

**The United Methodist Church of Frankston**  
**P. O. Box 355**  
**Frankston, TX 75763-0035**

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4/2020



# **The United Methodist Messenger**

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

**Rev. Matt Thomas, Pastor**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

I find comfort with Jesus' words, "I Am Willing." In midst of life and all the issues it raises, the words "I am willing" give me reason to pause. The context of those words comes from a story about a leper in Matthew 8. Jesus had just come down from the mountain and had large crowds following him. A leper came up to Jesus and knelt down before him. Now the leper didn't announce his presence to the crowd around him, which would have been a no-no. The leper took a risk coming out in public. He took a bigger risk not announcing his presence. Next thing Jesus knows is a man in bandages is kneeling before him. No official greeting like, "Hey my name is Joe, how are you today, Jesus?" The man knelt and made a statement. He said to Jesus, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus immediately reaches out and touches the man (another no-no) and says, "I Am Willing, Be Clean." Of course, there was a crowd around to witness the miracle. You can almost hear the breath of the crowd pause as Jesus reaches out and touches the leper. They were waiting to exhale.

No doubt there are numerous lessons to be gleaned from this text. The one that is striking to me is the leper's statement and Jesus' response to the invitation. The leper's statement is really an affirmation and exercise of faith. He admits Jesus is able. He knows that. He has come to Jesus in faith. He is seeing if Jesus is willing. Of course, Jesus was willing.

Thinking about this text, I can't but wonder if we know Jesus is willing. Do Christians believe Jesus is able to transform their existence no matter what stumbling blocks exist? Would we be willing to risk, like the leper, and kneel down at the feet of Jesus with whatever burdens us? Are we afraid we will be disappointed? Are we worried we won't get the results we think we should have? Or do we not believe Jesus is able and willing to meet us?

"I Am Willing" are perhaps some of the most powerful words we read in the gospel. The leper was in need and knew it. We are in need whether we know it or not. It's hard in a consumeristic culture to sell the idea of need. It is equally difficult to encourage people to trust in someone they can't see. If you and I are aware enough to discover our need and bold enough to fall at his feet and declare his ability, what could the Lord do in us? At his feet, we may declare with humility and confidence...Save me, Heal me, Forgive me, Comfort me, Strengthen me, Equip me. May I know your great love or me!

We know Jesus is able and willing! Are we? Happy Easter my friends!

Matt

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DATES LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENT DUE TO COVID 19 CLOSURES.**

Join our church family at 10 a.m. for Sunday School and 11 a.m. on **Facebook!** Search for **United Methodist Church of Frankston** to find our Facebook page. Hit "Like" and "Follow to receive notifications about church news or when livestreaming begins.

You may check the church website at [www.umcfrankston.org](http://www.umcfrankston.org) and click on the Facebook link.

You may enter [www.facebook.com/umcfrankstontx](https://www.facebook.com/umcfrankstontx) directly in your browser and the link will take you to the Facebook page.

## APRIL CALENDAR

Apr 12 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
Apr 12 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time, fellowship hall  
Apr 12 11 a.m. *Easter Worship service*, sanctuary  
Apr 13 10:30 a.m. United Methodist Women meet, FLC  
Apr 14 6 p.m. Women's XRCise meets, FLC  
Apr 15 5:45 p.m. Family Meal, Fellowship Hall  
Apr 15 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Fellowship Hall  
Apr 15 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir practice, Sanctuary  
Apr 16 6 p.m. Women's XRCise meets, FLC  
Apr 17 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Blood Drive, FLC  
Apr 18 8 a.m. United Methodist Men hold breakfast meeting, Family Life Center  
Apr 19 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
Apr 19 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time, Fellowship Hall  
Apr 19 11 a.m. *Worship Service*, Eddie Milham, guest speaker, Sanctuary  
Apr 19 4 p.m. Youth Fellowship meets, Family Life Ctr.  
Apr 21 6 p.m. Women's XRCise meets, FLC  
Apr 22 5:45 p.m. Family Meal, Fellowship Hall  
Apr 22 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Fellowship Hall  
Apr 22 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir practice, Sanctuary  
Apr 23 6 p.m. Women's XRCise meets, FLC  
Apr 26 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
Apr 26 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time, Fellowship Hall  
Apr 26 11 a.m. *The Apostle Paul Speaks*, Sanctuary  
Apr 26 Noon Covered Dish Lunch, FLC  
Apr 27 Stocking Rainbow House, FLC  
Apr 27 Deadline for Red Hat lunch reservation, call Dot Clark, 903.876.2925  
Apr 28 9 a.m. – Noon Rainbow House food & clothes distribution, Family Life Center  
Apr 28 6 p.m. Women's XRCise meets, FLC  
Apr 29 5:45 p.m. Family Meal, Fellowship Hall  
Apr 29 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Fellowship Hall  
Apr 29 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir practice, Sanctuary  
Apr 30 11:30 a.m. Methodist Scarlet Ladies meet at Happy's Fish House, Tyler, for lunch  
Apr 30 6 p.m. Women's XRCise meets, FLC  
Apr 30 6:30 p.m. Worship Team meets, FLC



## METHODIST SCARLET LADIES

We HOPE that the next lunch for our Red Hat group will be April 30. If the Covid 19 virus is under control so that restaurants will once again be open, we will meet at Happy's Fish House in Tyler at 11:30 a.m.

As you probably remember, they have a long list of reasonably priced lunch specials (not all of them seafood). In case, you have any room left, their bread pudding is a wonderful dessert!

Happy's is on East Fifth Street, about midway between the TJC campus and Loop 323. I'll need your reservations by Monday, April 27. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we'll be able to meet then!

Dot Clark 903.876.2925



## The United Methodist Women say "Thanks"

A heartfelt thank you to all of you who donated items, gave your time to clean and mark items, worked for days to display and sell our massive amount of "goodies" and did it all with such a wonderful spirit. This was the biggest sale ever and the profits surely showed it.

Thank you, Covenant Cookers, for the meals. We're sure some folks came for the food, but stayed to shop.

In all, it was a great time – let's get ready for next year!



**BLOOD DRIVE  
APRIL 17  
10 A.M. – 1 P.M.  
WE'LL BE IN THE GYM  
TO SPREAD OUT!**



## TEDDY BEAR ROUNDUP

On Sunday, March 15, an abundance of Teddy Bears and other stuffed animals were hugged, blessed, and donated to CASA. The animals will be given to children served by CASA out of the Athens office. The church Missions Team thanks the congregation for their generous and bountiful gifts for “CASA kids”.



## GIFT CARDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The United Methodist Women will be honoring some 55 Frankston High School seniors with a luncheon at the Family Life Center on Wednesday, May 6 at 11:30 a.m.



As in the past, we hope to present a gift card to each senior, so we are asking that you help us by donating a gift card of \$10 or more to bookstores, restaurants, department stores, movie theaters, and cash cards such as Visa. Please take the cards to the FLC during business hours, no later than Friday, May 1.

Our church’s reputation for making this such a special memory for seniors is well known. It is your generosity that makes this possible and it is greatly appreciated.

## THANK YOU, KAY RANDLE!

The Mission Team wants you to know that you are loved and appreciated. Rainbow House, nor any other mission projects would run half as well if you were not at the helm.

You are the “Energizer Bunny” of all time!

Hip, hip, hooray for **KAY!!!**

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 15:13**



# THE CURRENT LOOK OF RAINBOW HOUSE



On Tuesday, March 24, Rainbow House served 103 families, made up of 341 people. Since we could not allow anyone in



the Family Life Center except for the volunteers who were working, the clients all stayed in their cars and drove by to have their pre-packed box of food, meat, bread and eggs put in their cars.



Everyone cooperated well and seemed in good spirits. We all understand that this is necessary and not a permanent situation. The clients were wished well and given instructions to watch Pastor Matt and Eddie Milham on Facebook if they have the means to do so.

Even though smiles were covered with masks, gloves were worn, no handshakes or hugs were given, it was a good day and, hopefully, God's love for all of us was evident.



## **“ST. PAUL” TO FILL PULPIT APRIL 26**

St. Paul Speaks is the Performance Scripture Ministry of Philip Smith. Your congregation becomes the first century church as they see and hear the Apostle Paul deliver his letters to them with love and passion. Those who have seen Philip's portrayal agree that they have experienced Scripture brought to life.

Philip is an accomplished actor saved by the grace of God. Since 2010 he has dedicated his talent and service to Jesus by bringing the letters of Paul the Apostle to life through Performance Scripture. These performances are theatrical presentations composed exclusively of Scripture. Each performance is complete with set, costume and lighting.

Philip performs Philippians, Colossians, Galatians, 2 Timothy and “The Gospel of God's Love,” which is compiled from several of Paul's letters. All are 30 minute presentations. He has performed for a wide variety of events including Sunday Services, banquets, Bible Studies and Senior and Youth activities.

This will be a special event you don't want to miss! A covered dish lunch will follow in the FLC.



## **“Drive By”**

### **Easter Egg Event Scheduled April 11**

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be replaced with a “drive by” at 10 a.m. at Fellowship Park. Parents are encouraged to get their kids loaded in the car and come by for the Easter goodies that will be sacked up and ready for distribution. This will be for all children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger, so invite your friends to drive by also!



Please help out by donating plastic eggs, little “Easter Toys”, and wrapped candy for stuffing into the eggs. You may leave your donations at the Family Life Center during regular business hours.

**Thanks for your help!**

## **YOUTH NEWS – FROM GREG MARTIN**

In this time of social distancing, I am grateful to God. Grateful that our church is learning new ways to stay connected to one another and to our community. Grateful for Jennie and her tireless commitment to our congregation and community. Grateful for pastor Matt and the spiritual guidance he provides so diligently. Grateful for Eddie and his dedication to provide Sunday School lessons. Grateful to the volunteers at Rainbow house. Grateful for all the people that I know are contributing to the ministry of Christ.

That being said, I miss you all terribly. I miss spending time with the youth on Sunday afternoons. I miss my Sunday School group, smiling faces, caring hearts, and warm holy embraces. You are in my thoughts and prayers. This is a time that we must support one another. If there is anything I can do to assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out.

**UMARMY update:** The latest email I have received from UMARMY was on March 21. Below is a list of things that I felt were most important to pass along to you.

\*U.M. Army is consulting with a variety of local, state, national, and denominational leaders such as the U.S. Department of State, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Methodist Hospital System, ReFrame Association, and United Methodist Camping and Retreat ministries.

\*U.M. ARMY is making contingency plans should health authorities advise changes in our regular programming.

**\*At this point**, however, because of the rapidly evolving situation and not knowing where things will be in a few months from now, **U.M. ARMY HAS NOT** changed its program schedule for the 2020 ALL IN summer mission season.

\*It is our goal to clearly communicate with you all during this time to alleviate and anxiety we can. We will continue to evaluate these and other important topics and communicate with you every few weeks. **Our next update is planned for April 2.**

\*While we are very concerned about the health and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and homeowners, we are also concerned for families who have continued housing needs. As you know, many live in substandard housing that simply needs immediate care. We are excited to get back to the mission field as soon as possible. However, our ultimate decisions will be based upon recommendations from state and local health officials. U.M.ARMV will be understanding of the individual needs of each volunteer group and as flexible and cooperative as possible.

May God Bless and hold you in these troubling times.





## We worship God with: Our Prayers

**We Pray For....**Family of Laurie Davlin; Family of Jerry Crawford; Family of Henry Yarbrough; Those persons directly affected by Covid 19 and their families; Jayne Beddingfield, surgery March 27 to repair multiple fractures in pelvis; **John Holloway**, Pat Lookabaugh's brother-in-law, recovering from brain surgery; **Tank Pearson**, the Ronnie & Kathy Clarkston's son-in-law, recovering from surgery for thyroid cancer; **Bill Peck**, Doreen Sweeney's brother, battling cancer; **Robert Dickerson**, at home, under hospice care; **Paul Higginbotham**, recovering from injuries to leg and ankle; **Cherie Booth**, recovering at home from injuries in recent auto accident; **Lina Mae Eschberger**, severe neck and back pain, undergoing physical therapy; **Barbara Maupin**, in rehab; **Lilia Pizano**, radiation treatments; **those persons who are ill with life-threatening diseases and their families and caregivers; military personnel and their families; missionaries, nursing home residents; those shut in due to ill health; our world leaders; those persons in need, but unnamed; peace in our schools and among nations.**

To request prayers, please contact the church office at 903.876.2235 or [umcfrankston@umcfrankston.org](mailto:umcfrankston@umcfrankston.org).

## Our Presence

Date	Sunday School	Worship
Mar 1	40	76
Mar 8	39	76
Mar 15	20	41
Mar 22 & 29	Services Online	

## Our Service



Apr. 12	Lucas Hubert John Riley Jimenez
Apr. 19	Noah Green Jared Cook
Apr. 26	Max McGuffey Briley Jimenez



Apr. 12	Frank & Jean Duncan
Apr. 19	Paul & Brenda Higginbotham
Apr. 26	Chelsey Vinzant Cindy Owens

## Pray for our military

Maj. Alfredo Balderas  
3013 Brook Highland Dr.  
Birmingham, AL 35242



## April Birthdays

- 1 Jacob Whitehurst
- 2 Roy Pemberton
- 3 Dottie Aalfs
- 4 Gracie House
- 9 Edith Stephens, Nicci Cook,  
Jody Henson
- 11 Ben Whitehurst
- 14 Frank Sweeney
- 15 Leona May, Becky Pemberton
- 19 Eleanor Jones, Chris Sabulsky
- 22 Jarrett Locke
- 24 Carl House, Jason Starling
- 25 Mary Milham
- 28 Brenda Higginbotham

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



## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Would you like to honor a special person in your life? Order a bouquet of fresh flowers or live plant to display in our sanctuary during our worship service! This gift would be a great way to brighten someone's day.

Here's how it works:

- 1) Select a date and sign your name on the calendar displayed on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the fellowship room. Remember to include the name and occasion of celebration.
- 2) Order the arrangement or live plant from your favorite florist for Friday delivery, or bring when you come to church on Sunday.
- 3) Information about your gift will be in the weekly bulletin.
- 4) After the service, deliver your arrangement to the designated person or take them home and enjoy. Any arrangement left in the sanctuary beyond Monday will be removed and disposed.