

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 18, No. 9

September 2022

Not Just What, But How

Seasons of congregational life tend to have an ebb and flow. In some seasons we feel peaceful; things roll along in a fairly normal, pleasing manner. In other seasons we feel anxious, often because uncertainty seems to hang before us. It may feel to you like Russell Memorial is in one of those anxious seasons. If so, that is quite understandable. The church conference on September 25 will soon come, and we will gather to make a decision regarding our future denominational alignment. This is no small matter. It needs to be done prayerfully, in communion with Christ and with one another.

To that end, I remind you that conversations are important right now. As we pursue them, let us be mindful of some simple biblical wisdom: “Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger” (James 1:19b). My father used to say, “God gave us two ears and one mouth. Do you think He wants us to do more talking or listening?” Sometimes we might be more intent on making our case to others than doing the harder work of listening so we may understand their point of view. Holy conversation requires deep listening so we can know the heart-felt longings and burdens of our sisters and brothers in Christ. In the words of the “peace prayer” of St. Francis, we should not so much seek to be understood as to understand.

When conversations focus on difficult things, the way we speak has great potential to either harm or to help. Ken Sande, founder of *Relational Wisdom 360* ministry, recommends in times of conflict to question oneself on the following three levels of awareness:

***Self-awareness.** What’s going on inside of me? What feelings am I experiencing, and why? Knowing my tendencies, how am I likely to respond? What response from me would be most helpful?

***Other-awareness.** What do others seem to be feeling? What seems to be important to them? What do they seem to need? How can I show them Christ-like love?

***God-awareness.** What might God be doing in our present situation? Where am I sensing God’s presence in others or in our common life? How is God reminding me of who He is? How are my actions reflecting faith and love—or lack thereof?

Why would I bother suggesting these things? Because it points toward something I feel is crucial for any Christian congregation going through a time of discernment and decision. Many times in recent months I have said to people, “It’s not just what we do; it’s how we do it.” Sure, we want to do the right thing (i.e. whatever is according to God’s will for us). As eager as we may be to get the “what” right, we need to be equally dedicated to getting the “how” right. If we do the right thing in the wrong way, we still dishonor Christ. What is the right way? Simple: the Jesus way.

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“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” - Colossians 3:12-14

Right Now Media



Don't forget about the amazing offer of rightnow media offered through the church. Text RMUMC to 49775 for an invitation to set up your account, or contact the church office to request help.



Some shots from Youth Bowling with Cheatham at Film Alley this summer.



Bowling with Cheatham Friends

Our youth have been busy this summer! In July, the youth went bowling with Cheatham Memorial from Edgewood at Film Alley in Terrell. We had nine youth and three adults in attendance. Those participating were AJ Galope, Andrew Hammons, Frances Groover, Frank Groover, Johanna Cartwright, Joseph Hammons, Marguerite Goover, Robby Groover, Sophie Nychka, Pastor Dave, Erin Galope, and Jana Davis. A great time was had by everyone. We celebrated several strikes, some spares, and a few gutter balls. We even had a granny style throw strike!

RMUMC Help with the Back to School Fair

Our amazing youth asked to help with the Back to School Fair for Wills Point ISD. They helped with a variety of tasks that were needed in order to make the Fair a great success. They worked both Monday and Tuesday helping get the event organized. We unpacked supplies, used a lot of muscle moving supplies, packed school boxes, and zipper bags. We counted, recounted, and counted again to make sure all supplies were totaled and ready for disbursement. Whatever was needed the youth were willing to help with each task they were asked to do. Those that came to help were Johanna Cartwright, Maggie McDonald, Frank Groover, Frances Groover, Andrew Hammons, Robby Groover, Marguerite Groover, AJ Galope, and Joseph Hammons.

Youth Swim Party at the Keller's

After church on August 7th, the youth were invited to Gary and Mary Keller's home for a last hurrah before school started on August 11. It didn't take long for Andrew to jump in first and the other youth follow quickly after him. There were many cannon balls made from the diving board with a few belly flops as well. We even had chicken fights between the Groover brothers and the Hammons brothers. After some time in the pool the youth and parents enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixing cooked by Gary Keller. Then they went back into the pool to relax on floats. A few youth may have been "dumped" off their float. A good time was had by both youth and parents. Those in attendance were Murray and Elisa Zelnick with the sons Andrew and Joseph Hammons, Debbie Faulkenberry with Erin and AJ Galope, David and Johanna Cartwright, Jana Davis, Shane McBride, and the Groovers - Gail, Frank, Marguerite, and Robby.

Calendar of Events for September

Dates to Remember for September



Monday, September 5, Labor Day, Church Office Closed
 Saturday, September 10, 10:00 a.m. Safety Team Meeting
 Sunday, September 11, 8:00 a.m. United Methodist Men Breakfast
 Youth Swim at Lamb's House
 Wednesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. Youth Gaga Ball with Cheatham (Here)
 Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. Crafting with Christ
 Sunday, September 18, 11:15 a.m. Administrative Council Meeting
 Sunday, September 25, 6:30 p.m. Church Conference Meeting

Happy Birthday!

Sandra Smith	9/1	Mike Lang	9/19
Robert Greenwald	9/3	Brody Fritchman	9/21
Don Hollister	9/6	Danny Brown	9/23
Damon Davis	9/14	Karl Lybrand	9/23
Bret Wortham	9/14	Natalie Sue Hullum	9/23
Kerin Wortham	9/14	Tim Goodson	9/24
Shane McBride	9/15	Johnny Bates	9/24
Mackenzie Roberts	9/16	Eliot Nychka	9/26
Will Dennis	9/17	Luke Rowland	9/27
		Patsy Aulich	9/27

Our Presence and Our Gifts

	<u>May 29</u>	<u>June 5</u>	<u>June 12</u>	<u>June 19</u>	<u>June 26</u>
Worship	102	95	71	79	79
Giving	\$1,957.00	\$6,864.16	\$2,728.00	\$5,352.00	\$5,167.00
	<u>July 3</u>	<u>July 10</u>	<u>July 17</u>	<u>July 24</u>	<u>July 31</u>
Worship	103	82	103	83	92
Giving	\$4,375.00	\$7,537.00	\$4,741.00	\$6,535.00	\$4,689.00
	<u>Aug 7</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Aug 21</u>	<u>Aug 28</u>	
Worship	100	80	96	101	
Giving	\$22,573.00	\$3,402.00	\$4,150.00	\$3,579.00	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Rummage Sale There will be a rummage sale to raise funds for Bread for the Hungry on Saturday, September 17, 7am-1pm at 101 S Wills St. If you have any questions, contact Mary Keller at 214-546-8786.</p>				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	5 Labor Day Church Office Closed	6	7 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	8	9	10 9:00 am UMW Meeting, Deen Building 10:00 am Safety Team
11 8:00 am UMM Meeting 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Youth Swim at the Lamb's House	12 5:00pm Day School 6:00pm Finance Meeting	13	14 6:00pm Youth Gaga Ball with Cheatham at RMUMC 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	15	16	17 9:00 am Crafting with Christ (in George Hall) 7am-1pm Rummage Sale for Bread for the Hungry 101 S Wills St
18 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15am Admin Council Meeting	19	20	21 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 6:30pm Church Conference	26	27	28 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	29	30	

The Knitwhits

What began as a few friends needing to see each other during COVID-19 has blossomed into a lovely group that meets weekly. We have people that knit. We have people that draw/doodle. There are those that crochet and those that sit, talk and enjoy the fellowship. No matter the weather, you can generally find us close to the front door of the Deen Building in our chairs laughing with each other. Sounds fun? Of course it does! Want to join in the fun? We are now meeting Fridays @9am. Bring your chair & project (or just yourself) and enjoy the fellowship.

Tributes for Prater

From the family of Prater Monning:

Thank you for reaching out to ask about Prater. As his health continues to decline, in-person visits are becoming increasingly difficult. His diagnosis of spontaneous Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease is heartbreaking and the best thing we can do for him is to make him as comfortable as possible. Good memories of happy times, cheerful words of love, and even a funny story are helpful, and that's where you come in! We are asking you to use this opportunity to record a short, upbeat video for Prater. Please remember to keep your video positive and light. Thank you for your help and love. Use this website to leave your message for Prater and his family. <https://www.tribute.co/prater-monning/>



We have a couple of addresses for you all to update:

Judy Powers
Twin Rivers Assisted Living and Memory Care
1720 N Plano Rd Rm 13
Richardson, TX 75081

Judith Hollister
Cambridge Court
609 Matador Ln Cottage 200
Mesquite, TX 75149
I am sure they would love to here from each of you!



There will be a called session of the Russell Memorial UMC Church Conference on Sunday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. The conference will be held in the sanctuary. The purpose of the conference will be to consider and vote on a resolution for disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church.

Remember in Prayer:

Family of Terry McDermott
Family of "Tank" Williams, Jr
Family of Josh Loveless
Family of Bob Nicklassin
Family of Anson Jamison
Family of Shirley Flowers
Family of Jackson Adams
Art Galope, Jr
Alice Kolb
Andy Anderson
Angie Smith
Barbara Grimes Petty
Betty Manning
Billie Cade
Bobbi Smith
Carl Fulton
Carol Groves
Chad Ash
Cheryl Bradley
Cheryl Shaw

College Students
Crestwood Nursing &
Assisted Living
Darin Richardson
David Cartwright (not Pastor
Dave)
Dianna Perry
Eric Johns
Evan Mayone
Harrison Mayone
Helen Lawrence
Hunter Haney
Isaac Bullard
Jan Moore
Jared McDonald
Jeff D'Amico
Jim Freeman
Jim & Sandra Smith
Joe Madden
John Buffington
Judy Powers
Katie McDonald

Kay & Benny Mitchell
Karl & Keeta Lybrand
Laura Bates
Linda Greenwald
Lyn Haney
Marigrace & Mike Lang
Margie Evers
Mark Brown
Marty Mitchell
Mary Bullard
Maxine Page
Mike Tolin
Prater Monning
Richard Anderson
Richard Briley
RMUMC Staff
Robert Butts
Robert Greenwald
Students, Teachers, & Admin
Sunday School & Church
Travis Deen
Virginia Cockerham



RMUMC wants to thank everyone involved in David's successful birthday event. We want to give a big shout out to Barbara Lamb for coordinating the event, Nancy McDonald for the delicious chocolate cake, Carolyn Hawkins, Kerin Wortham, Barbara Lamb, and Debbie Faulkenbury for the cookies. We need to thank Robert Greenwald for helping, and I mean HELPING with the decorations. Everyone had a great time and it was a privilege to honor David on his 60th birthday.
Linda Greenwald

To my Church Family,
I want to thank you all for a great 9 years. It was truly an honor to be youth director. I have experienced God's love from the kids and parents and it got me through the hardest time of my life. I hope in some way I helped the youth to grow and follow in a Christian way. May the future be brighter than ever.

With Love,
Jerry Huff

Church Congregation,
Thank you so much for the graduation gift. I love it all. The blanket is great for curling up with.
Again, thank you!
Love,
Claira Huff

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Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor
John Ross, Minister of Music
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist
Kelli Huff, K6 Kids Coordinator

Join us Sunday Morning!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED