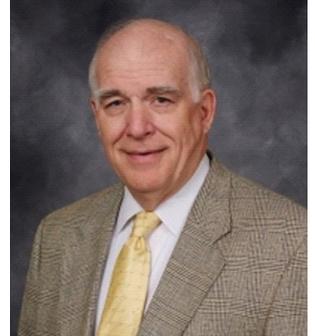


## Forestburg United Methodist Church

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](http://www.forestburgumc.com)) or on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ForestburgUMC/](http://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

I hope that you are weathering this stay at home period in our lives and are not getting too irritated with life and living. At our house I have a method for loading dishes into the dishwasher that I think allows for more dishes to be loaded and makes unloading the dishwasher faster and easier. Mary does not have this same perspective and loads the dishes in a very haphazard way. When I open the dishwasher to load it and it has already been partially loaded I am finding that is one of life's minor irritations.



When I was driving to and from Forestburg I found that I developed a deep personal irritation for pickup drivers who would drive up behind me on I35. They always seemed to have more pressing business than I did and would drive right up to my rear bumper and then just settle in trying to intimidate me to move. When you are going 75-80 mph on I35 and you have a pickup that is riding on your rear bumper, takes up all of your rearview mirror, and the driver then starts blinking his lights at you...you've got it...major irritation!

I remember the evening I was in my local Wal-Mart. I had three items to purchase and stood in the 20 item or less line. A woman in front of me had a number of items (more than 20) in her basket. I told myself, “Be patient. She will soon be done.” For every item she had in her basket, she had a coupon...attached to a newspaper page...that she had to search for and then tear off the page. She did this for every item. And when she could not find the coupon for a loaf of bread in her basket, she said to the cashier, “Wait a minute. I'll be right back.” From where I stood in line with other shoppers, we could see her walking in and out of aisle after aisle doing additional shopping. When someone abuses your time and is inconsiderate to you and other people...the line had really grown...major irritation!

I have two pairs of reading glasses. Two, so that when I can't find one pair I will always have the other. I cannot tell you how many mornings I start out my day looking for just one pair. It can become very irritating, especially when you know that you have put your glasses in a place where they cannot be lost.

When I get irritated I have to remind myself of the words of an anonymous poet who wrote words that I like that say,

*There once was an oyster whose story I tell,  
Who found that sand had got under his shell.  
Just one little grain, but it gave him much pain,  
For oysters have feelings, although they're so plain.  
Now, did he berate the working of fate,  
Which had led him to such a deplorable state?  
Did he curse out the government, call for an election?  
No; as he lay on the shelf, he said to himself,  
“If I cannot remove it, I'll try to improve it.”  
So the years rolled by as the years always do,  
And he came to his ultimate destiny --- stew!  
And this small grain of sand, which had bothered him so,  
Was a beautiful pearl, all richly aglow.  
Now this tale has a moral --- for isn't it grand  
What an oyster can do with a morsel of sand?  
What couldn't we do if we'd only begin  
With all of the things that get under our skin?*

In the midst of this stay at home time try to make some pearls out of your life's irritations!

### Special Points of Interest

Ben's Pen, Weekly Announcements, **Announcement from Bishop McKee**, Birthdays/Anniversaries, Prayers/Praises, Weekly Giving, Backpack Information, Order of Worship for Sunday, May 3.

### Weekly Announcements

- ◆ **THANK YOU** to the individuals that continue to help with our Backpack Program, which is probably more critical now than at other times.
- ◆ **THANK YOU** to the individuals that continue to work to keep our properties well maintained, and for mowing not only the church grounds, but also the parsonage property.

### From Bishop McKee

#### Thank You for Your Faithfulness! Churches Continue Online Through May

**Bishop McKee sent out an announcement** on April 23. The following is an excerpt from that announcement:

“Thank you to the pastors and laity of the North Texas Conference for your leadership, creativity and faithfulness for proclaiming the Gospel online and for teaching and sharing the faith in unique ways.”

**He continued to say:**

“To set a date for reopening the churches at this time would be premature because of the ever-changing spread of COVID-19. There are areas of the North Texas Conference that have very few COVID-19 cases, but the Dallas area continues to be significantly affected. It’s best to plan that congregations will not gather face-to-face through May 31. It is my hope and prayer that we will be able to re-open our churches at some point in June.”

### Weekly Giving

<b>Date</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Designated Funds</b>
Week of April 05	\$1,200.00	\$50.00
Week of April 12	\$1,300.00	\$354.00
Week of April 19	\$2,050.00	70.00
<b>Week of April 26</b>	<b>\$1,880.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Totals for the month of April:</b>	<b>\$6,430.00</b>	<b>\$724.00</b>
<b>Average Weekly Giving for the Month of April: \$1,607.50</b>		

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 continues to be at the church 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 is continuing with the bi-weekly distribution. We are having to make adjustments to the take-home packages as we are unable to acquire the quantities needed on some items. We have been limited to one of some items, per purchase, per day, and it is not feasible nor in our own personal best interest to travel to Denton daily to acquire items.

## 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, government officials/decision makers, and those concerned with Coronavirus**, Those considered Essential that continue to work and thereby experience exposure to the virus, Kathy Guier and Family, Rand and Omar and Family, James and Leann Baber, Carolyn Hawk

### Places we've seen God at work:

Healings, Family, Friends, Children, **Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren**, Veterans, Answered Prayers, Grandparents

## Happy Birthday

May 3

Doris Coates  
Carroll Dill

May 8

Jennifer Jones

May 14

George Miksovsky

May 15

Chris Doane

May 16

Lily Martinez  
Natalie White

May 18

Betty Dunn

May 25

Brittany Martinez

May 27

John Brim

## Happy Anniversary

May 3

Savanah & Garrett Johnson

May 17

Jewell & Carroll Dill



### **I Found My Pearl!**

Having the time to go and work cattle all day from the back of my mare, "Dolly B."

Hope you all can find yours!

**Happy "Pearl Hunting!"**

Liz



If anyone has any information that they would like to be shared in the weekly news update, please get the information to us by Monday of the week that the news update is to be published.

## Order of Worship for May 3, 2020

Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

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 John 13:31-34

Special Music Mary Shinn

Sermon Love Like an Amateur

Closing Hymn God Be with You till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again;  
By his counsels guide uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

Benediction





*Forestburg United Methodist Church*

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