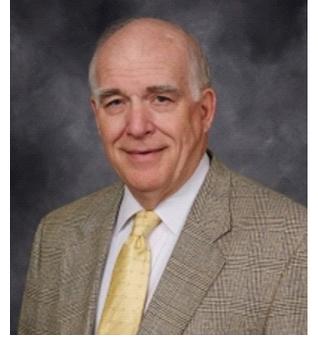


Forestburg United Methodist Church

Since we are “staying at home” due to the Coronavirus, and are not sure when we will gather again in the sanctuary as a worshipping congregation, the Administrative Council felt that it would be essential once we were past Easter, to have a Weekly Update. Our Weekly Update will have a "Ben's Pen", an "Order of Worship" for the weekly Sunday worship. Our online worship service can be found each week on our website (www.forestburgumc.com) or on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ForestburgUMC/). The update will also include announcements, prayer concerns (if you have a prayer concern, please call or text Pastor Ben at 214-403-5574 or leave a message at the church), and other items of interest for the congregation. If you need assistance in viewing the online worship, please feel free to contact Theresa Gentry prior to Sunday morning. Pastor Ben usually has the worship posted by Saturday evenings.

From Ben's Pen

Many years ago, as I stood on a large boulder overlooking a crystal clear pool of water, high in the Colorado Rockies, my brother David said to me, “Ben, if you catch one of those trout, I’ll catch it in my net!” With five children in our family, to take a vacation meant that we were going to go camping. We found a campsite we liked east of Durango, north of Bayfield and the Vallecito Lake, that we returned to on several occasions. When we camped in that area we would hike into the San Juan Wilderness Area and fish.



On this particular day, my father, myself and my three brothers had hiked into the wilderness area, had lunch and had been fishing for most of the afternoon. My brother David was sitting on a large boulder that was resting in the river. The boulder had a stream of water running through its center. He was cleaning the fish we had caught that day while the rest of us were casting our lines into the swift moving river. I had walked over to admire our catch for the day when I saw several beautiful trout lazily drifting in the currents at the bottom of a pool of water adjacent to the rock on which my brother David was sitting, cleaning fish. It was here that David’s generous offer was made.

David’s offer was quickly accepted. I took my fly rod in hand and cast my line into the water. No sooner had my fly landed in the water, than a trout (which gets larger each time I tell the story) rose from the bottom of the pool and struck the fly. In an instant, I had a fish on the end of my line. David quickly scrambled to his feet, grabbed the net and held it out over the pool. “I’ve got him! I’ve got him!” David exclaimed as the fish, flipping and flopping about, fell off my line right into David’s outstretched net. As David held the net, we watched in horror as the fish fell to the bottom of the net and slid out through a hole in the bottom of the net. I was not happy, and David apologized profusely. “Ben, if you catch another trout, I’ll grab the bottom of the net so a fish won’t slip out!” promised David.



Again, I cast into the clear pool and again, in an almost instant replay, I caught another wonderful trout. I was standing with the trout flipping and flopping on the end of my line. David stood holding the handle of the net with one hand and the bottom of the net with the other. As the trout flipped free and fell into the net, David said, “I’ve got it this time!” As we both watched, incredulously, the fish slid out of the hole in the net, right above David’s hand. He had not held on to the net high enough to cover the hole. To say that I was irate and unhappy is an understatement.

What is interesting is that whenever I get together with my brothers and we start talking fish stories, this story is always remembered with great laughter and glee. I have found that God can take the painful moments of our days and transform them. If you are going through a tough time, especially during this Coronavirus stay at home time; if you are having difficulty with a friend, family member, co-worker; these painful moments may be ones that bring you the greatest laughter and joy in the future. It is hard to understand how God does it, but God does. After all, our cross is an empty cross, and our faith is a resurrection faith, isn’t it!



Birthdays

April 24 – Samuel Farrell

April 26 – Carolyn Wood

April 30 – Abby Carter

Anniversaries

April 22 – Theresa and Dan Gentry

Special points of interest:

Ben’s Pen, Birthdays/Anniversaries, Weekly Announcements, Prayers/Praises, Weekly Giving, Backpack Information, Order of Worship for Sunday, April 26.

Weekly Announcements

- ◆ **THANK YOU** to those individuals that continue to work to keep our properties well maintained, and for mowing not only the church grounds, but also the parsonage property.
- ◆ Our **scheduled Annual Conference for the North Texas Conference has been postponed** and at this time, there has not been another date chosen.
- ◆ As really no surprise, due to the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, country and the world at large, and after much thought and discussions, some of which include Bishop Michael McKee, the difficult decision has been made by the Bridgeport Board of Directors that the summer **camps will be cancelled through the month of July**. I know that this is a big disappointment to the kiddos that had planned to go.
- ◆ The **Sunday Worship on line through Facebook**, has reached 1,779 People and 32 people linked into the Easter Sunday video. This is a good statistic.

Prayers/Praises

For those in need of continued prayer:

Myrt Denham, Helen Ellzey and Family, Harriett Nauert, Bobbie Jo Wiley, Wassie and Rosemary Reynolds, James Wooldridge, Trent Tipton, Treaver Freeman, Travis Landers (cancer), Chance Fox, Jim Bob Roberts and family, Our Church and Church Family, Mary and Glenn Whatley, Gloria Gregg and Family, Clara Tipton and Family, Stella Crowsey and Family, Rex Larkey, Carol and Wilbourn Smith, Bill Scott, Veronica Greanad, Lisa Trussell, Peggy Cain, SPRC and District Superintendent Todd Harris and placing new pastor process, Larry Bailey, Betty Dunn, Keen Johnson and all our service men and women, Un-named individual experiencing health issues and their family, **Our World and the those concerned with Coronavirus**, Those considered Essential that continue to work and thereby experience exposure to the virus, Recently diagnosed healthcare worker, residents and staff at the Advanced Rehab in Bowie, Kathy Guier and Family

Places we've seen God at work:

Healings, Family, Friends, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, Veterans, Answered Prayers, Grandparents, Healing for Gary Johnson, Pastor Ben and his wife Mary for providing our Sunday worship time on line weekly, The Empty Tomb and Resurrection of Our Lord

Weekly Giving

| Date | General Fund | Designated Funds |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| April 05 | \$1,200.00 | \$50.00 |
| April 12 | \$1,300.00 | \$354.00 |
| April 19 | \$2,050.00 | 70.00 |

- ◆ With our not worshipping together on Sunday mornings, we still have operations and bills to pay at the church. We encourage you to:
 - ◆ Mail your gifts to the church. Our mailing address is: P. O. Box 374; the Zip Code is 76239.
 - ◆ Or drop them off at the church on Wednesday afternoons. Theresa is usually there between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. She will go out to your car and get the checks, if someone does not want to go into the church building.

Backpack Program

Our backpack program supplies will have to be replenished before the next designated date for the recipients to pick them up. To cut down on exposure for everyone involved, we are now set up for the recipients to pick up enough to last two weeks at a time. We are currently giving more than we usually give for during the school year, but less than we usually give during the summer months. We are being very frugal with our supplies and monies. Due to the Coronavirus and some items not available or limits on quantities, we have had an increase the number of individuals shopping for our weekly supplies and they have been very generous in donating the supplies without reimbursement. **THANK YOU to all for their continued help.**

Order of Worship for April 26, 2020

Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Luke 24:13-35

Special Music Mary Shinn on the piano

Sermon Life: Try the Quality

Closing Hymn Because He Lives

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon;
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.
Because he lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because he lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know he holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because he lives.

Benediction





Forestburg United Methodist Church

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