



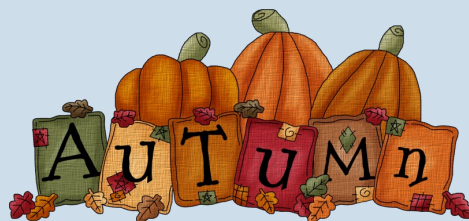
### A Word From the Pastor

October holds the promise of cooler weather and hopefully rain. It will be nice for what I call this James Taylor summer to be over (referring to the song lyrics, "I've seen fire and I've seen rain. I've seen sunny days that thought would never end.") Extreme weather is becoming the norm rather than the exception. For the first time since they started keeping track of hurricanes, there has not been an Atlantic storm before September 21st. There was a storm that formed in the Gulf but not the usual Atlantic storms. During the summer, I went to Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho expecting wet cool weather and found temperatures in the high 90s with wildfires all over. In Colorado, an ancient glacier is now melted away. Extreme weather is becoming the norm rather than the exception.

Activists like Greta Thunberg point to climate change caused by global industrialization. While a majority of scientists agree with this theory, there are others who would challenge their conclusions. Wherever the truth may lie, the fact is that the younger generation has noticed the radical weather and consider this issue as an existential crisis much like my generation viewed nuclear war. Therefore when my oldest went off to college and there was a series of webinars on how the UMC was responding to the crisis, I thought this would be a perfect father daughter bonding experience. Even though it was free and online, my daughter never found the time and I found my self in the middle of the UMC Creation Justice Movement. This was just the first stone in a path that God laid out that would eventually lead me to be the guest speaker at a clergy retreat in Salt Lake City this October. I still don't think they know what the got when they asked me to talk on creation care and spiritual geography. My views are not quite the same as those in Boston or Seattle.

Growing up with Boomer hippies for brothers and sisters, I was much more of an Alex Keaton type from the sitcom Family Ties. I have tried to avoid any kind of activism especially if it resembled the movements in the 60s. I tend to follow my conservative father who grew up during the Great Depression and fought in World War II. When he returned from the war, he started a career in traffic management in Houston which ended when my grandfather became ill in Beaumont. My grandfather had moved to Beaumont at the age of 11 one year after the Spindletop Oil Strike on January 10, 1901. My grandfather grew up in the oil patch becoming a wildcatter and later running a tank farm. When he became ill, my father moved back to Beaumont to close that business but started his own as a mud engineer serving the oil field in southeast Texas and Louisiana. This is not the background of someone who is a fossil free activist which so many in the Creation Justice Movement are.

*continued on Page 2...*



***\*\* Reminder \*\****

***\*\* UMW Meeting***

***5PM***

***October 5th***

***\*\*Pumpkin Patch\*\****

***October 14th - 16th***

***\*\*MDS Rummage Sale\*\****

***October 23rd***



## A Word From the Pastor Continue

At the same time, I have a deep love of God's creation which I have also found in rural communities who live off the land. My grandfather spent summers away from Beaumont with his uncle who learned about herbs and creation from a Chickasaw medicine man in northern Alabama. Later he and my grandmother would spend time in the Big Thicket about which she wrote a poem that was read in Congress when the Big Thicket became a National Reserve. My father grew up hunting and fishing to help put food on the table during the Depression. Later when he took me on Boy Scout trips, he taught me to respect and love creation. This was not a tree hugging and moon worshiping love but rather a deep appreciation for the lessons God reveals through nature and a respect for the power of creation. I find this same respect in those who have grown up on the land rather than in large cities.

So when God put my feet on that path, it was not as a creation activist but as a steward for the precious gift God has given us in and through creation. As a Christian, I find that part of being a disciple of Jesus is rooted in caring for God's gift of creation (Genesis 2:15, Romans 8:19, Revelation 11:18). The animals and the land in our care are truly the least of these since they are totally dependent upon our actions or in-actions. For example, the fish have no say when a Tesla plant dumps heavy metals into a creek north of Robstown. When pursuit of money places habitation in danger, then we are failing our children and grandchildren. We can and should do better. Every rancher and farmer knows this. It is time we started treat our Father's house with respect instead of turning it into another political cause or a program to gain younger members. Like I said, I'm not sure they are ready for my Eco-conservatism in Salt Lake but that is where I will be this October. Hopefully the weather will be cooler and wetter by then.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Mark*

### October Birthday

|                        |              |                       |              |                     |              |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| <i>Iris Garza</i>      | <i>10/4</i>  | <i>Danine Brister</i> | <i>10/6</i>  | <i>Libb Wallace</i> | <i>10/6</i>  |
| <i>Linda Burge</i>     | <i>10/7</i>  | <i>Tessa Love</i>     | <i>10/7</i>  | <i>Lenora Pool</i>  | <i>10/8</i>  |
| <i>Lolabeth Jones</i>  | <i>10/9</i>  | <i>Jim Garrett</i>    | <i>10/10</i> | <i>John Wade</i>    | <i>10/10</i> |
| <i>Vance Powers</i>    | <i>10/12</i> | <i>Melinda Powers</i> | <i>10/18</i> | <i>Tom Payton</i>   | <i>10/22</i> |
| <i>Bridget Wardlaw</i> | <i>10/24</i> | <i>Chace Wardlaw</i>  | <i>10/25</i> |                     |              |

# METHODIST DAY SCHOOL EVENTS

September has flown by in a blink. But, before it did, we celebrated Grandparent's Day with a special breakfast honoring them on September 14th. Grandparents are such a blessing in our lives and we were so thankful to have the opportunity to honor them and those who stepped in for them. We enjoyed food, conversation and a lot of laughter. With a full house it was such an amazing event for all who attended.

Next up will be fall festivities. Cooler weather and exciting events. Fire Safety, Pumpkin Patch, Red Ribbon Week and of course Halloween.

We cant wait!



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**



**"So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. "**

**Romans 10:17**

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER!

| SUN                                                                                | MON                                                                                                        | TUES                                                                                                                            | WEDS                                                                                                                                                                                                    | THURS                                                                                                                                                   | FRI                                                                                                                                                    | SAT                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                    |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1<br><i>SMS Football @ Christoval</i><br><i>SHS JV Bronco @ Sonora</i><br><i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Johnson City</i>                                     | 2<br><i>SHS Bronco Football @ Sonora vs. Christoval</i><br><b>SISD 3PM Dismissal</b><br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Harper</i>               | 3<br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. McCamey</i><br><i>SHS JV Bronco @ Harper</i><br><i>SHS XC @ Lubbock</i><br><i>SHS Band @ San Angelo</i> |
| 4<br>Open Door @ 9:45AM<br>Worship @ 11                                            | 5<br><i>MDS - Fire Safety Week</i><br><i>UMW Meeting @ 5PM</i><br><i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Centerpoint</i> | 6<br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. TLCA - SR Night</i><br><i>FBC - Young Adult Small</i><br><i>SES Open House 5-6PM</i> | 7<br><i>MDS - Fire Safety Week</i><br><i>FBC - STX Kids</i><br><i>SMS XC @ Mason</i><br><i>SHS XC @ Mason JV only</i><br><i>HS Team Jesus @ Episcopal Church</i><br><i>Fields of Faith @ San Angelo</i> | 8<br><i>Ladies Craft Night @ FBC</i>                                                                                                                    | 9<br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Johnson City</i><br><b>SISD - 3PM Dismissal</b>                                                             | 10                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11<br>One Board Meeting @ 9:30<br>Worship @ 11                                     | 12<br><i>MDS</i>                                                                                           | 13<br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Centerpoint</i><br><i>FBC - Young Adult Small</i><br><i>Pumpkin Patch - Set Up</i>             | 14<br><i>MDS - Pumpkin Patch</i><br><i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i><br><i>HS Team Jesus @ Episcopal Church</i><br><i>SMS XC @ Mason - District</i><br><i>SHS XC @ Mason</i><br><i>Pumpkin Patch</i>            | 15<br><i>SMS Colt Football @ Sonora vs. Ozona</i><br><i>SHS JV Bronco @ Ozona</i><br><i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Sonora</i><br><i>Pumpkin Patch - SISD</i> | 16<br><b>SISD - 3PM Dismissal</b><br><i>SHS Bronco Football @ Sonora vs. Ozona</i><br><i>SHS XC @ Round Rock</i><br><i>Pumpkin Patch - Public Sale</i> | 17<br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Junction</i><br><i>SHS Band @ San Angelo</i>                                                           |
| 18<br>Open Door Study @ 9:45AM<br>Worship @ 11<br>All Youth Group Episcopal Church | 19<br><i>MDS</i><br><i>SMS Lady Colt Vball @ Sonora</i>                                                    | 20<br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Harper</i><br><i>FBC - Young Adult Small</i>                                                   | 21<br><i>MDS</i><br><i>Bible Study @ 5PM</i><br><i>Family Night @ FBC</i><br><i>SHS XC @ Mertzon</i><br><i>Elementary School Pics</i><br><i>HS Team Jesus—Episcopal Church</i>                          | 22<br><i>SMS Colt Football @ Reagan Co.</i><br><i>SHS JV Bronco @ Sonora</i>                                                                            | 23<br><b>SISD - 3PM Dismissal</b><br><i>SHS Bronco Football @ Reagan Co.</i><br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Center Point</i>                 | 24<br><i>SHS Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Christoval</i><br><i>Women's Conference @ Brushy Top Cowboy Church</i>                                 |
| 25<br>Open Door Study @ 9:45AM<br>Worship @ 11<br>All Youth Group Episcopal Church | 26<br><i>MDS - Red Ribbon Week</i><br><i>SHS XC @ Regionals @ Lubbock</i>                                  | 27<br><i>FBC - Young Adult Small</i>                                                                                            | 28<br><i>MDS - Red Ribbon Week/ Halloween Parties</i><br><i>No STX Kids @ FBC</i><br><i>SISD - Noon Dismissal</i>                                                                                       | 29<br><i>SMS Colt Football @ Sonora vs. Ballinger</i><br><i>SHS JV Bronco @ Ballinger</i>                                                               | 30<br><b>SISD - 3PM Dismissal</b><br><i>SHS Bronco Football @ Sonora vs. Ballinger</i>                                                                 | 31<br><i>SHS Band @ Lubbock</i>                                                                                                                    |

**CIRCUIT RIDER IS PUBLISHED BY :**

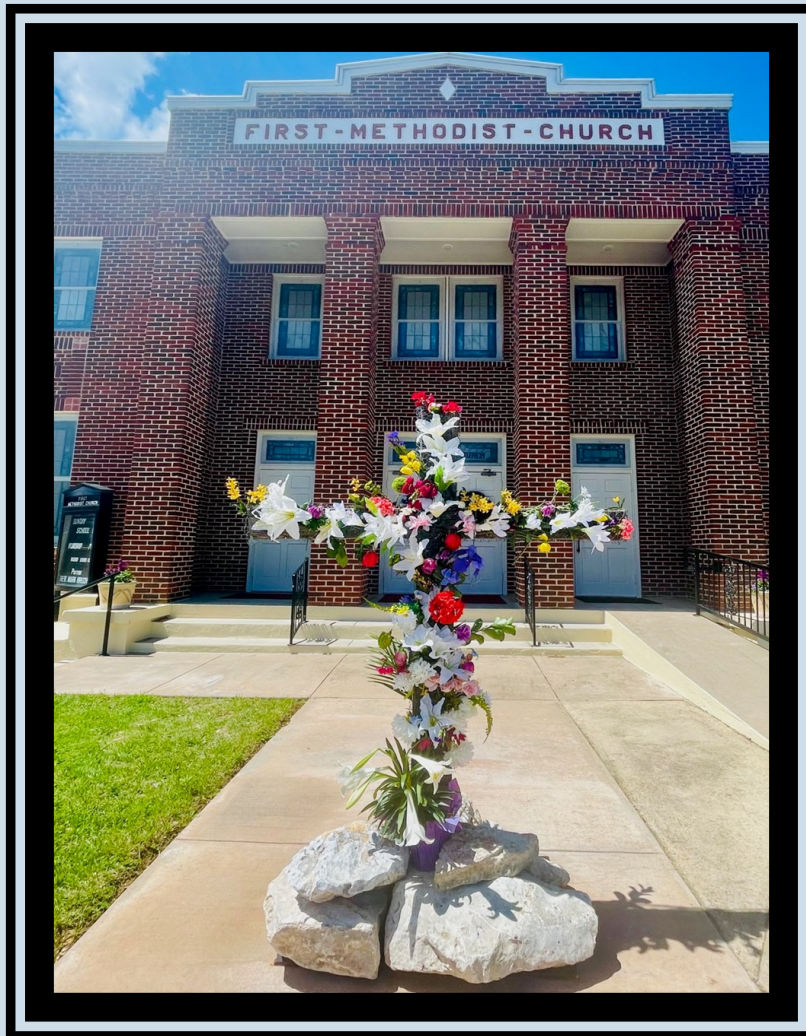
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**PO Box 675**

**SONORA, TX 76950**

**PHONE: (325) 387-2466**

**WWW.SONORAFUMC.COM**



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

OPEN DOOR SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 AM

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

**FUMC SONORA STAFF**

**REV. MARK BRECHIN— PASTOR**

**VIRGIL BURGE— ONE BOARD CHAIR**

**PATTI BARKER— MDS DIRECTOR**

**DARRELL BARKER— CUSTODIAN**

**KENDRA VYVLECKA—**

**FINANCE SECRETARY AND**

**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**