

Lytle Methodist Church

February 2024

(830)772-3345 facebook.com/lytleumc lytleumc.com



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission as Global Methodists is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

From The Pastor

The Popular Casting Crowns song "Who Am I" says, "I am a flower quickly fading. Here today and gone tomorrow (Matthew 6:30), a wave tossed in the ocean (James 1:6), A vapor in the wind (James 4:14)."

The Bible speaks of life on this world being but an instant and in comparison, to eternity this life on this earth is but a flash of lightning. "You do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14)

In the poem by Linda Ellis "The Dash" the poem points out that it's the dash in the middle that is the important part of life. While we are in this life God calls and equips each one of us to do a job for Him, and upon accepting Him as our Savior He blesses each of us with a special spiritual gift to use in His ministry. The question is, what are we to do with this spiritual gift? Do we use it wisely to advance the Kingdom of God or do we squander it away? The Bible says we will all face judgment before the King of Creation someday. How have we spent our dash? Will He say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!" or will He say to you "You wicked, lazy servant, away with you!" (Matthew 25:14-30)

What have you done with your life? What will God say about how you lived your dash?

The good news is God loves us and desires us to love Him above all. He loved us while we were yet sinners. That proves His love for us. (Romans 5:8) But God expects us to be His hands and feet and show His love to our Brothers and Sisters. That's the reason for the dash.

Shalom,

Pastor Kelley

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."

1 Corinthians 12: 7-11

Council on Ministries

The COM committee met on Sunday the 21st after service. The Committee worked on planning events for the first 6 months of the year and brainstormed new ideas. The next meeting will be on February 6th at 5:30 PM to continue planning out the year. If you have any ideas that you would like to see included on the church calendar, talk to Juliana Lingo

Sisters in Christ

Sisters in Christ met on January 8th. The devotional was "Getting closer to the Lord and serving together in the church". The program was on Hope. Both were very inspirational.

The next meeting will be on Monday Feb 12 at 2:30 in the fellowship hall.

All women are invited. See you there!

Administrative Council

The Administrative Council met on January 23rd. After reports from each of the committees were given, new business was discussed. New office hours were set. They will be Sunday through Thursday from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. This will give Pastor Kelley Fridays and Saturdays off. Phones will be transferred on those days to Jim.

It was also brought up that the church web address and the church Facebook address contains "umc". Nan is going to look into how to change this.

Pastor Kelley will be starting confirmation classes soon.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on January 23rd. We continue to tread water and are doing ok with not a lot of room for error. At the end of the month we are still in the black but not by a lot. We are blessed and have the funds for salaries and expenses as long as nothing big comes up again. We still do not pay any apportionments, but that begins in either June or July. We have begun accruing for not only the apportionments but insurance, etc. when the funds allow us to try and get ahead.

Food Pantry

The dispersal for the month of January was light due to the Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday and the bad weather. 125 bags were given out to 74 families (313 people). There were 6 new families that applied for help.

We also received approximately 50 lbs. of canned goods from the City of Lytle Christmas hay rides. Thank-you to all those who volunteer, pray or donate to this very important ministry!

Trustees News

- While the AC installation is essentially complete, there is some follow-up work to complete the installation and reduce the noise made by the new unit.

- A Ring Doorbell Camera (or something like it) will be installed by the main entrance to the church

- In the next few months, we will be working to provide the Sunday service video online on YouTube, so it will no longer be exclusively on Facebook. More to come.

- Next meeting is scheduled for April 16th.

From our Lay Leader

I was recently looking at a new piece of music written by William and Gloria Gaither. The song is titled, "THE FAMILY OF GOD". Part of the lyrics are, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood."

Those words reminded me of 1st Peter 3:20-22: "In the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes Baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him."

Washed in the fountain!!! Jesus showed the importance of Baptism when he himself was baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist. And cleansed by his blood... During the last supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, blessed it, and stated, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." As I look around the church at all my brothers and sisters in Christ, I thank God for them... for each of you ...I thank God for his Son, Jesus Christ ... and I thank God that, because of his love and his amazing grace ... that I am... that we are ... part of The Family of God.

Jim Pruett
Lay Leader

Children's Sunday School

The Children's Sunday School has been studying the names of God. Knowing the names of God and their meaning is such a foundational part of knowing who God is and His character.

The names that they have studied so far are:

Jehovah Tsurì – The Lord is My Rock
Jehova Jireh – The Lord Will Provide
Elohim - Creator
El Emeth - God of Truth
El Shaddai - God All Powerful
Jehovah Shammah - The Lord is There
Jehovah - I AM
Emmanuel - God is with Us
Kadosh - HOLY ONE

If you are not bringing your child to Sunday School, this is a great time to start!

Staff Parish Relations Committee

The Staff Parish Relations Committee had their first meeting of the year on January 28, 2024.

They discussed Employee Evaluation forms and Evaluations.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee met on January 10th. They worked on rearranging the Worship service a little. The changes have already taken place. Their next meeting is February 4th.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

There is no date set yet for the Wednesday Night Bible Study to resume. Pastor Kelley is trying to locate books. It will be based on Season 3 of "The Chosen".

SWTX Koinonia Emmaus News

The date for the upcoming February gathering has been changed from February 11th to February 18th. Music and Worship will start at 4:30pm followed by food and fellowship. Location is at Medina Valley UMC, Castroville, TX.

Youth News

Starting this month, the Youth Group will help bag the food that is given out at the Food Pantry. The number of people that our Food Pantry serves continues to grow which causes an increased work load on our volunteers. The youth, under the direction of Maribel Gomez, has graciously committed to help relieve the workload from our volunteers. Thank-you Maribel and Youth!

February 4th – Youth Group 4:00pm – 6:30 pm

February 11th – “Souper Bowl” of Caring Collection during the worship service. All money received will go directly to our food pantry.

No Youth Group

February 18th – “Taco Sunday” – Taco Sales after the worship service

Youth Group 4:00pm – 6:30 pm

February 25th – Family Game Night 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Important Dates - Put these dates on your calendar

February 1-3: Mid Texas Annual Awakening (Conference) at First Methodist Waco. Pastor Kelley to be Ordained on

February 3rd at the Ordination Service (3:00 pm)

February 5: Food Pantry 5:45 pm – 7:00pm

February 6: C.O.M. Meeting at 5:30 pm

February 14: Ash Wednesday Service. 6:00 pm

February 19: Food Pantry 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm

February 25: Family Game Night 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Pizza will be served. Bring a favorite snack or dessert (not required).

March 24: Palm Sunday. We will have the first covered dish of the year. Bring food for a Taco / Taco Salad Bar or a dessert.

March 31: Easter Sunday

June 24 – 27: Dates set for Vacation Bible School.
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Why Ash Wednesday?

(Taken from umc.org – Because that is who we used to be)

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ashes are an ancient symbol. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, “you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated “ashes” elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others).

United Methodists first adopted an official ritual for Ash Wednesday that involves the use of ashes in the 1992 Book of Worship. Prior to that time, Methodists either had no official service at all for this day (through 1964) or an “ashless” Ash Wednesday Service (1965 Book of Worship).

As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken:

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or "Repent, and believe the gospel" recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15).

Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

More Information About... "Souper Bowl of Caring"

Taken from tacklehunger.org:

"Our History

In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time.

This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The first year, they invited 22 area churches to join the team and collected \$5,700 with 100% of donations distributed to local-area charities.

That was 1990. Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grass-roots, youth-inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good. Over \$193 MILLION in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities.

Thousands of participants including: churches, schools, youth groups, community partners, grocery partners, local businesses, media partners, NFL teams and passionate individuals have experienced for themselves, the joy and satisfaction of giving, serving and inspiring people across the country to follow their generous example."

*Thank you to all those who support
our congregation with
your prayers, your presence,
your gifts and your service.*

All are important to the health of our church.

*Then the
righteous will
answer him,
saying, 'Lord,
when did we see
you hungry and
feed you, or
thirsty and give
you drink? And
when did we see
you a stranger
and welcome
you, or naked
and clothe
you? And when
did we see you
sick or in prison
and visit
you?' And the
King will
answer
them, 'Truly, I
say to you, as
you did it to one
of the least of
these my
brothers,¹⁴ you
did it to me.'*

Matthew 25: 37-40

Giving Options for Lytle Methodist Church

Tithes and offerings can be made in person, mailed to the church, or texted to 830-581-2288. Church address is P.O. Box 608; Lytle TX. 78052.

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P.O. Box 608

19341 Somerset ST.

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