

Come Grow With Us

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sadly, our Weekly Worship Schedule is on “hold” for now due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the order of Governor Abbot.

Forestburg UMC will not be meeting as a group on Sunday mornings until this pandemic is over and it is safe for us to come together to worship God as one. Kids' Klub has also been cancelled for now.

There are plans for a video stream from Pastor Ben Shinn on Sunday mornings. Watch your emails, the Forestburg UMC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ForestburgUMC) and webpage (www.forestburgumc.com) for more information.

If any of you have specific prayer requests or pastoral needs, contact Pastor Ben on his cell phone: 214-403-5574 (call or text) or his email: bjshinn1@tx.rr.com or call the church office (940-964-2370) and leave a message.

The ongoing work of the church depends on your generosity. We encourage you to mail your regular giving to the church, P. O. Box 374, Forestburg, TX 76239. We are so grateful for your ongoing financial support.

During this time pray for our country, pray for our church and prayers for your health and safety. Share as needed this information as needed.

From Ben's Pen

I think that we are all familiar with the words of the traditional French carol:

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain,
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

If you look at the world around you it is evident that the earth is undergoing a change. Grass that had been brown and seemed to be dead is starting to turn green. Red buds are bursting forth on branches that in prior months have been seemingly dead and barren. All of a sudden I have iris stalks that will soon be blooming. After the cold of winter new life is blossoming all around us. We understand the words of the carol and the affirmation that Christ is risen!

What I can tell you is that the Easter faith which is ours is a faith that enables us to deal with the difficult issues of life. The carol says:

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

I am aware that across our congregation and across the face of the planet we have hearts that are wintry and filled with grief and pain. There is deep anxiety and fear as we are confronted by the corona virus. We have members of our church family who are homebound or in nursing homes. In our family my son-in-law in Buda has an aging grandmother confronted with memory loss. She is under hospice care and due to the coronavirus cannot have family visitors. Where do we find strength in times and seasons such as these? The love the carol talks about is not some warm fuzzy kind of love. I like the imagery of Isaiah who confronts and comforts us with his words when he says:

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,*



The church newsletter is published monthly.

Interim Pastor Ben Shinn

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The **deadline** to submit articles and information for the **May 2020 newsletter is April 27.**

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Disclaimer: If any news, articles, or information was printed incorrectly or left out, it was done inadvertently. Please accept my apologies.

Liz

Ben's Pen continued....

*The Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary:
His understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
And the young will fall exhausted.
But they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint!*

In light of the carol and Isaiah's words the ancient Easter affirmation speaks to you and to me. The Lord is Risen! He is risen indeed!!

PS: As I write this article we do not know if we will have an Easter service or not. If we do, invite a friend or neighbor to be your guest at worship. If not, spend time rereading the Easter story (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10) and say or sing the familiar words: Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

COVID 19—Congregational Letter from Pastor Ben

Dear Forestburg Friends,

Last week our bishop, Mike McKee, sent a letter to the annual conference requesting that churches in the Metro and North Central districts not hold services or church activities for two weeks due to the ongoing spread of the coronavirus. The request was not from an act of fear, but rather as a tangible way we can show love and support for one another. We gathered for worship last Sunday. This week the president recommended that over the next fifteen days that persons meet in groups no larger than 10. Out of an abundance of caution related to the COVID-19 virus we have decided that it is important that in order for us as a community of faith to join with others across the country in working to slow the impact and spread of the virus that we cancel worship services and other church activities for the next two Sunday (March 22 and 29). We will reevaluate the situation after Sunday, March 29 and keep you updated.

Over the next two weeks if you have any specific prayer requests or pastoral needs please contact Pastor Ben on his cell phone – 214-403-5574 (call or text) or his email: bjshinn1@tx.rr.com.

The ongoing work of the church depends on your generosity. We encourage you to mail your regular giving to the church. We are so grateful for your ongoing financial support.

During this time pray for our country. Pray for our church. Pray for our bishop, Mike McKee, and our district superintendent, Todd Harris, as they are deciding on who Forestburg's next pastor will be.

If you would like to worship online several suggestions for churches that stream their worship services are:

Christ UMC Plano:	cumc.com
Highland Park UMC:	hpumc.org
Saint Andrew UMC:	standrewumc.org
First UMC Carrollton:	firstchurch.net

There are many other churches out there. If you find one that you like let us know.

During this time of social distancing stay in touch with each other through the many digital avenues we have in our time. Care for yourself by washing your hands often and by keeping updated through trusted health care providers.

Grace and peace,
Ben Shinn
Interim Minister

Update From Bishop McKee

On Thursday evening, March 26, Bishop McKee had a Zoom conversation with the clergy. It was stated that the churches in the North Texas Conference would restart worship services when the CDC recommended—*probably no service at least through Easter*.

Stats for March 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	Designated Offering
March 01	36	\$2,186.00	\$251.00
March 08	28	\$1,088.00	\$225.00
March 15	44	\$2,520.00	\$250.00
Monthly Totals	108	\$5,794.00	\$726.00
Monthly Average	36	\$2,532.75	

These statistics are slightly skewed for the month since we were unable to meet for regular worship on Sunday, March 22 and 29.

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Volunteer Responsibility Schedule

Date	Reader	Greeters	Cleaning
April 05	<i>No Church Service</i>		Virginia Lynch
April 12	<i>No Church Service</i>		Gayle Edwards
April 19	Virginia Gafken	Raymon Wood & Virginia Gafken	Carolyn Wood & Margaret O'Brien
April 26	Savanah Johnson	Carolyn Hawk & Margaret O'Brien	Jewell Dill & Vivian Brim

Ushers for the Month of April: Mike Carter & John Brim

Back Pack/Family Bag Program

The Back Pack/Family Bag Program is still providing food to families. There is probably more of a need now during this difficult time because the kids are not in school, and some of the family members may be having to stay home with their kids.

The Back Pack and Family Bags can be picked up at the church on Wednesdays between 5 & 6.

Please Help a Child Attend Church Camp

Even though we are in uncertain times, and at this time do not know if the Bridgeport Summer Church Camps will still be in session, we still need to make tentative plans for sending our kiddos. We have five kids who have currently signed up to attend church camp in June. (Marni Gregg, Abby Carter, Presley Brown, Houston Johnson and Wyatt Johnson)

The cost of sending a child to camp is \$375 minus the \$50 registration fee (which the parents have already paid), just for the camp and meals. The balance due for each child is \$325. SO! If you can help with **any** contribution, it would certainly be appreciated.

If the summer church camps are cancelled and you have already made a contribution to the kids, your contribution can be refunded to you, or it can be kept in a designated fund for next year.

If you make a contribution, **be sure to mark in the memo of your check that it is for Church Camp.**

Thank you for investing in the future of our children.



Abby, Presley, & Houston (Last year, June 2019)



April 12

Jana & Kenneth Tipton

April 22

Theresa & Dan Gentry

April 3

Jason Johnston

April 12

Jewell Dill



Healings

Great Grandchildren

Family

Grandparents

Friends

Veterans

Children

Answered Prayers

Youth

Sunshine

Grandchildren

April 6

Graham Gentry

April 16

Raymon Wood

April 7

Vicki Smith

April 18

Margaret O'Brien

Dani Lynn Vann

April 8

Doyle Lynch

April 24

Samuel Farrell

April 9

Jagger Vann

April 26

Carolyn Wood

April 11

Scott Farrell

April 30

Abby Carter

Prayer Requests

Those Lifted Up Recently

Our Nation & World as we combat the Corona Virus

Victims of the Corona Virus

Wanita Burnett

Lisa Trussell

Matt Bryson & Family

Veronica Greanead

Peggy Cain

Family of Paul Duffey

Rita Hooker

Alex North

Family of Ralph Williams

SPRC & District Superintendent, Todd Harris & placing of new pastor

Jana Tipton

Vivian Brim

Mary West

Larry Bailey

Those in Need of Continued Prayers

Myrt Denham

Glen & Mary Whatley

Trent Tipton

Helen Ellzey & Family

Wassie & Rosemary Reynolds

Treaver Freeman

Chance Fox

Harriett Nauert

Bobby Jo Wylie

James Woolridge

Travis Landers

Jim Bob Roberts & Family

Our Church & Church Family

Our Military

Joe Bauer

Harrell Vogue

Gloria Gregg & Family

Byron Enzey

Clara Tipton & Family

Stella Crowsey & Family

Robert Pruett

Judy Farrell

Rex Larkey

Carol & Wilbourn Smith

Family of Elvin Jackson

Bill Scott

Jesse White

Lloyd Ballard

Joanna Cody

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Pastor Ben will be delivering his Sunday message via video.

It will be posted on the church's

Facebook page—www.facebook.com/ForestburgUMC

Church's Website—www.forestburgumc.com

Everyone stay healthy and safe!

Hope to be back in church soon!!

Everyone pray!

**“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for,
it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ~ Matthew 18:19**

