

San Saba First United Methodist Church March 2017 Newsletter



FUMC
204 W. Brown San Saba TX
325-372-3120
Pastor: John Saint

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, March 1st at 5:30 p.m. we will begin the season of Lent with a service of imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The season is a period of preparation for the celebration of Easter.

The Plano Mission Project

This summer 150 9th-12th graders from Christ United Methodist Church in Plano will spend a week working on houses in San Saba, fixing roofs and building porches and wheel chair ramps for those in need. San Saba High School will be their host, providing space to sleep and shower as well as kitchen and worship space.

For over thirty years CUMC has sent teams of youth on mission trips to communities throughout Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and even Tennessee, North Carolina, and Kentucky. The youth raise all the money for the mission trip including construction materials, food, and transportation costs. "It is a successful program and a labor of love of which we are very proud," said youth counselor Nick Nicholas, "and sharing God's love through the work of our youth has become a vital outreach for CUMC."

Our role as Church Host is to solicit 30-40 applications for the work to be done. We will run an article in the San Saba News and Cindy Hawkins will help identify potential worksites for our neighbors in need. Please contact John Saint if you want to suggest a worksite. A team of adults from CUMC will choose 25-30 homes for repairs. The repairs will be completed free of any cost to the homeowner. They will purchase as much of the materials and food as they are able from stores here in San Saba.

The CUMC Youth will be here June 17-24 and will join us for worship on June 18. Each night the CUMC Youth Praise Band will lead worship in the High School Gym and all are invited to attend. This will be a wonderful experience for our church and a blessing to our neighbors here in San Saba.

Submitted by John Saint



GAME NIGHT



FOOD BANK TRAINING



From the Pastor's Desk.....

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*Examine yourselves,
and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
For all who eat and drink without discerning the body,
eat and drink judgment against themselves.*

1 Corinthians 11:28-29

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Psalms 139:23-24

We are entering the season of Lent – a time when Christians have traditionally engaged in self-evaluation in preparation for Easter. Many people choose to give up something enjoyable during Lent, such as chocolate, as an aid to self-examination. Taking this a step further, John Wesley recommended fasting as a spiritual discipline crucial to understanding the state of our own souls.

Prayer Concerns

Kaye Clancey (needing a liver transplant)
Amanda Jackson (Pecan Valley Nursing Home & Rehab)
Brad Reeves, Josh Thomas & Mark Owns (safety)
Joey Offield (Pat Johnson's family member who was in wreck)
Spencer Altman (cancer)
Barbara Gilger (health concerns)
Nancy Bannister (health)
Linda Parks (recovering from surgery)
Peter Hald
Lisa Wise, sister-in-law of Mark Wise (cancer)
Shannon Hampu (health concerns)
Our Military Men, Women & Families
Our Country

I have sometimes heard the passage above from 1st Corinthians quoted as a warning against receiving Holy Communion, but this is a misunderstanding of what Paul meant. Paul makes this statement after criticizing the Corinthians practices at what we might call a pot-luck dinner. His concern is not about Holy Communion, but about what it means to be a community of faith comprised of people who care for one another. Paul pointed out that when they gathered for a common meal, the affluent would come early and eat all the food before the poor arrived, tired and hungry after a hard day's work. This showed that they did not understand what it means to be "the body of Christ" and that they should examine their own motivations before sitting down to eat together.

Our traditions of Communion and pot-luck dinners are quite different, but the need for occasional self-examination is no less important. The season of Lent provides a yearly opportunity for this practice. Fasting does not have to be a complete abstinence from food and drink for long periods of time. Instead, it could mean being a vegetarian for a day if normally you eat meat. It could mean eating only bread and water or juice for part of a day. Fasting helps us approach the task of self-examination with seriousness and discipline.

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Fasting also helps us understand just how much time and attention we normally devote to food. When fasting, the time not used for purchasing, preparing, eating, and cleaning up can be devoted to prayer and self-examination. Fasting also helps us identify with those who are hungry because they are poor. Some people donate the money saved while fasting to alleviate hunger in their communities. For some, fasting may be impossible for medical reasons, but there are other ways to fast than abstaining from food. I recommend fasting from television for everyone! Because every Sunday commemorates the resurrection of the Lord, the church has taught that the Lord's Day can never be a fast day. Lent is always 40 days long, not including Sundays.

Examining yourself means asking and answering honestly questions about your own thoughts and habits. You might ask yourself:

- *How is God working in my life to make me more compassionate to those in need?
- *How am I resisting evil, oppression, and injustice in my community?
- *How am I working for peace in my community and the world?
- *Have I been a good steward of the earth's resources?
- *How have I participated in the ministries of my church?
- *Have I been a source of comfort and strength to those in sorrow, pain, and confusion?

These may be helpful questions, but they are only a starting point. Each of us must evaluate ourselves according to our own strengths and weaknesses. Throughout this season of self-reflection I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Merciful Lord,
as I examine my own actions and motivations
help me to do so
with honesty and integrity,
that I might become more fully
the person you created me to be.
Do not let me deceive myself
or be satisfied with my own excuses,
but help me acknowledge my own sin,
that I might know the power of your grace
and the joy of your transformation.
Search me, O God, and know my heart,
lead me in paths of righteousness
for your name's sake,
through Christ who died for our sins
and rose for our justification.
Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John



The Welcome Crew

The Welcome Crew is off to a good start. They have called on one person and are looking for more people to call on. Do you have a new neighbor, a co-worker or know of someone new to San Saba? If so please give their name and address to Harrison Hamer.



Our Church Family

Pat Reavis got to welcome a new great grand-baby. Austin was born in California and only weighed 4 lbs at birth. It was a little touch and go for a while but the baby is doing well now.

Jaycie Everett is a member of the San Saba 7th grade basketball team who beat Brady in the championship game of the Brady tournament. Way to go, Jaycie! Sarah Saint and Jayden Owens were on San Saba 8th grade team who also won their championship game against Brady.

Several local San Saba Boy Scout youth participated in the old Comanche trails jamboree December 2-4 at Camp Billy Gibbons. They competed in various events including catapult, scout law and log saw. FUMC is the sponsor of Troop 255.

You had better check Larry Lafferty's pockets. He might have a snack or two in them from winning the dominoes game at the senior center. Maybe you can get him to share. Larry, AKA Larry Griffin, also won second in dominoes at the Richland Springs tournament recently.

Church Finances

When we join the church, we promise to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Please be in prayer as to how each of us might be faithful to the promises we have made to help God's kingdom reign in our community.

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| December Income | \$29,354.00 |
| December Expenses | \$13,106.82 |
| Difference | \$16,247.18 |
| Ending Balance | \$26,721.58 |

Lee Murray must be a really big fan of peanut butter. So big of a fan that he has peanut butter at the bank in his desk. And if he runs out he runs to the grocery store and gets some more.



Thanks goes out to Travis & Kathy Gage for making a Sam's run for some very much needed kitchen supplies. The coffee was very much appreciated by some men in the intergenerational class. They do enjoy their coffee every Sunday morning.

San Saba High School students participated in a UIL contest recently. Read Saint was 5th place individual and 2nd place team in accounting. Raley Kirk was on the 1st place team in spelling and vocabulary.

I am happy to give you a good update on Lisa Wise, sister of Mark Wise and daughter-in-law of Holly and Mike Wise. Lisa is still working, still has her hair and still doing chemo treatments for her cancer.

It was so good to see Linda Parks in church Sunday. She and Owen even ate lunch after church in a restaurant. Taylor Wise has had strep throat again. She is needing her tonsils out.

Millie Burnham is having cataract surgery soon. She is being chauffeured to Austin. Sure hope everything goes well, Millie.

Katie and Cory Lee, daughter and son-in-law of Mark and Kathy Amthor are expecting a baby in September. Our congratulations goes out to them.

Debbie Taft and Celia Bell decided to go on a little trip to California. Debbie's husband had business meeting and Celia and Debbie saw lots of fun things during the day.