

Embracing the Wilderness

During the season of Lent, we commemorate the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. There he fasted and prayed — he did his spiritual workouts and withstood the temptations he endured. Not many of us get much time in the wilderness these days. There are demands of schedules, a certain level of physicality, even the availability of open spaces to explore. Yet, I'm reminded of the transformative power of solitude on our spirits.

In February, our youngest endured Flu A only for a week later, his older brother to have Flu B. As the two boys spent time recovering to health, they spent more time alone than usual — without classmates or brothers during the day, and working parents at home. While they were cared for, they began to experience loneliness. When they were again healthy, not only did they much appreciate the companionship but also were more grateful for others by recognizing their dependence upon others.

Some of you experience loneliness due to the changes of life's circumstances over the years. Some experience the chaos of full schedules and constant movement. Yet, during this time of Lent, we are invited to pause and recognize our dependence on God, to give thanks for all God has done and is doing. If you feel like solitude is all you know, take heart and recognize God is as close to you as your very breath. If you struggle to slow down, find some wilderness and solitude to slow your spirit, to recognize God's work in your life. May we all reflect upon those places in our lives where we can become more Christ-like by asking for forgiveness, accepting God's grace, and being changed again come Easter. Blessings for your Lenten journey.—Pastor Molly

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Congratulations

Pastor Molly and Pastor Bates (Grace UMC) were recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry as elders in full connection.

They will be ordained on Tuesday, June 12, at 7:30 PM at Austin Avenue UMC in Waco as part of annual conference.

(re)claiming faith

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR GROWTH

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

(re)claiming faith

March 4: Sabbath| **Deuteronomy 5: 12-15**
Mark 2: 27-28

* Dr. Bob Holloway preaching*

March 11: Prayer| **Matthew 6: 7-14**

Curtis Anderson preaching

March 18: Fasting| **Matthew 6:16-21**

Holy Week

March 25: Palm Sunday| **Luke 19: 35-40, 23:13-25**

March 29: Maundy Thursday (2 PM & 7 PM)

March 30: Good Friday (7 PM worship with Grace)

April 1: Easter | **John 20: 1-18**

Sympathy to:

Kenny Sanders & Family

Average Presence in
Worship for February:

67

Total Offerings in February:

\$15,392

Total Income in February:

\$16,950

Note: Pastor Molly will be in the Holy Lands from February 27—March 10.

Please contact the church office with any pastoral concerns or in an *emergency* contact

Rev. Rezolia Roberson at 817- 465 —1291.

Upcoming Events

7th: **AUM Food Pantry**

8: 30 AM

10th: **UMM Meeting**

9 AM

12th: **Threadbenders**

7 PM

13th: **UMW Meeting**

9:30 AM

Trustees Meeting

4 PM

18th: **Church Council Meeting**

26th: **Threadbenders**

7 PM

29th: **Maundy Thursday**

2 PM & 7 PM

30th: **Good Friday**

7 PM

31st: **Easter Egg Hunt**

10 AM

**Pastor's Bible Study
will resume on
Wednesday, April 11,**

1 PM

Lunch Bunch

11:30 AM

3/7: **Cotton Patch**

3/14: **El Fenix**

3/21: **UMW**

3/28: **Dixie House**



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31, at 10 AM

Join us as we prepare to celebrate Easter and connect with our community through an egg hunt. We need volunteers, candy or small toys to fill eggs, or even plastic eggs. No one is too old or young to help us. Please let the church office know if you can help!

Virtual Holy Land Tour

Join Pastor Molly on March 21, at 1 PM in the New Covenant Classroom to see pictures and hear stories about her time in Israel. The presentation will last about an hour. There will be another presentation in April for those who cannot attend during the day.



Wanted: Choir Members

The choir is looking for more members! No experience is necessary, just a willingness to sing and help lead the congregation in worship. Do you know someone who likes singing? Invite them to join on Wednesday nights at 7 PM.

Contact Sandy Perdue for information or with questions!

Save the Date: April 22

Girls United! 10th anniversary is this year. Please invite all former participants to join us for a celebration.

Contact Esther Webb for info!



2018 Sermon Ideas

The week following Easter, Pastor Molly will spend time in prayer and preparation for the next year of worship planning. She needs your help! In worship soon, you'll receive a questionnaire, but think about the following:

- What sermon or series can she preach that makes you want to invite someone you know?
- What questions do you have to help you grow in your faith or better understand theology?
- What personal issues would you like addressed from the pulpit? (i.e. divorce, anger, depression, etc.)

The only way our church will grow is if we are thinking of who's not here, so spend some time considering what others might need to hear so we can be the church God is calling us to be for years to come.

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Church of the Good Shepherd UMC

2020 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Contact Us

Church of the Good Shepherd
2020 S. Collins St.
Arlington, TX 76010
817-275-1033

goodshepherdumc@sbcglobal.net

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cogsumc.org

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@cogsumc

Arlington Charities
Item of the Month:
Ramen Noodles

PLACE
STAMP
HERE