

Preparing the Way

At our house, it is full on preparation mode for our fourth child to arrive. With an 8 year age gap, we start from the beginning. We have spent hours cleaning, organizing, planning, anticipating, purchasing, praying, settling, and then re-settling.

Throughout the process, I can't help but remember those words Jesus told his disciples in John 14:2-3: "My Father's house has room to spare. If that weren't the case, would I have told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you? ³ When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too."

God loves us enough that not only did God come in the person of Jesus Christ but then prepares the way for us to live into our created potential both in this life and the life to come. I can only imagine all the preparations being made for each of us who know Jesus Christ.

In a few weeks in worship, we'll look at the story of the prodigal son — showing us that even those who stray or leave the church are welcomed into God's loving embrace. The father not only runs to his son returning home but then again prepares a great celebration to celebrate and ensure he knows how precious and loved he is.

Do you rest and relish in the love God has for you? This month as you spend time in preparations whether it be for company, or weekly meals, or exams, or any myriad of ways we must plan in this life — take a few moment to pause and recognize that God loves you immensely and is also in the business of preparing. How are we being asked to pay attention to what it is God is preparing for us to do in this life? Who in your life needs to know that God perhaps through you is prepared to love them with open arms and celebrate as we each become all God created us to be?

How might we transform the menial tasks of preparation in our daily lives to become spiritual reminders of God's loving presence and grace for us? Then, let us live in a way where we transform the world around us as we make space and preparations for others.

This Issue

- Gospel According to Dogs
- One Man Show/UMW Sunday
- Communion Team
- Upcoming Events

You're invited to a
Baby Shower
honoring

**Pastor Molly &
Baby Elliott**

on Sunday,
September 9 at
12:30 PM following
the fellowship lunch.



9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

Whether you have been gone for five minutes or five days, the tail wags as he greets you eagerly at the door. If you've had a rotten day, she is ready to love and comfort you. No matter how badly you behave, you are always forgiven. Love, joy, loyalty, obedience—dogs have a lot to teach us. Whether you're a dog-lover or not, join us as we explore important lessons from scripture demonstrated by our four-legged friends, that bring us closer to God and one another.

September 2*: *Whispers from the Wilderness* | 1 Kings 19

September 9: *The K9 Mirror* | Romans 7:14-15, 21-25

September 16: *Steadfast Love of Dogs* | Lamentations 3:19-24

September 23: *The Running Welcome* | Luke 5: 17-24

September 30: *UMW Sunday* | John 21:15-17 | One Man Show
(see next page for more information)

*ends current series Messages from the Wilderness

Sympathy to:

Ferrell Bryant & Family

**Avg. Presence in
Worship for August:**

61

**Total Offerings
in August:**

\$16,750

**YTD Receipts vs.
Expenses:**

-471.35

Upcoming Events

- 2nd: **SPR Meeting**
following worship
- 3rd: **Office Closed**
- 8th: **UMM Meeting**
9 AM
- 9th: **Fellowship Lunch**
11:30 AM
- Baby Shower**
12:30 PM
- 10th: **Grief Support**
1 PM
- Threadbenders**
7 PM
- 11th: **UMW Meeting**
9:30 AM
- Trustees Meeting**
4 PM
- Stakeholders Mtg.**
5 PM
- 21st & 22nd: **Girls United!**
5:30 PM—12 PM
- 23rd: **Ministry Council Mtg.**
11:30 AM
- 24th: **Threadbenders**
7 PM

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays at 10 AM

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1 PM

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday at 11:30 AM

9/5: Dixie House Cafe

9/12: Mr. B's

9/19: UMW Luncheon

Beans & Cornbread

9/26: Angelo's



One Man Show Ministries

(coming Sunday, September 30)

United Methodist Evangelist Mark Winter of One Man Show Ministries will be here on September 30 to present *Peter: A Tale as Big as Texas*, a humorous monologue with a message. Based on a script by

Christian actor and comedian, Jerry Cohagan, Mark will portray Peter as a boisterous Texas shrimper. This one-man drama will be presented during worship as we celebrate all the unique ways God works both through our United Methodist Women and this wonderful ministry.

We will receive a love offering for Mark on the day of the performance. As a self supporting evangelist, he relies solely on churches and individuals to fund his ministry.

Mark lives in Ft Worth, TX with his wife, Laura. They have three adult children. Please invite a friend on this special day!

Threadbenders

Do you knit or crochet? Want to learn? Join this group of women who make prayer shawls and other projects, all while enjoying each other's fellowship twice monthly. All are welcome!

Help Wanted: Communion Team

Did you know monthly we serve communion to almost 40 people outside of Sunday worship? We need your help! We are always looking for more volunteers to share Christ's love, grace, and forgiveness in this tangible way.

Teams visit homebound members and nursing homes in the area on the second Monday and Tuesday each month.

Mondays: 1:00 PM—3:30 PM (meet at the church)

Tuesday: 1:00 PM—2:30 PM (meet at the church)

Please let the office know when you plan to join. We need you!

More Upcoming Events

Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, September 9

Join us as we spend time getting to know each other over a meal. This is a great way to connect to your church family.

Menu:

Beef Brisket

Potato Salad & Coleslaw

Baked Beans & Rolls

Baby Shower

Sunday, September 9 at 12:30 PM

Please join us as we honor Pastor Molly and family who prepare to welcome Elliott Robert Hayes soon. They are registered at Target and Buy, Buy, Baby. Pastor Chris is attending, too!

Girls United! in Christ

Friday, Sept. 21—Saturday, Sept. 22

This year we will focus on social media. All girls 3rd—6th grade are invited to join us in this lock-in style program where we learn about living positively in a social media age. This is our first of four events for the 2018-2019 school year.

To sign up, call the church office or click [here](#) to sign up online:

[September Girls United! In Christ](#)

We always need female volunteers to be with the girls or help us by providing food. Contact Esther Webb Hunt if you're willing to support this amazing ministry or sign up at the same link above!



A big THANKS to Jack (left), Roger (right), Dora, Sandy, and Sharon who so faithfully serve on our communion teams! We are looking for more volunteers in this growing ministry. See page 3 for details. If they can do it, so can you!

Contact Us

or find us on **Facebook**

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**Arlington Charities
Items of the Month:**

Small Fruit Cups