



The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.

~ Psalm 18:2



Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 2

8:30 A.M. & 10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rob Hofmann

Sunday, August 9

8:30 A.M. w/ Holy Communion
10:50 A.M. w/Holy Communion
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rev. Glenna Kelley

Sunday, August 16

8:30 A.M. w/ Holy Communion
10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rev. Steve Purdy

Sunday, August 23

8:30 A.M. & 10:50 A.M. Worship
Backpack Sunday
Jeff Grote & Rev. Margaret Persky

Sunday, August 30

8:30 A.M. & 10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
J.W. Harle

Sunday, September 6

8:30 A.M. & 10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Gini Christian

Sunday, September 13

Combined Service

10:30 A.M.
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Rev. Colleen Haley

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 11 Back to School Drive
2:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.
- Aug 23 Blessing of Backpacks
& Car Keys
- Aug 30 5th Sunday @ROL
- Sept 13 Combined Service
10:30 A.M. Teacher
Appreciation and
Covered Dish Lunch
- Sept 26 Fall Festival
of Churches

It all started last Christmas. My mother-in-law, Cherilyn, came upon several old photographs that were taken when she was a little girl. One was a picture of her; her brother, Jack; and their grandmother's dog, Patsy. The three of them were sitting on a very large Rock. It was one of those old photos like we've all seen – black and white, with curvy edges and a white border. There were mountains in the background, and a large meadow. The rock had some markings on it. She told my husband about the picture – that it had been taken in Tres Ritos, NM - at the site where they camped every summer with her grandparents, and other family members – at a time when men still wore pants and tucked in shirts, and women wore dresses, for their trips to the great outdoors. Cherilyn said her grandfather had taken the picture, and that he put initials on The Rock. As they looked at the picture, she announced, "I believe I could find The Rock again." My husband was captivated by the adventure that such a statement holds, and he decided we should make a pilgrimage in search of The Rock. As we made plans for the trip, the dates and the participants changed several times; but in the end, the travelers consisted of my husband's brother and sister, their spouses, my mid-eighties parents-in-law, and my husband and me. Our journey commenced on June 22, 2015.

We started out with 4 travelers – camping in the place we believed was the same campground Cherilyn had visited so many times in her childhood. There were signs placed in strategic locations warning about bears and cougars, and giving helpful instructions about what to do in the event one was confronted by a bear. Our campsite was situated at an elevation of about 8470 feet. My sister-in-law and I were a little afraid of possible bear sightings, but we did our best to keep a brave face. We found a beautiful campsite when we arrived on Tuesday. I recommend camping in the middle of the week – much less crowded! We cooked outdoors, drove around the area, and generally relaxed the first day. The second day, we decided to look for the Rock ourselves. After much looking, and a few conversations with locals, we found what we believed was The Rock. On Thursday, we broke camp and headed down the mountain to Taos to meet the rest of the family, and to stay in a beautiful house we had rented – guaranteed bear proof.

The rest of the travelers arrived after a long drive from Brenham to Taos. It was Saturday when we finally decided to travel back up the mountain to see if Cherilyn could find The Rock of her childhood. We went in 2 cars – the nuclear family in one car, and the in-laws in another. After much driving, my husband and sister-in-law finally showed Cherilyn which Rock we had pegged as being "The Rock." We pulled out the picture and showed her the ridge of the mountains in the background, as well as the faint markings left on The Rock after 70 something years. The only missing element was the initials. Finally, my husband found the initials. JSC. Cherilyn said, "Those aren't my grandfather's initials," but she finally allowed that she might have misremembered the part about the initials.

As a child, she thought he wrote them, but as she thought about it, she said there might have just been some initials in The Rock that played such an important role in all of their trips. My brother-in-law did point out that JSC could stand for Jack and Cherilyn Smith. Voila! We had found The Rock! I went over to some people who were camped out near The Rock and asked if one of them could take a picture of all of us. A young boy quickly obliged. We all lined up in front of The Rock, and Cherilyn perched on top of it again – just like she had as a girl. She is still talking about it!



Hope Circle

We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 P.M. in the Gathering Room. We would love to have you join us. For more information contact Tiffany Klaerner at 347-6034.



During these tough economic times the need is great, and we continue to assist families with their utility bills. If you feel moved to help with this important ministry or if you want to know more about the UMM, please contact Pat Reardon at 347-0275.

The United Methodist Men will hold their monthly breakfast on *Wednesday, May 10th at 7:00 A.M.* in the Social Hall. Coffee will be ready at 6:45 A.M., so come early and join us for good food and good fellowship!

Aug. & Sept. Preaching Schedule

- August 2 Rob Hofmann
- August 9 Rev. Glenna Kelley
- August 16 Rev. Steve Purdy
- August 23 Jeff Grote &
Rev. Margaret Persky

Blessing of the Backpacks & Keys

- August 30 J.W. Harle
- Sept. 6 Gini Christian
- Sept 13 Rev. Colleen Haley

COMBINED SERVICE at 10:30 A.M.

Covered Dish Lunch immediately following the service.

Staff Email Addresses

Please make changes to your contact list.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Maureen Shanks | officemgr@fumcmason.org |
| Julia Jordan | secretary@fumcmason.org |
| Ashley Osbourn | familyministries@fumcmason.org |
| Rhett Vacek | rhettvacek@gmail.com |
| Tiffany Stidham | steadysteps@fumcmason.org |



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2016 budgets are due in the church office by **September 1**. Please e-mail your budget requests to officemgr@fumcmason.org

Year to date as of
July 31st, 2015

Budget \$238,840.60

Offering \$218,546.19

Budget for 2015 - \$ 409,395.15

Weekly Budget - \$7,873.04



Lay Readers, Ushers & Acolytes are needed this summer. Please consider giving your time to these ministries.

You can sign up in the social hall.
Chuck Bearden (347-6162) or
Bruce Strickland (409-283-1213)
to volunteer as an Usher
or Lynn Hedges (347-0152)
to serve as Lay Reader



Prayer Requests

Please pray for our members and loved ones who are homebound and/or residing in nursing homes.

Mary Beam, Odessa Dannheim, Carolyn Smith, Terry Smith, Charlene Schuessler, Marilyn Kahan, John Earl, Jr., Art Davis, Audry Collins, Tommie Lou Luckenbach, Connie Stockbridge, Gary Grote, Danny Karen McCleery, Jesse Cavaness, Carrol Hahn, Morgan Johnson, Carolyn Toeppich, Keith Kahn, Angie Young, the family of Margaret Brown, the family of Marjorie Hey, the family of Victor Lamoreaux and prayers for Pastor Colleen and her family during her sabbatical and guidance for our church while she is away.

Please pray for our members and loved ones who are in the military.

Matt Adam (USAF), Houston Haley (USAF), Neil Shanks (USAF), Terry Simonton (USAF), Joseph Alba (U.S. Army), Matt Irwin (U.S. Army), T.J. Schovajsa (U.S. Army), Jared Hudson (USMC), Melissa Garrison-Jensen (U.S. Navy), Ferd T. Slocum III (U.S. Navy), James Vacek (U.S. Navy)

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As my time away has unfolded, I have come to call it *In Search of The Rock ~ 2015*. As you might imagine, The Rock has taken on a theological meaning for me. In August, I will share some of my reflections in this search, beginning with Cherilyn's discovery of The Rock in Tres Ritos. Until then, blessings to you all. I miss you very much!

In Christ,
Colleen



VI^{AL} SIGNS by Ann Scarth, R.N., Wesley Nurse

One thing you & I know is that sunburn can sneak up on you. Just last weekend, I went kayaking & I did slather on the sunscreen. However, there were areas on my legs that I didn't know would be exposed while sitting in that kayak & you guessed it, those spots burned. I read on the Skin Cancer Foundation website (<http://www.skincancer.org>) some tips for helping my burn. First of all, I realize that a "touch of pink" could still mean big problems later, so reapply the sunscreen and get out of the sun. Take a cool shower or bath followed by a moisturizing cream or lotion to sooth the skin. Repeat, repeat, repeat that moisturizer. Consider a product that contains vitamin C & vitamin E, because these vitamins might help limit skin damage (though studies have not proved that), says Shawn Allen, a dermatologist in Boulder, Colo., and spokesman for The Skin Cancer Foundation. He also states that it's OK to use a hydrocortisone cream for a day or two to relieve discomfort. What is Not OK: scrubbing, picking or peeling your skin or breaking blisters. This can compromise skin integrity & introduce germs which can lead to infections. Next step is to hydrate by drinking lots of water. Burns draw fluid to the skin surface away from the rest of the body. Drink extra water, juice & sports drinks for a couple of days & watch for signs of dehydration, which include: dry mouth, thirst, reduced urination, headache, dizziness, & sleepiness. Children are very vulnerable, so check with a doctor if they appear ill. Next, remember to medicate as soon as you see signs of sunburn & keep it up for the next 48 hours. Medication such as ibuprofen can reduce swelling & redness & might prevent some long-term skin damage. The ibuprofen helps treat the severity of the symptoms. Acetaminophen will treat pain, but it will not have the same anti-inflammatory effect. Be sure to assess the damage & remember that most sunburn, even those that cause a few blisters, can be treated at home. But if a blistering burn covers 20% or more of the body (a child's whole back), seek medical attention. Anyone with sunburn who is suffering fevers & chills should seek medical help. One final note: consider the burn a warning that your sun-safety net has failed & promise yourself to do better. That means using sunscreen, covering up with clothing & hats & avoiding the sun as much as possible between 10 a.m. & 4 p.m. when the sun's rays are the most intense. Chat with you later. Ann

Missions News

Back to School Drive—"Adopt a Student" Tuesday, Aug. 11th!

The Back to School Drive display is up in the Social Hall. It will work just like the angel tree. You will pick a student, then sign your name on the sheet by the number you see on the school supply list for that student. You will purchase the supplies and have them returned to the church by Sunday, Aug. 9th.

If you want to purchase everything online, just go to schooltoolbox.com, and punch in the grade level of the student. Be sure to put FUMC in so you will get the discount. You will use the student's number, which appears on the supply list in the space for identification. You will also put the grade level at Mason ISD. Or you can purchase the supplies at one of the larger Walmarts or locally.

Be sure to put the student's number on the items, so we can get them to the right child. The families will come Tuesday, August 11th to pick up their supplies.

And bring in your gently used clothing no later than Aug. 9th so we can offer the families this assistance again. Thanks for reaching out to our young people in Mason.

Children & Youth News

Loose Change Offering: The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on Sunday, June 7. This offering is given by our youth for a mission project. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ!

Youth Group – Will resume for the 2015-2016 school year on September 7th.

Wonderful Wednesday – Will resume for the 2015-2016 on September 16th.

Parrish Christian Educators – Ashley L. Osbourn attended the Parrish Christian Educators School, which is a three-year educational experience for United Methodists in local Christian church education service. The course is comprised of six studies focusing on essential aspects of Christian education.

UM Army - Members of the First United Methodist Church in Mason, participated in UM ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) mission trip. Approximately 60 youth and adults helped residents in Weimar, Texas with various repair work and painting.

UM ARMY

The work teams worked 10 different sites throughout the week. Projects included repairing porches, replacing doors, windowpanes and general weatherization. The youth and adults came from a number of churches throughout the Rio Grande Conference of the United Methodist Church, including Llano, Covenant in Austin, Mason, Del Rio, Ganado, Liberty Hill, Fredericksburg, and San Antonio.

Mason youth attending the camp: Austin Habecker, Evan Dayton, Molly Schwertner, Ryli Ruffin, Reagan Palacio, Jackson Chapman, Kendra Klaerner. The adult's sponsors were Cecilia Worden, Deandra Palacio, and Cara Ruffin. The group would like to thank the community and their church family for their support in doing God's work in Weimar, Texas.



First United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 178
Mason, TX 76856

Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor
Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager
Julia Jordan.....Secretary
Ashley Osbourn.....Family Ministries Coordinator
Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist
Tiffany Stidham.....Steady Steps Director
Ann Scarth.....Wesley Nurse
Rhett Vacek.....A/V Tech
Rebecca Moneyhon.....Nursery
Katie Smith.....Nursery
Kendra Klaerner.....Nursery

Office Phone: 325-347-5105 Fax Number: 325-347-5289
Email: officemgr@fumcmason.org (Office Manager)
Website: www.fumcmason.org

Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday

8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. (Lunch from 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.)

Friday : 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

8:30 A.M. Worship Service with Holy Communion

9:45 A.M. Sunday School

10:50 A.M. Worship Service

(Holy Communion served on the first Sunday of the month)

Steady Steps Phone: 325-347-0043

Steady Steps Email: steadysteps@fumcmason.org

Address Label Here