

Forestburg United Methodist Church

Week of June 8—June 14, 2020

Weekly Update

From Ben's Pen

The liturgical or church year revolves around the life of Jesus. The liturgical year starts out in Advent preparing us for the birth of Jesus. Then we move into Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and then Pentecost. Two Sundays ago was Pentecost. From now until Advent we will have Sundays after Pentecost. This in-between time is known as Ordinary Time. Ordinary time does not mean unimportant. Ordinary time means daily living out the themes of extraordinary times. It's like the afterglow of a birthday party or anniversary or graduation which says, "Now let's get back to everyday life."

Getting back to ordinary life does not mean dullness or boredom. It means discovering God every day in the ordinary events of your life, which is to say that God is present in and through the ordinary events and things of this world. It is sort of like Elizabeth Barret Brownings words:

*Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God:
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes,
The rest sit round it, and pluck
blackberries.*

The ordinary can be revelations of the divine.

I was reading about a high school teacher who wrote that young people sometimes have a difficult time seeing how the sacred relates to their ordinary experience. He said that for many the realm of the holy lies beyond their everyday conscious horizon. He said that the young people that he was working with said that the holy can only be experienced inside a church building and not throughout the week. He tasked his students to reflect on activities in their lives where they have experienced God outside the walls of the church. One student wrote,

In my life, I think that the only activity that helps me experience the presence of God is probably listening to or making music. When I listen to music, I am amazed at the ability that musicians have to make such a wonderful sound. The creativity, in many ways, is mind blowing and makes the experience beautiful.

Another wrote,

During the summer I actually set up a tent in my backyard. It may sound odd, but there is some allure to distancing myself from technology and returning to an old way of life. It's nice just to lay down, hear the birds chirp, smell freshly cut grass, and look up to see the blue sky through open tent flaps. We take a lot of things for granted, the chirp of birds, the meandering scuttle of ants, the chirp of crickets, everything that God has created.

These students were sharing their experiences of transcendence, the signal that there is more to life than what appears on the surface. They were finding the presence of God in the midst of ordinary natural settings of everyday life. By giving time to those moments of depth and transcendence, they were discovering religious elements in their everyday experience.

This is what Ordinary Time is all about. God is present in the ordinary routine of life, in ordinary things and people, if we would but notice. Behind what we see every day in the people and events of our lives is a presence, a caring God, a transcendent love. Ordinary Time is a time to sense that. Hopefully throughout Ordinary Time we will all become more aware of God, active and present in the ordinary events and experiences of our lives.



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:

- Worship in the sanctuary this Sunday, June 14!
- Ben 's Pen
- Guidelines for reopening the sanctuary for worship
- Weekly/Monthly Stats
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Prayer Concerns/Joys
- Any other important information.
- Our online worship service can be found each week on our 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/>

Our First Sunday to Worship in the Sanctuary—June 14!

We will ease back into worship in the sanctuary.

We will worship in the sanctuary on June 14 and June 28.

The Coronavirus is believed to only live for about nine days on surfaces.

Allowing two weeks between in-house worship will help to eliminate the threat of a lingering COVID-19 virus.

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 14th and 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 8-14	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total for June so far:	\$1,200.00	\$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:

The family of Vincent Forrester

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

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



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

*Have
Faith
in
GOD*

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.