



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"

-Don't Miss It-
Mark your Calendars!

May

17th – Confirmation & Graduate Recognition & Lunch

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

Life certainly can change quickly sometimes can't it? Who knew even a couple of months ago that we would be learning whole new ways of being the church together in this time and in this place?

Thank you for your many acts of kindness and faithfulness, seen and unseen, in these days. Let me also say thank you to each of you for your faithful willingness to do the only thing we can do in times like these – to adapt in ways that help us do the best we can to continue being God’s people in this time and in this place. I could not be prouder of your persistence in learning how to participate in Zoom worship, for example. If we can be helpful to you with Zoom, or in any other way, just let us know. We are all in this together!

For most of us it has taken a good deal of time and energy to adapt as quickly as we can to new ways. School is challenging. Jobs are challenging. Routine doctor visits are challenging. Groceries are challenging. We were talking about this earlier today, even figuring out what day it is can be challenging sometimes too.

In the middle of these challenges and more, I feel such a longing in my heart. How about you? The longing I am talking about is that longing for life to feel right again, that longing for the life that was comfortable and familiar to us. We long for family visits, gathering with friends and family at our favorite restaurant, going to Walmart or Rainosek's and more on a whim. A bunch of our kids just long to go back to school.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Howard Aiken
Marguerite Azemia
Marc Baker
JoAnn Baker & Family
CB
Claude Barnes
Doris Barnes
Debbie Benedict & Family
Mary Ann Berger
Annie Cerny
Fayrene Clark
Colors of Hope Ministry
Frank Coker
Larry & Samia Coker
DSC
Mike & Rhonda Derrick
DeWayne Dixon
Denise Drozd Family
Robert Eaton
Gina E.
Anna Ruth Evans
Debbie Fishbeck
Bernie Fitch
Greg
Bob & Fannie Griffith
Jeremy Henke
Logan Herrington
Billy & Bobbie Hobbs
Bill & Sweet Hrcir
Family of Stephen Hunter
Gary Janak
Dawn Jansky
Henrietta Jansky
BJ
The Jones Ministry at TAMUK
Lane
Loved ones of Brooke Klemme
Kostelnik Family
Evelyn Lishinski
JM
Maryah
Monica Maddox
Pastor Melanie & Family
Matthew & family
Dustin Metting
Jonell Miears
Mildred
Kathryn Lee Miller
Mom
Anna Marie Monroe
Cynthia & Cory Odefey & family
Marilyn Patlovany
Jack Powell
Al Ringo
Ted Rodgers
Ryan
Sarah
Sheila Saunders
Sandra Scott
Karen Seuser & Family
Sierra
Martha Sitka
Brandie Sorensen & Family
Mary Jane Swope
Victor
Maxine Tankersley

We long to have this church building full of folks all week long for meetings and activities. We long to hear the sounds of kids and youth around here on Wednesday night. And we long with all of our hearts to be together in this place, sitting on the blue chairs, or the pews, on Sunday mornings.

It is like a painful ache, one you can't really do anything about right now. As I have spent time in prayer and meditation in the midst of this aching longing, some of my favorite verses have started "speaking" to me in my head.

For example, in the 29th chapter of Jeremiah, we read that the people of God have been going through a time when their lives had been turned upside down. These words that God put on the tongue of his prophet Jeremiah speak to me:

Jeremiah 20:11-13 (NLT) ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes.

I have also been hearing these words from Galatians 6:9-10 ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Every day I talk with God. I study. I ask questions. I listen. I seek guidance and clarity from God about how best to care for these important and powerful longings of our hearts. In the scriptures I shared, I hear God making a solid promise that this time of struggle and suffering will not go on forever and that good is on its way. At the same time, I hear God telling me, and us, not to be impatient.

On Monday Christie and I listened to Texas Governor Abbott's press conference about beginning to reopen the state. I was so encouraged to hear that our Governor understands the longing of our hearts, the deep longing for everything to get back to "normal".

At the same time, if you listen carefully to his address, it is clear that he is not telling any of us to jump off the deep end right away. Each comment he made about the steps that we will be taking to get back to our regular lives was tempered with clear statements of fact about the real and ongoing risks of this virus that scientists have only had a few months to study.

As yet, there is no medicine we can take to cure this sickness. There is no vaccine that can prevent us from catching this sickness. This is a very contagious virus. We still have to be realistic about how many sick people our local medical professionals can handle at any one time.

Our limited outbreak in Lavaca County is because we live in a wonderful place, full of Godly people who are willing to make personal sacrifices out of genuine love and regard for each other. What a gift this is! In light of what we know about who we are, we don't want to let any understandable human impatience to cause us to forget who we are.

From studying the best resources we can find at this point, there are several very real considerations we are taking into account to determine the path to get us back to worshipping together in this place (Hallettsville First United Methodist Church AND Mossy Grove United Methodist Church):

1. Social distancing is vital until there is a treatment and or a vaccine. To gather for worship, we will find a way to keep 6-foot social distancing coming in, going out, and during worship. We would not use greeters for the foreseeable future.

Dent & Shirley Taylor
 Laurence Teaff
 James Thacker
 Cheryl Thacker
 Avery Wagner
 Diana Weise
 Don & Claudia Williams
 Lauren Wilson & family
 Louise Wysatta
 All the depressed
 Our Nation & the World
 All Teachers, Students & Parents
 who are going through online
 school
 All those in the medical field
 All those who are keeping our
 grocery stores open & stocked
 as well as they can
 Those alone during this time
 Mr. Aaron Boyd and his family
 Our nation and all the people in it
 Essential workers & those who
 have lost their jobs
 Those who are in the hospital
 All Leaders

New Additions:

Family & Friends of Hisae Rooks
 Holly Dixon
 Abby Tracy



We welcome the Meyer
 Family as new members of
 our church!

**Randy, Dolly,
 Trevor, Austin &
 Madison** (preparatory member)

We are glad you're here!



Special thanks to Janis
 Richardson for providing
 the church office with
 masks. We have a limited
 supply available if
 someone is in need.
 Please call or email the
 church office.

2. When we are together, every person needs to wear a mask coming in, going out and during the service. Even you don't know if you have the virus or not, because sometimes you can have it with no symptoms.
3. When we sing, the spray from singing can go further than 6 feet, so the best suggestion is no singing.
4. To prevent spread of the virus on surfaces, we would not use books or bulletins for a while.
5. We would need to develop guidelines for restroom use.
6. All doorknobs, pews, chairs, light switches, and surfaces would need to be disinfected frequently.
7. Hand sanitizer would need to be placed in multiple locations
8. Holy Communion and Holy Baptism procedures would be developed to prevent virus spread.

So we have some challenges before us to get back to worshipping together, in person. We are absolutely looking forward to that day. We are absolutely working as hard and as prayerfully as we can to do the next steps to the future God has planned for us.

Over the next 30 days or so we will be able to see if the removal of "stay at home" guidelines causes any increase in infections.

Our Bishop Robert Schnase strongly recommends that the churches in the Rio Texas Conference continue meeting using technology through May 31. We will cooperate with this recommendation. After that, we don't know exactly when everything will come together for the next step toward getting together, but we WILL know when it is time. AND, we will be ready.

As we continue to faithfully move in the direction of God's will for us in this place and in this time, know that in all things we will seek to follow what John Wesley called the "three rules of holy living":

1. First: do no harm.
2. Second: do all the good you can.
3. Third: stay in love with God through public and private worship, prayer, study of scripture, service, and fellowship with like-minded people.

God bless you and keep you, in Jesus' name!

Pastor Melanie

Administrative Board Meeting Highlights – March

- Thank you to the Methodist Women for assisting with the Klemme memorial service.
- Visited with hospital administrator to offer our help during the Coronavirus outbreak
- The Foundation met with Robert Lundy of Edward Jones.
- Alice Vickers will sponsor Lori Dyer for the Walk to Emmaus.
- MYF April Service Project will benefit the Manna Food Pantry.
- MYF leadership will possibly host another American Red Cross Babysitting Class during the summer.
- Dick Nance reported that the Methodist Men have several service projects planned. They are going to repair the fountain and cleanup around the church sign. They voted to meet on the first Saturday of each month.
- The Methodist Women reported the Valentine's Day Brunch fundraiser was very successful and will now be an annual event.
- Safety Team will meet before presenting to the board.

Worship Service Schedule (when we are able to resume in-person)

**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	Flower Chart
May						
3	D. Repka	L. Dyer	B. Webb	Webb Family	Q. DeLaRosa & L. Parvin	P. & V. Carr
10	B. J. Metzler	R. Lundy	K. Wood	Tullos Family	T. & D. Phillips	Meth. Women
17	N. Hunter	K. Marak	L. Lundy	Marak Family	L. & W. Kram	R. & B. Sitka
24	B. Williams	B. Nance	G. Parvin	Sitka Family	K. & A. Caldwell	J. & J. Carpenter
31	B. & E. Pakebusch	R. Housley	K. Tullos	Jansky Family	L. & G. Parvin	OPEN
June						
7	D. Hopper	D. Nance	D. Jansky	Webb Family	Q. DeLaRosa & L. Parvin	R. & S. Housley
14	A. Vickers	L. Dyer	W. Kram	Tullos Family	T. & D. Phillips	R. & T. Herrington
21	E. Hastings	K. Marak	R. Marak	Marak Family	L. & W. Kram	M. & D. Hopper
28	H. Sadler	B. Nance	B. Sitka	Sitka Family	K. & A. Caldwell	OPEN

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



REACH OUT...

Please continue to connect with our nursing home residents. They would appreciate a card or note!

Hallettsville Rehabilitation
825 Fairwinds
Hallettsville, TX 77964

Steven's Nursing & Rehabilitation
106 Kahn Street
Hallettsville, TX 77964

Williamsburg House
4656 US Hwy 77S
Hallettsville, TX 77964

Schulenburg Regency Nursing
111 College
Schulenburg, TX 78956

Thank you to Marvin Paterson for getting these thank you posters out to our community. Marvin recruited the essential worker staff and kids at Solid Rock daycare to help make the signs.



eGiving Now Available

WHY DO WE GIVE?

Proverbs 3:9 (NLT) Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Luke 6:38 (NLT) 38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

Scripture teaches us that giving to God is part of our ongoing relationship of love with God. God does God's part. We do our part. God gives to us. We give to God. We remember, in the most practical of terms, that if one side of a relationship is doing all the giving, it is not a relationship. The fact is that giving to God is one of the ways we make God the top priority in our lives. Giving to God is one of the ways we actively put God first in everything we think and say and do. When we put God first in our lives, we are more likely to seek God's will for lives instead of our own. This oneness of heart and mind and soul with God is the source of all true joy. This is why we give to God.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

Traditional Way – by putting cash or a check in the offering plate during the worship service, mailing a check to the church or dropping in our locked mailbox at the church office.

Directly from your Bank Account – Login to your online bank account and set up “automatic bill pay”. You can make a onetime donation or set up recurring payments. If you need assistance – contact your bank directly. This is a great option as there is no charge to you or the church.

Electronically – Our new eGiving service, Vanco, provides tools to make giving simple - even when you're unable to attend church. Their eGiving system is safe and secure. You can contribute anywhere, anytime! This is a convenient, easy solution to regular giving. Make a one-time donation or better yet -setup recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account. There is a processing fee and a transaction fee associated with the convenience of eGiving. If you choose to donate in this way – at the end of your transaction, there will be a box that gives you the option to help offset the processing fees.



-You may give online from your computer through the church website - www.hallettsvillefumc.org and select “Give to HFUMC”)



Click icon to give Online.

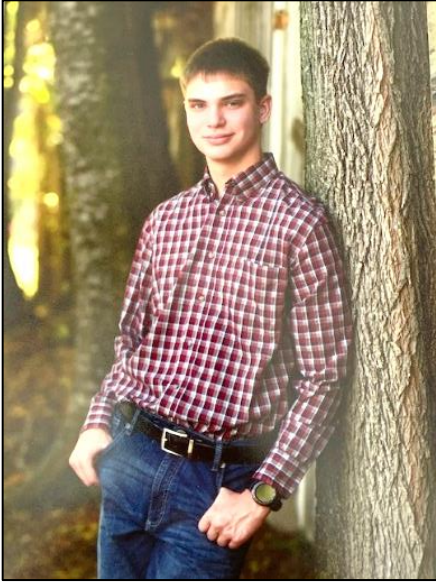
or

-You may give with the free GivePlus Mobile App from your smartphone or tablet. Download the free app from the App Store or Google Play on your smart phone or tablet. Find our church by using the 77964 zip code search.



Thank you for your generosity! If you have any questions or need assistance with any of the above options, please call the church office at 361-798-2650.

Our 2020 High School Graduates



Austin Meyer is a senior at Hallettsville High School and will be attending Texas A&M University's Mays School of Business in the fall. Austin is the son of Randy and Dolly Meyer of Hallettsville. Austin enjoys cooking, writing, video editing, playing the piano, and debating any topic with his family! ☺

Austin is graduating in the top ten percent of his class. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Brahma Band, serving as Drum Major for the 2019-20 school year, and FFA, serving as treasurer and secretary.

Austin is an accomplished pianist who has earned a superior rating at the state level. He has participated each year in UIL and FFA speaking events advancing each year.

After earning a business degree from Texas A&M, Austin plans to earn a law degree from the University of Texas and become a corporate attorney.

My name is **Blake Sitka**, my parents are Roger and Brenda Sitka. I have been a member of the FUMC of Hallettsville my whole life.

Throughout my high school years, I have enjoyed being a part of the MYF, Future Farmers of America (where I have served as an officer all four years), National Honor Society, Rotary Interact (where I serve as President), Class Officer for three years and various sports teams (especially football, where I served as captain my Senior year).

Because of my positive experiences in the Future Farmers of America, I plan on pursuing a degree in Animal Science, with animal nutrition being my focus. I plan on attending Blinn College, then transferring over to Texas A&M University.

I have been blessed to be a member of this church and the MYF and I know that is why I have such a good foundation to build on. Thank you all for your support through the years!



I am **Kylee Tullos**. I enjoy artsy things like painting, music, theatre, musical theatre, and naps. I know what you're thinking, but do not fret; to answer your concerns, yes naps are in fact an art form.

When I am not quarantined, I usually participate in various extracurricular activities such as the following: NHS, One Act Play, Rotary Interact Club, Band, and FFA. FFA events include LDE's, CDE's, SDE's, talent team, and raising animals. I am in the choir and play piano occasionally. Oh, and I am also a senior class officer at HHS.

I will be attending Texas State University in the fall to pursue Public Relations. I want to thank everyone at Hallettsville First United Methodist Church for being so welcoming. I have grown up in this church and I wouldn't have it any other way.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We asked you to share by text or email a picture of something you have been doing during this social distancing time or a picture of something beautiful that is helpful to you right now.

Beverly & Larry Charles - This is the country road we walk each morning. It's CR 221 and we are grateful for its beauty and quiet. We're occasionally in the distant company of deer, feral hogs, copperheads, and woodpeckers.



Lora Parvin – Planting lilies from Easter Service for us to enjoy every year



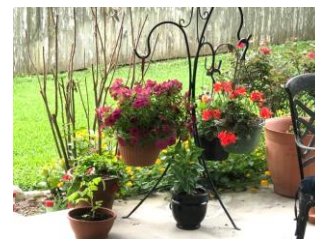
Christie Wheelock – Enjoy weekend time puttering in my little garden!



Diane & Shorty Repka - We did a lot of school work, funny pictures, playing, lost a couple teeth, helped Dennis and Sara move, lots of outside playing, did some experiments, watched lots of movies and also had Nana and PoPo time!



Brenda Hull – Food pantry garden and my little friend keeping me company!



Mona Davenport – Making masks!



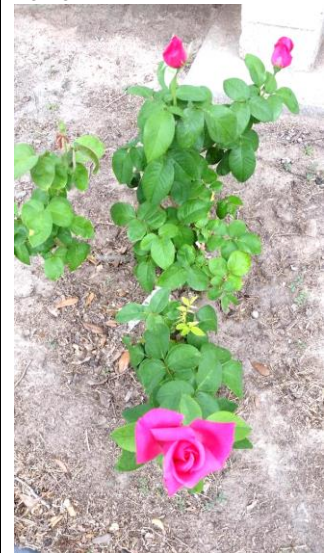
Ken Swope and his kids



Quinn DeLaRosa



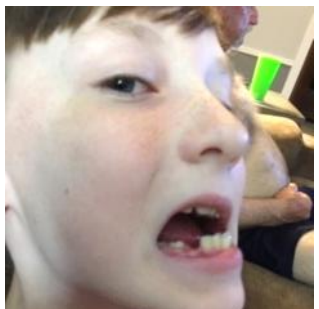
Nancy Fuhrken – Staying at home.



Pat & Virginia Carr – The latest on Pat's garden. It has taken off and soon will keep him busy. In the meantime, he just had to pick a few items.



Pastor Melanie – Visiting with my family and Easter pics.



Sara & Dennis Repka Family – Outside fun time with the boys. Grafeful for our new home,



Bob & Alice Vickers – Painted Bunting - a little stunned after hitting glass window pane that he thought he could fly through!



Tim & Helen Sadler – Recent shots from the front yard!



Lori Dyer – Finished my braided rag rug! Pictured: Sandra Dee.



Mary Ann Defibaugh – Can you find George & Fred in the tree above Ann's garden?



Enjoying the view of our 120-year-old windmill.



Fat building - making us fatter by the day!

