



A few years ago, David Kinnaman led a research project and wrote a book to answer an important question. He sought to discover what people outside of churches think about churches. Sadly, his findings were not as positive as we would like. Kinnaman found that people outside the church do not actually know what churches are for or in favor of. They only know what we are against.

In some of my talks with perspective members I have heard the "I read this about the Methodist Church", and now it is "I have heard and read this about the Global Methodist Church". The things mentioned tend to be what we are said to be against. If the reputation churches have is being against things, it is no wonder that non-Christians want so little to do with us. Have you ever known someone who had a reputation for always being negative? If so, you probably did your best not to spend a lot of time with that person. If we do not want to be known by what others believe we are against, then we must be able to communicate what we are for.

As a Christian, can you honestly answer what we are for? On a heart level we know what we are for, but it is hard sometimes to verbalize. I believe a church, as a fellowship of believers, should be about these things: We are for love, because it is by the unfathomable love of God displayed on the cross that we have new life. We are for reconciliation and redemption, because it is by the sacrifice of Jesus that we have found forgiveness. We are for mercy, because we know that God has given us a second chance even though we do not deserve it. That just begins to scratch the surface of what we are for as followers of Jesus Christ. We should also have a reputation for being for justice, compassion, gentleness, peace, and joy. Truly, one of the greatest tragedies the church has suffered in western culture is that we became known for what we are against instead of being known by what we are for.

The bigger question is how do we communicate the values that we are for and that define us as a faith community? How do we let those around us know that what we stand for is so much more important than anything we might be against? There are a couple of places in the gospels that can help direct us. Jesus communicated what he was for. He elevated an obscure commandment from Leviticus to be the second greatest commandment as **"love your neighbor as yourself."** Then in the gospel of Matthew we have Matthew 9:36 which states, **"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them."** Jesus had compassion on the crowds because he was for them, he loved them, and he ultimately went to the cross for them and us.

We are the Methodist Church in Silsbee so perhaps what we should communicate is that we love our community. We are for showing compassion, love, and mercy to this town. We are for being a place and a presence of peace, gentleness, and joy in our community. However, we must do more than just say that. Henry Ford once said, "You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do." If we want to communicate that we love our community, then we need to do it in our words and actions. We are off to a great start stepping outside our comfort zones and trying new things outside the walls of our buildings. When people speak of Silsbee Methodist church may they say, "Not only do they love their community but they are kingdom builders too."

Till The Nets are Full,

Pastor Brian

# CHURCH COUNCIL



The next scheduled meeting is September 12, 2023.

## FINANCIAL NEWS: July 2023

2023 Church Income Budget	\$	323,203.00
2023 Church Expenses Budget	\$	322,545.60
Received Income YTD - 2023	\$	199,939.49
Expenses YTD - 2023		172,191.61
Differences (+/-)	\$	27,597.88
Total Income received 7/2023	\$	25,669.98
Total Expenses spent 7/2023	\$	12,290.45
Differences (+/-)	\$	13,379.53

### Non-Budgeted Gifts Received

Christian Care Center	\$	95.00
Feed My Sheep	\$	615.00
Small Repair Projects	\$	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>910.00</b>

### Memorials

Undesignated	\$	1,050.00
Men's Bible Class	\$	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,070.00</b>

### August Gifts

8/3 — \$	13,191.00
8/13 — \$	4,306.00
8/20 — \$	2,469.13
8/27 — \$	4,360.00

## Community Call to Prayer

Every Wednesday  
6-7 PM  
The Chapel



## HAPPY LABOR DAY

WE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH  
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAY





SEND **GOOD NEWS** **GREAT JOY**

**PACK A SHOEBOX**

Samaritan's Purse INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

September Ministry Focus

## Operation Christmas Child Pack a Shoebox

We will be collecting money during the month of September to cover the shipping cost of \$10 per box. During October we will collect specific items for our shoeboxes.

Sunday, November 12th we will have our shoebox packing party. Thank you for your financial support of this amazing outreach that gives us the opportunity to show the love of Jesus all over the world.



**CHURCH WORK DAY**

**Saturday, September 30th**

More information to come!



## ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH

**RETURNING IN OCTOBER!**

**DETAILS TO FOLLOW.**

**GET YOUR FALL ON Y'ALL!**

## BELL CHOIR

Are interested in joining the bell choir? We have a place for you and no experience is required!

Weekly practices on Wednesdays and one performance per month.

Come make some joyful noise to the Lord!

Questions? Contact Lee Sheppard at [leezebshepp@yahoo.com](mailto:leezebshepp@yahoo.com)



## R O O T E D

MYF Youth Group is now "Rooted" which comes from Colossians 2:7.

Rooted will resume meeting beginning Sunday, September 10th, 4:30 - 6 PM in the youth center (located inside the Methodist Center). Rooted is open to youth entering 6th grade through 12th grade. Mark your calendars and plan to come fellowship together.

# 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.

# THREADS OF HOPE

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!

*Silsbee*  
 Methodist Church  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
 Silsbee Methodist Church  
 670 N 5th St  
 Silsbee, TX 77656