

51 Surprises

Have you heard of Eastertide? It's the 50 days after Easter before Pentecost—the time when Jesus was with his disciples again before his ascension and then the coming of the Holy Spirit. It's the time we are invited to continue celebrating the gift of the resurrection. Easter really isn't just about the 7th Sunday after Ash Wednesday. It's not about one day, but 51 days.

This is good news for a lot of us since, like Christmas, Easter can carry a huge weight of expectations that aren't always met, and sometimes we don't feel very celebratory (for whatever reasons) on the day of Easter. But it's not just about the day... it's about the season....nearly 2 months of looking for hope, joy, and new life for ourselves and others.

Of course, we don't have to be ashamed if we don't get our Easter experience until day 53 or 253. Eastertide is meant to extend our expectation of hope and transformation in the world. It calls us to look from the dark dead places for light and life. It beckons us out of the tomb of despair and isolation to a place of rejoicing and community.

I pray this Eastertide is a gift to you—that God surprises you with the unexpected, challenges you to see Jesus in a new way, and blesses you with new life in your own life. Let's look for those surprises every day in our lives from now until Pentecost. I'd love to hear where they are in your week each Sunday!

- Pastor Molly

This Issue

- Youth Mission Trip
 - Senior Sunday
 - Vacation Bible School
-

Please keep
United Methodists
from across the
United States
gathering in Kansas
City for a
UMC Next Event
from May 20-25
in your prayers.

Woman of the Year Celebration
Sunday, May 5
10:30 AM

Central Texas Annual Conference
June 9—12
Arlington Convention Center

SURPRISE!

the unlikely, ironic, and surprising stories in Acts

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

We all know the excitement and disquiet that come with the sudden reversal of our expectations. The resurrection sets off a host of unexpected events and changes for Jesus' followers, even changes within themselves. Join us as we look through Acts and the early Christian church who has no shortage of surprises. Come see how their stories awaken in us a new desire for God's work in the lives of unsuspecting, ordinary people like us.

May 5: A Surprising Turnaround | Acts 5:27-32

May 12: An Unlikely Friendship | Acts 9:1-20

May 19: An Astonishing Copycat | Acts 9:36-43

May 26: An Amazing Detour | Acts 16:9-15

**Average Presence in
Worship for April:**

67

**Total Offerings
in April:**

\$18,774.80

**YTD Receipts vs.
Expenses:**

-\$994.02

Upcoming Events

5th: **Mission Trip Mtg.**

11:30 AM

6th: **Grief Support**

1 PM

11th: **UMM Meeting**

9 AM

13th: **Threadbenders**

7 PM

14th: **UMW Meeting**

10 AM

19th: **Senior Recognition
Sunday**

10:30 AM

19th: **East District
Conference**

3 PM

FUMC Mansfield

Church Council in June -
Date to be determined



Welcome back, Madison!

We look forward to having Madison Boboltz back with us beginning Wednesday, May 22, for another summer internship. Pray for her as she finishes up her semester and travels back to DFW!



Senior Recognition Sunday

Please make plans to celebrate with our seniors in worship on **Sunday, May 19th**. We are so proud for all God is doing in their lives and want to send them with blessing into the next chapter that God journeys with them.

If you have a graduating senior in your life, please let the church office know by Monday, May 13, so we can include their name in the bulletin. We will also announce the recipient of the Jack and Beryl Wolfe Scholarship Fund.

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays at 10 AM

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1 PM

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday at 11:30 AM

5/1: El Fenix

5/8: Cotton Patch

5/15: UMW

5/22: Lazy Dog

5/29: Tin Cup

Jack and Beryl Wolfe Scholarship Fund

This fund was created through a generous donation aimed to support students who are furthering their studies. If you know of a student who is interested in applying, please have them contact the church office to obtain an application. The **deadline** to apply is **May 6th** and we will present the award in worship on Senior Sunday, May 19th.

CTCYM Youth Mission Trip 2019

We will be sending a group of 14 people on a youth mission trip to Corpus Christi, TX from June 16-22. We will be doing relief work after Hurricane Harvey. Consider donating to our

Letters of Love Fundraiser

We are hoping that each trip participant will have a letter of love and support from their church family or friends daily while on the trip. Letters are \$25 in the Narthex as a fundraiser and collected until the trip to be distributed while we are on the mission trip. You don't have to know the person you write, simply offer them prayers and well wishes. Or if you'd like to buy letters for others to write, let Pastor Molly know! Check out the bright colored board in the Narthex—each sticky note corresponds to one letter needing to be purchased and written.

Fundraising Update:

\$2,974.51 raised
of
\$5900 goal



Vacation Bible School July 22—25

We need volunteers to help so save the date and mark your calendars! Contact Pastor Molly or Debbie Spoons with questions or to sign up to help!

Contact Us

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Good Shepherd**

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