

Focus Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 9 September 2022



The Sisterhood held their annual Women's Conference on Saturday, September 10 in the fellowship hall. The theme was "Mirror, Mirror: Reflecting God's Grace." Key speaker Dorie McLemore

gave a great message filled with humor. Several churches in the community joined us for this event; we were blessed to have so many visitors. They had a wonderful turn out of 76 women who gathered for food, fun, fellowship and praise! Thank you to all who attended and those who worked so diligently to make this event so special.



Upcoming Events

Quilt Dedication and Reception	Sunday, September 18	9:30 am
Acolyte Training	Sunday, September 18	12:15 pm
Endowment Committee Meeting	Monday, September 19	7:00 pm
Elmer & Claire Watson Golf Tournament	Friday, September 23	1:00 pm
Administrative Council Meeting	Sunday, September 25	12:15 pm
Sisterhood Community Link Collection	Saturday, October 1	10:00 am
Trustees Meeting	Monday, October 3	6:45 pm
Methodist Men's Breakfast	Saturday, October 8	8:00 am
Wisdom Group Potluck	Tuesday, October 11	6:00 pm
Finance Committee Meeting	Tuesday, October 11	7:00 pm
Sisterhood Ladies Night Out	Thursday, October 13	6:30 pm
Trunk or Treat	Sunday, October 23	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Lord's Acre	Saturday, November 5	9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Prayer List

These prayers have been shared with your church family. Please help us lift these requests to the Lord. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Prayers for Nathaniel & his family, whose dog, Molly, passed away this past week.

Prayers for Austin Bayne, trying to move back to Texas.

Prayers for guidance for Shannon Jordan. She is interviewing for a new job and wants to go where she is needed.

Prayers for Beverly with post-op swelling in her legs.

Prayers for Carolyn who has internal bleeding.

Prayers for Ronald Shader in Hospice.

Prayers for Britany White, Jay & Millie Beavers's granddaughter. She has Covid.

Prayers of joy for Ron & Betty Mayo. Happy Anniversary.

Prayers of comfort for Al & Shirley Viveiros with the passing of their sister-in-law and family.

Prayers for Tony Robbins & his daughter in the passing of his wife.

Asking for prayers for the family of Ron Preissinger who passed away. Ron was the father-in-law of Heather Grogg - daughter of Terry Timms.

Prayers for the family of Femi Sotomi, plane instructor for Delta Qualiflight who passed away after being thrown from a horse playing polo. He leaves behind a wife and child. He is a friend of Heather Grogg.

Prayers for Rebecca Altizer. She had an emergency appendectomy Saturday evening.

Prayers for Queen Elizabeth and country for a smooth transition.

Prayers that God would give our leaders wisdom so we would stop destroying His creation.

Prayers of joy that Carol's tests came back benign.

Prayers of joy for David & Karen Ranney's 24th Anniversary.

Prayers for the United Methodist Church . Especially for anxious clergy that are uncertain about appointments.

Prayers of celebration for Al Viveiros who will be 80 on Friday, Sept 16th.

Prayers of healing for Gram" who is having health problems and is in the hospital.

Memorials/Honorariums

Given to the Endowment Fund

In Memory of Rex Pressler and Roy Pressler

Given by Bonnie Dodyk

In Memory of Rex Pressler and Roy Pressler

Given by Bob Pressler

Connection Opportunities



GOD is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to His Power that works in us.

Samaritans

People of Faith who respond to the needs of our church and community.

Join our Sunday School class to learn more about what God wants us to do.

Sundays: 9:45 am to 10:45 am

Room: C1/C3

Current Study: Book of Ephesians

Life Lessons from Ephesians by Max Lucado

Be Rich by Warren W. Weirsbe

Contact: Belia Thompson,
be.escobar.thompson@gmail.com

Sunday After

Adult Sunday School Class

Meets @ 9:45 in Room C-5

An invitation is extended to anyone wanting to engage in an open discussion, a deeper perspective, and a better understanding of the previous Sunday's sermon



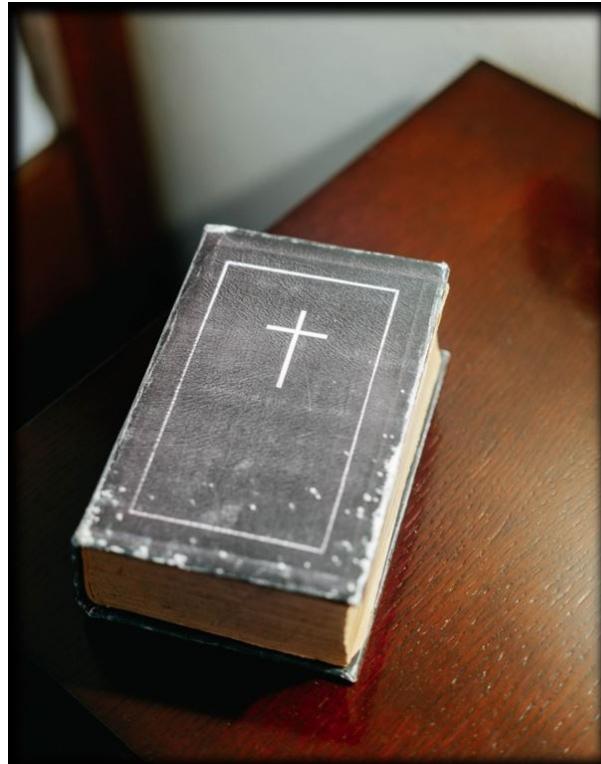
Women of Grace

Sundays at 9:45am room C2

You are invited to join them and bring a friend. We are studying

***Laugh Again* by Charles Swindoll**

If you have any questions, please contact
Janet Page, 210 846-5306 or
Susie Rhoades, 765 748-0272.



Men's Bible Study: A Self-Directed Discussion

Tuesdays at 7pm (Room C-1/C-3 or via Zoom)

For more information, please contact the church office.

Studying:

“Unoffendable: How Just One Change Can Make All of Life Better” (starting Sept. 6)

From Pastor Ramon Smith—Saginaw UMC: A Caring Church



Praise the Lord, God our Creator, our Redeemer, and Sustainer. The Psalmist of Psalm 148 observed creation's beauty and majesty, the handiwork of the Triune God. The Psalmist concluded that the proper response is to praise the Lord. So likewise, when we observe the masterpiece of a great artist, the record-breaking performance of a great athlete, or an Oscar-worthy performance by a great actor or actress, our natural response is to offer praise.

Psalm 148

148 Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from heaven!

Praise God on the heights!

2 Praise God, all of you who are his messengers!

Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

3 Sun and moon, praise God!

All of you bright stars, praise God!

4 You highest heaven, praise God!

Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

5 Let all of these praise the LORD's name

because God gave the command and they were created!

6 God set them in place always and forever.

God made a law that will not be broken.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth,

you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

8 Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke,

stormy wind that does what God says!

9 Do the same, you mountains, every single hill,

fruit trees, and every single cedar!

¹⁰ Do the same, you animals – wild or tame –
you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!

¹¹ Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person,
you princes and every single ruler on earth!

² Do the same, you young men – young women too! –
you who are old together with you who are young!

¹³ Let all of these praise the LORD's name
because only God's name is high over all.

Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ God raised the strength^[a] of his people,
the praise of all his faithful ones –
that's the Israelites,
the people who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

How often do we take a moment to smell the roses and observe the goodness of God's creation? We are bombarded with so much negative news and consumed with responsibilities at work and home. Stopping to smell the roses and observe creation may seem unproductive. Nothing could be further from the truth. As members of God's creation, we are connected to every living thing because all have been created by God's command and shaped by God's hands. So, we should lift our voices to join the chorus of creation in giving praise to God.

For the remainder of this month, take 5 minutes or more each day to observe nature. Then, take another five minutes or more to think about everything God has done and is doing in your life.

Dear God,

I praise your holy name, for you are worthy of being praised. Help me see clearly all you have done and are doing in my life. Please help me to offer my praise generously to you. Please help me to see the beauty in creation and the beauty in all people. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, AMEN.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Ramon Smith



September Happenings

“Come and see...”

Recently, the youth were asked to think about and answer the following question:

What makes SUMC Youth such a special place to be?

Answers varied but the one that stuck out the most was:

“It is a place where you truly feel welcome and cared for.”

When two curious disciples of John the Baptist asked Jesus where He was staying, Jesus replied, “Come and see” (John 1:39). After spending the day with Him, they went and told others about Him saying, “come and see.” Spending time with Jesus (someone who welcomed them and showed that He cared about them), had such an impact on them that they could not just keep it to themselves. What a beautiful picture of invitation!

This month, youth will be asked to extend the invitation to their friends to “come and see” what makes SUMC Youth such a special place to be. To make things a little fun, for every friend that a youth invites and brings to one of our gatherings and/or events, they will get to enter their name in a drawing. At the end of the month, we will announce the “grand prize” winner. The greatest prize, of course, will be the opportunity to welcome new faces and share with them all that makes our youth group so special!

Youth Sunday School

During the month of September, we will continue with our “Believe-It-Or-Not” Bible Study Series. This series has us diving into 13 wild, but TRUE, Bible stories that pack some powerful points. Youth Sunday school is currently open to all 7th-12th grade youth. We join upstairs in the youth room beginning at 9:45 am each Sunday morning. For more information, please contact Michelle Burkholder (michelle@saginawumc.org).



Sunday Night Youth - 5:00-7:00 pm

September offers lots of great opportunities to come out and enjoy some food, fun and fellowship!! Invite a friend (or two) to come and see what a great place SUMC Youth is...and enter your name to win a prize! Here's what's happening this month:

September 18 - Whirlyball - *possible off-campus event* Check your emails for more info to come!

September 25 - Speed Gaming - this puts playing board games on a whole new level!

For more information on these events or to sign up for our Youth email group, please contact Michelle Burkholder, Director of Youth Ministries (michelle@saginawumc.org).

What's Up Wednesdays

We have started our mid-week "What's Up Wednesdays" back up again for the 2022-23 school year. This is an un-programmed evening, designed for youth to meet in the youth room to do homework, read, play games, or simply hang out and catch up with each other. It's a great way to "recharge" your batteries to help make it through the rest of the week. Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to come on up from 5:30-7:00 pm each Wednesday.

Remind Messages

Youth and parents of youth, be sure to sign up for important updates and messages regarding SUMC Youth!

If you have an Android or iPhone, open your web browser and go to the following link: <https://www.remind.com/join/sumcyou> and follow the instructions to sign up for Remind.

To get text notifications, text the message: @sumcyou to the number 81010

If you have any trouble signing up for Remind, please contact Michelle Burkholder (michelle@saginawumc.org).



SPRC would like to introduce you to our interim SUMC Director of Children's Ministry, Sandra Young. Sandra and her husband, James, joined our church a while back and quickly plugged into the life of the church. They both joined choir and Sandra jumped right in helping with many children's ministry programs, including the Christmas pageant.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a Minor in Music from Abilene Christian University. Most of the 29 years of her educational career were spent in Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD teaching Elementary Music and Art.

She loves worship time and teaching children about Jesus.

Other areas of experience include time as Children's Leader

for Bible Study Fellowship, serving as part time staff as Kids Worship Leader and Kids Ministry Volunteer Coordinator at The Hills Church in Fort Worth, and volunteering in the Hills Kids Ministry for over 20 years. Sandra has performed in The Hills Summer Spectacular Musicals and was the Musical Director for Children's Christmas Musicals for 10 years. Currently, she teaches with Miss Jane's Music Play. There is more but as you can see, Sandra brings with her vast experience working with children and a deep commitment to growing our children in Christ.

As the SPRC decerns finding our next permanent Director of Children's Ministry, we feel so blessed to have Sandra working with our children and young families. If you have not already had a chance to say hi to Sandra and welcome her to this role, please do!

Donation & Volunteer Opportunities



Please bring bags of individually wrapped candy for our upcoming trunk or treat community event. Donations can be dropped off at the church office Monday through Thursday from 9 am - 3 pm.

Volunteer sign-ups are located on the Children's Director office door located in the fellowship hall. Our largest community outreach event will be held on Sunday, October 23 from 4 pm -6 pm.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Back to School Bash was a tremendous success thanks to SUMC and other churches in the community. Over 1,000 backpacks were filled with school supplies and distributed in EMSISD. Over 2,000 backpacks were collected and distributed in the community. Every request for hygiene kits was filled and extras were distributed to school nurses and counselors in the district. Over 200 volunteers showed up at the packing party. It was one of the largest number of backpacks ever handed out.

Upcoming Events

- Methodist Men present the Elmer and Claire Watson Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by Ray and Juanita Jordan on **Friday, September 23**. It will take place at The Resort Golf Club in Fort Worth. A huge thank you to Ray and Juanita for their generous sponsorship for the second year. This is the only fundraiser that Methodist Men organize to fund the many ministries they support. They appreciate all the support from players and hole sponsors. There is still time to register! See www.saginawumc.org for registration
- During our regularly scheduled MM breakfast on **Saturday, October 8**, we will be honoring and thanking the guys from White's Chapel and SUMC for their hard work remodeling the children's area. We want to thank each person and SUMC Methodist Men will present a thank you gift to White's Chapel Methodist Men at that time. In order to plan the wonderful Texas breakfast, please let Don King know if you will be able to attend, so there is plenty of food for all. No work project is scheduled for that day.
- Methodist Men are also making preparations to cook and serve the wonderful pulled pork sandwiches lunch at Lord's Acre on **Saturday, November 5**.
- Methodist Men's Retreat is **Friday, November 11 - Sunday, November 13**. It will be held at Lake Murray, Oklahoma. All men are welcome. More information to come.





Upcoming Events

- **October 13** - Game Night 7-8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- **November 10** - Trip to Grapevine at 10:30 am.
- **December 8** - White Elephant Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall, 7-8:30pm

Any woman 18 years and older is welcome to join our Ladies Day Out (LDO) or Ladies Night Out (LNO) activities. If you have any questions, please ask any of our committee members: Karen Jumes, Jean King, Phyllis Rainone, Shirley Stephens, and Paula Wood.

Community Link

The Sisterhood continues to sponsor this very worthy mission. They are in need of peanut butter, crackers, jelly, canned vegetables & fruits, rice, beans, instant potatoes, pastas, ramen noodles, spaghetti sauce, flour, sugar, hygiene products, toothbrushes & paste, shampoos/conditioners, washing powders & fabric softeners, toilet paper and other non-perishables. We collect donations at their location, 300 S. Belmont St. The dates for the remainder of the year are **October 1**, **November 12**, and **December 3**.

Saginaw Animal Services Pet Supply Drive

The Sisterhood is sponsoring a pet food & supply drive for our local Animal Shelter on Sunday, **September 18**. You can bring your donations to the church fellowship hall (just inside the door) and we will deliver the items. You can also take them to the shelter if you would like. The City of Saginaw Animal Services and Adoption Center is located at 205 Brenda Ln. If you have any questions, you can call Shirley Stephens at 817 683-5289.

Requested items for the pet supply drive

- Laundry Detergent, Clorox Bleach, Lysol Disinfecting Wipes
- Purell Hand Sanitizer (liquid)
- Hand Soap: Liquid Dial, Dawn Dish Detergent
- Frontline Plus Flea and Tick for Cats
- Frontline Plus Flea and Tick for Dogs 23-44 lbs & 45-88 lbs
- Non-Clumping Kitty Litter
- Cat Toys and Dog Toys
- Cat and Small Dog Collars, Medium Dog Collars, Large Dog Collars
- Standard 6' Leashes
- Towels and Washcloths
- Pill Pockets for Dogs
- Durable Dog Toys
- Easy Treat Kong Filler, NO Hide Dog Chews
- Dry Adult Dog Food (Purina Dog Chow, Purina One, Purina Pro Plan, or Iams)
- Dry Puppy Food (Purina Puppy Chow, Purina One, Purina Pro Plan, or Iams)
- Cans of Adult Dog Wet Food (Purina One, Purina Pro Plan, or Iams)
- Cans of Wet Puppy Food (Purina or Iams)
- Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin and Stomach - Dry and Wet Dog Food (Salmon and Rice Flavor)
- Dry Adult Cat Food (Purina Cat Chow, Purina One, Purina Pro Plan or Iams)
- Dry Kitten Food (Purina Kitten Chow, Purina One, Purina Pro Plan or Iams)
- Cans of Wet Kitten Food and Kitten Milk Replacement
- Cat Litter, Cat Beds and Fleece Blankets
- Newspaper

Thank you for your help!

Upcoming Events

Lord's Acre: November 5th (10am-3pm)
**Food, fun, and fellowship! Join us for
a fun day with a live and silent
auction, sweet homemade treats from
our Kountry Kitchen, unique gifts
from our SUMC quilters, a children's
auction, and more!**

Methodist Men's Elmer and Claire Watson Memorial
Golf Tournament
September 23rd. Tee time: 1pm.

For more information, please
go to saginawumc.org and look
under the United Methodist
Men's Ministry (located under
the "Adult" tab).





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Focus Newsletter Schedule

The Focus Newsletter a monthly publication of Saginaw United Methodist Church. The next publication will be October 4th with submissions due to office@saginawumc.org by September 25th. 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.