



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
NEDERLAND

The LIGHT

Your **FIRST** News... *March 2019*

By the Way...

We hear a lot about the theological diversity of the United Methodist Church: a spectrum from very conservative to main-line moderate to very liberal. The way we talk you might assume an equal distribution. Recently, United Methodist Communications surveyed United Methodists in the United States, asking their views on various theology-related subjects, including the Bible, Jesus, salvation, the Resurrection, and the after-life. The questions were about beliefs, not the labels members attach to themselves, nor about human sexuality or any other social issues. Based on the answers, 44% hold conservative/traditional views, 28% moderate/centrist, and 20% progressive/liberal. (Remember, these classifications are about theological views not social or political views.) Further, the moderates tend to lean toward the traditional end rather than the progressive.

Here are some telling insights:

Large margins believe God is the Creator of heaven and earth, God's grace is available to all, Jesus was born of a virgin, Jesus was crucified in order to reconcile humans to God, and Jesus is bodily resurrected

When asked whether the primary focus of the UMC should be saving souls for Jesus Christ or advocating for social justice to transform the world, 88% of traditionalists said saving souls, while 68% of progressives chose social justice.

50 % of liberals believe in a literal hell, compared to 82% of conservatives and 70% of moderates.

When asked to choose the most authoritative source of their personal theology, 41% of conservatives chose Holy Scripture and another 30% said Christian tradition, while 39% of liberals cited

reason and only 6% chose Holy Scripture. An overwhelming majority of conservatives, 86%, said a relationship with Jesus is the only way to salvation, with 64% of moderates agreed with that, and 54% of liberals did. When evaluating the results, keep in mind that pastors and seminary professors tend to be more progressive or moderate than lay people.

Why am I sharing this? Because you should know, yes there is some diversity, but not as much as many presume. Being a United Methodist does not mean you get to believe what you want: the will of God is not about your personal preferences or opinions. Though some forget, we have doctrinal standards based on the faith that has been passed down to us through the ages: the Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith, the General Rules, and Wesley's Standard Sermons and Notes on the New Testament. For those who want theological innovation, claiming that the Holy Spirit is at work with new revelations, the Church declared in the 2nd century that it is a heresy called Montanism.

Jesus warns his followers of prophets who are in fact ravenous wolves in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15) and Christians are charged to "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1). The telltale sign is contradiction with the Word of God, which through the guidance of the Holy Spirit has been recognized by the universal Church through the centuries. That is why we refer to the "canon" of scripture: in Greek the word "canon" referred to a read or measuring rod. We learn the Word of God so we can recognize the voice of God when he calls. Then we can respond and go with confidence, assured he is leading us. When we follow him we are journeying toward a more and more abundant life.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan Bynum

This month at a glance:

- ◆ Pancake Supper 3/6
- ◆ Heritage Festival 3/12-17
- ◆ Lenten Bible Study begins 3/21
- ◆ Communion Sunday 3/31

PANCAKE SUPPER

Ash Wednesday will be March 6th. We will have a Pancake Supper before our WOW Ash Wednesday service that evening. Join us for good food and good fellowship in preparation for the Lenten season.



Heritage Festival News

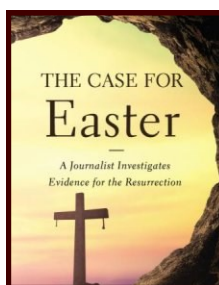
Heritage Festival will be here March 12-17 we know it. It's time to start collecting **canned drinks (Coke, Dr Pepper and Sprite only) and chili (no beans) and yellow cake in a 9X13 throw away pan.**

Lenten Lunch Study

This year's **four-session** Lenten Lunch Bible Study will be "**The Case for Easter**" by Lee Strobel, author of "The Case for Christ." "The Case for Easter" will invite you to look

beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the evidence yourself, and consider why Easter is so important to our faith.

Call the office to sign up so we'll order enough books! LUNCH



Mission News...

United Board Of Missions is in need of PB & Jelly, Cereal, Dried beans, rice and canned fruit. There will be a box by the church office for these items if you would like to donate .

SPRING FEST 2019

April 1st

at the Wesley Foundation
3810 N Major Drive

6-8

\$25 a ticket.

Tickets available in our church office.



In Our Prayers...

Just a reminder that we will be sending the newsletter out Monthly instead of Weekly. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Memorials...

A memorial has been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Elizabeth Wills, Julia Nita Franke and Ruth Tannehill** by Vaudine

February Perfect Attendance in Sunday School...

Gail Krohn, Barbara Grove, Rose Hairston, Brian Hurlbut, Emil Oleksy, Jr., Chad Clark, Sue Dartez, Jim & Joyce McDaniel, Linda Schnell, Kenneth Young, Don & Billie Clotiaux, Joe & Sue Colburn, Gay Furbee, Lou Handley, Janie Oliver, Jack & Barbara Pelloat, Dot Peyton, James & Doretha Toler and Jimmie Lou Weeren

With our presence

Previous Month average attendance 130

With our gifts

Previous Month's Giving \$42,517.38
Monthly Budget \$43,288.14

Tom Pate
(brother of Helen Reynolds)
Ray Guidry
(brother of John Guidry)
Edith Pate
(mother of Helen Reynolds)
Kendall Barr
Maurice & Katy Talbert
Connie Eldred
John Guidry
Cindy Winfrey
(sister of Jim Quebedeaux)
Harold Westbrook
Edna Harrington
Joe Colburn
James & Jean McClammy
Colt Plake
(grandson of the McClammy's)
Clarice Armstrong
(mother of Rose Hairston)
Carleen Henderson
(sister in law of Margie Hart)
Wendy Hopkins
(daughter of Pat Bailey)
Susan Nimmo & Connie Dubuision
(friend of Rhonda Richey)
Terry Simpson
(friend of Richard Printy)
Amanda Coplen & Baby John
Bill & Pat Terrell
(family of Sue Dartez)
Doretha Toler
Lynette Strickland
(Glen Meaux's sister)
Ludi Sanchez
(friend of Kendall Barr)
Aaron Covington
Linda Cobb
Donna Whitehead
(friend of Janda Cook)
NISD School Board
Ralph Hendricks
(Friend of Laura Tatum)

Mary Beth Harris
Larry Krueger
(brother of Bob Krueger)
Carol Perkins & Ron Hollier
(sister & nephew of Sonya Willis)
Christy Schlag
(niece of the Pelloat's)
Fred Robbins
(brother of Joe Robbins)
Phyllis Theriot
(sister of Paula Adaway)
Jackie Smith
(father of Christi Murphy)
Harland Patteson
Bob Henderson
(father of Margie Hart)
Conor Wheatcroft
(grandchild of the Wheatcroft's)
Manny Vara
(friend of Jamie Miller)
Gay Furbee
Juanita Macon
Christy Wheat
(friend of the Richey's)
Alex Boyd
(grandson of the Adams')
Steve & Ginger Hearne
Gwen & Jerry Maldonado
Jerry Dews
(friend of the Brown's)
Imogene Butler
Leonard Wood
(brother of Verna Rutherford)
Kenneth Young
Don & Nancy Adams
Billie Clotiaux
Wendy Johnson
(niece of the Sanderson's)
Carrel Hanley
Ann Quarles
(friend of Judy Radcliff)

On Going Ministries at First



Prayer Group

**9:30 am
Tuesday
Mornings**
3/7, 3/21, 3/28

**9 am
Tuesday
Mornings**
3/7, 3/21, 3/28



**4 - 5:30 pm
Wednesday
Afternoons**
3/6, 3/20, 3/27

Children's Ministry for ages 5-5th grade

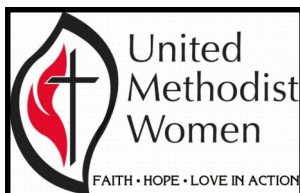
**1 pm
Wednesday, 3/13
10:45 am
Wednesday, 3/27**



**5:30-6:45 pm
Wednesday
Afternoons**
3/6, 3/20, 3/27

Jr Hi & Sr Hi youth for grades 6th-8th & 9th-12th

**6:30 am
Thursday
Mornings**
3/7, 3/21, 3/28



**9:30 am
Wednesday
Mornings**
3/6, 3/20, 3/27

WOW

**Every Wednesday!
5:30 pm - Dinner
6 pm Praise & Worship
Join us for
Pastor's series:
Revelation Revealed**

