

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 19, No. 3

March 2023

“Prayer lays the rails upon which the purpose and plans of God can and will travel” (Watchman Nee). As we step into a new chapter as a Global Methodist congregation, we are asked to set aside Sunday, March 26 as a day to pray for the mission of the GMC. As you do so, please pray specifically for the following people and purposes:

- Pray that we as leaders, churches, and emerging conferences, will be devoted followers of Jesus Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father.
- Pray that we fully live into our mission statement as a Global Methodist Church: To make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.
- Pray for your regional leadership, pastors and presiding elders.
- Pray for emerging conferences and congregations going through discernment.
- Pray that God would raise up a network of prayer warriors who are committed to praying for the GM Church—its mission and ministry, organizational health and unity, formation, incorporation of clergy and local churches into membership, organization of annual conferences, church mobilization efforts, and church revitalization initiatives.
- Pray for our GM Church leadership:
 - Keith Boyette, Transitional Connectional Officer
 - Walter Fenton, Deputy Transitional Connectional Officer
 - Angela Pleasants, Clergy and Church Relations Director
 - Rick Van Giesen, Benefits Officer
 - Teresa Marcus, Administrative Assistant
 - Selena Armstead, Administrative Assistant
 - Cara Nicklas, Chairwoman of the Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) and TLC members
 - GM Church bishops: Bishop Scott Jones, Bishop Mike Lowry, Bishop Mark Webb
- Pray for the WCA/GM Church Event: Beyond These Walls scheduled in Texas April 27-29 (beyondthesewalls.com)

Your Life's Voice

Many of you are following the *Jesus in the Wild* devotional readings for Lent. If you are, you may have noticed that the author (Dan Wilt) takes an interesting perspective on Jesus' vocation, i.e. his calling. Usually we think of vocation as what we do, and further we think of calling as what we are *meant* to do. Wilt looks at the baptism of Jesus for how his calling us understood. Before anything is said about what Jesus would *do*, the voice (from which the word *vocation* comes) of God says something about *who he is*: "You are my beloved Son."

Parker Palmer has been a popular author on the topic of vocation. In his book *Let Your Life Speak*, Palmer writes, "Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am." Like a moving river current flowing beneath the still-frozen surface in wintertime, Palmer sees one's true vocation springing from an inner voice that needs to be heard. When we take that image and apply it to the born-again Christian, we should see that the inner voice needing to be heard is the voice of Christ. In our baptism we die to ourselves so the life of Jesus can live through us. Thus our calling begins and ends with the life of Christ in us.

Does that involve something we need to do? Of course. However, when we focus only on the *work* of our vocation, we can easily forget the *essence* of our vocation—to be the beloved daughter or son that God has proclaimed us to be. So wherever God has placed you, however God is employing you, allow your life to spring from the sonship or daughtership God has given you in Jesus Christ.



Dear Russell Memorial Church Family,

In this year, 2023, the Finance Committee is reviewing our budget. As we do this, we are asking everyone to prayerfully review your financial commitment to Russell Memorial Methodist Church.

The Finance Committee and Administrative Council have approved a very lean, but realistic budget. We will be good stewards of the church's finances without cutting the important programs necessary for our church to be productive, but your support is essential.

You were exceptionally generous in your giving during the 2022 church year. Even though times have been tough on most of us, you have been a blessing to our church.

Larry Turner,
Chairman of Finance Committee



CPR Training

The church safety team and guests refreshed their CPR skills at the February meeting. Bonnie Mayo helped to lead through the skills, and everyone got to practice breaths and chest compressions on “Little Rusty.” This is just one of many issues that the safety team works on continuously. If you would like to help in the team’s ministry, speak with Bob Bobbitt or come to our monthly meetings. The

next team meeting will be Saturday, March 11 at the Deen Building.



Thanks to the Methodist Men (and Kathleen!) for providing our pancake meal on Shrove Tuesday. People were able to enjoy “getting the leaven out” with a yummy meal of pancakes, sausage and bacon. The evening marked the last day before entering our reflective journey into the season of Lent.



Youth News

A church affiliated with a co-op is planning to build bags for homeless and want to include uplifting verses in each bag. They are hoping to build 400 bags, with 10 verses in each. Our youth helped write some verses.

Dates to Remember for March



Monday, March 6, 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
 Thursday, March 9, 9:00 a.m. Game Day at Deen Building
 Saturday, March 11, 9:00 a.m. Methodist Women Meeting
 10:00 a.m. Safety Team Meeting
 Sunday, March 12, 8:00 a.m. Methodist Men Meeting
 Monday, March 13, 5:00 p.m. Day School Board Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
 Saturday, March 18, 9:00 a.m. Crafting with Christ
 Sunday, March 19, 11:15 a.m. Admin Council Meeting

Happy Birthday!

Hayden Wilscoxson	3/1	Ginger Hess	3/20
Jackie Cockerham	3/1	Dorothy Bruster	3/24
Arriana McDonald	3/2	Tiffany Koffel	3/24
Carol McDermott	3/2	John Ross	3/28
Beth Basham	3/5	Robert Butts	3/29
Jim Smith	3/10		
Denny McCormick	3/11		
Patsy Davis	3/12		
Pat Vann	3/17		

Right Now Media

Don't forget about the amazing offer of rightnow media offered through the church. Text RMUMC to 49775 for an invitation to set up your account, or contact the church office to request help.

Our Presence and Our Gifts

	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
Worship	119	99	100	99
Giving	\$8,058.00	\$5,255.00	\$3,819.00	\$7,020.00

Calendar of Events for March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00pm Lenten Lunch Study 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:00pm Choir Practice	2	3 6:30pm Mere Christianity Study Deen building	4
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	6 6:00 pm Trustees	7	8 12:00pm Lenten Lunch Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	9 9:00am Game Day in the Deen Building	10	11 9:00 am Methodist Women 10:00 am Safety Team
WPISD SPRING BREAK						
12 8:00am Methodist Men Meeting 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	13 5:00pm Day School 6:00pm Finance Meeting	14	15 12:00pm Lenten Lunch Study 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:00pm Choir Practice	16	17	18 9:00am Crafting with Christ
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Admin Council Meeting	20	21	22 12:00pm Lenten Lunch Study 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	27	28	29 12:00pm Lenten Lunch Study 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:00pm Choir Practice	30	31	



The church will be hosting soup & salad lunches on Wednesdays during the season of Lent beginning on March 1st. The meal will be ready at noon in George Hall. We will enjoy encouraging fellowship and a brief devotion based on one of the daily *Jesus in the Wild* readings of each week. We will dismiss before 1:00 so those taking lunch from work may return in a timely manner. There is no charge for the meal. Advance reservations are welcome but not required. Consider making this part of your weekly spiritual discipline during this year's preparation for Easter.

Revive Children's Camp



Glen Lake Camp

Revive Children's Camp will be held at Glen Lake Camp in Glen Rose, Texas, Sunday, June 4 through Thursday, June 8, for students entering 3rd through 6th grade. It is also led by Dr. Freeman and Movement Ministries. Like Revive Youth Camp, it is a Christ-centered, evangelical camp with a biblically-faithful curriculum. ETX GMC fully endorses Revive Children's Camp. The cost is \$400.

<https://movementministries.com/children-summer-camp>

Revive Youth Camp



Camp Buckner

Revive Youth Camp will be held at Camp Buckner, near Burnet, Texas, Sunday, July 16 through Thursday, July 20, for students entering 6th grade through completed 12th grade. It is led by Dr. Rusty Freeman and Movement Ministries. Revive is a Christ-centered, evangelical Methodist camp with a biblically-faithful curriculum that draws churches from all over the state of Texas, especially central and eastern Texas. ETX GMC fully endorses Revive Youth Camp. The cost is \$375.

<https://movementministries.com/revive-summer/>

Remember in Prayer:

Family of Daniel Crow
Family of Judy Parker
Barbara Lamb & Family
Gary Keller & Family
Family of James Youngblood
Family of James Brown
Tom Castleberry & Family
Family of Kay Mitchell
Family of Evan Mayone
Family of David Bates
Alice Kolb
Andy Anderson
Angie Smith
Arthur Galope, Jr.
Benny Mitchell
Betty Manning
Billie Cade
Bobbi Smith
CW Wilson
Chad Ash

Charles & Wynona James
Cheryl Bradley
Cheryl & David Shaw
College Students
Crestwood Nursing &
Assisted Living
Darian Richardson
Denny McCormick
Eric Johns
Harrison Mayone
Helen Liston
Isaac Bullard
Revival @ Asbury College
Jared McDonald
Jeff D'Amico
Jim & Sandra Smith
John Buffington
Karl & Keeta Lybrand
LaNell White
Laura Bates
Linda Godwin
Marigrace & Mike Lang

Mark Brown
Marty Mitchell
Mary Bullard
Maxine Page
Mike Tolin
Phillip Young
Randy Daniel
RMMC Staff
Robert Butts
Students, Teachers, &
Administrators
Sunday School & Church
Travis Deen
Virginia Cockerham



Game Time

Join us on Thursday, March 9th in the Deen building for games and light snacks. We have dominos, cards, bridge, etc. We will gather at 9:00 a.m. and get the games started at 9:30 a.m. We hope to see you there!

Memorials

In memory of
James Brown
Given by
Barbara Lamb.

In memory of
Bobby Freeman
Given by
Molly Brittain.

Russell Memorial Methodist Church

Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor
John Ross, Minister of Music
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Join us Sunday Morning!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED