

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

The Evangel



ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church



We are all, without exception, beloved children of God

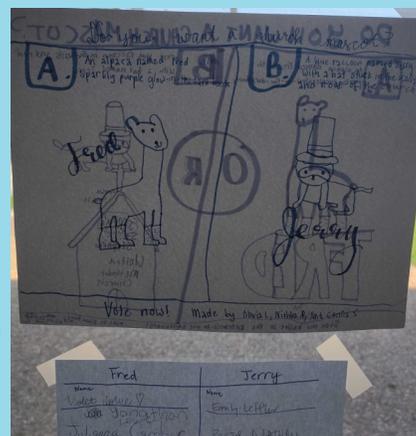
From the Senior Pastor

As we come to the end of another school year and prepare for a summer full of ministry with children and their families, my heart is heavy with grief for the families in Uvalde who have lost their children. I gathered together with pastors from our neighborhood in the days following the tragedy to pray and to consider how we might respond not just as individual churches, but as a community. Because of this, St. Stephen's, Kingdom Story Fellowship, St. James, St. Matthews, and others will be hosting a Community Service of Lament & Hope on Wednesday, June 1 at 7 p.m. in the St. Stephen's Sanctuary.

In the midst of our prayer, Robert Rivera from St. James said something meaningful and helpful to me, and I thought it might be helpful to some of you. He said that he does not know what to say in the face of this evil, but that he must continue to seek out and lift up the places he finds hope, especially amongst children. He went to a neighborhood elementary school the day after the shooting for a celebration of achievement, and found joy and hope in the lives of children.

While my heart is broken, I also find so much hope in the lives of the children I get to meet because of my role as a pastor at St. Stephen's. For the kids we see each year in VBS. For the youth that join us for U.M. ARMY. For the joy in children's faces when they prepare to head to summer camp. For the excitement that Nishka Prasad, Olivia Lowe and Cecilia Sullivan, three of our confirmands, had about becoming full members of the church.

You may have noticed that the narthex has papers hung up on the center doors. They are an election, of sorts. Olivia, Nishka and Cecilia want us to have an official church mascot — this is their first “official” action as members of the church. I encourage you to vote for either Jerry the Raccoon or Fred the Alpaca as our official church mascot. And to spend some time today trying to see the world with the wonder of a child.



Paz, Nathan

- In accordance with Matthew 5:15 “Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house,” the lights in the middle parking lot were replaced with brighter, more efficient LEDs.
- While Methodists like their hearts strangely warmed, they like their rooms efficiently cooled. We replaced two AC units (both for parts of the Education Building). At this point, we have replaced 9 out of 19 of our AC units since September 2018 with new, energy-efficient units.
- “You raise me up,” We’ve established a new & better service contract for our elevator.
- Zephaniah 2 speaks of turning Nineveh into a ruin occupied by porcupines and other wild animals. We don’t want to be Nineveh, so we have spent the last several months battling raccoons trying to make the Education Building their home. We’re as confident as we can be that we have sealed them out once and for all. However, I sure do wish humans were as eager to get into the church building as raccoons!



Facilities Blotter:

What broke? What got fixed?
Are we still battling raccoons?

Our hope is to make this “facilities blotter” a recurring feature in the newsletter; to keep you up-to-date on how we’re taking care of our campus!

The cover photo features the recipients of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church's “God Is in Our Neighborhood” Scholarships.

Please submit dates, pictures and information for the July 2022 Evangel by June 27th to info@stsumc.org.



The church does not belong to us

Youth and Family News

VBS Volunteers - We are in need of more volunteers for our VBS in all areas but in particular we need adults for our Bible Village and our chaperones. Volunteers are the workforce and backbone of a successful VBS but more importantly, they ensure that the kids who come to our church are safe and have a great time. At the time of writing, we have just one shepherd (chaperone) registered and we need a bare minimum of 5. Volunteers can be kids entering the sixth up to any aged adult. Regardless of your skillset, availability during the week, or experience, we promise we can find a role for you. You can work as a classroom assistant, a chaperone, in the kitchen, the Bible Village, as a music leader, a crafts leader, a storyteller, or a stage performer. If you can help in any way, please consider registering at www.stshtx.org/events



UM ARMY - This is shaping up to be our biggest group perhaps ever with more than two dozen youth and adults expected to travel to Crockett and represent St. Stephen's doing ministry in the community. It is not too late to join us! UM ARMY provides an opportunity for youth and adults to experience Christian growth through service to others. Participants combine their strengths and resources to meet home repair and maintenance needs for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners who are physically or financially unable to make needed repairs themselves. Our UM ARMY will be in Crockett, Texas this summer beginning on Sunday, July 10th, and finishing on Saturday, July 16th. Registration can be found at www.stshtx.org/events

High Voltage Rock Camp - High Voltage Rock Camp is coming to St. Stephen's! This camp is currently in its tenth year and is well established in the Houston area. The camp is run by two Oak Forest Elementary teachers and employs high skilled musical instructors who will guide the students to create a band, a song, and a logo amongst many other activities. The camp will take place July 18-22 from 9-4 PM. Students between ages 8 and 17 are eligible to take part. More details and a registration link can be found at stshtx.org/events

Fine Arts Camp - After three years away, Fine Arts Camp returns this summer. Fine Arts Camp is an evening camp that takes place between 5:30-7:30 for five days between Sunday, July 24-28th. All students (K-6th grade) will take art and music, and they'll get to add an elective class to their week. Electives in the past have included dance, drama, photography, cooking, and ukelele. Fine Arts Camp registration is open now! It can be found at stshtx.org/events

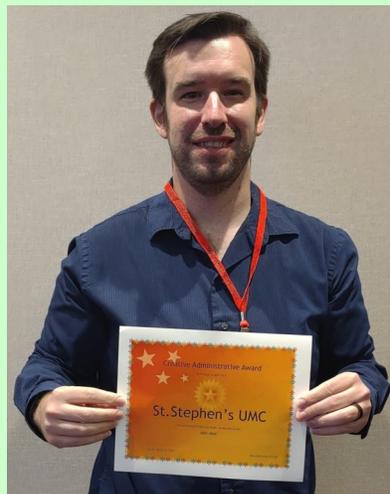
Musical Theater Camp - Julie Osterman's Musical Theater Camp on August 8-12 is now full. If you would like to be added to the waitlist, you can email Julie at julie.osterman@gmail.com

UMYF - always takes a different schedule in the summer due to weeks when many people are away and other weeks when we have summer camps. Therefore our summer schedule is:

- Sunday, June 5th
- Sunday, June 26th
- Sunday, July 17th
- Sunday, July 31st
- Sunday, August 14th
- Sunday, August 21st (Back to School Pool Party)

Lakeview - Be in prayer for our campers and counselors who are going to Lakeview summer camp this year. We have nine campers and three counselors making the trip to Palestine and we know that they are going to have an amazing time. They'll be away from June 13th-17th and we look forward to hearing all about it when they come back.

Steven Fisher,
Family Ministries Director



Steven is holding the Creative Administrative Award for Creative Ministry, presented at the 2022 Texas Annual Conference. For everyone at St. Stephen's who made ministry happen in the most challenging of times in the past few years, this award is for you!

June 2022 Highlights

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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Worship Times

Sunday School—

Sunday, 9:30 am, Education Bldg

Traditional Service—

Sunday, 11:00 am, Sanctuary

Virtual Service—11:00 am, on Facebook and YouTube

This calendar features highlights from our church schedule of events. For a more detailed calendar or to learn more about our church visit stshtx.org or call the church office.

For a list of recurring events, please see the next page.

*Register for events at stshtx.org

CR=Choir Room FH=Fellowship Hall Sanc=Sanctuary

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;">  <p>SPAGHETTI LUNCH AND TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONVERSATION JUNE 5th AT NOON</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>1 7pm— Community Service of Prayer and Lament, Sanc</p>  </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <p>2</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <p>3</p>  </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <p>4</p> </div> </div>						
<p>5 Pentecost 9:30am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 4pm-Kingdom Story Noon-Spaghetti Lunch, FH 5pm—Great Heights Study 5pm—UMYF</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Last Day of Classes for HISD Students</p> 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 11:30am-Red Hats Luncheon, Holy Grounds Café at St. Stephen's</p> 
Church Camp at Lakeview						
<p>12 9:30am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 4pm-Kingdom Story Fellowship</p>	<p>13 10am-The Gathering Place, FH</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
Bible Village Set-Up in Fellowship Hall						
<p>19 FATHER'S DAY 9:30am- Sunday School 11am-Worship 4pm-Kingdom Story Fellowship</p>	<p>June Newsletter Deadline</p> 	<p>First Day Of Summer</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25</p>
Vacation Bible School					 <p>6/27-7/1</p>	
<p>26 9:30am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 4pm-Kingdom Story Fellowship 5pm-UMYF</p>	<p>27 8:30am—VBS</p>	<p>28 8:30am—VBS</p>	<p>29 8:30am—VBS</p>	<p>30 8:30am—VBS</p>		



God is in our neighborhood and not just in our building

Get Involved

Spaghetti Luncheon and Conference Conversation - All are welcome to join us for lunch in the fellowship hall Sunday, June 5, following the worship service. The menu will feature spaghetti from Spaghetti Western Café. During the luncheon, Nathan will lead us in conversation about this year's Texas Annual Conference. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of lunch.

Great Heights Bible Study—Join Nathan Sunday, June 5, at 5 pm at Great Heights Brewing Company, 938 Wakefield Drive, for conversation about the Sunday sermon and further study of the Scriptures used during the worship service. Due to a busy summer schedule, including camps, Vacation Bible School and other events, this will be our only Sunday evening meeting in June.

Join the Kitchen Crew—We're looking for volunteers to help clean and organize our church kitchen, and help keep it in good condition for all who use it. If you are interested in joining our "kitchen crew", please contact Cindy St. Lawrence at rps95@aol.com.

Red Hats Luncheon—The Rambling Reds of St. Stephen's meet monthly to support and encourage women of all ages. You are welcome to join us for our next meeting on Saturday, June 11, from 11am to 2pm in the Holy Grounds Café at St. Stephen's, located inside the fellowship hall.

Annie Brew, our hostess for June, will be ordering box lunches for \$9 per person from Jason's Deli to be paid for at the luncheon. In order to ensure that you will have a lunch box, please be sure to RSVP to Annie no later than Thursday, June 9, at rudytudyo391@gmail.com or 281-999-3766. Annie will furnish the beverages.

Recipients of the 2022 "God Is in Our Neighborhood" Scholarship Awards

SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

JACKELYN HERNANDEZ
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
EXPLORATORY STUDIES

EMILY MALDONADO
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
BUSINESS

NOELY REYES
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
EDUCATION

The scholarships were presented during the worship service on May 22, 2022.

What's on at St. Stephen's

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sunday School**—Sun., 9:30am, Educational Bldg
- Worship**—Sun., 11am, Sanctuary & Online
- Kingdom Story Fellowship**—Sun., 4pm, 101 & Toddler Room
- Narcotics Anonymous**—Mon. & Wed., noon; Thurs., 8pm; Saturday, 8pm
- Boy Scouts Troop 604**—Mon., 7pm, FH
- Zoom Bible Study**—Tues., 3pm
- GriefShare**—Tues., 6pm, 101
- Line Dancing Class**—Tues & Fri, 9:30 am, FH
- Staff Meeting**—Tues., 1pm, Church Office
- Sea Scouts Ship 24**—Tues., 7:30pm
- Senior Games**—Wed., 9:30am, Café
- Prayer Shawl Ministry**—Thurs., 10am, Rm 112

BI-MONTHLY EVENTS

- Bible Study & Sermon Conversation**—Sunday, 5pm, Great Heights Brewing Company, 938 Wakefield Dr. Next meeting: June 5
- UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship)** Sunday, 5pm
June Meetings: 6/5 & 6/26

MONTHLY EVENTS

- The Gathering Place**—second Monday, 10am, FH (a ministry for persons with Alzheimer's & their caregivers)
Next Gathering: June 13
- Red Hats Luncheon**—1st or 2nd Saturday, Next meeting: June 11, 11:30 am, in the Holy Grounds Café at St. Stephen's UMC (Please see details in green box to the left.)

OTHER RECURRING EVENTS

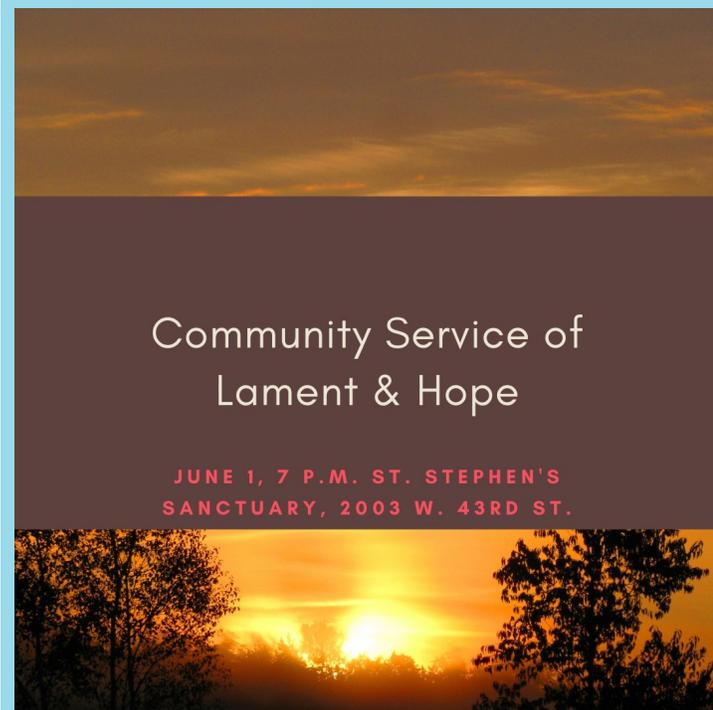
- Harris County Parent/Child Visitation**—1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday, 8am-2pm, FH (with a few variations during the year)

FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Choir Room
SH=Scout House

For more information, visit stshtx.org.



Worship connects us with God and with each other



All are welcome to join with St. Stephen's United Methodist Church of Houston, A Kingdom Story, St. James Church ELCA, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church and others Wednesday, June 1, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary at St. Stephen's to pray together and seek a Christian response to the gun violence in our community.

Seasons of Ordinary Time

Ordinary time should not be confused with common time. Ordinary time is the time between Christmastide and Eastertide and between Eastertide and Advent. The two periods are referred to as Time after Pentecost, and time after Epiphany. The liturgical color is green, and the name is derived from the order of the numbers of Sundays from the previous season. They are seasons of preparation and celebration. The Season after Epiphany has the theme of calling of disciples and the early ministry of Jesus. The Time after Pentecost supports new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during Easter and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost. While other seasons support and honor the major events in Christianity, the Ordinal or Ordinary seasons celebrate living each day of our lives honoring the message of Love given by Jesus and establishing the Church in the hearts of Christians. Please don't think of these as ordinary, but important seasons of celebration, teaching, and fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus. These are truly important steps in our road to sanctification as taught by John Wesley.

Written by David Massey, Certified Lay Minister
Member of the Tuesday afternoon Zoom Bible study

Worship Attendance

	In Person	Virtual (Registered)	YouTube Views	Facebook Views
May 1	76	16	37	54
May 8	80	21	65	74
May 15	88	14	67	N/A
May 22	61	16	147	73
May 29	60	14	248	82

Communion Offering for June

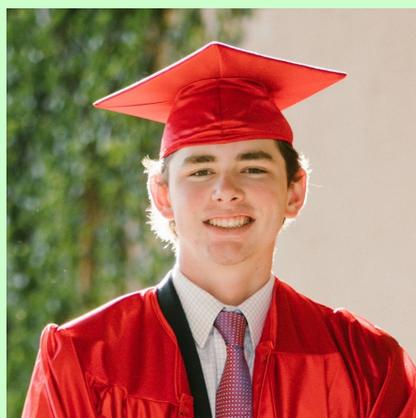




The stories of scripture transform our own stories

Welcome, Little One!

Congratulations to **Bryan and Sydney McDaniel** upon the birth of their son, **Everett Marshall McDaniel**. Everett arrived on May 18, 2022, weighing seven pounds, two ounces, and measuring 20.25 inches. Edward and Ginny McDaniel are Everett's proud grandparents.



Congratulations, Graduate!

Hats off to **Landon Louis Croker**, son of Philip and Candice Croker, who graduated from St. Thomas High School on May 21, 2022. Landon will be attending the University of Texas in Austin, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Candice is the director of the Johnson Memorial School at St. Stephen's.

In Memory

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the families of the following members, who passed away recently:

- **Dorothy Hedges** passed away March 2, 2022, at the age of ninety-eight. A private graveside service was held for Dorothy on March 7 at Brookside Memorial Park in Houston, Texas.
- **Bob Bolding** lost his battle with leukemia on May 18, 2022. A celebration of Bob's life will be held on Saturday, July 16* at 4pm in the fellowship hall at St. Stephen's. ***Please note date has changed since original email notification.**
- **Robert Faltisek** died on May 21, 2022. He had been diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic cancer a few years ago. No public service will be held for Robert. His family requests that memorial contributions be designated to the youth ministry at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church.

Prayer Concerns

Debra Akin, Dwight Allen, John & Dorothy Artz, Betty Beyer, Peggy Bickel, Anita Bishop and daughters, Jeanie & Janya; Hilda Bluett (Steven Fisher's grandmother), the family of Bob Bolding, Florence Bowman, Mary Brennan, Emalyn Buchtien (hospice), Phyllis Burnette, Arlene Caler, Frank & Kathy Chambers, the Collins family, Brayden Corson, Janet Cummins, Angela Earl, Allen Ebelt, Kayla Ebelt, Maurice Ebelt, Mary Gail Ellis, Megan Eyre, Irene Fallen, the family of Robert Faltisek, Blaine Fernandez, Tricia Halley, the family of Dorothy Hedges, Bert & Charm Hensley, and Daniel Hernandez; Lola Hensley, the Hickerson family, Tyler & Evy Hicks, Gina & Jacqueline Kouma, Dorrie Jackson, Carter Kotzur, Dot Lockhart, Penny Loy, William Martin, Brittany & Lacey McCullough, Ed Mills, Shirley Moan, Carol Owens, Dian Parker, Doris Parr, Brenda Paulk, Kelsey Paulk, Eddie Pollard, Milton & Noni Ray, Jane Roberts, the Sandt family, Barbara Smith, Meranda Soto, Hazel Swearingen, Alisa Tackett, Preston Taylor, Linda Warren, Paul Wieting, Dale Wilson, Todd Wilson, Richard & Linda Wren, Rick Yarbrough, Judy Zanelli

Social Justice Prayers: The sin of racism and its effects on all of us; Members of the CITGO6: Tomeu Vadell, Alirio Zambrano, Jose Luis Zambrano, Jose Angel Pereira; and all who are imprisoned or persecuted unjustly

In the Military Allen Clutter

In Hospital Cypress Point Health & Wellness - David Wright (rehab)

Johnson Memorial School News

The school year with our preschoolers wrapped up on a high note for JMS' 54th school year on Thursday, May 19. Parent / Teacher Conferences rounded out the end of the school year during the week of May 24 where teachers met with each family one-on-one to discuss the child's progress over the course of the school year.

We had a fantastic time celebrating **Teacher Appreciation Week** in early May with parents back in the building to organize a special Fiesta luncheon for the staff. Our parent volunteers prepared a special meal for the whole team and we were able to enjoy it all together in the Café for the first time since May 2019!

On May 12, 1967, our namesake lost his life in Vietnam. Every year, we honor **Robert Johnson's** (and his family) huge sacrifice for our country by bringing in veterans who are related to our JMS students to speak in the classrooms and show them mementos from their time in the service. This year, we were blessed to have THREE veterans here along with Ginny Martin (Robert's sister) on the actual day of his passing fifty-five years ago. Our students also created thank you notes for injured soldiers and their families that we mailed out in Robert's honor along with a small donation in his name to the Fisher House, a special place that allows families to stay for free when a family member is undergoing medical treatment.

Our school year is not complete until **Splash Day** takes place. This year, we raised enough funds through our Spirit Nights at local restaurants to invite the Texas Bubbblers to join the fun and share their incredible talents – they created giant bubbles for us to see, allowed the kids to create their own, and showed us an amazing trick that when we sit super still, we can also sit inside a big bubble, too. The kids adored the day!

Our Movin' On Ceremony in the sanctuary was so special with our 23 graduates – we all became quite emotional viewing a slideshow full of memories made this school year and then all the students were treated to ice cream sundaes in the Fellowship Hall followed by the fan-favorite balloon drop. It was quite a sight (and sound!).

We will return for our 55th school year on Thursday, September 8. At this time, we still have a few spots for new families so if you know anyone with children between ages 3-5 looking for a special place as their first educational step, have them check out details on the church website or send us at email at JMS@stsumc.org for more information.

Candice Croker,
Johnson Memorial School Director





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The Evangelist

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ststx.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Readings

If you'd like to read along with the Scriptures we'll use in worship during the month of June, follow this reading guide:

- 6/5: Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17
- 6/12: Genesis 2:1-2, 4; Matthew 28:16-20
- 6/19: I Kings 19:1-15a; Luke 8:26-39
- 6/26: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Luke 9:51-62

Our Vision

- We are all, without exception, beloved children of God
- The church does not belong to us
- God is in our neighborhood and not just in our building
- Worship connects us with God and with each other
- The stories of scripture transform our own stories