

the faith journal

Arlington Heights United Methodist Church

www.ahumcfw.org

October 2015



Lord's
Acre

Saturday, October 17
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

With the kids back in school, football season underway, and the Pumpkin Patch in full swing, we know that Fall is here! And AHUMC celebrates fall each year with Lord's Acre.

What is Lord's Acre?

Lord's Acre is an opportunity for our church family to come together for a great day of fun and to raise money for missions, Trustees Designated Funds, and the church budget.

We are looking forward to a great day of fellowship with our friends and family of AHUMC and our neighboring community!

Lord's Acre Schedule

This year's Lord's Acre will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, October 17. At 9 a.m., the Blessing Country Store and Silent Auction will open. The Blessing Country Store will feature hand-crafted items, art, baked goods, canned and pickled foods, jellies, sweets, holiday items.

Fantastic items will be up for bid in the Silent Auction, including gift baskets, home decor, collectibles, and handmade projects.

There will be a live auction under the tent at 12:30 p.m. Great items will be available here, including quilts, paintings, group dinners, and many other exciting things.

Children's activities, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., will include an obstacle course,

face painting, and games. The food booth, featuring brisket sandwiches and hot dogs, will open at 10:30 a.m.

How can you help?

Like our pledge to the church, you can support Lord's Acre through your prayers, your presence (plan to attend), your gifts (donations of crafts, food, and auction items make this day a success), your service (volunteers are needed to serve in all areas), and your witness (invite anyone and everyone to come to Lord's Acre).

For more information, please contact Tommy and Gale Boyd, 817.296.5629.

Don't miss this great day of fun, family, and fellowship!



**Sign up for a
small group study of
The Divine Conspiracy
in the Atrium!**

see page 3 for details



Vision

*A message from Rev. Mary Spradlin,
Senior Pastor*

*Where there is no vision;
the people perish.*

— Proverbs 29:18

The word “vision” is an important one in the Old Testament. It speaks, not so much of a specific prophecy; but of the way things should be, or the way things will be if the people follow God’s will. Leaders like Moses have a vision that they hold in front of the people: although things do not look this way now, this is the way they could be if we follow our God. In times of extreme stress and strain, the Bible notes that the people have no vision. As the story goes, this lack of vision eventually led God’s people into exile.

When we speak today in the church about vision, we still speak in terms of what God wants for us. And this is very humbling. While we can come up with any number of things we think we should be doing, “vision” requires us to discern the things that God is calling us to do.

What is God’s vision for AHUMC?
We have asked this question often in

the four years I have been here. And I think that the fact that we keep asking this question is pleasing to God. Asking this question led us to discern four core values for our church: Sincere Welcome, Relevant Worship, Purposeful Spiritual Growth, and Passionate Service.

Guided by these values, we have accomplished some significant things in the past few years, including: remodeling our Parlor and Fellowship Hall, purchasing a large format printer, creating the Third Space service, introducing *The Jesus Project*, and starting a Food Truck Ministry. We believe these acts of ministry help us live into our mission: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

What is God calling us into now? Last month, I proposed two clear goals for 2016 to the Discipleship Council. First, that we increase our Sunday morning worship attendance by an average of 30 people each week. This number may not seem very large; however, if we can accomplish (or exceed) this goal by the last quarter of 2016, I believe we will be on track to continue to increase this number. Our second goal is to triple the number of youth who are participating at least monthly in our youth ministries. This number seems large. However, I believe we will need to “go big” on this goal to make the kind of impact that will help us have continued growth in this critical ministry of our congregation.

Why are these two goals important? Because these are two sure signs of growth and new/renewed life in our congregation. Worship is the heart of what we do as a church. It remains the entry point for most people who choose to become a part of this congregation, and it is our best expression of who we

are in relationship to our God. Our congregation has many, many things to offer youth. This is a place where our kids experience inter-generational fellowship, learn about their faith, and put into practice the core values of our congregation. There are many youth who are not here yet who could participate in life-giving ministries here, and I believe we should make every effort to extend God’s love to them.

Certainly, in the coming year, we will continue to offer ministries for children and adults of all ages. We will not stop doing what we already do so well. But we will intentionally make these two goals our most important focus for the year.

What will God do with the gifts/talents/efforts/time we contribute toward succeeding in these two goals? I invite you to prayerfully consider these questions. Talk about them in your family, your Sunday school class, your small group. What contribution can you make to helping us grow in these two areas? Who can you invite to church? Are you willing to prepare a meal for the youth? To pick up kids who can’t drive here themselves? How can we improve our hospitality and follow-up with visitors to worship and to youth? Certainly, the staff will be considering these questions. But I believe every member of this church has something to contribute toward these goals. What will your gift be?

I pray that we will end 2016 with a celebration of what God is able to do with the gifts that we have given.

God Bless,

Rev. Mary



Arlington Heights
United Methodist Church

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(817) 737-3161 • www.ahumcfw.org

Detailed information about church events:

www.ahumcfw.org

Click on “Things to Know” at the top of the homepage



/ahumc



/AHUMCFW

Protecting Our Children and Volunteers

Our church has long participated in Safe Sanctuaries, a ministry plan that requires training and background checks for all who work with children and youth in our congregation.

Recently the Central Texas Conference has standardized the training (now called Ministry Safe) that all CTC churches provide.

All of our volunteers are now required to complete six phases of Ministry Safe in order to work with our children and youth: 1) Watch training videos (about 45 minutes) and take a brief quiz to receive a certificate of completion; 2) Complete a background check; 3) Complete an information form; 4) Provide three references; 5) Participate in an interview with a lay or staff member of the church; 6) receive and sign that they have read a copy of the AHUMC Ministry Safe Policy.

We are currently working to implement this new requirement with all who are engaged in



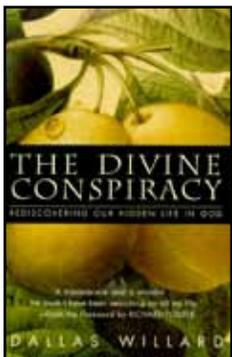
ministries with our children, youth and vulnerable adults, and it is recommended that every church member participate. First contacts are being made directly to individuals via email. The first requirement is to watch the videos, and this needs to be completed immediately by all who teach Sunday School or volunteer with our children and youth. (If you have not yet received a link to watch the Ministry Safe video, please contact the church office to request this link.)

Some will ask why all of this is necessary. The short answer is that we want to ensure that we are providing the safest environment possible for our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. This means not only that no harm will come

to them while they are in our care, but that our members can spot the signs of abuse that may be occurring outside our church walls and help a vulnerable person receive the care they need. Finally, these policies are designed to make our caring volunteers less vulnerable to false allegations regarding abuse.

If you already have a background check on file, we will not be renewing that at this time. However, all will need to receive a new video certificate, as this is required every two years. The information sheet and interview are new requirements, and this information is being sent to individuals via email, as well.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate and for your patience as we navigate this new system.



The Divine Conspiracy

Four Week
Small Group
Study

Join a study of *The Divine Conspiracy*. Groups will meet in homes and at AHUMC; day and evening groups are available. Groups begin meeting October 19–21.

Sign up Sundays in the Atrium.

About this book: *The Divine Conspiracy* has revolutionized how we think about discipleship. Using Jesus' Sermon of the Mount as his foundation, Willard masterfully explores life-changing ways to experience and be guided by God on a daily basis, resulting in a more authentic and dynamic faith.

Our Church Staff

Rev. Mary Spradlin | Senior Pastor

Dr. Jim Pledger | Associate Pastor of Stewardship, Church Development & Welcoming

Rev. Grant Palma | Associate Pastor of Congregational Care, Young Adult & Senior Adult Ministries

Rev. Allen Lutes | Associate Minister of Missions & Food Truck Ministry

Wendie Lunsford | Children's Director/ Assistant to the Senior Pastor

Dr. Steve Simons
Director of Chancel Choir

Frank Shroyer | Music Associate

Alan Kerr | Organist

Josh Ingram | Youth Director

Angela Hill | Financial Administrator

Tani Simons | Children's Choir Director

Anne Bloesser | Haupt Preschool Director

Gwen Patteson | Office Manager/ Administrative Assistant

Missy Matthews | Communications Director

Rick Trevino | Lead Building Steward

Paula Trevino | Building Steward

AHUMC Youth

For youth updates via text messaging, please enter phone numbers into Elexio. Elexio can be accessed through the church website ahumcfw.org. Please make sure your e-mail is also correct in Elexio so we can get you up to date youth group information.

SUNDAYS:

- Middle School: 4–5 p.m.
- Dinner: 5 p.m.
- Sr. High: 5–7 p.m.

UPCOMING:

Camp Out

Mineral Wells State Park
October 23–25
Stay tuned for more information!

First Sunday Funday: Bring a Friend!

Glow Sticks in the Park!
November 1, 5–7 p.m.

Overton Park, across from
Tanglewood Elementary
(3060 Overton Park Dr. 76109).
Meet at the playground.

Pumpkin Patch is Open!

Volunteers are needed to sell pumpkins. Volunteer through our website or at <http://vols.pt/gdsz3X>, or stop by the Atrium to sign up. This fund-raiser benefits youth ministries and requires an all-church effort!

FIVE & TWO

fiveandtwofoodtruck.com • ahumcfoodtruck.blogspot.com
facebook.com/FiveandTwoFoodTruck • twitter.com/fiveandtwotruck

Thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts and service to the Five & Two Food Truck Ministry. **In the first four months of this ministry, we have served more than 3,000 meals!**

God has blessed us tremendously with this ministry as we continue to “be the church” in our community.



Five & Two has served at many community events, such as Trinity Trek for WestAid on September 12.

Upcoming Events:

October 12, 5 p.m.: Dinner with the women and children of the Presbyterian Night Shelter (*Second Monday of each month*)

October 15, 5 p.m.: Dinner with homeless veterans at the Patriot House (one block north of Presbyterian Night Shelter) (*Third Thursday of each month*)

October 31: Thomas Place Halloween Carnival

Shop to Support Five & Two! Kroger Rewards Renewal

Support the Five & Two Food Truck Ministry – link your Kroger Rewards card to AHUMC. Kroger not only helps to subsidize our individual Food Truck Ministry outreaches, but gives back a portion of the money you spend there. Last quarter, AHUMC shoppers earned \$164.58 for the Five & Two!

Kroger Rewards Renewal:

If you have signed up for Kroger Plus Rewards to benefit the Five & Two Food Truck, you may have to renew!

Check the bottom of your receipt next time you go shopping to make sure your purchases are still benefitting the Five & Two.

Mission News

October Mission Collection

One of the greatest needs for our neighbors who are homeless is clean socks. Our friends at the Presbyterian Night Shelter need NEW socks for men and women. Please purchase a package of socks and bring your donation to the atrium in October.

Como Food Pantry: October 16

Join us the third Friday of each month as we distribute food to hundreds of our neighbors in need of healthy food for their families. All ages are welcome for this fun mission opportunity. Meet at 8:30 a.m. October 16 at the Como Community Center, 4900 Horne. For information, contact Rev. Allen Lutes, alutes@ahumc.com.

Union Gospel Mission

Every third Saturday, members of AHUMC assist in feeding people who are homeless at Union Gospel Mission. Meet at the Mission at 4 p.m. Saturday, October 17; serving will be completed by 7:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. For more information, contact Rev. Allen Lutes, alutes@ahumc.com.

Feeding Children Everywhere Hunger Event: January 17

We have collected nearly half of our goal of \$5,000 for this event! Please continue to bring in your loose change and donations, and plan to join us this day as we pack healthy food packets for hungry children everywhere.

Grief as Narrative

Presented by Grief Therapist
Dr. Patrick O'Malley

All Saint's Day: November 1, 5:30 p.m.



Grief is the product of a deep love — for life without love is empty and hopeless. We grieve as a communal body of all ages, genders and ethnicities when events such as the 9-11 attack on our nation, national disasters, and violent crimes occur. We grieve the loss of a beloved, whether a four-legged friend, spouse, friend, or family member.

There is no standard method of dealing with grief and we each must find our own way. However, a deeper understanding and guidance in grief recovery is critical.

On Sunday, November 1, Arlington Heights United Methodist Church will offer *Grief as Narrative*, presented by Dr. Patrick O'Malley. A meal will be served starting at 5:30 p.m. All are cordially invited to join our congregation as Dr. O'Malley leads the discussion on grief and living beyond grief. Please call the church office, 817.737.3161, to make reservations. There is no charge for the meal.



Celebrate Life at any age!

Building and exploring our community through fellowship while meeting new people. RSVP in Sunday School, at the Welcome Desk, or call church office.

Lunch and Birthday Bash: October 14, noon–2 p.m. You're invited to light lunch and dessert! Cost: by donation. Celebrate October birthdays and joys! After lunch, those who can stay will play games.

Adventure! Thursday, October 22, 11:30 a.m.–4 p.m. We'll head to Dallas to see *Autumn at the Arboretum*. \$12 for 65+, \$15 for Adults; lunch on your own.

Game Night for all ages: October 22, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Come play Dominoes, Mexican Train, Chicken Foot, Bridge, Scrabble, Rummikub, Trivia, or any other card or board games.

Thank you to all who supported the recent blood drive.

Carter BloodCare collected 17 units of blood, which can save up to 51 lives! Blood supply gets critically low in the summer months, so Carter sent a special word of appreciation for our contribution. Our next blood drive will be Sunday, January 31.



Trunk or Treat

5 p.m. • Sunday, Oct. 25!

MUSIC • GAMES • CANDY • FUN!

FOOD! Five & Two will serve Hot Dogs & Chili
(donations accepted for UMW Missions)

FABULOUS PRIZES for Decorated Trunks:
Best Group Theme • Best Movie Theme •
Most Creative Trunk • Pastor's Award for Group /
Class with the Most Trunks • Most Creative Use of
Children in Trunk Design
Contact ahumc@ahumc.com
to register your trunk

**Can't host a trunk,
but want to help?**
Candy donations will
be accepted in the
Atrium on
October 18.



News Briefs

Journeymen Bible study for men meets first and third Sundays at 5:30 p.m. at Thurber Mingus, 4400 White Settlement Rd, Fort Worth, 76114. Journeymen is a men's group focused on fellowship and service. The group meets twice a month for a Bible study. We also work on service projects with a variety of the church's ministries, such as the Five and Two food truck. In addition we work with outside groups such as Project 44 to provide our service where it is needed throughout the community. Journeymen is a great way to build a support network within the church and make an impact outside of the church. For information, contact Rev. Grant Palma, gpalma@ahumc.com.

Men's Prayer Breakfast meets at 7 a.m. Mondays at Ol' South Pancake House, 1509 S University Dr.

Gentle Yoga and Devotional Time: 9 a.m. Tuesdays in room 354. Suggested donation of \$5 weekly.

Children's and Junior Choirs rehearse Sundays: Children's Choir meets at 4 p.m. Junior Choir will have snack dinner at 5 p.m. (\$3), then rehearse 5:30-7 p.m. Contact Tani Simons, tsimons@bisdmail.net.

Online giving is available through Elexio. Use your phone app or visit www.ahumcfw.org to make a one-time or recurring contribution. You may also contact Angela Hill, ahill@ahumc.com.