



Christ United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 710  
Levelland, TX 79336

# THE BELL RINGER

## July 2022



### COMING IN JULY

Tuesdays, July 12 & 26 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 3 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost/Imagine No Malaria Sunday

Monday, July 4 – Office Closed for Independence Day

Sunday, July 10 – Fifth Sunday After Pentecost/Shared Ministries Sunday

Sunday, July 17 – Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Thursday, July 21 – UMCOR Materials Due

Sunday, July 24 – Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, July 31 – Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

**July Birthdays** –George Payne – July 9, Bruce Keeling – July 14, Parker Payne – July 16, Jon Johnson – July 28,  
Cory Foley – July 28, T'ara Taylor – July 28

**July Anniversaries** – Ross & Nancy Joplin – July 28

## ***Shared Ministries Sunday for July***

Remember July 10<sup>th</sup> for Shared Ministries offering.  
Shared Ministries Lunch at noon.

### **Reappointed**

Sue and I are pleased to announce that we were reappointed at Annual Conference to return as your pastoral couple. We are indeed blessed to be serving such a loving congregation.

### **Blessing Boxes**

Please place canned goods and nonperishables in the Blessing Box in the Narthex.

### **UMCOR Hygiene Kit Materials**

Materials are due by noon Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.



The Church Office will be  
closed  
Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for  
Independence Day.

### ***A Word from the Pastor***

Dear Extended Table Saints,

Within the United Methodist Church we are allowed to take communion to persons who are homebound or in hospitals. The only stipulation relative

to the timeframe for offering communion to those unable to take communion in person is that it be done in a timely manner. Generally, the elements have been consecrated during Holy Communion during worship service by the pastor. Lay members are then allowed to offer the elements to persons in their homes or hospitals via an abbreviated communion service. Those who have participated in these services, whether giving or receiving the elements report a sense of holy elation that fills their hearts. The United Methodist Church refers to this offering of communion to those unable to attend Holy Communion in church as Extending the Table.

During the month of July on the twentieth, perhaps the ultimate form of Extending the Table took place. It was 1969 when Buzz Aldrin, while waiting with Neil Armstrong to exit the lunar module to set foot on the surface of the Moon, took Holy Communion using a communion set he had brought along on the mission. Aldrin was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and had obtained permission to take the elements in the lunar module by his church. The public was not given much knowledge of this event because of NASA's concerns about the issue of separation of church and state. NASA had been sued following Apollo 8 by Atheists who felt that the reading of scripture on the lunar orbiter was inappropriate.

As we participate in the Eucharist this month, I pray that we will pause and think about all of those who are unable to take communion due to extenuating health issues. Indeed, may we all remind ourselves that the meal we participate in is a universal meal that transcends our immediate circle of humanity.

As he poured the first beverage and ate the first food on the moon, I am sure that Buzz Aldrin realized the significance of that in which he participated. He extended the holy table of his church, indeed the church universal, beyond the earth's surface to our only natural satellite. Perhaps the sentiments found in Revelation 3:20 were part of his thoughts as he ate and drank the meal: "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me." I would add, even on the moon.

When we take communion, we experience the presence of the Lord through the taking of the elements. Wesley considered the Eucharist as a means of grace. That is, the Lord's Supper is one way we are able to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and to be moved to recognize the freedom from sin granted to us on the cross. Each time we take communion we experience anew that which took place in the upper room with Christ. Just as Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon on July 20, 1969, we can take communion right here on earth whether at church or at an extended table provided by our fellow Christians.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Dennis