



June 4, 2021

# THE ACORN

## Newsletter for

First United Methodist Church, Red Oak, Texas

*"I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be joyful in God my Savior."*

Habakkuk 3:18 (NIV)

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**I SENSE THE JOY** in our church as we begin to re-focus our efforts toward in-person attendance in worship, a few Sunday school classes, choir rehearsal in the choir room, and the end of our mask requirement inside the building! We do want to encourage safe practices as we gather; the pandemic is not over, but it's looking very good! We are really blessed to be in the United States where vaccines are very available. But many places in our world are not as fortunate.

Our **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** begins Sunday, and if the weather is good, it is mostly outside. Invite your friends to VBS. It will be great! Our VBS meeting this week was highly attended. Bring on the children! We may be surprised how many come this Sunday night!

I really hate to miss this Sunday morning on **SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY** as we celebrate the graduation of **NATHAN WILSON**, due to a long-standing wedding engagement with Katie Norris and Mason Brooks. The planned nuptials for June 2020, had to be postponed due to you know what! So, we will celebrate **HOLY COMMUNION** this month on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy your vacations, my friends, but return to church in-person, when you're comfortable to do so. **When we gather together, we encourage each other.** That includes pastors, members, and our guests. I pray that many will return to in-person worship with a new sense of devotion. We grow as believers in Christ as we gather to worship, pray, sing with joy, and focus on the Word of God. We grow when we share our faith openly. We grow when we serve others. We grow when our attendance becomes our spiritual practice. It is vital for our spiritual maturity.

In Christ's Joy,

Mike Alexander

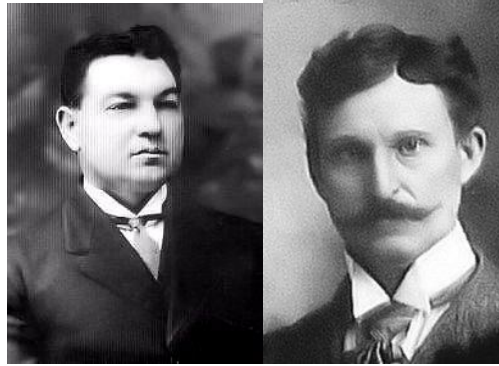
## JUNE CALENDAR



- Saturday, June 5** - Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM (see p. 9)
- Sunday, June 6**  
*Graduating Senior Recognition*
- Enrichment Class, 9:30/9:45 AM (see p. 9)
  - Worship Service & Children's Church, 11:00 AM
  - Online Worship Service posted by 4:00 PM ([www.fumcro.org](http://www.fumcro.org))
  - Youth Fellowship 6:00 PM
  - Vacation Bible School, 6:00 – 8:00 PM (see p. 6)
- Monday, June 7** - Vacation Bible School, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, June 8** - Vacation Bible School, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- Wednesday, June 9** - Vacation Bible School, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- Thursday, June 10** - Vacation Bible School, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- Saturday, June 12**
- UMM Breakfast Meeting, 8:00 AM
  - Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM (see p. 9)
  - UMW Prayer Shawl, 10:00 AM (see p. 10)
- Sunday, June 13**  
*Holy Communion*
- Enrichment Class, 9:30/9:45 AM (see p. 9)
  - Worship Service & Children's Church, 11:00 AM
  - **NO** Online Worship Service posted
  - Youth Fellowship, 6:00 PM
- Monday-Friday, June 14-18** - Bricks4Kidz Summer Camps, 9-12 & 1-4
- Wednesday, June 16** - Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 PM
- Saturday, June 19** - Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM (see p. 9)
- Sunday, June 20**  
**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**
- Enrichment Class, 9:30/9:45 AM (see p. 9)
  - Worship Service & Children's Church, 11:00 AM
  - Online Worship Service posted by 4:00 PM ([www.fumcro.org](http://www.fumcro.org))
  - NO Youth Fellowship
- Wednesday, June 23** - Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, June 24** - UMW Friendship Circle, 7:00 PM (see p. 9)
- Saturday, June 26** - Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM (see p. 9)
- Sunday, June 27**
- Enrichment Class, 9:15/9:30 AM (see p. 9)
  - Worship Service & Children's Church, 11:00 AM
  - Online Worship Service posted by 4:00 PM ([www.fumcro.org](http://www.fumcro.org))
  - Youth Fellowship, 6:00 PM



## Notes from Larry McCord



### **With A Little Help from My Friends\***

*\*John Lennon and Paul McCartney*

*What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. I Corinthians 14:26*

First, an announcement regarding an exciting upcoming guest. On Sunday, June 27, we will once again welcome Courtney Guyon Haines to share her musical gifts in our service. Many of you probably remember when Courtney joined us in worship before the pandemic, performing a magnificent version of Andraé Crouch's "My Tribute" on piano, playing tenor saxophone with the choir on their special and joining our praise band on saxophone and auxiliary percussion. Beyond her musical skills, Courtney brings a great heart to worship which should help each of us engage more fully as we join together. Plan to be here to receive the gift of music she brings...and this time her husband, who is also a professional musician, may join her.

I know services of word and song such as we shared on May 30 are not for everyone. For some, music is not the easiest way to worship and, because of this, I am especially grateful for the way so many of you joined in to sing with all your hearts on that Sunday. As was mentioned, many of the songs we sang were from the Cokesbury Hymnal and were not included in the 1989 UMC Hymnal that we use in worship. One of these omissions, however, was the most requested hymn when the supplement *Worship and Song* was compiled in 2011... "Love Lifted Me."

(Notes from Larry McCord *continued*)

As I researched this song, words penned by James Rowe (left, above) and music composed by Howard E. Smith (right, above), the story was, for the most part, a familiar one. Rowe was born in England, immigrating to the United States in 1889, working with the railroad and as a Mohawk Hudson Humane Society superintendent in New York in his early years, then for several music publishers as he grew older (including one in Waco, TX). Smith was a church musician and organist in Connecticut. What caught my attention, however, was a quote by Rowe's daughter, with whom he spent his final years: "Howard E. Smith was a little man whose hands were so knotted with arthritis that you would wonder how he could use them at all, much less play the piano...I can see them now, my father striding up and down humming a bar or two and Howard E. playing it and jotting it down." The two wrote this song together in Saugatuck (now Westport), Connecticut, and "Love Lifted Me" was published in 1912.

Here we have two men, one with a gift for words who supported himself for most of his life in other ways, and the other a gifted musician struck with a disability that crippled him and would have caused many to give up and no longer use their gift. Each, however, realized that he was a part of the universal body of Christ and was called to use the gift God's Spirit had bestowed. Just as important, each also understood the specific nature and role of his gift and his need for the other in order to write this great hymn that has inspired so many across denominations for more than a century. In like manner, God's Spirit is working in and through each of us to accomplish His will together in Red Oak and beyond.

## **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU**

*The Presentation Team at FUMC Red Oak needs a few faithful individuals who are willing to be trained in the area of worship presentation using ProPresenter. The slides we use in worship each week are prepared beforehand but occasionally we need volunteers to operate the slide presentation on Sunday morning. Those interested will first observe Jennifer McKnight during a few services to be introduced to the required tasks and equipment, then will run the presentation with Jennifer present on a designated Sunday. After the training period, volunteers will be scheduled as needed. All that is required is your willingness to serve, the ability to listen and learn and, most of all, a commitment to be present on the required day at the assigned time. **This need has been presented on several occasions; please prayerfully consider whether you might help in this crucial area of worship and see Jennifer McKnight after the worship service if interested.***



*Notes from Shannon Wilson, Director of Youth Ministries*

The Youth have had so much to celebrate the past few months! **Kyler Keene** was named as one of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students of the month for the month of April at Coleman Junior High, Waxahachie ISD. **Jay Kelso**, not only earned a spot on the drum line next year as a FRESHMAN, he was also named 8<sup>th</sup> grade student of year, for Red Oak Middle School. **Nathan Wilson** is our graduating senior, Red Oak High School; we will be celebrating this achievement with our church family Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Nathan has been accepted to Stephan F. Austin State University; his plans are to pursue elementary education. To say that we have a lot to be proud of is an understatement. This group of youth are amazing and so much fun to be around. They are hardworking, caring, helpful, and always keeping me on my toes!

Once again we will not be having our “traditional” mission trip this summer. We will be doing small projects around the church. Our biggest project is going to be updating the prayer garden. It is such a focal point of our church and would like it to continue being a welcoming area for everyone. The goal is for us to gear up for a more traditional trip next year. We have a lot of young youth that have never been on a trip before, so our work around the church is a good way for them to get their feet wet.

The youth would like to thank our church family for their continued support. We are always looking for adults to either supply a meal, snacks, mentor or just come and hang out on a Sunday night.

For the summer, we will continue to meet Sunday nights at 6:00 PM for devotional time, dinner and games. All youth Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> are encouraged to come. Hope to see you there!

**Sunday Night Youth Dinner Schedule:**

June 13<sup>th</sup> – Young and Wilsford

June 20<sup>th</sup> – Father’s Day – No Youth meeting

June 27<sup>th</sup> – Dillard and Payne



## Congratulations to Nathan Wilson,



### **To Our Graduate**

## FUMCRO's 2021 Graduating High School Senior

FUMCRO wants to applaud and recognize the accomplishments of **Nathan Wilson**, a high school senior who is graduating this year. We will celebrate this event with Nathan and his family in the worship service on **Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**.

Please congratulate Nathan on his accomplishments and let him know how proud his church family is of him! He plans on

attending Stephen F. Austin State University in the fall.

Nathan's parents have created an Amazon gift list for some of his college items:

[https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/2WBMPCRVS6Y/guest-view?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_gr\\_un\\_SJYbe4Dc2Xmg3](https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/2WBMPCRVS6Y/guest-view?ref=cm_sw_em_r_gr_un_SJYbe4Dc2Xmg3)

Congratulations, Nathan!

## Children's Council Events – VBS Starts Sunday!

The Children's Council has planned for an IN-PERSON VBS this year! The Council has been working hard to get volunteers and supplies so that the children can have an outstanding time at VBS!



The theme this year is "Discovery on Adventure Island." The dates are **June 6 - 10** with the time of 6:00 - 8:00 PM. The plans are for this VBS to be mostly **outside** (weather permitting) to help accommodate COVID protocols. Dinner will not be served this year, but pre-packaged snacks will be available at snack time.

There is still time to volunteer to help. Please email Geneise at [geneise2013@yahoo.com](mailto:geneise2013@yahoo.com) or text 972-754-2182 and let her know your availability.

**EVERYONE** can be involved in VBS! Whether you can volunteer to be a shepherd or leader, donate funds, or pray for the program that serves to make learning about Jesus a fun exciting experience... **YOU are needed!**



## **IT'S BACK!!      LORD'S ACRE DAY – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>!**

*"...the Lord brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now we bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given us....Then we shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord our God has given to us..." Deuteronomy 26:9-11*

## **LORD'S ACRE DAY**

**YES!** There will be a Lord's Acre Day this year on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>! The day will look a little different than in past years (after all, what **isn't** different this year??), 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!

## **FINANCE** **UPDATE**

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>.

### **May Giving/Offerings**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$6845.00
9 <sup>th</sup>	\$5145.00
16 <sup>th</sup>	\$3940.00
23 <sup>rd</sup>	\$4940.00
30 <sup>th</sup>	\$3757.00

(Finance Update *continued*)

**2021 Connectional Mission Giving (CMG)**

**Total Due** by December 31, 2021 – \$22,708

2021 Connectional Mission Giving **PAID to date - \$5080**

2021 Connectional Mission Giving **remaining to be paid - \$17,628**

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

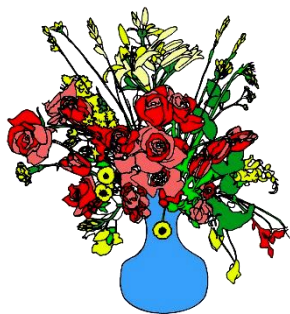
A very special **“THANK YOU”** to those of you who have continued to support the ministries and operations of the church during this crucial time when we weren't “passing the plate”!

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 are August 8 & 29, and September 12, 19 & 26!



**Altar Flowers**

**June**

Given by:

Occasion:

6 <sup>th</sup>	Jo & Byrum Wilsford	In celebration of their 48 <sup>th</sup> anniversary!
13 <sup>th</sup>	The McAlisters	Given in celebration of their 56 <sup>th</sup> anniversary and Jamie & Adam's 11 <sup>th</sup> anniversary!
20 <sup>th</sup>	The McAlisters	In celebration of Miles' 9 <sup>th</sup> birthday!
27 <sup>th</sup>	Neva & Tommy Ransom	In celebration of their 37 <sup>th</sup> anniversary!

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 workaholicism, 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!



## Sunshine Class – Meeting In-Person Saturday Mornings

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 Friendship Circle, Thursday, June 24

The meeting of the UMW Friendship Circle is **Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Lynne Grandstaff will give the devotional, and Jane Aberg will provide the refreshments for the meeting. We will conclude our study of the book *The Names of God, His Character Revealed* by Melissa Spoelstra. All women are welcome to join us for Bible-based study, lively discussions, good fellowship, and delicious refreshments. Need more information? Call Jo Wilsford at 214-793-5497. Because of the pandemic, childcare cannot be provided at this time. The Friendship Circle will not meet in July.



(UMW News *continued*)

### UMW Circle of Love

**The UMW Circle of Love will take a break for June and July.** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Jo Wilsford and Jennifer McKnight will be the hostesses for the pot-luck lunch and Jan Parker will present the program.

### Circle of Hope and Healing (Prayer Shawl)

The UMW Circle of Hope and Healing will meet in person on **Saturday, June 12, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.** Watch your email for details. If you like to crochet, knit, weave, and pray, please join us in this important ministry. Also, 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. The Circle of Hope and Healing will not meet in July.



## 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!*



The OHM Ministry Team has begun a **Birthday Gift program for Meals on Wheels (MOW) clients.** There are currently 30 people being served in Red Oak. The ladies are getting body lotion; all are getting shawls/lap robes. Men will receive socks. 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.**



### **A New Mission/Outreach Opportunity – Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers**

*From Dani Muckleroy:*

Meals on Wheels (MOW) is gearing up to full weekly visits. With COVID, they had to stop using volunteers and start using staff for deliveries. That made delivering meals for the week, instead of the day, necessary, leaving the meals on the porch and ringing the doorbell. Clients were checked on by phone, not face to face.

Now that COVID is on the wane, 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 after being delivered from the kitchens to delivery vans to client routes.

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](mailto:tracy@mownct.org), or check the Meals on Wheels of North Central Texas on the web site for more information. *Thank you!*

### **Pray and Go**

In the near future, we will be training for walking our neighborhoods and praying for our neighbors with an Outreach program called “**Pray and 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. Watch for more details on this exciting new program!





### **FUMCRO Members in Need of Prayer**

ALL FUMCRO members as all try to stay healthy and safe

The family of Lionel Hazard	The family of Dorothy Doty (Dean Doty's mother)
Pam Briden	Lori Stricker
The family of Rev. Bobby Wilke	Jody Smock
Glen Parker	Mike Stricker
Larry Campbell	Leah Harp
Rita Dugger	Wynona Haney

### **Friends and Family of FUMCRO Members in Need of Prayer**

Betty Dempsey (Shannon Smock's mother)	Jennifer Lofton (Susan McCord's niece)
Andrea Briden (Briden's daughter-in-law)	Joan McCord (wife of Larry McCord's cousin)
The family of Danny Douthit (Cadenhead's friend)	Tim Huelsman (Judy Cadenhead's brother)
Paige Johnson (Geneise Waltmon's neice)	Angela Rollins (Lynda Robinson's daughter)
Etta Britt (friend of Sherry Doty)	Eileen Lehmborg (Lila Sackett's sister)
Butch Buckner (Sherry Martin's cousin)	Foster Children
Jim Dixon (friend of the Cadenheads)	Sherri Parnell (Cindy Belote's sister)
Linda Belote (Bill Belote's mother)	Tony & Joyce (Pryors' friends)
Dale Arnold	Sue Smock (Jody Smock's mother)
Mark Serold (Dani Muckleroy's friend)	Chris Harrell
Dorothy Doty (Dean Doty's mother)	Julie & Ronnie Williams
Ladonna Westfall	Deborah Waggner (Eva Rudd's friend)
VanNaiaya Turner	Bill (Durazo's neighbor)
Kathy Schmitt (Sherry Doty's sister)	Debbie Doyle (Curtis & Sandra Doyle's daughter)
Parents of Nancy Toney	Judd Easterling

### **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/j/84660553062?pwd=cWNjcm10dzE1ZkxUVIRFeW8vWW9Xdz09>



**Contact Information**

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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)

*“See” you in person or online in worship this Sunday!*