

CIRCUIT RIDER



MARCH EDITION
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

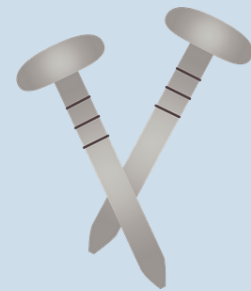
A Word From the Pastor

March can seem like a month that is not sure what it wants to be. There are moments of extreme storms, followed by beautiful spring like days. We are in the middle of Lent and denial, there are Irish parades and Spring Break trips. I must admit that I never had one of those Spring Break memories growing up. My dad would always find work for me to do or a camping trip with the Boy Scouts to go on. Idle hands and fun parties with friends was not really in my father's vocabulary. The closest I got were those camping trip with the scouts. Those trips developed within me a deep love for nature and for the Native American culture. It is not surprising that I serve as Creation Care coordinator and as a co-chair of Native American Ministries for the Rio Texas Annual Conference. As the co-chair, I will be going to the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference this year for Spring Break. So how did this boy from Beaumont end up on a committee for Native American Ministries?

One of the regrets that occurs with age is realizing more attention should have been paid to family stories that were told during your childhood. Often like a piece of art, stories only reveal their true value after the storyteller has died. These family stories provide a root to identity and stability during difficult times. The main stories that are remembered are often the ones that were very funny or very sad. It is only later in life that the value of the ordinary stories of daily life become important.

The one story I do remember was when my grandmother's sister would tease my grandmother about the "Indian Princess" in their family. Like many family tall tales, DNA testing proved this was false. What I did learn, however, was the influence of various native tribes on the lives of my grandparents. During the summer as a boy, my dad's father spent time with his uncle in Alabama learning about native plants and hunting. When his uncle was a boy, a medicine man from a local Cherokee tribe "kidnapped" him during the summer and taught him the native ways of reading nature. During that same time, my mother's grandfather was being taught about herbs from a native tribe that spent their summers on the river near their home in Canada.

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2 Timothy 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline

UMW Meeting

March 2nd

5PM



A Word From the Pastor Continue

While much of those teachings were lost to the generations, much of my childhood was spent in long walks through the big thicket woods of east Texas. It seemed normal to learn animal tracks, the benefits and harms of certain plants, and how to be in nature while being fully aware of both the beauty and danger. As scouting continued to add to this practice, trips began to lead west to new environments and different native traditions. Summers spent in New Mexico provided a deep appreciation for the native culture of the southwest. By participating in Pow Wows through scouting and traveling to different historic sites, this appreciation for all the native cultures represented in the United States only deepened. This appreciation is deeply linked to an appreciation for God's creation and a call to stewards of that creation. While the stereo types talk about cowboys and indians, both cultures are rooted to the land and the fruit of the land from cattle to buffalo, from corn to wheat.

Being a proud pastor of rural churches and my family history, working with Native American Ministries and Creation Care is a natural fit. The voice I bring is not rooted in climate crisis or some romanticized view of native cultures. Instead, creation is grounded in discipleship and native ministries is based on the command to love our neighbor. This Spring Break is an opportunity to do both while representing the view of rural communities. The church, however, will not be abandoned that Sunday but instead a country gospel group will provide a special worship opportunity on March 15th .

May you and your family enjoy Spring Break and find blessings the Lenten season.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Zack Kerbow 3/3

Hanna Blesing 3/3

Elizabeth Griffin 3/4

Izzy Love 3/6

Carolina Brechin 3/10

Kay Bosch 3/15

Cliff Brister 3/20

Weston Fisher 3/30

METHODIST DAY SCHOOL EVENTS

February was a fun month for the MDS students and teachers. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a pizza party on February 11th. The kids enjoyed crafts, cookies, candy and a Valentine card exchange. It is always fun to watch the kids on party days. So much energy!

Since February is Dental Health Awareness month our teachers used crafts and stories to teach the kids all about dental hygiene. On Wednesday, February 25th, Mrs. Lauren Bates from Sonora Dentistry came by to teach us about good brushing techniques, general dental health and why it's good to visit your dentist.

Looking forward to March, warmer weather and Spring Break!



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"

Philippians 4:13

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH!

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11	2 MDS UMW Meeting @ 5PM SHS Boys Golf @ Comfort	3 SHS Softball @ Sonora vs. Brady SHS Baseball @ Hawley	4 MDS Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm Lenten Lunch @ Episcopal Church SHS Girls Golf @ Comfort	5 SHS Track @ Ozona	6 SHS Softball @ Sonora vs. Ozona SHS Baseball @ Llano SISD - 3PM Dismissal SHS Team Tennis @ Abilene SMS Track @ Ozona	7 SHS Team Tennis @ Abilene SHS Girls Powerlifting @ Big Lake Regional Meet
8 One Board Meeting @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11	9 MDS SHS Baseball @ MCHS SHS Boys Golf @ Bandera	10 SHS Softball @ Eldorado FFA @ Houston	11 MDS Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm Lenten Lunch @ Episcopal Church FFA @ Houston SHS Girls Golf @ Comfort	12 FFA @ Houston SHS JV Tennis @ Reagan Co SMS Track @ Eldorado	13 SHS Softball @ Sonora vs. Miles SISD - 3PM Dismissal SHS Varsity Tennis @ Reagan Co SHS Boys Golf @ Comfort SHS Track @ San Angelo	14 FFA @ Houston SHS Baseball @ Miles SHS Boys Powerlifting @ Kingsville SHS Track @ San Angelo
15 Jason Couch & Revival @ 11AM FFA @ Houston	16 <i>SISD - Spring Break</i> MDS - Spring Break FFA @ Houston	17 <i>SISD - Spring Break</i> MDS - Spring Break FFA @ Houston	18 <i>SISD - Spring Break</i> MDS - Spring Break FFA @ Houston SHS Girls Powerlifting @ Edinburg	19 <i>SISD - Spring Break</i> MDS - Spring Break FFA @ Houston SHS Track @ Brownwood	20 <i>SISD - Spring Break</i> MDS - Spring Break FFA @ Houston	21 FFA @ Houston
22 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 Youth @ Episcopal Church FFA @ Houston	23 MDS SHS Boys Golf @ San Angelo	24 SHS Softball @ C-City SHS Baseball @ C-City SMS Track @ Reagan Co.	25 MDS Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm Lenten Lunch @ Episcopal Church FFA @ Glen Rose	26 FFA @ Tarleton SHS JV Tennis @ Ozona	27 SHS Softball @ Christoval SHS Baseball @ Christoval SISD - 3PM Dismissal FFA @ West TX CDE SHS Varsity-Tennis @ Ozona	28 SHS Boys Powerlifting @ Abilene State Meet SHS Track @ Crane SMS Tennis @ Sonora
29	30 MDS	31 SHS Boys Golf @ San Angelo				

In Concert At

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, March 15th • 11:00 a.m.

201 N. Water Ave. • Sonora, TX

ERNIE COUCH & REVIVAL



Follow Ernie, Memphis and Jason on Facebook  and at www.erniecouchandrevival.com

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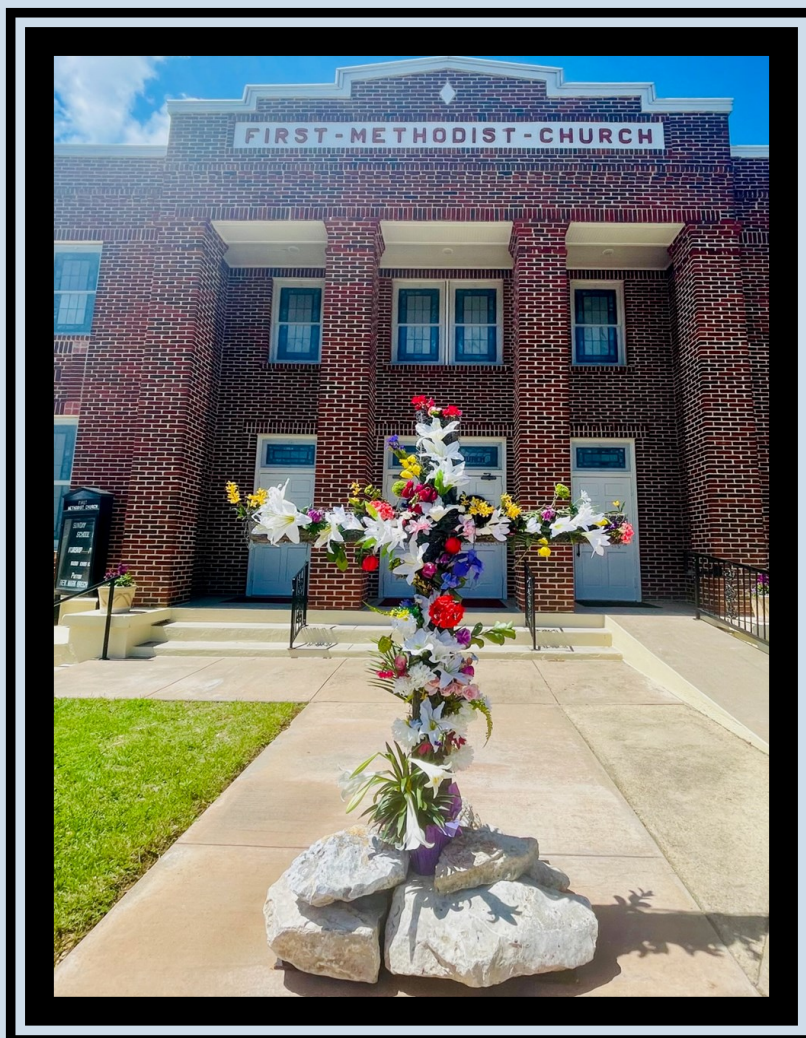
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHILDREN'S NURSERY	9:30 AM
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

REV. MARK BRECHIN— PASTOR
DONNA HILL— ADMIN COUNCIL CHAIR
PATTI BARKER— MDS DIRECTOR
DARRELL BARKER— CUSTODIAN
KENDRA VYVLECKA—
FINANCE SECRETARY AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR