

First United Methodist Church  
Center, Texas

Love God, Love People, Serve The World



## FROM THE PASTOR

Why are we here? What is our purpose as a congregation? We have a great mission statement: Love God, Love People, Serve the World. How do we do that? How are we living that out? I think Part III of the article I have been sharing is helpful in reflecting on our mission and life together as the body of Christ gathered at First UMC Center. Karen

Part III of III: *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.

### SUM IS GREATER THAN ITS PARTS

When local churches gather, the sum is greater than the parts—especially as it pertains to their collective worship, collective ministry and collective witness.

#### Collective Worship

In the New Testament, we see that local churches gathered in homes to sit under the teaching of the Word and to break bread together. As the church developed, we see the primacy of gathering for worship on the first day of the week—the day of Christ's resurrection.

In fact, those who neglected gathering with God's people received a stern warning. The author of Hebrews exhorted believers not to "neglect to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25).

Believers today would be wise to heed this advice and to join a church body for all the benefits of collective worship, as well as encouraging others to do the same.

#### Collective Ministry

When you became a believer, God granted you spiritual gifts for the edification of the local church. Reflect on the following passage:

*And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. (Eph. 4:11–13)*

Let me encourage you to dust off your spiritual gifts and employ them with great joy to edify fellow believers in the church, and to reach the lost for Christ.

#### Collective Witness

C.H. Spurgeon once said, "If I had never joined a church till I had found one that was perfect, I should never have joined one at all; and the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us."

It's vital to understand that there is no perfect church. That's because every local church is comprised of sinners—redeemed sinners. So don't be a perennial church shopper. As my seminary professor Chip Stam often reminded the class, "The maturing believer is easily edified."

God uses each of his children's gifts in a unique way to fulfill the mission he has for the church as a whole. Make sure that you're upholding your end of the bargain. After all, a lone-ranger Christian doesn't make a good witness for Christ. Ultimately, Jesus has redeemed you to be a creature in community—a Christian living out the gospel in covenant with other Christians in a local church.

We'll look more at our collective ministry and witness over the next few weeks. Karen

#### FINANCE UPDATE

2018 Budget  
\$414,701.00  
Needed weekly  
\$7,975.02  
Received on 9/16/2018  
\$5,327.00  
Received to date (week 37)  
\$266,171.55  
Needed to date 9/16/2018 (week 37)  
\$295,075.74  
Difference  
-\$28,904.19



Join us  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2018  
FROM 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
AT THE WHATABURGER IN CENTER  
AND WE'LL DONATE 25% OF SALES TO  
CENTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DINE IN & DRIVE THRU



### Sunday Schedule:

8:30am – Worship  
 9:30 am – Coffee Fellowship-  
 Bill & Donna Holt,  
 Ken & Christy Mahan  
 10am– Sunday School for all ages  
 11am- Worship



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



**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

### September 16<sup>th</sup> Attendance

Sunday School	42
8:30 am Worship Service	63
11:00 am Worship Service	47
Total in Worship	110

### Something to Ponder...

“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:5 JV) We have a friend who could be called a master gardener. We have benefited by his beautiful harvest each summer. His broccoli plants are a dark green, and his tomatoes are out of this world. It's obvious that he has put much thought in planning and planting his vegetables. But all the planning and planting that he does ahead of time for a great harvest requires a commitment and trust in the real master gardener, our Lord. Insects and animals can find their way into tasty green shoots. Rain, or the lack of, can ruin a harvest. Hot summer days can wipe out a crop completely. Often when things are well planned, unexpected things happen, leaving us devastated. Life just happens. It's good to plan ahead, but God reminds us when we become so focused on planning for our futures, we miss out on the benefits of today. Peace and tranquility comes not from constantly looking ahead, but from ultimately trusting in our Lord and Savior to set the path before us. Proverbs tells us that we can plan our course, but it is our Lord who establishes our steps. Father God, we thank you for not having to constantly fret over our tomorrows. Teach us to rest in Your Word, knowing and believing how much You care for us to meet every need we have. Help us to learn to place our complete trust in You, and to stay on the path You have set before us.

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



Dear First United Methodist Church,

I want to thank you all so much for the prayer cross, and so much more for all the prayers I received throughout my training, and especially during the Crucible. I certainly felt your prayers, and God's presence with me. I know without Him I would not have had the courage to continue. Simply knowing there were so many back home supporting me made it easy to keep going. I could not have done it without your prayers.

~Pvt Dallas Osburn, USMC



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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