



THE *Spire*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • SPECIAL EDITION 2020

IN-PERSON WEDNESDAY COMMUNION

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Oct. 10 & Nov. 21

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WELCOMING THE WARDLEYS– Q&A

Interview and Photography by Erika Leggett Clabough

This summer, First UMC Beaumont excitedly welcomes Rev. Julius Wardley, his wife, Rev. Romonica Malone-Wardley, and their daughter Maya to Beaumont.

Pastor Julius joins us as our new discipleship pastor, after serving in college campus ministry for over ten years. Pastor Romonica joins our community as the

District Superintendent for the Southeast District of the Texas Annual Conference. Maya is a sophomore at Navarro College, studying criminal justice.

Shortly after their arrival, we sat down for a Zoom video interview to learn more about them. Below are some of the highlights from our interview together – *See Page 4*



WEDNESDAY COMMUNION

**Beginning Wed., Oct. 7
10:00 AM & 6:30 PM**

This October we will return to celebrating Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. All who are committed to loving God, or who simply desire to be loved by God are welcomed at Christ's table. We keep this practice as a way to nourish our faith and to encounter the presence of God.

Please read our COVID-19 Considerations and Communion Service Participation Covenant before attending.

If you feel unwell, and exhibit any of the symptoms of COVID-19, First UMC Beaumont kindly asks that you refrain from participating in person, and continue worshiping with us through our Sunday Livestream Worship Service.

COMMUNION SERVICE PARTICIPATION COVENANT & COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

For Individuals & Households Participating in our Wednesday Communion

1. Park on the Willow Street side of our facility closest to Rothwell Hall, either along the street or in the Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot.
2. Please save on street and porte-cochère (drive-through) parking for those who need to park the closest.
3. Please wear a mask for the entire time from entry to exit of our facility, except when receiving the elements.
4. Entry will begin 20 minutes prior to the start of the service. (9:40 AM and 6:10 PM)
5. Enter the facility on the Willow Street side nearest Rothwell Hall.
6. Allow the Greeter to open the door for you.
7. Sanitize hands upon entering.
8. Maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet from others outside your household, proceed to Rothwell Hall.
9. Receive Communion elements on your way into Rothwell Hall.
10. Enter Rothwell Hall in a spirit of prayer and reverence as our guide helps seat you in available chairs. Our scripture reading will be on the screen for you to read and consider as we prepare for worship.
11. Remain in your place for the duration of the gathering.
12. Refrain from physical contact and maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from others outside your household.
13. This will be a brief communion service including a modified communion liturgy, the reading of Scripture, the prayers of the people, and the receiving of the elements. We will not be singing or speaking in unison.
14. There will be a basket in the hallway outside Rothwell for you to leave God's Tithe and your gifts of offering.
15. Upon conclusion, dismissal will be guided by an usher from the back of Rothwell to the front of Rothwell Hall. Please allow exiting in such a manner as to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet.
16. Allow the Greeter to open the door for you.
17. Please immediately exit the facility and return to your vehicle.
18. Access to the facility will be strictly limited to Rothwell Hall. Restrooms, water fountains, and the rest of the facility will remain inaccessible at this time.
19. Go out to be God's people and love this city with the heart of Christ.

This is what we're going to do not because we all love wearing masks, but because we love each other. We want others to feel comfortable, and if it makes one person feel more comfortable coming, then it's worth it to us.

**"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."
– Philippians 2:4**

**This information is available to reference on our website at
lovebeaumont.com/wednesdaycommunion**



HURRICANE LAURA WORK DAYS

Hurricane Laura made landfall before dawn on Thursday, August 27 along the Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana border. While many of our First Family went without major destruction, our neighbors along the state border and into Louisiana faced significant devastation to their communities. Unfortunately we know how this feels from our own experiences, and with Laura witnessed the significance of every mile from a hurricane's landfall.

With each storm, we are challenged to love our community with the heart of Christ. On Saturday, September 12, a team of volunteers from First

UMC and Lamar University's Wesley Foundation met at Faith UMC in Orange, TX to assist in Hurricane Laura recovery work. First UMC was dispatched to help three households with tree and debris removal.

Please continue praying for those impacted by Hurricane Laura in Southeast Texas and our neighbors in Southwest Louisiana.

We will participate in two upcoming Hurricane Laura Work Days on October 10, and November 21.

Please contact Pastor Julius Wardley to sign up – julius@fumcbeaumont.org

PIE WARS

This August, First UMC held a socially distanced version of our annual Pie Wars baking competition, tasting, and auction. Bakers each made two pies for pickup by Pastors Jon and Julius.

Our serving team sliced and packaged pieces of pie into bite sized samples for drive through pickup.

Our First UMC Family voted online and by phone for their top three favorite pies. Out of the 13 varieties of pie submitted, Sherry Biksey & Emma Cortez's Peanut Butter Celebration Pie won first place, followed by Tom Engelking's Creamy Pecan Pie in second place. Gabby Credeur's Lemon Meringue Pie and Karlye Ramos' Tuxedo Pie tied for third place.

Proceeds from this year's auction benefitted Charlton Pollard's School Supply Drive.

CP SCHOOLSUPPLY DRIVE

Thanks to our many generous donors, First UMC was able to deliver school supplies for 35 Charlton Pollard Elementary School students.

WELCOMING THE WARDLEYS – Q&A

Interview and Photography by Erika Leggett Clabough continued from front page

Where did you grow up?

RMW – I grew up in East Texas – San Augustine, Texas.

JW – So I grew up as a military brat – my parents were in the Air Force. I was born in Minot, North Dakota, and they call it “Why-Not-Minot – Freezing is the reason,” and so just lived a couple years there and then kind of grew up all over the United States. I spent quite a bit of time in the D.C. Metro Area, in Dayton, Ohio, and in San Antonio, Texas, and then got to spend a couple years living in Honolulu, Hawaii.

What were you doing before you entered ministry?

RMW – So I graduated from Texas State with a Bachelor of Social Work, came back to East Texas was living in Lufkin and working for family counseling associates. I did that for three years. During those three years, I accepted my call into ministry and then left for seminary.

JW – So, for me, after college [University of Tennessee in Knoxville], I was applying for a doctorate program in physical therapy, and then God started to change my plans and turn my world upside down, and called me to ministry.

How did you end up in ministry?

RMW – I always knew that I loved being with people, I loved helping people. I always felt that whatever I did in life would be some kind of helping profession. I first started out in school, looking at education, and then thought, “Okay, I don’t want to be in a classroom,” but I still like working with children. I still like working with families. I ended up in social work, and while there, I got to see lots of things that were going on with families and got to be supportive of families as they were facing trauma and then putting their lives back together. I’m doing that on one hand, and then on the other hand, I started to attend the United Methodist Church and fell in love with the church and then this unction this, this feeling that I started to feel when I was in high school started to come back. After consulting with my pastor discerned that it was a call into ministry. I left and decided I will go to seminary, still not thinking that I would be a pastor and still thinking like, “Okay God, I feel this call the ministry but I don’t know exactly what that means.” While matriculating through seminary thought felt the call that it was pastoral ministry.

JW – I was in the health profession and thought I was going to be a physical therapist. That made it a little bit more confusing. I thought I was helping people and helping people in the way that God wanted me to help them through physically getting better. But then God said “I guess I want you to do something a little bit different.” It was through mentors as well, helping me to

discern, “Okay Julius, that’s one way that God can use you, but maybe God wants to use you in a different way.” So then went to seminary. Seminary was a great time for me to get my education, but also I kind of double dipped, and I met my wife there. So it was really good for me and a great experience meeting her.

How did you meet?

RMW – When we first got to campus, we’re moving in and getting ready and right before classes started, we had an orientation lunch. We walked in, and we ended up sitting at the same table. He ended up being the only guy at the table with a bunch of women. We all started to talk and [our] whole table, just kind of instantly connected. After that, we decided “Oh, we should do meals together sometime,” so we planned a meal together at my place. It was all of the women and Julius. All of the women ended up in the living room talking and chatting it up, and Julius was in the kitchen, doing all of the cooking.

JW – We continued that friendship through our seminary experience. She came back to the Texas conference because this was her home

conference. I went to the Alabama West Florida conference to do campus ministry. I went to Auburn, and then Tuskegee, but all that time we maintained that really great friendship. One day I kind of woke up and had this “aha” moment. This is the one I really like, so [we] took the next steps in that journey.

What are some of the biggest joys that you've had in ministry?

JW – It's probably always been the great people that you get to walk alongside of. I was in student ministry for 13 years and to meet some of the students and for them to allow me to walk alongside of them and get to know them and to be a part of their lives has been a great experience. Especially when I was at Texas Southern University, to see this freshmen that came in, 18 years all bright eyed and bushy tailed, you know, and thinking, “Can I do this college stuff?” Then to see them make it through their freshman year, then their sophomore year, then their junior year, and then to see them graduate. That has been probably one of the biggest highlights. For me, it's just to be able to walk with them and get to know them. Then to see the wonderful things that God is doing in their lives. That's been my highway.

RMW – Relationships are always going to be important to both Julius and me. We're both very relational people, but [it's] one of the things that I've also loved about ministry, which I also think moving into this new role will be a slight bit of a challenge. But I love the sacraments, like, I've loved getting to sit down with families, as they're preparing to have their children baptized and talk to them about what that means and, and then to stand with their family as we baptize their baby, and then get to watch them grow up. As I was just leaving my church, I got to say goodbye to a six year old. I was there six years. So to watch her move from not walking, to stumbling, to crawling, to walking, and entering school was a big joy for me.

Standing, blessing, and consecrating the communion elements, and then celebrating communion with people when you know what they're going through. You know their hopes and their dreams, you know, their struggles and their prayers, and you're praying alongside them as they're hoping for healing, or rejoicing with them when they've gotten through a challenge. Then we come together to the table to proclaim who God is to us and what God is calling us to do. We get to be at the table together with each other and with God. Those have been some of the really blessed moments for me.

What do you like to do outside of ministry for fun?

RMW – So we like to read, we like to travel, we like to watch movies and go to plays and musicals.

JW – Anything outside always gives me joy. There's a piece that I get from being outside, and that I really enjoy.

Where is one of your favorite places that you've traveled to together?

JW – I got to go to my brother's college graduation when he graduated from law school. We went to the redwood forests in California. These huge trees have been growing for centuries. They have these very shallow roots, so they interlock with one another for support. That has been one of the most memorable traveling experiences for me.

RMW – One of my favorites was Alaska. We did an Alaskan cruise with his family. I'm surprised to say the majority of what I enjoyed was doing the outside stuff– when we went for the hikes and looking at whales, watching the glaciers. That was fun.

What are some other things that you're passionate about?

JW – Helping people and being the hands and feet of Christ. I love to build things. We did Habitat for Humanity houses, when I was in Tuskegee, and at Auburn, we did a lot of building wheel chair ramps. Anytime that I can be the hands and feet of Christ, whether that's tutoring at an elementary school and reading to a child, or if that's serving the homeless and making a care package and being with them and learning their stories, that's always something that gives me great joy. ... I also love sports as well. So football season, I'm hoping that somehow they'll be able to play during this covid reality, and be safe.

RMW – So if we're talking spiritual, Yes, I love working with people. I love serving, I love being with people. If we're just talking personal things that we enjoy doing, and we're passionate about, I really enjoy shopping.

What is on your bucket list?

JW – Traveling new places will definitely be on our bucket list when that is allowed again, and in a safe way.

RMW – We've also talked about maybe learning another language together. When I was in high school and college, I took a lot of Spanish, but know very little of it now. I wouldn't mind picking that up again. Julius used to sign and he feels like he's losing that. We've talked about taking some of those courses together. That might be a bucket list kind of learning thing together.

Thank you, First Beaumont for welcoming us and for your generosity and the love that you have poured out on the all three of us. We're just very thankful to be here. We are grateful to serve at First Beaumont. We love being here. Thank you again for your love and your grace and for the wonderful things that you are doing and this city. - Pastor Julius

FIRST UMC BEAUMONT'S

DRIVE-THRU HALLOWEEN PARADE PARTY

October 31 • 2-4 pm • 701 Calder Ave.

DRIVE-THRU HALLOWEEN PARADE PARTY

Oct. 31 | 2 - 4 pm
First UMC Beaumont

This year, First UMC Beaumont will host our very first Drive-Thru Halloween Parade Party at our church! We invite you to dress up and drive through our parade party this Halloween for family friendly games, candy, and fun.

We will also have a pumpkin decorating competition where you can enter your decorated pumpkin, and vote for your favorite one!

PUMPKIN DECORATING COMPETITION

We invite you to decorate a pumpkin (real or fake), and enter your masterpiece in our pumpkin decorating competition! Pumpkins may be carved or decorated,

and brought to the church on Wednesday, October 28. First UMC family and friends may vote for their favorite during the Drive-Thru Halloween event. (Voting info TBA). The winner will receive a small prize, and bragging rights as the 2020 Pumpkin Decorating Master.

Email Erika@fumcbeaumont.org for more info.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Setting Up a Table

It's not hard to do, just decorate a table under our porte-cochère and have lots and lots of candy and/or treats to hand out to our First UMC families and friends! Our tables will be spaced out at least 6 ft from one another to provide a safe experience.

If you are setting up a table, you will also need to purchase candy or treats.

Do not bring your candy to the church and put in the candy donation baskets. Those baskets are only for donations by people who can't participate in the event with a table!

Email Erika@fumcbeaumont.org to sign up.

DONATE CANDY & TREATS

For our members that can't participate the day of, we hope you will help us by donating candy or treats for our Drive-Thru Halloween.

There will be baskets set out on Wednesdays for candy donations.

IMPORTANT!

-Candy must be factory wrapped

-No candy containing peanuts or peanut butter, because of allergies.

- We ask that everyone please wear a mask for the entire event.

WEEKLY RHYTHMS

SUNDAYS

First Kids ZOOM Church

Pre-Recorded for your convenience. A time for First Kids to grow in faith.

Contact Stephanie Denham via Facebook Message or Email Stephanie@fumcbeaumont.org

Livestream Worship

11 a.m.

fumcbeaumont.org/livestream

Facebook Livestream

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Communion

10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Rothwell Hall

For our COVID-19 protocols, visit

lovebeaumont.com/wednesdaycommunion

DAILY

Independent Prayer & Meditation

12:19 p.m.

Anywhere

Take a moment every day at 12:19 p.m. and pray for our churches, communities, country and the world as we seek Gods help to navigate during the COVID-19 outbreak.

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.

DATES TO KNOW

OCT. 10

Hurricane Recovery Work Day

Find out more from Pastor Julius –

Email Julius@fumcbeaumont.org

OCT. 17

SHP Bed Build Day

8:00 a.m. - Noon

2950 Milam St. Beaumont

OCT. 22-24

Estate Sale

Location and Time TBA

OCT. 31

Drive-Thru Halloween Parade Party

First UMC Families and Friends

701 Calder Ave.

2-4 p.m.

NOV. 21

Hurricane Recovery Work Day

Find out more from Pastor Julius –

Email Julius@fumcbeaumont.org

FIND US ONLINE



@fumcbeaumont



First UMC Beaumont



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



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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

Wednesday Communion

10:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. | ROTHWELL HALL

Details inside

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