



Cuero First United Methodist
Main Sail



Lessons Learned During a Pandemic

This is my last newsletter article as pastor and I just wanted to share some of what I have learned over the past year. My time here in Cuero has been beneficial to me both as a pastor and as a person. I have learned that I am resilient and strong. I have also learned that you are never too old to learn something new. And I have made friends that I will treasure for a lifetime.

But what the pandemic has taught me is that life is fleeting. Too often, we put things off until the time is right. What I have learned is that the time is never right. We have to be bold and take risks and put our trust and faith in the one who created us. We have to live and love as if today is the last day we may have. We have to go about loving God and our neighbor with everything that we have knowing that God will make it what it needs to be.

I have learned that things are never what they seem. And because of that we have to listen more and talk less. We have to ground ourselves in what is right and pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to do what is needed at the time.

I have learned that most people are kind and compassionate. But I also know that they have blind spots and prejudices and that the only way that we can learn to get along and love one another the way that God wants us to, is to be in relationship with one another. We have to do more than just learn names and trivial information about each other. We have to go for the deep dive. We have to take the time to ask questions and hear one another's stories. If we are ever going to heal the division and strife in our world, we have to learn each other's stories. We have to take the time to find out that we are more alike than we are different. We have to be like Jesus and love the good, the bad and the ugly about one another. And then we can go about bringing the kingdom to fruition.

But I think the greatest lesson that I learned is that love really is the way to heal the world. During the pandemic, I watched as doctors and nurses and medical professionals, store clerks and truck drivers and police and EMTs, and just ordinary people, for a little while put aside their own wants and needs and focused on their neighbors. During the pandemic, I got a little glimpse of the kingdom of God. I saw people helping others. I saw individuals who made sure that people were getting food and the things that were needed to survive. I saw parents become teachers. I saw teachers reach deep inside and transform what they do so that children could continue to learn. I saw pastors that struggled with using a cell phone learn how to become videographers and reach out to their congregations in new and different ways. I saw people who witnessed terrible tragedies and injustices, come together to do what was right. I had a glimpse of what the world could and should look like.

We know that not everyone looks at the world and sees the good rather than the bad. And I know that there is evil that is waiting for Christians to stumble and fall. Evil is waiting to take control. But what I saw was that for us as Christians, our time is now. It is time for us to stand up, take the lead, and use this momentum to show the world what it can be when we follow the teachings and example of Christ.

As I move on, I will keep the congregation of FUMC and the people of Cuero in my prayers. Even though we are in separate places, our goal remains the same, to bring the kingdom of God to fruition and to make disciples. Our mission is clear and I am blessed to have such warriors fighting the good fight alongside me.

Peace and love be with each of you in your endeavors.

Pastor Jackie Freeman



Pastor Jackie's
Last day at Cuero FUMC
 June 20, 2021

*May God continue to bless her
 for her faithful ministry.*

*"I will give you shepherds after my
 own heart, who will feed you with
 knowledge and understanding."*

Jeremiah 3:15

Happy Father's Day
 June 20



June Worship

Volunteer Schedule

DATE	LITURGIST
6/6/2021	Pastor Jackie
6/13/2021	Colette Barth
6/20/2021	Bobby Jones
6/27/2021	Sarah Ritchea Earl O'Connor

USHERS	MUSIC LEADERS
Volunteers	Rev. Wanda Ritchea Sarah Ritchea



Summer Day Camp

August 2-6, 2021
 8:30am – 3:30pm

From the Ground Up



Sponsored by
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 361-275-2845

Registration
 June 1 – June 17

Financial Information

May 2021

Revenues:
 \$6,838

Expenditures:
 \$8,876

Lord, please bring this truth home to my heart today: that the essence of God is love — your love reaching us and setting our hearts aglow with love for you and for all people. Let love rule this day. Let love rule my heart. Help me enjoy living successfully in your wonderful love.

Those people who are unlikable to me, Lord, are not worthless, though I am tempted to believe my self-centered thoughts about them. Rather, Lord, these people are precious works of beauty, created by you. And if I bother to look beyond my first impressions, I will be delighted by what I see of you in them.

God, I know that you close some doors in my life in order to open new ones. I know that things change and come to an end in order to leave room for new beginnings. Help me have the boldness and enthusiasm to let go of the old and accept the new. Amen.



Happy Birthday

Bradley Drehr	2 nd
Zane Lemke	4 th
John Eldridge	6 th
Walker Taylor Pickett	12 th
Margie Frazier	23 rd
Wanda Ritchea	30 th



Happy Anniversary

R.A. & Becky Van Wormer	5 th
Wayne & Sonya Wolf	13 th
Ethan & Katie Etlinger	22 nd
Robert & Colette Barth	25 th
Steven & Charlotte Wolf	29 th

**C.A.M.A.L.
House
Collection**

June

Canned Meat



First United Methodist Church
211 W. Clinton Street
Cairo, TX 72934

