

Greetings Church Family,

As Christians, it is extremely important that we understand where we have come from. We are Christians who live almost 2,000 years after the ascension of Jesus Christ. We are quite a ways removed from the historic moments of Christ's life on this earth. Even so, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, we belong to the Holy Christian Church that was created by Christ and led by his apostles. Knowing this, we are never to be ignorant of the history of the Church to which we belong.



For those interested in knowing where the word Lent comes from, and even for those not so interested, the word comes from the Old English word *lencten* or *lengten*, which means to lengthen. This word was applied to the season of the year when the days were lengthening, the season known as Spring. Lent and Spring therefore bear similar meanings.

Historically, Christians have prepared for the celebration of the Resurrection by fasting. During this period of fasting, Christians would not eat any food during the day until the middle of the afternoon. Even though the body strongly desired food, the Christian was to put this desire aside and focus instead on the things of God, the very Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord **Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" The roots of fasting can be traced back to the writings in the Old Testament. Fasting was a means for God's people to practice control over the body. Understood in that light, fasting is still valuable for Christians today.**

Paul writes to the Galatians, **"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh...And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires," (Galatians 5:16-17).**

None of this talk of fasting is to lead us as Christians to conclude that we must do these things to please God or to earn or keep our salvation. Quite the contrary. We are encouraged to do these things because we have been set free to do so. As Christians, we are to abhor our sinful natures and to confess that we are poor, miserable sinners. We are led by the Spirit to truly repent of our sins and of ourselves, meaning that we are to turn away from all that is sinful and genuinely desire to live the lives Christ Jesus has set us free to live. Not because we must, but because we truly want to as God's children, as brothers and sisters in Christ. Having repented of our sins, God faithfully forgives us all our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness because of the perfect work of salvation that Jesus has done for us all.

The season of Lent serves as one opportunity for Christians to prepare for the coming celebration of Easter. With that in mind, it is my hope that you take advantage of this one opportunity of six weeks to prepare for the celebration of Easter. After these six weeks of dedicated preparation, the Gospel proclamation of Good Friday and Easter Sunday will be that much sweeter to taste. Pray that God would grant this to you this during this season of Lent.

Till The Nets are Full,

*Pastor Brian*

# CHURCH COUNCIL



The next scheduled meeting is **MARCH 14, 2023.**

## FINANCIAL NEWS: JANUARY 2023

2023 Church Income Budget	\$	323,203.00
2023 Church Expenses Budget	\$	322,545.60
Received Income YTD - 2023	\$	36,978.38
Expenses YTD - 2023		<b>20,061.68</b>
Differences (+/-)	\$	16,916.70
Total Income received 1/2023	\$	36,978.38
Total Expenses spent 1/2023		<b>20,061.68</b>
Differences (+/-)		16,916.70

**Non-Budgeted Gifts Received**

Harvest House Beaumont	\$	896.00
Organ Maint/Ch Organist	\$	<b>(256.88)</b>
Small Repair Projects	\$	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,843.53</b>

**Memorials**

Undesignated	\$	1,045.00
Children's Ministry	\$	40.00
Youth Account	\$	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,185.00</b>

**Church Council Meetings for 2023**

- March 14, 2023
- May 9, 2023
- July 11, 2023
- September 12, 2023
- November 14, 2023

Council Meetings are in Cravens Hall at 6 PM.  
Meetings are open to anyone.

**Gifts**

2/5 — \$	3,397.00
2/12 — \$	4,929.85
2/19 — \$	7,327.90



Please join us in welcoming Gary Parks to the staff at SMC as our new Bell Choir Director. Gary has served here in the past as our Choir Director, so please welcome him back when you see him.

A little about Gary: He is a musician, teacher and creator of music. He has a passion for writing and arranging music, and his works are published with several music publishing companies. Gary spent 45 years with the Symphony of Southeast Texas as timpanist and principal until his retirement in 2022. He taught both choral and instrumental music at all levels for 36 years for both the Beaumont ISD and Lamar University. He also directed music for local area churches from 1967-2020. **WELCOME GARY!**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, APRIL 10TH**

## MARCH MINISTRY FOCUS



UMCOR was founded in 1940 by Bishop Herbert Welch. Over the past 82 years, UMCOR has helped thousands of people in more than 65 countries. The UMCOR Sager Brown Depot is located in Baldwin, LA and offers countless opportunities to serve.

UMCOR is serving people in need internationally and here in the US. You can support this ministry with your financial giving during the month of March.



## Easter SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 9th

**9:15 AM: Children gather in the foyer for butterfly parade**

**9:30 AM: Easter Sunday Service**



## Pre-Filled Eggs Needed

Donations of pre-filled Easter eggs are needed for our Palm Sunday fellowship. We will be collecting them through out the month of March. Please no chocolate filled eggs. Thank you for your support. Please contact Cheryl Owens with any questions.



## Palm Sunday SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND

**9:15 AM - CHILDREN GATHER IN THE FOYER FOR THE PALM PARADE**

**9:30 AM - PALM SUNDAY SERVICE**

**2-4 PM - FAMILY FELLOWSHIP AT THE VOIGTMAN'S. A FUN TIME OF FOOD, GAMES & AN EASTER EGG HUNT.**

**1333 HAYES RD, SILSBEE**



# YARN CHICKS

1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 1 PM

This group is a fun time of fellowship. We will knit and crochet various items to donate to local charities.

Please bring your own supplies. Any questions, please contact Debbie Richardson at (409) 791-0333.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will only have one service each Sunday until further notice.

Church service: 9:30 AM  
Sunday School: 10:30 AM



**Our New Website is now live! Go check it out at [www.silsbeemc.com](http://www.silsbeemc.com)**

# CASA THREADS

Every Friday  
10AM - 12 PM

Providing handmade and sewn items to local charities. Join us and use your sewing skills or learn new skills to help make a difference in our community!

Methodist Church

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Silsbee Methodist Church

670 N 5th St

Silsbee, TX 77656