

the faith journal

Arlington Heights United Methodist Church

www.ahumcfw.org

July 2015



What is our mission as a church?

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

What is our mission as a church? What is God calling us into? How can we best serve our God? These questions are continually before us all as we seek God's will for AHUMC.

Our mission is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We seek to do this by living out our Core Values: Sincere Welcome, Relevant Worship, Intentional Faith Development, and Passionate Service. This year, the Discipleship Council is engaged in an intentional effort to evaluate the ministries of the congregation by asking, "Do these ministries align with the mission of our congregation?"

Our process for evaluation is: 1) leaders of the ministry fill out an evaluation form (click here for a copy); 2) leaders of the ministry present their evaluation to the Discipleship Council, along with a recommendation to "continue as is," "continue with changes," or "discontinue" the ministry; 3) the Discipleship Council votes on the recommendation and takes action accordingly.

Recently, the Discipleship Council met to hear presentations from three ministries, and made the following decisions:

- Continue our ministry with Jo Kelly School, with changes. In the coming year, leaders will seek to broaden awareness of this ministry, to involve more volunteers, and to find more ways to be in ministry with the school.

- Suspend the Room in the Inn ministry for 12 months, then assess our future involvement. It was noted that congregational participation in this

ministry has decreased and the leadership base is thin. It was also noted that the Five & Two Food Truck ministry allows us new opportunities to minister to the homeless population in Fort Worth.

- Discontinue La Posada. While this is a cherished tradition of our congregation, it was noted that: this event is not truly a "La Posada," cold weather has limited participation in recent years, there is no lay leadership in place to carry this event forward.

In the four years that I have been privileged to serve as your pastor, our congregation has added many new ministry opportunities, including small groups (i.e. Journeymen, M&Ms, and Horizon Seekers SS), service opportunities (i.e. Jo's Love, Pack A Sack, Dish Out, Project 44 Farm, Five & Two Food Truck, Messy Mission Makers, and Como Mobile Food Pantry), and congregational-wide ministries (i.e. Stephen Ministry, Celebrate Life!). We have felt led to modify some ministries (i.e. move Easter Egg Hunt to Thomas Place and offer Music and Arts Camp in place of VBS). And we have stopped doing some things (i.e. cookies after worship and Heights Nights). Other events have come and gone, or perhaps followed a different format over the years (i.e. Summer Reading Camp and Advent Celebration).

Even in such a brief period of time, it is clear that our ministry is ever-changing. Change can be exciting and inspiring; it can also be hard. Many ministries are good, but not all ministries are good for AHUMC right now. It is humbling to engage in sincere discernment of what God would have us do, but the Discipleship Council is committed to being faithful to this task. I ask for prayers from all members of the congregation as we work together to seek God's will for our future and align the ministries of our congregation with this vision.

God Bless,

Rev. Mary

Is Stephen Ministry the place where God is calling you to serve?

This time two years ago, the newly expanded Stephen Ministry Leadership Team was working diligently to recruit and train Stephen Ministers. We now have four Stephen Leaders and 13 trained Stephen Ministers. Each of the Stephen Ministers has been matched with one or more care receivers or is actively involved in a related project.

Both care receivers and caregivers report the presence of God's hand in the special relationships formed through Stephen Ministry. As we walk beside those who need our support, we have learned of other needs and new projects to care for God's people have resulted. For

example, AHUMC, led by a Stephen Minister, is developing a project to acknowledge and care for those who are grieving.

One of the things that Stephen Leadership training emphasized is the transformation that comes to congregations with active Stephen Ministries. We can see this happening at AHUMC as we each become more aware of the need to be the hands and feet of Christ, caring for His people through His people.

Stephen Ministry is a two year, renewable commitment. As we near the end of our second year, we are planning for our next class. All it



STEPHEN MINISTRY

takes to be a Stephen Minister is an open heart and a listening ear.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, would like more information, or would like to refer someone/yourself for the support of a Stephen Minister, please contact Betty Nethery (ecnethery@hotmail.com), Jane Melms (janemelms@gmail.com) or the church office (817.737.3161).

How to "Get the Word Out" at AHUMC

There are a lot of wonderful things happening at AHUMC, and we want everyone to be "in the know." The Discipleship Council recently approved a Communications Strategy for AHUMC, which you can read here. If you have an event to publicize, please be aware of the following deadlines:

- Bulletin Announcements: Monday (Missy Matthews)
- Fliers & Poster Design: Four Work Days in Advance (Missy Matthews)
- Poster Printing: Seven Days in Advance (Wendie Lunsford)
- Copies for Sunday: Wednesday (Wendie Lunsford)
- Newsletter: 20th of the Month (Missy Matthews)
- Table in the Atrium: Wednesday (Wendie Lunsford)

Missy Matthews,
Communications Director
news@ahumc.com
817.488.1168.

Wendie Lunsford
Assistant to the Sr. Pastor and
Children's Director
wendie.lunsford@gmail.com
817.891.5290.

Group leaders can also be given access to email and text their group members through Elexio. Contact Wendie Lunsford for information.



Arlington Heights
United Methodist Church

4200 Camp Bowie Blvd. • Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 737-3161 • www.ahumcfw.org

Detailed information about church events:

www.ahumcfw.org

Click on "Calendar" at the top of the homepage



/ahumc



/AHUMCFW

Ministry Staff:

Rev. Mary Spradlin | Senior Minister

Rev. Grant Palma | Associate Minister

Rev. Jim Pledger | Associate Minister

Rev. Allen Lutes | Associate Minister • Josh Ingram | Youth Director

Anne Bloesser | Haupt Preschool Director

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

Dr. Steve Simons | Chancel Choir Director

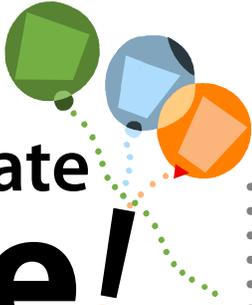
Tani Simons | Children's Choir Director

Frank Shroyer | Music Associate

Angela Hill | Finance Administrator

Gwen Patteson | Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

Missy Matthews | Communications Coordinator



Celebrate Life!

At Any Age!

Building and exploring our community through fellowship while meeting new people.



Christmas in July!

Sponsored by United Methodist Women

Lunch & Birthday Bash

Wednesday, July 8 • Noon
Atrium • Cost: By donation

You're invited to light lunch and dessert! Celebrate July birthdays and joys!

Adventure!

Beth-El Congregation Tour
Monday, July 20, 9:30 a.m.

This will be a very educational docent-led tour of Fort Worth's Beth-El Synagogue. The AHUMC bus will leave at 9:30 a.m. Cost: FREE. After the tour, those who are interested can go to lunch.

Family Game Night

Thursday, July 23
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall • Cost: FREE
(4th Thursday of each month)

Bring a snack to share!

Adventure!

Look Up

Sunday, August 2, 1:15 p.m.

On August 2, we will see a Kids Who Care performance of *Look Up*. Pay for your ticket (\$10) at the Welcome Center to reserve a spot.

Lunch & Birthday Bash

Wednesday, August 12 • Noon
Atrium • Cost: By donation

Celebrate August birthdays and joys! We might have a Dog Day surprise!

Family Game Night

Thursday, August 27
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall • Cost: FREE
(4th Thursday of each month)

Bring a snack to share!

This year marks the 60th anniversary for the North District United Methodist Women to sponsor a benefit for the United Community Centers: Poly, Wesley, and Bethlehem Centers. Summers at the centers are busy, with additional programming and services to children and their families. Child care is provided for 200 or more children every day, which includes three meals and two snacks, educational enrichment programs and field trips to community attractions such as museums, performing arts centers, and libraries. The children also have opportunities to experience VBS and a day camping experience. But during these busy months, financial support for the centers tends to slow down. Contributions from United Methodist Women make a great difference in fulfilling needs.

On July 12, Arlington Heights UMW will collect items for the United Community Centers.

Many types of "Christmas" gifts are needed, including:

- school supplies
- paper goods
- pantry staples (canned goods and other nonperishable foods)
- personal hygiene items
- hand sanitizer
- laundry supplies
- school uniform tops and bottoms (K-5th grade, new or very gently used)
- disposable diapers (all sizes), baby food and toiletries
- socks and underwear for children and youth (boys and girls)

Cash donations are also welcome (make checks to NDUMW, memo: "Christmas in July").



July 12: Youth Mission

Trip Wrap-Up: At the 10:50 a.m. service, our youth will share the witness to the faith as lived out in their Summer Mission Trips.

July 19: Wesley Sunday:

Join our “living history” project, as we learn first-hand about the history of The People Called Methodists! John and Susanna Wesley will make an appearance to help us better understand the roots of our Methodist heritage.

August 9: Strong Families

Sunday: Our focus on strong families will include a special presentation from Strong Fathers/Strong Families during the Sunday school hour. *Details on page 5.*

August 16: Sending Forth:

A special day to honor our graduating Seniors and send forth those who are returning to college.

August 23: Blessing of the

Backpacks: As a new school year begins, we will affirm that God’s love, and the love of this congregation, is with us wherever we go.



What an incredible few weeks for the Five & Two Food Truck Ministry! We officially dedicated the truck after worship on June 7 and had a fantastic time together in fellowship.

We followed up with the Mayfest Wrap Party and a teacher appreciation meal for Jo Kelly School. Our partnership with the Presbyterian Night Shelter began the third week of June as we served a delicious BBQ meal to homeless veterans at the Patriot House.

“Serving at the Patriot House was a new experience for me. I really enjoyed meeting the veterans and sharing a meal together. I look forward to going back and building a relationship with these new friends. It was impressive to hear their stories of where they have been and where they hope to go from here. I always feel blessed by those

Update



that I go to serve,” said Ginny Butterfield.

We were invited to provide food to the VBS families at Broadway Baptist Church and in addition to sharing our ministry with them, were able to collect more than \$400 in donations from the event.

July will be a busy month as we add a fellowship meal with women and children at Presbyterian Night Shelter, and we hope to become a regular presence at the Thistle Hill Food Truck Park in the hospital district.

God is moving and working in our congregation and our community, and we are blessed to be able to answer God’s call with the Five & Two Ministry!

Opportunities for Service

Second Mondays: Women and Children’s unit at Presbyterian Night Shelter (July 13)

Third Thursdays: Patriot House for Homeless Veterans (July 16)

Food handlers and non-food handlers are encouraged to participate; contact Rev. Allen Lutes for information.

Shop to Support Five & Two!

Keep Shopping at Kroger! By linking your Kroger Rewards card to AHUMC, you help support the Five & Two Food Truck Ministry. Kroger not only helps to subsidize our individual Food Truck Ministry outreaches, but gives back a portion of the money you spend there. In June, AHUMC received our first check from the program for \$177!

Keep updated on the Five & Two:

fiveandtwofoodtruck.com

ahumcfoodtruck.blogspot.com

Family is the heART of Arlington Heights!

Why the focus on heART? Look at a Fort Worth map and notice where Arlington Heights UMC is located. You'll find us in the heart of the Cultural Arts District. Let's share our heART and create opportunities to invite friends to our church and neighborhood!

August 9: Strong Families Sunday

On August 9, AHUMC will focus on strong families with a special presentation from Strong Fathers / Strong Families during the Sunday School hour.



J. Michael Hall will meet with children and families for an interactive Bible story lesson at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Mr. Hall will also be our guest speaker at 10:50 a.m. to encourage and inspire us as a faithful community to work, support and love children and their families in our very busy lives. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, caregiver or neighbor who knows a child, please plan to attend this special day.

Mr. Hall will continue share his engaging activities at a lunch following worship – you won't want to miss it. We will conclude by 2:30 p.m. (Continuing Education Units will be offered to those who work with children.)

J. Michael Hall has been a special education teacher and is a "recovering" middle school principal. As an educator and founder of Strong Fathers / Strong Families (strongfathers.com), he has presented to more than 100,000 parents at local schools, Head Starts, and national conferences.



July 26–30 (Sunday–Thursday)

Cost: \$40;

Register online
by July 12

Open to all kids
entering grades 1–6!
Space is limited!

This week is designed to embrace our neighborhood. We will work with other churches and groups to learn more about the cultural arts district, our gifts and talents, and how our faith in God leads us to serve our community. Through music and art we will share the talents that God has given us. In the end we will sing, share an instrumental experience and with our art, touch the global issue of hunger by showing and selling our summer projects.

Music & heARTS Camp will create a unique opportunity for children to sample different areas of the fine arts! Space is limited but, as always, you are encouraged to bring a friend!

Sunday: "Get to know you" Time, 2-4 p.m.

Monday–Wednesday: Learn about musical instruments and work on music, drama and art projects. 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m. *Bring a sack lunch!*

Wednesday night: Families can experience and support our new Five & Two food truck ministry at 6 p.m., then share the amazing works they have created at 7 p.m.

Thursday: The fun doesn't end there! We will ride the city bus for a mission field trip to see our neighborhood and share our week.



Eric Bourassa of Ridglea School of Music will lead older students in five-piece bands (guitar, drums, bass, keys, voice).

Christen Rians, music and drama teacher at Holy Family Catholic School, will share her talents with students.





Updates on our new membership database:

Remote Check-In for Children: Parents: Thank you so much for making our transition to Elexio children's check-in so smooth.

To help make check-in even easier, you can use the My Church smartphone app to check in your entire family on Sunday mornings — even before you arrive at church.

After checking everyone in, you will receive a QR code on your phone. When you arrive at church, wave your QR code under the scanner in the Atrium and your children's nametags and security tags will automatically print out — no need to touch the computer!

(Please note: the scanner is only available in the Atrium.)

Check-In For Adults: Our new membership database, Elexio, has already provided significant benefits to our church, especially in our ability to communicate and to track attendance.

If you have not yet registered your account, you are encouraged to go to www.ahumcfw.org, click on "Elexio" on the home page, and follow directions to "Create an Account."

Please call the church office or email ahumc@ahumc.com if you have any difficulties.

Our families have begun using Elexio check-in for children's ministries, and this is going very well.

Adults are also invited to check-in your attendance!

You can do this two ways:

1) Sunday morning, visit the Check-in Station in the Atrium to check-in your attendance for worship and Sunday school. (Please note: you are not able to check in to events that have already ended).

2) Any time, you can check in using the *My Church* mobile app. Download the *My Church by Elexio* app on your smartphone and log in using your account information. When you attend ANY church event, you can register your attendance using the check-in feature on the app. (Group leaders can be given the ability to check in their entire group attendance: please contact the church office for more information.)

News Briefs

The UMC and Human Sexuality discussion will be led by Rev. Mary Spradlin on Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. What do the UMC Social Principles say, and what changes may be ahead for our denomination? No registration required.

Please bring empty plastic drink bottles to the Atrium — they are needed for Children's Sunday School.

Water Bottles Needed: During the heat of the summer, one of the most valuable resources for the homeless is fresh water. The Day Resource Center needs bottled water to keep their clients hydrated this summer. Please bring your donations to the Atrium during July.

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

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

Journeymen Bible study for men meets first and third Sundays at 5:30 p.m. at the T&P Tavern in Fort Worth, 221 W. Lancaster Avenue. For information, contact Rev. Grant Palma, gpalma@ahumc.com.

Companions in Christ spiritual formation group meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays in the Library (contact Catherine Chaumont, cchaumont@flash.net) or 10 a.m. Wednesdays in Room 205 (contact Rev. Allen Lutes, alutes@ahumc.com).

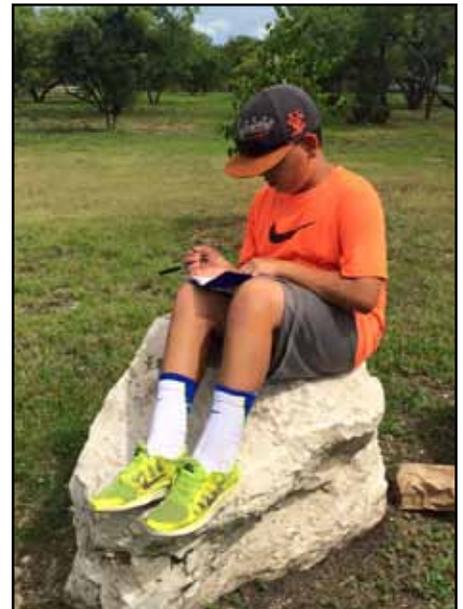
Traveling this summer? Online giving is available through Elexio. Use your phone app or visit www.ahumcfw.org to access the web portal to make a one-time or recurring contribution. You may also contact Angela Hill, ahill@ahumc.com.

Bishop's Bible Camp: All adults are invited to attend a special study on the Book of Romans with Bishop Mike Lowry on Saturday, September 19, at Glen Lake Camp. Take some time apart to focus on a world in pain and God's deep love — still at work today — to reconcile the world. Cost is \$10 (includes lunch and study guide).

HEIGHTSights



In June, our high school youth and their adult sponsors served in mission in Lake Charles, La. In July, 18 Middle School youth and 8 adults worked in mission for a week, building wheelchair ramps in San Antonio.



◀ Art with a heart for mission! Ann Marie Hemminger lead a birdhouse painting workshop in June. Participants each created two bird houses — one to take, and one to donate to Lord's Acre.

▶ AHUMC celebrated Homecoming Sunday on June 14. After a western-themed worship, finger-licking good BBQ, courtesy of AHUMC's Smoking Section was served. Special music was provided by Miss Devon and the Outlaw!

