

The United Methodist Church of Frankston
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The United Methodist Messenger

"Making New Disciples Of Christ For The Transformation Of The World"

Rev. Matt Thomas, Pastor

Matthew 28:16-20

Greetings UMC Frankston,

2020 has been an unusual and challenging year. Everything from Murder Hornets to the pandemic, to the riots, to the upcoming election. By the time you receive the newsletter, Hurricane Laura will have made landfall in either Louisiana or Texas. It is certainly a lot of change and challenge for our culture. There have been some unusual and hilarious memes over the past six months. The best meme I have seen is the one where honey bees are flying back in to their hive with toilet paper, anti-bacterial soap, and wipes because the murder hornet is coming. While I understand the seriousness of all that has gone on within our country and around the world, I also recognize the need for joy and laughter. Every now and again we will come across something online that makes us chuckle about the times we are living. Soooo....don't forget to laugh for your own sanity!

During the pandemic, I offered an online study on discipleship and bees. It was both challenging and fun. It was my first taste of taking ministry online to the virtual world. In both beekeeping and ministry, a major theme came up for me that was not just about either honeybees and discipleship. In addition to talking about both of them, I realized, that, in order to be fruitful in either, stewarding communication would equally have to be a priority. The content is relatively easy to understand in either subject or their intersection. What is more difficult is sharing that content via technology. Luckily, we had help from Eddie and Mary Milham.

Through the lens of creation and Christ, it is fairly easy to understand God's process for maturing. Actually, helping persons off the cliff is the challenge. A wise person once told me that information alone doesn't transform lives. Information plus consistent application is what transforms lives for Christ. This is what I would call stewardship.

It is fairly easy to pick up a jar of honey and declare, this beautiful and sweet honey is a result of good management on my part. It actually takes knowledge of apiculture and good stewardship of the bees for them to actually produce something I can put in a jar. Failure in either area will leave those jars empty and my life unfulfilled. I can literally know all that is required to fill up a jar of honey, but unless I practice good management of the bees, jars remain empty.

Ministry or any other vocation is the same way. I can teach till I'm blue in the face, but if I don't help persons apply or steward what they are learning, then I'm wasting my time.

The question I have for each of you is "how are you stewarding (managing) the sacred information that has been given to you"? This requires some thoughtfulness. Example-You would agree that loving your neighbor is sacred information? How would you steward that love so others would want to follow Jesus and experience the transformative grace of God? To the point...How would we steward the information and practice of loving our neighbor through an online platform? How do we fill the jars with honey?

I remember my dad always telling my siblings and me, "THINK." We will always be challenged. We will always have pandemics, hurricanes, murder hornets, injustice, and riots. The easy answer is to add our commentary. The challenge is to think about how we are going to communicate the sacred information and steward the love of Christ in such a way that others want to follow Jesus. AND....don't forget to laugh.

Matt

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sep 2 6 pm – 7 pm Family Night Bible Study, Family Life Center
 Sep 2 6 pm – 7 pm Youth meet, FLC
 Sep 6 9 am *Sunday School* on Facebook
 Sep 6 11 am *Communion Sunday Worship*, Family Life Center
 Sep 7 **Church offices and FLC closed – Labor Day**
 Sep 9 6 pm – 7 pm Family Night Bible Study, Family Life Center
 Sep 9 6 pm – 7 pm Youth meet, FLC
 Sep 13 9 am *Sunday School* on Facebook
 Sep 13 11 am *Worship*, Family Life Center
 Sep 13 Noon Council of Ministries meeting
 Sep 14 9 am Stocking Rainbow House, FLC
 Sep 14 11 am United Methodist Women meet, Family Life Center
 Sep 16 6 pm – 7 pm Family Night Bible Study, Family Life Center
 Sep 16 6 pm – 7 pm Youth meet, FLC
 Sep 20 9 am *Sunday School* on Facebook
 Sep 20 11 am *Worship*, Family Life Center
 Sep 21 9 am Stocking Rainbow House, FLC
 Sep 22 9 am – Noon Rainbow House drive-by food distribution, Family Life Center
 Sep 23 6 pm – 7 pm Family Night Bible Study, Family Life Center
 Sep 23 6 pm – 7 pm Youth meet, FLC
 Sep 27 9 am *Sunday School* on Facebook
 Sep 27 11 am *Worship*, Family Life Center
 Sep 30 6 pm – 7 pm Family Night Bible Study, Family Life Center
 Sep 30 6 pm – 7 pm Youth meet, FLC

Even with the “Covid Slowdown”, this summer has been a busy time for volunteers helping with Rainbow House. In addition to the men who go to the East Texas Food Bank to pick up the large orders of food, other men and women are on hand to sort, store, bag, and fill boxes with the items to be handed out at the Rainbow House food distribution. On the day of the distribution, many volunteers are on hand to load boxes and bags of food in the cars of our clients. Since we have been having “drive-by” distributions, clients don’t get the opportunity to go to the clothes pantry, or have blood pressure/blood sugar checks, get books, or to have personal contact with us, but, all-in-all, things are going well and everyone cooperates.

In addition to food this summer, school supplies were purchased (money from collected aluminum cans), sorted and grouped for those families requesting help for their children, Pre-K – 12th grade, attending Frankston, LaPoynor, Neches, and Bullard schools. The supplies were picked up near the end of July by the parents. Lil’ Indians Playschool received some of the remaining supplies, but the bulk of the supplies was donated to Frankston ISD.

On Tuesday, August 25, Rainbow House served 85 families. 74 senior adults, 120 adults (aged 18-54), and 37 children (under 18) made up these families.

As always, the ongoing work of the volunteers and the ongoing financial, prayerful support of others is greatly appreciated.



35TH ANNUAL LORD’S ACRE

- Social Distancing Required
- Masks Suggested
- Hand Sanitizer will be in abundance

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 — COUNTRY STORE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 — AUCTION

YOUR HELP, DONATIONS, PRAYERS, AND PRESENCE ARE NEEDED!

Watch for details regarding changes!



**WEDNESDAY
FAMILY NIGHT
RESUMES
SEPTEMBER 2
Family Life Center
6 PM – 7 PM**

No food at this time, but we will meet in the Family Life Center for Bible Study – resuming the study of Matthew. While we are meeting, the Youth will meet in their room and we will also have a nursery available for the little ones.

We will be meeting in the gym, so there is plenty of room for social distancing — invite your friends to join us.

Mark your calendar and plan to be there!

Greetings Church Family,

It is the season of “Welcome Back to School”. I know that there are many changes and challenges for all our students, teachers, and staff at every school. I pray that you are embracing the opportunities to grow and be a person of support for others. Our call to be ambassadors of Christ to the world is the same today as every day, but perhaps these days offer some unique opportunities to show the love of Christ to those around us.

Back to School also means a return to our Wednesday Family Nights! This year, Youth will be meeting on Wednesdays instead of Sundays. (Thank you to all who prayed for my transfer to day shift!!) This is an opportunity for our youth to grow in their faith in, understanding of, and relationship with our Lord, not to mention all the fun we will have just hanging out together. We will plan weekend events throughout the school year as well. I am so excited to see each of you. I believe God can do great things in and through our youth when they invest time in Him.

God bless and see y’all on Wednesday night!

Greg Martin



Lord's Acre





WE PRAY FOR...

Family of James Simmons; Family of Marie Stringfield; Family of Troy Nutt; Family of Michael Taylor; Family of Phyllis Patrick Hart, former resident of Frankston and former member of our church; **Family of Arianne McEachen; Jennifer Bloker**, Doreen Sweeney's sister, diagnosed with breast cancer; **those persons affected by hurricanes; Gary Gillum**, Dianne Beard's cousin in Oklahoma suffering from Covid; **Lorna Hentze**, friend of Barbara McCune and Lina Mae Eschberger, in rehab following surgery on broken leg, chemo suspended for now; **Donna Chandler**, mother of Rainbow client, under home hospice care, family needs prayers; **Kimberly Walker**, Rheumatoid Arthritis flare-up; **Joni Jones**, recovering well from light stroke; **Kenny Smith**, friend of Chuck Dale's dad, ICU, Winnie, TX; **Sharon Milham**, sister of Eddie Milham, resting at home; **Jason Lagrone**, Matt's step-brother, in rehab and improving after brain bleed; **Virginia Link**, recovering from Covid; **Lois & Boyd Ferguson**, Christina Thomas' grandparents, both recovering from Covid; **Mary Praus**, longtime friend of Cris House, recovering from bone marrow transplant; **Jayne Beddingfield**, awaiting further treatment; **Jean Klosterman**, Randy Randle's sister, awaiting surgery to correct aneurysm; **Julian Pope**, Kay Randle's sister-in-law's brother, advanced ALS, now suffering from Covid; **Those persons directly affected by Covid 19 and their families; Healthcare Workers and First Responders; Kerry Milham**, Eddie Milham's brother, recovering from prostate cancer; **Bill Peck**, Doreen Sweeney's brother, undergoing treatment cancer; **those persons who are ill with life-changing diseases and their families and caregivers; military personnel and their families; missionaries, nursing home residents; those shut in due to ill health; those persons in need, but unnamed.**

Our nation, for peace and spiritual healing, and **those persons affected by the current violence across our country**, and **World Leaders** to strive for understanding and peace between nations.

Our school staff and students and our fellow church members, neighbors, and families for safety and health.

If you have additions or updates to the prayer list, please call the church office at 903.876.2235 or email umcfrankston@umcfrankston.org.

Pray For Our Military

Alfredo Balderas
PSC 94 Box 1701
APO AE 09824

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 — Daniel Lookabaugh
3 — Dianne Beard, Cash McElroy
5 — Jim Tom Johnson 6 — Robert Denson
8 — Louise Lade 9 — Dustin House
11 — Emma Thomas 18 — Dan Wagoner
19 — Alec Tatum 20 — Chris Denson, Trent Cook
23 — Cris House
24 — Jared Cook, Kathleen Mabe, Bobbie Mills
30 — Lucas Hubert

Call (903) 876-2235 if we missed your birthday.

**Church Offices
&
Family Life Center
Will Be Closed
September 7
Happy Labor Day!**

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTES



Sep 6 Katie Hadash
Sep 13 John Riley Jimenez
Sep 20 Jared Cook
Sep 27 Briley Jimenez