

SEPTEMBER 2020



First United Methodist Church Palacios

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

To state the obvious, going back to school this year is very different. I hope that our students are filled with enthusiasm and excitement about returning to school. And, I hope that the precautions and changes due to Covid-19 can be taken in stride. During my daughter's public-school days, I clearly recall many moments of sending her off to a new school. She had quite a few "new school first days" because we moved several times due to my ministry. I know she felt anxious about being "the new kid". I felt anxious about seeing her go off into each new school environment. Preparing children to handle the challenges of school go hand in hand with preparing children for life. In planning for this newsletter message, I came across these "Back to School" prayers. While reading through them, I thought these would be great to incorporate into a family's daily routine. Teaching children to pray and sharing those prayers with them blesses them and their families. "Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) With confidence we pray, God bless our children and their families in this new school year.

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Back to School Blessing

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<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-back-to-school-blessing>

Elementary Students:

Bless my paper and my pen.
Guide my spirit deep within.
Help me think and help me
play
This whole school year, day
by day.

**Middle School (Jr. High)
students:**

As I move from class to
class
Guide my footsteps; clear
my path.
Keep my tongue to speak
your words.
Let your will for me be
heard.

High School Students:

In every subject high or low,
May God's excellence be
shown!
Keep me strong to reach the
prize
To grow in grace, becoming
wise.

College Students:

Whether far from home or
near
May I hold God's precepts
dear.
To do my best at every task;
For this blessing, I do ask.

**Non-Traditional and
Graduate Adult Students:**

Help my family be a part
As I lift my mind and heart.
As I study, work, and pray,
Be with them throughout the
day.

From *Back to School Prayers and Blessings for Families*

Written and distributed by Traci Smith, Author www.traci-smith.com

**A Prayer for Putting on a
Mask**

I put on my mask to show
others I care
I put on my mask to keep
others safe
I put on my mask to love
my neighbor
Thank you, God, for being
with me. Amen.

**A Prayer for Washing My
Hands**

I wash my hands
I make them clean
I dry them off
While I wash I say, "Thank
to all." Amen.

**A Prayer for At Home
(Remote) Learning**

Home is where we eat at the
table and sleep in our bed
For now, home is where we
do our learning, too
God, please be with me
when I learn at home
Help me to understand what
to do
Help me to be patient if it
gets hard or feels too
different
Most of all, help me to feel
your love, Amen

A Prayer for Blended Learning

I can learn in many different ways
I can learn at home I can learn at school
I can learn in both home and school
This year I'll be learning in many different places
Though my body will be in different places, one thing will always stay the same
No matter where I am, God is with me
No matter where I am, God loves me
No matter where I am, I am God's child Amen

A Blessing to Start the Day

May your day be filled with joy and gladness
May you be kind today
May you be at peace today
May you know you are loved today, by God and by your family.

Síockán/Paz/Peace, Dave

SCRIPTURES FOR SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

9/6 Romans 13:8–14
9/13 Rom 14:1–12
9/20 Rom 14:1–12
9/27 Phil 2:1–13



Tuesday, September 22



In 2020, the **autumnal equinox**—also called the **September equinox** or **fall equinox**—arrives on Tuesday, **September 22**. Fall begins in the Northern Hemisphere and **spring** begins in the Southern Hemisphere.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bob and Michele Colura celebrate their anniversary on September 8.



Chris and Landra Vandenberg celebrate their anniversary on September 21.



Marty and Carl Rieck are in Minnesota, at Itasca State Park, paddling their kayak alongside a mother Common Loon and her two babies.



Some folks might still need a helping hand. So if you, or someone you know, needs assistance, because of the virus or because of any other reason, there are Helping Hands at the ready - Pastor Dave, Leslie Machicek, Melinda (Law) Cruz, and others! These folks are happy to do grocery shopping/delivery, provide transportation, etc.. Need a ride to the store, a doctor's visit, or to visit family or friends? Call Pastor Dave at 956-342-9075 . Also, The Robert Duran Food Pantry is also continuing distribution of items to any and all who could use some extra staples at this time. Emergencies can be taken care of by calling 972-5236.

NURSE'S CORNER

Wesley Nurse, Leslie Machicek, our Wesley nurse, has a new phone number: 361-288-1116. She can't return to the office yet but is doing home visits. She is doing Zoom meetings for Yoga. If anyone is interested, email her at lmachicek@mhm.org and she will send an invite. They do this every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 5:30pm- 6:30pm. It is a very simple yoga program and there are modifications.



Bible Study is still postponed until further notice.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rev. Clifford Edge.

THANK YOU

Our deep appreciation goes out to all those who help during this time – our health care workers, grocery employees, and first responders!

We thank Jimmy Neeley for his solos during some of our Sunday Services while we take precautions during this time.

Mission and Outreach Corner

August's Rail Offering was designated for our church mission fund. Monies collected for this supported the maintenance of the Palacios Charitable Resources website, which is updated by Joni Flores and is used by members of our community. You might want to look it up on your computer to see what it is all about.

Noisy Change Offering was held the last/fifth Sunday of August. A beach bucket was placed at the back of the church, as buckets can't be passed around yet. This offering went to the Methodist Children's Home in Waco.

Applause should be given to many of our church members who are continuing to carry on, in spite of COVID19, at our Food Pantry. They are always looking for people in need in our community to serve!!!! Many thanks!

OPEN HEARTS.

OPEN MINDS.

OPEN DOORS.

THE METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Although the name has changed through the years and the program of care has adapted to the needs of those it serves, Methodist Children's Home (MCH) remains true to its mission to equip children, youth and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support. Founded in 1890, MCH is a nationally accredited, nonprofit childcare ministry affiliated with the six United Methodist Annual Conferences of Texas and New Mexico. Methodist Children's Home was established in 1890 through the efforts of Bishop Joseph S. Key of the Northwest Texas Conference and Dr. Horace Bishop, pastor of Waco's Fifth Street Methodist Church. The city of Waco bid successfully for the orphanage by donating cash and a 10-acre estate to the Home. Today, Methodist Children's Home is located on the original site. In April 1894, Rev. W.H. Vaughan, the first administrator, answered a knock on the door and found 12-year-old David Harrison, from Hill County, standing on the steps. David said, "Brother Vaughan, my name is David, and I have come to live with you." By the end of the first year, Methodist Children's Home provided care for 26 children.

Tim Brown, a veteran childcare administrator, became president of Methodist Children's Home in 2010. He led the organization to serve even more children and youth through residential group care, foster care and a variety of family and community services. In 2018, MCH served more than 6,000 individuals across Texas and New Mexico.





Sunday Church Services continue being held in the Sanctuary for those who feel comfortable coming for worship in person. Masks are required. Temperatures are taken as folks enter the Narthex. The congregation observes safe distancing by sitting in the pew areas that are marked. Our music is taped and/or a solo piece. We leave the church by pews, staying safely apart. Communion is even handled safely, using individual communion wafer and juice cups that are sealed. If you are unable to make it to church, do not panic. Service is available on YouTube (usually by that afternoon) and also on facebook using the website: <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCPalacios/>. Please contact Pastor Dave if you would like Communion served to you at home. He would be happy to do so.

Labor Day 2020 will occur on Monday, September 7. Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, street parades and athletic events.

First United Methodist Church -- Palacios, Texas
Administrative Council Agenda – August 11, 2020 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Jimmy Neeley, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Jimmy Neeley opened with a prayer. In attendance: Pastor Dave Moreno, Bill Law, Melissa Law, Erwin Janszen, Tony Barber, Maxine Kubecka and Leslie Machicek.

Included in the Council packet: Agenda, Balance Sheet, Monthly Profit and Loss and Profit and Loss Budget Performance.

This meeting was held through Zoom in order to continue social separation due to the Coronavirus.

Minutes from the previous meeting on July 14, 2020 were approved. Motion made by Tony Barber. Second by Bill Law. All in favor.

Wesley Nurse, Leslie Machicek reported she has not been released to her office yet and it may be late September or October. "I have been doing home visits with my clients and helping many new people out. MHM has been very generous in providing funds and will be sending out another round of gift cards to help those in need. If you know anyone, please have them call me at 361-571-1044. I have been doing Zoom meetings for Yoga. If anyone is interested, email me at lmachicek@mhm.org and I will send an invite. We do this every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 5:30pm- 6:30pm. It is a very simple yoga program and there are modifications. I am needing more family kits: 2 rolls of toilet paper; Large toothpaste; Large shampoo; Large conditioner; Large body soap; 10 band aids."

Financial Reports were provided and explained by Maxine Kubecka.

The income for July was \$10,943.07 and the expenses were \$10,827.74. Net profit for July was \$115.33. Budgeted income for July was \$12,750.01. We were under budget \$1840.49 for July. Balance sheet as of July 31, 2020 - Checking Account - \$26,869.75, Johnson Foundation - \$21,295.86, Josh Hebel Scholarship Fund - \$28,258.50 and the house payment balance is \$65,471.71.

No payment towards apportionments were made in July but a \$2000.00 payment was made in August. Josh Hebel Scholarship awarded 10 - \$1000.00 scholarships this year at graduation. Students receive \$500.00 for Fall 2020 semester and \$500.00 for Spring 2021 semester. Maxine requests permission to draw \$10,000.00 from the Josh Hebel Scholarship Fund. Erwin Janszen made a motion to withdraw \$5000.00 for the fall semester and \$5000.00 in the winter for the spring semester. Seconded by Bill Law. All in favor.

Tony Barber made a motion to maintain utilities at the rent house. Second by Erwin Janszen. All in favor. Erwin Janszen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Tony Barber. All in favor.

Trustees Report – Tony Barber reported that the realtor showed the house four times in the last week. Tony has been keeping the window seals and porches cleaned. Realtor thinks we need to clean out the green house and the brush in the back yard.

Michele Colura has been taking care of the garden area in front of the church. It's in need of soil and mulch and she wanted to notify us that she can no longer take care of it. Will get our lawn care people to take care of weeding for now.

Pastor Dave provided an oral **Pastor's Report**. We need to review last year's Charge Conference reports. Pastor Dave will be at a Pastoral Working Retreat in the Hill Country August 23rd and will return August 28th. Individuals can make an appointment to pray with Pastor Dave. There will be social distancing. Church service will continue on You Tube and Facebook and in the sanctuary. He's working on doing Sunday school on Zoom.

New Business-None

Old Business- None

Motion to Adjourn: Pastor Dave closed the meeting in prayer at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Law

Action Item List

| Description | Who will manage this? | Date to complete | Actual Completion |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Electrical problems affecting the sanctuary | Trustees | | |
| Clean up of church storage areas | Trustees | | |
| Recommendation in June 2018 from the trustees for the church to hire a part time handy man for property maintenance. | Trustees | | |
| Get a bid on replacing the sanctuary floor tile. | Erwin | | |
| Emergency Preparedness Plan | Joni writes the draft plan and sends on to Erwin, Bill, Pastor of input/consideration | Joni sent draft plan in August 2018 | |
| Find out if the church has Directors and Officers insurance coverage through our liability with Church Mutual | Pastor Dave | | |
| Hearing devices for members | Pastor Dave | | |
| Background check information | Pastor Dave and Wesley Nurse | | January 2020 |
| Security Cameras | Jimmy Neeley and Trustees | | |



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Miss Murphy – Sept. 2



Bill Law – Sept. 4



Jovan Han – Sept. 12



Ty Kubecka – Sept. 20

- Lee Schuetz – Sept. 5
- Brent Kunefke – Sept. 6
- Rosie Jewell – Sept. 6
- Lucille Remlinger – Sept. 7
- John Turner – Sept. 8
- Brittany Werner - Sept. 10
- Jake Werner – Sept. 14

- Pat Jewell – Sept. 18
- Linda Bates Curtis – Sept. 22
- Stuart Johnson – Sept. 22
- Rita Cepak – Sept. 23
- Ryan Kubecka – Sept. 25
- Bailey Kubecka – Sept. 30

(I would like to include pictures on birth dates and anniversaries. If you or family members have upcoming birthdays or anniversaries, please send me a photo: murphy_miss@yahoo.com. The photos can be updated over time).

Reminder: Date for submitting contributions to the Newsletter to Miss Murphy, murphy_miss@yahoo.com and Candice Neese, cneese1012@hotmail.com, is usually by or before the 21st of each month.

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