
Faith for the Next Generation

May 2018



Love God, Love Your Neighbor, Serve the Community

First United Methodist Church

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A Word from Pastor Tom:

What does the future look like, where will you and I be, what will First Church look like and be like in the future? Interesting questions and I don't know the answers to them, but I do know I can have an impact as we move forward. Together, our planning, actions, and monetary support will determine the future of First Church.

Sunday, April 29th is the 5th Sunday, and as our tradition continues, we will be having a lunch that day and we are asking you to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share, the church will provide the main course.

We are also asking you to **bring your ideas, thoughts, questions**, etc. as we will be gathering input for the *Sanctuary Building Renewal Task Force* as they consider the future of our 62-year old building.

I know that I have needed refreshing and renewal in my 58-years and our sanctuary building needs it too. The assessment process has just begun, and your feedback is essential. The Task Force will be listening closely April 29th and it will be insightful and fun to consider how we, "**Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Serve the Community**", in the future.

I'll see you Sunday and look forward to praising God with you, breaking bread with you, and listening to your ideas. Peace and Grace, Pastor Tom

ACADEMY KIDS Vonda Sutton, Director

Spring is quickly moving into summer and that means the end of a school year. Graduation Day is Thursday, May 24th, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. It is always a highlight of the year and a lot of fun seeing all the children glowing in the recognition of their accomplishments. (Parents tend to glow as well!)

We are at capacity on enrollment and the teaching staff is working hard to see that each child has fun, learns about God's love through Jesus, and looks forward to coming back the next day.

Coming for the Fall is Spanish and American Sign Language classes, stay tuned for details!

Upcoming Events

April 29 - Sunday

5th Sunday Luncheon and Input Session for Sanctuary Renewal, noon

One Youth Event, 1:30 – 5:00 pm, 1200 Yellow Jacket Ln., Rockwall

May 6 - Sunday

Sunday Supper & Scripture, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

May 20 - Sunday

Pentecost and Senior Recognition

May 24 – Thursday

Academy Kids Graduation, Sanctuary, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

John Wesley's Aldersgate Street Experience; "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while the leader was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

May 31 – June 2

Rummage Sale

BRIDGE KIDS Leigh Anne Akins, Coordinator

The Children's department is excited about an upcoming move! It seems like a chess game but here is the plan: soon we will be meeting Sunday mornings on the 2nd floor of the Education Building, where the Youth are currently meeting. The Youth will then move across the hallway to the room formerly used by Creative Outreach for storage and the room where the Adoration Ringers practice. The Adoration Ringers will move into the former Youth activity room and then someone will yell, "Checkmate"!

All this moving around is to accommodate a growing program, (did you see all the children on Palm Sunday?), to be more efficient in the use of facilities, and provide a safer environment for our children and youth. Stay tuned, there is still a lot to be done, but it is exciting to see the possibilities!

We are continuing our study on Bible lessons seasonally tied to Spring. These lessons encourage our older children to help our younger children in understanding our Faith.

Sunday School is from 9:15 to 10:15 upstairs in the Family Life Center. Ages 3-6th grade are welcome, children younger than 3 meet in the cry room located in the Sanctuary.

YOUTH NEWS Claudia Howe, Coordinator

A Youth in the fast paced, socially connected world today, faces challenges that other generations can barely imagine. First Church provides a safe place for Youth to be themselves, to see how Christian adults handle issues, and to understand in fresh ways how Jesus is part of their daily life.

On-going programs are the continued loving of their neighbor by serving red beans and rice to the Spanish Court residents, serving the community and loving their neighbor by adopting the residents of Mesquite Tree Nursing Home, and helping with the younger children's events and programs.

Plans in the works are a Confirmation Class, that may involve a couple of overnight weekends, and a Human Sexuality retreat. These programs are essential in the development of a healthy life of faith for a young person and the support of the members of First Church, while already amazing, will be called on again as these programs take shape.

As mentioned in the Bridge Kid's article, there is some shifting of space on the horizon and the Youth are excited about being a part of the process as rooms are made ready for them.

Come join us and change the world by supporting the Youth in service projects, events, camp experiences and mission trips!



Academy Kids

EBENEZER FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Sylvanus Chapman



The Fellowship continues to experience God in amazing ways! Our worship is inspired by the Holy Spirit and in the African traditions of music and dance we express the love of Christ. We invite you to experience God's love in new ways at noon on Sunday's in our new Worship Center, 2nd floor of the Education Building.

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