

First United Methodist Church  
Center, Texas

Love God, Love People, Serve The World



# FROM THE PASTOR

I love the Church! I particularly love the way it is expressed in the United Methodist tradition. So often, we take the church for granted. It has been passed down to us and so often we simply receive it and forget the sacrifice it took to get to the place we are in today. What are we willing to give/sacrifice so it will be here for future generations? Why is the church important? What does the church mean to you? Why do you support it with your prayers, presences, gifts, service and witness? Where might you be today without the church? (sobering thought!) So here is part II of the article I began sharing last week. This section reminds me that the church doesn't belong to me. It is Jesus'. Karen

Part II: You Can't Love Jesus Without Loving His Church By Jason Allen - from *Being a Christian: How Jesus Redeems All of Life* by Jason K. Allen. Copyright 2018, B&H Publishing Group.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT & THE CHURCH

...when you survey the New Testament, you see it's all about the church. In Matthew 16, Jesus declared, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it" (Matt. 16:18). Jesus fulfilled this promise through his own death, having shed his blood for the church (see Acts 20:28).

The book of Acts begins with the birth of the church through Peter's preaching at Pentecost. The book continues as the church spreads throughout the Mediterranean region and beyond through the apostles' preaching and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, the New Testament epistles were all written to or about churches. In them, the authors explain what churches are to believe and teach, and how they ought to minister and organize themselves. At the end of the New Testament—the book of Revelation—the apostle John records Jesus' seven letters to seven churches and punctuates the Bible's conclusion with Jesus' dramatic return for his bride, the church.

On the road to Damascus, Jesus likens the church to himself. Remember what he said to Saul? "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4).

Simply put, how one views, engages and treats Jesus' church reflects how one views, engages and treats Jesus himself.

### FINANCE UPDATE

2018 Budget  
\$414,701.00  
Needed weekly  
\$7,975.02  
Received on 9/09/2018  
\$14,544.00  
Received to date (week 36)  
\$260,844.55  
Needed to date 9/09/2018 (week 36)  
\$287,100.72  
Difference  
-\$26,256.17

### September 9th Attendance

Sunday School	36
8:30 am Worship Service	40
11:00 am Worship Service	64
Total in Worship	104

### Memorials

Carolyn Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bill Mettauer



FOOD DRIVE

**Shelby County Outreach Ministries is in need of canned foods. Their pantry is low. Drop off in red bin by the office.**

### Youth Updates

September 18: Breakfast B4 School at Whataburger @ 6:30 a.m.  
October 9: What A Night Fundraiser  
October 13: McMahan Chapel Trip & Bishop Preaching

## Sunday Schedule:

8:30am – Worship

9:30 am – Methodist Men's  
Breakfast in honor of  
JW Braden. All donations will be  
sent to the Methodist Children's  
Home in his honor.

10am– Sunday School for all ages  
11am- Worship



"As for God, His way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him." (Psalm 18:30 NIV) The year 2018 began with high hopes and expectations of a prosperous and happy year, one filled with peace, harmony. Before the first two weeks were over, our family was hit with a couple of crises that nearly knocked the wind out of us, sending us into chaos and disharmony. It seemed as if we were waiting for the worst that could happen. We felt the worst did happen until the Lord brought us back to His Holy Word. Through the Scriptures, we were reminded that His ways are not always our ways. We saw our immediate trials with our human eyes, but God saw them with telescopic lenses, bringing everything together in His plan for our lives. As we began to seek His Word, we knew that God's way was perfect, and His Word was flawless. These verses helped to clear our thinking. We were reminded that things that happen, not just during the major crises, but on a day-to-day basis weren't the result of a distant God, but of a wise and loving Father, who knew us when we were formed in our mothers' wombs. Our God is perfect and remains constant even in our imperfect world. He knows our coming in and our going out. He shields those who take refuge in Him. In a nutshell, no matter what it looks like, "God's got this." Heavenly Father, help us to learn to not lean on our own understanding, but to stand firm on Your Word, and believe that everything is still in Your capable hands. We thank You for the shield of protection that You spread over us. Help us to learn to trust You fully in all that we do. In Jesus name, Amen

You may send your prayer requests and praises to Terri Lacher at [btlacher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:btlacher@sbcglobal.net) or at (936) 598-3484 or (936) 332-2717



Fall is (almost) here, and so is this year's Trunk or Treat event! Sign-up sheets are posted on the doors of the fellowship hall for those of you who will help us out by DECORATING a TRUNK and filling it with candy and prizes.

Vehicles can be cars, trucks, boats, golf carts, riding lawnmowers, bicycles (does anyone have a tandem bike - that would be fun!). . . just be creative!!

We appreciate all the volunteers who helped last year and hope this year's event will be bigger and better!!

Thank all of you for your continued support of our children and the children of our community.

Nancy and Sharon



Dear FUMC,

Thank you so much for the beautiful red throw and the Prayer Cross. Whoever had any part of it with you I appreciate it very, very much. It really means a lot when people do things for you to let you know they're thinking of you and keeping you in their prayers. May God bless your church for doing the nice things you all do. Thank you all again for your thoughtfulness and remembering me and my wife and daughter.

Your friend,  
Bryan LaFitte



See You At The Pole is on September 26 at 7:00 a.m. Our church (alongside by others) will be providing donuts and juice for the Center Middle School and High School. If you can bring donuts, juice or help out that morning, we would greatly appreciate it! If you want to help the morning of please meet in front of Center High School at 6:45 a.m. Let Sarah Odom know! Thanks.



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