

The Messenger

Whitehouse United Methodist Church

Love - Serve - Share Christ
August, 2018

Pastor: Rev. Matt Thomas 903-839-2173;
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Morning Fellowship 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
Worship Services 9:30 am
Church E-mail: whitehouseumc@tyler.net

My mind is still stirring from Sunday morning. In truth, the sermons I preach are really for me and you just happen to catch the drift of them. Like everyone else I suppose, I struggle with burnout, human frailty, spiritual direction, reconciling relationships and ways to communicate the faith entrusted to me and you. The truth is everyone sitting in the pews and in the chancel area are in very different places in both their understanding of the gospel and spiritual journey. All, I would hope, are looking for meaning, connection, understanding and belonging. People visit churches for those reasons. Churches visit their communities to offer each of those.

Trying to find the words each Sunday morning that will meet persons where they are in their understanding, faith journey and real life is daunting. Of course the difficulty I encounter most often is our own free will to decide which parts of the message we will embrace or reject. The real issues are a wavering commitment to grow deeper in our faith and understanding of God's call on our life. Depending on who you are talking with the conversation changes because they are in different places. For example, talking about money or giving is an immediate turnoff for some. The Bible's number one conversation is about stewarding your resources, ie. time, money and giftedness. Those who are awakened to the Lord, the conversation/sermon/lesson is an easier conversation. The conversion hits a brick wall for those who are stifled in their spiritual life. If I mention the word "steward" people automatically have assigned meaning and connotation to it. They have also already decided their response to the word.

The point of all of this is to say if you and I want spiritual growth and more meaningful understanding of the faith we declare then ALL of us have to be committed to go deeper. Jesus words are not suggestions for a better life. If we ALL are committed to grow spiritually, surrender our lives fully to Jesus and truly seek him out, what God will do in us will be extraordinary.

Let me use a metaphor to amplify the point. It is no mystery that Christina is more musically talented than me. Everyone has their differing gifts. In fact, the entire family is musically inclined. I'm the odd ball of the group and am ok with that. Every now and then I will do a song or hymn during a prayer or sermon. My father-in-law once told me, after one such episode, that I needed to start us off with a lower note. That doing so would help the congregation join in the song. Everyone who chooses to sing can do so more easily. Starting a song in a higher note discourages, unintentionally, the congregation from participating. The point, the notes we pick are important to getting everyone on the same sheet of music. We all need to be singing and signing in the same key. If I'm singing in the key of discipleship and you are singing in the key of institutional survival we will have a hard time singing together a song that will bring others to Christ.

What it all boils down to, for me at least, is are we each growing in our journey with Jesus? Are we becoming more spiritually mature? It's nearly impossible to lead a song and join together in our praise to God if many of us aren't surrendered to Christ and not actively seeking to deepen our faith together. It hard to preach sermons, teach lessons and have conversations with others if there isn't a commitment to explore and pursue a more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. How is your spiritual life? Be honest....Matt

Worship Services



August 5th: 11th Sunday after Pentecost Communion Sunday

Ruth 3: 1-18
Are You Hidden Under the Weeds?

August 12th: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 4: 1-22
Your Story Shouldn't End in Famine!

August 19th: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalms 51: 6-9
Matthew 6: 19-34
The Grace That Comes Before You

August 26th: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10: 17-31
Is Trusting Jesus Safe and Secure?

Jeremiah 29:11

**For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."**

A favorite scripture of Pat Lavender.

Let me know yours and we'll share them.

Prayer Requests

The Walton's
Juanita Hagan
The Weaver's
The Loro's
The Wilkes
Johnny Gay
Sue Lawler
Steven Robinson
Tommy Guinn
Shirl Shamburger
Jan Moorman
Gene Ruelle
Gail Zollicoffer

Weekly Family Nights

Bible Study and Fellowship
will resume in September.

Youth gather for a time of worship and learning about Christ in our lives, followed by a meal we share together. We would love to have more of our church family in attendance, so please plan to join us.

HomeSchool101

will be opening their doors for class September 4 in Friendship Hall.

Monday, August 13
Trustees at 6:00 pm.

Finance Committee
at 7:00.

Philadelphia Blessing

Ongoing needs are:

Canned foods, jello, cereal, peanut butter crackers, spaghetti, jars of peanut butter, individual packets of macaroni and cheese, pudding, crackers of all kinds, fruit-rollups, jelly, nutrition bars, and fruit cups are essentials. Baking goods such as flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cornmeal, vanilla, etc., are needed also.

Zip bags in quart and gallon sizes are also needed.

Place your donations in the box at the Welcome Center.

If you wish to donate money, please write a check to Whitehouse UMC and note Philadelphia Blessing in the memo line.



School Supplies

of all kinds are being collected through August 12th.

We will separate items into boxes for each campus on the 15th at 10:00 a.m. and deliver them to each school.

Support our Missions

Apportionments
(Extra Tithe or Offering)

Scholarship Fund
(Designated Gift)

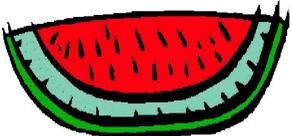
Philadelphia Blessing
(Donations and Your Time)

International Heifer Project
(Bring Your Quarters)

THANK YOU

To all who helped with items for the Welcome Bags for Whitehouse ISD new staff members. Our bags are always a big hit with those who receive them.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		July 31 <u>Quilts for Kids</u> 9 am <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts	1 	2 <u>East Texas Bee Keepers</u> 6:45 pm. 	3	4
5 11th Sun after Pentecost Communion Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	6 Welcome Bags for Teachers—items due at church Sunday. We'll fill bags this morning after worship.	7 <u>Quilts for Kids</u> 9 am	8 <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts	9	10	11
12 12th Sun after Pentecost 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School <u>School Supplies due</u>	13 <u>Trustees</u> at 6 pm <u>Finance Committee</u> at 7 pm.	14 <u>Quilts for Kids</u> 9 am	15 <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am <u>Choir Practice</u> at 6:30. <u>School Supplies</u> to be divided and delivered 10 am.	16 	17	18
19 13th Sun after Pentecost 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	20 	21 <u>Quilts for Kids</u> 9 am <u>First Day of School</u> Pray for students and teachers.	22 <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <u>Choir Practice</u> at 6:30.	23	24	25
26 14th Sun after Pentecost 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	27	28 <u>Quilts for Kids</u> 9 am	29 <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <u>Choir Practice</u> at 6:30.	30	31	Sept. 1