



THE Spire

BEAUMONT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2020

BIBLE READING PLAN

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CARRY YOUR STORY

Story and photography by Michelle Holland

A new year presents itself to us, fresh, clean, and ready for us to make full use of all its days. What can we do better? What is our purpose? How can we best love the city with the heart of Christ? I spent an afternoon with Brandon Jackson learning about his life, listening to his story and discussing how other people help us find our way.

You may know Brandon as a member of our choir, a booming bass that can fill the sanctuary without a microphone, but here are some quick facts I bet you didn't know. He is one of seven children with four sisters and two brothers. He is originally from Los Angeles, and his grandmother was a minister. His aunt is a musician, and she would get

them all together to sing, and as Brandon put it, "They were the youth choir!" She would play the piano when he was a child, and he would come into the room with a bang and start singing. I pictured him as a child and asked him to describe himself. We laughed

"We can work together to help others find their way, their purpose, and the love of Jesus."

when he compared himself to Dennis the Menace. He was curious and liked to take things apart, and they rarely went back together. If there was spilled food or missing

STOUFFER'S

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

iTAPAS!

Small Bites

Happy New Year! As we begin 2020, we will be reading through Proverbs this January, and then Joshua, Judges, & Ruth after that! With 31 chapters in Proverbs and 31 days in January, we will be reading every day. A few thoughts about that: First, keep up with today's reading. If you miss a day, be kind to yourself, read today's chapter. If you can, go back and read the missed chapter. Secondly, I find it interesting to read reflectively with these questions in mind as I read: 1. How have you seen these proverbs play out in the last year?

2. How might these proverbs shape the coming year for growth and fruitfulness? Finally, our Bible Reading Plans are meant to enhance our faith practice and help us grow in our discipleship, not become a burden or drudgery!

On Sunday, January 12, 2020, we will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, remembering and reading the story of Jesus' baptism. We will also share "A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition" (No. 607 UMH).

This year, our Sunday school Collective will be during the season of Lent, March 1 - April 5! We will be reading and talking together Reuben Job's book, Three Simple Rules! There happen to be 6

lessons for 6 Sundays! Please consider this in your Sunday school classes that we might all learn together. (There is curriculum available for children, youth, and adults!). We will have more information about pre-ordering books later this month!

Speaking of Lent and lenten disciplines, you should know now that Lent begins on February 26, 2020, Ash Wednesday - AND!!!! Oyster Supper is Thursday, February 27, 2020. This information may help with choices of lenten disciplines - take up a new avenue of serving with your Church Family at Oyster Supper; give up something besides oysters at the table!

I'm looking forward to all the ways God is continuing to work in our lives and in the life of our congregation and communities!



Rev. Jon Stouffer, Lead Pastor

† A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION

No. 607 UMH

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by the or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed Coe, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

Some Other Place

January 5

Seafarer's Center

January 19

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep our entire BFUMC 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.

Feb. Spire Deadline for entry – Jan. 24.

Our FUMC FAMILY'S Goals for 2020

... Carry Your Story continued from front page

batteries from the tv remote, Brandon was to blame. I had an image of Brandon happily belting out a song with a trail of parts, popcorn and destruction in his wake.

Family is important, and he describes this church as family. It's hard to convey how much it means when people do things for you, are excited to see you, and love you unconditionally. We talked about a church family who is real, who live by what they say, and who's actions we can see. Brandon told me how thankful he is for this church, to see people helping people, and how it feels to be inspired by what you see around you. When you experience love in action, it does something inside your head to motivate you to be better and to pay that kindness forward.

Brandon has experienced his share of trouble, and there is no doubt God had him on a collision course with Renee Kloes and FUMC. Music was always there for him, but without a purpose, it didn't mean much. When you are loved by a family like ours, you can't help but love back and give of yourself because you want to give back, and in doing that, Brandon has found meaning and purpose. We talked about our story and how each individual piece, each person's unique perspective, adds up to the whole story of our church. We may have trouble communicating the complete story with words, but maybe we don't need words. We carry our story with us daily, out into the city, a part of ourselves, and the pieces we have gathered from others. If we are proactive and do what needs to be done, the story will fall into place. We can work together to help others find their way, their purpose, and the love of Jesus. One life touches another in a continuous circle. We don't need to make it hard, as Brandon told me, "Just tell the story for real and be yourself." ♥



"I would like to make this a healthy year for my family."

- SARAH MOON

"I would like to become more efficient so I can get more done."

- CHARLIE SNOEK



"I am going to volunteer my skills to help others by working with the dispute resolution center of Jefferson county."

- FLOYD MCSPADDEN



"I am going to teach my children a greater appreciation for the outdoors and eat more veggies."

- JOSH SEALE



"I am going to tithe with every paycheck."

- DIANE VANMETER



"I would like to clean out my junk drawer but the problem is I have more than one."

- BERNIE HUGHES WRIGHT



Loving THE City



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

When SHP began their mission, to make sure no kid sleeps on the floor in SETX, they hoped to build and deliver 100 beds in the first twelve months. As of Christmas Eve, SHP built and delivered 282 beds over the last ten months. Join SHP and FUMC for the next Volunteer Build Day, **January 18 at 2950 Milam St in Beaumont** to build more beds to give to the over 400 kids that are on SHP's waiting list.



BICYCLES AND BIBLES

In December, FUMC volunteers helped deliver bicycles, bibles, and smiles to nearly 1,000 children at the 18th Annual Reaud Foundation Bicycles and Bibles event at Ford Park.

KAIROS KITCHEN

Kairos Kitchen is a monthly opportunity to connect with our Downtown Beaumont neighbors, many whom are currently homeless, and serve them a good meal. It's a time of sharing good food, fellowship, prayer, as well as Holy Communion. All are welcome to come and serve. Kairos Kitchen feeds 60 to 120 people each month on the fourth Saturday from January to October. The next opportunity to serve is **January 25**.



FIRST FRUITS

We are reaping the fruits of our labor. Our First Fruits Initiative started in August and we have already harvested the indoor garden space twice, helping meet the needs of Kairos Kitchen. Plans for expanding the program are in the works. In addition to providing a healthy bounty, the gardens cultivate discipleship and community. For more information about the First Fruits Initiative, and sponsorship opportunities, contact Stephanie Denham – **stephanie@fumcbeaumont.org**.

Each month we will feature some of the additional ways our congregation lives our motto "Loving this City with the Heart of Christ."

Email your "Loving the City" moments to **Erika@fumcbeaumont.org**

SOME OTHER PLACE

SOP's Soup Kitchen serves on average 300 daily, including Meals on Wheels. In "Chrissie's Building", SOP served 680 families through their annual Thanksgiving Food Store. This December, SOP's Giving Tree helped 650 families, providing approximately 1350 children with at least 2 gifts each. At least 65 of our FUMC families donated their time in December, several spending over 30 hours per week wrapping and bagging gifts!

RAINBOW ROOM

The Rainbow Room is an emergency resource center available to CPS caseworkers to help them meet the critical needs of abused and neglected children. Stocked with all new items, Rainbow Rooms provide clothing, shoes, underwear, baby formula, school supplies and hygiene items to children entering foster or relative care and children in their own homes who live below the poverty line. Ongoing & continued ministry provides a total \$5,000 per month to assist families in emergency situations.

EJ STOCKING FUND

By hosting the EJ Stocking Fund sign up, 650 kids received Christmas gifts from EJ!

UNITED COMMUNITY

The Annual Tamale Christmas Party was a huge success! There were several different kinds of delicious tamales to enjoy as well as fun to be had by all! Wondering what we do? Games and fellowship are a large part of why we meet monthly. During this time Community is built, brick by brick. As believers we must work together to advance God's kingdom, encourage each other, enjoy the time spent together, build each other up, and we must bear each other's burdens. Despite busy personal and professional demands, Christians should never forsake seeking community. If we do, then how can we be aware of and aid others in their time of need? And in our times of need, how can others help us if we dis-

tribute ourselves? Not only is it pleasing to God to see the body of Christ working together as one, but we are stronger together and we become more like Christ living life together than we do alone. Beyond our once a month meeting, we encourage you to find time to begin to create fellowship with one another! Invite someone out to lunch, plan a play date with the kiddos, or have a bar-b-que! Make the time and you will truly see how important and transformative being apart of a community can be in your Christian walk of faith. Plus don't forget to join our United Community Group the last Sunday of each month, immediately following the 11am service in the Dining Room for food, fellowship and fun!

UNITED YOUTH

With the success of the Roll Bake Sale, this month the Youth are attending the Family Life Retreat in Lakeview, fully sponsored! We have reserved two dorm rooms and are planning for some of the most fun a person can have. This will be the first year that the Youth will attend

the Retreat as a whole including some students from other local Methodist churches. Our Christmas Party in December was more than we could have hoped for! With 9 students in attendance we took on some challenges such as the 'Candy Cane Crain Game' and used our skills

to unwrap a massive ball of Saran Wrap filled with all sorts of goodies and prizes!

Know of a youth who would like to be involved? Interested in how you can help the United Youth group grow and prosper?

Reach out to Stephanie Denham today! Stephanie@fumcbeaumont.org

KEEPING UP WITH FIRST KIDS

Some of our children and youth truly blessed us on Christmas Eve with the reading of the Birth of Jesus during Children's Moment. This was a beautiful way for children to see that we can learn from each other as well. We were reminded that Christmas is not about presents or parties but simply about the birth of our Lord. It was explained that just like the Shepherds saw the infant Jesus and immediately left to go tell others, we too are called to do the same. The importance of telling others about Jesus begins here, at this young age. We are not to keep our faith to

ourselves but to share it daily through our words, thoughts, deeds and actions. This is the basis for all of our Children's Ministry. We discover each week that a 'Bible story' is not simply a story, but a life lesson to be lived and shared, and then built upon. Our children enjoy the experience of their own Chapel service immediately following the Time for First Kids at the 11am service. We worship, listen, learn, play and craft all while parents participate in 'Big Church'. Please remember to continue to keep all of our children covered in prayer as we enter this new year.

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

January 7 | 11 a.m.

Collier Park

January 14 | 10:30 a.m.

Pelican Bay

January 21 | 10:30 a.m.

DATES TO KNOW

JAN. 12

Organ Recital & Reception

3-5:30 p.m.

JAN. 17

Some Other Place Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

JAN. 18

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - Noon

JAN. 19

United Youth Group

5-7 p.m. | Youth Center Upstairs

JAN. 25

Kairos Kitchen

5 p.m.

JAN. 26

United Community Group

Immediately following
Family Worship Service

FEB. 27

Oyster & Gumbo Supper

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.



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



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

BEAUMONT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OYSTER & GUMBO SUPPER

Feb. 27

TICKETS @ [LOVEBEAUMONT.COM/EVENTS](https://lovebeaumont.com/events)



BEAUMONT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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