

Church Matters

Church Matters

January 2017

Eules First United Methodist Church

From the Pastor

Happy New Year! I don't know if you make New Year's resolutions, but I would like to invite you to join me in this one. I resolve not to think less of people just because they are different than me. Here's the backstory: I am writing this a week and a half before Christmas. We recieved a call at the Church Office today; a request for help. A family was due to be evicted that afternoon if they didn't come up with rent money. We check sources: the request was legitimate. Within a couple of hours, the rent was paid. God is good, and God gives us so

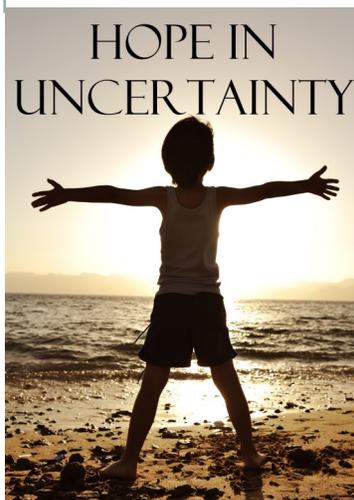
many opportunities to join in the goodness! But here's the deal: the first 2 sources we got on this story told us that the landlord refused to work with the family or give them any grace because the landlord was an atheist. Now, I know atheists that live more morally upstanding lives than some Christians. I know atheists who I think probably live better lives than I do. I have no doubt there are Christian landlords that lose patience with their tenants. I read somewhere a few months ago that atheists are "the most hated religious group" in the United States. In

addition to the irony of calling atheists a "religious group," this is horrible! Jesus himself treated everyone he met with respect and love. He said that he came "to seek and save the lost." (Luke 19:10) If we believe this, it is our responsibility, as Christians, to follow Jesus in this! So, again, whether or not you make a habit of new year's resolutions, I invite you to join me in this one: *I resolve not to think less of people just because they are different than me.* Please join me. In doing so, we let our lights shine!

Inside this issue:

Prayer List	2
Birthdays / Anniversaries	2
Memorials / Honorariums	3
Food Pantry	3
UMW	3
Where to plug in	4
January Calendar	5
Important Dates	6
Byers Birthday Party	7
Women's Bible Study	7
Eules First Preschool	7
Element Students	8
Eules First Kids	8
Older Adults Ministry	8
Highway Update	9
Stewardship Moment	9
Discipleship Journey	10-11

Next Sermon Series



Many things about the sea make it an uncertainty. Waves can throw us off our feet and the undercurrent can pull us down. The

ocean's power draws us in and reminds us of God's majesty, but also of our own smallness. Our world is full of uncertainty. How, and where, can we find hope in this world? How do we, as God's people, offer hope to the world? Our world is full of false news, anger and hostility towards each other, and our leaders.

What will tomorrow hold? Will we survive the storms ahead?

As Christians, we want answers - for ourselves, and for others. Yet the answers that worked a generation

ago now ring hollow or sound naive.

What are you going to do? You can't just stand at the edge of life and wonder. It's time to step in. Will you make it? Can you keep your head above water? In a world where the only certainty is uncertainty, how will you find hope to move forward?

Our next sermon series, Hope in Uncertainty, will offer some answers, some hope. Join us Sunday morning at 8:30 or 11, beginning January 8th.

Prayer List

We are praying for...

New Concerns:

Alicia D'Amore
 Amy Ford, Billie Bradford's friend
 Bet Brown, Anicia Brown's sister
 Bob Almon, Mac Ledbetter's cousin
 Curtis Borland
 Doline and Solange, Thomas and Amber Hawthorne's sponsored Rwandan child
 Don and Linda Martin
 Galina Hall
 Jackie Robinson's family
 James and Ila Gravely
 Jeff Albro
 Jennifer Ross-Chen, healing form breast cancer
 Julie Freeman
 Justin Kelner, Ric and Shelly Grant's grandson
 Kay Urfer, Michelle Barker's mother
 Kim and Jeremy Jones' families
 Lana McCormick, Billie Bradford's friend
 Lance Fish
 Lanette Eastwood
 Laurie Farmer and family, Billie Bradford's friend

Linda Sargent, Janet Ledbetter's friend
 Linda Thomas, Shelly Grant's cousin
 Lisa Foley
 Michael Greig
 Nita Keown
 Our Country and leaders
 Rick and Michell Foley
 Safe travels during the holidays
 Skip Hill, Cindy Balentine's brother
 Thomason family, Eileen Mode's friends
 Those looking for work
 Traveling family members

Continued Strength and Healing:

Ann Burns
 Ann Keller
 Arthur Schirmer
 Baker and Michelle Ingram
 Bobby Trainham, Billie Bradford's friend
 Bobette Banks, Billie Bradford's friend
 Burton family
 Cameron Mode and family
 Candy Klasen
 Carol Rust, Dottie Rust's daughter
 Charlotte Everett
 Cheryl Bowie, Billie Bradford's friend

Denise Foley
 Donna Smith, Denise Foley's sister
 Doris Alexander, Dottie Rust's sister
 Doug Graham
 Ed Zachow
 Glada Rose
 Gordon and Linda Roberts, Nancy Bickel's friends
 Greig family
 Gwynn Herrick
 Honor Vaughn, Teresa Sprague's mother
 Isabel Family
 Janice Vernon, Don Wilson's sister
 Joe Brown, Jackie Robinson's brother
 John Lewis
 Judy Mulholland
 June Ivey
 Kellsey Abbott, Sherwood and Cheri Abbott's granddaughter
 Kevin Maines
 Landon Power
 Lisa Moffatt, Lynne and Alan Moffatt's daughter-in-law
 Mark Rust, Dottie Rust's son
 Marlene Hill, Vic and Judy Torres' friend
 Mary Esping, Amber Hawthorne's Mom
 Michele Heroux and

family, Amber Hawthorne's friend
 Mike Sprague, Stephen Sprague's brother
 Miss Johnnie, Patsy Brown's friend
 Nick and Lisa Schoenberger, Ron Coats' friends
 Nolan Fisher
 Nolan Hardwick, Barbara Collier's father
 Ollie O'Sallis' family and friends,
 Pat Holland, Cindy Balentine's sister
 Pierre Tshimanga's family
 Rev. Bud Sprague, Steve Sprague's father
 Richard and Sue Morrow
 Rita and Brian Webb
 Robbie Breaux, Audrey Coats' friend
 Rose Marie, Patsy Brown's friend
 Sam Stearns and parents
 Stan Clarke, Sue & Richard Morrow's friend
 Sue Martin
 Sydney Marie Peel, Pat May's great niece
 Terron Muller, Les Foley's niece
 Vickie Denne

Comfort in a Time of Loss:

Family of Cole Brown
Protection:
 Alex Saracoy (National Guard)
 All Police Officers and Firefighters
 Allen McClelland (Army), Vic & Judy Torres' grandnephew
 Colton Hardaway (Army) and Zack Pulver, Michael and Lore Osborn's son and son-in-law
 Daniel Collier (Air Force), Bob Collier's grandson
 Eric Sheer (Marines), Vic & Judy Torres' grandnephew
 Gavin Haubrich (Air Force)
 Jim Orsund, Ellen and Aaron Garcia's friend
 Josh Crow (Navy), Annette Kelleher's son
 Justin Knighton (Army)
 Kayla Brown (Army), Jackie Robinson's niece
 Kevin Balentine (Army), Cindy Balentine's son
 Koki Fuimaono (Air Force) Leland

Brown's friend
 Mason Vaughn (Marines), Stephen and Teresa Sprague's nephew
 Matthew Lee (Air Force), Michelle Barker's brother
 Sam Weatherby (Army), Gary and Carol Turner's nephew
 Stephen Tate (Army), Janet Ledbetter's son
 William Crowder (Air Force), Yvonne Rohlfig's son

If your prayer request has been left off, please resubmit it. All requests are for 30 days only and will need to be resubmitted after that time.

Birthdays

January

01 - Melba Taylor	Wilson, Karen Phillips	18 -Ken Denne	Morrow, Clay Smith
02 -Michael Henderson, Don Martin, Doris Rieman	07 -Brad Tribble,	19 -Lynne Moffatt	28 -Daniel Arnold
03 -Billy Byers,	09 -O. D. Lively	21 -Emily Tarrh	29 -Jo Kemp
05 -Emily Halleck, Shirley Mercer, Judy Torres	11 -Larry Augustus, Bonnie	22 -Vera Bohnet-Farmer, Nancy King, Isaac Putnam	30 -Larry Lucas, Dale Miller, Marcie Snelson
06 -Jerry Tewart, Ann	15 -Stephanie Barrinean	23 -Lauralee Arnold	31 -Alex Maloney, Jerry Waldrup, Penelope Chico
	17 -Toni McMillon, Grady Tindle	24 -Barbara Collier	
		25 -Merideth Spraks	
		26 -Robert Nail	
		27 -Joe Jordan, Richard	

Anniversaries

January

09-Shane & Tara Mullin
 10 -Michael & Laura Henderson

Memorials & Honorariums

**In honor of Sharon Menix & Sherwood Abbott/
Food Pantry:** Judith Torres

**In Memory of Mike Springer's Brother/
Pastor's Emergency Fund:** Kathy Chapman

In Honor of Jimmy and Helen Payton/Dec Communion (Youth): Nancy Payton

In Memory of Letty Lynn Maloney/General Budget: Maloney Family



Food Pantry

January Food Pantry Volunteers:

- 06 -Brenda Hurlbut, Linda Lewis, Billie Pallett, Hedy Taylor
- 13 -Phyllis Augustus, Gloria Daves, Brenda Hurlbut, Dottie Rust
- 20 -Marie Bean, Nancy Bickel, Doris Brown, Jill Schanenberg
- 27 -Doris Brown, Darlene Carter, Georgia Hill, Judy Torres, Paula Wood

The two busiest times for our Pantry have passed. Thanks to everyone that helped with the chores. Also, thanks for the donations of food, stocking stuffers, Christmas decorations and time. In particular the Eules First Cub Scouts, Pack 407 donated 2 bags of food.

We had a \$100 donation from Doris Brown's neighbor, Beth Cothran. What a neighbor!

Thank you to Deville Asset Mgmt. Co. located in Eules for the Food Drive of 184 lbs.

The Sharon Menix Family had a food drive at their Family Thanksgiving Dinner and collected 52 lbs of food.

The Food Pantry Volunteers shouts 'THANK YOU' & God Bless Everyone!



United Methodist Women

As we all share our love and giving during this celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we the members of United Methodist Women want to thank you, our church family, for your continued support. 2016 has been a great year of giving of ourselves to help others, and 2017 looks even better!

Christmas is a time we share, just as God shared

Christ with us. One way Eules First shares the love of Christ is through food in our Food Pantry. Yet, following the holiday season, food supplies are often low. Eules First UMW wants to encourage you, to bring a food donation to help to replenish the shelves. (Sharon says no corn or green beans please.) With your gifts, our church food pantry will be restocked for 2017.

Merry Christmas to you all and a very Happy New Year from Eules First United Methodist Women.

I again extend an invitation to come see what we are all about on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. or the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m, childcare provided upon prior request. And watch for our first Bake Sale on January 29th to benefit Methodist Children's Home in Waco. There will be lots of goodies for everyone!



Where to Plug in 2017!

New Year means a fresh start to get connected at Eules First United Methodist Church. Being connected is one way that we grow in our faith and development as a Disciple of Christ. This is not an exhaustive list, and for contact info please refer to our website (under Connect).

United Methodist Men meet the fourth Tuesday of each month except for June, July, and December. Meeting in the Swor parlor at 6:30 p.m., they have dinner, fellowship, and discussion on supporting our churches needs and local mission needs.

United Methodist Women invites all women to come and join this fun and energetic group focused on education and mission benefitting women and children. There are two groups that meet at Eules First: Harmony Hope on the 1st Tues. of each month at 10:00 a.m., and Thoughtful Friends on the 2nd Thurs. of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir leads our congregation during both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. They rehearse classical, traditional, and contemporary music on Wed. evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Throughout the year we praise the Lord with music, including special cantatas at Christmas and Easter.

Bell Choir meets Sundays 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Bell room on the second floor of the education building.

Musical Ensembles– These small musical groups meet off of the Choir time and their mission is to magnify the Spirit of the Lord through music.

Food Panty is open Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, and the 3rd Sunday of the month from 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. Clients are welcome to come and receive assistance once a month. The pantry is always in need of volunteers and food to keep the shelves stocked. Volunteers are also needed to help pick up food weekly for the Area Food Bank, Sherwood Abbott can help arrange the

time.

South Eules Elem Beach Club meets in the school gym on Tues. afternoons from 3:00 to 4:15. Volunteers are greatly needed to come help the children learn Bible stories and experience God's love. Prayers and financial support would also be greatly appreciated. Approximately 50 children each week, and we hope that number will grow.

South Eules Elem Mentors meet individually for lunch with a student, assigned by the School Counselor. This is a chance to be a positive adult roll model in the life of a child. Contact Lynn Moffatt or Pastor Steve if you are interested.

Sunday School from 9:45-10:45, various Sunday School classes meet to develop community and learn about Christ together. For a complete list of classes, teachers and what they study, please refer to the webpage– connect/adult ministries/Sunday-school.

Children's Sunday School classes works to help children closer to God with lessons and activities that help them learn Bible stories and apply God's message in their daily lives. Classes are divided by ages: Older Elementary (Room 212) 3rd and 6th grade, Younger Elementary (Room 218) K thru 2nd grade, and Preschool (Room 104) 3 & 4 years old. Teachers and assistants are always needed.

E1ements Students– The youth of Eules First meet regularly during the Sunday School hour and on Sunday Evenings. Activities are planned for different Sundays of the month, to include worship, service, communal time and so much more. For info, contact Shane Mullin, or go to e1ementstudents.com.

Bible Studies– Eules First has many options throughout the year that are Bible Studies and focused on learning and growing. For a complete list refer to pages 10-11.

Alanon– Al-Anon is a place for friends and families of problem drinkers to find

understanding and support.

Youth Mission Trip with the Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission involves a week of service each summer. Youth and adults come together to serve Christ and others. Eules First also has Mission opportunities exclusively for Adults as well, including a trip to Panama in April of 2017– have interest check with Pastor Steve.

House and Grounds at Eules First includes keeping the grounds looking their best for the Eules Community and all of our guests. This is entirely run by volunteers and is often headed up by Larry Lewis.

Ushers each Sunday help welcome people to worship and support the pastors during the service by collecting the offering, guiding people through communion and passing out bulletins.

Bunco is a fun game that many women of the Eules First enjoy. They meet on the first Friday of the month to play and fellowship together. All women are invited. It is a potluck, at 7:00 p.m. Dessert is provided by the hosts that also provide prizes for the winner (and losers).

Emmaus is a spiritual retreat for both men and women. This retreat focuses on the grace of God and how very loved we all are. You need a sponsor to attend, so find some one who has gone and join the movement.

Kairos is similar to Emmaus but designed for persons in prison. Volunteers take the journey of discovering God's Grace into the prisons .

Men's coffee meet Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. All men are invited. What happens at coffee stays at coffee.

Sunday Breakfast Teams help bring breakfast each Sunday. Funds raised benefit apportionments.

Liturgists read scripture and assist in worship each Sunday. Dynamic readers that can share the message of the Bible are always needed.

The opportunities are endless. If you see something missing from this list, make time to talk with a pastor to see where you can fit in!

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1- New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
11:00 Worship	Office Closed 7:00 AL-Anon 7:00 Trustees Meeting	10:00 UMW Harmony Hope	6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir Practice	6:30 Men's Coffee 7:00 AL-Anon	9:00 Food Pantry Open	10:00 AL-Anon
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00 Library Opens 8:30 Worship 9:00 Abundance Cafe 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 1:00 Billy Byers 90th Birthday Party 5:00 E1ement Students 5:00 Revelation Bible Study	6:00 UMW Executive Board Meeting 6:30 Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00 AL-Anon 7:00 Finance Meeting		10:00 Revelation Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir Practice	6:30 Men's Coffee 6:00 UMW Thoughtful Friends 7:00 AL-Anon 7:00 Keeping Love Alive Study	9:00 Food Pantry Open 5:00 Mission Trip Retreat	10:00 AL-Anon Mission Trip Retreat
15	16- MLK Holiday	17	18	19	20	21
8:00 Library Opens 8:30 Worship 9:30 Abundance Cafe 9:30 Blood Pressure Screening 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:00 E1ement Students 5:00 Revelation Bible Study 5:00 Food Pantry Open	Office Closed for MLK Day 6:15 Church Council/ Building Committee Meeting 6:30 Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00 AL-Anon	6:30 Alpha Come and See Dinner	10:00 Revelation Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir Practice	6:30 Men's Coffee 7:00 AL-Anon 7:00 Keeping Love Alive Study	9:00 Food Pantry Open	9:00 Laundromat Ministry 10:00 AL-Anon
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:00 Library Opens 8:30 Worship 9:30 Abundance Cafe 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Chili Cook Off 5:00 E1ement Students 5:00 Revelation Bible Study	6:30 Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00 AL-Anon	3:00 Beach Club 6:30 Alpha	6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir Practice	6:30 Men's Coffee 7:00 AL-Anon 7:00 Keeping Love Alive Study	9:00 Food Pantry Open	10:00 AL-Anon
29	30	31				
8:00 Library Opens 8:30 Worship 9:30 UMW Bake Sale 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:00 E1ement Students	6:30 Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00 AL-Anon	3:00 Beach Club 6:30 Alpha				

Important Church Dates

January

- 1- One Worship at 11:00 a.m. No Sunday School
- 2- Office Closed
Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
- 8- Billy Byers 90th Birthday Party Celebration in the Swor Parlor at 1:00 p.m.. Everyone is invited to come by and wish Billy a great birthday!
Revelation Bible Study with Pastor Steve at 5:00 p.m. in the Swor Parlor
- 9- United Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Swor Parlor
Finance Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
- 11- Revelation Bible Study with Pastor Steve at 10:00 a.m. in the Swor Parlor
- 12- United Methodist Women- Thoughtful Friends 6:00 p.m. in the Swor Parlor
Keeping Love Alive as Memory Fades---The 5 Love Languages and the Alzheimer J Journey study in the ... at 7:00 p.m. with Dave Lewis
- 13- Element Students Mission Trip Retreat contact Shane Mullin for more information
- 15 - Blood Pressure Screening between services in the hall next to Swor Parlor
Revelation Bible Study with Pastor Steve at 5:00 p.m. in the Swor Parlor
- 16- Office Closed
Church Council/Trustees/Building/Finance Committee Meetings 6:15 p.m. in the Swor Parlor
- 17- Alpha Come and See Dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Register online and make sure we know you are coming! Come see what Alpha is all about.
- 18- Revelation Bible Study with Pastor Steve at 10:00 a.m. in the Swor Parlor
- 19- *Keeping Love Alive as Memory Fades---The 5 Love Languages and the Alzheimer Journey* study in the ... at 7:00 p.m. with Dave Lewis
- 21- Laundromat Ministry contact Linda Lockhart
- 22- Chili Cook Off will be at 12:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Enter your chili, soup or cornbread, and bring your cash. Vote for the best with your dollars!
Revelation Bible Study with Pastor Steve at 5:00 p.m. in the Swor Parlor
- 24- Alpha will have their first regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served.
- 26- *Keeping Love Alive as Memory Fades---The 5 Love Languages and the Alzheimer Journey* study in the ... at 7:00 p.m. with Dave Lewis
- 29- UMW Bake Sale at 9:30 a.m. in the Cafe

Regular Events:

- Sundays-** Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Abundance Café at 9:30 in the Family Life Center Café | Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. | Element Students at 5:00 p.m. | Food Pantry on the 3rd Sunday evenings 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Mondays-** Al-Anon meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Library
- Wednesdays-** Handbell Practice at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Choir Room | Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room/Sanctuary
- Thursdays-** Men's Coffee at 6:30 a.m. | Al-Anon meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Library
- Fridays-** Food Pantry from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. except 5th Fridays
- Saturdays-** Al-Anon meets Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

Byers Birthday Party

Billy L. Byers was born on January 3, 1927. Billy had a wonderful career at the Eules Lumber Company and has been an integral part of Eules First United Methodist Church and the

Eules community for many years. In his honor his family is throwing him a 90th birthday party on January 8th in the Swor Parlor at 1:00 p.m.

You are invited to come by and wish Billy a happy birthday at that time.

Life has never been perfect, but there is so very much to celebrate!!

Women's Bible Study

Starting Wednesday, January 11 a multi-denominational, multi-generational Women's Bible Study will be studying *The Gospel of*

Mark by Lisa Harper. All women are welcome to join us in the parlor from 11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. each Wednesday. For more information and to reserve

your workbook, please contact Linda Lewis at the preschool office, 817-283-0129. The cost of the workbook is \$10.

Eules First Preschool

Preschool will return on Jan. 3 after a two week Christmas break. The students did a fabulous job on our Christmas Musical, *A Bunch of Gifts for Christmas*. We made a \$200 donation to the media fund in honor of all the Christmas elves that helped make our program a success. Thanks to Mike Springer for always helping us with sound and media, coming to our rehearsals, and our performances. Thank you to Charlie and Cheryl Baker – Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Thank you to Larry Kramer and Carol Bolton for setting up our stage. The risers are amazing and the new steps are awesome! It truly does take a village to have a successful preschool!

In January, we will be studying Winter, Texas, and rodeo. We will have pony pictures taken by Diamond Photos and have our very own rodeo at a

preschool level, of course! We will also have pajama day! What a January!

In February we will have our annual luncheon, silent auction and vendor fair on Saturday, February 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In addition to collecting items for the auction, we are seeking sponsorships to help raise money for a new and improved playground! You can be a sponsor for as little as \$25 to our top sponsors at \$5000.

Sponsorship levels are cumulative.

Friend Sponsor - \$25 - 2 tickets to the luncheon, and name recognition in our weekly preschool email.

Alumni Sponsor - \$50 - 4 tickets to luncheon, and alumni names in program

Family Sponsor - \$100 - 4 luncheon tickets, Facebook and web recognition, corporate logo/name in event day signage.

Silver Sponsor - \$500 - 6 luncheon tickets, Vendor

Booth reserved for your company, a flyer attached to our monthly calendar

Gold Sponsor - \$1000 - 8 tickets to luncheon, hyperlink on school webpage, and flyers in our SWAG bags that will be given to each attendee

Angel Sponsor - 10 tickets to luncheon, 30 day cycle of advertising, your sponsorship on the Clear Channel Electronic Billboard located on 183.

Thank you to Helen Voss for being our first Silver Sponsor! She made a donation in memory of our beloved angel, John Voss. To find out how you can be a sponsor, too, contact Linda Lewis at preschool@fumceules.org or call the preschool office at 817-283-0129.



E1ement Students

BE. LOVE. SERVE.

E1EMENT STUDENTS



Before anything else, let us say a big "thank you" for your support of our Christmas Project that helped provide Christmas gifts for the local high school students who fall through the cracks of other Christmas programs - your generosity helped 14 students in need (a \$1500 project). Thank you.

We can't predict what weather January will bring, but we know it brings great Chili, Soup, and Cornbread! We're issuing a call for entries in the annual Chili, Soup, & Cornbread Cook-

off fundraiser to support the 2017 mission and service projects of E1ement Students on Sunday, January 22nd. It's a great time to eat, fellowship, and financially support our students as they pursue mission and service projects, including CTCYM each summer. If you would like to enter, please register at fumceulless.org or speak with Shane Mullin (shanemullin@gmail.com)

In January:

January 1 - No E1ement Table.

January 8 - LOVE. @ The E1ement Table| God in the Movies

January 13 & 14| CTCYM Service Retreat

January 15 - SERVE. @ The E1ement Table| E1UMC Food Pantry

January 18—LOVE. | Destination Unknown Bible Study

January 22 - Chili & Soup Cook-Off

January 22 - BE. & LOVE. | Life skills Series

January 29 - BE. @ The E1ement Table: Fun Stuff



Eules First Kids

What a wonderful way to end a year! The Christmas season is such a fun time with family and friends. First, let me say a big THANK YOU to the choir for including the children and youth in their Christmas Cantata. It is great to see kids participate in learning about the true meaning of Christmas. It is also great to sit back and look at

Christmas again through a child's eyes, so full of wonderment and joy.

Now, we look forward to the exciting prospects of a new year. What could possibly be in store in 2017? With so many changes happening around the church the children will be growing and changing, also! New

studies are being put together as we dig deeper into The Lord's Prayer and what it means to be Methodist. It will be very interesting to hear the kids' take on such topics as we explore more in-depth. I am so excited and looking forward to seeing what this year brings. I hope you all will join me. -Jamie

Older Adult Ministries

Calling all older adults! If you have to wonder whether or not you are an older adult, you probably are. Eules First is trying to revitalize our Older Adult Ministry, and we need your help! We want to know your interests, needs and desires. We're listening, please tell us!

Would you like to have

study and service activities? Opportunities for faith development? Luncheons and other social events? Speakers regarding certain topics or concerns? How can we utilize your experience, wisdom and gifts? Please share your thoughts with Pastor Beverly via email at beverly@fumceulless.org

g.

We plan to have a gathering in January to visit and discuss how we can create an effective ministry that is by, for and with Older Adults of our congregation and beyond. Hope to see you there!

Highway Update

I am not serving in a rural setting, as I did for much of my pastoral ministry, but writing a "highway update" each month feels more and more like trying to wrestle a greased pig. By the time you read this, there may be further news. We will continue to make every effort to keep you updated as we receive information.

TxDOT has taken possession of the admin building. Early in December, the asbestos was abated so the demolition could proceed. As of this writing, however, both the electrical service and phone and internet enter the church building through that building. For this reason,

demolition has been belayed.

Mike Springer and Jerry Maloney, Jr., have done great jobs of interfacing with Southgate on these utilities issues! Next time you see them, thank them! Sometime in the next few weeks our Main Street driveway will be closed for most of a week for additional utilities work.

Southgate has been in close communication with us on this scheduling. They plan to have it done between Monday and Friday.

Big thanks also to Dave Lewis, Curtis Borland, and Judy Tribble who have given our Sacristy a

makeover to be proud of. Next time you are headed to the sanctuary, turn left before you go in and see how great it looks!

Curtis Borland has also overseen the relocation of our dumpsters and of erecting a fence, required by city code, around them. Thank you, Curtis!

Thanks to all of you, in fact! Many of you have taken part in the efforts to date to keep our church open and able to bless our community. These are the kinds of efforts that help us live out being God's people!

Breaking news: we have received the settlement money from the state!



Stewardship Moment

Handling our Wealth

Part 3 of 4: Good and Faithful

Jesus taught us that you can learn a great deal about people by how they use their resources. In fact, He told a parable that addresses this very issue in Matthew 25. It is the Parable of the Talents. It is about being faithful with what God has given to each of us. What is the standard for success in managing God's gifts to us? God's standard is faithfulness. We have a responsibility to handle our wealth effectively. Listen to the voice of the Master: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful..." (vs. 21); and again in vs. 23, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful..." Understand that God is not looking for quantity as the measure of success here. God gave to each servant "each to his ability ... to one

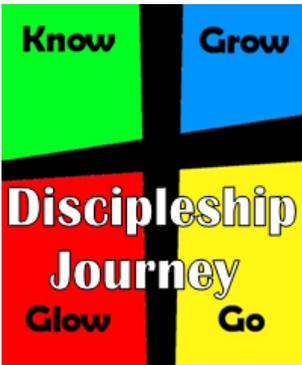
He gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent." (vs. 15). The master knew each of his servants well. He knew what they were capable of managing. The faithful steward is responsible for what he or she has, whether it is little or much. As someone once said, "It's not what I would do if one million dollars were my lot; it's what I am doing with the ten dollars I've got." Interestingly, the servant who was given two talents received the same reward as the servant who was given five talents. They used those talents in their Master's best interest. It was the third servant who did not act in the Master's best interest. He did nothing to increase his Master's money. The way we handle our wealth can also honor God. Honor the Lord with your wealth..." Prov. 3:9.

How do we best do that? We honor God by managing what we have; timely payment of bills, prudent management of debt, saving for emergencies, saving for retirement and wise investing. We also honor the Lord by generous giving. Giving a cup of cold water in His name is demonstrating His love to those in need. A final way we can honor God at the end of our lives is in the distribution of our estate. This is a time we can make a significant statement to our loved ones about our priorities while continuing the work of God's kingdom after we are gone. Are you effectively handling your wealth? Open your checkbook. It is the ultimate test of your heart's desire. Are you honoring God by your investments in eternity? Your answers will determine the direction of your life and your final reward.

Reprinted by permission: Barnabas Foundation, Tinley Park, IL



Online Giving Link

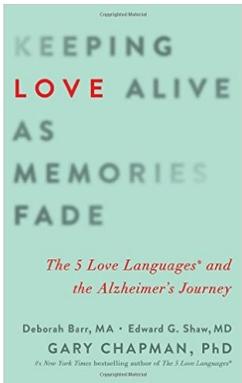


Discipleship Journey in 2017

With a new year there will be new opportunities to grow as Disciples of Christ. Euless First wants to help

with this process so that you Know God, will Grow in your faith, Glow in God's love for others to see, and

Go share that message with others. Here are a few opportunities coming in 2017.



Keeping Love Alive as Memory Fades

Beginning Thursday, January 12 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., join Dave Lewis as he facilitates a five week class on Debbie Barr, Edward G. Shaw, and Gary D. Chapman's book *Keeping Love Alive as Memory Fades---The 5 Love Languages and the Alzheimer Journey*.

This book was written to help individuals, couples, and families cope with the devastating diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD). It is about how love gently

lifts a corner of dementia's dark curtain to cultivate an emotional connection amid memory loss.

This collaborative, groundbreaking work between a healthcare professional, caregiver, and relationship expert will: Provide an overview of the love languages and Alzheimer's disease, correlate the love languages with the developments of the stages of AD, discuss how both the caregiver and care

receiver can apply the love languages, address the challenges and stresses of the caregiver journey, offer personal stories and case studies about maintaining emotional intimacy amidst AD. Keeping Love Alive as Memories Fade is heartfelt and easy to apply, providing gentle, focused help for those feeling overwhelmed by the relational toll of Alzheimer's.

Set Apart

Set Apart, Holy Habits of Prophets and Kings, a 6 week study, examines the holy habits of prophets and kings in 1 and 2 Kings who were set apart by their

close walk with God and then explore how that timeless spiritual practice can draw you closer to God, helping you fulfill God's purpose for your life. This

class, facilitated by Pastor Beverly, will meet on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30, March 2 through April 6.

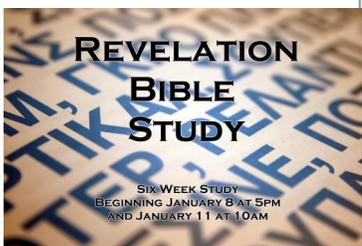
Revelation Bible Study

Revelation is the most widely talked-about book in the Bible. I wouldn't be surprised if more books were written about Revelation than all the other books of the Bible. I have, honestly, shied away from tackling

Revelation in any meaningful way in my nearly 3 decades as a pastor. I will do so no longer! I am inviting you, beginning in January, to join me for a bible study of the Book of Revelation.

Join us on Sundays, beginning January 8 at 5:00 p.m. or on Wednesdays, beginning January 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Bring your Bible!

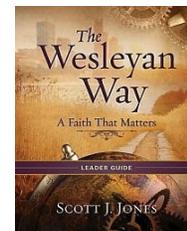


Wesleyan Way

The Wesleyan Way, an 8 week study, helps seekers and believers to envision and practice discipleship as a way of life, and become a

part of God's work in transforming the world. This class, facilitated by Mike McGehee, will meet on Sunday evenings from 5:00

p.m. to 7:00 p.m., April 23 through June 11.



Alpha

Alpha is a small group study, includes a "Come and See" Dinner; 10 weekly sessions with dinner, a video and small group discussion that explore foundational truths and beliefs of the Christian faith in a caring, non-judgmental environment; and a

"Celebration" Dinner. The introductory "Come and See" Dinner is Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Weekly Sessions 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., begin Tuesday, January 24. There is no cost, but registration is required by Sunday,

January 8 so we know how many books to provide and how much dinner to prepare. The Celebration Dinner is Tuesday, April 4. Childcare is provided by request.



Half Truths

Half Truths, a 5 week study by Adam Hamilton, takes a look at phrases such as "God helps those who help themselves," and helps you learn that these are really just popular sayings—not things that the Bible says. This class, facilitated by Alan and Lynne Moffatt, will meet Sunday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.,

March 5 through April 2. Here are the others phrases examined:
 1. Everything happens for a reason.
 2. God helps those who help themselves.
 3. God won't give you more than you can handle.
 4. God said it, I believe it, that settles it.

5. Love the sinner, hate the sin. Completely true? Not so fast. You'll learn that although they capture some element of truth, when compared to the wisdom found in Scripture, they're actually just popular sayings.

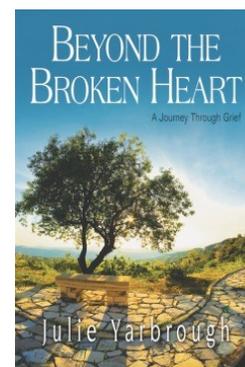
Broken Heart a Journey of Grief

Beginning Thursday, February 23 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., join facilitator Dave Lewis as he walks us through Julie Yarbrough's *Beyond a Broken Heart – A Journey Through Grief*.

This five week study is designed for those that have lost a loved one in the

recent past. When the heart is broken by the death of a loved one, it can feel as if the heart can not understand grief. To survive and live forward, those who grieve must find answers. *Beyond the Broken Heart* is a support and ministry

program for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Author Julie Yarbrough chronicles her personal experience combined with a deep love of Scripture and years of leading grief support groups to create an authentic and deeply





106 N. Main St.
Eules, TX 76040

Phone: 817-283-4421
fumceules.org



Twitter.com/EulesFirstUMC
Facebook.com/EulesFirstUnitedMethodist
Youtube.com/sheyduck
Pinterest.com/EulesFirstUMC
Instagram.com/EulesFirstUMC

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Mission: Eules First United Methodist Church strives to follow Jesus Christ a bit better today than yesterday. Through these efforts we develop a relationship with Christ and thus transform people, their lives, our community and the world.

Purpose: We seek to follow Jesus better by moving people from knowing God, to growing in relationship with God, to going forth with God to serve others, and finally, glowing for God by witnessing to their faith to others.

Vision: Our vision is to be a community of God's love and grace so that the larger community and world see God by our actions and outreach.

Learning to Follow Jesus a Bit Better Today than Yesterday

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
NPA# 225165
Permit No. 2
Eules, TX
76039

Eules First United Methodist Church
PO Box 967
Eules, TX 76039