



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



In July and August, we have a brand-new worship series called **Prophet Margins**. To introduce us to this series I turn to Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries at Discipleship Ministries of the UMC who wrote the following.

Who's up for a summer journey? Isn't that what we do in this season? We pack our things and our families; we jump in the car, and we head off. So, the summer of '22 can be the journey of a lifetime. It will be a journey of exploration and learning and ultimately a journey to discover what's at the heart of our faith.

Now, it's a long journey, to be sure, but we can break it up. We can take this journey in stages, as the old joke goes. Instead of seeing it as a nine-week journey, let's think of it in terms of five shorter stages defined by our traveling companions. They will take us on this journey of discovery. These companions are called prophets, and they have a propensity to take us to the edge, even when we don't really want to go. Thus, the title of our series is "Prophet Margins."

Not all that we will see, both outside and inside, will be comfortable and easy. Prophets have a frustrating propensity to speak uncomfortable truths. And the rest of the world—even the rest of the people of God—has an even more frustrating propensity to not listen to them when they speak.

What might we learn if we took the risk to listen? If we took the risk to let these holy ones of God become our traveling companions on our summer journey? We might be troubled, and we will be, but we might also be lifted up. We might be challenged, but we might find reasons for hope, or we might

find a renewed vision that inspires us for all the journeys we make.

So, what do you say? Are you up for a journey this summer, a journey to the edge of our faith? Then you're ready for "Prophet Margins."

Grace and Peace,

DAVID BRASHER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JULY MISSION BARREL



**BLUE JEAN SUNDAYS ARE BACK!** It's July and that means Blue Jean Sundays! Wear your blue jeans to worship during the month of July and bring a pair of new or gently used jeans for our Mission Barrels. All donations will go to the Mission House Clothes Closet to benefit people in our community. This project is always a big

hit and lots of fun. We hope you will join in again **starting the first Sunday in July.**

### NEW LADIES' SUMMER LUNCH BUNCH

In June we found 14 ladies with more free time on our hands and looking for something to do, so we went to lunch. Ladies' Summer Lunch Bunch is a new idea this year. We have decided to meet on **the first Wednesday of the month during the summer at 12:15 pm at Hidden Gardens Tearoom in Bullard. July 6** is our next get-together lunch outing. August 3 will be the last outing this summer. This gathering is open to all the ladies of the church and their friends. To ensure we have adequate seating, please email, call or text me by the Monday prior to the luncheon so I can give the restaurant a head count. This month contact me at [pauljudy82@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pauljudy82@sbcglobal.net) or 281-450-2300 by July 4. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, Judy Donnelly at (281) 450-2300.



The full church calendar can be viewed on our website at <http://bullardfumc.org/calendar-2>

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### CHILDREN'S CORNER

In June we had a fantastic Vacation Bible School! We learned about the greatness of God's awesome power and love and how it is available to all of us! Over 130 kids were registered. Thank you so much to everyone who worked so hard to make VBS happen!

In July we have some fun family-style playdates scheduled:

**Sunday, July 10** from 4-6 pm Swim Party at the Bly home (supper provided)

**Sunday, July 31** from 4-6 pm Bowling Night at Grand Slam (shoes and lanes provided)

I hope everyone can join us! Please let me know if you and your family can attend @ 903-343-2857.

With Joy,  
Deirdre

### WEE CATS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our topic this month is prayer. God never puts us on "hold". He's available 24-7. Where is this quote "Alas, master? It was borrowed." What does it mean? Come find out!

We are right down the hall from the donuts. Visitors are always welcome!

Pam Morton



## STUDENT MINISTRIES

### SUMMER EVENTS FOR YOUTH

Summer Events	
Bounce into Summer May 29, 5-7pm	VBS June 13-16, 9-12am
UMARMY June 19-25	Lakeview July 4-9
Pool Youth June 5; July 17, 24, 31; Aug 7; 5-7pm	Splash Kingdom Aug 14



## OTHER NEWS

### SAVE THE DATE

Everyone is invited to Milton Odom's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. It is a "Come and Go" celebration on **Saturday, August 13 from 2:00 until 5:00 pm in Harper Hall**. Your presence is his birthday gift!

### TRADITIONAL SERVICE USHERS FOR JULY

Joe & Patti Maxwell  
Pam Morton  
Linda Pierce

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY

#### Sunday, July 3 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

#### Sunday, July 10 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

#### Sunday, July 17 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12  
Psalm 52 OR Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

#### Sunday, July 24 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10  
Psalm 85  
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)  
Luke 11:1-13

#### Sunday, July 31 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11  
Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

### BLOOD DRIVE GOES FULL CIRCLE

I participated in my first blood drive about 27 years ago. I had had my first child the previous year and as I was going through all the tests pregnant women must endure, I was told I had good veins. At the same time, I became less squeamish about needles. My church at the time had regular blood drives every 8-10 weeks as soon as volunteers

became eligible to donate again. I credited that church with 70 donations over the years.

My husband eventually began to donate blood regularly also. My kids stepped up and began donating as soon as they were old enough to become eligible. My son donated at his university blood drives when he was away at school. After moving to Bullard, I admit that because the opportunity was not placed in front of me I did not donate again for quite some time. This year instead of doing the dutiful daughter thing and coming to see me on Mother's Day I asked my daughter if she would wait and come the week of the blood drive at church. She did and we both donated.

Early June my father was admitted to the hospital. During the 10 days he was in the hospital he received two units of blood and could possibly need additional units. I am so thankful for the donor of that blood. Thank you to each of you that donated or attempted to donate at our blood drive. We are all saving lives spiritually as the body of Christ, with the blood donations we are literally saving lives. Your donation makes a difference.

Judy Donnelly

### WELCOME TEAM

We need volunteers to serve on our Welcome Team each Sunday. This group of volunteers makes sure every person who comes through our doors is warmly welcomed and that our first-time guests are given a gift. You simply need to be at worship a few minutes early and wear a smile. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

### NEW MEMBERS OF BFUMC



**Karen Padrucco**  
(joined June 19, 2022)





**Sharla Rounsavall**  
(joined June 26, 2022)

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men will be on **Tuesday, July 26, at 6:00 pm at the Milano's in Bullard.** All the men of the church are invited to join us for food, fellowship, and ministry.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We are taking a break for the Summer, travel and children/grandchildren's activities keep us busy during these months. We will resume our regular meetings and Bible Study on **Wednesday, September 7, at 10:00 am.** Watch the Vine for more information.

## METHODIST COFFEE CLUB



Everyone is invited to join the Methodist Coffee Club, which meets here in Bullard on **Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Coffee Around the Corner.** This is a time of fellowship and coffee drinking. Everyone is welcome.

## NEED A NAME TAG?

Active members' and visitors' name tags are located on the shelf (alphabetical order) in the foyer. If you need a name tag, please put a note in the offering plate, or call Venus at the church office (903) 894-6762.

## DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The Vine deadline is **Friday, July 15, at 4:30 pm** for the August 2022 newsletter. Email articles to [bullardfumc@bullardfumc.org](mailto:bullardfumc@bullardfumc.org)

## ALTAR FLOWERS: POLICY & PRICE

Altar flowers are a way of honoring a beloved person, remembering the deceased, or recognizing an anniversary or birthday.

To participate in this expression of your appreciation, complete an Altar Flower Form found either below the glass case in church entrance hall, below the glass case in Harper Hall near the children's wing, or go to our website, [bullardfumc.org](http://bullardfumc.org) and drop down the Online Giving tab. A payment of \$45.00 must accompany your request. To pay online, use a credit card. To pay by check, indicate on the subject line that it is for altar flowers and place the check with your request in the offering plate, or take it to the church office.

The next three months are listed below. Check the glass cases in Harper Hall or online for an entire year's calendar.

Month	Sunday	Name
July	3	
	10	
	17	
	24	
	31	
August	7	
	14	
	21	reserved
	28	
September	4	
	11	
	18	
	25	

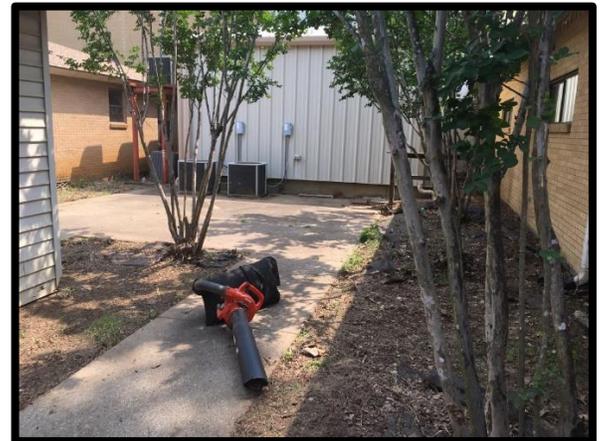
When you take the altar flowers home, please leave the green plastic containers at the church. These are reused each week.



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR JULY

- 1 Sue Forgy
- 2 Mitch Johnson
- 5 Tom Day  
Jerry & Gloria Jones  
David Sheets
- 6 Brandon & Brittany Allen  
Jerry Jones
- 7 Dirk & Joyce Streely
- 8 Richard Dinwiddie
- 9 Landon & Cynthia Grogan
- 11 Gene Bunce
- 12 David Brasher
- 13 Clay Clevenger  
William Leach  
Sandy Polk
- 14 JC Johannsen  
Chris & Amy Pawlak  
Melva Taylor
- 15 Jonathan & Deirdre Leung  
Dennis & Joy Mason  
Sharon Troxell
- 16 Fred Lang
- 17 Jayke Jones
- 18 Jamie Leach
- 20 Olivia Leung
- 21 Nancy Lee  
Kristi Plumb
- 22 Joshua Wood
- 23 Tonya Johannsen
- 25 Charles Rogers
- 26 Randy & Laura Demse
- 29 Aidan Haney  
Bryan & Courtney Willis
- 30 Candyce Phelps  
Gary & Kim Shultz  
Jax Wood

## TRUSTEES GROUP MAKING REPAIRS TO THE PRAYER GARDEN



## OUR PRAYERS

Our Homebound – Side-Line Saints - Members & Friends:

Tommie Aulie  
 Ruby Cables  
 Velma Carson  
 James & Kathleen Kyles  
 JoAnn Smith  
 Emilie Stroble  
 Ron & Dana Swanson  
 Jean Weatherly

Active Military Personnel:

Benjamin Barbour, Bryton Blakeney, Jessica Roper, Tyler Scarborough, Victor B. Sheldon and his wife Katy Sheldon, Grant Troxell, and others

## OUR GIFTS

The Board of Stewards has authorized the Finance Committee to establish a new brokerage account for securities donated to the church. The purpose of this is to be able to accept donations of stocks and bonds and convert them to cash for use by the church as designated by the donor.



If you have securities you wish to donate to the church and avoid capital gains taxes, please consult with your financial advisor, and then contact the Finance Secretary, Patti Maxwell, or the church office.

#### Financial Results for May:

	May	Year-to-date
Contributions (Actual)	\$ 45,011.00	\$ 253,345.22
Contributions (Budgeted)	\$ 45,141.00	\$ 243,765.00
Expenses (Actual)	\$ 46,553.82	\$ 219,595.42
Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 46,109.00	\$ 223,324.00

## SPECIAL GIFTS

(Gifts as of June 30, 2022)

### In Memory of Lee Carson

Given by:

Richard & Martha Dinwiddie  
Jerry & Gloria Jones  
Larry (Bobby) & Tammy Raymey

### In Memory of Steve Kimble

Given by:

Richard & Martha Dinwiddie  
Jerry & Gloria Jones

## OUR PRESENCE

Average Attendance (includes In-person & Online):

May:	211
Year to date:	214

## CONTACT US

If you would like to know more about how to become a member of Bullard First United Methodist Church, contact our Pastor.

Bullard FUMC  
P.O. Box 152  
204 S. Rather Street  
Bullard, TX 75757

*Office Hours:*  
Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

903.894.6762 (*office*)  
903.894.3245 (*fax*)

Office: [bullardfumc@bullardfumc.org](mailto:bullardfumc@bullardfumc.org)  
Pastor David: [david@bullardfumc.org](mailto:david@bullardfumc.org)

Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

*All members of the church are ministers of the Gospel, equipped for sharing the grace of God with the assistance of:*

### CLERGY

Pastor, Rev. David Brasher

### PROGRAMS

Student Ministries Director, Katie Gage  
Children's Director, Deirdre Leung  
Director of Connections, Jill Siler

### WORSHIP

Director of Traditional Music, Robert Boren  
Encounter Worship Leader, David Thrasher  
Pianist, Kerry Baham

### SUPPORT

Administrative Assistant, Venus Burns  
Financial Secretary, Patti Maxwell  
Nursery Supervisor, Kimberly Brasher  
Custodian, Louis White

### DISTRICT/CONFERENCE

District Superintendent, Rev. Charles Anderson  
Bishop, Rev. Dr. Scott Jones



## **Letter #1**

Dear Bullard FUMC Family,

On Sunday, June 5, 2022, our Board of Stewards unanimously voted to enter into a process of discernment regarding our church's affiliation with the United Methodist Church. This means we are considering the possibility of leaving the United Methodist Church and joining the newly formed Global Methodist Church. At this point, we are only in the process of discernment. No decision has been made, and no decision will be made without the involvement of the entire membership of Bullard FUMC.

As many of you know, the United Methodist Church has entered a “crossroads” moment, and a split is in process as we speak. Sadly, it is not the amicable split many were hoping for, but rather a splintering as individual churches are leaving. The presenting issue we are facing concerns our understanding of human sexuality, especially concerning our definition of marriage and ordination. However, other theological issues are involved as well, including our understanding of the authority of Scripture, the belief in the literal and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the virgin birth.

Bullard First United Methodist Church has always been a church where everyone is welcome to come and participate in the life and ministry of our church. We want all persons to join us in worship, hear the Word of God preached, and experience both the love and the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ. As our Book of Discipline states, all persons are persons of sacred worth and, as such, should be treated with respect and love. At the same time, we have also held to a traditional understanding of marriage and ordination as taught in Scripture and maintained in our Book of Discipline, which means we have not celebrated, promoted, or affirmed same-gender marriage or ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. We have been both traditional and compassionate.

However, as Bishop Jones has recently stated, in the coming years, the United Methodist Church will likely become more theologically progressive in its understanding of human

sexuality, and other theological issues as more traditional and conservative churches leave. The question is not when but how far and how fast.

In the coming months, we will engage in the discernment process as our District Superintendent prescribes. What this involves is yet to be determined. It will likely include informational meetings, intentional prayer, and eventually a vote of the members of our congregation. We will let you know what it will involve as soon as possible. We are not the only ones in such a process. Marvin UMC, Dayspring UMC, and many other Texas Annual Conference churches have already entered the discernment process.

We want you to be fully informed as we move forward. Below are links to help you be better informed, which will also help correct any misinformation or misunderstandings. The primary links come from our Annual Conference on their webpage, "Navigating the Waters." I have included other resources.

Grace and Peace,

DAVID BRASHER

ANNUAL CONFERENCE WEBSITE INFO: [txcumc.org/navigatingthewaters](https://txcumc.org/navigatingthewaters)

GLOBAL METHODIST WEBSITE: [globalmethodist.org](https://globalmethodist.org)

COMPARISON CHART FROM CHRIS RITTER:

<https://peopleneedjesus.net/2021/05/24/two-methodisms-a-comparison-chart/comment-page-1/#comment-31177>

DANIEL HIXON'S SUMMARY VIDEO ON HOW WE GOT HERE:

<https://youtu.be/hOvU2Us6JGk>

## Letter #2

6/28/22

Dear Church Family,

Below are important updates regarding our process of discernment as well as news from our Annual Conference. If you have not yet done so, please read the June 14, 2022, church-wide email/letter and study the information on the links provided. The following information will make much more sense when you have done so.

### **BFUMC's Cost to Disaffiliate**

The church's property is held in trust by our Annual Conference and there is a cost if we choose to leave the UMC with it. That cost is two years of apportionments paid in full (2021 and 2022) and our church's portion of the Annual Conferences unfunded pension liability. We are up to date with our apportionment payments. A very important decision was made at the recent meeting of the Texas Annual Conference. At that meeting, the conference voted to use the conference's pension reserve fund to pay down the entire annual conference's unfunded pension liability. Before this action, I was estimating our portion of the unfunded pension liability to be around \$200,000. As a result of this action, our portion went to \$4,155.43. This will need to be paid along with the remainder of this year's apportionments in order for us to leave the UMC at the end of this year if the church chooses to do so.

### **Bishop Jones Announces His Retirement Earlier than Expected**

On June 17, 2022, Bishop Scott Jones announced that he will be retiring as bishop on December 31, 2022. This will certainly have an effect on churches

wanting to leave the UMC after his replacement is found. My guess is that it will become more difficult and costly to leave under the next bishop.

## **Important Dates Regarding Disaffiliation**

### **JULY 17, 3:00-4:30 PM – ALL-DISTRICT MEETING:**

There is a called all-district meeting with Bishop Jones, Conference Comptroller Mark Hellums, and the Future Discernment Task Force on **Sunday afternoon, July 17, 3:00-4:30 pm at Marvin United Methodist Church**. As outlined at this year's Annual Conference, this meeting will distribute information and resources related to discernment/disaffiliation topics, including items that have been updated, expanded, or added since May. The task force will also provide overview presentations on the United Methodist Church, the Global Methodist Church, and other affiliation options. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

### **NOVEMBER 10, 2022 – Last day for Church Conferences**

The last day for both disaffiliation-related church conferences and for filing signed agreements to qualify for the called Annual Conference is Thursday, November 10. This provides the necessary time for the Annual Conference Board of Trustees to review and act on the disaffiliation agreements, for departing congregations to fulfill their financial obligations, and for the called session to be fully prepared.

### **DECEMBER 3, 2022 – Called session of Annual Conference**

A called session of the Annual Conference is now set for Saturday, December 3. This session is to act on disaffiliation requests from congregations wishing to leave the UMC by December 31, 2022.

## **BFUMC's Discernment Process**

- July-August - Informational/Q&A Meetings for BFUMC - dates TBD.
- Anyone who wishes to come to the All-District Meeting with the Bishop, Comptroller, and Future Discernment Taskforce is invited to do so on July 17, 2022, at Marvin UMC.
- A Season of Prayer is to be organized during the month of August so that we intentionally pray about these matters as a church family.
- The Board of Stewards will consider all financial implications for the church (i.e. costs regarding the filing of deeds, changing articles of incorporation, and signage, pastor pension, health insurance, etc.).
- Throughout this time we would continue to share helpful information with the church family as it becomes available.
- We would then hold our Church Conference no later than October to vote regarding disaffiliation. This vote will be open to all BFUMC members.
- During this discernment process, the pastor will be available to talk with persons to answer any questions that might arise.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Grace and Peace,

DAVID BRASHER