



A Word From the Pastor

While January may be officially starts the calendar year, for many August begins the year. During the summer, people are either vacationing or moving to their new jobs. With the start of school in August, the moves are over and everyone settles in for the new year including pastors. I have the pleasure of spending another year in Sonora. There is quite literally no where else I would rather be at this time in my life. Next year, when my children have launched into their careers (hopefully), it may mean that a move is in order to be closer to my family but that is true for most people. As I face this new year, I am filled with hope and joy.

Arriving in Sonora four years ago, the church had been on hold since Covid. Before I could fully get the church back running, the issue of disaffiliation sucked the energy out of the entire denomination. In order to get the church back on track and re-empower the congregation, a simple board structure was proposed this time last year and implemented in January. This model has turned out even better than I imagined. The congregation members have stepped up in a big way for the good of their church. Financially, donations have helped to stabilize our long term position and the accounting method and presentation has finally reached the point that I seen in other churches. The trustees and members are taking a greater interest in the regular maintenance and repairs that were common before the shutdown. As policies are reviewed and ministries are enhanced, I feel that this year will see a stronger and better positioned church than four years ago.

The goal of the church, however, is not the administration of Stephen but the evangelism of Paul. We are called to spread the Good News by being a means of God's grace in our church, in our community, and in our world. The church is a means of grace by supporting and encouraging our members through phone calls, home visits, birthday cards, church dinners, bible studies, and other ideas members may have. While the pastor is involved, the church is a family and all the members are responsible for each other. The church is a means of grace by showing God's love in the community through Methodist Day School, Lenten lunches, pumpkin patch, Fellowship of Christian Students lunches, backpacks, Sunday morning radio, Angel tree, and hot chocolate on the square.

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**** Reminder ****

We will once again be collecting for Backpacks for the Elementary School.

Please contact the office if you would like to make a donation towards this great cause.



A Word From the Pastor Continue

While the number and age of our membership may mean that certain projects that were done in the past are no longer feasible, there are other opportunities that simply need someone to speak up and say, "Let's do this". The church is also a means of grace in the world through our apportionment payments and the pastor's ministries. The United Methodist Church is actively present during disasters as well as in places with the greatest needs. While the apportionment payments feel at times like a membership tax, the ministries go to spread the word of God to places we could not go on our own. In the upcoming newsletters, this article will be dedicated to going beyond the payments and focus on where the money goes, who it helps, and how much we help. If you have been to church or in one of the bible studies, it may seem like we are not reaching many people but through the pastor's YouTube channel and our Facebook streaming, the word of God is being proclaimed at times around the world with views at times in the hundreds.

Paul reminds us that each community is the Body of Christ with its own unique gifts and graces. As membership changes over time in a church these gifts and graces also change in order to meet new needs in the community. A church can and should never be what it was because it's members and the community it serves is not the same. A church that tries to do things "the way we always did it" soon finds that it is no longer important to the community and it drains resources because the talent is no longer available. As a living Body, however, the church is always changing and always seeking God's will at this time and in this place with the people and resources God has called together. This is when ministry becomes a means of grace. As the administrative side becomes easier for the one board, God will begin to reveal new and innovative ways to be a means of grace to each other, the community, and the world. I look forward to see what opportunities God presents for the Body of Christ known as Sonora FUMC. Thank you for allowing me to join you for this adventure.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

August Birthday

<i>Kelbi Blesing</i>	<i>8/6</i>	<i>Joe David Ross</i>	<i>8/6</i>
<i>David Feinberg</i>	<i>8/9</i>	<i>Sam Kent</i>	<i>8/14</i>
<i>Linda Fisher</i>	<i>8/21</i>	<i>Darrell Barker</i>	<i>8/24</i>
<i>Patti Barker</i>	<i>8/25</i>	<i>Linda Cahill</i>	<i>8/25</i>
<i>Sharon Holman</i>		<i>8/31</i>	

METHODIST DAY SCHOOL EVENTS

Summertime is flying by and we are getting ready for Back to School. We have missed everyone and look forward to seeing all the smiling faces.

Some dates to Remember:

August 14th Meet the Teacher

10:00AM to 11:30AM

August 17th First Day of School

8:00AM to 4:00PM

Currently we have the following openings:

Toddler Class - 4 openings

Three's Class - 1 opening

Pre K Class - 5 openings

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



"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST!

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Open Door @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 Church Luncheon	3	4 Teacher Workday	5 Teacher Workday	6 Teacher Workday	7 Teacher Workday Lady Bronco Vball @ Sterling City Scrimmage	8 Lady Bronco Vball @ Central Scrimmage
9 One Board Meeting @ 9:30 Worship @ 11	10 Teacher Workday	11 Teacher Workday Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Del Rio SISD - Meet the Teacher 5-6PM	12 Teacher Workday	13 SISD School Begins	14 SISD 3PM Dismissal MDS - Meet the Teacher Lady Bronco Vball @ Veribest Sutton Co. Days	15 Lady Bronco Vball @ Veribest Sutton Co. Days
16 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11	17 MDS - Classes Begin	18 Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora vs. Sterling City & Colorado City	19 MDS	20 Lady Bronco Vball @ Lubbock	21 SISD 3PM Dismissal Lady Bronco Vball @ Lubbock	22 Lady Bronco Vball @ Lubbock
23/30 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11	24/31 MDS Lady Colt VBall @ Johnson City - 24th Lady Colt VBall @ Centerpoint- 24th	25 Lady Bronco Vball @ Ballinger	26 MDS	27 Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora - West Tx Fest JV Bronco Football @ Sonora vs. Miles	28 SISD 3PM Dismissal Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora - West Tx Fest Bronco Football @ Miles	29 Lady Bronco Vball @ Sonora - West Tx Fest

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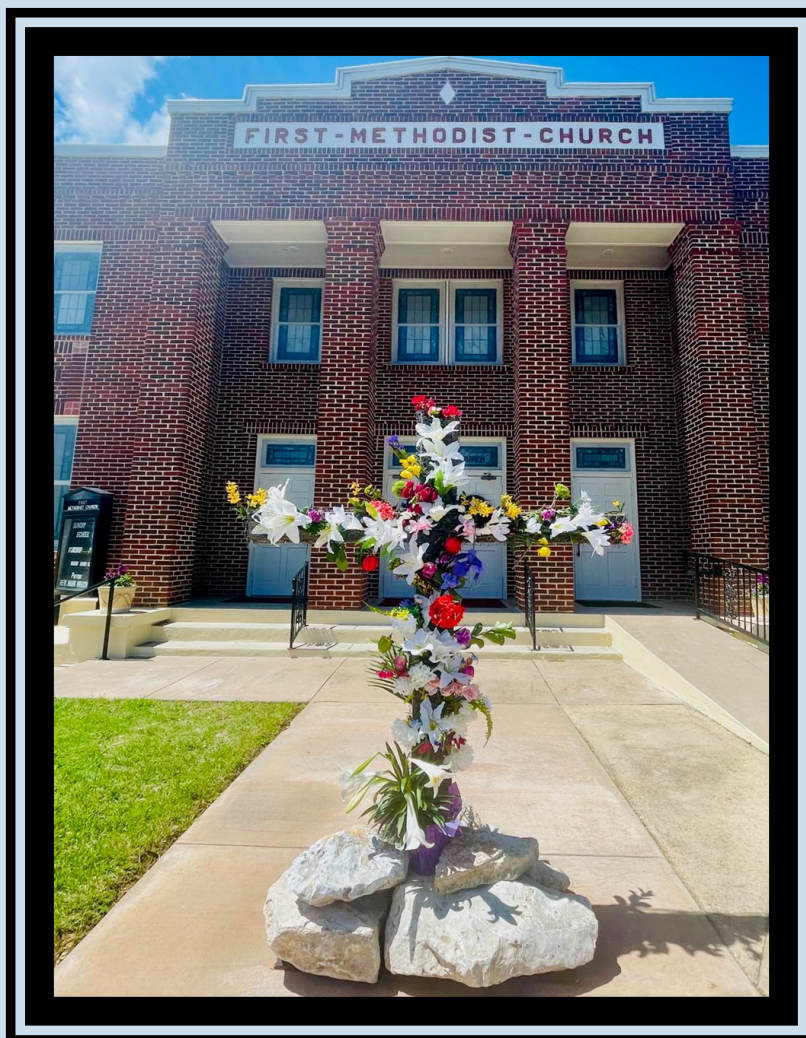
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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

REV. MARK BRECHIN— PASTOR

VIRGIL BURGE— ONE BOARD CHAIR

PATTI BARKER— MDS DIRECTOR

DARRELL BARKER— CUSTODIAN

KENDRA VYVLECKA—

FINANCE SECRETARY AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR