



March

First United Methodist News

Church Services

- Sunday School- 10am
- Worship Service-11am

Issue includes:

- Prayer List
- Pastoral Letter
- Monthly Celebrations
- Announcements
- West District News



SPRING



Please look through this newsletter, attend, worship, and follow us @
www.sterlingmethodists.com or check out our Facebook page

Sterling City First United Methodist Church

Pray Without Ceasing

Dennise Pittillo
Frank Price
Jeri Thomas
Culley Jo Wilson
Ronnie Kilpatrick
Dr. McDaniel
Michael Armstrong
Eileen Sonberg
Stan Horwood
Major Williams
Felicia and Isla Eldred
Al Jean Hughes
Jeff Davis
Carmen Copeland
Pat Copeland
Traci Majors
Laura Gladden
Herb Edwards
Travis Jackson
Dina Trevino
Bill Eubank
Emery Holt
Ollie Schneemann
Skeete Foster
Chad Kane & Family
Grace Copeland
Mike & Jaynell Bodine

Larry Horwood
Ceanie Merritt
Scott Downham
Brandi Stallings
Bishop and Cabinet
Dee Bruner
John Morrow
Alexander Long
(Diana Fox's grandson)
Jane's niece, Karen
Martha Lawson
Hailey Peters
Ricky Busby
Gary Speck
Carlos Martinez
Sheldon Johnson
Donnie Moore
Winn McClure
John Wright
Jessica Flores
Florence Bodine
Adela De Hoyos
Albert & Phillip Estrada
Leadership of our Country
Bitsy Durham

March 1, 2019

Well, what a month. In addition to learning of our coming move, much has been happening. It sounds like the Cabinet may make an appointment here in Sterling City soon, so stay tuned. Please continue to pray for the sick and hurting folks amongst us. Earlier this week I went from Dallas to Austin to San Antonio and visited four different facilities. This has been a season of significant “windshield time.”

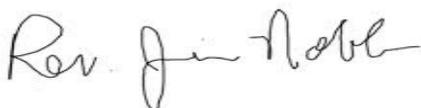
Also, the United Methodist Church held a special session of general conference to focus on human sexuality. That conference ended earlier this week with some results and a lot of questions remaining.

In the end, the conference approved petitions to 1) retain the current language of the Book of Discipline, 2) imposing penalties on United Methodist pastors, bishops, and Annual Conferences that violate the Discipline’s standards, and 3) allowing those congregations who disagree to leave the denomination, while retaining their property (though I’ve heard that the approved process is very punitive to churches). There are numerous legal questions open and much more will likely happen at the next General Conference (scheduled for next year). For now, my recommendation would be to take a deep breath, stay the course, and await clearer resolution. This conference did make some decisions when many feared it would not.

Because the UMC is a global denomination, the delegates to General Conference came from Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, as well as the United States. The delegates from Africa, where the UMC is growing rapidly, made up approximately 43% of the General Conference. They, along with most delegates from the Philippines, Eastern Europe, and some delegates from the U.S., voted in favor of retaining the current position and strengthening the consequences of violating our standards. The proposals passed by General Conference were approved by approximately 53% to 47%. I have seen some speculation, though don’t have proof, that the global evangelical influence in the General Conference will only increase in 2020.

Many people, on all sides, are hurting from this general conference. There was a great deal of ugliness. In many ways, it is similar to our current political climate. Please continue to pray for the will of God to be made manifest in our church and in all churches. No matter what happens to the UMC, or any particular church, Jesus is Lord and will remain so for all eternity. As a result, how can we be anything but hopeful?

It is a privilege being your pastor!



Rev. Jim Noble



March Anniversaries & Birthdays

11th Wes & Casey Musick



1st Hadleigh Stokes

1st Roy Gladden

2nd Mark Foley

3rd Cathy McEntire

3rd James Thomas

5th Bobby McClure

10th Grover Johnson

11th Cross Knittel

11th Trey Wilson

16th Brynlee Gaines

17th Deana Jaramillo

17th Grant Orsak

22nd Joyce Hodges

25th Janet Rauch

27th Robbie Knittel

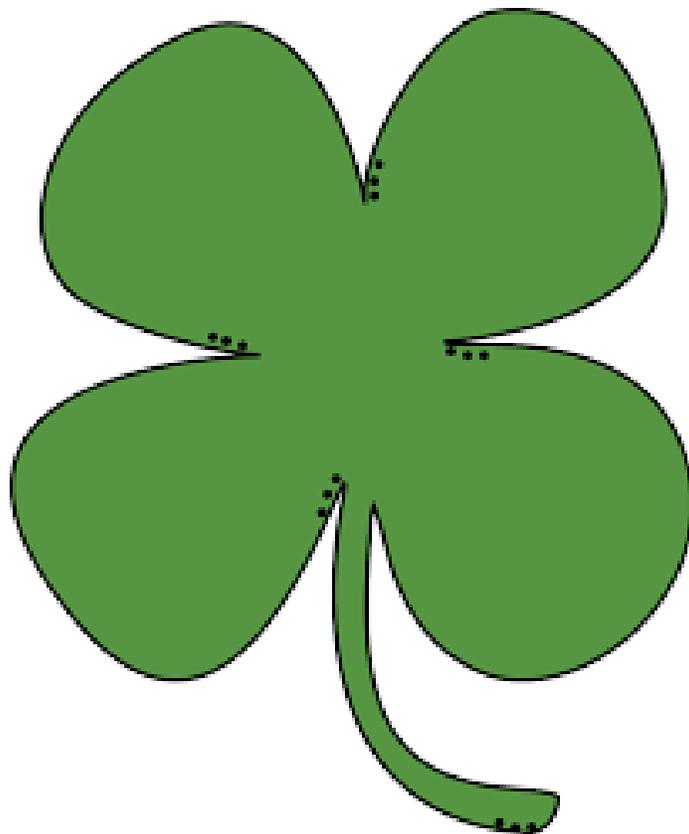
29th Salena Monreal

31st Bettie Foster

March Happenings

A decorative banner for 'March Happenings' with a green background. It features a yellow rose, a purple butterfly, a green leprechaun hat on a plate, and a small bouquet of purple and yellow flowers.

- Bank account set up for Dennise Pittillo at First National Bank of Sterling City
- Women's Bible Study - 24 Hours That Changed the World **Tuesdays @ 9am**
(Starting March 5th)
- Women's Bible Study- **Extraordinary Faith Wednesdays @ 4:45**
- Men's Breakfast - **Wednesdays @ 615am.**





West District News



Just Breathe

Friends, Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the past few days I have heard from or spoken to many dozens of people about the special called session of the General Conference of the UMC that just took place in St. Louis. *(I will spare you yet another summary of actions taken there, and refer you to Bishop Robert Schnase's excellent pastoral letter at riotexas.org.)*

Following the results of the General Conference 2019, many are grateful, while many others are deeply hurting. My heart hurts for those who are hurting, and I have wept for them in these days.

I want to urge us all (myself included) to exercise restraint and patience as we figure out together what the future holds for us as Methodist Christians. And so, I want to ask you to breathe – just breathe.

Breathe in the healing presence of God: ***Come, Holy Spirit, Come.***

Breathe out the fruit of the Spirit: ***love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity and self-control.***

And let's really lean into Lent this year. May it be a season of honest selfexamination, prayer, and spiritual healing and renewal. Let's spend time on our knees, and in the Scriptures, and in service and witness to our neighbors.

We still have much work to do to spread scriptural holiness; and to seek the lost. Please join me in prayer: ***Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.***

Amen

Blessings and peace,

Andy Smith