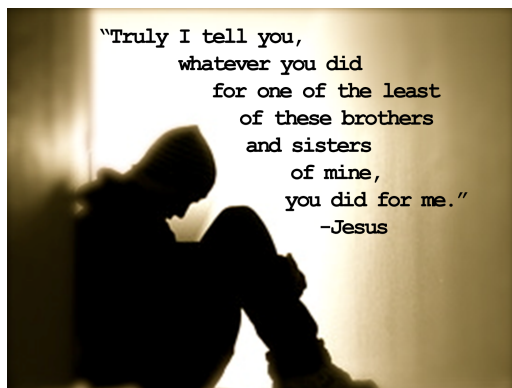


Lytle United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 608
Lytle, Texas 78052-0608
(830) 772-3345
Lytleumc.com
Facebook.com/lytleumc

MARCH 2021



I had one of those days when I felt like I hadn't gotten anything done. You know what I mean. But the next morning I read the daily scripture reading from the Upper Room: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you... or sick, or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" - Matthew 25:37-40. That got me thinking of an hour long stretch during the day before. We got a call from Human Services about a hungry elderly man who had spent the recent cold stretch living in his car at the 1-35 rest stop. She had found us on the internet, and I told her to send him by. Since most of the food in our food pantry

requires cooking, I gave him money from the fund supplied by you all though the Christmas offering. We prayed together and he went on his way. Then I went back to my office and finished packing up Bibles and Upper Rooms, paid for by you, to send to two prisoners in jail. I dropped them off at the post office, then went by the cemetery and emptied some trash cans. The Lytle Community Cemetery is one of the longest running and most important community ministries our church does, as we care for families going through really tough times. To sum it up, because of you and your giving, in one hour our church was able to feed the hungry, care for prisoners, and care for the dying. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Grace and peace,
Scott

Easter Holy Week Events

Passion/Palm Sunday
March 28

Come and imagine the palm waving, listen to the story of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, and experience the power of God.

Holy Thursday – April 1

Our Holy Thursday service will take place in the sanctuary as we hear dramatic readings that express heart-felt biblical and modern responses to the cross. Volunteer readers are needed. It will also include communion and beautiful music. Come and be part of this powerful time as we remember when the "Lamb of God" gave up his life for us.

Easter Sunday, April 4

Sunrise Service (7 AM) – The Easter sunrise service will again be held on the front lawn of our church, and will include a short sermon by the pastor and Holy Communion. It will be a quiet contemplative service to begin the Easter celebration.

Regular Easter Service (10 AM) - Christ is Risen! This service will feature communion, Scriptures, preaching and beloved Easter hymns, some of which will be sung as we transform the cross of Good Friday into the flower covered cross of Easter. Come, be part of the most special day of the Christian year, and experience God's power.

Communion for Holy Thursday and Easter

As we transition beyond pandemic times, we will be doing communion a little different on Holy Thursday and at both services on Easter. We will still have the communion packs available, but those who

choose to may come forward to receive communion. The pastor, masked and gloved, will tear off bread from a common loaf for the participants and then one of the prepackaged cups of juice will be given to them. The communion elements may be eaten there, at the communion rail, or back in the pew. We are trying in this way to bring back the personal connections, while continuing to keep things safe. Pray for us.

<p><u>New Ways to Give</u></p> <p>1. Online: Go to the church website, www.lytleumc.com, 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><u>Free Church Wifi</u></p> <p>Network: lytleumc password: holyspirit987 (all lower case)</p>
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CHURCH SCHEDULE

- March 1, Monday - Food Pantry day, 6 to 7 PM.
- March 2, Tuesday - Council on Ministries meeting.
- March 3, Wednesday - Worship Committee meeting at 2 PM.
- March 12, Friday - Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering at Somerset United Methodist Church in Somerset. Music, Worship and Fellowship at 6:30 PM.
- March 14 - **Time Change: Move your clocks forward.**
- March 15, Monday - Food Pantry day, 6 to 7 PM.
- March 16, Tuesday - Administrative Council and Finance meeting at 7 PM.
- March 28 - **Palm/Passion Sunday.**
- April 1, Thursday - **Holy Thursday service at 7 PM.**
- April 4 - **Easter Sunday. Services at 7 AM and 10 AM.**

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Youth News

<p>March 2021</p>							<p>March 14: Field trip to the Powell’s place for fishing, cookout and fun. Meet at the church at 4 PM, return by 7 PM.</p>
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7 No U.M.Y.F.	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14 U.M.Y.F @ the Powell house, 4 - 7pm	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21 U.M.Y.F. At the Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28 U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm	29	30	31				

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How Did We Get Here?



At the Zoom Church Conference meeting in November the district superintendent asked all the participating churches to describe something good that happened in their church during 2020. I was near the end of the fifteen churches responding. I heard all the usual things, and I racked my mind about, of all the things I could say, what I should say. Then it came to me. “During 2020 our church had some

significant retirements and hirings, and now we have a church administrator, youth minister, worship minister, and social media coordinator all in their thirties.” I could almost hear the silence... and the envy. Everyone else had shared about their present; I had shared about our future—our hope for the future. We do have great hope for the future of our church, thanks to all the new energy and new ideas. I asked myself, “How did we get here?” And then I remembered what we had been doing for so long as a church—praying for God to break through!

Plans for Rededication and Refurbishing the Sunday School Building Continue

At their meeting in January, the Administrative council decided to dedicate our Sunday school building in honor of all our teachers, and especially in honor of Kitty Alexander. In addition to dedicating the building, the Administrative Council voted to do major renovations of the space, including new carpeting and paint. The work is being evaluated, and bids are being taken for the parts we can't do ourselves. 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.

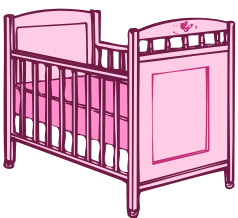
KITTY ALEXANDER SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING

**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

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Help Fill-up the Crib



The crib will remain up through the month of March, as we collect donations to help supply the Care Closet of the Pregnancy Care Center. The Closet provides clothing for mothers in unintended pregnancies and then layettes for their newborns. 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 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 edited from an article by Bishop Robert Schnase

A woman was going through a rough time in her personal and professional life; and in her search for connections, hope, and direction, she began to visit a few churches. After her first two worship experiences to which she came alone, sat alone, and left alone without anyone speaking to her or greeting her, her prayer for her next visit to another church service was simply, “I only pray that someone speaks to me today.”

Wow! What an indictment. Could that really happen to visitors in our congregations? How many of us have had that experience? Have you ever arrived at a church, entered the hallways and despite your obvious “lostness” and active searching for signs and directions, passed by forty or fifty people without anyone even nodding at you or offering to help you find your way? And we've all experienced the ushers or greeters who offer perfunctory handshakes without even looking us in the eye, who hand us a bulletin and push us along without any personal engagement or warmth. We can do better.

Churches aspiring to Radical Hospitality must regularly ask: How are we doing at inviting guests and at teaching people to invite others? How are we doing at genuinely and authentically welcoming people? How can we offer the Radical Hospitality we see in the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Christ? And how can we do better?

A congregation changes its culture one person at a time. Radical hospitality begins with a single heart, a growing openness, a prayerful desire for the highest good of a stranger. It begins when one person treats another respectfully and loves the stranger enough to overcome the internal hesitations to invite that person into the life of Christ's church. Churches that practice radical hospitality... genuinely engage people, listen to them, and help them feel accepted, respected, connected, needed, involved, and loved. They focus on the ultimate goal of helping newcomers grow into the body of Christ's people.

Prayer Concerns

- **Family of Pete Bermea** (close friend of Kirk Jackson) who died this week
- **Rachel** (Michelle Keith's cousin)—on death of her husband
- **Lily Gardner** (friend of Morrow's) on death of husband, Daniel
- **LaFond family**—facing a second 2-week quarantine
- **Linda Martin**—recovering from extensive foot surgery
- **Linda Bahlmann**—health problems
- **Praise for church family caring for each other and for our communities**
- **Irma Bayne**—for decision regarding upcoming surgery
- **Kevin Warner's grandfather**—hospitalized, broken hip and femur, dementia
- **Lisa Wells**—cancer • **Bethel Kay Bateman**—health
- **For those dealing with addiction and their families**
- **Rose Thumann** (Nan Boyd's mother)—starting chemo again
- **Robert Mumme**—diagnosed with stage IV non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- **Eddie Simons** (Ian's grandfather)—recurrence and spread of brain tumor
- **Otis Doyal and wife** (Bethel Kay's nephew)—both with COVID
- **John Renken** (friend of Margaret Wilson)—in ICU with COVID
- **Kylee Barrera** (Margaret Wilson's niece)—leukemia and bladder cancer
- **David Lynn's brother**—cancer • **Michele Brown**—cancer
- **David Hajabski, Michael Douglas, Becky Lester** (Rose Lynn's cousins)—strokes
- **Sharon Berry**—stomach 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 2022
- **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. Just email your email to 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.



* * * * *

Praise Band



On the Lookout for Musicians and Singers

If you can play guitar, bass, keyboard or percussion; If you can sing solo or backup; the church is looking for you. Just talk to Joseph Morrow, Irma Bayne, or call the church office. We could really use your help.

A Big Thank You to Suzie Sollock

Suzie, with assistance from her brother who is a Quickbooks expert, redid parts of our accounting system to make it more functional in handling special giving. They also adapted it to automatically keep track of special and regular giving to make personal giving statements easier to produce. Thank you to both of you!

United Methodist Church General Conference News

The all-important United Methodist Church General Conference has again been postponed due to the global pandemic. Many delegates are from Africa and other places where travel has been severely disrupted. While there will be a short zoom meeting this spring to pass some routine matters, it was felt it was better to wait until August 29, 2022 for an in-person meeting to discuss the big matter. The big matter to be decided is the future of the United Methodist Church—basically rather to go liberal, stay traditional, or split. If a split happens, the new traditional church plans to take the name “The Global Methodist Church.”

We Need to Begin with Sin



When talking with people about faith, it is very tempting to begin with something that seems soft and loving like, “God loves you,” rather than the harsh reality that we are all sinners. But think what people hear when you begin with God's love: “Oh... God loves me. That means I'm going to heaven, because everyone knows a good God would never send someone they love to hell—and if I'm going to heaven anyway, I don't need Jesus and the cross.” For fifty years most of the mainline church has been starting with God's love instead of human sin, and for fifty years while belief in God has remained about the same, acceptance of salvation through the cross has steadily decreased.

We must begin with the cancer of sin. “We are all sinners and our sin condemns us to hell, but the good news is there is a cure, and his name is Jesus. This is the truly loving way to approach people, because it is the only way to truly reach people. The good news is not that God loves us, the good news is that God loves us so much that He has provided a cure for our cancer... the cross of Jesus.

* * * * *

A Big Thank you to Mesquite Lawn Care

Thank you to Kyle Jackson and Mesquite Lawn Care for redoing the entranceway to the church. A lot of hard work was put in by Eric Carlson and Gilbert Moreno. Thankfully the rose bushes survived the freeze.

Thank you to Gilbert Moreno for working to fix damage to our sprinkler system due to the freeze

Thank you to Kyle Jackson for plumbing repairs in the prayer garden, again broken due to the freeze.



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Food Pantry Ministry, Monday, March 1st and 15th

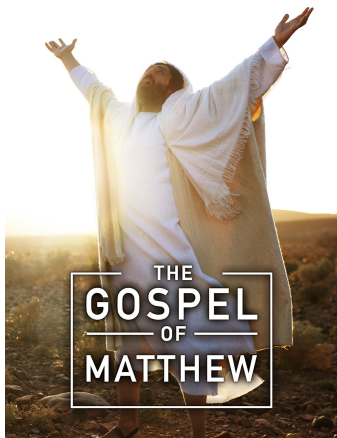
We need your help. For safety, we are having those we are serving stay in their cars and drive by to pick up the food, but we still need people to move the food and put the food in their trunks. Please come to help from 6 to 7 PM on Monday, March 15. We would also like to thank everyone who orders the 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!!

and New Food Pantry Prayer Booth

Starting in April, we will be setting up a prayer booth on the nights of the food pantry. The booth will be open from 5 to 6:30 PM and we need volunteers to simply come and listen to people, and pray with them.

For more information, please talk to Trisha Broach or Connie Norton.

* * * * *



A in the

After the
2020, its

better
explore
New

Matthew records faithfully the words of Jesus, and these words for us to hear, study and understand our lives.”

*“Everyone who hears these words into practice is like a wise man who rock. The rain came down, the winds blew and beat against that fall, because it had its foundation
Matthew 7:24-25*

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. – Matthew 11:28

The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Matthew

Prelude - Matthew 1-3
Birth, Epiphany, Baptism, Temptation,
Opening Statement, Call of the Disciples

Book 1 - Sermon on the Mount
Jesus's Teaching - Matthew 4-7
Jesus's Action - Matthew 8-9

Book 2 - Discipleship
Jesus's Teaching - Matthew 10
Jesus's Action - Matthew 11-12

Book 3 - The Kingdom
Jesus's Teaching - Matthew 13
Jesus's Action - Matthew 14-17

Book 4 - Life in the Kingdom
Jesus's Teaching - Matthew 18
Jesus's Action - Matthew 19-23

Book 5 - The Passion
Jesus's Teaching - Matthew 24-25
Jesus's Action - Matthew 26-27

Postlude - Matthew 28
Resurrection and Great Commission

Study of Matthew Year 2021

hard year we had in time to reset ourselves emotionally and spiritually. What way to do that then to the first book of the Testament, the Gospel according to Matthew? actions of Jesus and and actions are critical as we seek to “rebuild

of mine and puts them built his house on the streams rose, and the house; yet it did not on the rock.” –

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) 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.

Emmaus News – Gathering at Somerset UMC March 12

The Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering for March will take place at Somerset UMC on Friday, March 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 (swtxkononia.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. Also a reminder that due to the pandemic, and heavy restrictions at the Mt. Wesley retreat center, both our spring men’s walk and our fall women’s walk have been moved 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 (including Tawana Jackson) as they handle this big change.

**Monday Night
Guy's Group**

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.

Music Art and Drama Club

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

Dinner Theater Fund Raisers

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.

**United Methodist
Women**

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.

Order Easter Lilies

Once again this year our Sanctuary will be filled with lilies for Easter. Purchasing a lily in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one is a meaningful tribute. This year lilies are only \$10.00 per plant. Just complete the form below and place it in the offering plate with your check. The deadline to order is March 28.



Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

AND/OR

In Honor of: _____