

Forestburg United Methodist Church

Week of June 15—June 21, 2020

Weekly Update

From Ben's Pen

Years ago one of the most popular television shows was the Carol Burnett Show. At the end of every show she sang these words, "I'm so glad we had this time together." As I reflect over these past eight months that we have spent together, even though we have spent the last two and a half months at home, I find that it has been time well spent.

Technically my last Sunday is June 28, but I will be doing video worship and preaching for July 5 so that our new pastor will have a good worshipping crowd for his first Sunday on July 12. As I have reflected on my time as your interim pastor, I have told Mary that I have enjoyed getting to know you and others in the congregation. I feel that I am richer for the time that we have spent together.

During this brief eight-month period we journeyed together through some important times on the church calendar. I was privileged to be with you during Advent, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Mother's Day, and Pentecost. I have baptized, confirmed and welcomed a new member into the congregation, visited in the hospitals, taken communion to homebound members and have participated in a funeral. Prior to Easter I tried to call the congregation and give Easter Greetings. A part of my task as interim pastor is to prepare a congregation for their new pastor and I think that the church is ready for its new pastor, Greg Parr.

What I have found as your pastor is that Forestburg is a great church that has great hopes and expectations for its future. Forestburg is filled with people who love their church. The congregation is warm, welcoming, and friendly. We have outstanding facilities. The congregation is filled with people who have outstanding leadership skills. There are programs for children. The congregation cares about its members and works very intentionally to keep those who are experiencing special joys and concerns in its prayers. The congregation is very mission minded and is making an impact in the community, annual conference, and world. What I can tell you is that Forestburg UMC has a lot going for it.

As Greg and his family are coming to live in the parsonage and be a part of the Forestburg community let me give you a couple of thoughts as you move into a new future.

First, make a commitment to be regular in worship. Vital worship is essential for a growing congregation. Even though currently worship is not the same due to the coronavirus and social distancing, and it is vacation time, do not vacation from worship.

When the Lay Leadership Team (the Nominating Committee) does its work and asks you to serve, be excited to serve, accept

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Pastor Ben Shinn

Since we have been "staying at home" due to the Coronavirus, and not gathering together in the sanctuary and will not until June 14th and 28th, it was decided to have a Weekly Update.

If you have a prayer concern/praise or any information for the congregation, please call or text Pastor Ben at 214-403-5574 or leave a message at the church.

Special points of interest:

- Ben 's Pen
- Info from SPR Chairperson
- Mission Project
- Guidelines for reopening the sanctuary for worship
- Weekly/Monthly Stats
- Prayer Concerns/Joys
- Order of Worship
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Our online worship service can be found each week on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ForestburgUMC/) or on our website (www.forestburgumc.com)

Forestburg UMC Welcomes Reverend Greg Parr.
Reverend Parr's first Sunday in the Pulpit will be July 12,
Go to our website to view Reverend Parr's Bio.

<https://www.forestburgumc.com/>

Ben's Pen Continued.

the nomination, and help lead the congregation into its future. The future is not just up to Greg, it will take all of the church working together. If there is something you can do and would like to do in the life and ministry of the church, let Greg know, don't wait to be asked.

Continue to be generous with your giving. We will have some additional expenses with a new full time local pastor that we haven't had with an interim. Be regular and generous in your support of the mission and ministry of the church.

Be positive in your support of your new pastor. Help him to learn your name. Be patient. It can take up to a year for a pastor to get to know a new congregation and to develop the trust that is needed to work together.

And from Mary and me, we say, *Auf Wiedersehen*, which means, "Until we meet again!" And we will. We have a Christmas Open House (hopefully...we are not sure how this will work if we are still social distancing) in December and you will be invited. You will always be in my prayers. There is a new and great future waiting for Forestburg UMC. I am so glad to have been a part of your ministry and have been proud to be your pastor.

Our Next Sunday to Worship in the Sanctuary is June 28th!

We had 21 to attend the "in-sanctuary" worship this past Sunday, June 14. It was good to see all. Those that were not present were greatly missed, but we all understand why. We practiced "Social Distancing" (No one complained about the wearing of masks or having to sit in a special place. I, as your SPR chairperson, am very grateful for this.) We heard an inspirational message from Pastor Ben. We did a video Live on Facebook, which was a learning experience. It took me a while to be able to convert the FB Live video to a video that could be put on our website, but after trial and error several times, I got it done. So, if you have not had the opportunity to view the worship service, go to our website www.forestburgumc.com/. It is now posted there.

We will not have "in-sanctuary" worship this Sunday, June 21. Pastor Ben will video his message from his home and post to Facebook, as he has done for the last couple of months. Then on Sunday, June 28 we will return to the sanctuary to hear Pastor Ben deliver his final "in-sanctuary" message. Pastor Ben will deliver one final message via video on July 5.

Pastor Greg Parr will be in the pulpit for his first Sunday, July 12. Please help make Pastor Greg and his family feel welcomed. More information will follow as to how we will continue worshipping after Pastor Greg begins his ministry to us here at Forestburg UMC.

God Bless All!

Liz Johnson, SPR Chairperson

Mission Project Diaper Drive through the "Give A Little Club?"

Diapers collected will go to infants and toddlers in the Montague area that are in Foster Care or a part of families in need due to consequences of the COVID virus pandemic. The box is on the north porch at church and will be emptied daily to prevent being left out in the elements overnight. We will be collecting these for two weeks beginning last Sunday.

As suggested by, Bishop McKee, Rev. Cammy Gaston, Director for the Center for Leadership Development, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Todd Harris, guidelines are to be in place to ensure that every precautionary step will be taken to keep our church members here at Forestburg UMC healthy and safe.

**The following guidelines are just “Guidelines.” They are only suggestions.
EVERYONE, no matter age or health is WELCOME to attend Forestburg United Methodist Church.
If you wish to attend, that will be your choice.**

A Plan for the Reopening of
Forestburg United Methodist Church

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 we will follow the following guidelines as we reopen 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 seat persons in every other pew and use painters tape to designate 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. The pastor will wear a mask.
4. We will not sing and will read the words of the hymns from the overhead monitors.
5. There will be hand sanitizing stations at the entrance to the sanctuary.
6. Instead of bulletins we will have the order 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.
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 door knobs, and the bathroom and kitchen counter tops.
11. We will not encourage shaking hands or hugging each other. We will observe social distancing.
12. At this time there will be no Sunday School.
13. We will not have special musicians and soloists during the month of June.
14. 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.
15. At this time there will be no children’s programming or activities.
16. Weddings and funerals will observe social distancing.
17. We will continue to have members of the Administrative Council call assigned church members each week.
18. We will enter the building from the North and South side sanctuary doors and exit through the kitchen on the North side and the South side exit door by the nursery and restrooms.
19. We will meet every other Sunday through June starting June 14. We learned that the COVID-19 virus lives on objects for 9 days. Having volunteers clean the building, it was felt that the safest schedule to worship was to meet every 14 days or every other week which would eliminate the threat of a lingering COVID-19 virus.

Ben Shinn, Pastor

Theresa Gentry, Lay Leader

Liz Johnson, SPR Chair

Carolyn Wood, Trustees, Chair

Mike Carter, Trustee



Volunteers are needed.....

.....to stay after the church services on Sunday the 28th. We will need to do some sanitizing such as wiping all door knobs, the bathroom and kitchen counter tops, or any surface that has been touch.

Weekly Giving

Date	General Fund	Designated Funds
Week of June 1-7	\$1,000.00	\$300.00
Week of June 8-13	\$200.00	\$50.00
Week of June 14-20	\$3,036.00	\$50.00
Total for June as of June 16:	\$4,236.00	\$350.00

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, 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.

Prayers/Praises

For those lifted up this week:

Trent Tipton & Family, Vic Sieffert, Margie Hess, Law Enforcement & Families, Family of Van Lazaroff, Gene Wisdom & Family

For those in need of continued prayer:

Myrt Denham, Helen Ellzey and Family, Harriett Nauert, Bobbie Jo Wiley, Wassie and Rosemary Reynolds, Trent Tipton, Treaver Freeman, Chance Fox, Jim Bob Roberts and family, Our Church and Church Family, Mary and Glenn Whatley, Clara Tipton and Family, Stella Crowsey and Family, Rex Larkey, Carol and Wilbourn Smith, Bill Scott, Veronica Greanad, Lisa Trussell, Peggy Cain, Larry Bailey, Keen Johnson and all our service men and women, Our law enforcement, **Our World, Government Officials/Decision Makers, and Those Concerned with the Coronavirus**, Kathy Guier and Family, Rand and Omar and Family, Carolyn Hawk, Abby Hyde and Family, Businesses and Patrons as Businesses Reopen, Karen Martinez, All those involved in trying to control the protests and riots, Wassie Reynolds, Family of Vincent Forrester

Places we've seen God at work:

Our new pastor, Reverend Greg Parr and family, Our Church

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

Order of Worship for June 21, 2020

Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn God of Love and God of Power

God of love and God of power, grant us in this burning hour
Grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

God of love and God of power, make us worthy of this hour,
Offering lives if it's thy will, keeping free our spirits still.
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

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 9:57-62

Special Music Mary Shinn

Sermon Entirely or Not at All

Closing Hymn Faith of Our Fathers

Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy when o'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will love both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach thee, too, as love knows how by kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Benediction



Forestburg United Methodist Church

16846 FM 455

P. O. Box 374

Forestburg, TX 76239

Happy Birthday

June 2

Judy Farrell

June 11

Sol Martinez

June 18

Amanda Miksovsky

June 19

Glen Whatley

June 21

Jerry Cody

J T Gregg

June 22

Joyce Kenas

June 23

Robert Hensell

June 24

Debra Dill

June 26

Jacque Hensell

Carson Ronken Quibell

June 28

Dana Farrell

Happy Anniversary

June 10

Dixie & Chad Gregg

June 29

Beth & Charles Dill



The Mission of the
Forestburg United Methodist Church
is to joyfully praise and worship the Lord;
while unconditionally sharing God's truth,
grace and love with everyone God puts in our path.