



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

March 27, 2023

Pastor's Message

CHUMC Family,



Chapel Hill UMC
Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

Kate Whitaker
Minister of Families

Melissa Sky-Eagle
Worship & Music

Jill Cox
Office Manager

Jim Hanigan
Building Manager

We continue our journey through Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.'s, installation service of February 19th this week with a consideration of his fourth point of emphasis: we are going to engage in sacred dialogue and discernment about issues affecting people's lives, moving past our preconceived notions and false judgments 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.

The narrative in John 4 that precedes our scripture reading for worship yesterday provides great instruction in this regard. Jesus converses at great depth and meaning with a Samaritan woman. This is significant for at least two reasons: 1) a man was not to speak to women they were not married to, 2) Jews and Samaritans were not to consort with one another. Beyond that, this woman had been cast off by five husbands and treated as someone worthy of discard. This represented gender and racial bias at the time. The gender bias was rooted in a long-standing patriarchy that shaped much of the people's lives. The racial bias was rooted in centuries of history, reflected in centuries of angst and rivalry between the people of the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Each group had rival places of worship and the Samaritans were dehumanized by the Jewish people because they were viewed as less pure, being of mixed race which had been forced upon them by the Assyrians when they overtook Israel. There may have been dehumanizing rhetoric among the Samaritans about the Jews as well, but this story focuses on the Jewish side of the story from which Jesus came so that is not expressed here.

What we see in John 4 is Jesus stepping out in compassion, seeking reconciliation and not allowing traditional preconceptions to drive how he approaches his neighbor. The conversation is affirming, yet challenging, and opens the door for disparate peoples to become one. Drinking of the living water, which was Christ and the way of Christ, would be a thirst-quenching freedom from the dehumanizing, ideological rhetoric of their day as people learned what it was to become children of God by God's grace in the reign of God.

Imagine how transformative it would be to approach one another, not with the hateful, dehumanizing rhetoric of our day, but with the gracious dialogue and discernment modeled by Jesus with the Samaritan woman. Imagine how racism, discrimination, violence, and ideological divides would melt away as we recognize the sacred worth of all people rooted in our common creation by God. Imagine how the neglect of people dealing with things like mental health struggles would disappear as we learn of the healing power of God's community ruled by compassion, love, and justice rather than imperial force. It would transform our understanding of depression, addiction, and other mental struggles rather than simply believing people just need more faith.

May we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and open our eyes this day to opportunities for transformative sacred dialogue and discernment.

***Grace and peace,
Rev. J.D. Allen***



Prayer List

CHUMC Homebound	Don Oldfield
The Gee Family	Phyllis Hendrix
Tom Sander	Family of Andy Hoelle
Danny Halron	Verlyn Madson
Grandma Gloria	Mike Hill (Barbara Tatum's son-in-law)
Yvette's kids	Gay Keim (Kandy Burdette's sister-in-law)
Edrese Hanigan	Eleanor Body
Kevin Patterson	Scott Malone (Iris Shivar's nephew)
Sam Orton	Family of Nick Barnett
Gloria (Pinson) Ming	Christel Hensley and Family
Judy Bull	Arlington Lamar High School Community
Scott Fletcher	Thomas Jefferson High School Community
Jim Cranford	Mass shooting victims
Margaret Young	
Martha Johnson	
Don Oldfield	
Phyllis Hendrix	
Martha Johnson	



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.

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
10 AM – 2 PM

For pastoral appointments outside of office hours, you may call the office to schedule.

If you have a pastoral care emergency outside of office hours, please contact our Senior Pastor, Rev. J.D. Allen at (972) 467-7756.

Announcements

Holy Week We are joining together with Christ UMC at 2807 Valwood Pkwy for Maunday Thursday Worship with Holy Communion and Good Friday Tenebrae Worship. Both services start at 7 pm.

Outreach Meeting Sunday, April 9th at 11:30 AM.

Church Council Meeting Monday, April 10th at 7 PM.

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



Craig Davis	4/2	Linda Pace	4/18
Dave Horton	4/3	Sarah Womble	4/23
Corky Rawdon	4/3	Larry Rains	4/27
Jill Cox	4/13	Fred Maxwell	4/29