



A Word From the Pastor

Those in church on August 23rd would have noticed that the banners were changed, the creed and prayers are different, and the color is now green. What is going on? Why are do we have fall colors for the banners and green for the pulpit? Did the pastor lose his mind or is there a method to this madness? Well, there really is a reason and it is called Kingdomtide. Which simply begs the question, what is Kingdomtide and why is it so rarely celebrated?



Early in my ministry, I discovered that the old Methodist Episcopal Church along with the National Council of Churches celebrated the seasons of Pentecost and Kingdomtide. It was only in the 1970s that a move to have a season called Ordinary Time was pushed among the various denominations. The green was the color selected for Ordinary Time and stayed that way from June until November. For me, however, the older seasons of Pentecost and Kingdomtide not only fit the lectionary readings better but emphasized aspects of our faith that we need to be reminded of.

Just as Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter focus on the birth, life, and resurrection of Jesus, Pentecost focuses on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church and Kingdomtide focuses on the promise of Jesus' return. The reason there is a flame as art of the logo of the United Methodist Church is to emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church. It was the Holy Spirit that caused John Wesley's heart to be strangely warmed and it is the Spirit who empowers us to follow Jesus (see Romans 8). Taking only one day at Pentecost to teach about the Holy Spirit does not reflect the importance of the Spirit in the life of a Christian. It is during the summer that the readings in church focus on the gifts of the Spirit and life in the Spirit. Red not only celebrates the tongues of fire at Pentecost but also seems oddly appropriate during the hot days of a Texas Summer. And that is why I celebrate the Season of Pentecost for roughly three months, but why change to Kingdomtide in August?

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**** Reminder ****

****The Church office
will be closed**

September 7th

**** No MDS or SISD**

September 7th

**** UMW Meeting**

5PM

September 14th



A Word From the Pastor Continue

Kingdomtide remembers the promise that just as Jesus fulfilled the spring festivals of Passover (Last Supper), Feast of Unleavened Bread (Jesus in the tomb), First Fruits (Resurrection), and Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), one day Jesus will fulfill the fall festivals of Rosh Ha-Shanah (Trumpet Blast), Yom Kippur (Judgment), and Sukkot (Thanksgiving Feast). Jesus' fulfillment of these fall festivals are mentioned in both Thessalonians and Revelation. This is why All Saints and Thanksgiving are both celebrated in the fall. Until Jesus' return, we are to look forward to the coming Kingdom of God and thus it is named Kingdomtide. Although this period is in the fall when trees begin to lose their leaves, the green reminds us that there will be no end to Jesus' reign. The contrast between the fall colors and the green of spring stresses the importance of not giving up hope for Jesus' return but rather to have faith even when everything seems to be dying. And this is why we celebrate Kingdomtide, but why start in August?

In a consumer society where Halloween and Christmas decorations are already in the store, it seems that hanging banners about giving thanks is jumping the gun. The start of Kingdomtide, however, begins with a simple question, "Who do people say that I am?". This question which was asked by Jesus causes us to ask ourselves if we have lived our life according to the Master's plan. If Jesus returns today, are we living as subjects to the King or citizens of a man made world. Do we show more obedience to a political party or an economic agenda than we do to the Sermon on the Mount and the Commandment Jesus gave us? In preparation for the return of the King and the judgment to come, we must answer the serious question of who we proclaim Jesus is, not only in words, but in actions. This time of reflection which begins toward the end of August is answered before Thanksgiving on Christ the King Sunday. All of this reflection also prepares us for celebrating the first coming of Jesus at Christmas as we begin Advent the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

With the changing of the seasons, it feels appropriate to change the focus of the prayers and the creed to remind us of the reasons for the seasons. I hope this helps explain the rationale for the changes. In the end, all of these banners, colors, prayers, and creeds are meant to be a means by which you can more intimately experience God's grace in your life. If these aspects of worship bring you a deeper and richer sense of your place in God's plan then they are all worth it - for after all Christ is King!

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

September Birthday

Mike Friess 9/6

Nick Garza 9/6

Candy Nelson 9/6

Lauren Griffin 9/8

Lindsey Geske 9/8

Dennis Funderburgh 9/16

Susan McAlpine 9/16

Mark Brechin 9/19

Carol Love 9/25

Cathy Feinberg 9/28

METHODIST DAY SCHOOL EVENTS

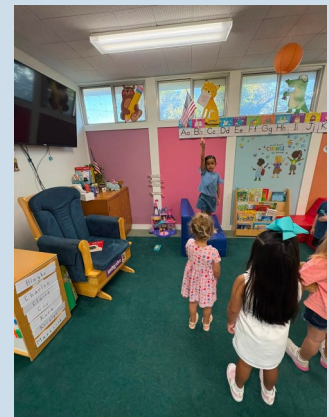
Summer is over and Methodist Day School is in full swing. We started the year with a lot of new faces and we are so blessed. 19 children and only 4 openings. Getting to know everyone is so much fun. Looking forward to September with our first event of the year, Grandparent's Breakfast, on September 14th. Can't wait to continue on our journey of learning and growing with our new friends and families.



If you or someone you know would like to reserve a spot, please feel free to contact and share the following information.

Patti Barker

512-635-4983



"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint"

Isaiah 40:31



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER!

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Comfort</i>	2 <i>MDS</i> <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i> <i>High School Youth @ Episcopal Church</i>	3	4 <i>SHS Bronco Football @ Sonora vs. Harper</i> SISD 3PM Dismissal	5 <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. McCamey</i> <i>SHS JV Bronco @Harper</i>
6 Open Door @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 No Youth Group	7 <i>No MDS</i> <i>No SISD</i> <i>Church Office closed</i>	8 <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Crane & Brady'</i> <i>FBC - Young Adult Small Group Begins</i>	9 <i>MDS</i> <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i> <i>FBC - STX Kids begins</i> <i>SMS XC @ Junction</i> <i>SHS XC @ Junction</i> <i>HS Team Jesus @ Episcopal Church</i>	10 <i>SMS Colt Football @ Eldorado</i> <i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Junction</i> <i>SHS JV Bronco @Eldorado</i>	11 <i>SHS Bronco Football @ Sonora vs. Eldorado</i> <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Bracketville</i> SISD 3PM Dismissal	12 <i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Sonora Tournament</i>
13 One Board Meeting @ 9:30 Worship @ 11 <i>Episcopal Church Parish Picnic</i>	14 <i>MDS - Grandparents Breakfast</i> <i>UMW Meeting @ 5PM</i> <i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Harper</i>	15 <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Miles</i>	16 <i>MDS</i> <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i> <i>No FBC Youth</i>	17 <i>SMS Colt Football @ Sonora vs. TLCA</i> <i>SHS JV Bronco @TLCA</i>	18 <i>SISD - Noon Release</i> <i>Homecoming Parade @ 2PM</i> <i>SHS Bronco Football @ Sonora vs. TLCA</i> <i>SHS XC @ Round Rock</i>	19 <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Water Valley</i>
20 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 All Youth Group Episcopal Church	21 <i>MDS</i> <i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Veribest</i>	22 <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Johnson City</i>	23 <i>MDS</i> <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i> <i>FBC - STX Kids</i> <i>SMS XC @ Mertzon</i> <i>SHS XC @ Mertzon</i> <i>Elementary School Pics</i> <i>HS Team Jesus—Episcopal Church</i>	24 <i>SMS Colt Football @ Sonora vs. Colorado City</i> <i>SHS JV Bronco @Colorado City</i>	25 SISD 3PM Dismissal <i>SHS Bronco Football @ Sonora vs. Colorado City</i> <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Center Point</i>	26
27 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 All Youth Group Episcopal Church	28 <i>No MDS</i> <i>No SISD</i> <i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Johnson City</i>	29 <i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Junction</i>	30 <i>MDS</i> <i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i> <i>FBC - STX Kids</i>			

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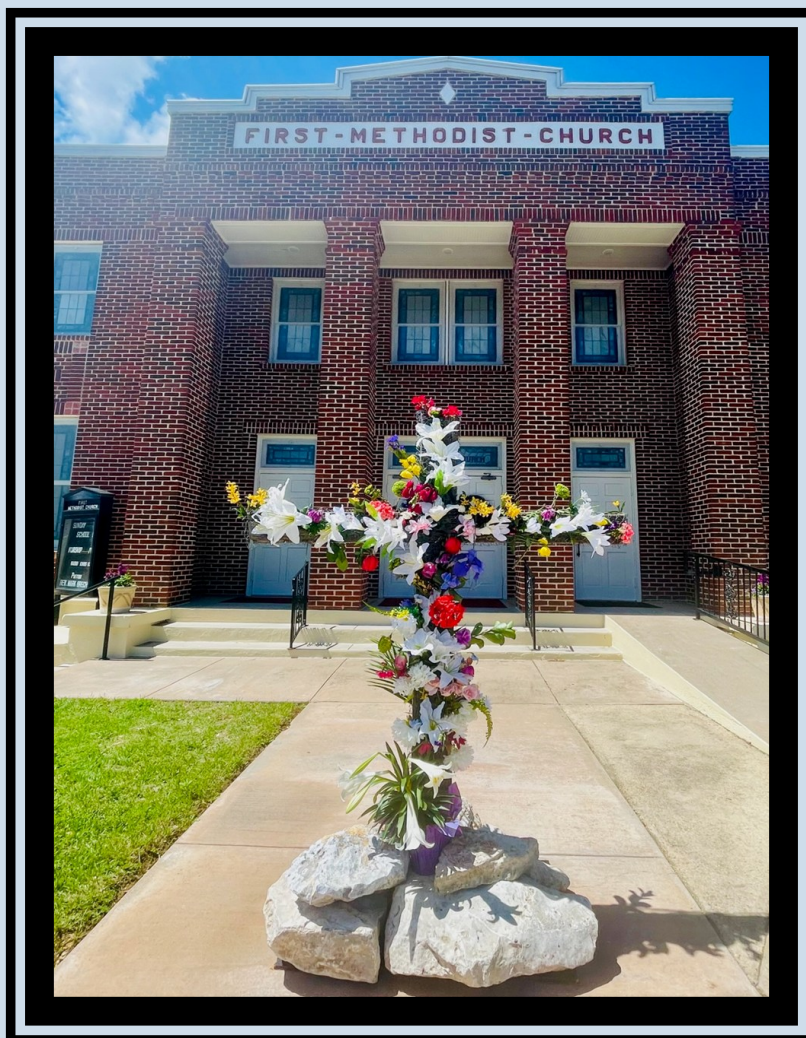
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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

OPEN DOOR SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 AM

*WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST AT 11:00 A.M.

SUNDAYS ON KHOS 92.1 AND KYXX 94.3*

FUMC SONORA STAFF

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