



# Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church

*Where Our Family Becomes Your Family*

August 2020  
Monthly Newsletter

[www.pleasantretreat.org](http://www.pleasantretreat.org)

417 CR 1143, Tyler, TX, 75704  
903-592-7183

## Richard's Faith Reflection....

*"Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'"* — Jeremiah 6:16 (NRSV)



When we stand at the crossroads of our disciple walk, we too often try to make a path of our own or choose the preferred popular path. Jeremiah reminds us that there is a traditional path that deserves consideration too, for in it is a "good way". What really strikes me is the fact that he suggests that walking in it...we find *REST FOR OUR SOULS*.

I grew up in the age of Texas Blue Laws and life usually stopped on Sunday except for church and family. If you had anything that needed doing....you did it BEFORE Sunday. Like it or not, Sunday was a sabbath day.

Right or wrong, the Texas Blue Laws are gone now and we live in very different times. Sunday is another day. Just add church as another option that you and I get to have.

But again, think about your soul. Does it need a break? Are you missing the spirit of a sabbath time and rest? Do you approach your worship online or in person as a means of grace available for you and God to care for your soul? Are you being still and being with God? Where are you committed in your week to a sabbath rest for your soul when everything around you says its not necessary or even preferred? The task is now ours and not a state law.

Friends, your soul matters. The wellness of your soul matters. And I challenge myself and each of us to take on the responsibility of being true to an ancient, good path for sabbath time and experience. If we walk in it, we may find the much needed rest for our soul.

These next few Sundays I am worshipping from the pew and seeking a sabbath experience that will rest my soul. I also will be taking some personal days to find some needed rest. I thank you in advance for the gift to do this. I am grateful especially for the renewal that God gives when we make time for Him. Sometimes there is just nothing better that I can do with my time than to spend it with God and care my soul. How about you?

Grace and Peace,

Richard Luna  
[richard@pleasantretreat.org](mailto:richard@pleasantretreat.org)

## August Worship Messages

### August 2, 2020

"Abundant Love"

Matthew 14:13-21

Deborah Wade

### August 9, 2020

"The Rights of an Apostle"

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Rev. Bill Servis

### August 16, 2020

"Living Language"

Matthew 15:10-20

Otis Naron

### August 23, 2020

"More than a Name"

Matthew 16:13-20

Rev. Richard Luna

### August 30, 2020

"Let it Be and Let it Go"

Matthew 16:21-28

Rev. Richard Luna

## July Offerings

7/5/20: \$ 6,275.17

7/12/20: \$ 13,335.00

7/19/20: \$ 4,280.00

7/26/20: \$ 6,670.00

## July Memorial Donations:

### Sherry Blanford:

Friendship SS Class

### Cheryl Ellis:

Lloyd & Tommie Aulie

Friendship SS Class

John & Margaret Hall

Larry & Dawn Hand

Bret & Lurae Hart

Jane Hills

Woody & Cheryl McFarland

Rita Megason

Robbie Ott

Orvice & Anita Rozell

Clifton & Tammy Stidham

Steve & Kim Weaver

Tim & Rhonda Worthen

### Curtis Evans:

Rudy & Hazel Ardis

Lloyd & Tommie Aulie

Mary Hamlin

Bret & Lurae Hart

Steve & Kim Weaver

### Ralph Reeves:

Jan Phillips

### Mary Hand:

William & Patricia Cade

Paul & Nancy Fisher

Wix Gaston

Bret & Lurae Hart

David & Mahlon Parker

Tyler HS Class of '56

Amy & Jone Ryan

### Ted Hand:

William & Patricia Cade

Wix Gaston

Amy & Jone Ryan

### Sue Lemmert:

Ron & Ann Allen

Brenda Beaird

Dorothy Calvert

Jerry, Melody & Jeremy

Cooper

Jason Cooper & Misty Stroud

Larry & Dawn Hand

Gerard & Melissa Klingman

Harry & Lea McKnight

Clifton & Tammy Stidham

Bob & Debbie Wade

Stephen & Lynn Winston

### Hal McFarland:

Bret & Lurae Hart

Jan Phillips

### Sam Murphy:

Ron & Ann Allen

Jane Hills

James & Kathleen Kyles

Harry & Lea McKnight

Robbie Ott

Orvice & Anita Rozell

Steve & Kim Weaver

Neoma Wilkerson SS Class

### Herman Stidham

Ron & Ann Allen

Rick & Melinda Allen

Rudy & Hazel Ardis

Brenda Beaird

Charles Cade

William & Patricia Cade

Velma Cade

Scotte & Sandra Clark

Tom & Linda Cox

Dan & Marie Dusek

Larry & Dawn Hand

Bret & Lurae Hart

Sharon Hartsfield

Katheryn Hetherly

Jane Hills

Priscilla Holt

Alvia & Linda Land

Jenny Lawrence

Patsy Lewis

Woody & Cheryl McFarland

Margaret McFarland

Harry & Lea McKnight

Rita Megason

Robbie Ott

Jan Phillips

Kristy Range

LaVon Swan

Keith & Becky Tanner

Bob & Debbie Wade

Beverly Whitham

Tim & Rhonda Worthen



A private graveside service for Sue Lemmert, 71, of Chandler was held at Pleasant Retreat Cemetery with Rev. Richard Luna officiating. A memorial service will take place at a later date. Sue passed away on July 20, 2020 in Tyler.

Janet Sue Lemmert was born April 19, 1949 in Cumberland, Maryland to Ward Frank Voit and Georgeanna Nedder Voit. She was a member and regular volunteer of the Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church. Sue was an active line dancer, Mahjong player and a gardener who loved her flower beds. Sue also loved cruises and traveling with her husband George, her swimming pool and she especially cherished her grandchildren. Sue worked alongside her husband at The Tire Barn for many years. She will be missed by all her friends and family.

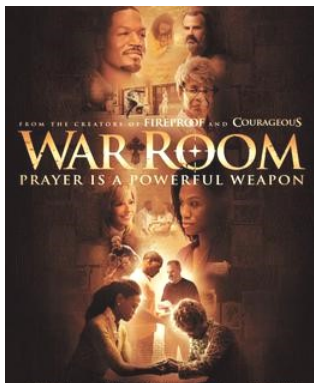
She was preceded in death by her mother. Sue is survived by her loving husband George Lemmert of Chandler; two sons, George Lemmert Jr. of Ben Wheeler, Clay Lemmert and wife Kelsey of Brownsboro; father, Ward Frank Voit; two brothers, Bob Voit and wife Glenda of New Harmony, Jim Voit and wife Lelia of Tyler; five grandchildren, Brittany Lemmert, Travis Lemmert, Drew Lemmert, Olivia Lemmert, Ellie Lemmert; three great grandchildren and many other extended family members.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Susan G. Komen Foundation or Pleasant Retreat UMC, 417 CR 1143, Tyler, Texas 75704.



Services for Herman Bryant Stidham, age 91, were held Saturday, July 18, 2020 at Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church with Rev. Richard Luna officiating. Mr. Stidham was born January 15, 1929 in Tyler to the late Aaron and Ottie Beckham Stidham in the Dixie community. He graduated from Tyler High School and attended Tyler Junior College. He served in

the United States Army in England during the Korean conflict. Herman was the sixth employee hired at the Kelly Springfield Tire Company and retired from the company at age 55. He was a lifelong member of Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church and the Neoma Wilkerson Sunday school class. He loved traveling across the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe as well as camping and swimming with his wife, Jonell, and playing with his grandchildren. Herman was preceded in death by his beloved wife of sixty years, Jonell Stroud Stidham; brothers, Howard Lee and Henry Clifton; sister, Dorothy Nell; nephew, David Bryant Stidham and an infant son. Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Rick Morris; son and daughter-in-law, Ronald Bryant Stidham and Robin; son and daughter-in-law, Clifton Lee Stidham and wife Tammy, all of Tyler. He is also survived by four precious grandchildren, Heath Stidham and wife Jessica, Tyler, Sara Parker and husband Greg, Whitehouse, Ryan Stidham and wife Samantha, Carlisle, Pennsylvania and Holly Winfrey and husband Austen, Abilene; and two great-grandchildren, Greyson and Eden Parker of Whitehouse. Other survivors include his sister, Myrlene Florey of Tyler; his brother, Raymond Stidham of Richardson; and two special friends who cared for him deeply, Lurae Hart and Jim Schultz. Pallbearers are Heath & Jessica Stidham, Sara & Greg Parker, Ryan & Samantha Stidham, and Holly & Austen Winfrey. Honorary pallbearers are the men and women of the Neoma Wilkerson Sunday school class, Pleasant Retreat UMC. Donations in his memory may be made to Pleasant Retreat UMC, 417 County Road 1143, Tyler, TX 75704 (please show "maintenance fund" on the donation).



**UMW will host a movie  
night Friday, August 7th at  
6PM in the FLC.  
We will be watching War  
Room. Come  
and bring  
friends!**



Dear Church Family,  
We would like to thank each of you for your prayers, food, cards, calls with words of encouragement, flowers and memorial gifts made in memory of our Daddy. The last several months have been hard for him and us; but you were always there, especially with your prayers and they were felt. You have all supported him and us so much these last few years during his illness, the death of Mom and now Daddy passing; your support has been very much appreciated. It makes things a little easier knowing that he is 100% healed in the arms of Jesus, no longer in any pain, and for the fact that he and mom are reunited! You all hold a very special place in the hearts of the Stidham Family. His church was very important to him and he always wanted to know how things were going at the church. He always said he was loved more than he ever knew; that love is what got him through the last few days. He loved his church and we are thankful that you were a special friend to Daddy and a very special part of his life and ours.  
Blessings and peace to each of you!



The Stidham Family – Linda, Rick, Ron, Robin, Clifton, Tammy and the Grandchildren

### **A Message from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee:**

Our church has been through some challenging months in ministry, and we would like to take this opportunity to say a special “thank you” to our church staff: Otis Naron, Lindsay Brubaker, Jeremy Dick, Rani Wiley, Brenda Beaird, and Johnnie Russell. Each in their own way has stepped in and filled our need and taken on the tasks with flexibility. We are blessed and wish to encourage them, for they too have faced some personal challenges in all of this.

If you would take this opportunity in August to say a thank you to them personally please do so. We also invite you to join us in making an extra mile gift of appreciation with a special offering on or before September 6. The offering we get will be equally divided among our staff and given to them September 13. Make gifts to PRUMC and note your check or envelope for “Staff Appreciation”. Thank you in advance for joining us in showing our gratitude to these servants and leaders among us.



Sincerely,  
Lurae Hart  
SPRC Chair



### **Music Helps “Release Sadness” and make you “Happy”**

I often write about the benefits of music like singing in the choir, as a congregation, and as an individual. But a new study tells us that simply listening to music can have a profound effect.

The British Academy of Sound Therapy (BAST) has been studying the beneficial effects of listening to music for therapeutic purposes for years. They explained that “Most people hear or actively

listen to music every day and as humans we tend to change our playlists based on our mood.” I can say with absolute certainty that in my case, music has a profound effect on how I deal with life’s issues and helped me through the most trying time of my life.

To relax, the neuroscientists at BAST discovered that 13 minutes of music with a slow tempo and no lyrics was the optimum listening time. For happiness, it was about 9 minutes of upbeat music that helped people feel better and more in control of their life. And for sadness it was in the lyrics, the story in the song the person identified with that was key regardless of the style of music. We experience each of these discoveries in worship. Whether it’s traditional or contemporary, the music is a mix of the slow, the upbeat, and the story-telling of scripture.

So, perhaps some specific choices of our music during this difficult time is in order. Take time to listen to various types and styles of music. Maybe turn off the news as I have over the past few weeks and tune in to music. Try the local radio stations or your internet connection, or your cable or satellite stations. There are many choices, find the right ones for you today.

Music defined: vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion.

I’ll see you, and hear you, “live” this Sunday. -Otis



# Current Prayer Concerns

Please keep these individuals in your prayers throughout the week.

Ann Allen  
Gilbert Arteaga  
Bob Baker  
Suzanne Baker  
Bill & Wilma Blackstock  
Kyle Bowker  
Elton Cardwell  
Mary Caldwell  
Katie Calicutt  
Cami Clements  
Patricia Coplan  
Jeremy Dick  
Don Dickson  
Carrie Donaghey  
Rita Dunn  
Chris Evans & Family  
Stephanie Forbes  
Margaret Hall

Tracy Hall  
PJ Hanke  
Larry Hartman  
Diana & Steve Herring  
Priscilla Holt  
Pauline Isham  
The family of Sue Lemmert  
Ashley & David McCarty  
Cheryl McFarland  
Anthony McGee  
Lea McKnight  
Bobby & Katie Niccum  
Mark Powell  
Sharon Pursley  
Ruby Randall  
Roger Rowland  
Clyde Rozell  
Nancy & Paul Rozell

Orvice Rozell  
Jill Seale  
Beverly Somes  
Dorothy Spath  
Jen Stapf  
The family of Herman Stidham  
Jessica Stidham  
Brenda Taylor  
Laura Tedford  
The family of Jim Voit  
Drew Webb  
Susan Wilbur  
Nancy Wiley  
Betty Williams  
Fred & Kathryn Worthen  
Steve & Kathy Wright

**Sidelined Saints:**  
Jim Fairbanks  
Lynda Fowler  
Margaret McFarland  
Dona Wilkerson

**Military Personnel:**  
Mitchell Moorehead  
Jackson Smith  
Ryan Stidham  
Daniel Westall  
VFA-11 Squadron

Please let the office know if you have additions or removals to/from the prayer list:

[secretary@pleasantretreat.org](mailto:secretary@pleasantretreat.org)

For pastoral emergencies call 903-787-0585.

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Phone: 903-592-7183 | Website: [www.PleasantRetreat.org](http://www.PleasantRetreat.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/prumctyler>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgOPKchgnLj3rdiF-32XhaA>

If you have questions, email the office. We will do our best to get back to you within 24 hours. [secretary@pleasantretreat.org](mailto:secretary@pleasantretreat.org)

### Church Staff:

Rev. Richard Luna, Pastor  
Otis Naron, Music Director  
Jeremy Dick, Youth Director  
Rani Wiley, Children's / Nursery Director  
Johnnie Russell, Pianist  
Lindsay Brubaker, Secretary