



PIEDMONT

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Passion

NEWSLETTER | PUMC |

AUGUST 2021 – VOLUME 1

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) IS IN FULL SWING

Thank you to all the Children, Parents, and volunteers that will make this a memorable experience for our community.

There is always a bit of anticipation around the start of VBS. Do we have enough volunteers? Did we buy enough treats, food, or caffeine (for the Pastor, not the children)?

This year we had new questions to add. How to get the word out; when many families are still watching online? How many kids do we even expect? Will our COVID-19 safety procedures keep our children (who are unable to be vaccinated at this time) safe?

Despite all of these challenges, VBS will be a HUGE success! Why? Because no matter what, all of our staff and volunteers want to ensure

that each child (no matter how many or how few) comes to know the love of God. We want every child to know that they are special and unique and called by God to make a difference in the world.

I have talked to a few people lately about their VBS experiences as a child. Seldom did they remember the lessons, they may remember a decoration, or a song; but what they remember isn't a what, it's a who. They remember the people that made VBS special. In the end, no matter the theme, or the puppet, no matter the generation, or what is going on; That will be our calling.

Pastor Jinx

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDE

Your safety is extremely important to us, which is why we want to keep you informed about what our procedures are in response to rising rates of infection. We use www.globalepidemics.org which is maintained by Brown School of Public Health. The color of our county or three surrounding counties will correspond with the following responses for how we approach worship. Green – No Procedures Yellow – Masks Recommended; Orange – Masks Required; Red – Livestream Only.

CHURCH EVENTS

• July 25-29 - @6-8pm

Vacation Bible School

• August 1 - @5pm

Welcome Back Youth

• August 11 - Back to School

• August 18 - @3pm

Tweens After School

• August 28 - @10:30am

St. Yootz Day @Frontier City

• September 11 - @10am

Founders Day

• September 15 - @11-2pm

Sr. Adult Lunch

@Veterans Event Center

THE PANDEMIC HAS CREATED MANY NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

Churches that have embraced the challenge of becoming relevant during the pandemic and beyond are already making inroads with non-religious and nominally religious people; and they are already reaping the rewards. Can they keep the

During the pandemic, many people experienced sickness themselves, or had a family member become ill, some even have friends and family who died due to the virus or its complications. People experienced trauma on an unprecedented level, especially our healthcare professionals and caregivers.

Many have turned to online worship, as it is the

easiest way to church shop. It is also the best way to learn about a congregation before you ever attend.

People have started to get their new routines started after a long year of disruption, many have decided that their mental, physical, and spiritual well-being is more important than ever and so they are seeking God, looking for safe places to land, to ask the questions about where

God is in all of this.

This is a major opportunity to help shift our culture back toward God. To live into the call of the church in the community, to show what being an authentic Christian truly means.

Let's lean into these new opportunities as they arise and we may find that we have become the church we always dreamed of being, just not the way we planned or intended.

Proverbs 22:17

"A merry heart does good, like medicine"

We are looking for some volunteers who love to plan, shop, cook, and serve meals on Wednesday Evenings.

Fill out your Connect Card or contact the church office today to sign up.

Once we have enough volunteers we can plan and set a start date.

YOUTH PARTY 8/1

Contact The Church Office if you would like to volunteer for our Youth Ministry

Join us on August 1st at 5pm for a kickoff party for our youth (Grades 7 to 12). We would love for Parents to hang out too, to meet each other, our volunteers, and our new Senior Pastor.

We want to use this time to get to know one another and serve the youth of the community. Please let us know if you would like to help shop or cook, or even volunteer to teach in the future.

Youth ministry is a vital part of a growing church and while we may not understand the newest lingo, hairstyles or tik-tok challenge, we can be the faith community that helps nurture, guide, and shape the future leaders of our church.

Let's model for our youth that we still believe in transforming the world for Jesus Christ and show them how they can save the world.



Pictures...

We would enjoy having you take pictures or videos anytime you are attending church, or at an event with your church friends. Also, if you are out traveling, show us what you are up to. Send your pictures, photos, videos of family events, or any other special occasions to the Church Office at MaryKay.Wilson@piedmontumc.org or PastorJinx@piedmontumc.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Odessa Moffat

JoAnn Bennett

Judy Ray

Terry Clyden

John Lacy

Sheila Gage's daughter, Jennifer & grandson Matt

Debra Knight

Kali Adams, daughter of

Jinx & Jena Barber

Roxie Hogg, daughter in law of Stephen & Sherry Hogg

Terry Mueggenborg

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

PASTOR'S PEN

Opportunities are everywhere, Let's take advantage of as many as we can, while we still have them.

When a pastor first comes to a church, they take the tour. And as they pass through, they make mental notes, places to come back to in that first few days. Some places on that list will need repair, replacement, or TLC

But there are other places, Sacred places, where she or he sees a new thing, a potential for what is not yet.... But something that could be.... And it could be grand.... If only you could see what we see, when we see a church through new eyes.

Over the course of that first year, the common practice is to just observe, and not make changes. Honestly, I think it makes our jobs harder because when we do start tinkering, especially after a year or 2 of observing, when we do start to make changes, we find we have missed our window of opportunity, we give up and go back to what is easy....

That's when we start to take things off our list. Those places with potential begin to show less and less promise, because we stop believing that what we saw was even that great in the first place. Or if we have a failure, we stop trying because failure has become the end, because we see it as a bad thing. What if they stopped trying at Heinz 48, or WD-39. What if we just stopped, every time we just got a bit tired, got a bit frustrated, a bit whatever. We stopped seeing failure as a road to success.

I wish you could see the church through my eyes during this time. The absolute beauty of the sheer untapped potential of this church. I am so very excited to be a part of your church during this season. As scary as it might seem, the fields are ripe for harvest, and if we can find the workers, we can truly help to be the community of faith for so many people who just needed to be asked. Investing in them, is an investment in our future.

Before I came, I planned on observing for a while, only making changes where I absolutely had to, but as I listened to more and more of you, I began to sense a hunger for a few changes here and there. What started out as a few changes, has grown, and it is exciting to see how supportive you have been with every new change.



Many of the next changes that we will be implementing will be behind the scenes, strengthening our internal infrastructure and processes so that we can communicate more effectively both within the church and out in the community.

Some upcoming changes will be around removing barriers to worship and becoming intentional about welcoming guests and connecting them to other people and ministries within the church; there's a reason a rope is made of many strings.

I have recently heard of the plans around updating the space we worship in currently and think it is a great first step in getting ready to provide the best possible worship experience for people whether they are in-person or watching at home.

This is certainly an exciting time to be part of the church. If you would like to discuss your dreams for the church, call the church office and set up a time, I would love to hear from you.

Pastor Jinx

If you need additional
information please call
the church office.
405-373-2298

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SENIOR ADULT LUNCHES
BEGINNING THIS FALL**

Veterans Event Center in Piedmont

314 Edmond Road NW

Each Wednesday

Beginning September 15th

11:00am to 2:00pm

Lunch served @12:00pm

- **CHILDREN'S DAY OUT &
PRESCHOOL**

First Tuesday after Labor Day

September 7th

@9am-2:30pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Needing teachers for CDO & Preschool

Email: Shayee.Felton@piedmontumc.org

- **PRAYING THE PROMISES OF GOD**

God knows our heart, so we are called upon to pray without ceasing. Reaching out to others when prayer is needed. We are here to support, to uplift, and to pray for you.

Because prayer is a powerful thing when two or more are gathered in His name!

If you have prayer request, please call the Church Office @**405-373-2298**; also by email MaryKay.Wilson@piedmontumc.org PastorJinx@piedmontumc.org

"He leads me beside quiet waters."

Psalms 23:2



UPCOMING CALENDAR

- **Sunday, July 25**

Sunday School @8:45

Worship @10

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bags to Blessings @2pm

Vacation Bible School

July 25-29, 6-8pm

- **Communion Sunday, August 1**

Sunday School @8:45

Worship @10

Welcome Back Youth @5

Cookout, Games, Get Together