

Newsletter for

First United Methodist Church, Red Oak, Texas

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." Psalm 105:4



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Have fun this summer, what's left of it! But, when you return from your time away, I hope to see you in worship. We grow as followers of Christ when we gather for worship to pray, sing with

joy, and hear the Word of God. In worship we are fed spiritually. The purpose of worship, study, and fellowship is to nurture us in sharing our faith and in service to one another in our neighborhood and beyond. Coming to worship is an important spiritual practice; it helps to grow us in our walk with Christ.

We are here in this church and community because Jesus put us here. There might be things we don't understand about following Jesus. We may have problems with the way the church is organized or led. But you are here not because of what you believe, feel, or think about the church and its ministry. You are here because Jesus put you here. Some way or another, he found a way to call you. Just like he called those first disciples.

This church is where we have chosen to grow as a Christian. Worship, fellowship with other Christians, and how we live out our call are all very important. This is the place we pray, where we are nurtured in Christ, and from which we are deployed to be in mission to the needs, hopes, and dreams of the community in which we live.

I hope to see you Sunday!

In Christ's Joy, Mike Alexander

JULY CALENDAR



UPPER ROOM Devotional booklets for July/August are available. If you need one mailed to you, please call the church office (972-617-9100).

Saturday, July 3 - Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM (p. 9)

Sunday, July 4 - Enrichment Class, 9:30/9:45 AM (p. 9)

- Worship Service & Children's Church, 11:00 AM

Happy 4th of July! - No online service today only

- No Youth Fellowship

Monday, July 5 - Office Closed

Saturday, July 10 - Hands for Christ Work Project, 8:00 AM (p. 11)

- UMM Breakfast Meeting, 8:00 AM

- Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM

Sunday, July 11 - Enrichment Class, 9:30/9:45 AM

Worship Service & Children's Church, 11:00 AM
 Administrative Council Meeting, 12:20 PM

- Youth Sponsored Hamburger-To-Go Lunch (p. 4)

- Online Worship Service posted by 4:00 PM (www.fumcro.org)

- Youth Fellowship, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, July 14 - Drive-thru dinner: chef salad OR spaghetti and meatballs (p. 6)

Friday/Saturday, July 15-16 - Youth Lock-In, Friday, 7:00 PM – Saturday, 8:00 AM (p. 4)

Saturday, July 17 - Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM

Sunday, July 18 - Enrichment Class, 9:30/9:45 AM

- Worship Service & Children's Church, 11:00 AM

- Online Worship Service posted by 4:00 PM (www.fumcro.org)

- NO Youth Fellowship

Saturday, July 24 - Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM

Sunday, July 25 - Enrichment Class, 9:15/9:30 AM

- Worship Service & Children's Church, 11:00 AM

- Online Worship Service posted by 4:00 PM (<u>www.fumcro.org</u>)

- Youth Fellowship WORKDAY 1:00 – 7:00 PM (p. 4)

UPCOMING EVENTS!!

Backpack Blessing, August 15^{th,} 11:00 AM

• End-of-Summer Youth Party, 5:00 PM at the Kelso's home

Youth & Children's Sunday School begins Sunday, September 12

 Wednesday Night Activities begin Wednesday, September 15 (Fellowship Dinner, Prayer Group, Bible Study, Kids' Choirs, and Chancel Choir)

Lord's Acre Day, September 25th

Pumpkin Patch begins with Harvest Festival, October 9



Notes from Larry McCord, Minister of Music The New Colossus





And above all these things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Colossians 3:14

Most of us are familiar with the term "icon" or "iconic" in modern use but may not be aware that this was also a term used for a devotional form of sacred art, especially common in Eastern Christian sects. These sacred artworks were often paintings on wood but could use many artistic mediums, including sculpture. This was not a practice unique to the Christian religion. One of the Seven Wonders of the World was the Colossus constructed in Rhodes, Greece in 280 B.C. after the city was successfully defended against an attacking army and navy that had besieged the city for over a year. The statue was a tribute to the Greek god Helios and stood over 100 feet tall, approximately the same as our own Statue of Liberty.

The original colossus collapsed in ruin during an earthquake a little over 50 years after construction and, due to religious beliefs, was never rebuilt. Approximately a millennium later, in 1886, a new colossus was dedicated, our own State of Liberty. The American poet Emma Lazarus composed a poem to help fund a pedestal for the statue. Titled "The New Colossus," the poem was inscribed on a bronze plaque and mounted inside the pedestal in 1903. Although some of the words are familiar, I am including the entire poem here to demonstrate how Ms. Lazarus saw our icon as a symbol of hope rather than conquest:

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

(Notes from Larry McCord, continued)

Your choir will be singing an anthem this Sunday, July 4, that sets the familiar lines of this poem to music in tandem with Katharine Lee Bates' "America." Oh, by the way, after construction of that first colossus, the people of Rhodes became known as Colossians and were visited by a guy named Paul the Apostle. He wrote them a letter which is in our Bible to this day.



Notes from Shannon Wilson, Director of Youth Ministries

Summer is in full swing and everyone's schedules are all over the place, with vacations, holidays, and whatever else comes our way; we never know what the week holds! The youth have some fun up-coming activities and work in store for the remainder of the summer. If you see something that interests you and want to help out, please jump right in!

On Sunday, July 11th the youth will providing a **Hamburger-To-Go lunch** following the worship service. This will include a hamburger (with cheese and fixing's), chips, and a dessert. A suggested donation is \$5.00.

On Friday, July 16th at 7:00 PM through Saturday, July 17th at 8:00 AM, a **youth lock-in** is scheduled. All youth are asked to bring a snack to share, \$5, a game of choice, and a friend! (We will need adult volunteers to help, in 2-3 hour shifts.)

On Sunday, July 25th the youth will begin to **work on the prayer garden**. (We were rained out last time.) Work will start at 1:00 PM, and we will end the day at 7:00 PM; if needed, we will finish the work on Sunday, August 1st.

The youth **END OF SUMMER Celebration** is scheduled for Sunday, August 15th at 5:00 PM. The Kelso family has offered to open their home up to us and, more importantly, their POOL. (Thank you, Kelso's!)

This September, once a month the youth will focus on **learning "life skills**." We are asking you, our church family, that if you have a special skill to help teach our youth, this is your time! Here are some ideas:

Changing a tire...Learning basic auto mechanics...

Cooking basics...Simple mending...Balancing a budget...

If you see anything on this list or have other ideas, please let me know and we will get you on the schedule. There are so many ways to volunteer, so please let us know how you would like to help.

The youth thanks you for your continued support; know that we continue to keep each of you in our prayers!



A Note of Thanks!

I just wanted to take a minute to thank my church family for their love and support, not only with your generosity for my high school graduation, but for being a part of my upbringing. I cannot find the words to describe just how blessed I am to have been raised with your help. My prayer is that I will continue to make you all proud. I look forward to seeing each of you when I visit from school. Thank you again for helping me become who I am, by reminding me to keep Christ in my heart, and for being my family and support system. I am forever grateful. You all will continue to be in my prayers.

Love and Blessings,

Nathan Wilson

To: The members of the First United Methodist Church of Red Oak

I thank you all so much for all the wonderful help you have given me this summer. God has blessed me with all the wonderful men and women that came to my house and helped me do the things I can no longer do.

I pray, and I know, that God will continue to bless all of you for being so kind, loving and generous people. I appreciate all you have done for me.

You also made my birthday so special. The shawl I use every day and also the moisturizing body cream. Dani, I really enjoyed our visit.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. We still have such good Christian people in this world today.

Love you so much!

Mrs. McP

(NOTE: See page 11.)

First United Methodist Church of Red Oak,

Thank you so very much for the donations of oatmeal, spaghetti, and other pasta, food and funds. It is such a blessing to us and our community. Many blessings to you and your church family. We appreciate you!

Most sincerely,

The North Ellis County Outreach

Children's Council

Thank you to everyone who participated in the drive-thru take-out salad dinner last Wednesday! The Children's Council appreciates you and your donations!

Children's Council Drive-Thru Take-Out Meal Fundraiser, Wednesday, July 14th



<u>OR</u>



The Children's Council is offering a "Drive-Thru Take-Out Meal" Fundraiser on Wednesday, July 14th; the meals may be picked up between 5:30 - 6:30 PM. There are 2 options: Chef Salad OR Spaghetti & Meatballs. (See the order form below for the detailed menu of each option.) The meals are offered for a donation which supports FUMCRO's children's ministries. To order your meal, you may call/email the church office (972-617-9100/firstumcredoak@gmail.com), complete an order form on Sunday, or call/text Geneise at 972-754-2182. Please place your order by 5:00 PM Tuesday, July 13th.

Drive -Thru Meal Pickup Order Form		
July 14 th 5:3	0 - 6:30 PM	
Option 1 - Chef Salad Contains: Lettuce, Tomato, Carrots, Cucumbers, Red Onion, Boiled Egg, Ham, Turkey, Cheese and Croutons. Served with fresh fruit and dessert. Choice of dressing: Ranch 1000 Island	Option 2 - Spaghetti & Meatballs with salad and dessert Choice of dressing: Ranch 1000 Island Italian Catalina Fat Free Ranch	
ItalianCatalina Fat Free Ranch Special Request: Name:		



LORD'S ACRE DAY

YES! There will be a Lord's Acre Day this year on Saturday, September 25th! The day will look a little different than in past years, but the day **will** be a day of fellowship, live and silent auctions and lunch.

The Lord's Acre Committee is working on making detailed plans to ensure the day is safe for all who attend. Stay tuned for more information....AND start looking for auction items!



We thank God for you and your worship through your tithes and offerings. If you are unable to attend church, you may give your tithes and offerings in several ways: (1) via mail to the church's mailing address P.O. Box 25, Red Oak, TX 75154, by check or money order payable to First UMC Red Oak or (2) by giving online at any time through our church website, http://www.fumcro.org/main/home.

June Giv	<u>/ing/Otterings</u>
6 th	\$5373.00
13 th	\$4627.00
20 th	\$5465.00
27 th	\$4100.00

2021 Connectional Mission Giving (CMG)

Total Due by December 31, 2021 – \$22,708
2021 Connectional Mission Giving PAID to date - \$10,120
2021 Connectional Mission Giving remaining to be paid - \$12,588

(Finance Update, continued)

To meet our 2021 budget and Connectional Mission Giving for 2021, the offering each week needs to total at least \$6,000.

A <u>very</u> special "**THANK YOU**" to those of you who have continued to support the ministries and operations of the church during the crucial time when we weren't "passing the plate"!

Many of you have given as you attend Sunday worship in-person, signed up to give online, brought your offering check by the church office during the week, or mailed your check to the church.

Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated!

A Note about Altar Flowers

If you have signed up to donate flowers for 2021 and are in worship, you may take your flowers home following the service. You also may pick up your flowers the next week from the office.

Open dates on the flower calendar are August 8 & 29, September 12 & 19, October 31, and November 14 & 28!



<u>Altar Flowers</u>			
	Given by:	<u>July</u> <u>Occasion:</u>	
4 th	Dana Davis	In memory & honor of her 40 th anniversary with Keven	
11 th	The Strickers	In celebration of Olivia Sanden's 9th birthday!	
18 th	The Strickers	In loving memory of Norma Jean (Mike's mother) on her birthday	
25^{th}	The McAlisters	In loving memory of Paul McAlister	
Altar flowers are \$35; please mark your check "flowers." Thank you.			

ENRICHMENT CLASS – Sunday Meetings IN-PERSON

The Enrichment Class meets Sunday morning IN PERSON in the Fellowship Hall with fellowship beginning at 9:30 AM. Class begins at 9:45 AM. The class is reading and discussing Adam Hamilton's book, *Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today.* "In this book of scripture and inspiration, the author brings modern eyes to the most famous set of rules in history, recovering the Ten Commandments as more than just a set of onerous prohibitions.



Enrichment Class

"Hamilton considers the commandments in their historical context, unpacking the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, how Jesus reinterpreted them, and how Jews and Christians have understood them over the millennia. He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace."

We hope to see you IN PERSON as we gather and study!



<u>Sunshine Class – Meeting In-Person Saturday Mornings</u>

The Sunshine Class, led by Dani Muckleroy and Larry Campbell, meets on **Saturday** morning at **9:00 AM** in the church's Fellowship Hall; in nice weather, the class meets at the park on Live Oak Street. The summer quarter Bible lessons center around the theme "Respond." Lessons focus on "Intended for Good," "The People Next

Door," and "The Five Stages of Job." YOU are invited to come and join this lively group in fellowship and Bible study!

United Methodist Women (UMW) News



UMW Circles

The UMW Circles will not meet in July.

The next meeting of the circles:

Circle of Love – Tuesday, August 17th

Friendship Circle – Thursday, August 19th

Circle of Hope and Healing (Prayer Shawl) - Saturday, August 21st

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you know anyone—hurting, healing, grieving or celebrating—to whom you would like to give a prayer shawl? Just let Beth Norris or Jo Wilsford know; we have many from which to choose.



Want to try YOGA? Free YOGA Chair Class Offered

Judy Pelowski, who is in the process of completing yoga teacher training, will be offering another free chair yoga class at the church on July 6 at 10:00 AM. Chair yoga is an easy style of yoga that is accessible to most people. Poses will be done either in the chair or using the chair to help balance. Bring a mat or blanket and wear comfortable clothes that allow you to move freely. *Caution: regular practice of yoga has been known to*



cause side effects such as lessening anxiety, lowering blood pressure, creating more energy during the day, and helping people sleep better at night.

MISSION and OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Oatmeal and Spaghetti....AND Some Other Needs



FUMCRO has volunteered to donate **oatmeal and spaghetti** on an ongoing basis to North Ellis County Outreach (NECO). The next time you are at the grocery store or ordering groceries online, please remember to pick up/order extra spaghetti and oatmeal for FUMCRO's donation to NECO. Our support of these donations will

enable the Outreach center to continue work and help in our community.

NECO is also currently in need of kid friendly foods AND: soups (heathy choice, low sodium & tomato), toilet paper, pasta sauce, no salt added carrots, no salt added mixed vegetables, pinto beans, boxed cereal, boxed oatmeal variety pack, shampoo, and ladies' deodorant. Thank you for your generosity!

A Mission/Outreach Opportunity – Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers From Dani Muckleroy:

Meals On Wheels needs volunteers in Red Oak. The city is divided up into routes and each route takes about an hour. Food is

picked up at North Ellis County Outreach on Hwy 342 between 11:00 and 11:30 AM by the volunteers. Do you have a consistent hour a week, or an hour a month to help? They can even use fill-in drivers. If you can help, please call Tracy Robinson at 1-888-869-6325 or email her at tracy@mownct.org, or check the Meals on Wheels of North Central Texas on the web site for more information. *Thank you!*

From the Outreach, Hospitality, Mission Team (OHM)

Your OHM Team has been busy in May and June! And we continue to make plans for the coming months as well!

OUTREACH



Coming soon, we will be training for walking our neighborhoods and praying for our neighbors in an Outreach program called "**Pray & Go.**" After praying, we will let our neighbors know we have prayed for them by leaving a doorhanger and inviting them to send us their prayer requests and be our guests at worship. If you would like to be involved, please let Lynne know.

On Founders' Day, September 11, we are planning to offer free parking and shuttles to the park. We would like to borrow golf carts or other similar transportation to drive on the grass from the back of our lot to the park. We are planning to give away water and other items. We are discussing the possibility of a yard sale that day to benefit missions and Children's Ministries.

MISSION



In April, our **Hands for Christ Team** rebuilt the deteriorating deck for Mrs. McP (a Meals on Wheels client) with funding from the Mission Dedicated account. Some of those funds came from last year's Lord's Acre Day. Because of the deterioration of the deck, Mrs. McP had not been able to go out in her yard for YEARS! Chale Payne coordinated that local mission project and we had a good turnout of volunteers who built the deck and worked to trim the trees and shrubs as well. (Read a Thank You note from Mrs. McP on page 5.)

On Saturday July 10, from 8:00 AM until "it's too hot to work," we will work at Mr. B's house to assist him with his yard. Mr. B is also a Meals on Wheels client. He is blind and unable to do the work himself. He lives at 214 Josey Lane in Red Oak.

We will trim and remove trees, clean up old tires and other trash, mow and trim grass and shrubs as needed. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Lynne Grandstaff about what you can do. We will continue the work on every Saturday in July, until it is done. Come when you can--leave when you need to! Tools we will need: Loppers, Weed eaters, Chain Saw, Pole Saws, Trailers (1 or 2) to haul away the trees and tires. If you would like to contribute to the **Mission Team Fund**, please mark your donation Mission Team Fund.



In supporting our **adopted school- Schupmann Elementary** we delivered snacks and beverages that you donated for Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

The Outreach, Hospitality and Mission Ministry Team is currently collecting school supply items for Russell Schupmann Elementary teachers and students for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. We are publicizing the needs early so that you have plenty of time to

purchase your donations and can take advantage of sales on school supplies. The collection will continue until August. Listed below are the wants/needs of both teachers and students.

For teachers: pens, sticky notes, notepads, dry erase markers, hand lotion, microfiber cloths, small baskets, CHOCOLATE (comfort food), OR Walmart gift cards so that they may supply what is needed without having to spend so much of their own money.

For students: plastic pencil boxes, 24 count Crayola crayons, small glue sticks, #2 wood pencils, 5' blunt or pointed scissors, (Fiskars brand), plastic pocket and brad folders, wide ruled composition notebooks, 150 count wide ruled filler paper, and 70 count wide ruled spiral notebooks.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



The OHM Ministry Team continues its **Birthday Gift program for Meals on Wheels (MOW) clients.** There are currently 30 people being served in Red Oak. This will be an ongoing program. The ministry team will work with the MOW

drivers and the clients to determine if ramps or outside yard work is also needed. If you'd like to make a donation to this project, mark your donation Mission- MOW Birthdays. Dani Muckleroy is the liaison for this project. Please call/text (972-839-8946) her if you need more details or have any ideas for the program.

HOSPITALITY



We are once again prepared to offer first time guests a gift bag. Help us welcome guests to worship by introducing yourself to anyone you don't recognize! ...and make sure to wear YOUR name badge!

Just before the Pandemic lock down began, we were discussing a new church directory. We hope to take that up again soon.

Blessed to serve with you, Lynne Grandstaff, OHM Team Leader



FUMCRO Members in Need of Prayer

ALL FUMCRO members as all try to stay healthy and safe

William Muentes Mary Young
Pam Briden Lori Stricker
Joe Cadenhead Jody Smock
Glen Parker Mike Stricker
Larry Campbell Wynona Haney

Rita Dugger Nancy & Gordon Toney as they move to NC

Friends and Family of FUMCRO Members in Need of Prayer

Judy Guy

Alvin Rudd (Eva Rudd's husband)

Ann Rudd-Vincent (Eva Rudd's sister-in-law)
Dale Lacy (Jennifer McWayne's father)

Jimmy Smith (Susan McCord's brother)

Betty Dempsey (Shannon Smock's mother)

Andrea Briden (Briden's daughter-in-law)

The family of Danny Douthit (Cadenhead's

friend)
Paige Johnson (Geneise Waltmon's niece)

Etta Britt (friend of Sherry Doty)

Jim Dixon (friend of the Cadenheads)

Linda Belote (Bill Belote's mother)

Dale Arnold

Mark Serold (Dani Muckleroy's friend) Ladonna Westfall

VanNaiaya Turner

A note of PRAISE and Thanksgiving! **Judd Easterling**, who has been on the FUMCRO prayer list for **3 years** (since he was 5 years old) has now been declared cancer free! Praise God!

The family of Billy Norris (Bud Norris' brother)
Ed Ash

Donald Wilborn (Geneise Waltmon's father)

Rhoda Flores (Eva Rudd's sister-in-law)

Cheryl Robinson (Sandra Doyle's friend)

Joan McCord (wife of Larry McCord's cousin)

Marc McCord (Larry McCord's cousin)

Tim Huelsman (Judy Cadenhead's brother)

Angela Rollins (Lynda Robinson's daughter)

Eileen Lehmberg (Lila Sackett's sister)

Foster Children

Sherri Parnell (Cindy Belote's sister)

Tony & Joyce (Pryors' friends)

Sue Smock (Jody Smock's mother)

Chris Harrell

Julie & Ronnie Williams

Deborah Waggner (Eva Rudd's friend)

Bill (Durazo's neighbor)

Debbie Doyle (Curtis & Sandra Doyle's daughter)

Missionary: Rukang Chikomb (Congo)



Prayer Group ZOOM Meeting Invitation - Wednesdays, 6:15 PM

The Prayer Group will meet as they have the past several weeks. Lynne will open the meeting at 6:00 PM and will begin the readings at 6:15 PM. Remember to come prepared to lift the names and situations you want to pray for during the service. The Prayer Group reading will be sent by email prior to the meeting.

Lynne Grandstaff is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FUMCRO Prayer Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84660553062?pwd=cWNjcm10dzE1ZkxUVIRFeW8vWW9Xdz09

Meeting ID: 846 6055 3062

Passcode: 408299 One tap mobile

+13462487799,,84660553062#,,,,*408299# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,84660553062#,,,,*408299# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 846 6055 3062

Passcode: 408299

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcvThGimzW

Contact Information

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Judy Cadenhead, Building Manager/Nursery umcredoakjudy@gmail.com

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WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Sundays

9:30 AM Enrichment Class 11:00 AM In-person Blended Worship 4:00 PM Worship Service posted on website 6:00 PM Youth Activities (in-person)

Wednesdays

6:15 PM Prayer Group via Zoom 7:00 PM Bible Study (will resume in the fall)

Have a happy and SAFE 4th of July weekend!

