

Rejoice in hope,
Be patient in tribulation,
Be constant in prayer.

ROMANS 12:12



First United Methodist Church

P. O. Box 352 - 206 S. Dowling - Hallettsville, TX 77964
Office: (361)798-2650 E-mail: hfumc@sbcglobal.net www.hallettsvillefumc.org

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:40 a.m.

MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship): Wednesday - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

"Helping God Make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World"

**The July/August
issue of Upper Room
is available. Please
call or email the
church office and we
can put one out by
the church office
door.**

My dad died almost 7 years ago. I loved my dad. All of us kids loved him. And we all know he loved us. He had suffered with a variety of mysterious ailments for several years before a gifted neurologist finally put the pieces together. Dad died of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). The diagnosis came only in his last few weeks.



I have shared how much I always loved having long philosophical and theological conversations with Dad. Dad's first degree was in German and Philosophy. His mentors urged him to become a professor. He knew his stuff.

But he just didn't feel called to go the academic route. Instead he made the decision to pursue a master's in religious education which led to his life's work.

I will be forever grateful for the time he came to stay with me for several days in the last months of his life. We talked constantly. We talked politics, and theology, and the mysteries of life. He shared stories of his childhood that I had never heard before. He shared how much he loved our mom and how lucky he felt to have married her.

After a short stint in the nursing home, he was able to go back home for his last days. The folks from hospice were such a blessing. After a tough couple of days,

OUR PRAYER LIST

Howard Aiken
 Marguerite Azemia
 Dawn Baird
 Marc Baker
 JoAnn Baker & Family
 CB
 Claude Barnes
 Doris Barnes
 Mary Ann Berger
 Beverly Blahuta
 Mary Jane & Wes Blum
 Camilla
 Rev. Gricelda Carreaga
 Rev. Javier Carreaga
 John Carpenter
 Annie Cerny
 Fayrene Clark
 Jill Cluiss
 Colors of Hope Ministry
 Frank Coker
 Larry & Samia Coker
 DSC
 Mike & Rhonda Derrick
 DeWayne Dixon
 Holly Dixon
 Denise Drozd Family
 Robert Eaton
 Gina E.
 Anna Ruth Evans
 Debbie Fishbeck
 Bernie Fitch
 Mary Ann Flessner
 Greg
 Bob & Fannie Griffith
 Gary & Edith Hastings
 Jeremy Henke
 Logan Herrington
 Billy & Bobbie Hobbs
 Mark Hopper
 RH
 Sweet Hrcir
 Family of Stephen Hunter
 Landra Immenhauser
 Gary Janak
 Lindsey & Travis Jahn
 Dawn Jansky
 Henrietta Jansky
 BJ
 The Jones Ministry at TAMUK
 Lane
 Kostelnik Family
 Rhonda Lee
 Evelyn Lishinski
 JM
 Maryah
 Monica Maddox
 Pastor Melanie & Family
 Matthew & family
 Tyler Mazac
 Brian McKalip
 Dustin Metting
 Jonell Miears
 Mildred
 Kathryn Lee Miller
 Mom
 Anna Marie Monroe

he started to relax, to laugh, and to talk, and to enjoy his life. That very night he went home to God, at peace.

After dad died - after all the busyness involved in helping probate his estate was finally done - I really missed him. I found myself longing for some little sign of his presence. For several months there was nothing. Until...

Let me say - I do not speak German. But one day I kept hearing a little German phrase repeating over and over in my mind. The phrase was: "*ich liebe dich, ich liebe dich*". All I knew was it was German. But I couldn't remember what it meant. Dad did speak German. His dad spoke German. I kept wishing one of them were here to translate.

Finally, I realized all I had to do was put the words in Google. I did that and asked it to translate to English. "Ich liebe dich" means "I love you". And, without hesitation, I thought to myself - Ich liebe dich too Dad. Ich liebe dich.

I believe with my whole heart that these words were God's way of offering me comfort in a time of sadness and grief, when my world was turned upside down.

As we have been experiencing a surge of coronavirus cases all around us, these words have been coming to me again. "Ich liebe dich." And to this I respond: "Ich liebe dich" too Dad. "Ich liebe dich" too God. Thank you for the reminder that you are with me! Thank you for your encouragement!!

In Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) we are reminded that this is exactly how God works: "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

I pray for God's shield of protection to surround you and your family and your loved ones and our community and beyond. I pray that you too will find signs of God's encouraging presence every time you need it!

Blessings and love dear ones,

Pastor Melanie

Administrative Board Meeting Highlights – April/May (via Zoom)

- Physical street address mail delivery established due to ongoing problem of mail and deliveries being returned to sender. Mailbox has been installed. P. O. Box service will continue.
- SPRC Committee recommended by email the hiring of Mike Loewe for lawn maintenance. Budget amended. Approved by email.
- Recommendation was made to the board to proceed with Vanco for e-giving. Approved by email.
- SPRC Committee made email recommendation to continue paying all workers during COVID-19 time away from the church building. Approved by email.
- Discussion was held on Easter Lilies and Poinsettias.
- Motion made and approved to accept bid from Resendiz Painting for painting of office area hallway, restrooms, parlor, entryway and sanctuary door and also the refinishing/staining of main church doors.
- Amendment made to painting estimate to include an additional amount for replacement of baseboards in the sanctuary. Approved.
- Motion made and approved to accept bid from SteamTex for carpet cleaning in sanctuary, offices, parlor and choir room.
- Rentals of Fellowship Hall and Annex are currently on hold. Relaunch Committee will meet every two weeks to make recommendation on reopening.
- Foundation met and determined donations for the year.

Michael and Missy Packebusch
 Family of Marilyn Patlovany
 Jack Powell
 Al Ringo
 Ted Rodgers
 Ryan
 Sarah
 Sheila Saunders
 Sandra Scott
 Karen Seuser & Family
 Sierra
 Cate Siragusa
 Brenley Dru Sitka
 Martha Sitka
 Mary Jane Swope
 Maxine Tankersley
 Laurence Teaff
 Pam Teetes
 James Thacker
 Cheryl Thacker
 Abby Tracy
 Trouble (MP)
 Family of Warner Vanderhuel
 Vic
 Avery Wagner
 Diana Weise
 Don & Claudia Williams
 Betty Williams
 Lauren Wilson & family
 Family of Ellen Wundt
 Louise Wysatta
 Xzedias Family

New Additions:
 Higgins Family
 Henry Pohl

DO I NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

@Mashable



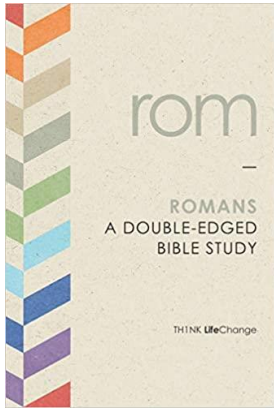
Worship Service Schedule

*Zoom or in-person **in-person only

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please contact another person in the rotation to take your place.

| | *Greeter | *Liturgist | *R. Reader | **A/V System | *Acolytes & Prayer Leaders | **Flower Chart |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| July | | | | | | |
| 5 | M.A. Defibaugh | R. Housley | R. Walker | Jansky Family | L. & G. Parvin | D. Barnes |
| 12 | S. Housley | D. Nance | D. Jansky | Tullos Family | Q. DeLaRosa & L. Parvin | Z. Walker |
| 19 | D. Repka | L. Dyer | D. Phillips | Marak Family | T. & D. Phillips | L. & V. Dyer |
| 26 | B.J. Metzler | K. Marak | S. Walker | Sitka Family | L. & W. Kram | T. & A. Tullos |
| Aug | | | | | | |
| 2 | N. Hunter | R. Lundy | E. Davenport | Jansky Family | K. & A. Caldwell | R. & H. Lundy |
| 9 | B. Williams | B. Nance | L. Lundy | Tullos Family | L. & G. Parvin | D. & D. Jansky |
| 16 | B. & E. Pakebusch | R. Housley | G. Parvin | Marak Family | Q. DeLaRosa & L. Parvin | R. & K. Steffek |
| 23 | D. Hopper | D. Nance | D. Jansky | Sitka Family | T. & D. Phillips | OPEN |
| 30 | A. Vickers | L. Dyer | W. Kram | Jansky Family | L. & W. Kram | OPEN |
| Sept | | | | | | |
| 6 | E. Hastings | K. Marak | J. Davenport | Tullos Family | K. & A. Caldwell | OPEN |
| 13 | H. Sadler | R. Lundy | R. Marak | Marak Family | L. & G. Parvin | M. Defibaugh |
| 20 | M. A. Defibaugh | B. Nance | R. Walker | Sitka Family | Q. DeLaRosa & L. Parvin | S. Menking |
| 27 | S. Housley | R. Housley | K. Caldwell | Jansky Family | T. & D. Phillips | K. Rosamond |

Note: Flower Chart reminders will only be sent through regular mail to those who don't receive emails.



Bible Study with Pastor Melanie

Our next Bible Study will begin on Tuesday July 14, from 5:30pm-7pm on Zoom. We will be studying the book of Romans.

The book of Romans is often described as a "short-course" in the Christian faith. You will find this study a blessing.

You are welcome to order your own book, OR, call or email the church office by Monday, July 6, so we can order it for you.

Summertime and the giving is easy

Visit www.hallettsvillefumc.org and select "give to HFUMC" to set up recurring contributions!

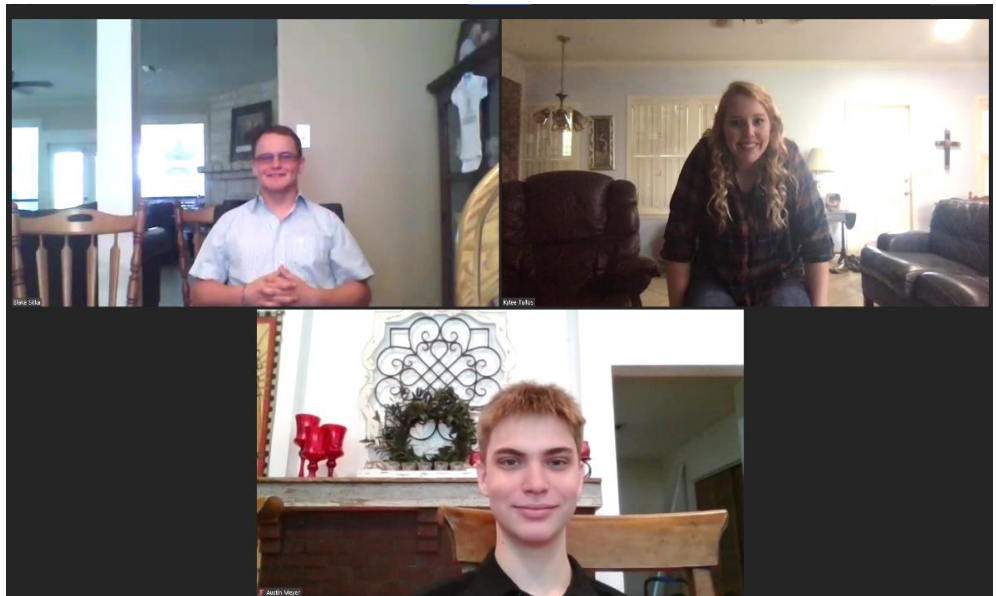


Traveling this Summer?

You can also give through our mobile app ~ download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play and search for our church by name or ZIP code. It's just that easy!

Our 2020 High School Graduates

We celebrated our graduates ~ Austin Meyer, Blake Sitka and Kylee Tullos ~ during Zoom worship on Sunday, May 17. They were presented scholarships/gifts from the Foundation, Methodist Women, Methodist Youth Fellowship and the Disciples Sunday School Class. We wish these young folks all the best as they start this next stage of their life's journey.



ENCOURAGEMENT

We asked you to share a picture, a poem or a song that inspires you

R.C. Lumpkin - I encourage all to listen to Cochran & Co song entitled "Church/(Take me Back). My current favorite on KSBJ. It simply states..."I wanna go to church"... Take a listen and you'll see why I like this message, as we miss our FUMC-Hallettsville.

Church (Take Me Back) by Cochran & Co

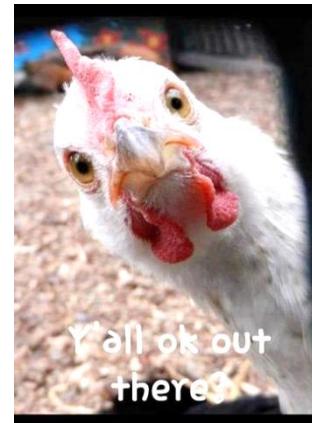
There was a time that I swore I
would never go back
I was blind to the truth,
didn't know what I had
I was running, I was searching
But every place
I turned for healing
Left me more broken
than the last

Take me back
To the place that feels like home
To the people I can depend on
To the faith that's in my bones
Take me back
To a preacher and a verse
Where they've seen me
at my worst
To the love I had at first
Oh, I want to go to church

Tried to walk on my own but I
wound up lost
Now I'm making my way to the
foot of the cross
It's not a trophy for the winners
It's a shelter for the sinners
And it's right where I belong

Take me back
To the place that feels like home
To the people I can depend on
To the faith that's in my bones
Take me back
To a preacher and a verse...

Diane Repka



Larry & JoAnn Selph - new addition - Gretel



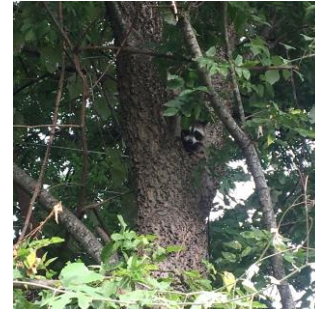
Tim & Helen Sadler - A bit of love for these times!



Pastor Melanie - 90-year-old uncle



Raccoon headed for rest after a busy night. Taken by Pastor Melanie's son-in-law.



Anne & Verne Brenton - Sunrise over the Chesapeake Bay!



Our busy feeder



Darla looking cute!



David & Sandra Aiken - Helping at the Manna Food Pantry during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Pastor Melanie - We celebrated my Uncle's 90th birthday with a Zoom party. You can see him in the last row second picture down. He was thrilled to see everyone and to visit! His only complaint was that he is mostly deaf



Worship at FUMC Hallettsville

As promised, we held our first live worship service on Sunday, June 7. The sanctuary and office and classroom area had just been painted fresh. The carpets had just been cleaned. We invited folks 65 and older and those who have not been able to worship on Zoom to come. Each person was greeted on the sidewalk with masks if needed, hand sanitizer and a temperature check. Pews and chairs were set up to ensure social distancing of 6 feet or more between household groups.

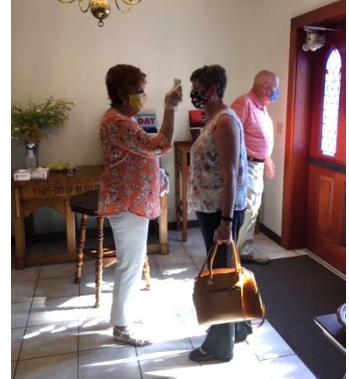


12 brave folks attended. It was good to see each other and to talk with each other face-to-face even with the masks. Besides the joy of worshiping together, we also got to test out the plans we had made for reopening. Thanks to God everything went smoothly.

This special service took place from 10am-10:30am that morning. We held the 10:45am Zoom Service after this one was done.

The next week we invited anyone who wanted to come in person. This time we did the in-person worship and the Zoom Worship at the same time. An equal number of folks attended in

person and online. There were a few bumps but it worked pretty well for our first time.



We were looking forward to this combination live/Zoom service the next week too. In fact, we had everything ready when, sadly, the number of coronavirus cases in Lavaca began to increase exponentially.

With our clear focus on the three rules of holy living: 1)Do no harm; 2)Do all the good you can; and 3)Stay in love with God; we have gone back to Zoom worship for now.

We do plan to go back to an in-person option as soon as we can. We continue to monitor outbreaks in our county. Once we see either a radical decline in new cases over a 14-day period OR (preferably) NO new cases in a 14-day period, we plan to offer the in-person option again. We will continue Zoom worship for those who are better off staying home.

It has been good to learn that Zoom is a great option for people on vacation and even for people who don't live around here to come to worship with us. All you need is a smart phone to "go to church".

Many, many thanks to our relaunch team who have worked tirelessly to respond to the ebbs and flows of what is best for God's beloved children of this congregation. Thank you Christie Wheelock. Thank you Kenneth Swope. Thank you Marvin Peterson. Thank you Ray Housley. Thank you Dawn Jansky. Thank you Mary Jane Swope. Thank you Susan Housley.

Worship at Mossy Grove UMC

At this time, Mossy Grove UMC continues to worship on Zoom at 6pm on the first and third Sundays of each month. You have probably noticed some of those faithful folks worshiping on Sunday mornings as well. Many thanks to Peggy Kubicek for taking care of business needs of the congregation. Many thanks to Nan and Jerome Drozd for keeping up the church grounds. Many thanks to Sandra and David Aiken for your love and care for your church as well!

Marilyn Patlovany - Special thanks to everyone who helped provide a safe and welcoming space as we gathered on June 19 to celebrate the life of our sister-in-Christ Marilyn Patlovany. After a long battle with cancer and with Parkinson's Disease, Marilyn went home to God on June 14, 2020. Marilyn is survived by her husband Sylvester James; 2 sons, James Patlovany & wife Meghan, and John Patlovany & wife Ashley; daughter Kristi Kostelnik & husband Brian; brother Herbert Smith; and 12 grandchildren, Trenton, Presley, Emma, Taylor, Thomas, Katherine, Christopher, William, Samuel, Madison, Alice, & Benjamin. We pray God's blessings on this family in their time of grief. We will miss Marilyn very much.