EUREKA UMC NEWS

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PASTOR MICHAEL MILLER'S MINUTE .....

THANKSGIVING. Don't you just love the Fall season, especially after those hot Texas summers. Seeing the colors of the foliage change and getting a respite from the summer temperatures is always a welcome change.

Temperatures and fall colors aren't the only changes that we see as November comes. Planning for Thanksgiving also becomes a topic in most households. However, before we start planning who is hosting the family and what sides go with turkey, let's take a moment and focus on the reasons we have to celebrate.

Every day, I think about how blessed I am when I wake up and begin the day. I am blessed to have a loving, supportive wife who has been with me as our family has grown and expanded over the years, with sons-in-law and then grandchildren; I've gotten to see my grandchildren grow into adulthood and try to figure life out. I've been very blessed.

However, the greatest blessing anyone can have is a relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. That relationship is at the center of all the blessings in my life.

As you go through this month, give some thought each day about how blessed you are. If you were to keep a gratitude journal, see how many things you are thankful for and how blessed you are.

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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously throughout Navarro County and beyond.

DATE	SCRIPTURES	LITURGIST	SERMON SUBJECT
November 1	Isaiah 9: 1-7	Toni Gatlin	Unto us a Child is Born
November 8	Micah 5: 2-6	Edna Davis	From Little Bethlehem
November 15	Micah 3: 1-4; 4: 1-6	Paul Sultana	Preparing the Way
November 22	Matthew 25: 31-46	Mike Wisdom	When the King Comes Looking
November 29	Isaiah 64: 1-9	Paul Osiecki	Restore Us O God

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Tuesday—Alcoholic Anonymous Meeting at 6:00pm

Nov 2—Monthly Dessert & Devotional at The Osiecki's Home (221 Tonkawa Tr) from 5:30 to 7:00

Nov 3—Voting at EUMC

Nov 15—District Charge Conference at Hillside UMC at 4:00pm. https://www.htcumc.org/event/mid-south-district-charge-conference/

Nov 18—Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner @ 6:00

Nov 28—Church Workday @ 9:00am

Dec 17—MISD Elementary School Food Drive

Dec 24—Christmas Eve Service @ 3:00pm

Jan 3—New Church Service Start Time @ 10:30am

PRAYER REQUESTS

Becky Burns
The Curtis Family
Jo Hinshaw
Jim Jackson
Pat Kelly's Family Member
Randy Miller
Bowen Pennington
Myrtle Pritchett
Ann Ricker
Leo Telavera

PRAYING FOR MISD TEACHERS

Roy Bradford
Kari Burks
Drew Burnett
Brandy Emerson
Bonni Estes
Austin Hall
Amy Herzog
Laura Jenkins
Gina Johnson
Miguel Luna
Cynthia McCaslin
Colby Myers
Brandon Tackett
April Thompson

CHURCH UPDATES

- **10/19 Follow Up Planning Meeting:** We agreed on the following Mission Statement for EUMC:
  Making Disciples of Jesus Christ by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously throughout Navarro County and beyond.

  We also reviewed the different short term projects discussed at the previous meeting.

- **New Electronic Sign Update:** This project was officially approved at the Annual Charge Conference on 9/25. A subcommittee is meeting and discussing the different sign options to determine the amount of money to raise.
- **New Brochure:** Thanks to Toni Gatlin for designing a new brochure that was given out at the Trunk or Treat event as well as being visible at the day of voting taking place at our church.
- **New Children's Bag of Goodies:** Toni Gatlin and Sherry Miller put together bags of "entertainment" for children while they are in worship service.
- **Church Workdays:** Ron Mick is leading us on quarterly works days, starting on Nov 28.
- **Multiplication Team Planning Meeting Results:** Seven team members from the District Office, lead by Stacey Piyakhan shared with our church members ideas on "relationships": Making connections, building relationships in community, increasing visibility, and expanding on existing ministries with Mildred ISD. There is value to disrupt normal, was a key message from the District Office along with increase our social media presence. Like and Share posts on Facebook, write our website address and email on everything. Stacey also provided some great advice on the raising money for our new electronic sign. A more detailed summary will be available on request. Thanks to everyone that attended the meeting.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sue Teague—November 7
Paul Sultana—November 11
Pat Kelly—November 21

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METHODISM 101: THE GEORGIA MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE

by Toni Gatlin

It's July 1735 and John and Charles Wesley have been invited to Georgia, an English colony founded just two years prior by James Oglethorpe. Charles was hesitant to go to the wilderness but John decided they would go and take two friends. Charles was appointed as Governor Oglethorpe's secretary for Indian Affairs; John was expected to provide pastoral care, though his own desires leaned toward missionary work to the local Indians.

Always interested in reaching spiritual perfection, John's motive in accepting this missionary call was first to "save his own soul" and then, as a secondary goal, to "do good in America." John had never traveled by sea and the dangerous, storm-filled winter journey filled him with dread. He was deeply afraid to die, and compounding this was a growing anxiety that his fear of death indicated a lack of faith in God.

Also making the four-month Atlantic crossing was a group of German Moravian Christians. Their calm, confident hymn-singing during the terrifying storms highlighted for John the difference between his own terror of the sea and death, and the Moravians' quiet assurance of God's presence with them in their difficulties.

The little Wesleyan band arrived in Georgia on February 6, 1736. Comforted as he was by being on dry land, John still longed for the calm assurance he had witnessed from the Moravians on board the ship. He was soon befriended by German preacher August Spangenburg, who asked John a simple but pressing question: "Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?" John's journal entries from this period indicate that he feared that his answers in the affirmative were yet “vain words."

While making the Atlantic crossing, John had made plans for his ministry to the Indians in Georgia. However, when he landed in the new colony, he quickly realized that the Indians were not the childlike "savages" he had expected but were rather intelligent, opinionated people who were not inclined to simply convert to a new set of beliefs. Tomochichi, a chief of the Creek Indians, was eager to hear "the Great Word" but wanted to be sure that these new missionaries were not there simply to baptize by force as the Spanish colonizers before them had done. He gave them leave to evangelize first and then to baptize only those who were willing.

Charles had not adjusted to the environment or his job working for Governor Oglethorpe, and he left for England in July 1736. John doggedly continued his work among the Indians, finding them disinclined to learn anything of Christianity. He had a more welcome reception among the Black residents of the area, though his planned program of itinerant ministry from plantation to plantation to preach to the enslaved there never became reality.

In contrast with the slow progress of John's wilderness missionary work, his services in Savannah were well attended. To converse with other settlers in the area, John had learned German and Spanish, and he read services in French and Italian as well. He also tutored local students in various languages.

Through his tutoring, John had became close with a young woman named Sophy Hopkey. Oglethorpe felt John should marry and take up his position in the new society, but John determined that his first allegiance was to ministry and he should remain single and celibate. Sophy, perhaps frustrated with waiting for John to sort out his calling, quickly wed another man and—despite his own intention not to marry—John was devastated.

A few months later, in his role as the local pastor, John denied the Lord's Supper to Sophy on the grounds that she was deceitful and unrepentant. Whether this was wholly true or whether John's opinion of Sophy had been tainted by his own heartbreak is unclear, but the public embarrassment sent shock waves through the community.

The local magistrate (who was, conveniently, Sophy's uncle) hastily convened a hand-picked grand jury to accuse John of a variety of improprieties, almost all of which were, like the communion issue, related to church matters and not legal infractions at all. John was indicted but swiftly packed up for England before a trial could be held, leaving Georgia behind in December 1737.

What had seemed at first a high honor—being invited to shape a community in the New World—had in less than two years devolved into the embarrassment of John's short life. He had experienced only frustration in his missionary endeavors, his heart had been broken, and he was unwelcome in Savannah. He returned to England with these losses in one hand and in the other, the still-unresolved question of whether he was a child of God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. "Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?"
2. When have you felt a sense of God's presence with you in times of danger or difficulty?
3. Has there been a season of life when it seemed that nothing you did was successful?

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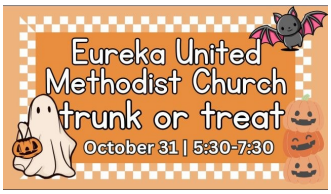
ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT



Congratulations to Pam Thomas who won the beautiful quilt made by our beloved Church Quilters benefiting the Lords Acres Program.