

**Lytle United Methodist Church**  
**P.O. Box 608**  
**Lytle, Texas 78052-0608**  
**(830) 772-3345**  
**Lytleumc.com**  
**Facebook.com/lytleumc**

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**FEBRUARY 2021**

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The Methodist denomination has a reputation for being mushy—theologically mushy. People think you can believe anything, or nothing, and still call yourself a Methodist. That’s why I like our church website, lytleumc.org. It begins boldly: “Our Church’s Purpose: To Spread the Gospel!” No mush there. Then the website continues by sharing the gospel: “We are all sinners (Romans 3:23); What we earn by our sin is death (Romans 6:23), God loves us so much, He sent His Son to die for us and redeem us while we were still sinners (Romans 3:24, 5:8); We cannot earn peace with God, but we can be saved by putting our faith in Jesus Christ and

accepting Him as our Lord and Savior.” No mush there either. It says very clearly to anyone who visits our website, “If you’re looking for a mushy Methodist church, you’ll have to look somewhere else, because you won’t be happy here. But if you’re looking for a church that preaches from the scriptures, if you’re looking for a full gospel church, you’ve come to the right place.”

The presentation of the gospel in our website begins with the traditional statement, “We are all sinners.” That’s how God presents the Good News through Paul in the Book of Romans. The Good News is not that God loves us; the Good News is that God loves us despite our sin. When I hear those word, “We are all sinners,” my shoulders relax. I don’t have to pretend—I don’t have to wear a mask—I don’t have to lie to myself and to others. I am a sinner, and “we are all sinners.” I’m not alone. And then to hear that God loves me despite my sin—that’s unconditional love; that’s amazing grace!

I remember in my church up in Dallas a friend telling me that his wife hated the song “Amazing Grace” because of its first line: “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.” She hated that line because she would proclaim, “I’m not a wretch.” I always felt so sad for her—she was spending her whole life lying to herself, wearing a mask, and she never truly felt the amazing forgiving, unconditional love of God. The admission “we are all sinners” is what leads to the incredible joy of being able to proclaim victory in Jesus: “I am a sinner redeemed by the blood of Christ.”

No mushy theology served up around here—just the unvarnished and glorious truth. I want to really thank our leadership for ensuring that our church is not a mushy Methodist church.

Grace and peace,  
**Scott**

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At the meeting in January, the Administrative council decided to officially dedicate our Sunday school building in honor of all our teachers, and especially in honor of Kitty Alexander. The suggestion came from Bobby Sollock, assistant head of the Board of Trustees, and was passed with acclamation. Kitty, who died on November 28, was an inspiration to all of us, and was beloved by all our children. She was a prime example of the loving spirit and dedication of our teachers.

In addition to dedicating the building, the Administrative Council voted to do major renovations of the space, including new carpeting and paint. The work will be evaluated through the month of February

**KITTY ALEXANDER  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 BUILDING**

**Dedicated to teachers  
 of the past, present, and future**

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. - Matthew 28:19-20**

and if you have any suggestions, please talk to Nan Boyd, Tawana Jackson or Diana Jackson. After the work is approved, financed, and completed, we will have a service of dedication, as plaques of remembrance and dedication are installed. Please keep this endeavor in your prayers, and continue to pray as well for the family of Kitty Alexander.

<p><b><u>New Ways to Give</u></b></p> <p>1. Online: Go to the church website, <a href="http://www.lytleumc.com">www.lytleumc.com</a>, and go to the “donate” page.</p> <p>2. By text from a mobile device: Text GIVE or TITHE to 830-224-2780</p>	<p><b><u>Free Church Wifi</u></b></p> <p>Network: lytleumc password: holyspirit987 (all lower case)</p>
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**CHURCH SCHEDULE**

- February 1, Monday - Food Pantry day, 6 to 7 PM.
- February 2, Tuesday - Council on Ministries meeting.
- February 3, Wednesday - Worship Committee meeting at noon.
- February 12, Friday - Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering at St. Paul’s Lutheran church in Hondo..  
Music, Worship and Fellowship at 6:30 PM.
- February 15, Monday - Food Pantry day, 6 to 7 PM.
- February 17, Wednesday - **Ash Wednesday worship service at 7 PM.**
- March 9, Tuesday - Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting at 7 PM.
- April 4 - Easter Sunday

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**Youth News**

<p><b>February 2021</b></p>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 U.M.Y.F. At the Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm						

February 14: Field trip to the Castroville Regional Park for hiking, cookout and fun. Meet at the church at 2 PM, return by 6 PM.

Our usual February Spiritual Retreat at HEB Foundation Camp Will not take place this year as they are still closed because of Covid

Get ready for a spring Yard sale fundraiser!

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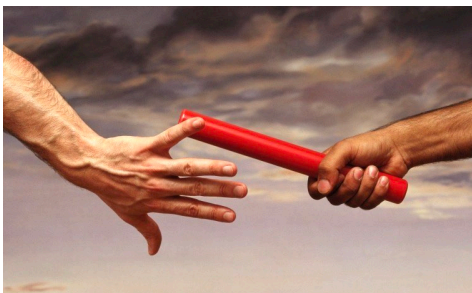
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### February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>14</b> U.M.Y.F Castroville Park Field Trip 2 - 6pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> U.M.Y.F. At the Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm						

### Leaving a Good Legacy



The Apostle Paul, and many since him, have compared life to running a race, but what kind of a race is it? The answer is of course that it is a relay race. We received the baton from someone in the distance past, we run our leg of the race, and then, when it is the appropriate time, we are called to hand off the baton successfully to someone else. That means there are two critical jobs in our life:

1.) Running our leg of the race well and 2.) handing off the baton well.

Many people do both jobs poorly, but what's really sad are those who run well, but bobble the handoff. All they're remembered for is the bobble. I remember when I first came to this church. Rev. John Hargis handed off the baton pretty well—it helped that there was a regular pastor and an interim pastor between us--but I remember how it was so frustrating when people would call him to do funerals and he would say yes. Successfully handing off the baton is not easy, but it is critical. For those of you that are my age or so, remember this important truth: No matter how well you run the race, your legacy will primarily be determined by how well you hand off the baton. - Scott

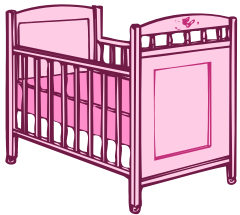
## Ash Wednesday and Lent, A Time of Preparation

The Ash Wednesday service, celebrated on February 17, is a special time to recommit ourselves to God as we strive to grow in grace, taking seriously Paul’s call to “present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Romans 12:1). The service will begin at 7 PM and will include special opportunities including the “cross of ash,” as palm ash (from the palms used for Palm Sunday) are used to draw a cross on each person’s forehead as a sign of confession, repentance, and dedication to God.



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## Help Fill-up the Crib



Throughout the month of February, we are helping to supply the Care Closet of the Pregnancy Care Center. The Closet provides clothing for mothers in unintended pregnancies and then layettes for their newborn. Items they are asking for are diapers, baby hygiene products, maternity clothing, baby clothing, strollers, swings, crib sheets & blankets (no bumper pad sets please). Due to safety recalls and requirements, only new baby cribs and car seats can be accepted.

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## Pregnancy Care Center 5K & 10K Walk/Run Saturday, May 1



We are running/walking as a group to support the San Antonio Pregnancy Care center. Go to [sapregnancy.org](http://sapregnancy.org) for more information, or talk to Linda Martin.

The Pregnancy Care Center is a life-affirming ministry helping people facing unplanned pregnancies. Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered plan for unplanned pregnancy. The San Antonio Pregnancy Care Center is an affiliate of Heartbeat International, the first network of pro-life pregnancy resource centers founded in the U.S. (1971), and it is now the most expansive network in the world.

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## Radical Hospitality by Yvonne Gentile and Debi Nixon

Three principles make up radical hospitality and help us create interactions and environments where visitors are open to hearing the message in prayer, song, and sermon and want to come back again. The three principles of radical hospitality are *notice*, *offer personal attention*, and *provide excellent follow-through*.

### **1. Notice**

There is tremendous power in noticing. We cannot provide radical hospitality until we first notice. Everything that follows — all our hospitality efforts — depend on us first noticing. Noticing includes:

- Offering a warm greeting to each visitor you encounter
- Being on the lookout for people that need special attention
- Developing a dependable system for noticing and acknowledging visitors

### **2. Offer personal attention**

The second principle of radical hospitality is personal attention, and it’s completely dependent on making space in your life to notice. When visitors receive personal attention, it’s memorable. We show personal attention in many ways, including:

- Introducing yourself and learning people’s names
- Practicing the 10-foot rule and the 3-minute rule (Take responsibility for greeting those seated or standing within 10 feet of you and spend at least 3 minutes before and after any other church activity talking to someone you don’t know very well.)
- Introducing the people you meet to others
- Looking for opportunities to go the extra mile

### **3. Provide excellent follow-through**

The final principle is excellent follow-through, and this one encompasses everything that happens after that first encounter with a visitor or after we first notice an issue in our environment or facilities. John Maxwell is quoted about the impact of excellent follow-through in this way: “Diligent follow-up and follow-through will set you apart from the crowd and communicate excellence.” For good visitor follow-up we must: 1.) Establish a reliable method to identify who our visitors are.



2.) Reach out to them for follow-up.

## Prayer Concerns

- **LaFond family**—facing a second 2-week quarantine
- **Bethel Kay Bateman**—health
- **Rose Thumann** (Nan Boyd’s mother)—starting chemo again
- **Rachel** (Michelle Keith’s cousin)—on death of her husband
- **David Hajabski** (Rose Lynn’s cousin)—stroke
- **Michael Douglas** (Rose Lynn’s cousin)—stroke
- **Becky Lester** (Rose Lynn’s cousin)—stroke and a fall
- **Otis Doyal and wife** (Bethel Kay’s nephew)—both with COVID
- **For those dealing with addiction and their families**
- **Lily Gardner** (friend of Morrow’s) on death of husband, Daniel
- **Irma Bayne**—facing possible back surgery
- **Marty Bennett**—back pain, improved
- **John Renken** (friend of Margaret Wilson)—in ICU with COVID
- **Pete Bermea** (friend of Kirk Jackson)—praise! Recovering from COVID
- **Sharon Berry**—stomach cancer
- **Angela Hageman** (friend of Martins’)—ill for 3 months, still no diagnosis
- **Kylee Barrera** (Margaret Wilson’s niece)— leukemia and bladder cancer
- **Robert Mumme**—diagnosed with stage IV non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- **Lisa Wells**—cancer
- **Eddie Simons** (Ian’s grandfather)—recurrence and spread of brain tumor
- **David Lynn’s brother**—cancer      • **Michele Brown**—cancer
- **Wanda Yoast**      • **Our shut-ins**
- **Rosemarie Smith**—metastasis of cancer, doing well on treatment
- **Irma Kelley** – stage IV breast cancer      • **Felix Escalante**—health
- **For all our veterans**—especially that they would find hope in Jesus (40 veterans a day commit suicide)
- **For United Methodist Church, General Conference and delegates for 2020**—postponed to 2021
- **Our military and their families and our president and government**
- **Our missionaries around the world**      • **For persecuted Christians around the world**
- **For victims of human trafficking and for an end to human trafficking**



### Our Church Family Military

- **Brandon Johnson**—Marines      • **Isaac Johnson**—Air Force      • **Kristen Pruett**—Air Force
- **Ian Simons**—Air Force      • **Brandon Hunt**—Army Reserves      • **Brooke Johnson**—Navy
- **Kyle Pringle**—Army      • **Ross Moffitt** (Chris and Fred Brauchle’s grandson)—Air Force
- **William Reichel**—Army, in Germany      • **Forrest Keith**—Kevin Keith’s son, Navy
- **Josh Orbinati**—Michele Brown’s nephew, Coast Guard      • **Craig Wolf**—Air Force
- **Jonathan Heiman**—Navy      • **Jon and Brianna Hartwig**—Army, Jill Daggs’ daughter and son-in-law
- **Joyce Biggs** (George Bahlmann’s great-niece)

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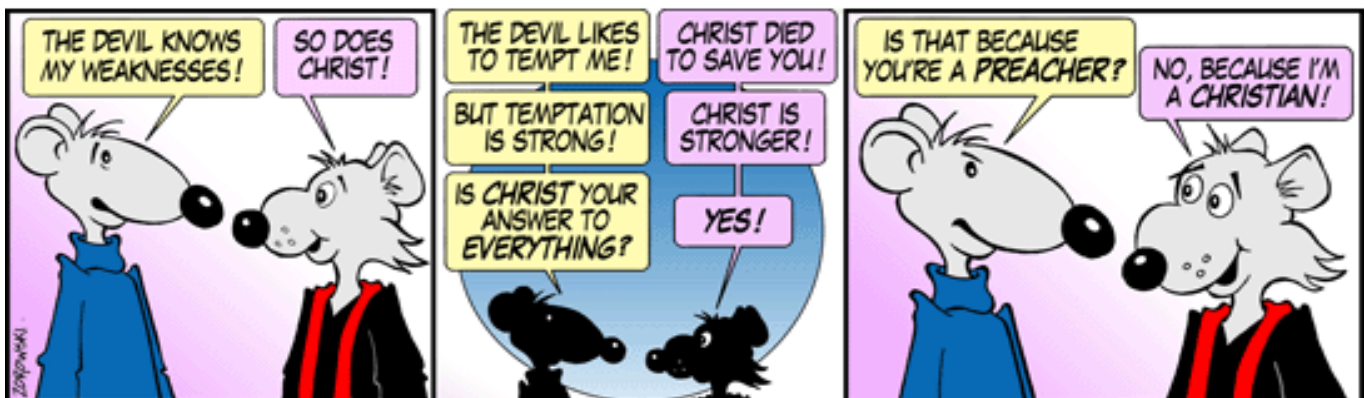
### Church Wide E-mail List

In order to improve communication between the church and church folks, the church is trying to collect current emails. These will not be published, but will be used to send very occasional church information items and special prayer concerns. There will be a line on the yellow forms on Sunday morning to give us your e-mail or correct your email, or you can call the church office at 830-772-3345 or email the office at [scottmartin9262@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scottmartin9262@sbcglobal.net). Email is a wonderful tool to help us stay connected and to help us grow God’s Kingdom. Thank you for helping.



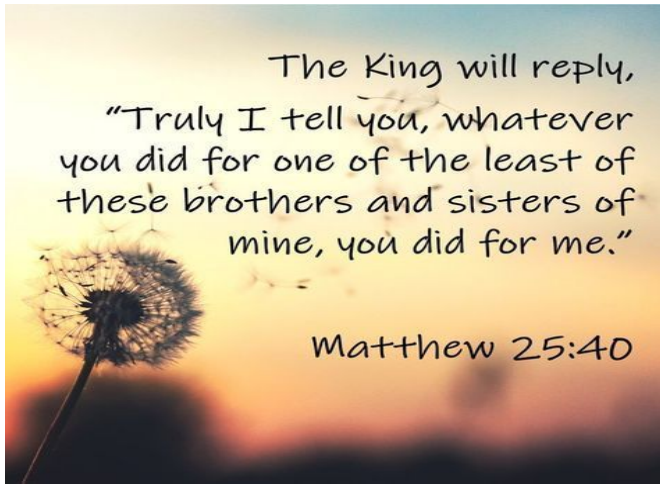
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**Free Devotional Guides** - Our church offers free devotion guides for adults (The Upper Room) and youth (Essential Connection). Pick up copies today from the literature rack by the windows in the church entranceway or in the fellowship hall. A daily time of prayer brings God’s power to your day.





Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink”... “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’” – Matthew 25:34-37

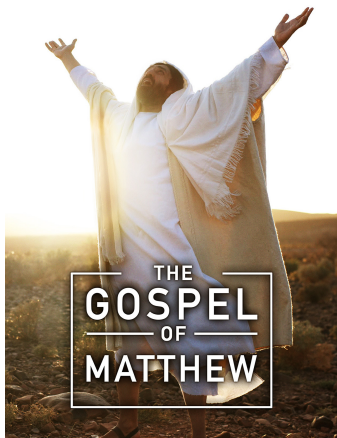


**Food Pantry Ministry**  
**Monday, February 1st and 15th**

We need your help. For safety, we are having those we are serving stay in their cars and drive by to pick up the food, but we still need people to move the food and put the food in their trunks. Please come to help from 6 to 7 PM on Monday, February 15. We would also like to thank everyone who orders the food from the San Antonio Food Bank, who picks it all up and stores it in our food pantry, who bags the food, who separates and bags the vegetables and who does all the paperwork. Thank you!!

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**A Study of Matthew in 2021**



*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls – Matthew 11:28-29*

*“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” - Matthew 28:19*

After the hard year we had in 2020, its time to reset ourselves emotionally and spiritually. What better way to do that then to explore the first book of the New Testament, the Gospel according to Matthew? Matthew records faithfully the actions of Jesus and the words of Jesus, and these words and actions are critical for us to hear, study and understand as we seek to “rebuild.”

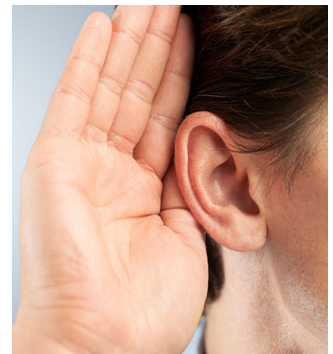
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**Church Listening and Planning Retreat**

**Saturday, January 16,**

**8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the church**

Thank you to everyone who came to the church “Listening and Planning Retreat” on Saturday morning, January 16. We had great attendance, and were led well by Council on Ministries Head Connie Norton. After a Bible devotion and a time of learning led by the pastor, Connie led us as we prayed about the year to come, and the changes God wants for us, as well as those things God wants us to continue and improve. Two of the big topics discussed was working on radical hospitality, and going out into the community to reach new people and all people.



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**A Big Thank you to Ricardo Castillo**

Despite continuing in his recovery from a knee replacement, Ricardo, our resident electrician, completed installing new electrical recepticals in the sanctuary. No more long extension cords for Christmas and other decorations. It was a lot of work, made easier by his able co-worker, Assistant Head of the Board of Trustees, Bobby Sollock. We are truly blessed by both these gentlemen.

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## **Free Counseling for Women From a Biblical Perspective**

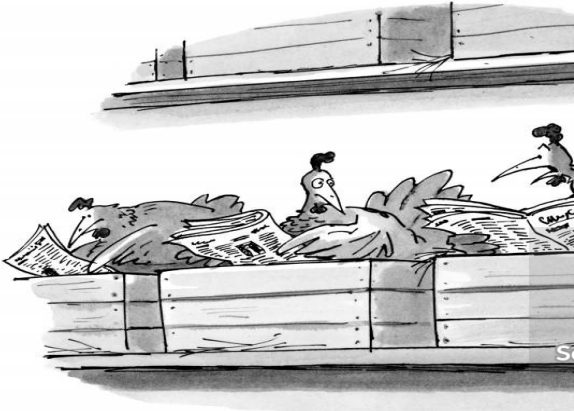
Linda Martin has completed the first phase in certification as a Biblical counselor. If you have questions about Biblical counseling, or are struggling and would like to consider Biblical counseling with her, she can be contacted by email ([lindamartin9262@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindamartin9262@sbcglobal.net)) or phone or text.

## **Put Together Some "Love Packages" of Christian Material Today**

Linda Bahlmann is collecting old Christian material to help Christians in the third world. This includes Bibles, reference materials, books, daily devotionals, sunday school materials, CDs and DVDs. Gather your old stuff together and call her (830-709-5848 or 210-837-0650) and she will pick up the material, package it, and ship it to "Love Packages," for them to in turn sort it and ship it overseas.



## The Press Loves Bad News



The media thrives on bad news. Bad news gets people's attention. As the cartoon to the left reminds us, they are quick to report the one chicken that got run over but ignore the thousands who made it safely. In 2020 they tried to scare us to death with news and statistics about the coronavirus. Now they are trying to scare us to death with reports about "The failures in vaccine production and distribution." The truth is that everything is really going amazingly well, thanks to lots and lots of people. Yes, it will be a while before most people get the vaccine, but we knew that would true back in August

2020. They are producing extraordinarily complex vaccines, not rubber footballs.

The Bible tells us, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." This is true about the facts behind the vaccines (and the fact of the media scare tactics), but it is even more true about the fact of God's love, God's Plan, and God's Faithfulness. We can trust that God is in charge, and heaven awaits. So buck up folks. Yes, it's going to be a long ride, but God is with us.

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## Emmaus News

The Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering for February will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Hondo on Friday, February 12. Fellowship, music and worship will start at 6:30 PM. This gathering will take place in person and it will also be live streamed. See the SouthWest Texas Kononia Emmaus community website (swtxkonia.org) for more information. Mark the date now and be sure to be there to praise the Lord and connect to the Body of Christ.

Our Emmaus community board has recently discovered that Mount Wesley in Kerrville, the facility where we hold our walks, is discouraging all events for 2021, and has placed heavy restriction on those that do take place. Therefore, the board has decided, after much discussion, to move both our Spring men's walk and our Fall women's walk from 2021 to 2022. We will let you know the new dates once they are set. Please keep our lay leaders for both walks in your prayers as they handle this big change.

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<p><b><u>Monday Night Guy's Group</u></b></p> <p>The men meet regularly on Monday nights from 7 to 9 PM in the church Joan Ernest Youth Building for a time of fellowship, mentoring, and study. The group also participates in mission work and fellowship activities. Come and be part of this great group. Talk to Kyle Jackson for more information.</p>	<p><b><u>Music Art and Drama Club</u></b></p> <p>The goal the Council on Ministries has set for our MAD Club/Camp is to have a MAD Camp session in June. They felt that a Spring session would not be well attended. Please look for more information in May. We are also planning to have our regular Vacation Bible School in July</p> <p><b><u>Dinner Theater Fund Raisers</u></b></p> <p>The goal the Council on Ministries has set for our Dinner Theater Fund Raisers is to hold the next one in August/September. Please look for more information in May and June.</p>	<p><b><u>United Methodist Women</u></b></p> <p>The women of the UMW have decided not to have regular meetings during the spring for safety sake, as the virus continues in our area. But they are still staying in contact with one another—supporting and lifting up one another. To find out more about the UMW, contact Bethel Kay Bateman at (210) 415-0783.</p>
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