



saginaw umc

Focus Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 5 May 2023

Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 11

- Ladies Day Out 10:45 am

Saturday, May 13

- Methodist Men's Breakfast 8 am

Tuesday, May 16

- Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 23

- SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm

Sunday, May 28

- Ushers Meeting 9:45 am

Monday, May 29

- Memorial Day (office closed)

Saturday, June 3

- Sisterhood Community Link Collection 10 am

Sunday, June 4 - Wednesday, June 7

- Annual Conference Meeting

Monday, June 19 - Wednesday, June 21

- VBS 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

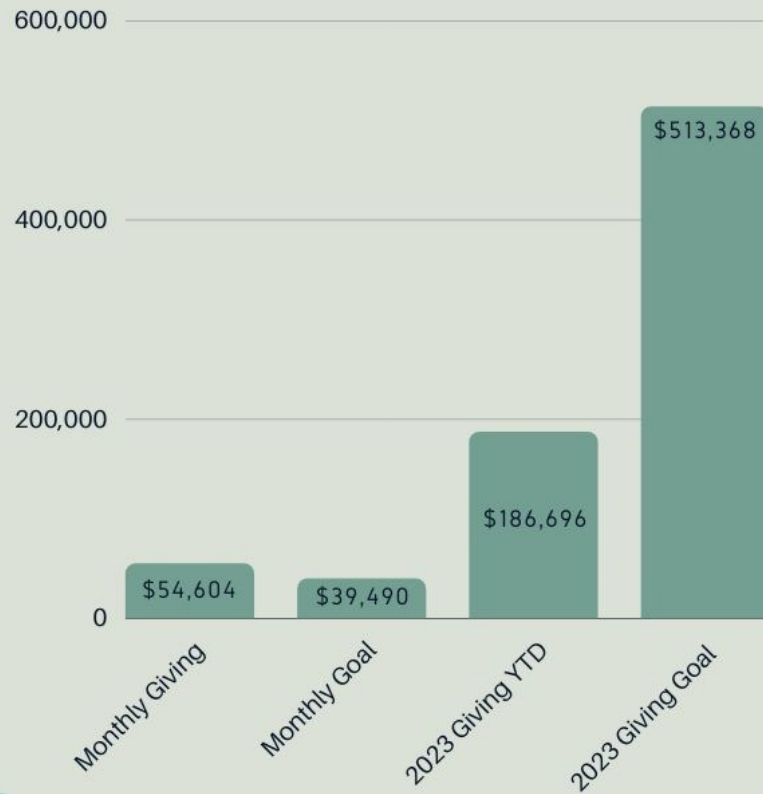
Mother's Day

Honor the special women in your life on
Sunday, May 14



Announcements

Giving Summary April 2023



2022 INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN
BALANCE \$92,354

Connection Opportunities

Women of Grace

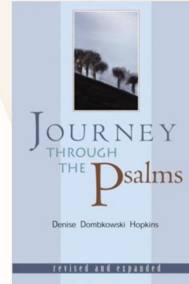


Now studying *Angels* by
Dr. David Jeremiah

Contact Janet Page or Susie Rhoades for more information

Samaritans

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



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

currently studying the book
of Psalms

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM IN C1

Young Couples

A Sunday school class created to help Young Couples grow in their faith and encourage one another. This class also addresses the unique challenges of couples under 50.
Meets in C21 at 9:45 am

You are invited to join us!

Sunday After

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



Youth Retreat 2023 - "Calm in the Storm"

Youth Spring Retreat has fast become one of our favorite things to do! This year's retreat did not disappoint. It was AMAZING! The theme for the weekend was "Calm in the Storm", which was quite fitting as we departed Saginaw in the rain! Thankfully, the rain passed, and the weather was perfect for the rest of the weekend.

One of the most amazing aspects of the weekend was that youth were the ones who designed and implemented each element of the retreat. Youth not only led small group discussions, they also helped with our special Saturday evening worship. It was such a blessing to watch it all come

together! There was plenty of time built in for everyone to play, explore, snack, read a book, fish and rest. Our group hike on Saturday led us across a small river/creek and up to the highest point in the camp where we were blessed with an incredible view of our beautiful surroundings. The trip back across the river offered cool relief for our tired feet!



As we departed camp on Sunday morning, we were wishing we had just a few more days to spend enjoying the peace and calm. As we face the days ahead, I pray we will reflect on those quiet moments spent in the beauty of God's creation and His presence and allow it to calm any storms that we may be experiencing.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our adult volunteers: Condi and Michael Graham, Jenny and Adrian Cardenas, Mary Kilgore, and Rebecca Altizer! I could not have done it without you!





Calling All 2023 Graduates!!

Attention all graduating Seniors! Your church family would love to honor you and celebrate all of the accomplishments you have made!



Please make plans to join us in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, June 4th at 9:45 a.m.** for a special breakfast reception held in your honor. Display tables will be set up for you to share your pictures, trophies, and any special memorabilia.

Following the reception, you will be recognized during our 11:00 Worship service and will have an opportunity to share your future plans as well as a bit of “wisdom” to our youngest youth.

If you would like to be included in this special event, please contact Michelle Burkholder, Director of Youth Ministries at michelle@saginawumc.org **no later than Sunday, May 28th.**

Please include:

- Name of Graduate
- Name of School/College student is graduating from

Would you like a display table set up?

Thank you for allowing your church family to celebrate YOU!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday Night Youth – 5-7pm

May 14 – HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY – We will not meet for Sunday night activities

May 21 – Movie Night!

May 28 – End of Year/Beginning of Summer celebration

Other Important Events

Jun 4 - Graduation Sunday 9:45am in Fellowship Hall

Jun 19-21 – VBS – 5:30-7:30pm **Youth volunteers needed!

Jul 10-14 – Youth Mission Week!

Announcements

FOR I WAS HUNGRY
AND YOU FED ME

On Saturday, May 6, members of our congregation donated 1,740 pounds of food and personal items to Community Link, where it will be used to feed the hungry in our community.



Last week, I celebrated my one-year work anniversary here at Saginaw UMC. I am so blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful people! I have been welcomed since the day I walked through these doors. I am very grateful that God placed me in this church and I hope to be here for many years to come!

-Jennifer McIntyre
Office and Finance Manager

A word from Pastor Ramon Smith



This article aims to share the church's mission and how we have been working towards accomplishing the mission over the past two years. It will also include some new developments involving our church staff. The mission is "to make (develop) disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The mission is based on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

From the summer of 2021 through the Fall, our primary focus was resuming fruitful ministries and events that had gone dormant during the pandemic. The focus of 2022-2023 was addressing the infrastructure needs necessary to improve our worship and discipleship experiences on campus. In 2023, we will focus on rebuilding our staff and implementing a new discipleship plan. In the past, the church has had a Visitation Director and a Holy Focus Director (Saginaw Water Project), and a pastor who oversaw these two positions. Those positions still need to be filled.

Additionally, Nathaniel Metz, who has served as the ministry and media assistant, has been accepted into the Ph.D. program for religious studies at Baylor University. Baylor has also given him a teaching assistant position, and Nathaniel will no longer work for our church. However, Nathaniel will remain a Saginaw United Methodist Church member, and we are excited for him as he pursues his calling in academia.

Due to the loss of staff, it is necessary to rebuild our staff infrastructure to accomplish the church's mission. Other than the work of the Triune God, people are our most excellent resource. We need qualified staff to fill the vacancies and more volunteers. Therefore, in consultation with me, the Staff Parrish Relations Committee has developed a plan of consolidation and realignment to address our staffing needs.

The conference offered to help Saginaw United Methodist Church address our staffing needs by offering a full-time associate pastor for appointment to our church. The full-time associate pastor will primarily be responsible for Caring Ministries, including the Saginaw Water Project, Pastoral Care, and Missional Outreach. In addition, the associate pastor will focus on building a base of volunteers for the visitation ministry, providing

pastoral leadership to and making referrals for Stephen Ministers, and helping align our mission activities to make a more significant impact on our community. The associate will also help with Sunday morning worship service leadership, preaching, and the consecration of the sacraments.

The senior pastor will remain involved in pastoral care, but the associate would be the primary contact. I will remain the lead for planning weddings and funerals. I will continue to make communion visits. In addition, I will devote more time to the committees working on our vision (with Discernment and Administrative Council), project outcome management, training laity for leadership (alongside the nominations and leadership development committee), evangelism, fostering relationships with families, working alongside other churches in the community, and discipleship.

Since Nathaniel also served as our media assistant, we needed to fill that position. The media assistant is responsible for maintaining the website, and social media posts on Facebook, editing videos, creating designs for signage, and creating worship presentations (the slides). SPRC has hired Samantha Hess, a highly qualified person with years of experience in church media. She will primarily work remotely. You can reach her at media@saginawumc.org.

The staff parish relations committee consulted with the finance concerning the financial impact of these staff changes for 2023. These new hires will result in very little change to the overall SPRC budget. These changes will enable us to provide better care for our current members and implement a plan of growth to attract and disciple new people. The name of the new associate pastor will be announced on Sunday, May 14, 2023. I am excited about the future of our church! Thank you for serving God, the church, and the community.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Ramon F. Smith



Community Link

Our next collection date is **Saturday, June 3**. 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 July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, and December 2. You are invited to join us on the first Saturday of each month from 10-11 am to serve the community and represent our church. It is a very rewarding experience!

Ladies Day Out

Please join us on Thursday, May 11 for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. We will have lunch at Belzoni's Catfish Café, followed by a visit to the White Settlement Historical Museum. You can look at the menu at the www.belzoniscatfishcafe.com. We will meet at the church at 10:45 am.

Birthday Card Ministry

We began sending out birthday cards again and have received positive feedback. If we miss someone, please let us know. If you would like to support this ministry, we are in need of men's birthday cards and always accept stamp donations!

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 in the 1920s. 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. We will meet for lunch prior to the tour. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Stephens at 817-683-5289. **Men are welcome to attend as well!**

Connection Opportunities

save the date!



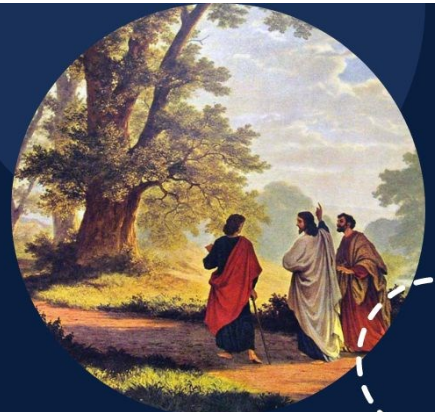
Please join the Sisterhood for a tour of the historical and notorious

Top O' Hill Terrace

Saturday, June 24 at 1 pm

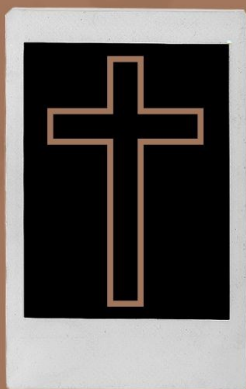
Men are welcome to attend!

For more information, contact Shirley Stephens



Walk to Emmaus Reunion Group

Meets on the First and Third
Wednesday at 6 pm and on the
Second and Fourth Sunday at 5:15 pm
in the fellowship hall



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



SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

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

CONTACT YOUTH MINISTER:
MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG

UNITED METHODIST MEN

At its February meeting, Methodist Men adopted 2 externally focused ministries. One of which is to provide sponsorship support to the little league baseball team that practices in the vacant lot on the north side of the church. Ken Sippl provided leadership on this ministry and working with the coach, developed a plan for Saginaw United Methodist Men to provide sponsorship support within the restrictions of the league.

For this year, we are providing warm up shirts with our logo to every player on the team. Here is a picture of the



logo shirt and



some of the team wearing them. In addition, we are providing a batting net so the team can practice hitting on our lot and a large banner thanking SUMCMM for their support. The banner will be erected at each of their games. Church members are

encouraged to attend some of the games to show their support. Their schedule is to be announced. The other externally focused ministry relates to youth and more details will follow.

Upcoming MM Events

- May breakfast meeting will be Saturday May 13. Breakfast will be served about 8:00 in Fellowship Hall to be followed by a project in the church.
- The annual golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, September 8 at The Resort. Shotgun start about 1:00 pm. Prizes, awards and BBQ dinner on the patio to follow. More details to come.

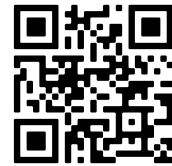


UPCOMING EVENTS

Knights of the King's Castle will be arriving at SUMC this summer!

We will be learning about God's word together as we journey on a quest to find the King's armor.

VBS will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening on June 19 – 21 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Signs are posted on the church property corners containing VBS information. To register, please scan the qr code or go to our website.



VBS Classes:

Children ages 3 – 11 (finishing 6th grade this school year) will rotate to 4 activities with group leaders.

Adult class for parents and any other adults not volunteering.

Nursery care for children under the age of 3.

VBS Volunteers:

Email children@saginawumc.org if you would like to sign up to volunteer and receive additional information on volunteer needs.

Here are some volunteer areas to consider:

- >Decorating
- >Organizing Materials
- >Leading Group Activity Stations (Science, Crafts, Games, Bible Story)
- >Group Guides (take children from station to station and help with the activity)
- >Registration
- >Snacks
- >Security
- >Large Group Music and Drama
- >VBS Follow Up



“Knights Out Adventure”:

There will be an additional add on event at Alley Cats in North Richland Hills from 6:00pm – 8:00pm on Thursday, June 22. Each person wishing to participate in the group outing will pay a group rate which includes all the activities at Alley Cats for 2 hours, pizza and a drink, and a game card. This should be a fun time to share together after VBS. (Parents/Adults will need to accompany children to the off site adventure.)

Children’s Council had their first meeting on Wednesday, April 26. We are looking forward to working together to serve our SUMC families and children as they grow in their love for God and others. Thank you to Shelley Collins, Ryan and Thomas Buchanan, Craig and Annie Robertson, and Adrian and Jenny Cardenas for your willingness to serve.

We have secured an additional worker on Sunday morning for our Children’s area. Katie Thompson began working in our Nursery and Sunday classes this month and is a wonderful addition to our Children’s Ministry team. She brings contagious joy and energy along with her numerous other talents used to serve others. Many of our SUMC members may know Katie as she grew up here and is the daughter of Mike and Sandy Thompson. Welcome Katie and we are excited to have you as part of the SUMC Children’s Ministry Team.

In Sunday School the children have been learning about prayer and talking to God in a series called, “Hey, God!” We have been learning the Lord’s Prayer and reciting it together. They are also listening to people pray to God in every language on our weekly class video. Our God loves to hear us pray and talk to him about anything.

Please be in prayer for our upcoming VBS. Pray for the children and families that will attend. We are looking forward to opening God’s Word, our hearts and our church building to share how we can be strong in the Lord and wear the Armor of God.

“Finally, let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. Put on the full armor that God gives, so that you can defend yourself against the devil’s tricks.” Ephesians 6: 10-11

Newsletter Spotlight: Church Leadership 101

This is Part 3 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 Board of Trustees?

This board supervises and maintains all property belonging to the congregation of the local church. The Trustees have several legal and administrative functions: 1) Oversee, maintain, and supervise church property (including the parsonage) and perform annual inspections and inventory; 2) Create and administer a five-year capital expense plan. This plan summarizes the large-dollar maintenance requirements the church will need to complete. It is updated annually and shared with the Finance Committee and Administrative Council; 3) Report annually to the charge conference on the state of property, equipment, investments, and resources; 4) Receive and administer all gifts made to the congregation and develop guidelines for this purpose; 5) Ensure that the articles of incorporation are up to date; 6) Be responsible, with the pastor, for the use of the church building and grounds; 7) Maintain adequate insurance coverage; 8) Submit requests to the Finance Committee's annual budget and be accountable to the charge conference and Administrative Council.

On this committee, 1/3 of members do not have to be members of the church. There should be at least 1/3 laywomen and 1/3 laymen. Members generally serve in the class structure of three-year rotations for continuity. Current members are: Ken Sippl (Chair), Londa Pontius, Gary Hill, Ron Mayo, Linda Allison, David White, Amber Haltom, Robert Pressler and Jerry Avery.

What is the Finance Committee?

The role of this committee is to raise, manage and disperse the finances for the congregation so that the stated mission is achieved. They follow the Wesleyan Method of financial leadership to balance "fundraising" with the conceptual discipline of stewardship. The main tasks of this committee are: 1) Provides financial direction; 2) Recommend an annual budget to support the church mission and ministries and develops an annual funding program; 3) Arranges for an annual audit of financial records; 4) Provides financial communication and reports; 5) Nurtures growth in giving and generosity.

According to the Discipline, the Finance Committee is primarily comprised of persons linked to this committee by their leadership role on other committees. This group currently includes: Dale Pontius, Finance Chair; Ramon Smith, Pastor; Sam Thompson, Lay Member of Annual Conference; Rosa Jordan, Administrative Council Chair; Diane Weaver, Treasurer; Juanita Jordan, Lay Leader; Sandy Thompson, SPRC Chair; Ken Sippl, Trustees Chair; Don King, Endowment Chair; Tim Kret, Stewardship; Jennifer McIntyre, Office & Financial Administrator; Phyllis Rainone, Financial Secretary; Mike Dodyk, Tom Griffith, and Lou Ann Pressler.

Opportunities to Serve

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who generously donated pillows and blankets to the Friends of Lancaster ministry, which serves the homeless in the Fort Worth area. The people who received the pillows and blankets were very appreciative.

However, the homeless population in Fort Worth is growing. Our group is running out of food and water each time we serve. The need is greater than amounts of food and water that we can provide. We are serving approximately 200 people each month.

We will be collecting bottled water and Gatorade through May 19 to serve to the homeless. If you would like to donate, please drop off your items in the fellowship hall. I will pick up the donations each week. I can pick up donations at your home or place of business as well. Please contact me at 817-312-0568 to coordinate.

(Pillows, blankets, socks, underwear, & travel-sized toiletries can be donated anytime.)

Thank You for your continued support,

Sheri Rann

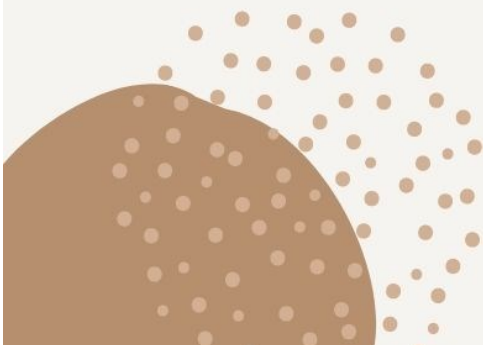


WANT TO SERVE?



we need you!

We are in search of ushers for the 8:30 am service. Please contact Shirley Stephens if you would like to serve in this capacity!





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Fort Worth, Texas
Permit No. 570

209 S. Blue Bonnet St.
Saginaw, Texas 76179

Focus Newsletter Schedule

The Focus Newsletter a monthly publication of Saginaw United Methodist Church. The next publication will be on June 13 with submissions due to office@saginawumc.org by June 6. Visit 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.