



# THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church  
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## February 2019

### *Pastor's Pen*

"I am convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created." Romans 8:38-39, CEB

This past month, Lee Anne and I took off on vacation for a week to get some time away together and then celebrate our birthdays with our family. Our first stop was at Lake Brownwood State Park for some much-appreciated relaxation time. As is our habit, we picked up a map of the hiking trails, and our first day there, we set out to hike one of those trails.

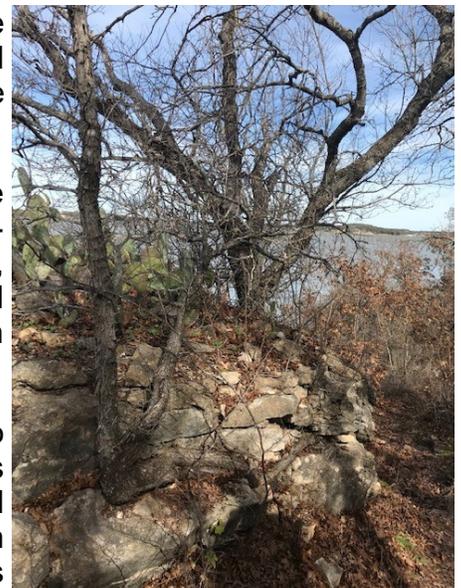
The trail started out along the top of a bluff that ran along the lake, but when we got to the far end of the trail, it dropped down between two large limestone formations to the lake and then came back along the shore to make a loop. As we hiked along the shoreline, we walked past a large limestone boulder, and there, literally growing out of the side of the boulder, was an oak tree. I had to stop to take a picture of the tree.

The tree had grown up from under the boulder through a crack in the boulder. The base of the tree literally wraps around the rock with roots curling along the boulder and reaching down through cracks in the boulder into the soil to get the nourishment it needs to continue to grow upward into the sunlight.

It is one of the many wonders of God's good Creation that we see when we are on our hiking adventures. But it is also a wonderful example for us in our faith—as individual Christians and as the church.

There will be times in our faith lives when it appears that we are blocked off from God, when the troubles of the world are weighing down on us like a giant boulder. But if we continue to seek God, reach out to Him, and seek Him, God will provide a way for us. God will nurture us and bless us, and ultimately, we will grow in our faith as we continue to reach upward into the light of God's love.

As the church, we can also look to this oak tree for inspiration to persevere through the greatest of difficulties. The coming months are going to be difficult at times. The called General Conference will meet later this month to decide human sexuality issues the church has been struggling with for the past fifty years. There are various plans that have been proposed, and whichever plan is adopted, our



denomination will be facing some serious changes. Our church may also be faced with making some difficult decisions.

In all of this, we must stay strong and persevere. We will continue to affirm the authority of Scripture and proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior, crucified and risen. We need to remember that God will continue to give nourishment to our church and our faith as long as we continue to seek Him.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor.

In Christ's Love and Service,

*Pastor Kevin*

### Prayer List

***Do not be anxious about anything; by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6***

**First United Methodist Church cares for you**

**Our Family, Our Community, Our World:** Royce Atchley, Rick Austin Family, Barbara Baum, Adena Beck, Clara Beeks, Grace Bennett, Jane Bonner, Marilyn Bowman, Linda Brady, Dan Brockman, Tom Burns, Rita Burris, Ricky Carouth, Ben Chamness, Barbara Cook, James Crow, Gloria Curry, Tiana Curry, Ernie Cyr, Brad & Stacy Demarco, Irene Demarco, Fred Dill, Gayle Dudley, Cathy Day-Finn, Debbie Ford, Justin George, Dick Grider, Dierk & Chie Guenther, Dr. Mike Hamilton, Greg Harper, Jaggar Harris, Julia Hendrix and Family, Olivia Henz, Amanda & Kathy Hicks, Jamie Hogland, Beverly Hohertz, George Horton, Melody Jones, Sheldon Johnson, Mary Jo Loyd, Maxine Kellar, Melanie Long, Betty Martin, Wanda Martin, Kinlee Matthews, Alice May, Hugh Maxwell & Guilia Maxwell, Dessie McCowen, Jimmy McCowen, Larry McFarlane, Katie McLeod, Lavaughn McMillan, Kate Miller, Jerry Mobley, Bob & Carolyn Morgan, Sherry Mosher, Dameshia Mosely, Geneva Mosley, Don & Wanda Nelson, Sheryl Orasak, Tracy Patton, Mae Parker, Joe & Liz Perry, Bill Porter, Fred Ptacek Sr., James Reed, Daryl Richards, Roberta Richards, Melissa Richards, Bob Roberson, Athalie Sandoval, Kari Sheppard, Jack Shull, Heath & Rebecca Simon, Barbara Sowell, Yvonne Shumaker, Kathy Spencer, Jared Spurgeon, Nicki Stephenson, Jillian Spoor, Becky Tabor, Traweek Family, Delbert Turner, Greg Turner, Cindy Jo Waggoner, Mary Weaver, Betty Weise, Christine Wells, Andrew Wheeler, Lea Jean Wilkerson, Hattie Windham, Vivian Wooten, Everly Layne Wright, Candice Wyatt

***Nation of Israel, Christians being martyred, all those dealing with cancer, victims of shootings, bombings & violent weather, first responders, school personnel and students, First Baptist Church, Epiphany Ministries, our Nation, Synagogue Shootings, wildfire victims in CA., 2:23-2:26 p.m. daily for 2019 Called General Conference***

**Our Military Service Personnel:** Nick Adams, Justin Bannister, Jeremy Barnett, Jonathan Wainwright Bennett, Anthony Castleberry, Zachary Harris, Mike House, Chaplain Bill Killough, Gregory Krauss, Daniel Manley, Cody McGough, Dobbs McWilliams, Logan Phillips, William Pope, Michael Ptacek, David Walt, Randy Young and all those in harm's way

**Loved Ones who are homebound or in nursing homes:** Ethel Ames, Cecil & Mary Barton, Velma Bush, Barbara Baum's mother, Wanda Merryman



## Mouse Tales

The inquisitive little church mouse has not been spotted yet, but tid-bits of "church news" has been showing up on the computer desk, just waiting to be shared.

- \* Ah, food always seems to be at the top of my list. Thus, our Pot Luck Lunch on Sun. Feb. 17 will be our annual **RED FOOD** meal.
- \* Will be so fun to hear those bells practicing again. "Hear" they are starting again on Wed. 13th at 5:00 pm. and will be practicing on 2nd and 4th Wed. There is always room at the tables and plenty of bells and chimes for anybody who would like to join. Some of each week will be spent on music theory and ringing techniques, so it's a good time to get involved.
- \* Oh wow, it's time to start thinking about our annual VBS already again so soon. Can hardly wait to meet EP 3-20 ..... check out the full article elsewhere to see just who this little fella' is.

## Glory Be's

Good Grief! I didn't think January would ever end this year. Am I the only one that thinks it lasted longer than usual? Maybe it was because we experienced weather in all seasons but summer (and we came close to it, too) in the last 28 days. It is just crazy! So I got to thinking that maybe what we need at our next Glory Bee Meeting is to change things up a little.



I want all of you ladies to come and bring your ideas and we will brainstorm what we would like our group to do and accomplish going forward. This is your meeting and I want you all to know you have input and your ideas are important. We didn't meet in January due to school being out and some of us still had grandchildren or were out of town so I am hoping all of you will be excited and willing to come Wednesday, February 6 at 7 pm to get this year started off and ready for what is to come. I know Connie has a special "Love" devotional she wants to share with us which will be a perfect way to end our planning session.

Thank all of you for all you do for your church and community. May 2019 be the best year ever!!

Love and God's blessings,

*Susan Hunter*

## Promise Singers

We were so blessed to have the Promise Singers from the Adlersgate Enrichment Center in Early in worship with us on Jan. 20. This is a facility for about 70 (both resident and non-resident) adults with special needs that we support financially each year from our Lord's Acre monies.



They sing with such joy and are a pure delight to be around. **And** they look forward to joining us for our monthly fellowship meal.



*Missions Chair, Lee Anne Morton, presenting a \$1200 check to Pat Smith, Group Home Supervisor.*

## Community Garden

It's "zucchini time" again. Well, almost. Time to at least start thinking about planting gardens again. There are nine boxes in the community garden between the church and parsonage that are available for spring planting. Due to the really good soil, lots of near-by water and a shed full of new tools, it takes just a bit of work to produce an abundance of good eating. Of course, the zucchini can grow anywhere and some of the tomatoes were awesome last year. One spinach crop just kept producing all winter before last, so it's been a proven productive site. Some people have just grown the vegetables for the enjoyment of it and have shared with the Senior Center, thus it's a win - win deal.



If you're interested, or know anybody who would like to have a small garden, just contact the church at 725-7377 to get your project underway.



## VBS July 22-25

Meet EP 3-20, our puppet for VBS. That's short for Ephesians 3:20 ... "Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!"

Blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! Cokesbury's *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. Beginning in our Assembly area-an outpost on Mars, they'll lift off to distant planets on special missions to collect power sources. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. Add to the adventure with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine!



*One small step for your kids...one giant leap for God's Kingdom!*

A planning meeting will be held in the very near future to discuss broad plans for the VBS. Stay tuned for the notice of the date from Judy Killgo, who has offered to direct this very important program again.

# February 2019

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

					1 Celebrate Recovery 7:00	2
3 Sun. Sch. 9:30 Praise 10:15 Worship 10:45 Youth 1:00 Stephen Min. 12:30	4 Prayer Team 9:30 BUNCO 6:00	5 Wght. War. 5:30 Project Pride 6:00 Celebrate Recovery 7:00	6 Bible Study 4:00 Choir 6:00 Glory Be's 6:00	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30	8 Celebrate Recovery 7:00	9
10 Sun. Sch. 9:30 Praise 10:15 Worship 10:45 Youth 1:00 Nur. Home 3:00	11 Prayer Team 9:30  <i>Kiley Morgan Ashley Lehman</i>	12 Wght. War. 5:30 Celebrate Recovery 7:00  <i>Ed Walt Gary Bond</i>	13 Bible Study 4:00 Bells 5:00 Choir 6:00	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30  <i>Jim &amp; Patricia Cook</i>	15 Celebrate Recovery 7:00	16  <i>Jordan Collier</i>
17 Sun. Sch. 9:30 Praise 10:15 Worship 10:45 Youth 1:00 Fell. Meal 12:00	18  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	19 Wght. War. 5:30 Celebrate Recovery 7:00	20 Bible Study 4:00 Choir 6:00	21 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30	22 Celebrate Recovery 7:00 <i>Larry Killgo</i>	23 Library Dinner <i>Al Pickett</i> 5:00 pm
24 Sun. Sch. 9:30 Praise 10:15 Worship 10:45 Youth 1:00	25 Prayer Team 9:30 Food Pantry Set-up 1:30	26 Wght. War. 5:30 Celebrate Recovery 7:00 <i>Jason Collier</i>	27 Food Pantry 8:00 am Bible Study 4:00 Bells 5:00 Choir 6:00	28 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30	<hr/> <b>Church Conference</b>	
<hr/> <b>Church Conference</b>						<i>Emma Bennett</i>