



Monthly Newsletter of Troy United Methodist Church

For His Glory

September 2022

From Pastor David

One of the pressing issues in our church is the future of the United Methodist denomination. The direction of our denomination and our church's place within this uncertain future has been an issue of much anxiety since I was appointed to serve here in 2019. I want to thank everyone who came out to our informational meetings in June. I think that the meetings were time well spent together and provided a good background and understanding as we move forward together into the future of our church and denomination. This past month, we saw two United Methodist Churches in Bell County vote to disaffiliate from the denomination. Many of us have friends and family members at these churches or other churches that are wondering what we at Troy UMC are doing regarding this issue.

On August 10 our Church Council met and discussed the issue of our place within the denomination at length. Our congregation has long been occupying a place of uncertainty: gathering information, waiting for information to develop, and allowing events outside our influence to take place. Our church council feels that it is time to discern our place within the changing denomination and resolve to step into our Spirit-led future knowing where we stand and where we are headed. To that end, we will be submitting a formal letter to the Central Texas Conference requesting to place before our members a vote on whether to disaffiliate or remain within the United Methodist Church. This letter will be submitted to the conference office by January as required, and we will most likely have a vote by March 2023.

We will use the time between now and our time to vote to get as much good, factual information before you as possible. We want everyone to be able to make a fully informed, prayerful decision about the future of our congregation when it comes time for us to vote. I know that there is a lot of information swirling around out there, some of it intentionally misleading, some of it slinging mud at opponents. My goal here at Troy UMC is to avoid misleading information, harmful rhetoric, and the scare tactics that some churches and pastors have resorted to as their churches have faced disaffiliation from our denomination. We will provide opportunities for everyone to be educated on the issues at hand and be able to ask any questions that they have.

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The next step of this process for us will be a series of discussion opportunities with myself over the coming month. We'll provide space in a small group setting for people to come in and talk with me and ask any questions that may be on your mind. These informal discussion times will be on Sundays September 11 and 18 at 9:00 am in the Come-As-You-Are Sunday School classroom and on Thursdays September 15 and 22 at 10:30 am in the new Prayer Room. I hope that you'll come out and chat with me on any one of these dates and bring your questions about the disaffiliation vote process, the different options available to us, or anything else related to the future of the denomination and our congregation.

In Christ,
David

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### Church's Choice Sermons

Help us pick what to preach about in October! Is there a question you've had about the Bible that you've been wanting an answer to? Are you looking for some input and theological reflection on an issue that you or our society are facing? Do you have a favorite scripture or story from the Bible that you haven't heard a sermon on in a long time? Pastor David and ShaShawna would like to preach about what you want to hear about in October. We invite you to take a moment and follow the survey link below or use the QR code to let us know what you'd like to hear preached on in October! [October Church's Choice Sermon Form](#)



Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you're feeling down, lonely, stressed, or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life! Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

If you need support, please speak with me or our other Stephen Leader, Pam Lewis, and we can answer any questions you may have.

ShaShawna Bush  
Stephen Leader and Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Along with prayer, another foundational part of spiritual formation is reading the Bible regularly; but for many of us, that can be daunting or challenging for multiple reasons. The first reason it might be challenging is finding time to read the Bible in our busy lives. When we feel like we are too busy to read the Bible, we often think that we have to read large chunks of text at a time, making it challenging to keep up with while keeping up with our other responsibilities. How much we are reading or the amount of time spent isn't nearly as important as finding time to read the Bible and trying to see how the scriptures you are reading apply to your life today. When I go back later and reread scripture, I often find that the application to my life has changed from the last time I read it.

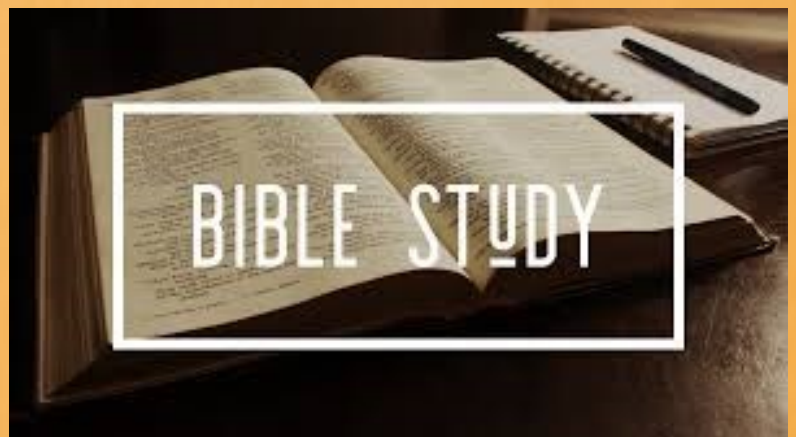
Another reason reading the Bible feels challenging is when we struggle to understand what the Bible is saying. That is okay if you feel that way. We all, myself included, have felt like we didn't understand what the Bible was telling us when we sat down to read it. If you have felt that way, there are many tools and options that can help you get more comfortable reading the Bible. I would be happy to talk to you about those tools or options anytime; email or call me, and we can set up a time to discuss. What other reasons do you have that make it challenging or difficult to sit down and read the Bible? Talk with Pastor David or I, and we can help you find a way around that challenge. We want Bible reading to be something that everyone has the opportunity to do as they mature in their faith journey.

Reading the Bible is essential individually, but it is equally vital for a community of faith to do together. When we read the Bible with others, we gain insight that we might have missed having just read something on our own. Because we want to offer opportunities for reading the Bible communally and support for individual Bible reading, Pastor David and I are offering a congregational reading plan and corresponding Bible Study. The reading plan begins in September and will run through January 2023. During that time, we will read through the four gospels and the Book of Acts, starting with John, in addition to a weekly Psalm. September's reading plan is below. Each week the reading plan can be found in the bulletin, on the wall during worship, and in the weekly notepad. The corresponding Bible Study will meet Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Wednesday evenings at 6:30. The Bible Study will cover the scriptures read the week before. The Bible study will start meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you will join us in this reading plan and the Bible Study as we seek to spend some intentional time as a congregation and individuals reading scripture and talking deeply about what those scriptures might be saying about our lives today.

|         |            |           |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| 9/4/22  | John 1-5   | Psalm 139 |
| 9/11/22 | John 6-11  | Psalm 144 |
| 9/18/22 | John 12-17 | Psalm 98  |
| 9/25/22 | John 18-21 | Psalm 91  |

ShaShawna Bush  
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation





# September Dates to Remember



You are invited to a shower for  
**Baby Girl Havens,**  
expected daughter of  
**Robert & Meg**  
on Saturday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m.  
Troy United Methodist Church  
Registered at:  
[www.babylist.com/baby-meg-havens](http://www.babylist.com/baby-meg-havens)

UMW (Women of Faith) salad supper invitation

Sept. 7 at 6:00

Prayer Team Mtgs. Wednesdays at 1:30

Bible Study begins Sept. 13 at 10:30 (every Tuesday)

and

Sept. 14 at 6:30 (every Wed)

Handbells starts back up at 7:00 on Sept. 14

We invite everyone to join us after worship on  
September 11 for a potluck fellowship lunch. We  
invite you to bring a covered dish to share and hang  
around after worship as we eat and fellowship  
together!





# September

## ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries, Birthdays, and Memorials

- 7 Zach & Sarah Lynch  
August & Meg Brauer  
15 Tim & Stacy Bastin

## BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Sue Williams, Mark Roessler  
9 Lana Rondeau  
12 Wade Knight  
15 Becky Coufal  
16 Jackie Lewis  
17 Anne Carole Redden,  
Bryson Lambert,  
Mason Lambert  
18 Sherri Valenta, ShaShawna Bush  
19 James Richter  
20 Abbie Rurup  
25 Joyce Reinhardt, Danny Blackler,  
Andrew Mitchell  
26 Eric Medrano  
27 Jacob Klingler, Reed Ketcham  
28 Jack Hobday  
30 Misty Lambert

## ~ MEMORIALS ~

*In memory of Bret Allen* by Mike & Nancy Mercer,  
Daryl & Patti Wendt, Alan & Kathy Pelzel,  
David Elementary School, Jeff & Jeannie Ludwick,  
Ludwick, Montgomery & Stapp PC, Oneta Taylor,  
BJ Finch, Carl Harris, Barbara Harris, Wilkinson,  
Carmody & Gilliam, Attorneys-at-Law,  
Phil & Mary Harrison, Brigitte Allen and family,  
Terry Whitley, Security Bank, David & Nancy Holmes,  
First Community Title, LLC, Robin Lucadou  
Russell & Joyce Reinhardt, Charlie & Janice Porter,  
Barbara Thompson, Katherine Maedgen,  
Todd & Lynne Morgan, John & Patricia Wurster,

*In memory of Jeff Sims* by BJ Finch

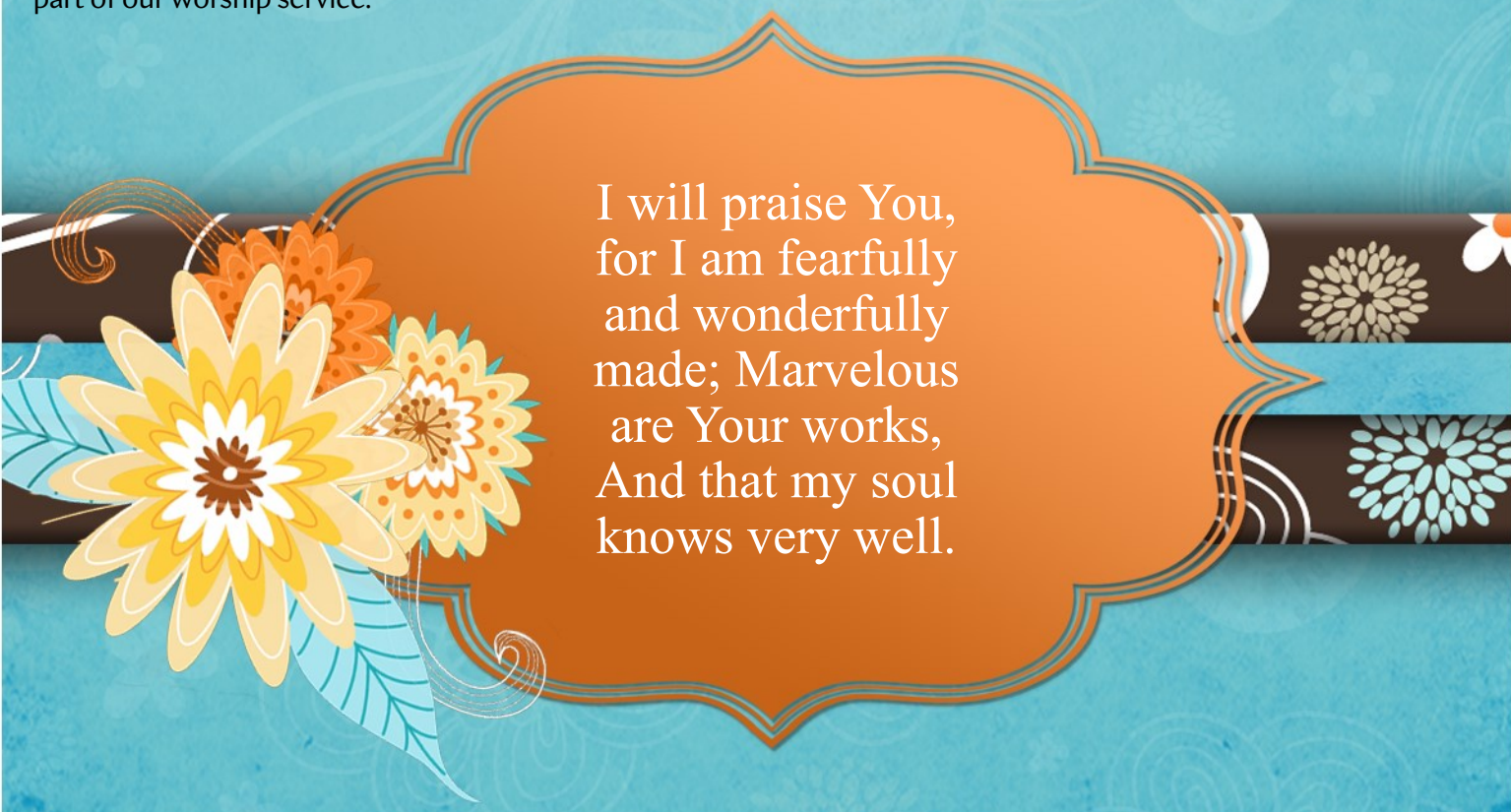
*In memory of Melton Russell* by Charlie & Janice Porter



## Notes about Worship

We want to thank everyone who participated in our worship preference survey that went out last month. We have a lot of great feedback from the survey! We provided an update regarding our one worship service on August 14, but would like to take a moment here to share what our Church Council discussed regarding staying with one worship service or going back to two services. Our worship preference survey revealed that a large majority of our congregation (77%) is enjoying worshipping in one worship service because of the blended style of worship and especially because of the sense of community it fosters. At the same time, we realize that there are many of you who prefer worshipping early in the morning or at the traditional 11:00 time and having only contemporary or traditional styles of worship. We also want to press forward as a congregation in being able to welcome the most people that we can to worship, which is accomplished through two worship services. Over the next few months we'll be monitoring worship attendance numbers and continuing our ongoing search for a new music minister. There is also a possibility (we pray) that we begin to push up against the maximum number of people we can hold in our sanctuary while still having room to welcome newcomers. We're tentatively looking at the new year to seriously consider resuming two worship services, while also watching numbers closely or readdressing the matter when we hire a music minister. Until that time, we'll do our very best to provide a Spirit filled blended worship experience for everyone at 10:00 every Sunday.

We've already incorporated some changes to worship based off of the responses we've received from the survey, and will continue to use your survey responses to guide our worship planning. One of the things nearly everyone said that they love about worship at Troy UMC is the people and the sense of community and family that is fostered here. To honor this response, we've started time in worship for greeting our neighbors and passing the peace of Christ. We're also going to have a potluck on September 11 following worship, to give us more time to fellowship as a church family. Another new element of worship that we're excited about is the beginning of weekly communion services. Receiving and celebrating Holy Communion was ranked as one of the most important and loved elements of worship in the survey. Because of this, we will begin offering a Communion service following worship starting on September 18. All who wish to receive a weekly Communion are invited to gather in our new prayer room after worship concludes on Sundays that we don't celebrate Holy Communion as part of our worship service.

A decorative graphic featuring a large, stylized orange and yellow flower on the left, with a smaller one next to it. The background is a light blue with a subtle pattern. A dark brown border with white floral motifs runs along the bottom. A large, orange, scalloped-edged shape contains the text.

I will praise You,  
for I am fearfully  
and wonderfully  
made; Marvelous  
are Your works,  
And that my soul  
knows very well.