

# The Russell Report

Russell Memorial Methodist Church

*A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love*



Vol. 20, No. 4

April 2024

*“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:4-5).*

On April 8, 2024 the community of Wills Point will experience a total solar eclipse. Apparently that’s a pretty big deal. Authorities indicate that the number of visitors to our community could number several thousand, even into the tens of thousands. It could be enough to cause traffic gridlock and strain our infrastructure. This influx of people should come as no surprise. An eclipse is not an every day event, and to be in the path of totality is even more unlikely. Yet on April 8 around 1:41 p.m. that is exactly where we will be.

The timing of the event is nothing more than coincidental, and I am not suggesting otherwise. Even so, I find it interesting that the eclipse happens only eight days after we have celebrated Easter, the day that the darkness of Good Friday was overwhelmed by the light of Christ’s resurrection. Does it seem ironic to you as well? As the Church proclaims the power of light, people will be pursuing an experience with darkness. Please don’t misunderstand. I am not suggesting that those who are planning to observe the eclipse are evil. I will be watching it right along with everyone else, as I am sure it will be impressive. It is just that everyday stuff—and even not-so-everyday stuff—has a tendency to bring scripture to my mind and prompt my theological reflection. The eclipse has done just that.

As a writer, the apostle John often makes use of imagery to convey his message. Some of the terms he uses repeatedly are meant to convey more than just literal meaning; they are offered theologically. Among such terms employed by John are light and darkness. The theological intent is not difficult to deduce. The world is in darkness; God’s Kingdom is one of light. God has sent light into the world in the person of Jesus, so that by surrendering our hearts to him we might become children of light who are rescued from darkness. The unfortunate reality is that humankind has a propensity to prefer darkness rather than light. Jesus himself said, “This is the judgment: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19). There is no shortage of evidence. The violence we inflict and the contempt we hold toward others seems to only get worse. One might wonder if we are doomed to darkness.

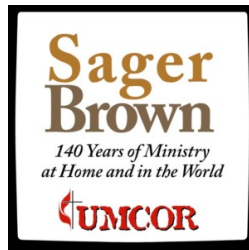
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No matter how it may seem, John knew something about the redemptive plan of God. In sending Jesus, God sent light that would not be overcome. To put it in terms of April 8, the light of Christ is uneclipsed. Apparently that is not an actual word, or at least spell check doesn't believe so. But we are going to use it anyway. UNECLIPSED! The time of totality in Wills Point is predicted to be four minutes and twenty seconds. That is no more than 0.56% of the total daylight time for April 8. The sun may be eclipsed briefly, but after those minutes of darkness we will see the light regaining its authority in the sky. When we do, let us remember the light of Christ that cannot be overcome by darkness.

### Mission Trip Opportunity

Our mission trip to UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, LA is July 15-19. This trip is a great way to give back. If you haven't been, GO!, you won't regret it. Please contact Shane McBride for more information (903-275-4462). You can also visit the website at [www.umcmision.org/umcor/](http://www.umcmision.org/umcor/). There are spaces available for any in the congregation that would like to go.



### Snack Donations Needed



We continue to collect supplies to stock our teacher's lounge at the junior high. Things like crackers and snack bars are great items. The staff have been very appreciative of the kindness we have shown them. Anything provided can be brought to the church office, and we will deliver to the school.



### Rummage Sale Coming Soon

Save your rummage please! The youth will hold a rummage sale on Saturday, April 20th from 7:00 a.m. til 1:00 p.m. Money collected will help send kids to church camp this summer. We need all your rummage to help defray the costs for church camp. We will also need volunteers. Questions should be directed to Mary Keller or Shane McBride.



Prayer Shawl  
Ministry

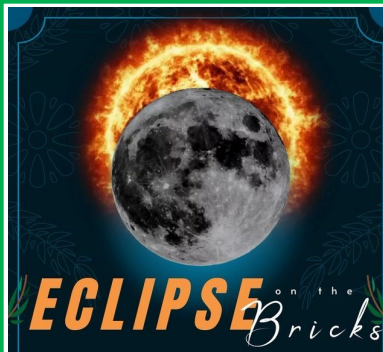
### Prayer Shawls

We will be praying over the prayer shawls on Sunday, April 7th, during morning worship. If you have any shawls that you have been knitting and/or crocheting, please bring them with you.



### **Volunteers Needed**

Our Jr. High campus contacted us with a request for volunteers to tutor students. The tutoring is needed in core subjects. Each volunteer must complete a background check with the ISD before serving. The teacher coordinator will prepare everything necessary for you to use. Anyone with the ability to speak Spanish would be particularly helpful. Please contact the church office for more info.



### **Eclipse on the Bricks**

Wills Point is in a prime location for the 2024 total solar eclipse! We're celebrating a few days early with our Eclipse on the Bricks festival. Join us April 6, 2024 from 10 am until 4 pm., down town Wills Point. Enjoy activities for all ages including a Kid Zone including bounce houses and eclipse themed activities for the kiddos, retail vendors, food vendors and so much more!



### **Methodist Women's Annual Linda Glover Hats and White Gloves Tea**

Methodist Women's Annual  
Linda Glover Hat & White Glove Tea  
on May 11 at 11 AM - George Hall

You will be charmed the moment you enter the magical world of our Enchanted Forest for this most unusual event. Tickets are still only \$20 and help our efforts to serve local women and children in many ways. Just contact one of our Methodist Women for tickets before they are sold out. Don't miss it. Hope to see you there.

Calling all our wonderful men with a heart to serve.  
We need you to assist us.

## Dates to Remember for April



Monday, April 1, 6:00 p.m., Trustees Meeting  
 Monday, April 8, Office Closed  
 Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. Safety Team Meeting  
 Sunday, April 14, 8:00 a.m. Methodist Men Breakfast Meeting  
 Thursday, April 18, 9:00 a.m. Games in the Deen Building

### Happy Birthday!

Linda Greenwald	4-1
Katie Robinette	4-5
Sarah Cartwright	4-7
Cole Roberts	4-8
Lois Butts	4-11
Andrea Brown	4-12
Scott Miracle	4-12
Zac Moore	4-12
Suzy Birdwell	4-16
Barbara Lathem	4-20
Jana Teel	4-22

Michael Keller	4-24
Angela Smith	4-24
Abby Wilcoxson	4-25
Cyndi Fields	4-25
Daniel Turner	4-30



### 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

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Worship	113	114	91	120	166
Giving	\$7,810.50	\$27,401.00	\$2,600.50	\$5,553.00	\$9,268.00

Calendar of Events for April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting	2	3 5:30 pm Youth Group  6:00 pm Ladies Hand Bells  7:00 pm Choir Practice	4	5	6
7  9:00 am Sunday School  10:00 am Worship Service	8 Eclipse Day  Church Office Closed	9	10  5:30 pm Youth Group  6:00 pm Ladies Hand Bells  7:00 pm Choir Practice	11	12	13  10:00 am Safety Team  Wilcoxson Shower
14  8:00 am Methodist Men Bring Your Own Breakfast Meeting  9:00 am Sunday School  10:00 am Worship Service	15	16	17  5:30 pm Youth Group  6:00 pm Ladies Hand Bells  7:00 pm Choir Practice	18  9:00 am Games in the Deen Building	19	20  9:00 am Crafting with Christ
21  9:00 am Sunday School  10:00 am Worship Service	22	23	24  5:30 pm Youth Group  6:00 pm Ladies Hand Bells  7:00 pm Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Sunday School  10:00 am Worship Service	29	30				

### Coat/Shoe Shopping

When you are out and about shopping, keep a look out for clearance sales on coats and shoes. The Angel Tree is stocking up on these items for next Christmas. We will take any sizes and styles! Thank you for your help. Bring your items to the church and we will store them.



### **Communion Rail Offering**

Our communion offering for April will be designated to relief efforts in communities



affected by the Texas Panhandle wildfires. Designated funds have been established with Global Methodist churches in four communities in the region. Your gifts will help our fellow Texans rebuild following the devastating fires.



### **Connect**



Connect with us through our church app. Scan the QR code to access our home page where you can leave contact info, access videos, and find general information about the church. You can bookmark the page to your

Home Screen and use it as a web app on your device.

## **COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY**



We have a small church library started in the Choir Room of the church building. We have a limited selection of books at this time, but are looking to grow our catalog. If you are interested in checking out a book, please come in and take a look!

## Remember in Prayer:

Family of Scrub  
Family of Fran Maloney  
Family of Richard Moore  
Family of Peggy Slack  
Family of Kay Stutts  
Family of Dorcie Youngblood  
Read Family  
Family of Dianna Perry  
Alice Kolb  
Arthur Galope, Jr.  
Bernadette Kolb  
Beth Randolph  
Betty Howe  
Betty Manning  
Billie Cade  
Bruce & Margie Evers  
Bruce Lacy  
Charles & Wynona James  
Cheryl Bradley  
College Students

Craig Griffith  
Crestwood Nursing &  
Assisted Living  
Darian Richardson  
Denny McCormick  
Elizabeth Cockerham  
Elizabeth Greenwald  
Eric Johns  
Frances, Frank, Marguerite &  
Robby Groover  
Fausto Sanchez  
Felisha Scott  
The Fleming's  
Frances Bryant  
Gail & Shane McBride  
Harrison Mayone  
Herschel LyBrand  
Isaac Bullard  
Jackie Cockerham  
Jeff D'Amico  
Jennifer (Barnett) McCann  
Joan Peck

Marigrace & Mike Lang  
Mark Brown  
Marilyn Miller  
Mary Bullard  
Patsy Aulich  
Randy Scott  
RMMC Staff  
Robin & Lorelai  
Sandy Doty  
Students, Teachers,  
Administrators & Staff  
Sunday School & Church  
Tom Prock  
Tommy & Kathy Lane  
Tyler Lang



## Memorials

In memory of  
Kay Stutts  
Given by  
D. Burns, Ginger Hess,  
Boyd & Carolyn Henry,  
and Vernon & Carol Childs.

In memory of  
Richard Moore  
Given by  
Pat Mitchell, Ginger Hess,  
Rusty & Carol Miracle, Sue Brown,  
And Molly Brittain.

In memory of  
Emily Hollandsworth  
Given by  
Fritz Gilbreth and  
Rusty & Carol Miracle.

In memory of  
Jody McPherson  
Given by  
Molly Brittain.



# Russell Memorial Methodist Church

Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor  
John Ross, Minister of Music  
Vanna Duda, Pianist  
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator  
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist  
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director  
Shane McBride, Youth Director

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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P. O. Box 335  
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903-873-2569

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED