



*saginaw umc*

# Focus Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 4 April 2023

*Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Saturday, April 15

- Active Shooter Training  
9 am - 11 am
- Electronics Collection Drive  
9 am - 12 pm
- Sisterhood Ladies Day Out  
11 am

### Tuesday, April 18

- Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm

### Sunday, April 23

- Administrative Council Meeting  
12:15 pm

### Tuesday, April 25

- SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm

### Friday, April 28 - Sunday, April 30

- Youth Spring Retreat at Glen Lake

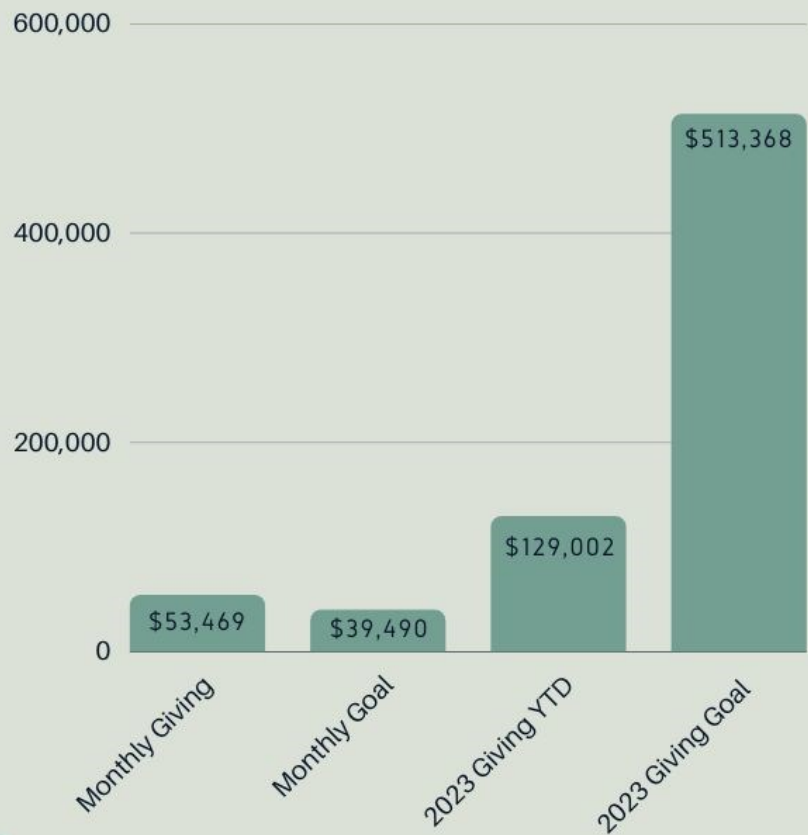
### Tuesday, May 9

- Wisdom Group Potluck 6 pm
- Finance Meeting 7 pm



# Announcements

## Giving Summary March 2023



2022 INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN  
BALANCE \$104,266

## Please Welcome Our New Members!

Please join us in welcoming the new members of our congregation:

Reverend Dr. Keran Stein

&

Honor Flaim

# Connection Opportunities



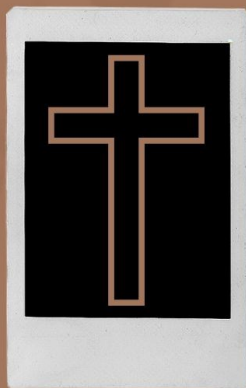
Please Join Us For A

# LADIES DAY OUT

at the Heritage Museum in Euless

Saturday, April 15  
Meet at the church at 11 am

For more information contact Phyllis Rainone at 817-313-0116



## WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAYS

YOUTH GROUP MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY  
AT 5:30PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM UPSTAIRS

CONTACT MICHELLE BURKHOLDER FOR MORE INFO:  
[MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG](mailto:MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG)



## SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

MEETING EVERY SUNDAY  
NIGHT FROM 5-7PM  
UPSTAIRS IN THE YOUTH  
ROOM

CONTACT YOUTH MINISTER:  
[MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG](mailto:MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG)





## Why SUMC Youth Is A Great Place To Be!

### Youth Spring Retreat 2023

Our Youth Spring Retreat is right around the corner and we are so excited! Our theme this year is “Calm in the Storm”, which seems quite fitting considering the actual storms we have been experiencing in weather, as well as the number of “storms” we face daily in our personal lives. We are looking forward to a weekend of discovering how to navigate these storms that can sometimes catch us by surprise.

It's not too late to get signed up!! Here is what to expect: A weekend of true rest, relaxation and FUN!! There will be multiple opportunities for exploration, hiking, fishing, games and some peaceful solitude...exactly what we need..."calm in the storm".

Dates for the Retreat: April 28-30

Location: Glen Lake Camp, Glen Rose Texas

Cost: \$100/youth participant (50% discount for additional members of same family); you can send in cash or check or pay online at [www.saginawumc.org/giving](http://www.saginawumc.org/giving)

Contact Director of Youth Ministries, Michelle Burkholder at [michelle@saginawumc.org](mailto:michelle@saginawumc.org) for more information or to sign up!

### Youth Sunday School

We will be finishing up our study of the Gospel of John as we look at Jesus' encounter with Mary Magdalene and discuss the impact of what believing in the “impossible” can have. We will explore how the resurrection of Jesus is both an historically credible event as well as proof of His divine power.

Following our study of John, we will travel back in time and space to a place called “Mayberry”. Youth will begin a Bible Study series based on the classic “Andy Griffith Show”. Topics of discussion will include Judging Others, The Value of Work, Serving as Mentors, and The Power of Deception. I am super excited for this series and encourage all youth in grades 7-12 to join us up in the youth room each Sunday beginning at 9:45am.



## Sunday Night Youth

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join us each Sunday night from 5:00-7:00pm up in the youth room. We will wrap up April with the following activities:

**Apr 16** - \*Youth Retreat Meeting at 4:00pm – all youth participants and their parents as well as all adult chaperones are encouraged to attend this final meeting. We will discuss the itinerary, packing list and answer any questions. PIZZA and Games will follow the meeting at 5:00pm.

**Apr 23** – Family Feud and Trivia Night!

**Apr 30** – No SNY

## Mark Your Calendars

**Apr 15** – Electronics Collection Drive – 9:00-noon at the Outreach Bldg garage

**Apr 28-30** – Youth Spring Retreat

**May 6** – FINAL Electronics Collection Drive – 9:00-noon\* (items will be picked up by Bubbs Fundraiser on this date)

**June 4** – Graduation Sunday – more information to come!

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

**Computers**  
**LCD Monitors**  
**Cameras**  
**Office Equipment**  
**Video Games**  
**Gaming Systems**  
**Printers**  
**Sports Equipment**  
**Power Tools**  
**Vacuum cleaners**  
**Cell phones**  
**DVD's/Music CD's**  
**And much more!**  
**(\*\*no tube/box televisions)**



Items may be in any condition – damaged, non-working or fully operational

**SUPPORT  
SUMC YOUTH  
&  
SISTERHOOD  
MINISTRIES**

**WHILE ALSO  
HELPING  
THE  
ENVIRONMENT!!**

### **COLLECTION DATES & TIMES:**

*Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> (9:00-noon)*

*Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> (9:00-noon)*

*Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> (9:00am-noon)*

*Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> (\*pick-up 9:00am-noon)*

### ***FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:***

*Michelle Burkholder ([michelle@saginavumc.org](mailto:michelle@saginavumc.org))*

**OR**

*Shirley Stephens ([ss4541@swbell.net](mailto:ss4541@swbell.net))*



SUMC Family, I am excited to be serving as your Children's Director and looking forward to watching the many ways God will be working through our ministry to children and families. This month I am detailing some of the events the children have participated in recently.

**Palm Sunday:** The children were excited to lead the procession of palms along with our Youth on Palm Sunday. They made palms and practiced saying "Hosanna!" in Sunday School class. We learned how Jesus cried out over the city as he rode on the donkey's back into Jerusalem. His love for us is so great and he knew the journey ahead would be difficult as he obeyed God the Father's plan.



**Egg Hunt:** We had a great time with our community and friends at the Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8. I wish to thank everyone that dedicated their time and service to this special event. We had Youth that stuffed eggs and helped with



activities, members that donated lots of candy (my office looked like a candy factory) , volunteers that stuffed more eggs and helped set up the activities, generous donations to provide fun prizes and

snacks, signs posted and cards passed out to invite friends, chairs and tables set by the Methodist Men, confetti eggs provided, lots of smiles given to children, and connections made with members of the community that came to share in the fun.

**THANK YOU** all for signing up and serving. You helped to make this such an Egg-citing day full of fun with our church family and some new friends. Even the Easter Bunny had a great time!!





**Easter Sunday:** Thank you to all who contributed to the Children's Ministry through the sale of the beautiful Easter Lilies. They were gorgeous! Thank you, Mrs. Londa and your team of decorators, for bringing beauty to the celebration of our Risen Lord.

The children began meeting in our newly renovated children's wing on Easter Sunday. We have created two classes for Children's Sunday School at 9:45am-10:45am!! It was exciting to be in the new area provided for the children.

With the addition of a new class comes the need for additional teachers and helpers. We would **LOVE** to have you join us in our Children's Sunday School classes. Helpers and Teachers may choose to attend on a weekly or rotational basis. The only requirements for helping are to love God's word, love children, and complete safety training through Ministry Safe (because we love our children). If you are not available on Sunday morning, but you would like to help, there is the opportunity to help prepare supplies and materials during the week.

The last bit of exciting news about Easter Sunday was Wee Worship time. We had 13 people participating in our Wee Worship with 4 of those being helpers/teachers. Caroline Dreese provided puppetry for the children with her beautiful puppet named Zara. It was captivating for the children and I'm so thankful for Caroline for sharing her gifts and talents with us on Easter Sunday.



God is good, immutable and moving in mighty ways to grow his kingdom.

Blessings, Sandra Young

“Everything good comes from God. Every perfect gift is from him. These good gifts come down from the Father who made all the lights in the sky. But God never changes like the shadows from those lights. He is always the same.” James 1: 17 ERV

# A word from Pastor Ramon Smith



## Seeing the Need

First, Good Friday was a powerfully immersive experience that included visual art, music, scripture, prayer, confession, communion, and pardon. Secondly, I am thankful for the hard work of Sandra Young and the volunteers in the children for a successful Easter Egg Hunt. We saw a lot of new faces, and the volunteers and staff demonstrated Christlike hospitality. Additionally, I am thankful for the worship leadership of Shawn Bell, Mary Watson, Nathaniel Metz, and Ron Mayo. The music ministry was phenomenal during Lent and on Easter Morning. Our attendance for Easter Sunday was 254 in person.

The season of Lent gave us time to reflect on the work of Jesus on his way to the cross. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus heals and includes people living at the margins of the community. While Jesus's work on the cross is an example of sacrificial love which atones for our sins, Jesus' ministry to people at the margins exemplifies how to demonstrate love to others in our everyday lives. We are all pilgrims traveling through this life; perhaps, we should take notice of our fellow pilgrims. Who is limping through life? Who is abandoned on the side of life's road? Who seems directionless? Who is hungry and thirsty?

Over the last year, I have emphasized the importance of inviting people to church and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with them. But unfortunately, the reality is that many do not come to church because they do not understand how the church can add value to their lives. As learners and followers of Jesus Christ, we know that all people need salvation. Yet, deliverance from the bondage of sin, death, and the devil is not exactly on most people's minds dealing with the challenges of securing food and shelter,



raising children, being married, and having poor health. I know that many will take issue with that statement. However, please consider that people often came to Jesus because they believed he could address a need.

Saginaw United Methodist Church has the resources to address many of the conditions in our community. Currently, we are helping those who are thirsty through the Saginaw Water Project. We are feeding people experiencing food insecurity through our partnership with community link. We provide clothing and other items to people experiencing homelessness through donations.

There are other needs we have the resources to address. For example, many struggle with loneliness, managing their finances, parenting their children, and improving their marriages. People need to know that the word of God and the people of God can help them navigate life's challenges. Therefore, the Discernment Committee, in consultation with me, is working on a plan for discipleship that will help address the needs of people within our church and community. We cannot address all the needs at once. We will focus our efforts on the needs that we are best equipped to address and will gain the most participation. This plan will involve witness, fellowship, and intentional faith development. Please pray for our Discernment Committee and Administrative Council as we continue to fulfill the mission of our church. More information will be provided in the weeks and months ahead.

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Ramon Smith

## A word from Nathaniel Metz



I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the time I spent working at Saginaw UMC. As I prepare to move into the next chapter of God's call, I feel compelled to share with you just how much this community means to me.

When I first joined the staff here, I was struck by the warmth and hospitality that radiated from everyone I met. From the pastor to the volunteers to the congregants, everyone had a spirit of generosity and kindness that made me feel welcome from day one.

During my time working here, I have had the privilege of being a part of so many meaningful moments in the lives of our members.

From baptisms to funerals, I have witnessed the power of God's love working through this community to bring hope and healing to those who needed it most. And through it all, I have been blessed to call you my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am so grateful for the opportunities I have had to serve this church. Whether it was preaching, leading the liturgy, or simply lending a listening ear, every day brought new challenges and joys. I learned so much from each of you and will carry those lessons with me for the rest of my life.

As I prepare to move on to new adventures, I am comforted by the knowledge that this church will continue to thrive and grow. I have seen firsthand the passion and dedication that you all bring to your work, but above all, I have been astounded by your holy grit and righteous tenacity. SUMC is a community that *endures* and *perseveres*. Without this quality, our church would not have been able to survive for over 100 years. I see it in the eyes of each member: You are committed to fighting for this church until the very end, and I believe this is the gift of faithfulness from the Spirit being poured out within your hearts. As Paul said in Galatians, "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up" (6:9).

So as I move into a more "remote" form of membership, I want you to know that I will continue to support you with my prayers, my gifts, my presence, and my witness – whatever new forms they might take. Thank you for welcoming me into this family and for all the ways you have touched my life. Please hold me tight in prayer during my time of studying – that my scholarship would not be mere intellectual exercise but rather work that truly glorifies God and inspires others to love God, neighbor, and all creation more deeply. Please also keep my professors in your prayers: Dr. Natalie Carnes, Dr. Elise Edwards, Dr. Devan Stahl, Dr. Paul Martens, and Dr. Barry Harvey.

May the blessing and peace of Christ be with you all,

Nathaniel Metz

# Newsletter Spotlight: Church Leadership 101

**This is Part 2 in a series of articles on church leadership opportunities.**

If you are new to the church, or just interested in knowing more about how it runs, this series of newsletter articles are especially for you. The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee hopes to inform and educate the congregation, and perhaps spark interest in your participation in an area of the church that especially speaks to your gifts and talents.

## **What is the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)?**

This committee works to integrate the staff and congregational interests to focus on the mission of the church. It relates to all staff—those appointed by the Bishop and those employed. The SPR has some of the same functions as a personnel or Human Resource department in other organizations.

Some of the primary functions of this committee are: 1) Recommending needed staff positions and developing written job descriptions; 2) Making recommendations regarding compensation; 3) Support continuing education for staff; 4) Consulting with the district superintendent; 5) Annual assessments of the ministry of the congregation and staff.

The SPR committee has between five and nine members. The lay leader(s) and lay member of the annual conference are required members of this committee. Others are recommended by the Nominations Committee and elected by the Administrative Council and should be divided into three classes that rotate in three-year terms (except for the lay leader and the lay member to the annual conference.)

Because of the sensitive nature of topics that may be discussed by this committee, it is the only one whose meetings are “closed” to the congregation as a whole. Current members of the SPR include: Sandy Thompson (chair), Ray Jordan (lay leader), Jean James (AC Rep), Stephanie Morgan, Jerry Kirby, Barbara Henley, Linda Brown, Ryan Buchanan, Janet Page, and Pastor Ramon Smith. If you have questions regarding the work of this committee, you can contact any committee member.



### Community Link

The Sisterhood will continue to support Community Link's effort to end hunger in our community in 2023. Our next collection date is **Saturday, May 6**. We always appreciate your commitment and generosity to others. They are always in need of shelf stable items such as peanut butter, crackers, jelly, canned vegetables and fruit, rice, beans, instant potatoes, pasta, ramen noodles, spaghetti sauce, flour, and sugar. Household items and hygiene products are always appreciated as well; such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, laundry detergent and fabric softeners, and toilet paper. Dates for the rest of the year are June 3, July 1, August 5, with more dates to be announced.

### Ladies Day Out

The LDO group has arranged a guided tour of the Euless Heritage Museum this **Saturday, April 15**. The museum includes 4 buildings and hundred of historical artifacts dating back to the 1880s. The complex features the first brick house in Euless, a log house built in the 1850s, and a barn made of lumber from Camp Bowie after World War I. There is no charge for the tour. We will leave the church at 11 am, stop for lunch, and take the tour. For more information, contact Phyllis Rainone at 817-313-0116.

### Save the Date!

We will be touring the famous "Top O'Hill Terrace" in Arlington on **Saturday, June 24th**. Originally built as a tearoom and restaurant, the "Top O'Hill" gained notoriety when it was sold and turned into an illegal gambling establishment. Escape tunnels and secret rooms were added to hide the gambling paraphernalia during raids. The tearoom and restaurant, both legitimate businesses, operated beside the casino, as well as a brothel. Years later the casino would be raided and shut down. It was later purchased by the Bible Baptist Seminary and operates today as the Arlington Baptist Seminary. Tickets are \$10 each and spots are limited! The tour is scheduled for 1 pm. It is a 2 hour tour so we will meet earlier for lunch prior to the tour. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Stephens at 817-683-5289.



## Dates to Remember!

- Our April breakfast was held on Saturday, April 8. After breakfast at JR's, the men returned to the church to volunteer to help with the Easter Egg hunt.
- The May breakfast meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 13 at 8 am with breakfast in Fellowship Hall followed by a project.
- Our annual golf tournament is scheduled for Friday afternoon, September 8. 1:00 shotgun start. More details will follow.

## Endowment

- The March 20th meeting was held in Fellowship Hall to review progress in building the Endowment Fund and review potential programs going forward.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
- An informational presentation is being planned for the fall to explain what the fund is for, how it operates and how the congregation can participate.

# Announcements

THE SAGINAW POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS

# CRASE

Avoid. Deny. Defend.

## Civilian Response TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT



Location:  
SAGINAW UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
209 Blue Bonnet St.  
Saginaw, TX 76179

When:  
APRIL 15, 2023  
9:00 - 11:00 AM

For more information  
contact :

Lt. Crippen 817-230-0374  
Jcrippen@saginawpolice.org



# Connection Opportunities

*Women of Grace*



Now studying *The Seed of a Woman* by Nana Dolce

Contact Janet Page or Susie Rhoades for more information

**MEN'S BIBLE  
STUDY**

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM IN C1



**Join the Quilters  
Group**

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS IN THE QUILTERS  
BUILDING

*Samaritans*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN C1

*Sunday After*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CLASS  
SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN C5



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Saginaw, Texas 76179

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## Focus Newsletter Schedule

The Focus Newsletter a monthly publication of Saginaw United Methodist Church. The next publication will be on May 9 with submissions due to [office@saginawumc.org](mailto:office@saginawumc.org) by May 2. Visit [saginawumc.org/contact-us/email-sign-up/](http://saginawumc.org/contact-us/email-sign-up/) to sign up to receive the newsletter by email and to receive special e-news blasts.



[Facebook.com/saginawumc](https://www.facebook.com/saginawumc)

Sunday Morning Worship in person and online 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Office Hours Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[www.saginawumc.org](http://www.saginawumc.org)

817.232.0390