

# THE MESSENGER

March 1, 2018

Volume XXXVI, No. 3

## NEVER GIVE UP



Dear Friends:

How often do you find yourself weary and worn out, ready to throw in the towel? It's been a long haul and you feel there's nothing left to give. Maybe you have had a setback in your life plans. Perhaps your attempts to mend fences with your child, sibling, or friend has made things worse. It could be that your health outlook is getting worse. Maybe you're just sick and tired of trying. Welcome to the club called humanity. We all have times when we slide down into the ruts of despair and hopelessness, wondering what's the use. You give out and want to give up. Discouragement is the number one disease among Christians. Life is tough, unfair, complicated, and seemingly meaningless. Even Jesus fought despair on the Cross when he asked God why he was forsaken.

It can be at these moments of deepest despair and utter hopelessness that from out of nowhere the light and power of God lifts us up. When we are the weakest, God will be the strongest. Paul wrestled with this dark beast of despair when he was rotting in a Roman prison. (See 2 Corinthians 12:7-10) He suffered with a thorn in the flesh and prayed for God to heal him and remove it. God responded with: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV)

In our weakness, we are forced to face our limits, our powerlessness, and our utter need of God. These are sacred moments when we can come to remember who we are and whose we are. You are not alone. God loves and cares for you.

After leading the Allies to an amazing victory against the evils of Nazism and hatred, Winston Churchill was turned out of office in a humiliating electoral defeat from an ungrateful public. Sometime later, he spoke at the Commencement at a small college in Missouri where he gave his greatest and shortest speech. He said, "Never, never, never, never give up!" Churchill didn't and neither should we.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Tim*

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

*Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"?*

*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:27-31 NIV)*

**United Methodist Women - March 2018**

The annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial 2018 was held Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 11:00 at the home of Ruth Ann Marshall. Following a short UMW business meeting the program entitled Learning from a Lifetime: Developing Leaders from the UMW Program Book was presented by Jerry Lynn Varnado. An offering of \$400.00 was given and that amount has been forwarded to the conference. After the program, the group celebrated with a food, fun and fellowship Salad Luncheon. Marcia Bayless has made a "Recipe Collection" for each of those attending.

The Agape Circle met on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. Barb Remsing presented Chapter One, Less Fret, More Faith from the study of Max Lucado's Anxious for Nothing. The next Agape Circle meeting will be Wednesday, March 14, 2018, not March 21 as stated in the yearbook. Sheryl Kleinschmidt will be presenting the study entitled, Chapter 2, Rejoice in the Lord's Sovereignty.

The Mary/Martha meeting was Monday, February 19, 2018, at the Rainbow House. Faye Terry presented the program taken from the UMW Program Book entitled, the Sacred Space of Gathering. The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2018, at the Rainbow House. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program.

The Paige Circle's next meeting will be March 26, 2018, at the Paige Church.

Membership in these three circles is open to anyone in the community that would like to join and be a part of the United Methodist Women's organization at FUMC Giddings.

**MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE CIRCLE MEETINGS**



Have you ever said, "Lord, I wish I could tithe more, but I can't afford it. I need more

money." Often, I have found, even in my own life, that it isn't that we need more money, it's that we need to better manage the money we have.

First United Methodist Church of Giddings will host the second Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Classes are open to the community. The 9-week program will begin April 3, 2018 at 6:30pm. Classes are \$99 cash or check (no credit cards – we're trying to get out of debt). There is something for everyone in the class, whether you are drowning in debt, or just want to learn how to maximize your income.

This isn't a typical money class. It's easy and fun to follow. Haril and Karen Walpole will manage the class, using Dave Ramsey's video presentations to teach you how to take control of your money, get out of debt, and save for the future. At no time are you asked to reveal your financial situation.

Did you know that 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck? What if you were unemployed tomorrow? How would you survive? Whether you are struggling to make ends meet or you're a millionaire, this course is for you.

Take control of your finances now. Don't wait until you are drowning. Call Karen Walpole at 409-256-1911 to register.

~ Haril Walpole

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

The Men's Breakfast is 6:30 am on Thursday, March 8 in our fellowship hall. Join us for some great food and a thoughtful lesson led by Robert French.

**SPRING WORK DAY**

The Trustees are planning a Spring work day to cleanup around the Church. It is set for 9 am, Saturday, March 10. We should finish by noon. The rain date is Saturday, March 17.

**YOUTH GROUP INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEIR TRIP TO WACO**



The Youth group is planning to visit our Methodist Children's Home on Saturday, March 24. Everyone is invited to join us as we tour this magnificent 128 year old institution devoted to serving the needs of children in difficult situations. We meet and leave from the church at 7:30 am and will return by mid-afternoon.



**JOIN US FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER ON MAUNDY THURSDAY**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

At 7 pm on Thursday, March 29, we will share in Communion in remembrance of our Lord's Last Supper on the night he was betrayed. There will be no Communion on Sunday, April 1 since it is Easter Sunday.

**BARBEQUE ON BUN**

Our popular Spring fund raiser is back again this year. It is set for Tuesday, April 10.

**NEWSLETTER CHANGES**

This is the first edition to be emailed and distributed by hand in church. You may find this information as well at our Facebook Page and Website.

**SECURITY COMMITTEE TO MEET**

At Giddings, we are forming a response team and plan to deal with any potential threat to the safety and security of our congregation. If you would like to be part of this effort, you are welcome to attend our meeting, 6:30 pm, Thursday, March 6, at our Fellowship hall.

**UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**



(Paige events in bold face)

- Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am, Thursday, March 8
- Giddings Church Security Committee, 6:30 pm, Tuesday, March 6
- Food Pantry, 9 am, Friday and Saturday, March 9 & 10
- Spring Cleanup Day, Giddings, 9 am, Saturday, March 10 (Rain day - March 17)
- Trip to Waco to visit Methodist Children's Home, Saturday, March 24
- Palm Sunday Skit with Children & Youth, Sunday, March 25
- Maundy Thursday Communion Service, Thursday, March 29
- Easter Sunday, April 1
- Financial Peace Class, April 3, 6 pm
- Confirmation Sunday, April 8
- BBQ on Bun, Tuesday, April 10
- Time & Talent, Sunday, April 15
- Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 13
- Texas Annual Conference, May 27—30,



Please remember to keep the entire congregation in your prayers, but especially those persons who have special needs.

**Giddings Members**

- Myrtle Becker
- Anne Chadwick
- Jessica & Nathan Dunk
- Debby Grayson
- Janis Hannes
- Dianna Hannes
- John Hannes
- Lottie Lively Hollan
- Dolly Kostoun
- Ronita Maynard
- Diane Mitschke
- Gene Newcomb
- Danielle Ramirez
- Bill Remsing
- Phyllis Smith
- Ruth Ann Snodgrass
- Bill Spencer

**Giddings Family & Friends**

- Beth Auten
- Mary Bates
- Rev. Calvin & Marie Beckendorf
- Verlie Bennett
- Judy Briscoe
- Maysie Cowell
- Nancy Emmert
- Patricia Evans
- Cayden Hannes
- Rev. Gail Harrelson
- Frieda Harris
- Garrett Harris
- Jim Harris
- Mary Beth Hillard
- Steven Kelley
- Arnold Klein
- David Klein
- Lana Knight
- Cory Kruz
- Nancy Lengyel
- Juan Lucio
- Susan Merritt
- Mia Miller
- Morgan Twins
- Jason & Gina Murillo
- Bryce Myrick
- Lyndon Newcomb
- Carole Nunally

- Jerry Poston, Jr.
- Jack Carter Rice
- Betty Robertson
- Beverly Russo
- Marion Schulze
- James Smallwood
- Teresa Todd
- Lisa Winters
- Dan Wright
- Charlotte York
- Dwain Young

**Paige Family & Friends**

- Neil Emery
- Harry & Gertrude Eschberger
- Rev. Gail Harrelson
- Judy Hunter
- Cornell & Ethel Kunkel
- Bruce Light
- Karen Light
- Margaret & Mark Lyle
- James & Rose Millner
- Cathy Newton
- Shirley Orts
- Rachel Riffe
- Paul Watts
- Leroy Wobus

<b>THE BIBLE IN 50 WORDS</b>
God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Jacob fooled
Joseph ruled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained