



THE Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2020

BIBLE READING PLAN

- 1 Selah
- 2 Micah 6:1-8
- 3 Josh 1:1-9
- 4 Josh 1:10-18
- 5 Josh 2:1-24
- 6 Josh 3:1-17
- 7 Josh 4:1-24
- 8 Selah
- 9 Matt 5:13-20
- 10 Josh 5:1-9
- 11 Josh 5:10-15
- 12 Josh 6:1-27
- 13 Josh 7:1-26
- 14 Josh 8:1-29
- 15 Selah
- 16 Deut 30:15-20
- 17 Josh 8:30-35
- 18 Josh 9:1-27
- 19 Josh 10:1-15
- 20 Josh 10:16-27
- 21 Josh 10:28-43
- 22 Selah
- 23 2 Peter 1:16-21
- 24 Josh 11:1-15
- 25 Josh 11:16-23
- 26 Matt 6:1-6 & 16-21
- 27 Josh 12:1-24
- 28 Josh 13:1-23
- 29 Selah



EXCEPTIONAL MUSIC EXCEPTIONAL LIFE

Story and photography by Michelle Holland

Graceful, gentle, elegant, and beautiful are just a few words that describe Mary Baldwin Woodland, and I can think of many more. She doesn't like to talk about herself, but with some gentle prodding, she courteously agreed to share her fascinating story. She loves music and started at an early age, singing for thousands at a church revival, accompanied by her mother on the piano. Mary knew music was what she wanted to do with her life and pursued an education at Wesleyan College, majoring in voice and conducting and completing her masters at LSU.

The summer of 1952 brought the best music

students in the nation to the prestigious Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, MA., the summer home of the Boston Symphony. An eight-week immersion in music and specialized training, individual analysis, and criticism. Leonard Bernstein was there

"music that is made to worship God should always be the most exceptional music, the best we can possibly make it."

that summer, teaching and working on his first opera. Mary and her friends would pile on his old convertible jalopy and catch a ride to their boarding house in town. She

STOUFFER'S

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LOVE

Last summer I visited a monastery in Louisiana for the first time, St. Joseph's Abbey, in Covington. While I was there one of the daily readings included 1 Corinthians 13, what we often call "The Love Chapter!" Following that time of prayer with the monks, I sat in reflection of this passage to the church in Corinth. As I reflected, I concentrated on the following description of love:



1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends.

In my reflections, I wondered what it might sound like to restate the "not-statements" positively - this is what I discovered:

Love is: Patient, Kind, Content, Humble, Pure, Accepting, Yielding, Calm, Forgiving, TrueBearing - Believing, Hoping - Enduring all things for the sake of Christ All Because Love Never Ever Ever Ends!

As we walk through the season After Epiphany and prepare for Lent (February 26 is Ash Wednesday) I wonder what it might be like for our Lenten Disciplines to give up the "not-statements" as ways of being and take up the positive reflections as a way of renewal. It may well be more than enough to endeavor with one pair to give up and take up. As I listen to this passage I wonder how our practice of these descriptions of love might influence our conversations and our prayers. I'm curious to see how our conversations and prayers may continue to guide our ministry in making disciples of Jesus who love this city with the heart of Christ! This way of love is indeed the heart of Christ!

May Christ be our sufficiency!

Rev. Jon Stouffer, Lead Pastor

NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY

"Trustworthy: Overcoming Our Greatest Struggles to Trust God"

by Lysa Terkeurst

1st and 3rd Tuesday's
Starting March 1st.
6:30 p.m.

6204 Sheridan Oaks Drive - the Parsonage

Contact Holly Stouffer if you are interested -
h1stouffer@gmail.com

COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

Letchford Fund

February 2

Some Other Place

February 16

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep our entire First UMC
Beaumont community in your prayers.

If you have a specific request, our
prayer team would love to be praying
with you. Email us -
prayer@fumcbeaumont.org.

FIND US ONLINE

 [@fumcbeaumont](https://www.facebook.com/fumcbeaumont)

 [@fumcbeaumont](https://www.instagram.com/fumcbeaumont)

DO YOU HAVE UPCOMING EVENTS?

Email event info and pictures to -
Erika@fumcbeaumont.org

to put your events in our weekly E-Blasts and
the monthly Spire.

March Spire Deadline for entry - Feb. 21.

God's love is...



Priceless

- HANK HAMILTON



Caring

- JANA WINDLE



Overwhelming

- CHRISSIE JOYNER



Agape

- SAMANTHA BOUTTE



Everything

- WOLF ROSS



All-Encompassing

- CLARIS COLLINS

... Carry Your Story continued from front page

remembers picnic lunches under the trees, the marvelous climate, and the saturation in music she experienced. A quick internet search revealed an archived schedule and program with rehearsal times, picnic suppers, waltzing on the lawn, and both of Mary's opera performances.

New York was the next stop for Mary, hoping for an audition with the Metropolitan Opera. She took a job at a local church, rented a room at a hotel for women run by the Salvation Army, and began to practice and work. She was in the middle of lessons and auditions when she received an unexpected phone call that changed her well thought out future. The dean of music at Stetson University in Florida called to offer her a job. She told me this was not in her plans; it was a different line of thought, and she had to sleep on it. Mary Woodland doesn't make rash decisions, and after thinking this through, she decided to take the job. We talked about how New York was not a guarantee, and the idea of a stable job was very appealing. She taught voice, voice pedagogy, Italian diction, and was head of the opera department for four years. She loved to teach.

Another love was on the horizon, unknown to Mary, God was planning a twist in her well thought out plan. Lamar College called with the offer of a position, and she went for the interview. On her way back to Florida, she stopped to visit her former LSU professor, who just happened to know a young man who would also be teaching at Lamar. When Naiman met Mary, he was smitten at first sight. He asked her out for coffee, and before she knew it, she was meeting his family. Mary, the planner, had to do some thinking about this course of events, and it took a summer of letter writing before she decided her future.

They took the jobs at Lamar and married in the dome church a year later. She tells a beautiful story about their lives together. Shared interests in music, opera, and history, two children she is proud of, and a lifetime of doing the things she loves best. Music is how she prays and worships, it inspires her, and it is how she serves God. She doesn't have a favorite piece, but believes music that praises God, crosses all boundaries and she loves it all. She told me music that is made to worship God should always be the most exceptional music, the best we can possibly make it. I am inspired every Sunday when I see her standing in the choir loft, face radiating, singing from her heart, giving her best to God. ❤️

Loving THE City



CHRISSIE JOYNER – 30 YEARS OF SERVING

After 30 years of service, Some Other Place Special Programs Coordinator, Chrissie Joyner is retiring. Recognizing that Chrissie will be difficult to replace, Some Other Place is reaching out to First UMC Beaumont and other SOP member congregations in search of a replacement. Some Other Place hopes to find someone for whom a position such as this would be their calling.

SOME OTHER PLACE JOB OPENING

The Some Other Place Special Programs Coordinator is responsible for the organization and implementation of Some Other Place special programs which include but are not all inclusive – Meals on Wheels annual luncheon, the Back to School Clothing Program, the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry benefiting the Back to School Program, the Thanksgiving “Store”, and the “Giving Tree” Christmas program. This includes the following – coordinating registration and distribution for special programs which includes publicizing the programs, soliciting and organizing donations and volunteers, arranging for pick ups of donations, coordinating with others organizations and acknowledging supporters of special programs. All of this is done with the support of staff and volunteers. This

has become a part time position as most of the responsibilities of this position occur from May through January, this includes preparation time and wrap up time.

Other duties include assisting with the Emergency Services program as needed, stocking and distributing household items donated to Some Other Place, and maintaining the Community Center.

For anyone who might be interested we request that they send their resume to Paula O’Neill for it to be forwarded to the Some Other Place personnel committee. For more information questions can be sent along with the interested individuals resume. Thank you for helping Some Other Place to find the best possible individual for this position.



FIRST FRUITS

An initiative to supply Kairos Kitchen with fresh vegetables began in August. Since then we have been able to harvest multiple times off of our single Tower Garden and have generated lots of interest and support throughout our community. At the end of January, not only was the kale harvested off of the tower used in the wonderful carrots at Kairos kitchen but First Fruits was blessed with a generous donation initiated by Mr. Jimmy Booker. His donation allowed for the purchase of an entire second full tower as well as all the additional supplies needed. We were also unexpectedly blessed with our third Tower Garden! While some improvements are still needed for third Tower Garden, we are well on our way to having a full First Fruits Farm within our church walls! Be sure to stop by the Welcome Center to see the amazing growth, pick up some information, and find out about amazing ways you can be involved!

For more information about the First Fruits Initiative, and sponsorship opportunities, contact Stephanie Denham –
stephanie@fumcbeaumont.org.



KAIROS KITCHEN

The next opportunity to serve is **February 22**. Come share your story. In January Kairo's Kitchen served 57 guests. Visit lovebeaumont.org/kairoskitchen to sign up to volunteer.

BED BUILD

This January, Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteers helped deliver 297 beds. Plan to join SHP and FUMC for the next build day on **February 15 at 2950 Milam, Suite 4**.



WEEKLY RHYTHMS

SUNDAYS

Prayer & Holy Communion Service
9:15 a.m. | Longe Chapel

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Family Worship Service
11 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Handbell Practice
5:45 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice
7 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Lectionary Bible Study
1 p.m. | Church Library

RETIREMENT HOME SERVICES

Calder Woods
February 4 | 11 a.m.

Collier Park
February 11 | 10:30 a.m.

Pelican Bay
February 18 | 10:30 a.m.

DATES TO KNOW

FEB. 2
United Youth Group
5-7 p.m. | Youth Center Upstairs

FEB. 14-15
Estate Sale
Rothwell Hall

FEB. 15
Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build
8:15 a.m. - Noon
2950 Milam St., Beaumont

FEB. 16
United Youth Bowling
Crossroads Bowling Trip
No Cost to Participate
4-7 p.m.

FEB. 18
UMW Becomers
Rothwell Hall | 6 p.m.

FEB. 21
Some Other Place Service Day
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FEB. 22
Kairos Kitchen
5 p.m.

FEB. 23
United Community Group
Immediately following
Family Worship Service

FEB. 26
Ash Wednesday
Songs for Sacred Repentance
6 p.m.

FEB. 27
Oyster & Gumbo Supper
LoveBeaumont.com/Oysters
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

APR. 25
Grandparenting Matters Seminar
Cathedral Church Beaumont
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Online Registration - \$30
GrandparentSeminarTexas.Eventbrite.com



First United Methodist Church
701 Calder Ave.
Beaumont, Texas 77701



Loving THE CITY WITH THE *heart* OF *Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

A large, golden anchor graphic is centered behind the text. The anchor has a rope coiled around its shank and flukes.

OYSTER
& GUMBO
SUPPER

THURSDAY, FEB. 27 | 4:30 – 6:30 P.M.

TICKETS @ [LOVEBEAUMONT.COM/OYSTERS](https://lovebeaumont.com/oysters)

HENRY JOYNER'S CHICKEN N' SAUSAGE GUMBO

AVAILABLE FOR PRE-SALE ORDERS - \$10 PER QUART

Pick up Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at First UMC Beaumont

[LOVEBEAUMONT.COM](https://lovebeaumont.com) • (409) 832-0295 • [INFO@FUMCBEAUMONT.ORG](mailto:info@fumcbeaumont.org)