



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

February 27, 2023

Pastor's Message



Chapel Hill UMC
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CHUMC Family,

I attended the installation service for Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr., eight days ago as he was installed as bishop presiding over both the Central Texas Conference and our North Texas Conference. Bishop Saenz preached from John 21 in this service and pointed us to the Sacred Trust Peter committed to when Jesus thrice asked him, "Do you love me?" to which Peter thrice answered, "Yes," and to which Jesus thrice commanded Peter, "Feed my (sheep/lambs)." This sacred trust is one in which we lay ourselves down as no longer our own, for our lives are not to point to ourselves but the one who chooses us, loves us, and calls us to serve. When we commit ourselves to loving Christ and feeding the sheep, we are no longer our own. We belong to Christ.

Bishop Saenz explains, "Christ draws Peter into a deeper love for Him, so that Peter can draw others into a deeper love for God in Christ." This deeper love is a gift of God's grace, which is the very essence of our Wesleyan theology.

Bishop Saenz followed with his confidence in one thing: "You belong to Christ. You love Christ and you live for Christ," before vowing as bishop to do his, "best to love you who belong to Christ."

After stating this commitment, our new bishop shared, "I am excited about our church's future and our mission because of our amazing clergy and laity, our message of God's grace and our concern and commitment for personal holiness, evangelism, service in the world, and social justice." Bishop Saenz also celebrated our "racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse cosmopolitan context for ministry" before exclaiming: "Friends, it doesn't get any better than this."

Bishop Saenz then laid out a vision for the two conferences:

1. We will engage those who have been left behind by society so that they know God sees them, hears their cries, cares for them, and draws near to them through ministries of church planting, spiritual formation, compassion, mercy, and justice.
2. We will engage in meaningful ministry and missions that will help to heal, help, give hope, and make whole our fractured world.
3. We will strengthen the bonds of our sacred connection with God, with each other, and with our neighbors. We will collaborate with our sister churches, with no more isolated churches doing their own thing, with our ecumenical partners, and with community associates.
4. We are going to engage in sacred dialogue and discernment about issues affecting people's lives, moving past our preconceived notions and false judgements about others, and get to know them as people. As such, we will dialogue and discern around issues of racism, discrimination, mental health, intolerance, violence, and widening ideological divides.
5. Bishop Saenz committed to do all in his power to encourage us, set us free, and even go ahead of us into the future. We will celebrate progress, while acknowledging that it is OK when we fail, and applaud each other for taking a risk for Christ.

The vision set before us for the coming years offers us a wondrous invitation. To view Bishop Saenz's entire sermon and hear more about this vision, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/0NaAHmibo6E>.



Grace and peace,
Rev. J.D. Allen

Prayer List

CHUMC Homebound	Valerie Lach-Szyrma & Family
The Gee Family	Iris Shivar's sister Bea
Tom Sanders	Bea's son Scott
Danny Halron	North August, SC Dept. of Social Services regarding Bea's great-grandson Lenox
Grandma Gloria	Family of Andy Hoelle
Yvette's kids	Verlyn Madson
Edrese Hanigan	Mike Hill (Barbara Tatum's son-in-law)
Kevin Patterson	Gay Keim (Kandy Burdette's daughter-in-law)
Sam Orton	Eleanor Body
Gloria (Pinson) Ming	RL Turner Community
Judy Bull	Mass shooting victims
Scott Fletcher	Turkey & Syria Earthquake victims
Jim Cranford	
Margaret Young	
Martha Johnson	
Don Oldfield	
Andrea Rains	
Phyllis Hendrix	
Juan Torres' friend	
Leonardo Meadow	

It's Frisco RoughRider Baseball Time Again

Because we had so many people who backed out of going to last year's game, we're going to change the method this year. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway, once I have enough people signed up, I will order the tickets and the deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 5th. I have picked May 20th as the Saturday to go; however, until I have the commitments and order the tickets I will not know where the seats will be nor the cost. For your planning purposes, figure the tickets will be no more than \$25.00 and I will get the best seats available at the time. You don't have to pay until the tickets are ordered; but you can.

Any questions, please contact Tom Wooldridge.

Announcements

Our Communion Offering on Sunday, March 5th will support UMCOR. UMCOR provides hope and safety for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement, and climate change.

Easter Lilies may be ordered for \$15 each. They will decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. An insert honoring or remembering your loved one(s) will be placed in the bulletin. All orders are due by NOON on Sunday, March 12th. Please complete one form for each order and be sure to print legibly. Make checks payable to Chapel Hill UMC and place the form and check on the desk in the church office.

Chili Cook Off Sunday, March 26th 4-6 PM Benefitting the Children and Youth Bridgeport Camp. We will be sending 8 children to the camp this summer. Entry sign up sheets are in the hallway.



Bishop Saenz Jr. to answer your questions at District Meetings

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. is excited to meet with lay and clergy of the North Texas Conference on Saturday, April 1st from 10 AM-Noon at First United Methodist Church Duncanville. To submit a question, please go to <https://ntcumc.org/district-huddles> and fill out the form.

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: bit.ly/CHUMCYoutube

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc

BIRTHDAY REMINDER: Please let our church office know your birthdate, mm/dd/yyyy, so your church family can acknowledge your special day. **Your 'year' will remain private:** office@chapelhillumc.org



JD	Allen	3/8
Cindi	Moore	3/11
Lee	Willhite	3/15
Haley	Byrd	3/16
Kelly	Lopez	3/17