

the faith journal

Arlington Heights United Methodist Church

www.ahumcfw.org

June/July 2015



AHUMC Launches Street Food Ministry with Five & Two Food Truck

What an amazing start to this exciting new ministry! We originally planned to launch this ministry in June, with one test run in April at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. God had other plans! In April and May, we served more than 1,600 people at four events. Some of the highlights were:

- Breakfast tacos at the Komen Race
- Lunch for FWISD special needs students and teachers at Mayfest
- Serving hundreds of "Feeding Children Everywhere" volunteers who packed more than 300,000 meals to be sent to Fort Worth, Mexico and Africa as part of Mayor Betsy Price's Fort Worth Hunger Project

- Breakfast tacos to volunteers and clients at the Como Food Pantry
- Teacher Appreciation Week Goody bags for teachers at North High Mount Elementary
- Serving our homeless neighbors at the Day Resource Center

We have done much more than just serving food, however. We have formed new friendships, handed out Bibles and shared the love of Jesus Christ all over the city of Fort Worth ... all before the official dedication of the Five & Two truck on June 7!

Upcoming opportunities to be involved in the Food Truck Ministry include serving monthly meals at the Patriot House (for homeless veterans) and at the Women and Children's Unit of Presbyterian Night Shelter. We will also provide lunch for the teachers at Jo Kelly School on the day of their prom.

We are still planning slow cooker classes for those on food assistance and are working with the Tarrant Area Food Bank to find where we can do the most good in our community.

God has blessed, and continues to bless this wonderfully unique ministry, and for that we are thankful. Find out more at fiveandtwofoodtruck.com and ahumcfoodtruck.blogspot.com. or contact Rev. Allen Lutes, alutes@ahumc.com.



June 7 Dedication



North Hi Mount Goody Bags



Como Food Pantry



A message from Rev. Mary Spradlin, Senior Pastor

Pray • Seek • Turn

"If my people who belong to me will humbly pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

— 2 Chronicles 7:14

This scripture provided a recurring theme for Annual Conference 2015, which was attended by our clergy along with lay members Tom and Betty Nethery and Tommy Elliott. Notice the verbs: God calls the people to pray, seek God, and turn from things that are not God's will; God promises to hear, to forgive, and to heal. Not a bad deal.

Along with providing the assurance that God does hear our prayers and desires to be in good relationship with us, this verse gives a reminder that God has expectations of us, too. Sometimes, we are guilty of embracing the promises that God provides without considering what

God requires of us in the bargain. God desires our prayers; God desires that we seek God's will; and God desires that we turn from paths that are not aligned with God's will.

It is good to contemplate this verse as it applies both to our individual lives, and to the life of our church.

Over and over again at Conference, we were reminded that prayer is essential, that discernment is an ongoing process, and that in the midst of all of the many "moving pieces" of congregational life, we are called, above all, to be faithful to God's will.

Rev. Jim Pledger, Rev. Grant Palma, Rev. Allen Lutes and myself are honored to be appointed for another year as we join you in prayer, in ministry, and in faithful action in God's Kingdom.

God Bless,

Rev. Mary Spradlin, Senior Pastor

Summer Giving Options

There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is on the move at AHUMC! I have heard many members comment on the sense of energy and expectation that they feel as they engage in the ministries of our congregation. However, our giving is not quite keeping pace with the momentum we are experiencing in ministry.

At the end of May (42% of the year), we have received contributions amounting to 37% of the budget. Consequently, it will help our budget greatly if we do not experience a "summer slump" in giving this year.

Our new database can help with this! Once you set up an account, you will be able to make a one-time or recurring contribution online using your checking account or credit card, either through the web portal or through your smartphone app. You can also check your giving record at any time.

You can also call the church office and speak with Angela Hill, Financial Administrator, to make a contribution or to request a correction to your statement. Angela can also be reached at ahill@ahumc.com.

Exciting things are happening at AHUMC! Thank you for your financial support, which makes these ministries possible.



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

Adventure! Money Makers

Tuesday, June 23

Meet at the church at 8:45 a.m.

We will tour the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Special guest artists will be in this week only to show and tell the security features of U.S. paper money. Bring \$5 for lunch. All ages are welcome!

Family Game Night

Thursday, June 25

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall • Cost: FREE (4th Thursday of each month)

Bring a snack to share!

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!

Lunch & Birthday Bash

Wednesday, August 12 • Noon

Atrium • Cost: By donation

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

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 very 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 Vacation Bible School 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 5 and 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").



Updates on our new membership database:

Online Directory Now Available: Members who have registered their Elexio account have access to an online church directory. For those who have not yet registered an account, please note that it may take a day or two for new accounts to access this feature.

Photo Booth: Come by our special photo area in the Atrium on June 21 to have individual and family photos taken for the Elexio church directory.

Scanner Available for Children's Check-in: Families who have installed the "My Church" app on their phone can check in family members before arriving. Wave the QR Code under the scanner in the Atrium and name tags will be printed — no need to touch the computer!

Forefathers Scholarships Available

The Methodist Men will accept applications for Forefathers Scholarships until June 25. The scholarships are open to any person in AHUMC who will be enrolled in an institution of higher education by Fall 2015.

Email an application letter to ahummen@yahoo.com, including need, academic achievements (a transcript is not necessary), extracurricular activities, professional & life goals, and ways the applicant has been involved as a member at AHUMC. Prior recipients may re-apply.

More news for children and their families!

Summer is a great time for family and friends to get together, have fun and worship God. We are offering many opportunities to share time together, learn about devotion to following Jesus' example and using our gifts and talents.

Please go to church website, www.ahumcfw.org, for complete list of workshops and adventures. Registration is appreciated to make sure supplies and transportation needs are met. All are invited. Children ages 5 and younger are welcome with an adult participating.

Summer Camp Sundays for Children

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. — Romans 12:10

This summer, elementary age children will meet for Camp Assembly time in the "Children's Choir Room" at 9:40 a.m. each Sunday. Our focus through June will be the Bible story of Five and Two. Each week children will rotate through a different station: art, science, drama and cooking. Great volunteers and leaders will share their talents to help children learn more about food, hospitality and helping the hungry in our neighborhood and around the world.

Offerings given at Summer Camp and Children's Time will go to Feeding Children Everywhere (feedingchildreneverywhere.com) for a community event in the fall.

O Come Let Us Sing Unto the Lord!

Dr. Steve Simons
Director of Chancel Choir

The people of God sing. From early times, Israel's formal worship — both in the tabernacle and the temple — always included singing. Hymn singing was practiced by Jesus and the disciples (as found in Matthew 26:30), and we at AHUMC continue to sing hymns of praise to God as a means of corporate worship each Sunday. Of all the musical instruments that may be employed in the praise of God, the human voice has priority and the congregation is always the primary choir in a Christian church.

I am proud of our church, which comes to sing hymns together each Sunday — and I hope the Chancel Choir assists this important, vital, and corporate

worship experience each week.

But I sometimes notice a lack of sound volume coming at times from the congregation as we sing hymns. I hear "I can't carry a tune in a bucket" or "you don't want to hear me sing" all of the time.

It saddens me to think that faithful church members are reluctant to sing out because of vocal insecurity. Please don't let this happen at AHUMC. If you are singing with joy in your heart, then you are pleasing the Almighty and doing right by His Holiness.

Let's turn a page at church this summer and vow to be stronger singers each Sunday as sing hymns to God.

As the psalmists say, let's "make a joyful noise unto the Lord," let us "come before his presence with singing"!

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!

Techno ART Workshop

Tuesday & Wednesday, July 7 & 8
10 a.m. to noon both days
Cost: \$5

I heART My Techno World! Mr. Dobbs and his amazing computer skills will help children make up questions and trivia for a "jeopardy" game to play at the Celebrate Life! lunch on July 8.

Music & heARTs Camp

Music & heARTs Camp will focus on working together through music, songs, instruments, drama and art. Christen Reis and Eric Brouassa will share their talents with students from around the community. Camp starts July 26; cost is \$40. **Registration is limited – do not wait!** Camp is open to children entering grades 1-6; youth can attend as helpers.

heART of Worship Club

"The heART of Worship" Club is open to all students who would like to sit together in worship at 10:50 a.m. service. We will meet at Children's Time and sit together with Wendie on a front pew.

Each week we will worship God together while learning, listening, participating and giving God our best during worship.

The Holy Spirit is Everywhere ... even at Dollar Tree!



Each Sunday children bring their offering to the front and place it in a Lego Block. The children had collected about \$150 since January. The focus we have talked about was a program through the Tarrant Area Food Bank that provides birthday party supplies for children who might not have never had a party.

The Holy Spirit showed up on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, when seven of our 4th and 5th graders went shopping with money collected during Children's Time.

Their job was to purchase birthday party supplies for children who might not otherwise get a party. Everyone had a great time picking out plates, party favors, cake mix, frosting and candles. We got in line and started checking out.

We were so excited with our purchases, when ... whooosh! Madge, who works at the Dollar General Store, overheard us talking. She asked the kids a few questions, and the next thing we knew, she wanted to donate some things to add to our project. She invited her co-workers and the children to go back to the shelves and pick out another \$100 worth of party fun!

We were all excited about sharing the Holy Spirit, the Love of God and being the hands of Christ to friends we don't even know. May we all open our eyes to the Holy Spirit that touches us each day. What a great lesson and opportunity to invite friends to share the gift of giving.

AHUMC Presents Personal Libraries to Fifth Graders

Linda Allen

For the third year, AHUMC has presented a “mini starter library” to each graduating 5th grader at our church’s parter school, North Hi Mount.

The 40 students each received a small wooden book shelf (hand-made by AHUMC volunteers) and a selection of about 20 books (donated by Half Price Books and an anonymous donor) to begin a personal library.

In the presentation of the book shelves, I thanked the school for allowing our church to be a part of the team that prepares these amazing students to be the citizens that will shape our world. I emphasized that reading will change their world and ours.

Tommy Elliott was again invited to offer commencement comments to the families and graduating students. Among other wise advice, he emphasized the importance of continuing to be a reader.

The families picking up their new bookshelves were incredibly grateful.

One mom was practically crying when she said, “I just cannot believe someone would do this for us!”.

More than 20 volunteers made these presentations possible by their loving efforts to build the shelves and stain them; collect, sort and package the books; and set up and distribute to the families on Friday morning. Thanks to each of you!

The funds to build the shelves (about \$25 each) come from United Methodist Men, Joint Venturers Sunday School Class, and other donors. The books are donated.

Anyone interested in assisting in this project next year should contact Linda Allen or Robbie Patton.



The bookshelves are ready to go to their new homes with graduating North Hi Mount fifth graders!



Students were excited to receive their own libraries.

Welcome to summer interns Addie Klemm and Jason Kocur. Addie is a student at Rhodes College in Memphis, and Jason attends Texas Tech University. They have called AHUMC their church home all of their lives, and are looking forward to learning about the workings of the church over the next few months.

