

# *in*SPIRE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT NEWSLETTER • MAY 2024

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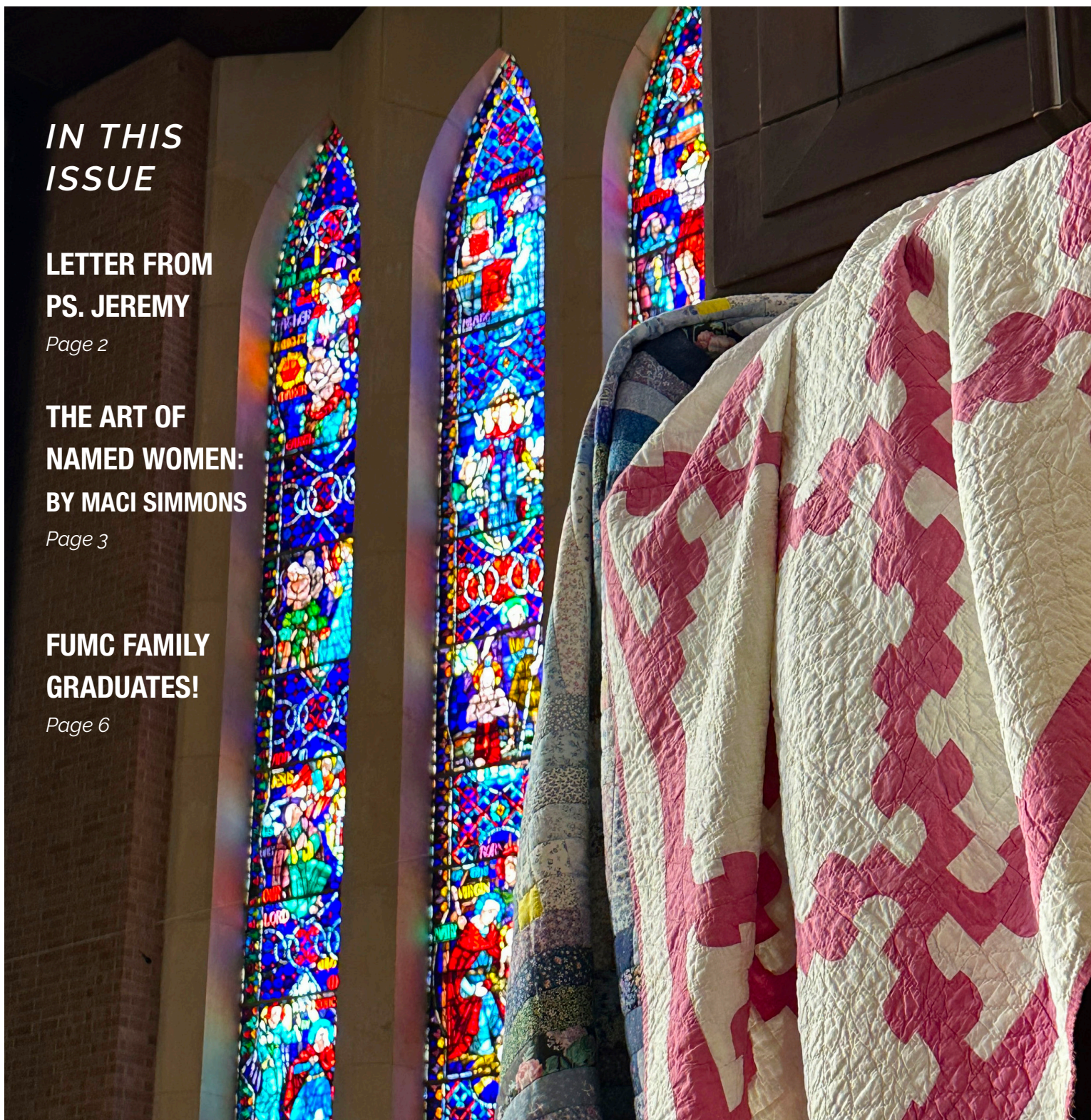
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## With the Heart of Christ...

As we move through a time of transition and change, I am grateful that the love of Christ is and will remain the sure foundation on which everything else is built. And I am grateful for the United Methodist witness, reminding us that our experience of God's love is inseparable from our understanding of God's grace.

Grace reminds us that the love of Christ is not something we earn and it is not something that is given in response to anything we could ever say or do. Before we are anything else, we are loved, we are accepted, we are enough. Each and every one of us. Each and every part of us. God's love puts grace first.

Grace reminds us that the love of Christ is not a passive or vaguely spiritual idea that makes us feel better about ourselves. God's love is what empowers us to respond in ways that turn the expectations of our world upside down. God's love sets our lives and relationships right. God's love teaches us that grace heals.

Grace reminds us that the love of Christ does not strengthen communities in ways that solidify the wall between insider and outsider. When we find our place in the family of God, we are challenged and changed to make room for our neighbors near and far. God's love reveals that grace overflows.

These three convictions - Grace First, Grace Heals, and Grace Overflows - will be the lens this summer through which we begin exploring love "with the heart of Christ."

I don't know exactly what our church will look like 10 or even 50 years from now and I don't know how much might change in the process of clarifying our vision for the future. But my hope above all else is that the ways we love with the heart of Christ will bear radical witness to the overflowing, healing, grace first love that God freely offers to us.

Please continue to be in prayer for our local and denominational church leaders as they prayerfully consider how we can be most faithful to God's calling in this time. And don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns any time.

*Pastor Jeremy*

**Rev. Jeremy Wester, Lead Pastor**



## COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

**May 5, 2024**

Methodist Home in Waco

**May 19, 2024**

Charlton Pollard Elementary

**June 2, 2024**

Some Other Place

**June 16, 2024**

Rainbow Room

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## THIS PRAYER IS FOR YOU –

Please share the name and mailing address of a school, organization, or church that you would like to add to the list by emailing [prayerforyou@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:prayerforyou@fumcbeaumont.org) or speak with Mary or Neil Early for more information and ways to support this effort!

**May 5-11**

Dishman Elementary  
Elks Lodge  
St. Michael Orthodox Church

**May 12-18**

Early College High School  
Forest Park Methodist  
Beaumont Chamber of Commerce

**May 19-25**

Marshall Middle School  
Fire Museum of Texas  
First Baptist Church, Beaumont

**May 26– June 1**

Homer Drive Elementary  
Lamar University Alumni Association  
Greater Good Hope Baptist Church

## THE ART OF NAMED WOMEN

BY MACI SIMMONS

When you look at certain objects displayed in front of you, such as a flower pot or a tablecloth, can you give it another meaning? Most of the time, we can't. Because to many of us, these items are just normal, everyday objects. But to others, these items can be something more- pieces of art that have stories behind them, waiting to be told.

To celebrate our Nameless. Witness. series, there have been several handmade quilts, afghans, blankets, and scarves on display throughout our church to honor the art of some important, named women. Back in the time the Bible was written, these women were considered unworthy to be given names. Additionally, their work was rarely looked upon and received very little recognition.

Today, more and more women globally are being praised and recognized for their work; the women of our congregation and their friends and family are some of the many examples.

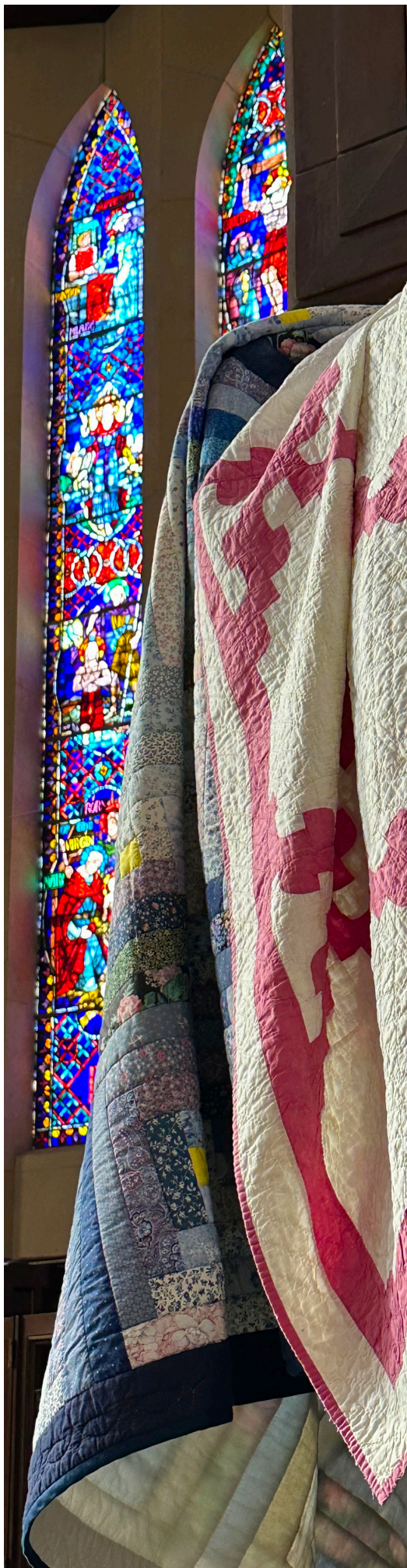
Some of these quilts and blankets were made to keep a family tradition alive. Our Director of Involvement, Phyllis Fernandez, has several quilts that were primarily made by her mother-in-law. She has also kept a baby blanket that was a baby shower gift from her friends. That same blanket has been a family heirloom for many years and now serves as an important keepsake for her grandchildren.

Some of these quilts were created to bond sisters closer together.

This was the case for Liza Nelson's grandmother, who made numerous quilts with her sisters, while living on a farm in southern Illinois. One quilt, titled A Summer's Gift, was a wedding gift Liza's grandmother made for her mother and father. Another quilt, titled Drunken's Path, was made as a baby gift for Liza after she was born. Now, Liza has developed her grandmother's love of quilts, as she has bought many quilts from Quilt Auctions, including two titled ABC's Narthex (baby blanket) and Log Cabin. To keep her grandmother's memory alive, Liza and her siblings have kept her quilts in their houses throughout the years.

Sometimes, quilts are just made to bring joy to the people you love and care about. Chrissy Joyner has made and received several crocheted afghans and scarves as parting gifts from friends, and she has given them as Christmas gifts for her family. According to Chrissy, when you give something with a special meaning behind it to someone or vice versa, it is one of the greatest feelings in the world.

When you happen to know someone who has created something with a deep meaning behind it, it suddenly gains a higher significance. That is why we present the art of important named women in our church to recognize their talent and worth.



## WEEKLY RHYTHMS

### SUNDAYS

#### Morning Prayer Time

9:20 a.m.

#### Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

#### Family Worship Service

11 a.m.

In-Person & Livestream

#### Small Group with Robin & Charlie Snoek

6–7 p.m.

### MONDAYS

#### Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

7 – 8:30 p.m.

### TUESDAYS

#### Connect Group with Liza Nelson

Noon

#### Narcotics Anonymous Meeting “The Brown Bag” Meeting

12:15-1:15 p.m.

#### Zoom Small Group

7 p.m. | Contact Gail Wilson

### WEDNESDAYS

#### Handchime Practice

10 a.m.

#### Chancel Choir Practice

6 p.m.

#### Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

7 – 8:30 p.m.

### THURSDAYS

#### Grief Support Group

2 p.m. | [griefsupport@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:griefsupport@fumcbeaumont.org)

## MAY & JUNE DATES TO KNOW

### MAY

#### SAT., MAY 4

##### POSTPONED –

#### Concert on the Lawn

Due to inclement weather and AC repairs, our Concert on the Lawn will be postponed. New date TBA.

#### MON., MAY 6

#### General Conference Follow Up -

#### A time of prayer and reflection

6 p.m. | Chapel

#### WED., MAY 8

#### Games Day

10 a.m. | Fun & Fellowship.

#### Contact Ruby Nelson

#### SAT., MAY 11

#### SHP Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - noon

2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

#### Pre register at [bit.ly/shpevent](https://bit.ly/shpevent)

#### Second Saturday Faith Seminar

Parlor (Faith Questers) | 9 a.m. - Noon

#### SUN., MAY 12

#### Mother's Day

#### FRI., MAY 17

#### Some Other Place Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### SAT., MAY 18

#### SHP Delivery Day

9 a.m. - Noon

2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Bring your cordless drill with charged up batteries.

#### SUN., MAY 19

#### Graduation Sunday

Celebrate our high school and college graduates from Fall 2023 – Spring 2024.

#### MON., MAY 20

#### Leadership Board Meeting

6 p.m. | Library

## TUE., MAY 21

### ♥ United Women in Faith

6 p.m. | Charlotte Seeley, Hostess

## SAT., MAY 25

### ♥ Kairos Family Supper

Rothwell Hall

Set up: 2 – 5 p.m.

Serving: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Clean up: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

## JUNE

## SAT., JUNE 8

### ♥ SHP Bed Build

8:30 a.m. - noon

2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Pre register at [bit.ly/shpevent](https://bit.ly/shpevent)

### 📖 Second Saturday Faith Seminar

Parlor (Faith Questers) | 9 a.m. - Noon

## SUN., JUNE 9 – WED., JUNE 12

### Texas Annual Conference

First UMC Houston -

Westchase Campus

## WED., JUNE 12

### 👤 Games Day

10 a.m. | Fun & Fellowship.

Contact Ruby Nelson

## SAT., JUNE 15

### ♥ SHP Delivery Day

9 a.m. - Noon

2950 Milam Street, Bmt., TX

Bring your cordless drill with charged up batteries.

## SUN., JUNE 16

### Father's Day

## MON., JUNE 17

### 🗣️ Leadership Board Meeting

6 p.m. | Library

## TUE., JUNE 18

### ♥ United Women in Faith

6 p.m. | Chrissie Joyner, Hostess

## WED., JUNE 19

### Juneteenth

Church Office Closed

## FRI., JUNE 21

### ♥ Some Other Place Service Day

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## SAT., JUNE 22

### ♥ Kairos Family Supper

Rothwell Hall

Set up: 2 – 5 p.m.

Serving: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Clean up: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

## STAY CONNECTED

📘 @fumcbeaumont

📷 @fumcbeaumont

📺 First UMC Beaumont

🌐 [fumcbeaumont.org](https://fumcbeaumont.org)

# Congratulations Graduates!

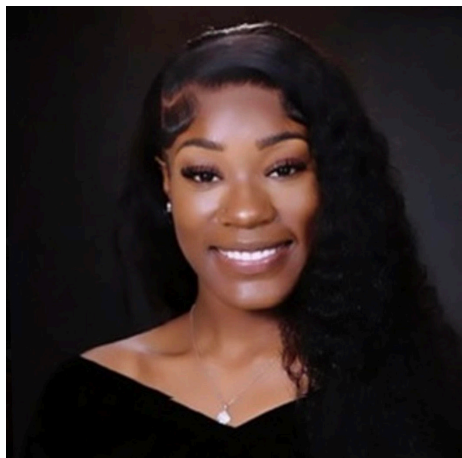
CLASSES OF FALL 2023 – SPRING 2024



**Laci Nicole Johnson**

West Brook High School  
Cum Laude – 2024

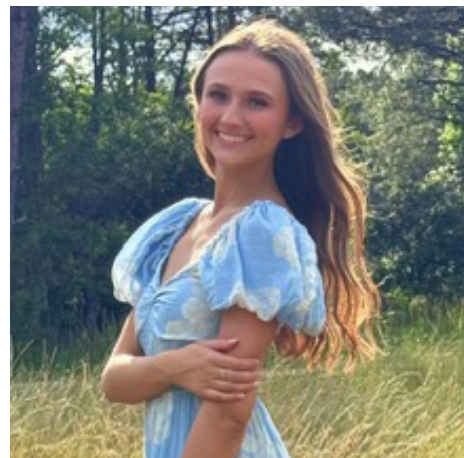
*Laci plans to attend Texas State University in San Marcus this fall.*



**Tniya Shello**

West Brook High School  
2024

*Tniya plans to attend Lamar University, and will be majoring in dental hygiene.*



**Kyla Brianne Bland**

West Brook High School  
Summa Cum Laude – 2024

*Kyla plans to attend Texas A&M in the fall.*



**Madeline Grace Miller**

Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School  
2024

*Madeline plans to attend Lamar University, and will study to obtain her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing.*



**Braedon Jayce Bland**

Texas A&M University, 2023

*Degree in Universal Studies*



**Sarah Hamilton**

Texas State University, 2024

*Bachelor of Arts in English  
Minor in Secondary Education*

**On Sunday, May 19, we will be celebrating all of our First UMC Beaumont family who are high school or college graduates from Fall 2023 through Spring 2024!**

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The May meeting for the United Women in Faith will be held on May 21st with Charlotte Seeley serving as the Hostess. Park on the Willow Street Side of the church because we will be in Rothwell Hall. Liza Nelson will be presenting the program: "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial." All women of the church are invited to bring a covered dish and a couple of ladies to share. Our group is collecting "Reuseable Shopping Bags" for the Wesley Foundation on the Lamar University Campus. These bags are for helping students in the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet at the Wesley Foundation. We imagine if you had items in the bags, that the students wouldn't mind a bit.

**Contact Mary Early**

**337-274-4782 or 409-651-0206**

## SECOND SATURDAY FAITH SEMINAR

The Second Saturday Seminar on May 11, will be continuing our exploration of Worship and the Christian Year. Even if you have not been to the previous sessions, this will prove to be quite fascinating. Bring your appetite for knowledge and other delicious food. We will begin at 9 and end at noon. Meeting in the Faith Questers classroom will be the place. Watch for signs and balloons. Bring a friend or two.

**Contact Neil Early**

**409-651-0206**

**90** **Ron Alexander**  
**is the**  
**new 60!**

**Join us for a Birthday Open House on Saturday, May 25, 2024!**

**Calling hours are 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

**Home of David and Cindy Raiford  
6 Dowlen Place  
Beaumont  
409-658-7559**

***Your presence is your present!***



Loving the city with the *Heart of Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT

# Grief Support GROUP

First Meeting —  
**Thursday, May 9 at 2 p.m.**



We invite you to participate in our upcoming grief support group. Our goal is to create a safe community for people to process grief without judgment or isolation. We will make room for the many emotions grief brings, debunk grief myths, and build up our emotional toolbox as we move through the grief journey. Loss is difficult, and we don't want you to suffer it alone. Our group is for all types of grief including but not limited to the loss of a loved one or relationship, loss of ability, terminal illness, or divorce. We'll meet for one hour once a week. Come as often or as long as you need. All are welcome.

## CONTACT

Judy Brunton, MEd  
Gail Wilson, MEd  
Sallie Wester, LMFT

## EMAIL

[griefsupport@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:griefsupport@fumcbeaumont.org)

**Learn more & let us know you are interested at the at** — [fumcbeaumont.org/griefsupport](http://fumcbeaumont.org/griefsupport)

