were Kay Shultz, Judy Eaddy, Josephine Redus, Lewis Stroud, Colby Cashion, and George Wall. Pastor Blair was out of town.

The Trustees would like to send a Thank You to Paul Gengler for cutting down and removing two dead trees on our church property this month.

The Trustees installed a mailbox in front of the parsonage. When Pastor Blair arrived in Devine there was a waiting list for mail boxes at the Post Office.

One of the Trustees' main duties is to maintain our church property. Donations throughout the year determine what the Trustees' budget is. For those wishing to make a donation to help pay for maintenance projects like painting the church parsonage, members should designate their donations to the "Trustee Account." As a general rule, the Trustees will not start a project unless there are funds available to complete it.

* Wesley Nurse News *

Dear Devine Congregation and Community Members,

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. In an abundance of caution, MHM is still requiring the Wesley Nurses to work from home for now. Currently, we still have no set date to return. However, together we have been able to continue to exemplify Gods grace and love to those who need it most despite these trying times. Throughout this event Lisa, our church secretary, continues to go above and beyond to ensure that as many benevolence services as possible continue to be provided. With the help of several congregation and community members, prescription assistance has been able to continue. During this time 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. 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 possible. I will continue to help as best as possible from Home. Thank you for your understanding.

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. As always, all classes sponsored or offered by the WN program are open to the public and free of charge.

One final request, please complete your 2020 Census if you haven't done so. It is a way that our community can continue to receive funding in the future to help promote things like our food pantry, our non-profit organizations, our schools, and it even helps determine how much monetary assistance our community is eligible for during emergencies, crises, and pandemics. This only happens every ten years and it only takes 10 minutes to complete, but it can help a community in need for a lifetime. If you need help or have questions on how to complete the Census, please feel free to contact me and I will walk you through the process.

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
Office Hours: M-F 8a –5p
830-663-6108

* Pastor's Perspective *

"Ask and it will be given unto you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened unto you, for everyone who asks receives and everyone who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

Our God is so good and generous! This quote is from the sermon on the mount. Can you imagine what it must have been like for those gathered on the grassy hills of Galilee that day? They had followed Jesus and the disciples because they were in need of healing, they were hungry and wanted to hear a word of hope from this man of God. Jesus feeds them bread for their bodies, but he also feeds them food for their souls. Jesus talks about the generosity of our Father. Maybe for the first time ever, the sick, the hungry and the marginalized, began to realize that God was a welcoming and gracious God.

I find myself awe struck every time I read this text. I do not appreciate or express my gratitude often enough. After reading Adam Hamilton's book, **THE WALK**, I started keeping a gratitude journal. As I journal at the end of every day, I remember the ways God has unexpectedly poured out His love and grace over my life.

Let me share a just a few ways I have been touched by our Generous God:

- Going on vacation and knowing worship was being taken care of by Clay Patterson and Colby Cashion. What a blessing to rest assured that everything would be taken care of by these two men. Thank-you.
- A new mailbox was installed at the parsonage while I was gone. Thank-you George Wall & Colby Cashion!
- Administrative Board considering and then agreeing to resume regular worship on Sunday mornings. Thank-you leadership.
- Beginning a new Sermon Series and our first church-wide study about Christian discipleship.
- Beginning an in-person Study on Wed. mornings
- Beginning a prayer team on Wed. evenings
- Beginning a Zoom Study on Wed. evenings

Blessed! I am blessed.

I am also reminded that those who are given much also share great responsibility to do good for our God. As United Methodist, we believe that we should support our congregation with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and witness. I am prayerfully asking you to consider how

* Pastor's Perspective (Continued) *

God has blessed you this year. Also consider how you can express your gratitude though "service" to God and to Devine First United Methodist Church. Perhaps God has been working in your imagination and heart to begin something new at church. Here is your opportunity to show your gratitude and to step out in faith for the Lord!

Jesus said, "Follow me." We are called to participated in our walk with Jesus Christ individually as well as communally. We live out our faith in community with each other and it is important that each of us do our part in the life of the church.

Here is a list of ways you can serve your Lord:
Administrative Board, Missions and Out-Reach, Worship, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Youth and Children's Education, Adult Education, Communications via newsletter, or Young Adult Ministries.

"Gratitude is the beginning of wisdom," this is an old proverb from the Celtic tradition. How can I glorify my Lord and serve his Church? In what way may I become a visible sign of an inward grace?

" …obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul—…Duet. 11:13

We say thank-you and I love you to by serving in His Kingdom. This is how we enrich the lives of those who serve with us and ensure that Christian discipleship is ongoing at Devine UMC. This is how we glorify God.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Valli

* Scripture Readings *

September 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.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 6
Theme: Love and judgement.
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149 or 148
Romans 8, 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13
Theme: Rescue and rejoicing; forgiveness and refraining from judgement;
redemption and reclamation.
Exodus 14:19-31; 14:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20
Theme: Standing firm in faith is a challenging call that every follower must
answer.
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 27
Theme: God's power and authority are not hidden from those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

* Birthdays and Anniversaries *

SEPTEMBER

Francis & Nancy Davidson🔔
Josephine Redus
Suzanne Martin
Alford Brundette
Bill Sinclair
Debi Petty
Ricky Byrd
Rick Maxwell
Marcous Cummings, Jr.
Pamela Patterson
Anthony Lopez
Jenn Goodwell
Nolan Beaty
Heather Petty
Mary Howard
Coby Pyron
Christopher Redus
Jason Keown
Fernando Torres
Ina Stansell
Melissa Niemietz
Elena Bishop
Dinah Argo
Olga Bazan
Joyce Bennett
Angela Upchurch
Jason & Kelly Hurst🔔
Shana Beaty
Brett Gutierrez

September Offerings

Rail Offering

September 2 -District Advance Special

This year our District Advance Special will go to the San Antonio Food Bank, whose mission is to fight hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education, and advocacy. The Food Bank conducts programs that are intended to fight hunger in Southwest Texas and help people return to self-sufficiency. The food we distribute at our Church's Food Fairs comes, at no cost to us, from the San Antonio Food Bank.

Noisy Offering

September 16th - HANK, Inc.

Hank stands for "Helping Abused and Neglected Kids." HANK provides assistance to the abused and neglected children in Medina, Uvalde, and Real Counties who have needs that are not being met by the State of Texas or other resources. There is a HANK house in Devine, one in Hondo, and they want to open six more homes. Each house becomes a home to six children, who get to stay in their school.

Operation Christmas Love

See page 2 of this newsletter.

SEPTEMBRER 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Note: ***SUNDAYS*** Worship 11am In Person & On Line		**2**	**3** **11am-12pm** In Person Adult Study **5pm** Prayer Team Mtg. **6:30-7:30pm** Zoom Adult Study	**4** **7:30pm** AA Meeting	**6**	**5**
6	**7** **OFFICE CLOSED** 	**8**	**9** **11am-12pm** In Person Adult Study **5pm** Prayer Team Mtg. **6:30-7:30pm** Zoom Adult Study	**10** **7:30pm** AA Meeting	**11**	**12**
13	**14** **6:30pm** Trustees Mtg.	**15** **6:30pm** Ad. Board Mtg.	**16** **11am-12pm** In Person Adult Study **5pm** Prayer Team Mtg. **6:30-7:30pm** Zoom Adult Study	**17** **7:30pm** AA Meeting	**18**	**19**
20 	**21**	**22** 	**23** **11am-12pm** In Person Adult Study **5pm** Prayer Team Mtg. **6:30-7:30pm** Zoom Adult Study	**24** **7:30pm** AA Meeting	**25**	**26**
27	**28**	**29**	**30** **11am-12pm** In Person Adult Study **5pm** Prayer Team Mtg. **6:30-7:30pm** Zoom Adult Study			