

## **The Normal is Different!**

Life is sacred and we are a sacred people for no other reason than we have been created in the image of God. The great commandment calls us to love God and to love one another. That is a call to love ourselves as well. We are called to help those who are in need and that includes, again, ourselves. We are called to love the way God loves - actively.

As Christmas 2019 fades, as that last present is unwrapped, as we take travelers to the airport and begin to pack the decorations away one more time, do we honestly believe that life is gradually moving back to what we might want to call NORMAL? Hasn't something changed? It has! The normal is different. Jesus has been born. Jesus is born. God has come among us, intruded into our lives as a little babe in Bethlehem. This tiny child brings a new kingdom, a new rule, a different kind of sovereignty. After welcoming him among us there is a sense that none of us can ever go back to normal. The shepherds didn't. Neither did the Magi. Certainly, Mary and Joseph didn't. Our old ways of doing things, our old ways of judging others, our old ways of seeing the worst in others, our old ways of finding faults, of beating ourselves down for the mistakes of the past are no longer normal ways of living our lives.

It is time to close the book on 2019 and write the first chapter of 2020. Look to the past to remember the places you no longer want to visit. Look to the past to remember the person you no longer want to be. And look to the past to see how active God has been in your life - how God has blessed you in many ways. And look to the future knowing that God is the same; yesterday, today and tomorrow. And since Jesus is born among us, little is the same. We just can't get back to the normal.

***“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for welfare not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”***

*Shalom,*

*Ron*



**POINSETTIAS**

*The beautiful poinsettia flowers that have graced our sanctuary throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons were given in honor and memory of the following people:*

***In Memory of A.J. Daigle***  
***In Memory of Allen Clint***  
Monica Clint & Mark Daigle

***In Memory of Wanda Reuss***  
Joe Reuss

***In Honor of Honey & PaPa***  
Walker Taylor Pickett

***In Memory of Cherry Grossman***  
***In Honor of Worship Committee & Special Spouses***  
Mildred & Stayton Weldon

***In Memory Tommy Thomas***  
***In memory of Vivian Thomas***  
Yvonne G. Strait

***In Memory of A.D. & Frances Wood***  
Bob Wood

***In Memory of Morgan Causey***  
***In Honor of Mildred & Stayton Weldon***  
***In Honor of Our Children & Grandson***  
Charla & Bobby Jones



***In Memory of Dorothy & LeRoy Langton***  
***In Honor of Tom & Emily Cheatham***  
Clifton & Lisa Langton

***In Memory of Floyd Boedeker***  
Floyd's Family

***In Memory of Delores Heidaker***  
***In Honor of Our Children & Grandchildren***  
Tom & Emily Cheatham

***In Honor of My Children***  
***In Honor of My Grandchildren & Great Grandson***  
Jeanine Calliham

***In Memory of Kay Ransom***  
***In Memory of Henry Tillman***  
Lee & Kay Tillman

***In Honor of My Family***  
Wilma Piwetz

***In Memory of Our Loved Ones***  
Wanda Ritchea, Sarah Ritchea & Earl O'Connor

***In Memory of Bob Wagner***  
Billie Wagner

**United Methodist Women News**

On Sunday, January 26th, The United Methodist Women will introduce the First United Methodist Church to the Social Action topic of interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline. This Social Action initiative is for us to raise awareness for how we can improve the number of black lives that go straight from school to prison. In the Month of March, there will be a Sunday when Rev. Paul Beard who has been involved with Kairos Prison Ministry and Lighthouse 2911 that is a Non-Profit organization that works with juveniles on probation to provide them positive attitude and life skills to keep them from having re-occurring behaviors will come and share his experience as this can enhance our awareness of this topic.

Last year, from Feb 4th to 8th of 2019, United Methodist Women joined the chorus of educators, parents, students and community activists in calling for an end to zero tolerance policies, exclusionary disciplinary policies and practices, and investments in cops rather than school counselor. School districts are also investing in Black educators and Black history and ethnic studies curriculums. Harriet Olson, chief executive officer of United Methodist Women, states, "Every child has value and people of faith must continually assert the dignity and value of all of God's children."

Black Lives Matter at School is a national coalition of educators organizing for racial justice in education. United Methodist Women is committed to interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline regardless of how long it takes to do so.

We ask you to join us in learning how to support and emphasize this crucial social action topic.

Article submitted by: Sarah Ritchea

## “Easy Does It”

### Senior Fitness

Regular Exercise and Physical Activity can:

- Maintain and improve strength and fitness
- Improve balance
- Help manage and prevent diseases like diabetes, heart disease and osteoporosis
- Reduce feeling of depression and improve and overall well-being

**Join us Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**

**9:30am – 10:30am**

**Cuero First United Methodist Church**

**211 N. Clinton St.**



**Pictured are:  
Sue Halbert,  
Evelyn Boedeker,  
& Euner Johnson**

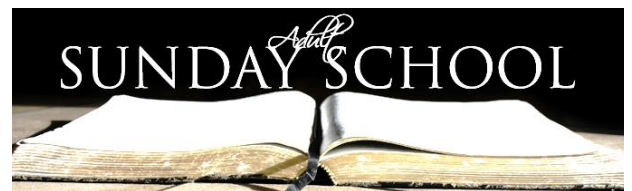


## LIFFT

The LIFFT ladies met for their Christmas party at Billie Wagner's house on Dec. 10th. After a short meeting, we enjoyed singing carols, playing a Christmas game and a delicious potluck meal. Our next meeting is February 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

## Adult Sunday School Class

Beginning January 5th, the Adult Sunday School class will start a new study. We will be delving into the book of Isaiah, the first prophet. Isaiah brings us a message of judgement followed by a message of forgiveness. Jeanine will be facilitating the class, and everyone is invited!



## January Worship Volunteer Schedule

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Children's Sermon	Communion Servers
1-5-20	Bob Wood	Sue Halbert Jeanine Calliham	Pastor Ron	Donna Cox Jackie Drehr Sandy Dukes
1-12-20	Lisa Langton	Charla & Bobby Jones	Colette Barth	
1-19-20	Evelyn Boedeker	Lisa & Clifton Langton	Wes Dukes	
1-26-20	Bobby Jones	Dianne & Eddy Westmoreland	Sarah Ritchea	



 Birthdays

B.J. Drehr	7 <sup>th</sup>
Jackie Drehr	7 <sup>th</sup>
Sean Wolf	8 <sup>th</sup>
Stayton Weldon	12 <sup>th</sup>
Tori Jacoby	13 <sup>th</sup>
David Dodge	14 <sup>th</sup>
Betty Farris	15 <sup>th</sup>
Rose Mary Burk	17 <sup>th</sup>
Rowdy Haferkamp	18 <sup>th</sup>
Beverly Wagner	21 <sup>st</sup>
John Davis	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Katie Drehr	28 <sup>th</sup>
Rachelle Lemke	29 <sup>th</sup>

 Anniversaries

Bobby & Charla Jones	6 <sup>th</sup>
Kayla & Logan Pickett	16 <sup>th</sup>

C.A.M.A.L. House  
Collection for January:

**Pancake Mix**



*Spring 2020:*  
***“The Short Stories  
of Jesus”***

Who is the best storyteller in your family? Do you have one of those dear friends that tells the same story over and over and over and over? Jesus was a storyteller and a master of the short story. In fact, a few of them are only several sentences in length. We know them as parables and they are rich. And some of them tell us what the Kingdom of God is like.



First United Methodist Church  
211 N. Clinton Street  
Cuero, TX 77954