



*I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh every morning.” ~ Lamentations 3:21-23*



*No one is abandoned by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he also shows compassion because of the greatness of his unfailing love. For he does not enjoy hurting people or causing them sorrow.” ~ Lamentations 3:31-33*

The word, “lament,” doesn’t immediately bring to mind joy and happiness. The Book of Lamentations is a collection of 5 poems, usually ascribed to the prophet Jeremiah. Each poem describes something pertaining to the destruction of Jerusalem before the Hebrews were forced into slavery in Babylon. God’s wrath and the people’s sinfulness are woven throughout the book. But tucked in the middle of the book, in the middle of the middle chapter – right in the heart of it - is a song of God’s faithfulness and love for us. It is a beautiful depiction of real life – a picture of pain and suffering, with God’s mercy, love, and forgiveness at the center. God can bring grief and sorrow, but he never abandons us. God’s faithfulness never ends...every day his love is offered to us again...his mercy is always available. What a gift! And what a promise!

Here we are in the middle of the Lenten season, the time when the Church reflects on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. It’s a time when we consider the suffering and the sacrifice of our Savior. Who among us hasn’t suffered in some way? Who among us hasn’t lost a loved one or something very important to us? Who among us hasn’t lost control of some situation and found ourselves wondering how to take the next step, or which direction to go? And who among us hasn’t wondered where God was when all our pain was happening? God never abandons us. God’s very nature is love; he can be nothing other than love. When God’s anger is kindled, it doesn’t last because Love cannot hold grudges. Even when grief and sorrow surround us, Love wins in the end. Most of us would like God to “win” a little faster than he seems to, mainly because we are impatient. We want the pain to go away in a matter of days, but more often than not, it takes much longer than that to get past the pain of rejection or loss or grief, and the unpredictability of life.

Learning to wait is probably the hardest thing any of us can do. Psalm 27:14 says, “*Wait for the Lord. Be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord.*” God will come to us when the time is right. We can wait in stillness or we can wait in urgency. Neither of those forms of waiting will cause God to move any faster or any slower. God moves when it is time. Waiting in stillness helps us to grow in the Lord. Waiting with a sense of urgency causes us to be anxious and afraid. At least one way to wait patiently is to rest in the fact that God’s love never ends. “*I dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends.*” Verse 26 says, “*It is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord.*” Quiet waiting seems to be a lost art these days. It is something we have to intentionally cultivate in our spiritual lives, for it is in quiet reflection and contemplation that we are most likely to meet God. It is in quiet reflection and contemplation that we are most likely to hear God whisper in our ears, “I love you.”

May we learn to wait in stillness this Lenten season, and may we never doubt – not even for a second – that the faithful love of the Lord never ends...his mercies never cease...he shows compassion...he does not enjoy bringing hurt or sorrow to his people...his mercy begins afresh every morning. Live in peace and love each other.

In Christ,  
Colleen



**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.



SET YOUR CLOCKS

**Ahead!**

**Time Changes**

**Sunday**

**March 13**



Lay Readers are needed. Please consider giving your time to these ministries.

You can sign up in the Social Hall or call

Lynn Hedges  
(325-347-0152).

**Palm Sunday**

**ONE SERVICE March 20**

**Sunday School 9:15**

**Breakfast 10:00**

**Worship 10:30**

**Upcoming Events**

March 2 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch FUMC

March 9 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch St. Joseph

March 10 -13 Men's Walk to Emmaus

March 13 Set Your Clocks Ahead 1 hour

March 16 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch ROL

March 20 10:30 Worship Service

March 24 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

March 25 6:00 PM Good Friday

**Year to date as of  
February 29, 2016**

**Budget \$ 68,232.95**

**Offering \$ 64,361.55**

**Budget for 2016 - \$ 409,192.52**

**Weekly Budget - \$7,869.09**



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 *2nd Wednesday of each month 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!



## Children & Youth News

**Loose Change Offering:** The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on the 1st Sunday of every month. This offering is given by our youth for a mission project. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ.

**Wonderful Wednesdays:** Starts at 4:00 P.M. in the Social Hall (1st-5th Grade).

**Youth Group:** Starts at 6:30 P.M. each Wednesday upstairs in the Youth Room (6th grade-High School).

**Youth Group Meals:** Please sign up to bring food for 30 kiddos. The sign up sheet is located on the Life Center.

**UM ARMY:** Bandera, Texas July 10-16

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** For Sunday School & Wonderful Wednesdays.

**EASTER EGG HUNT-** Children in the Nursery through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday during Sunday School! Weather permitting, the hunt will be held in the courtyard.

For this to be a success we need the congregation to bring candy to fill 290 plastic eggs. Donations can be dropped off with Samantha in the Library or in the Church Office by March 20<sup>th</sup>.



**Prayer**

**Requests**

*Prayer requests may be made by writing them on the prayer request card and placing it in the offering plate or by calling the Church Office.*

***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, Tommie Lou Luckenbach, Jesse Cavaness, Mary Kristan Toeppich, Charles Pluenneke, John Jordan, Norma Stahl, Art Davis, Bud Stover, Rachel Herreth, Rev. Tina Carter, and Martha Smith

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

Matt Adam (USAF), Houston Haley (USAF), Neil Shanks (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)



FUMC Mason,

Thank you so much for the finals box! Y'all are very special people and I am blessed to know you. The box certainly makes finals week more tolerable!

Love Always,

Sarah H. Jordan '16

Thanks,  
Everyone!

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the college care packages.

Here are a couple of thank you notes from the happy recipients.

Dear F. U. M. C.,

Thank you so much for my finals goodie box! It is so nice to have a sweet treat while studying for tests. I greatly appreciate your thoughts and support.

-Traci Jordan



Mar. 2—FUMC

Mar. 9- St. Joseph

Mar. 16-River of Life



Steady Steps



**Spring Fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 19 at 6:00 P.M. at the Community Building**

## VITAL SIGNS by Ann Scarth, R.N., Wesley Nurse

In a previous job, I taught health classes all over the Fort Worth and Arlington areas. One summer, I taught a class on bike safety at a community center to a large group of children. Bike helmets were coming into their own, but I had never purchased one for myself. I wasn't sure I really liked the idea of wearing a helmet. They looked goofy. As I began my class, one of the center's directors brought in a little boy & asked if it was too late to join the class. The little boy was all skinned up & had one arm in a sling. Come to find out, he had been riding his bike the day before & was hit by a car. His collar bone was broken & so was his bike helmet. The bike helmet not only prevented a closed head injury, but also saved his life. As a nurse, that caught my attention. Now I'm a believer. Are you? Do the names Natasha Richardson, Sonny Bono, Dale Earnhardt, Sr. & Michael Kennedy ring any bells? They all suffered a traumatic brain injury. March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month. According to the Brain Injury Association of America, an estimated 2.4 million children & adults in the U.S. sustain a traumatic brain injury each year & another 795,000 individuals sustain an acquired brain injury from nontraumatic causes (<http://www.biausa.org/>). A Harris Poll report in 2015 states that nearly 90% of Americans surveyed cannot correctly define a concussion & 78% said they did not know the symptoms of a concussion. Only 37% of the surveyed parents said they would know what to do in the event their child sustained a concussion. Signs & symptoms after a concussion are not always apparent & some may take days to appear. Here are the general signs: dizziness, headaches, blurred vision, nausea & vomiting, slurred speech, appearing dazed, ringing in the ears, delayed response to questions, & the person may or may not lose consciousness. The first treatment is to avoid delay in seeking treatment! Prompt evaluation is very important. Never cling to the old saying, "oh, he got his bell rung." It's more than just ringing a bell. It's a brain injury. Follow the doctor's orders, especially when it comes to rest. It takes time to recover from a brain injury. Usually this means to avoid physical exertion (including sports) until symptoms are gone. Rest may also include limiting activities that require thinking & mental concentration (playing video games, watching TV, texting, using a computer, etc.). Prevention is a key. Wear protective gear while playing sports, use seat belts, & for little ones, use car seats. Make your home a safe place for children & elderly. For the elderly, regular exercise is important as it will strengthen leg muscles & improve balance. If you want to know more, call me at 347-5983. Chat with you later-Ann

## Hydrangea Order Form

*If you would like to place flowers in church in honor or in memory of loved ones on Easter Sunday, March 27th, we have 36 hydrangeas & 6 Easter Lillies available for \$20 each. Please fill out this form and return to the church office or drop in the offering plate along with your check or cash for each hydrangea ordered.*

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_



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at the Community Building**



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

Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor  
Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager  
Samantha Jordan.....Family Ministries  
Kendall Newman.....Music Director  
Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist  
Tiffany Stidham.....Steady Steps Director  
Ann Scarth.....Wesley Nurse  
Rhett Vacek.....A/V Tech  
Rebecca Moneyhon.....Nursery  
Raegan Palacio.....Nursery  
Kendra Klaerner.....Nursery

**Office Phone: 325-347-5105 Fax Number: 325-347-5289**

**Email: [officemgr@fumcmason.org](mailto:officemgr@fumcmason.org) (Office Manager)**

**Website: [www.fumcmason.org](http://www.fumcmason.org)**

**Steady Steps Phone: 325-347-0043**

**Steady Steps Email: [steadysteps@fumcmason.org](mailto:steadysteps@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)**

**March 2016**

