

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

MAY 2021



Spring has returned!

I don't mean just the season; I mean the mood. It seems like our "Winter of Discontent," as Shakespeare might have described the Covid year, is finally nearing an end, at least here in the Texas area.

The question is, "How do we replant flowers?"

While many "institutional flowers" have survived, some have changed, and many

have died out. One of those "institutional flowers" that is struggling is "church worship attendance." Satan is never one to miss a good opportunity. Worship used to be an every-Sunday activity; now it's seen by lots of people, thanks to covid, as bad—unsafe even unpatriotic. "By not going to worship I'm protecting my neighbors, and my community, and my country!"

So how do we replant the flower of corporate worship?

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another" – Hebrews 10:23-25.

I think this scripture and the picture above help answer this question. Worship is where we meet God in a way we cannot meet Him anywhere else. Through worship as a community we grow, we bloom, we find guidance, we experience joy in a way we cannot find anywhere else. We need to continually remind people of the purpose of worship, and make sure our worship service is indeed a place people meet God. Satan wants us to stay home alone in the dark; God wants us to come together and grow in His light.

Grace and Peace
Scott

Mother's Day Celebration, May 9

Mother's Day is right around the corner. During the worship service on this important occasion a slide show will be presented of mothers of our church family and we need your pictures! Just email your pictures to scottmartin9262@sbcglobal.net. If you previously sent in pictures, no need to send them again. We will also be handing out carnations and chocolates to all the women of the church.



PENTECOST CELEBRATION
and Covered-dish, May 23.

God's sanctuary will become a flame of red as we remember and re-experience the power of God's Holy Spirit, come upon His people. We will have lots of surprises and specials during this dynamic worship service on May 23. After the worship service, we



will be having a covered-dish in the fellowship hall, starting around 11:15 AM. During the covered-dish we will be celebrating a few special people. Come experience the joy of the Lord!

New Ways to Give

1. Online: Go to the church website, www.lytleumc.org, and go to the “donate” page.
2. By text from a mobile device: Text GIVE or TITHE to 830-224-2780

Free Church Wi-Fi

Network: lytleumc
password: holyspirit987
(all lower case)

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Church Schedule

May 1, Saturday - Christian Motorcyclists Associations’ “Run for the Son.”
- Youth Yard Sale Part 1

May 3, Monday - Food Pantry Day, 6 to 7 PM. Volunteers needed.

May 4, Tuesday - Council on Ministries meeting at 7 PM.

May 6, Thursday - **National Day of Prayer.**

May 7-8, Friday & Saturday - Youth Yard Sale Part 2

May 9 - Mother’s Day.

May 14, Friday - Koinonia Emmaus gathering at New Fountain UMC
near Hondo. Music starts at 6:30 PM.

May 17, Monday - Food Pantry Day, 6 to 7 PM. Volunteers needed.

May 23 - Pentecost Celebration
- Covered-dish after worship.

May 31, Monday - **Memorial Day.**

June 9-12 - Rio Texas Annual Conference.

June 27, Sunday - Free Community Fish Fry Outreach effort, 11 AM to 2 PM.

July 5-9 - Vacation Bible School in the evening.

July 19-23 - MAD Camp (Music, Art and Drama), 9 AM to noon.

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Youth Schedule

April 30: Set up for Yard Sale. We will need to set up tables and pull stuff out of the storage room. Please be at the church as soon after school as you can.

May 16: Trip to Castroville Park for cook-out, hiking, and relaxing. Meet at the church at 1 PM, return by 7 PM.

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Yard Sale 8 am – 5 pm
2 No U.M.Y.F.	3	4	5	6	7 Yard Sale	8 Yard Sale 8 am – 3 pm
9 No U.M.Y.F. Because of Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 U.M.Y.F. At Castroville Park 1 - 7 pm	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 U.M.Y.F. At the Church 4 - 6 pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 U.M.Y.F. At the Church 4 - 6 pm	31					

Two Major Acts of Faithfulness in 2021



1. Catching the Wave Campaign

**Waves of people are moving into the Lytle Area
Waves of people are moving into
our mission field**

**Will the waves simply wash over us?
or will we be faithful and “Catch the Wave?”**

Why Is It Important?

Many, if not most of these “new” people either have lost their spiritual connection when they moved, or because of the isolation of Covid, or they never had one. They are God’s precious lost sheep, and we are all God’s shepherds. Are we going to just sit in the pen, or are we going to get out and help God collect His lost sheep? *Jeremiah 23:4 – “I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.*

John 21:16 – “Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

What Is the Plan?

Our Council on Ministries has initiated a four-part ongoing “Catch the Wave” plan:

- 1. Prayer:** If you could help with the “Catch the Wave” prayer team, call (830) 772-3345.
- 2. Church Events:** Events like our December “Christmas Caroling,” and our upcoming “Free Community Fish-Fry,” moved to June 27. Have ideas? Willing to help? Call (830) 772-3345.
- 3. Personal Events:** All of us need to learn to get out of our comfort zone and be friendly and inviting.
- 4. Standing Out:** Help make our church and church property stand out, not fade into the background. The Lent/Easter cross in the front yard was a good start. Where do we go from there?



2. The Kitty Project

In April, our church trustees and the finance/administrative council initiated a church renovation project with the title “The Kitty Project,” named after our beloved Kitty Alexander.

Part A – Renovate the Sunday School Space: Install new carpet, window blinds, lights, and updated child-safe electrical outlets; and paint. Cost = \$29,000

Kitty was one of our faithful children’s Sunday school teachers and she was also highly involved in VBS and other

Christian education programs. Adult and children Christian education were important to her, and they are important to us. It has been a long time since we installed carpet and painted this area of the church. It is time we demonstrated through our hands and our wallets our priorities.

Part B – Renovate the church entranceway: Replace wood paneled walls and tile ceiling with sheetrock; move electrical conduit into the ceiling; install new recessed lighting; and paint. Cost = \$18,000

Kitty loved this church and she loved worship and wanted others to experience her joy. Our church entranceway is a throwback to the 1970s, the decade it was constructed. Unfortunately, an old and tired out looking entranceway yells out “old and tired out church.” It’s time to replace the 1970 style with a more timeless style, to fit our beautiful and timeless sanctuary.

Part C – Renovate the main building bathrooms: Install new vanities, counters, faucets, and lights; revise the ceiling; and paint. Cost = \$3,000

How Will We Finance This Project?

The total cost of the project is \$50,000. \$20,000 of the needed funds will come from the church budget, and the other \$30,000 will be raised through a capital campaign.

What is the Timeline?

- May and early June: Prayer Campaign and finalize construction details (such as paint color)
- June and July: Raise funds (We don’t want to do any construction until after VBS and MAD)

- August and September: Begin construction
- October: Project Dedication

Thank You Notes

To Kirk Jackson – for doing extensive repairs to the outside door by the bathrooms.

To Ginger Meyer – for the beautiful new Easter Lily altar flower arrangement.

To Ricardo Castillo – For always being ready to check out potential electrical problems, even when the pastor calls him in the middle of the night.

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Prayer Concerns

- **Angel Escalante** (Felix's brother)—has brain tumor, home on hospice
- **Jamie Anderwahl**—recovering from COVID
- **Rosemarie Smith** (Connie Norton's mother)—difficulty with side effects of cancer treatment
- **James Frost**—health, having seizures
- **Irma Bayne**—health • **Sharon Berry's mother** (friend of Connie Norton)—cancer getting worse
- **Brad Boyd's father**—diagnosed with colon cancer
- **Rose Thumann** (Nan Boyd's mother)—starting chemo again
- **Diana Jackson**—recovering from knee surgery
- **Tony** (friend of Trisha Broach)—inoperable brain tumor, family praying for a miracle
- **Paul Schmidt** (friend of Debbie Pruett)—diagnosed with Parkinson's, adjusting medications
- **Lisa Wells**--cancer
- **Kenny Wagoner**—health
- **Raina Astrella** (Wanda Yoast's granddaughter)—health
- **Debbie Hunt**—knee replacement March 23, healing at home
- **Lois Wanjura**—would love window visits
- **Bethel Kay Bateman**--vertigo
- **For those dealing with addiction and their families**
- **Sharon Berry**—stomach cancer
- **Kylee Barrera** (Margaret Wilson's niece)— leukemia and bladder cancer
- **Robert Mumme**—diagnosed with stage IV non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- **Eddie Simons** (Ian's grandfather)—recurrence and spread of brain tumor
- **David Lynn's brother**--cancer
- **Michele Brown**—cancer
- **Wanda Yoast** (Wanda has moved back to the Lytle Nursing Home from Castrovilla)
- **Cleotide Rodriguez** (friend of Shelle McMillan)—age 93, severe UTI, stopped eating
- **For all our veterans**—especially that they would find hope in Jesus (40 veterans a day commit suicide)
- **Jeannie Taylor** (Linda Bahlmann's sister)—recurrence of heart problem, possible surgery
- **Our shut-ins** • **Irma Kelley** – stage IV breast cancer • **Felix Escalante**--health
- **For United Methodist Church, General Conference and delegates for 2020**—postponed to 2022
- **For the church staff and their families**
- **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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Miscellaneous News!

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.

Father's Day: June 16 - We will be celebrating Father's Day with "Good Dad" chocolate bars and a slide show of fathers of our church family. We need your pictures! Place your pictures on the pastor's desk, or send them to scottmartin9262@sbcglobal.net.



Annual Conference - Annual Conference, a meeting of representatives from every church in our conference area (the Rio Texas Conference) will take place via computer this year, June 9-12. Please keep our delegates in your prayers: Michelle and Kevin Keith and Rev. Scott Martin.

Our First Official “Catch the Wave” Event

Free Community Fish Fry

Sunday, June 27, 11 to 2 PM



“Free Fish Fry” tickets/flyers will be given to church folks to hand out around our community. The Fish Fry will include free fish, fries, coleslaw, drinks and dessert, plus music, our bounce castle and more.

We need lots of help, including fish fryers, others cooks, set-up, and especially folks willing to hand out tickets/flyers. This first major event in our “Catch the Wave” Campaign will be a way of meeting new people in our community. We will meet them as we hand out free tickets to this event, and as we will meet them as they attend this event. Please mark this day on your calendar and lend a hand.

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Free VBS 2021, July 5-9

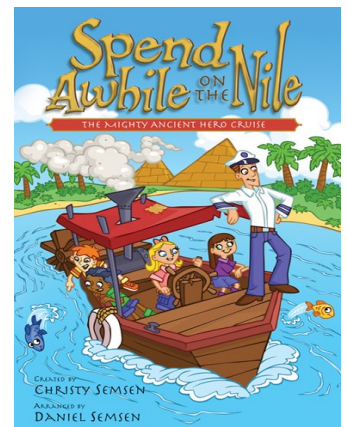


It’s time to gear up for Vacation Bible School 2021. At Rocky Railway VBS the message kids will learn each day has proved to be more relevant than ever... Through lifes ups and downs, Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. VBS will take place July 5-9, Monday through Friday. This year it will again be in the evenings, from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. It will include a snack meal, so food preparers are needed as well as

the usual small crew leaders and station leaders. We need lots of volunteers, so please mark these dates now that you might be able to help, and keep this ministry in your prayers. Call (830) 772-3345 today to sign up your children or simply show up on July 5.

Free M.A.D. Camp, July 19-23

Our Free M.A.D. summer children's program (Music, Art and Drama) will take place July 19-23, Monday through Friday, from 9 AM until noon. The focus will be the preparation of a wonderful musical called "Spend Awhile on the Nile," which will be performed Friday night at 7 PM. Join Mr. Cruise and his faithful daughter Liza on a boat trip up the Nile as they retell classic Bible stories. But there's a problem: The stories are all wrong! It takes the kids of Lytle UMC who are on board to set the record straight and help Mr. Cruise understand the real truth about God's enduring love and faithfulness to His people. Call (830) 772-3345 today for more information or to sign up your children, or simply show up Monday morning, July 19.



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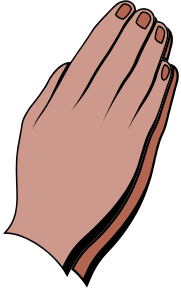
New Food Pantry Prayer Booth



This ministry is a great addition to our food pantry. People who receive food are invited to stop by the booth to request prayers and to pray with church volunteers. Please consider volunteering once a month or so—you will be a blessing and you will be blessed.

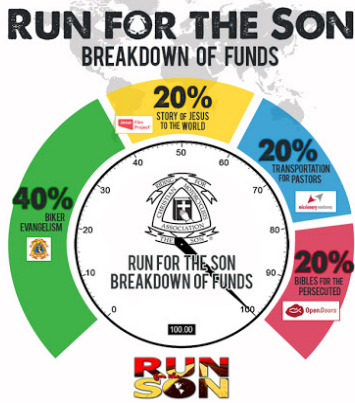
Food Pantry Ministry, Monday, May 3rd and 17th

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, May 17. 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!!



Pray for Our Nation! National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 6

On the **National Day of Prayer on May 6th**, thousands of individuals, churches, and communities once again heeded the call to pray for our country! National Day of Prayer was remembered in Lytle as people from all the churches gathered at the City Hall parking lot at noon for a time of prayer.



Contribute to Run for the Son

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to Run for the Son, and it is not too late to give.

Run for the Son is an event held by the Christian Motorcyclist Association which funds four great world evangelical ministries:

- 20% for the powerful Jesus Film Project
- 20 % for Missionary Ventures, who provide vehicles for local pastors.
- 20% for Open Doors, who provide Bibles in closed countries.
- 40% for CMA, who reach bikers around the country and world.

<p align="center"><u>Monday Night Guy's Group</u></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 align="center"><u>Dinner Theater Fund Raisers</u></p> <p>The goal the Council on Ministries has set for our Dinner Theater Fund Raisers is to hold the next one in September/October. Please look for more information in June and July.</p>	<p align="center"><u>United Methodist Women</u></p> <p>The women of the UMW have decided not to have regular meetings during the spring for safety's sake. 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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Emmaus News – Gathering at New Fountain UMC, May 14

The Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering for May will take place at New Fountain UMC near Hondo on Friday, May 14. 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 Koinonia Emmaus community website (swtxkoinonia.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.



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.