



MEADOWBROOK-POLY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Looking Ahead

May 12, 2022

Hope and Assurance in Jesus



This Sunday, Pastor Ginger Watson will preach from Revelation, one option from this week's "lectionary" of Old and New Testament scriptures to guide pastors in their sermons.

"I have tended to avoid Revelation because it is so strange and requires so much context for a good understanding," Pastor Ginger explains. "It is better approached in a Bible study over a period of weeks than in a Sunday sermon."

In this week's familiar passage, however, "there's a deep beauty and hopefulness in John of Patmos's vision of Christ making all things new, that he is the beginning and the end," Ginger notes.

"I need that assurance!" she says. "With the war in Ukraine, and people at each other's throats here in the U.S., I really need a deep conviction that God has got this and will prevail."

Please join us for worship at 10:50 a.m., Sunday, May 15, in our sanctuary at 3900 Meadowbrook Drive or livestreamed at Meadowbrook-Poly UMC Facebook Live!

Our worship team will lead us in music, prayer, liturgy and scripture from Psalm 148 and Revelation 21:1-6 to prepare us for Ginger's sermon, "All Things New."

If you miss the live service, you can watch it at your convenience on the church Facebook page, where you can also find information about other church and community activities.



Services for Donna Tolsdorf, a longtime Polytechnic UMC member who died on Monday, May 9, will be at 10:30 a.m., Monday, May 16, in the former Polytechnic sanctuary.

Donna and her son Don attended Meadowbrook-Poly UMC a few times each month as she felt well enough to come. Even as her health kept her at home, Donna continued to crochet hats by the dozens for homeless men and women. We will miss her positive attitude and beautiful spirit.

Food, Fun and Fellowship: A Methodist Tradition



You may have heard the story of the little boy who took a casserole to school for "Show and Tell." When it was his turn to share, the boy repeatedly said, "I'm a Methodist. This is what we do."

That's certainly true at Meadowbrook-Poly UMC (and the two churches before they merged in 2020). Before COVID, food was a central part of many gatherings, from Sunday School snacks to all-church dinners.

Even after MPUMC resumed in-person worship on Easter 2021, church groups have only gradually begun serving food again in an effort to minimize the spread of contagious illnesses including COVID.

But Sunday School classes and other small groups who drifted apart during COVID are finding new ways to connect again. Here are some of the groups that are meeting again for food, fun and fellowship:

Bibles and Beer Together Again

These former Meadowbrook youth (now in their 20s and 30s) met for about three years before COVID stymied in-person gathering in restaurants where they met for fellowship and study.

The group began meeting again in March, some with toddlers born during their hiatus. Kylie Reynolds Thornton led the May discussion of Bart D. Ehrman's *Misquoting Jesus*, about the implications on the church and society caused by discrepancies in Biblical translations.

Visitors are welcome to attend the next meeting at 7 p.m., June 8, at Mama's Pizza on Berry Street. The group usually meets the first Wednesday each month with occasional changes to accommodate scheduling conflicts. For more information, contact Kirsten Strom at kmstrom919@gmail.com or 817-317-1424.

Covenant Class Reunites for Fellowship

Meadowbrook-Poly's Covenant Sunday School class has been inactive since COVID when several of its active members moved farther away from the church.

A few members who have continued to usher regularly or serve in leadership roles were instrumental in recharging the class with monthly fellowship meetings at Italy Pasta and Pizza.

Following in the footsteps of Bibles and Beer (started by some of their children), class members plan to meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month starting June 9. For a complete list of 2022 dates, contact Brenda Reynolds at 817-975-8222.

Tuesday Lunch Bunch Rotates Restaurants

What started before the Meadowbrook-Poly UMC merger as lunch after a weekly Bible study has morphed into a Tuesday lunch at various east Fort Worth restaurants for whoever wants to come.

Admittedly, the informal group quit meeting for a while during the height of COVID and has not spread the word in an organized way since they started meeting for lunch again. But it's not an exclusive group. The group has grown by word of mouth. Those who are there each week decide the location for the next Tuesday's lunch.

There's no formal leader, but Lori Watson or Lynne Elliott usually knows where the group is meeting next. Contact Lori at 682-230-3441 or Lynne at 817-929-0604. Please join us at noon next Tuesday at the Golden Chick, 5701 Craig Street. Lori says the chicken salad is delicious.

Sandwich Ministry before Dinner

When Gary and Jane Cumbie started the monthly sandwich ministry for the Presbyterian Night Shelter nearly two years ago, classmates in the Koinonia Sunday School class were the main sandwich makers in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

As the word spread, the project grew to include more church members from outside their class and has now become a church-wide activity. The group is now packing about 400 ham and cheese sandwiches each month at an average cost of \$350. If you wish to support this ministry financially, please make your check payable to the church and note that it is for "sandwich ministry."

The monthly "sandwich build" usually takes place about 4 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month. You are invited to participate whenever your schedule permits. The next scheduled date is May 25. As an added incentive, some of the group regularly go to the Mexican Inn for dinner before choir rehearsal at 7 p.m. (Contact Gary at 817-992-0097 before you come. The date sometimes changes.)

Future Food and Gathering Activities

The Grace and Praise, Wesleyan and Koinonia Sunday School classes usually have coffee and snacks at their 9:30 a.m. classes. The Wesleyan class also had an ice cream social at the Lakewood Retirement Community in April and is tentatively planning another one around July 4.

And members of various classes and the United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) are starting to talk about the possibility of having an all-church lunch or dinner later in the summer. Stay tuned for more information as it develops.

Poet Mary-margaret Belota Draws a Crowd



Mary-margaret Belota, a longtime Meadowbrook UMC member who has relocated to Burleson and moved her membership to her childhood church there, drew a record crowd this week for the annual book and author program hosted by United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women).

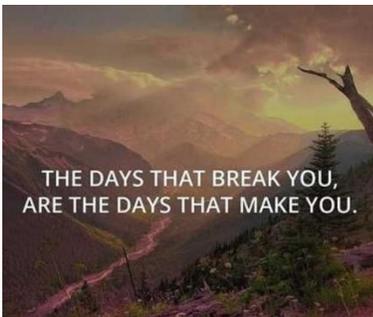
More than 40 people, including our own members and other fans of Mary-margaret's work, packed the Wesleyan classroom to hear the thrice-published poet read selections from her latest book, *Moving Forward--A Journey to Letting Go*, as well as her two previous poetry books.

The biggest surprise was the attendance by 10 men--the most ever at a UMW book and author program, even for notable male authors. Mary-margaret was so entertaining, she's already getting requests to speak at other programs including one at the Lakewood Retirement Community.

After her 45-minute program, Mary-margaret signed copies of her three books for most of the attendees. If you missed the program, you can contact her at mbelota@sbcglobal.net or 817-253-2022. Her books are also available on Amazon. Hint: Her next publication may be a book of essays.

Inspired by Nature and Words of Wisdom

Diane Griffin, Lois Bogusch and Sharon Conger are my faithful editors of the newsletter each week. They also are the source of many of the inspirational messages we close the newsletter with most weeks.



Diane came through again this week with several selections for me to choose from. This one popped out of me during a trying day, but I likely will use others in the future.

But we'd still like to hear from our readers who find art, photos, poems, stories and other things that lift their spirits. If you want to share something that inspired you with others, please send it to marthadeller47@gmail.com.