



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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Making deeply committed disciples of Jesus Christ for
the transformation of the world, one life at a time.

July, 2021

FIRST NEWS

A Note from Pastor Daniel



**Ruth Zachary wins
Barbeque Cook-off**

Recently while our family was away from the house, Harper, our 8 month old, got a little fussy and fell asleep in April's arms. She rested there for about 30 minutes while the rest of our motley crew continued with our days planned activities (such is the lot of the third child).

That she took a nap while we were out doing something was unremarkable. What got our attention was the impression she made while taking her nap. When Harper woke up and sat up, we looked down at April's arm, and could see a crystal clear impression of Harper's entire ear.



When we first noticed the impression we thought it was pretty funny, and a little cute so we took a picture of it. What came to me upon greater reflection upon it was the lesson that God was teaching me through that little ear impression. **God was reminding me that whether we mean to or not, we are making an impression on those around us each and every day.** While our impressions are rarely as literal as the impression made by Harper's ear on April's arm, they are often much more meaningful and lasting.

As I've had the opportunity to reflect more on the impressions we leave, I have been able to see and give thanks for the impressions made on our church family by so many of you over the past year. I'm surrounded by impressions of love, compassion, steadfast faithfulness, and service.

This last Sunday members of our Board of Trustees interrupted our Sunday School to recognize and thank one of those impression makers, Robert Scogin. Robert chaired our Trustees in 2020, and had served on the committee for 3 years. He spearheaded a number of projects that he was uniquely equipped to lead us through, including the installation of a brand new Fire Alarm system. We are

thankful, and if you see him around church, we invite you to express your thanksgiving too.

Many more faithful servants of Jesus could and should be lifted up here as people making impressions of love, compassion, steadfast faithfulness, and service. VBS recruiters, decorators, group leaders, station leaders are making impressions on young lives this week. Our PrimeTimers and their leadership team are making impressions on our senior community. The families who came alongside the Swatzell family after Dr. Monte Swatzell's passing by providing support, care and a meal after his service are making an impression. The list could go on and on, and I am thankful.

As I close, the words of Jesus that are ringing in my ear are "In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 CEB

Grace and peace,
Pastor Daniel



July 4th Celebration



VBS is here!



**Meet the Island Guide &
the Lighthouse Keeper**



Financial Trends: Through 06/30/2021

2021 Giving: \$330,666
2021 Expenses: \$336,087

Average Worship Attendance 208
(since we returned)

General Fund Balance: \$186,013

Thank You for all your hard work and support for VBS!
You helped to make God's light shine!



STUDENT MISSION TRIP 2021

LONGVIEW, TEXAS
JULY 18 - 23

Pray for our Mission Team

Note From Pastor Melissa

Neighbor Like Jesus.

It sounds great, but what does it mean - practically? Well that's the aim and hope of this current sermon series. Answering the question: How do we neighbor like Jesus?

You have already have heard from Pastor Daniel who shared with us the importance of understanding that behind every door is a story and that every story represents someone who belongs. With that grounding I'd like to offer you dear reader a bonus practical tip to Neighbor Like Jesus. It's really quiet simple, once we acknowledge that everyone belongs the next step is to begin praying.

Pray for your neighbors.

Pray for the ones you know by name. Pray over the houses you pass on your family walks. Pray for the neighbor that gets on your nerve. Pray for the neighbor that's become like family. Prayer is powerful. And in prayer we open ourselves up to listen more deeply for God's call on our life, and that includes how we neighbor well. So start praying that God will move in you to be a neighbor that loves deeply, because the world needs good neighbors. And make sure you catch the whole sermon series where each week we'll be diving into more practical tips on how to Neighbor Like Jesus.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Melissa

Summer Time Pictures



Enjoying 4th of July Barbeque



Discovery on Adventure Island



For St. Jude & REINSPIRE



Prayer Time at VBS



4th of July Fun



Craft Time at VBS

