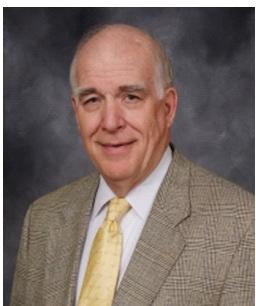




## FORESTBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Since we are “staying at home” due to the Coronavirus, and are not sure when we will gather again in the sanctuary as a worshiping 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/](https://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.



**Pastor Ben Shinn**

### From Ben's Pen

This weekend I would normally be attending my 52nd annual conference. Due to the coronavirus pandemic annual conference has been postponed until September. If you have ever been to annual conference, you know that we usually do the same thing year in and year out. We celebrate special mission emphases. We have great worship. We close some churches. We approve the budget and look at how that will impact apportionments. We welcome newly commissioned probationary members and newly ordained elders. We celebrate the years of ministry of those who are retiring. We remember clergy and clergy spouses who have died in the course of the last year. Usually clergy will be appointed to the churches they will serve. This year the appointments will be published in mid-June so our new pastor, Rev. Greg Parr, can officially start on July 1. Annual conference varies some from year to year, but it is basically predictable. It is easy to take this time for granted and not find anything special occurring. After all I've done this 51 years and counting. This year we will be wearing of masks and social distancing.

During a summer vacation in San Antonio where my parents lived, Mary and I were at the River Mall for lunch and I needed to make a phone call. These were the days before cell phones so I had to go to a bank of phones and look through a phonebook for the number I needed to call. As I stood there leafing through a phonebook, a young airman was standing next to me with a phone to his ear. I could not help but hear the words he was speaking. He was excitedly talking to his mother and was saying something like this, “Hi, Ma! This is the first chance I’ve had to call since I came down here. We’ve been real busy. I’m calling from a phone in the mall right in the center of downtown. Ma, you wouldn’t believe it. They’ve got a river that runs right through the center of downtown! A river, Ma, a river! Ma, there are boats you can ride on the river and people sit around in restaurants by the side of the river. Yeah, Ma, a river runs right through the center of town. You’ve got to see it to believe it!”

It was obvious that this airman had never seen anything like San Antonio with its Riverwalk. For him it was awe-inspiring. As I listened to his conversation, I smiled inwardly because the river does not inspire that type of excitement in me. I have seen and been on the river many times. I have had many meals by the side of the river. In fact, I probably take the river that runs through the downtown area for granted. When you see something that you have never seen before, that’s when surprise, excitement and awe enter the picture.

Have you ever thought about the things you take for granted that could inspire, awe and excitement in another person?

Imagine that you are a child who has never known anything but a refugee camp in Africa. Your daily meal consists of a colorless liquid that contains the bare essentials of nourishment. Magically you are transported into a kitchen where for the

Continued on page 2.

### Points of Interest

**Ben's Pen, FUMC Welcomes New Pastor, Plan for Reopening—June 14,  
Weekly Giving, Prayers/Praises, Order of Worship for Sunday—May 31, Birthdays/Anniversaries.**

first time you not only see, but get to feel and eat a banana, a peach, an orange and a piece of watermelon. Just think of the surprise, excitement and awe that would be yours.

We know that there are places in our world that because of your religious beliefs people will not only not associate with you, but they hate you and wish for your death, not because of something you have done to them, but because of what you believe. Imagine the surprise, awe, and excitement that a person like that would find by walking down the streets of our country, finding that the people who live here have a wide variety of beliefs and that they can live like neighbors and family.

If you think that there is not anything special happening in your life and world, that you have been in for too long during this pandemic, look around at everything you take for granted and think how you would feel if you were seeing things for the first time. It just might be surprising, exciting, and awe-inspiring.

PS: I have visited with our new pastor, Greg Parr. He is very excited about coming to Forestburg and being a Full Time Local Pastor. I think that Forestburg is going to be richly blessed by his ministry.

## **Forestburg UMC Welcomes Reverend Greg Parr!**

The SPR Committee met with Reverend Todd Harris, our D.S., and Reverend Greg Parr Monday evening via Zoom. The announcement was made that Reverend Parr will be our new pastor at Forestburg UMC. We are extremely excited to welcome him, his wife, Melody, and their family to our congregational family at Forestburg. They will reside in our parsonage and will be very active in every aspect of our church and community life. Reverend Parr is a Local Licensed Pastor. He will be serving in a Full-Time capacity. He is excited to be coming to Forestburg, stating that this opportunity to minister to us is “a dream come true for him.” The following is his biographical information.

“Reverend Greg Parr felt the call to ministry in 2004 when he began hosting a Sunday night worship service in his hometown church of Nocona, Texas. At that time he attended classes and became a lay speaker for the church and even taught courses for the District. He was then encouraged to begin the journey towards full-time ministry by starting the candidacy process for local licensed ministers in 2011. In December of 2011, he began serving Vashti UMC as the youth leader. He completed licensing school in May of 2013, and has served as Senior Pastor to both Bellevue and Vashti United Methodist Churches since July of 2013.

Greg is a native of Nocona, Texas. He holds degrees from Cooke County College and DeVry University. He is currently working in the Course of Study through Perkins and attends classes at the North Texas Conference Center in Plano, Texas.

Greg serves with passion for the people of his congregations and desires relationships with them. He strives to support, love and guide those that are entrusted to his care.

Greg was baptized at the age of 13 at the Nocona FUMC by Merwin Turner, who had a very influential role in his life. He and Melody were married in 1994 and they have raised four daughters – Katie, Rachel, Genna and Josie. Rachel and Genna are both currently pursuing Religion degrees through Methodist Universities.”

**Please welcome Reverend Parr and family to Forestburg United Methodist Church!**

Information submitted by Liz Johnson, SPRC Chairperson



**From left to right:**

Oldest daughter, Katie; #3 daughter, Genna; wife, Melody and youngest daughter, Josie, who is 7; #2 daughter, Rachel; and Reverend Parr.

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

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. Hope to see everyone on June 14th!**

### 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 painter's 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

## Weekly Giving

Date	General Fund	Designated Funds
Week of May 3	\$1,852.00	—
Week of May 10	\$1,446.00	\$600.00 (\$500 was from the North Texas Conference purchase of equipment to help support our online programs/worship)
Week of May 17	\$3,300.00	\$450.00
Week of May 24	600.00	500.00

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:

Karen Martinez, Victims of the latest tornado/flooding in Montague County, Congregation of First UMC Tom Bean

### 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, 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 Greanead, Lisa Trussell, Peggy Cain, Larry Bailey, Keen Johnson and all our service men and women, **Our World, government officials/decision makers, and the those concerned with Coronavirus**, Kathy Guier and Family, Rand and Omar and Family, Carolyn Hawk, Abby Hyde and Family, Family and Friends of David Brewer, Businesses and patrons as businesses reopen, Family of Mike Auld

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

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

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

Please take a moment to review the prayer list and if you feel there are any changes needed (corrections, additions, or deletions) please let Pastor Shinn, Theresa or Liz know. Thank you.



## Order of Worship for May 31, 2020

Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn                    God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power,  
Crown thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

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                Acts 2:1-21

Special Music            Mary Shinn

Sermon                    A Great and Glorious Day

Closing Hymn            Spirit Song

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.  
Let him gill your heart and satisfy your soul.  
O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fil your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Benediction



## FORESTBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

16846 FM 455  
P. O. Box 374  
Forestburg, TX 76239

## Happy Birthday

May 3	May 15	May 25	May 3
Doris Coates	Chris Doane	Brittany Martinez	Savanah & Garrett Johnson
Carroll Dill	May 16	May 27	May 17
May 8	Lily Martinez	John Brim	Jewell & Carroll Dill
Jennifer Jones	Natalie White		
May 14	May 18		
George Miksovsky	Betty Dunn		

## Happy Anniversary

