



# First United Methodist Church

BROWNSVILLE

*Welcoming... Worshiping... Witnessing...*

November 1, 2020

## *Staying Hot*

*“Apart from me you can do nothing.”*

*John 15:5*

Every so often I grill out. I use a charcoal grill because that is what I grew up seeing my Dad use and how I was taught! When he first instructed me, my Dad made sure I had all the coals piled up together. If one fell away it would soon turn cold and useless. If the coal is a part of the fire, it both receives and gives warmth. Once it is severed from the source of warmth, the coal loses its usefulness.

It seems to me that Jesus reveals this same truth to us in His analogy of the vine and the branches. If we remain a part of the fellowship of Christian believers, we are alive, and we are bearing fruit. But apart from Christ and His body on earth, the church, we lose our vitality and purpose like the coal separated from the fire.

Before Jesus went to the cross, He talked about the vine and branches. He urged the disciples to stay close to Him or else they would do nothing. Their lives would be fruitless. Like the coal removed from the fire, we don't cease to exist if we separate ourselves from the fellowship of believers; we just become cold and lifeless – present, but void of warmth and usefulness. Jesus said, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” Separated from the Source, life loses its meaning and purpose. Connected to Jesus, we are empowered to live out His purpose.

We are in a particularly dangerous period of our lives right now as we continue to walk through the wilderness of this pandemic. There has been physical separation not out of disdain for others, but a love for others. But with that separation can come anxiety and depression, the need to be with others! God has designed us to be in community and it hurts to consciously avoid it!

Here at FUMC we want to give our congregation opportunities to stay connected with Jesus and others, to remain a hot coal for His good work! That is why we continue to encourage our on-line gatherings of fellowship, study, and prayer. You can also read in the Newsletter the steps we are taking to finally be back to in-person worship as well! If you find your soul needing to be “warmed up”, actively remain close to Christ and one another so that our lives will remain fruitful!

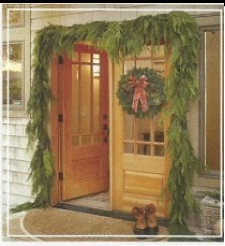
Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Phillip*

Rev. Phillip Hoeflinger



## GREENERY SALES



It's beginning to look a lot like... the youth group annual greenery fundraiser!

This is your opportunity to get beautiful greenery to decorate your home or business for the holiday season while helping the members of our church youth group to raise funds that will provide youth camp and mission trip scholarships. Because of the risk COVID still poses in our community, this year, the youth group will be providing a link to an online order form that may be found on the church website and Facebook page, Those who are not comfortable ordering online, will still be able to reach out to one of the youth group members or to Rocio Hoeflinger or Dianne McCleary to complete an order via phone.

Thank you for helping our youth group!

[UMYF Greeneries Sales](#)

### **Sunday Zoom Fellowship** **Every Sunday, 10:15-10:45 a.m.**

Enjoy some fellowship and face to face time before worship using the on-line meeting site, Zoom. You will need a Zoom account which you can make for free at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). The meeting ID is 223-506-7587, password is FUMC.

### **Sunday Evening Prayer Service** **Every Sunday, 5:00 p.m. in the Church Courtyard**

All are invited to come and join us Sunday Evenings for a half-hour, in person, worship service with prayer, special music, and communion. Seating is spaced out, temperatures are checked, and masks are required for the safety of you and others. Services will be canceled if there is bad weather.

### **Pledge Cards**

God has blessed us in many ways and Jesus says it is more blessed to give than receive! When you mail in your pledge card it gives our church the opportunity to plan out how your giving will help with ministry in 2021 extending the message of salvation and service that we have in Jesus Christ! If you still need a pledge card, you can call the church office or download one on our website. Your generosity is appreciated!

### **Free Upper Room Devotionals**

If you are looking for a daily devotional for your time with the Lord, you can download a free PDF of the Upper Room for the months of November and December on our website [www.fumcbrownsville.org](http://www.fumcbrownsville.org). Just check the announcement section and click to receive!

## Sound and Video Update

We are happy to announce that the new system will be installed this month allowing us to stream our worship services on-line for the foreseeable future!

We are also very close to fully paying for our sound and video upgrade in the sanctuary.

Here is where we stand as of the start of November with the project:

\$33,878.52 - Cost of Total Project

\$30,290.00 - Collected

**\$3,588.52** - Balance Needed

If you would like to help us reach our goal of paying for this project, send a check to our church office with the memo A/V Upgrade, or go online to our website to donate with your debit or credit card. Thank you FUMC for your generosity!

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



shutterstock.com • 1394088302

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 11/7  | Aaron Hoeflinger<br>Isaac Alfredo Sanchez           |
| 11/9  | Sean Andrew Teo Ong                                 |
| 11/12 | Oscar Guzman, Jr.                                   |
| 11/14 | Laura Helms   |
| 11/18 | Eva Peterson  |
| 11/21 | Alysia de la Garza                                  |
| 11/23 | Brent Cannon<br>Ian Randall Teo Ong<br>Noel Kendall |
| 11/25 | Joy Hoeflinger                                      |
| 11/27 | Dean Young  |
| 11/30 | Jerry Spruiell                                      |

**DON'T FORGET THE TIME CHANGE SATURDAY NIGHT!  
MOVE YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR.**