A monthly publication of First Methodist Church, Bryan, TX

Vol. LXIV, No. 10

October 2023





UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Prayer Retreat October 14

Church Family Picnic October 15

All Saints Sunday November 5

Church Conference November 14

Undershepherd Udderings

A church stewardship consultant once said "God loves a cheerful giver, but he'll take it from a grouch." A "grouch" is a person who gives reluctantly or grudgingly. That's not the attitude for followers of Christ to have: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful giver**." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

During my time as pastor at FMC Bryan, I stand amazed at God's provision for this church. I've seen miraculous provisions at just the right time. To the Lord belongs all the glory. But to all of you, I want to thank you with all sincerity. It's your faithfulness to the Lord and your faithful giving that allows the clergy and church staff to carry out ministry with you.

Our annual stewardship emphasis kicks off October 22 and ends with Consecration Sunday, November 12. At all services, we will return our "Estimate of Giving" Card and consecrate them to the Lord. My hope and prayer is that all of the members of FMC will step up toward tithing and just as importantly, be cheerful givers. Delight in giving to the Lord in every way that you give. Give the Lord your gifts, your service, your worship and do it CHEERFULLY. Don't let Satan rob you of one of the greatest joys of following Christ – giving to the work of His kingdom. You'll receive a letter soon about our stewardship campaign and I ask that you join together with all the church to pray for our financial needs and for our stewardship campaign.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rick Sitton

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

9:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship (Gym)

11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m.

Bilingual English/Spanish Worship (Fellowship Hall)

CHURCH OFFICE

506 E. 28th St. Bryan, TX 77803 979-779-1324 979-775-2173 (Fax)

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Friday

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

www.fmcbryan.org



Ministry Calendar

10/1	2:00 PM	Worship - Crestview Retirement Center/Arbor Oaks
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
10/2	6:00 PM	Staff Parish Relations Committee
10/3	9:30 AM	TMW: General Meeting
10/4	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies
	6:00 PM	Hand Bell Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10/6	12:00 PM	Meals of Love
10/8	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
10/9		Church Campus Closed / Columbus Day
10/10	10:30 AM	Time Like Hannah's (Breastfeeding Support Group)
	6:00 PM	Board of Trustees
10/11	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies
	6:00 PM	Hand Bell Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10/13	6:30 PM	Generation of Power
10/14	10:00 AM	Women's Retreat
10/15	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
	4:00 PM	Church Family Picnic
10/16	6:00 PM	Service-Mission Team
10/18	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	6:00 PM	Hand Bell Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10/20	12:00 PM	Meals of Love
10/22	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
10/23	6:00 PM	Finance Committee
	7:00 PM	Church Council
10/25	7:00 AM	Prayer Meeting
	5:15 PM	First Family Dinner & Bible Studies
	6:00 PM	Hand Bell Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10/27	6:30 PM	Generation of Power
10/29	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
10/30	1:30 PM	GMC Brazos Clergy & Laity Lunch



NO FFD AND BIBLE STUDIES
ON OCTOBER 18TH DUE TO
BISD FALL BREAK

FMC BRYAN WILL BE CLOSED

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF COLUMBUS DAY



FMC BRYAN CLERGY & STAFF

Senior Pastor Rev. Rick Sitton ext. 105 rick@fmcbryan.org

Associate Pastor **Rev. Jeremy Bass** ext. 106 jeremy@fmcbryan.org

Associate Pastor, Hispanic Ministry Rev. Dr. Augusto Sarria ext. 104 augusto@fmcbryan.org

Director of Children & Family Ministries Jeff Hobbs ext. 111 jeff@fmcbryan.org

Director of Adult Ministries & Member Involvement Natalie Patterson ext. 102 natalie.patterson@fmcbryan.org

Director of Music & Worship Ministries Chris Caffee

ext. 107 chris@fmcbryan.org

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Will Pepper

ext.110 pepper@fmcbryan.org

Contemporary Worship Leader Kaitlyn Zimmerman kaitlyn@fmcbryan.org

Organist Angela Corbett

Director of
Business & Operations
Eileen Winkle
ext. 109
eileen@fmcbryan.org

Administrative Assistant **LeeAnn Broeker** ext. 101 leeann@fmcbryan.org

Financial Administrative Assistant Lynn Knowles lynn@fmcbryan.org

> Custodians Hosea Morriel Rocio Hittt Josh Sweed

Prayer Requests

Rehab/Nursing Care: Jim Allega, Joy Allega, Frances Allen, Ray Anthony, Jim Bradford, Marilyn Colby, Dixie Copeland, Donna Durocher, Daphne Eller, Billie Gray, Donna Lamar

Prayers of Healing: Frances Allen, Pat Atmar, Zoe Ann Broughton, Betty Carter, Nancy Conlee, Janice Elsik, Sue Futrell, Billie Gray, Ed Janosky, Buddy McGown, Esther Mancillas, Judy Miller, John Millhollon, Linda Millhollon, Bill Pishek, Nancy Janosky Schnell, Helene Steck, Ann Marie Vick, Grace Ashley, Chuck Schroeppel, Alma Fonsceca, Delia Garza, Sharon Dent, Ann Fancher, David Kipp, Keith Reece, Kelly Callaway, Lynda Pool, Betty Thompson, Nancy Reynolds

Church News & Upcoming Events



Welcome Kaitlyn Zimmerman, Contemporary Worship Leader!

If you've been around the past few you weeks, I hope that you've had a chance to meet Kaitlyn Zimmerman, our new contemporary worship leader! She has already been a great addition here at FMC Bryan. Her love for the Lord is evident in the way she carries herself and in her passionate worship. She is truly an answered prayer for us as we rebuild our contemporary worship service. At our Family Picnic October 15th, there will be a table to welcome Kaitlyn to FMC Bryan. We're asking that you consider welcoming her with a card and a gift card to help her transition well to her new home in Bryan.

-Pastor Jeremy Bass

A Little Bit About Kaitlyn:

"I grew up in Crosby, Texas, where I discovered my calling for music ministry at 13 years old. Since then, I have been blessed to pursue my passion and completed a worship internship with The Woodlands Methodist Church. I love working with youth and young adult groups to help encourage and minister to my generation.

'I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.' John 15:5"

-Kaitlyn Zimmerman

Church News & Upcoming Events





Thank You for Donating Your Treasures to the Garage Sale!

A total of \$3353 was raised for future ministries and mission endeavors.

Please read this testimony from our volunteers:

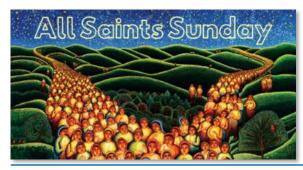
Have you ever wondered what happens at a garage sale this huge? It's way more than how much we made. Here's an account of some of the lives we touched:

A woman walks in shopping for items for individuals in need. She purchases a piano for a young person who wants a piano, and then purchases an almost like new baby crib and mattress for a family that has a new baby but no baby bed. She then purchases all the computer equipment that she donates to others in need of computers. She also selected clothes for others in need. We made a deal she could not refuse. It's not about the money.

A pastor from another church arrives who has been reaching out to the homeless and a friend who has a need for clothes. We made a deal he could not refuse. He thanked us and asked how he could help us. He and Lanny exchanged calling cards and prayed together for our city. It's not about the money.

A man who has fallen on hard times comes in looking for items for his children. He shared he had to move into a very small 2-room apartment. His three children are sleeping on his only bed, and he is sleeping on the floor beside them. We made a deal he could not refuse. We loaded a nice futon on his truck with him saying, "I am going to sleep so good tonight, thank you". It's not about the money.

FMC Bryan touched many hearts and lives that weekend. Thanks for all the workers: David and Jeanette Leese, Steve May, Hosea Morriel, Linda Whitfield, Rocio Hit, Josh Sweed, Lanny Parker, Pastor Augusto, and all who contributed to the success of changing lives one item at a time.



Join us for All Saints Sunday, **November 5th** at all worship services, as we honor loved ones who are no longer with us. We will be remembering our church saints with a special bulletin. If you would like the name of your friend, family member or loved one listed in the bulletin, please email their name to the church office. (leeann@fmcbryan.org)



Open Door Recovery Testimonial by Tyler Holt

I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Lanny Parker of Open-Door Recovery Ministry as my recovery counselor during my journey to sobriety. Lanny's dedication, experience, and expertise really kick started my recovery.

When I first sought help for my addiction, I was lost and overwhelmed. It felt like I was in a never-ending cycle of despair. I couldn't stop drinking, I couldn't keep a job, and I was struggling with my relationship with my daughter. That's when I met Lanny. From the very beginning, Lanny made me feel heard, understood, and valued. He created a safe and non-judgmental space where I could open up from a Christian perspective.

I completed the Hurts, Hang-ups, and Habits training in the Fall of 2021 and started back in AA on 12/22/21. I soon added individual counseling. This December I'll have two years sober from alcohol and be six months tobacco free. I start a new full-time job September 18th, and I am looking to get off living on SSDI. Additionally, my relationship with my daughter continues to improve monthly.

Lanny has genuine care and compassion for his clients. Whenever I faced setbacks or moments of doubt, Lanny was there to provide encouragement and help me get back on track. His unwavering belief in my ability to overcome my addiction was a constant source of motivation.

I have made significant progress in my recovery journey. I have not only achieved sobriety but also gained the tools and coping strategies necessary to maintain it. I am now looking forward to a brighter future, one filled with hope and possibility. Thanks be to God!



Adult Ministries



Quilted With Love

This quilt was given to me many years ago by a special person. This guilt reminds me of the Church. The Church is made up of a patchwork of people sewn together into a beautiful creation that is the Body of Christ. Each person has a unique combination of spiritual gifts, personality, and talents that by themselves are interesting and useful, but when each unique design is pieced together with the others, the result becomes something spectacular. Some have been given the gift of teaching or prophecy, others are gifted in administration, and still others have the gift of prayer. Some are encouragers, and others love to serve. Individually, we can make a difference in our small circles of influence, but corporately, we are able to make a difference in the world. No one is more important than another. In fact, if one piece is missing, it leaves an empty space in the pattern. God has pieced us together into a beautiful tapestry. No matter your gifts or personality, you are needed. One person's gift cannot stand alone. One person's gift cannot meet all needs.

1 Corinthians 12:18-20 NIV But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Because we are individual members of one Body with Christ as the head, we all need each other, and that makes the Church a beautiful masterpiece. We are called as followers of Christ to live in unity, even though, as a body, we have many parts. The thread that ties us together is the love of Christ. We accept and learn to love each other, all our parts, even though some may be very different from us. We are tied together here at First Methodist Bryan, and as the larger body of Christ, by his love and showing that love to others. This is one way that we can help and support each other; to show that we are "quilted together in love!"

Excerpts from "Pieced Together" by Terri Groh

Mostalie Patterson

Women's Prayer Retreat

Saturday, October 14th • 10am – 4pm, FMC Bryan Gym

Our faith habits work together to form us into mature Christians. Prayer is one of those "faith habits" or Means of Grace. Prayer is the act of lifting our thoughts, words, and affections to God. It is a conversation with God, where we both speak and listen.

Women of all ages are invited to join in a day devoted to prayer and fellowship.

Agenda for the day:

Light breakfast

Opening Worship with guest speaker

Breakout small group sessions will be both morning and afternoon.

A delicious lunch will be provided by The Methodist Men!

To help with the planning, please RSVP to <u>natalie.patterson@fmcbryan.org</u>

Children & Family Ministries



Hispanic Ministry



What Is Happening in Our Hispanic Ministry

On August 27th, we celebrated the baptism of Lilena Alarcon in Lake Bryan. It was a precious time with all the brothers and sisters in our ministry. Glory to God for giving us the opportunity to give a public testimony of what God is doing in our church!

On Sunday, September 17th, the Hispanic Ministry celebrated Nicole Cruz's graduation from Texas A&M. Nicole earned a bachelor's degree in education. We showed Nicole's classmates our church, and invited them to our services. It was a wonderful opportunity we had as a church to thank Nicole for singing in our worship services.

On Saturday September 16th, we celebrated Stephania Medellin baby's gender reveal. It was a precious time with all her family. She will be welcoming a baby girl!



On Saturdays from 9 to 11 AM, we have started an additional ESL class with some of the people we met at Fiesta of Hope who want to learn English. ESL classes are now available Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Please contact Pastor Augusto at augusto@fmcbryan.org to sign up.

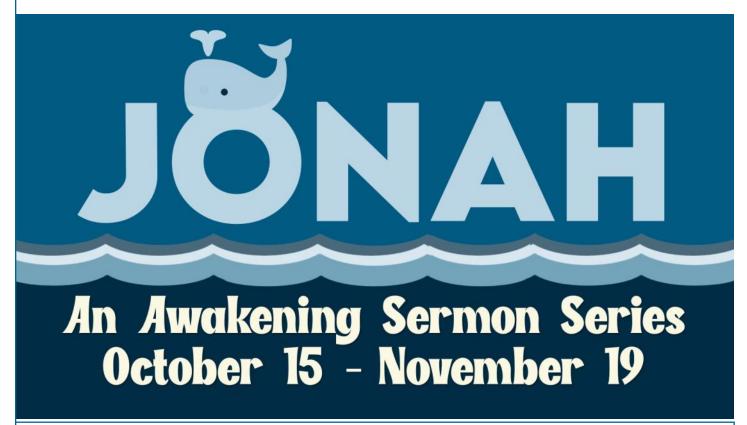
We are happy to be working on a Hispanic Ministry table at the church picnic on October 15th from 4-7 PM. We will be expressing Christ's love to our brothers and sisters, praying for them and blessing them. Our message to others is "We are a family; Bryan's wonderful FMC family" and "We have the Holy Spirit that gives us the power to tell others about what God is doing in our church."



506 East 28th Street Bryan, TX 77803

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED





October 2023