



# October 3, 2020

## THE ACORN

Newsletter for  
First United Methodist Church  
Red Oak, Texas

*"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17*



*It's Clergy Appreciation Month! Let Pastor Mike and Kathy know how much they are loved at FUMCRO!*



***I want to give you an update on where we are in RESUMING OUR IN-PERSON WORSHIP! I know many are looking forward to that day!***

The Plan for Resuming In-Person Worship, Phase One was approved by our Administrative Council last Sunday. Our plans have been reviewed by our District Superintendent; Dr. Randy Wild gave us high marks for the great detail in our plan.

There was a great deal of discussion in the Administrative Council meeting encouraging setting the date to resume. I've made a number of calls this week with Red Oak pastors and United Methodist pastors in Ellis County. In addition, I've reviewed current data in our county.

We are taking steps to resume in-person worship soon. **The tentative date we have set is OCTOBER 25.** We will be reviewing the data in the hope we can hold that date. In the interim, we are putting together the volunteers needed to form teams in disinfecting, hospitality, taking temperatures in entering the building, and other matters. (See **Ways You Can Serve** article on page 2.)

Many of you have received surveys to indicate your interest in attending or not. These surveys were received via "Survey Monkey," and paper copies are available at the church as well. If you have not received it, you can pick up a paper copy at the

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(From the Pastor continued)

church office; there is also a copy at the end of this newsletter. **We need to receive all survey responses by October 9.** In addition, you will receive a waiver to fill out, if attending, that insures you understand any risk you take in returning to worship.

Please know our worship experience will be very different. We will need to wear our masks in the building, use hand sanitizer, and social distance in available pews. There will be no bulletins, passing of the offering plates, or choir. We will not greet one another as we have in the past. Holy Communion will be different. We will have special music, and those attending can hum or sing the songs and hymns with masks in place. **But we will be back! This is all about our safety. Be at peace.**

**KEEP THE FAITH!** Pastor Mike



World Communion Sunday

### **RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION THIS SUNDAY**

This Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, is WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY! Once again, we will celebrate HOLY COMMUNION remotely. This means Pastor Mike will consecrate the Sacraments in our sanctuary as he always does, and you will partake of the communion elements at home.

**You have two options in receiving Holy Communion. We have packaged communion elements that you can pick up.** Under the top seal is a wafer, and under the other seal is a communion cup with juice. **These can be picked up at the church office Saturday morning, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM.** If you cannot pick one up, you can use any kind of bread with some form of liquid at home. As you watch the worship service online, you may partake of these elements as Pastor Mike consecrates the Bread and the Cup and then invites you to take communion.



### **As We Open In-Person Worship – Volunteers Needed!!**

It is critical as we prepare to open in-person worship services that we have people in place that will assist in keeping everyone safe and comfortable in worship. If you plan to attend in-person worship on our target date of October 25, please let us know if you can volunteer to assist in ensuring the morning runs smoothly. Listed below are areas in which we need teams of volunteers on Sunday morning to:

- Stand outside entrance doors to encourage social distancing as people arrive and exit
- Distribute masks (if needed), take temperatures, and ask health questions
- Hold open entrance doors to sanctuary and assist in locating seating on identified pews
- Assist in taking attendance
- Assist in dismissing individuals/families at the end of the service

Please pray about these opportunities to serve and let the church office know if you would like to serve in any way. There will be a brief training session for all volunteers before opening in-person worship.

## OCTOBER CALENDAR



- |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, October 3</b>                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>PUMPKINS arrive, 8:00 AM!</b></li> <li>- <b>Communion elements available</b> from the church office (9:00 – 11:00 AM), for use on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, during the video of the church service (see p. 2 for more details)</li> </ul>                                                  |
| <b>Saturday, October 3</b>                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM, Watkins Park (see p. 8)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Sunday, October 4</b>                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoom Enrichment Class, 9:45 AM (see p. 8 for details)</li> <li>- Online Worship Service, 10:50 AM – Celebration of World Communion (<a href="http://www.fumcro.org">www.fumcro.org</a>)</li> <li>- Youth Fellowship, 6:00 PM (Dinner: Wilson/Waltmon)</li> </ul>                                    |
| <b>Wednesday, October 7</b>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Come get a baked potato to go! 5:30 – 7:00 PM</b> Proceeds benefit Children's Council (see p. 5)</li> <li>- Zoom Prayer Group, 6:00/6:15 PM (see p. 14)</li> <li>- Pastor's Bible Study, 7:00 PM on Zoom and Facebook Live</li> </ul>                                                            |
| <b>Saturday, October 10</b>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UMM Devotional Breakfast, 8:00 AM</li> <li>- Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM, Watkins Park (see p. 8)</li> <li>- Pumpkin Patch opens, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM (see pp.5-6)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Sunday, October 11</b>                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoom Enrichment Class, 9:45 AM (see p. 8 for details)</li> <li>- Pumpkin Patch open, 12:00 – 7:00 PM (see pp.5-6)</li> <li>- Online Worship Service, 10:50 AM (<a href="http://www.fumcro.org">www.fumcro.org</a>)</li> <li>- Youth Fellowship, 6:00 PM (Dinner: Young/Wilsford)</li> </ul>         |
| <b>Wednesday, October 14</b>                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoom Prayer Group, 6:00/6:15 PM (see p. 14)</li> <li>- Pastor's Bible Study, 7:00 PM on Zoom and Facebook Live</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Saturday, October 17</b>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM, Watkins Park (see p. 8)</li> <li>- Pumpkin Patch open, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM (see pp. 5-6)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Sunday, October 18</b>                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoom Enrichment Class, 9:45 AM (see pp. 8 for details)</li> <li>- Pumpkin Patch open, 12:00 – 6:00 PM (see pp.5-6)</li> <li>- Online Worship Service, 10:50 AM (<a href="http://www.fumcro.org">www.fumcro.org</a>)</li> <li>- Youth Fellowship, 6:00 PM (Dinner: Dillard/Payne)</li> </ul>         |
| <b>Wednesday, October 21</b>                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoom Prayer Group, 6:00/6:15 PM (see p. 14)</li> <li>- Pastor's Bible Study, 7:00 PM on Zoom and Facebook Live</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Thursday, October 22</b>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UMW Friendship Circle, 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall (see p. 9)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Saturday, October 24</b>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sunshine Class, 9:00 AM, Watkins Park (see p.8)</li> <li>- Pumpkin Patch open, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM (see pp.5-6)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Sunday, October 25</b><br><b>WELCOME BACK TO</b><br><b>IN-PERSON WORSHIP!!</b><br><b>11:00 AM</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoom Enrichment Class, <b>9:30 AM</b> (see p. 8)</li> <li>- Pumpkin Patch open, 1:00 – 7:00 PM (see pp.5-6)</li> <li>- Online Worship Service, posted by <b>4:00 PM</b> (<a href="http://www.fumcro.org">www.fumcro.org</a>)</li> <li>- Youth Fellowship, 6:00 PM (Dinner: Sanden/Hobbs)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Tuesday, October 27</b>                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UMW Circle of Love, 10:00 AM, bring a sack lunch (see p. 9)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Wednesday, October 28</b>                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoom Prayer Group, 6:00/6:15 PM (see p. 14)</li> <li>- Pastor's Bible Study, 7:00 PM on Zoom &amp; Facebook Live</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Saturday, October 31</b>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Last day for Pumpkin Patch, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM (see pp.5-6)</li> <li>- Trunk or Treat (Look for details in the upcoming newsletter.)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                     |



## Notes from Larry McCord



### He's A Good, Good Father

*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

*Matthew 7:11*

Any of us who have been blessed with children know the joy that comes from giving them gifts. When we have a special gift for one of our children, we can't wait to see their eyes light up when they open it or to receive a warm hug of appreciation. We delight in sharing our love through the giving of gifts.

Think how much hurt we might experience, however, if we went to the trouble of making or purchasing a special gift for our children only to have them refuse to accept it. Even worse, what if they refused our gift because they didn't believe we were the kind of parents who took delight in sharing with their children. In other words, they didn't think we loved them!

Jesus knew this experience all too well. In the verses leading up to the passage above, he asks those he is teaching if they would give their children something bad or even harmful when they asked for something to eat. This was a rhetorical question; obviously none of them would. He then asks them to think about a simple fact: If they, being imperfect parents, knew how to provide good things for their children, *how much more* would their heavenly Father do so for His.

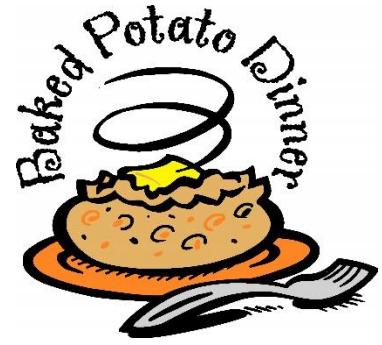
I know that the "health and wealth" message is unpopular, in some cases for good reason, but not expecting God to enjoy giving good things to His children, even lavishing His goodness upon them, is just as erroneous and hurtful to our heavenly Father. Throughout scripture we are reminded that God delights in prospering his children in all ways...success, material wealth, good health, loving relationships. Even as Paul exhorts Timothy to warn those who are rich in this world's goods not to trust in their riches, he continues by telling him to encourage them to "trust in God, who gives us all things richly to enjoy."

Sometimes the church swings too far toward the extreme in which we see this life as only a pilgrimage toward something better with a God who just helps us get by. I think our Father would like to see his children enjoying the many good things He provides on a daily basis and, yes, even expecting Him to sometimes lavish his love upon us, blessing us abundantly. Certainly, we will go through suffering and hardship, perhaps even experiencing very lean times, but God's goodness is always with us, and His blessings are ours to enjoy. As the praise song says, "He's a good, good Father."



## Children's Council Fundraiser

Because of a change in vendors, the pumpkins for the Pumpkin Patch have to be paid for upon delivery this year, so the Children's Council is sponsoring a "Wednesday Night Dinner – Drive-Through Edition" **this** Wednesday, October 7, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM to help offset the initial cost of the pumpkins.



The menu for the take-out meal includes baked potatoes with all the fixings, garden salad and dessert (pre-packaged options). Advance orders will be taken; a few extra meals will be prepared, but they will be sold on a first come-first served basis.

Everything will be prepared with the utmost safety precautions and protocols being used, the same protocols that Geneise follows every day as she prepares lunches for the school children.

If you would like to purchase a meal, you can place your order 3 ways:

- Text Geneise at 972-754-2182
- Email Geneise at [geneise2013@yahoo.com](mailto:geneise2013@yahoo.com)
- Call Jo in the church office at 972-617-9100

We appreciate your order being placed by Tuesday, October 6 by 12:00 noon so food can be purchased. We will need to know how many meals you would like; we will have them ready for pickup under the drive way area at the front doors of the church between 5:30 – 7:00 PM. We are asking for donations for the meals. If paying by check, please make your check out to FUMC with "Children's Council" in the memo line.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Children's Council and the Pumpkin Patch!

## **PUMPKIN PATCH** **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

(Remember, **ALL** proceeds of the Pumpkin Patch and its activities go to fund FUMCRO's children's ministries [Easter, VBS, Advent, Children's Church, etc.] )

The pumpkins are coming and our Pumpkin Patch will be in full swing all through the month of October although it will operate a little differently than in past years. The Patch will officially open on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. You may **sign up to volunteer in the Pumpkin Patch** by

contacting Geneise Waltmon (email [geneise2013@yahoo.com](mailto:geneise2013@yahoo.com) ;  
call or text – 972-754-2182) or call Jo in the church office (972-617-9100).

*(Pumpkin Patch continued)*

The Patch hours are 4-7 PM weekdays, Saturday, 10 AM – 7 PM, and Sunday, 12 – 7 PM. **We need volunteers** to sign up for one or more shifts during these hours. Please remember during your time in the Patch that we must observe social distancing with our guests and wear a mask while you are in the Patch with others. We will also provide hand sanitizer to be used liberally during your time at the Patch. Come sit awhile outside in the (hopefully) cool weather and help us sell some pumpkins; you'll be glad you did!

**NOTE:** During church office hours, the office will accept payment for pumpkins. We will have a sign in the Patch asking anyone interested in purchasing pumpkins to ring the church office doorbell.



**A Drive-Through Trunk or Treat** will be held on **Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**. Plan now to bring your decorated trunk to display and hand out candy to the little “goblins”!

You and your decorated trunk may **sign up to participate in the Drive-Through Trunk or Treat** by contacting Geneise Waltmon (email [geneise2013@yahoo.com](mailto:geneise2013@yahoo.com) ; call or text – 972-

754-2182) or Jo in the church office (972-617-9100). If you would like to support the event but are not comfortable being in a public environment, we would welcome donations of bags of candy to hand out to children driving through the event. Masks (that cover the nose and mouth) as well as social distancing will be observed during the Drive-Through Trunk or Treat. We are still working on the final details (such as exact time) of the event. Please continue to monitor the church Facebook page and mid-month newsletter for all information.

### **Confirmation Class of 2020 – Congratulations!**

We are very proud to announce the newest members of our church family. These youth have completed their confirmation class and will be recognized and formally confirmed in worship when we begin meeting in person. Congratulations to

**Rosie Dillard, Kyler Keene, Jay Kelso, Emma Sanden and Katelyn Sanden!**

***We welcome you as members into our church family!***





The Youth continue to meet on Sundays at 6:00 PM for dinner, games and worship. The Wednesday night meetings are postponed until a later date. Shannon will still have office hours on Wednesdays from 6 – 7 PM. All youth, Grades 6 through 12, are invited, encouraged and welcome to join the Youth on Sunday evenings. (Strict safety guidelines—masks and social distancing—are in place for all meetings.)

The Youth are working on a few projects, one of them being a design for a new church-wide t-shirt! In the Youth Room, we have started an inspiration wall, with quotes, positive ideas, and in general what we want to be as a group. Also, Youth will be volunteering in the Pumpkin Patch on Sunday evenings.

The Youth would like you, our church family, to know that we have prayed for you weekly, and miss you being able to worship with in person.

Please stay tuned for more Youth excitement; we have a lot of great things planned and can't wait to share them with you all!

Sunday Dinner Schedule:    October 4: Wilson/Waltmon  
                                                  October 11: Young/Wilsford  
                                                  October 18: Dillard/Payne  
                                                  October 25: Sanden/Hobbs

**A Note about Altar Flowers**    Even though we are not meeting in person for our worship services, many of you have graciously volunteered to continue to provide altar flowers to enhance our altar area...even if it's only on video! Thank you for your generosity! You may pick up your flowers and take them home following the filming of the worship service on Saturday morning. Filming ends about 12:30 PM on Saturday. Or you may come by the church office the following week to pick them up.

(November 15<sup>th</sup> is still an open date on the flower calendar. Call the church office if you want to provide flowers for that date)



<u>Altar Flowers</u>		
<u>October</u>		
	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Occasion:</u>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Aberg	In celebration of David Aberg's birthday!
11 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Campbell	To the Glory of God!
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra & Curtis Doyle Shannon & Mark Wilson	In celebration of their 51 <sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary! In celebration of their 25 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!
25 <sup>th</sup>	Miriam's Grandparents: Jill Gunderson, Monty Raskin, Lynne & Hugh Grandstaff	In celebration of Miriam Grandstaff's 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday! and In celebration of Hugh Grandstaff's birthday!
Altar flowers are \$35; please mark your check "flowers." Thank you.		

## **ENRICHMENT CLASS – Sunday Meetings on ZOOM**

The Enrichment Class is studying “Proverbs: Pathways to Wisdom” by Dominick S Hernandez. The class is exploring the context, language and interpretation of the Old Testament book of Proverbs. The author invites us to approach the reading of Proverbs as we would assembling a jigsaw puzzle- looking for the “big picture,” the foundational “corner pieces,” and taking our time to interpret and appreciate the practical life wisdom the book offers.

Books for the new study are available at the church office

Recurring classes will be held on Zoom. We gather at 9:45 AM for a time of "catch-up fellowship." The lesson begins at 10 AM every Sunday.

If you need help setting up your phone, computer or tablet to use Zoom, call Lynne Grandstaff at 214-738-7301. We hope to see you soon!



## **Sunshine Class – Meeting In-Person on Saturday Mornings**

The Sunshine Class, led by Dani Muckleroy and Larry Campbell meets on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM at Watkins Park on Live Oak Street just east of the church. The fall Bible study is on the theme of “Encounter” and includes discussion of Paul’s writings.

YOU are invited to come, wear your mask and join this lively group in fellowship and Bible study!

## **Stephen Ministry at FUMCRO**

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry in our congregation. FUMCRO is fortunate to have six Stephen Ministers and two Stephen Minister leaders. If, at any time, during (or after) this time of Covid-19, you would like a weekly call from a Stephen Minister, please contact Sherry Doty or Neva Ransom, the Stephen Minister leaders.



## **Lord's Acre Day 2020 – It Was a Great Day of ThanksGIVING!**

On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, we certainly did have a GREAT day of ThanksGIVING! Over \$6,000 was raised to benefit the Trustees' work on the church building maintenance and renovation projects for 2021. **THANK YOU** for your great response to a very unusual Lord's Acre Day. Church, YOU are awesome! (It's not too late to send in your check to donate to Lord's Acre; please make it out to FUMC with "Lord's Acre" in the memo line.)

We all look forward to next year's Lord's Acre with great anticipation!!





## United Methodist Women (UMW) News

### Friendship Circle Meets October 22<sup>nd</sup>

The meeting of the UMW Friendship Circle is Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jennifer McKnight will give the devotional, and Jane Aberg will provide the refreshments for the meeting. We will continue 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 for information. Because of the pandemic, childcare cannot be provided at this time.

### Circle of Love Meets October 27<sup>th</sup>

The meeting of the UMW Circle of Love is Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Mary Brownlee will present the program. Please bring a sack lunch if you would like. All women are invited to join us for an inspiring program and good fellowship.

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

The Circle of Hope and Healing will begin its meetings in the near future. Dates are still to be determined...stay tuned! If you like to crochet, knit, weave, and pray, please join us in this important ministry.



## Mission Opportunities

### Family Food Pantry Giveaway

From Donna Knight, ROISD Community/Family Services Coordinator:

The ROISD is partnering with North Texas Food bank and the City of Red Oak on a Family Food pantry giveaway. There will be paperwork to fill out but only the name of the family will be required and no income proof. I am working hard to do this on the **third Thursday of each month from 5-8 PM**. It is going to take a number of volunteers for this to happen. This will be a drive-through event. We will need folks who can lift the 25 lb. boxes as well as those to hand out the paperwork, take up the paperwork, etc. Please let Donna know if you are interested in helping.

Donna Knight

972 617 4658

[donna.knight@redoakisd.org](mailto:donna.knight@redoakisd.org)



## Thanksgiving Boxes

### Thanksgiving Boxes for NECO Senior Clients

North Ellis County Outreach is providing Thanksgiving food boxes for their senior clients. Listed below is a list of items to be included in each box. If you cannot donate all the items needed for an entire box, feel free to buy separate items. **Boxes and separate items are due to the church by October 20<sup>th</sup>** so that we can deliver them to NECO by October 29<sup>th</sup>. We will keep small turkeys/hams in the freezer at the church until they are delivered to NECO. **Thank you** for helping our community members!

#### Items Needed for Thanksgiving Box

1 small turkey or ham	Canned yams	Canned chicken broth
Instant potatoes	Cranberry sauce	Cornbread mix
2 gravy packets	Canned fruit	Stuffing mix
2 cans green beans	Cream soup	Cake mix & icing
2 cans corn	Evaporated milk	

### Mentoring Opportunity at Red Oak High School

The Mentors Care organization is looking for passionate people that want to make a difference in this world by mentoring a high school student at Red Oak High School. It just takes one hour a week, from October through April, and it is an investment that has lasting results! One of our members, Dani Muckleroy, is a mentor and will be glad to talk to you about the program if you are interested. Please contact Sean Byars for details:

Phone: 972-617-3535, ext. 6043; [sean.byars@mentors.care](mailto:sean.byars@mentors.care); [www.mentors.care](http://www.mentors.care)





### United Methodist SPECIAL OFFERING Sundays – We’ve missed a few...

Throughout the year, the United Methodist Church highlights mission areas in which funds may be given for special ministries and missions. There are six of these Sunday dates during the year. The focus of the first ministry in 2020 was Human Relations in January; if you donated funds on that Sunday for the Human Relations offering, they were sent to the Conference Office.

There are, however, five other special offerings throughout the rest of the year. Because we have not been meeting in-person, we have missed those opportunities to give to these mission areas. If you see one or more areas of interest listed below to which you would like to give a special offering, please make your check out to FUMC with the mission area named in the memo line; the funds will then be forwarded to the Conference Office for that special purpose.

The areas of mission for UM Special Offerings are

- ✚ **UMCOR** (One Great Hour of Sharing) – 100% of donations go to disaster relief.
- ✚ **Native American Ministries** – Donations empower local spiritual development and educate Native American Seminary students to serve God faithfully.
- ✚ **Peace with Justice** – Gifts support Peace with Justice ministries within the Central Texas Conference and throughout the U.S. and the world.
- ✚ **World Communion** – Gifts provide scholarships for national and international graduate students, undergraduate scholarships for ethnic scholarships for national and international students within the U.S. and ethnic in-service training.
- ✚ **United Methodist Student Day** – Gifts provide scholarships and funds for the UM student loan fund.

# FINANCE UPDATE

## September Giving/Offerings

6 <sup>th</sup>	\$4,590.00
13 <sup>th</sup>	\$5,385.00
20 <sup>th</sup>	\$6,845.00
27 <sup>th</sup>	\$7,320.00

**2020 Connectional Mission Giving (CMG) Total Due** by December 31, 2020 – \$32,001

2020 Connectional Mission Giving **PAID to date - \$10,081.00**

2020 Connectional Mission Giving **remaining to be paid - \$21,920.00**

(NOTE: Because of the current circumstances, only nominal “good faith” CMG amounts were remitted in April, July and September. As the church remains closed, the Finance Committee will review the offering amounts for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and determine what amount can be remitted to the Conference in December.)

To meet our 2020 budget and Connectional Mission Giving for 2020, 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 can’t meet together in person and “pass the plate”!

Many of you have signed up to give online, brought your offering check by the church office during the week, or mailed your check to the church.

Your faithful giving and ongoing support is **greatly** appreciated!

We realize that some of you, during this unprecedented time, may be experiencing hardships with loss of income or unexpected expenses. Please, please know that your welfare is important to the church; YOU are a part of our family. Your pledge may be adjusted so that you may give what you can now and then at a later date, as you feel financially able, you may resume your regular giving. We want you to take care of yourself and your family first.

Until we can meet together again, you may continue to bring your offering to the church office (Mon-Thurs, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM), OR put your check in the mail (FUMC, **P. O. Box 25**, Red Oak, TX 75154) OR use the online giving option available on the church's website. With online giving, contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. You also have the option of using your debit card; however, the church accrues a fee when a debit card is used.





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

ALL FUMCRO members as all try to stay healthy and safe

Susan Harper (liver transplant)

Glen Parker

Art and Carol Haffey

Larry Campbell

Mike Stricker

Rita Dugger

Wynona Haney

Gaines Wolaver

Leah Harp

Lionel Hazard (Midlothian Health Care Center)

Joanna Johnson (staying with her daughter)

Jennie Dunaway

Charles Daubitz

Ann Allen

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

Teachers, Students, Education Leaders, Church Pastors & Leaders, and Government Leaders as they make hard decisions about the opening of schools, churches, and businesses

All those affected by the Covid-19 virus

Etta Britt (friend of Sherry Doty)

Family of Renee Ray (friend of Larry McCord)

Butch Buckner (Sherry Martin's cousin)

Lauriann Cecil (Jane Aberg's niece)

Paige (cousin of Geneise Waltmon)

Mark White (friend of Judy Pelowski's sister)

Heath Lopata (friend & neighbor of Helen Malone)

Jim Dixon (friend of the Cadenheads)

Berger Family (Judy Pelowski's student whose mom and dad are first responders)

Linda Belote (Bill Belote's mother)

Dale Arnold

Betty Dempsey (Shannon Smock's mother)

Mark Serold (Dani Muckleroy's friend)

Ruth Dunaway (Jennie Dunaway's mother)

Dorothy Doty (Dean Doty's mother)

Ladonna Westfall

VanNaiaya Turner

Kathy Schmitt (Sherry Doty's sister)

Parents of Nancy Toney

Judd Easterling

Healthcare & First Responder & Firemen in CA

Grayson & Kathy Glass (friends of Judy Pelowski)

Reagan (daughter of Lori Stricker's friend)

Donna Brown, family & students (friend of Judy Pelowski)

Angela Rollins (Lynda Robinson's daughter)

Janita & Royce Thornal (neighbors of Judy Pelowski)

Billy Ray Dickey & son, Mike (friends of the Cadenheads)

Eileen Lehmberg (Lila Sackett's sister)

Deborah Simmons (Judy Pelowski's friend)  
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)**



*Have a great weekend!  
Stay safe!  
See you online on Sunday!*

**Contact Information**

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P.O. Box 25 (Mailing Address)

Red Oak, TX 75154

**WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**Sundays**

9:45 am Enrichment Class on Zoom

10:50 am Online Blended Worship

6:00 pm Youth Fellowship (In-person)

**Wednesdays**

6:15 pm Prayer Group via Zoom

7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom & Facebook Live

## Congregational Survey

### Red Oak First United Methodist Church

The church leadership is prayerfully and thoughtfully exploring how our congregation can begin to gather together again in worship. Most importantly, we are seeking God's guidance in these decisions. We are also paying close attention to the dictates and advice of our governmental officials, health experts, and Central Texas Conference leaders. We want to hear from you as another important source of input.

Please take 5 minutes to complete this survey and return it by email or to the church office by **October 9<sup>th</sup>**.

1. In the past several weeks I have (check all that apply)

☐ Participated in online worship

☐ Participated in Zoom Bible Study

☐ Participated in Zoom small group meeting

☐ Participated in in-person small group meeting

2. If you have participated in one of our online worship services, did you experience worship and God's presence more or less online compared to in-person worship?

☐ More

☐ About the same

☐ Less

3. Are you in one of the groups that the CDC and health experts have identified as higher risk for serious health issues from Covid-19? Check as many as apply.

☐ Over 65 years of age

☐ Underlying health conditions

4. What precautions, if any, do you expect our church to take for worship gatherings? Check all that apply.

☐ Ask members pertinent health questions and take members' temperature before they enter the building

☐ Sanitize and clean foyer, sanctuary and restrooms

☐ Limit use of handouts (bulletins, etc.), pew hymnals, and Bibles

☐ Use a new method for distributing the Communion elements

☐ Use a new method for collecting tithes and offerings

☐ Require social distancing in sanctuary seating

☐ Require members over three years of age to wear a mask during the service

☐ Prop doors open or have ushers hold doors open so people do not have to touch handles

☐ Provide hand sanitizer stations

☐ Discourage shaking hands, hugging and "high-fives"

5. If we began offering in-person worship soon, how likely is it that you would attend?

\_\_\_ I will attend the first opportunity we have

\_\_\_ I will return at the first opportunity but with some concerns and precautions.

\_\_\_ I will wait several additional weeks before I attend.

\_\_\_ I will return when there is an effective vaccine.

\_\_\_ It may be quite a while before I return.

\_\_\_ Not sure

6. If we began offering in-person worship soon, would you be comfortable bringing a relative or close friend who is in one of the higher risk groups?

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ Depends on the safety precautions that are in place

\_\_\_ No

7. If we began offering in-person worship soon, would you be comfortable bringing a child or grandchild?

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ Depends on the safety precautions that are in place

\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_ Does not apply

8. Which of the following activities are you either currently doing or currently willing to do? Check all that apply.

\_\_\_ Going to work in an essential job

\_\_\_ Going to work in a non-essential job

\_\_\_ Going to a grocery store

\_\_\_ Getting take-out or delivered food from a restaurant

\_\_\_ Eating out inside a restaurant

\_\_\_ Working out at a gym

\_\_\_ Getting a haircut

\_\_\_ Going to a store to shop for non-essential items

9. What is your age?

\_\_\_ Under 20

\_\_\_ 20 – 29

\_\_\_ 30 – 39

\_\_\_ 40 – 49

\_\_\_ 50 – 59

\_\_\_ 60 – 69

\_\_\_ 70 or older

10. How long have you been attending the Red Oak First United Methodist Church?

\_\_\_ I am new in 2020

\_\_\_ Less than 2 years

\_\_\_ 2 – 4 years

\_\_\_ 5 – 9 years

\_\_\_ 10 + years



# Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentence that begins and ends Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

FEAST  
KHAKI  
MOUTH  
ESSAY  
LLAMA  
ORBIT  
CARRY  
UDDER  
BRUSH  
ITEMS  
APPLE  
LEARN  
CIDER

A				



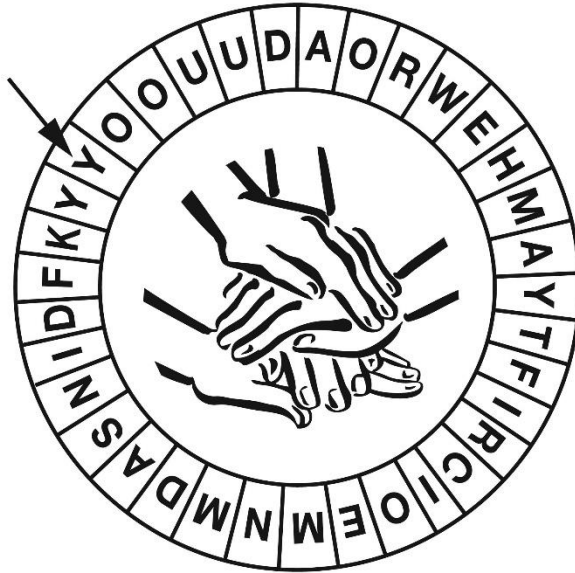
Answer:

\_\_\_\_\_!

Answer: Praise the Lord!

# Puzzle!

Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below to discover what Jesus says about his friends.



“ Y \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ”

JOHN 15:14, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command.” John 15:14, NIV