



Come Grow With Us

On July 12th, we will continue to practice “Social Distancing” as Pastor Greg Parr delivers his first sermon in the sanctuary.

We have made a few changes to our guidelines.

The updated guidelines can be found on page 3 of this publication.

Please make plans now to attend if you feel healthy and safe.

A live stream via Facebook will continue each Sunday and will be posted to our website, if you feel you need to continue to stay home.

We will continue to do all we can to keep everyone safe and healthy.

The church newsletter is once again to be published monthly.

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The **deadline** to submit articles and information for the **August 2020 newsletter** is **July 28!**

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From the Pastor’s Desk

Hello friends,

I pray in the name of the Risen Christ that you are all safe and healthy and have enjoyed a wonderful 4th of July holiday weekend.

As we now enter into this new season of ministry together, some of you are wondering who I am. Who your new pastor might be? Well, I’ll give you a little information now and the rest I’ll share with you as we have worship and conversations with each other.

I was born and raised in Nocona, graduating from high school there in 1988. I just turned 50 years old on June 27 and my wife Melody and I have been married for 26 years and have raised 4 beautiful daughters. (Well, 3 and working on the last!). Our oldest daughter Katie, lives in Denton and attends TWU and works at the casino in Terral, Oklahoma. Our second daughter Rachel, has graduated from McMurry University in Abilene with a Bachelors in Religious studies. She is now attending graduate school at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where she is attending Candler School of Theology. Our third daughter Genna, just finished her first year at Oklahoma City University where she is working on a Bachelors in Religion. And last and certainly not least by any means is the one child of ours that you will all get to know very well and that is Josie. She is almost 8 years old and will be entering into the 3rd grade here in Forestburg ISD. She is very excited about her new school and church family. My parents and grand-parents all lived in Nocona and my parents will be with us this Sunday morning for worship. My grandfather, Marvin Parr (1908-1994) was born in the Mallard community on a farm owned by my great grandparents. We still own that farm to this day. I also have a sister and brother who live in Nocona along with my 3 nieces.

I entered into the ministry process in 2011 and after finishing licensing school I was appointed senior pastor of the Vashti/Bellevue UMC’s. I have spent the past 7 years there as their pastor. Before that I served in various ways at my home church in Nocona. I want you to know, that we are very excited and happy to be here in Forestburg. And we look forward to seeing where Christ leads us moving forward.

I think that is something we are all looking at, the future. What will life be like moving forward in our country? In our church? In a stressful time of pandemic and social unrest, we the Church need to be stronger than ever in our faith and belief in Jesus Christ. We are called, as the

Continued on page 2.

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

Continued.....

apostle Paul often said, to be the church, the body of Christ, reaching out to those who need our help and who need to hear of Christ's love for them. It is kingdom work! We are to do the work for the kingdom of God.

I believe that we the church have been given a great opportunity, and responsibility, to reach out to our neighbor and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. How do we do that you may ask?

Well, in the past few months the Church has reached out to people in new ways. Ways that we hadn't before. Through the leadership of both the Church and pastor Ben you have reached people through Facebook Live and through the church website who you would have never otherwise reached before! This is great news! Especially in a time of pandemic and unrest. There are things that we can do. We must not sit on our hands and wait for something to happen. We must go out and do the work of Christ's church. Doing so safely, so that we bring no harm to anyone, whether they are a member or a stranger.

Let's do that! Let's get back to work and be safe while we do it. And I promise to help do whatever I can as your pastor to help accomplish the goals that we incorporate as a church.

There are people who need us. People who need Jesus. So we must go. Go out into our world, into our own community, and serve one another in the spirit of Christian love. For freely we have received, so freely we must give.

I look forward over the next few months to getting to know each of you. Pray for one another, just as I will for all of you. Pray for our church and our nation. Pray for healing and the restoring of health to those who need it. Pray for comfort for those who grieve.

But most importantly, as we move forward into the future together, pray for the spirit to lead us to do the things that we must do, so that in everything, Christ may be glorified.

I'll see you Sunday morning,

Pastor Greg

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Galatians 2:20



Church Office Hours

Summer Hours: 9-12 Tuesday-Friday

Starting September 1: 8-12 Tuesday-Friday

Statistics for July 2020

As of this printing, no new monetary statistics for July.

We had 21 in attendance for each Sunday in June that we met.

July Volunteer Responsibility Schedule

For the month of July we will not have Greeters or Ushers. This will be reevaluated for August.

Starting July 12, there will be a need for cleaning the church. That schedule has been listed.

Date	Reader	Cleaning
July 12	Savanah Johnson	Virginia Gafken & Margie Hess
July 19	Liz Johnson	Virginia Lynch
July 26	Mike Carter	Gayle Edwards

A Plan for Reopening Weekly Sunday Worshipping

Forestburg United Methodist Church

Updated July 2020

We know that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk.

Because of the hidden nature of this threat, the following guidelines will be followed as weekly worship resumes on Sunday, July 12th at Forestburg United Methodist Church.

1. We will **encourage** our at risk congregation (those 65 years or older, especially those with chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, chronic heart disease, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, liver disease, or weakened immune system) to stay at home.
2. We will **continue Social Distancing** by seating persons in every other pew with six feet of spacing between attendees. Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to each other with six feet of separation on either side. We may need to set up chairs in the fellowship hall.
3. We will **encourage** every worshipper to wear a mask and will have masks available.
4. There will be hand sanitizing stations at the entrance to the sanctuary.
5. We will sing without hymnals. The words of the hymns will be displayed on the overhead monitors.
6. Instead of bulletins we will have the order of worship announced by the pastor and utilize our overhead monitors.
7. Offering plates will be placed at either end of the chancel rail and will not be passed. The congregation will be invited to walk up and place their gifts in the collection plates observing social distancing.
8. Initially, we will not have communion. This will be **reconsidered at the end of July**.
9. We will not serve food and coffee or have indoor fellowship.
10. Those who volunteer to clean the building shall wear a mask and rubber gloves which are to be disposed of following cleaning. Prior to leaving the building we will wipe all doorknobs, and the bathroom and kitchen counter tops.
11. We will **encourage NO** shaking hands or hugging each other. We will observe social distancing.
12. At this time there will be no Sunday School.
13. If someone who has attended a weekly service is diagnosed with the coronavirus the next week following worship, the church will self-quarantine for 14 days.
14. Until further notice there will be no children's programming or activities.
15. Weddings and funerals will observe social distancing.
16. We will **enter the building** from the North and South side sanctuary doors.
17. We will **sit and exit the building** on the same side of sanctuary as you enter.

Greg Parr, Pastor

Theresa Gentry, Lay Leader

Liz Johnson, SPR Chair

Up Coming Events

July 12

Worship in the sanctuary with Pastor Parr 11:00 a.m.

July 19 & 26

Continue worshipping in the sanctuary each Sunday..... 11:00 a.m.

July 21

Administrative Council Meeting (Tentatively Scheduled—Watch emails for more information) 6:30 p.m.

July 26

Quarterly Singing Hosted by Rosston Baptist Church 6:00 p.m.

July 28

Deadline for news and information to be submitted to Liz for August newsletter.

August 7

Annual Forestburg Rodeo 8:00 p.m.

August 8

Watermelon Festival 10:00 a.m.

Annual Forestburg Rodeo continues 8:00 p.m.

August ???

Schools begin

Prayers and Praises

For those lifted up this past week.

J. D. Cocker
Family of Logan Koiner
Sharon O'Dell

For those in need of continued prayer.

Myrt Denham
Helen Ellzey and Family,
Harriett Nauert,
Bobbie Jo Wiley
Wassie & Rosemary Reynolds
Treaver Freeman
Chance Fox
Jim Bob Roberts & family
Our Church and Church Family
Mary & Glenn Whatley
Clara Tipton and Family
Stella Crowsey & Family
Rex Larkey
Carol & Wilbourn Smith
Bill Scott
Veronica Greanad
Lisa Trussell

Peggy Cain
Larry Bailey
Keen Johnson
All our service men and women
Our law enforcement
**Our World, Government Officials/
Decision Makers, and Those
Concerned with the Coronavirus**
Kathy Guier & Family
Rand, Omar & Family
Carolyn Hawk
Abby Hyde & Family
Karen Martinez
**All those involved in trying to
control the protests and riots, and
keep the public safe from these
events**

Family of Van Lazaroff
Gene Wisdom & Family
Trent Tipton & Family
Vic Sieffert
Margie Hess
John Brim
Family & Friends of Jake Tolar
Pastor Ben and Mary Shinn
James Baber
Cass Skinner
All pastors and churches as they
make pastoral changes
Pastor Greg Parr, Melody, & Family

Places we've seen God at work.

Healings
Family
Friends
Children
Grandparents, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
Veterans,
Answered Prayers
Graduating Seniors
Our new pastor and family
Our Church

Happy Birthday

July 4
Happy Birthday America!

July 11
Tatum Jones

July 18
Theresa Gentry

July 30
Beth Dill
Faith Moore

Happy Anniversary

July 2
Rosemary & Wassie Reynolds

July 9
Vicki & Doyle Smith

July 15
Sheree & Jim Bob Roberts



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