

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church

March 31, 2023



News at the Park



Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10:00 am

Take a Jesus stance on gun violence!

GRABANDGO

Sunday & Wednesday
11:00am until all meals are served



Cashapp (\$TheParkUMC)

www.theparkumc.org

1. Locate the "Serve" Tab
2. Choose "Serve Through Giving"
3. Choose "Donate Today"
4. Enter your donation amount

APRIL EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt 1st

Music & Fine Arts Extravaganza @ 10am 2nd

Church Wide Fast 2nd - 9th

7 Last Words 7th

Easter Sunday @ 10:00 am 9th

New Members Class 22nd



The senseless gun violence that claimed six lives in Nashville on Monday has us all shaking our heads and wondering, "when will the gun violence stop?" The Monday episode touched us deeply because it was a school shooting where dedicated staff and innocent children were gunned down. I found this image of Jesus on social media this week and it spoke to our need to end gun violence. Jesus is breaking the gun into. He was a peace maker. In Matthew 5:9 he said,

"Blessed are the peacemaker, for they shall be called sons and daughters of God."

As United Methodists, we will pray on this matter. There is more for us to do. Our denomination is known for social action. So, are called to address gun violence in our communities through prayer, engaging in courageous conversations, supporting those affected by gun violence, and partnering with law enforcement to help prevent gun violence. We must also advocate, individually and collectively, for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence, including, but not limited to:

- Universal background checks on all gun purchases.
- Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers.
- Prohibiting gun purchases for both those under a restraining order (due to the threat of violence) and those with serious mental illness (who pose a danger to themselves and their communities).
- Ensuring greater access to services for those with mental illness.
- Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession.
- Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons.
- Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies in tracing crime guns and promote public safety.

Gun Violence Awareness

All forms of violence are detestable, but guns make violence more deadly and more frequent. Every day, more than 110 people in the United States are killed with guns and more than 200 are shot and wounded. The gun homicide rate in the U.S. is 26 times higher than that of other developed countries.

• Suicide

When it comes to gun violence in America, 6 out of every 10 gun deaths are suicides. The U.S. gun suicide rate is nearly 12 times that of other high-income countries. Access to a gun triples the risk of death by suicide. Gun suicides are concentrated in states with high rates of gun ownership. White men represent 73 percent of firearm suicide victims in America.

• Homicide

Four out of every 10 gun deaths are homicides. The rate of gun violence in America is staggering: The U.S. gun homicide rate is 26 times that of other high-income countries. Access to a gun doubles the risk of death by homicide. Black Americans represent the majority of gun homicide victims. In fact, Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide.

• Children and Teens

Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens. More than 2,100 children and teens die by gun homicide every year. For children under the age of 13, these gun homicides most frequently occur in the home and are often connected to domestic or family violence. Black children and teens are 14 times more likely than white children and teens of the same age to die by gun homicide.

• Domestic Violence

Women in the U.S. are 28 times more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other high-income countries. Every month, an average of 70 women in the U.S. are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are shot and wounded. Nearly one million women alive today have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner. Approximately 3.7 million American women alive today have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.

Compiled by Journey Toward Racial Justice of the North Texas Annual Conference

Women of The Park!

Join us each Sunday Morning in the Library at 9 am for Sunday School. We are currently studying 'Nameless Women of the Bible'. All are welcome!

Men of The Park!

Join us each Sunday Morning at 9 am for Sunday School in Rm 111. We study the Word of God each week from our Echoes Sunday School Book. All are welcome!

STAY CONNECTED:

- **Senior Bible Study - Wednesday @ 10:00 am in the church library.**
- **Wednesday Night - Faith & Family**
- **Thursday Prayer 4:00pm-5:00pm - Beverly Galimore** (605-475-3200 / Code: 168 199)
- **Worship Service - 10:00 am (in person, Facebook or Website)**
- **Sunday School - 9:00 am - 9:45 am In Person**

NTC WELCOMES MARKET STREET UMC TO THE CONFERENCE



On Dec. 4, 31 members of First UMC Mabank and First UMC Athens gathered in a music studio on Market Street in Mabank, Texas, to process their emotions following their congregations' decisions to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. While pain and grief were present, the spirit in the room quickly turned to hope for the future, and before the group parted, they had dreams of a new United Methodist Church in the community.

Four short months later, on March 26, 77 charter members joined Market Street UMC as it was organized and welcomed into the North Texas Conference

A laity-led movement

From the beginning, Market Street's story has been driven by the laity, with leadership coming from among the congregants.

"I was floored by the passion and enthusiasm at that first meeting on Market Street," said Rev. Dr. Owen Ross, director of the NTC Center for Church Development. "I told them 'In my role as one who encourages and empowers our church planters, I am really uncomfortable saying this, but we have to slow down.'"

Rather than a group of disheartened exiles, Ross found himself that first night among a group of enthusiastic, Spirit-led United Methodists. Witnessing what was underway, he moved quickly to bring NTC resources to support the fledgling fellowship.

"In December, I issued the Market Street group a challenge," Ross said. "I told them that the Center for Church Development (CCD) would match their giving dollar-for-dollar up to \$15,000. Not only did they raise \$15,000 before the year's end – they blew past that initial goal and raised more than \$42,000. And the giving hasn't stopped."

While they came from two churches in communities separated by about 19 miles, former members of First UMC Mabank and First UMC Athens found themselves among a new congregation who understood the difficult season they had weathered and the complicated emotions that brought.

The fellowship's worshipping attendance continued to climb week after week. The group quickly outgrew the music studio, as well as its second temporary home at the Mabank Library. In January, the group moved into the former Eustace UMC building, which had been vacant for nearly three years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It really looked like the rapture had happened," said John Loar, a lay member of Market Street UMC. "There were Bibles open on the table, boxes left out on the counter, food left in the refrigerator. It was just crazy. But that didn't deter us. We came in and the group got together. The ladies polished up the pews; the men painted the whole inside, ran new piping. And it's just been a wonderful experience."

"We've put a lot of elbow grease and blood, sweat and tears into the building itself to get it ready," said Mindy Sutton, a lay member of Market Street UMC. "But it really has been a blessing to be here. It's hard not to see God's hand in this too. It was people from Athens and people from Mabank who combined to join this congregation, and Eustace happens to be halfway between those two communities. So it really was a godsend to have this facility that we've loved on and made our own."

To support weekly services, the NTC enlisted retired Rev. Dr. Vic Casad to serve as the congregation's interim pastor.

"When [my wife] Mary Brooke and I see people who know what's happening here, they'll say 'Oh, you're out in Mabank starting a new church,'" Casad said. "And I have to correct them, 'No, we're in Mabank watching a new church being started.' This church start has been completely led by the laity, and we're just glad to be present to witness it."

'We're still part of the connectional United Methodist Church ... we have a foundation'

Market Street's chartering service recognized its full connection to The United Methodist Church, establishing it as an official church within the North Texas Conference and changing its name from Market Street United Methodist Fellowship to Market Street United Methodist Church.

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. presided over the service, hosted at First Presbyterian Church in Mabank, with additional participation from Rev. Cassie Wade, district superintendent of the East District; Dr. Casad and Dr. Ross.

"For us, this chartering means we're still part of the connectional United Methodist Church, that we have a foundation," said lay member Andrea Pickens. "It's invigorating and a huge opportunity, I think, for doing God's work in the community that we serve."

Even without a building to call their own, Market Street members have already begun rolling up their sleeves and serving the community. On March 25, for example, congregants completed projects at Celebrate Forever Families, including building a new playground at the domestic violence shelter.

"Back in kids' church, we learned that there's a building, there's a steeple, look inside and you got all the people," Loar said. "We've found out that the stones and brick don't mean anything – it's the people. We're back to the people again. So that's been rewarding for us. It's a real relief and a real joy and a real hope that yes, we're going to be back together."

And on that sunny March afternoon, a multi-generational congregation gathered to celebrate being together again in The United Methodist Church, as well as to establish their hopes for the future of Market Street UMC.

"This morning, we had our children play chimes in worship, and the song they had chosen to play was 'We Are the Church,'" Sutton said. "It struck me how they are the future of the church. And there's so much hope. This is really why we are creating this congregation – for them and for future generations to have a place where everyone is welcome and everyone feels the love of God."



Save The Date - Friday, **April 7th** - Hamilton Park UMC

Presents

The 7 Last Words Of Jesus Christ @ 7 pm

In - Person in the Sanctuary

11881 Schroeder Rd. - Dallas, TX 75243



Dr. Sheron C. Patterson— MC

Good Friday

Beverly Galimore Eleanor Browne DeeDee Spivey Dwight Harry Felicia Brewster Rodney Patten Fred Jones



FAMILY

CHURCH

RECLAIM

COMMUNITY

HEALTH

MEN'S CONFERENCE 2023

AUGUST 11-12, 2023 @ THE HAMILTON PARK UMC (CLC)



Kathy Turner
 Reed family
 David & Linda Tyson
 Roger & Shirley Bouyer
 Shirley Pleasant
 Harry McCalla
 Sheila & Percy Dyson

Wilbur & Minnie Wright
 Herman & Linda Manning
 Mallory Polk
 Barbra Knight
 Saundre & Ron Henderson
 The Slatter family
 Traci Williams

Kim King
 James Bebe
 Cathy Parker
 Nancy Williams
 Tyra Mosley
 The Waites family
 Robbie Stewart & family

EVENTS

+13462487799,,88398204070#,,,,*088956# US (Houston)
 +12532050468,,88398204070#,,,,*088956# US

Friday Morning Lenten Prayer Call every Friday @ 7:AM

Lenten Prayer



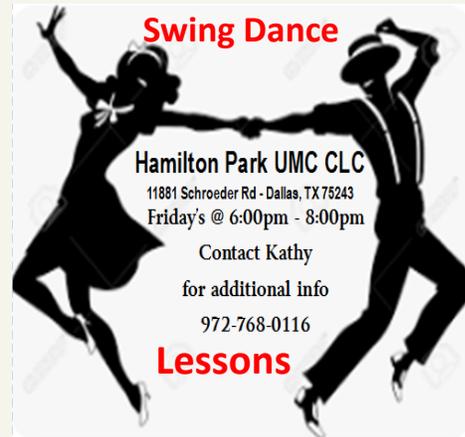
MEET OUR PRAYER & FASTING AMBASSADORS



Sheila Dickerson, Beverly Galimore,
 Eleanor Browne, Rev. Archie Browne,
 Deaconess Dee Dee Spivey

**Our Fast will begin on
 April 2nd - April 8th**

Swing Dance



Hamilton Park UMC CLC

11881 Schroeder Rd - Dallas, TX 75243

Friday's @ 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Contact Kathy

for additional info

972-768-0116

Lessons



The March Mature Adults meeting included a Lenten devotion led by Ruth Robinson that focused on the "Stations of the Cross." This traces the steps of Christ as he carried the cross to Golgotha.

Next Meeting
 April 25th
 10:00 am
 Via
 Zoom
 &
 In Person



"It's time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and we are in need of donations. Please drop off plastic eggs and candy at the Children's Welcome Desk near the Trustee Bench and plan to join us for this super fun event on **this** Saturday, April 1st from 11am-1pm. There will be food and fun for everyone! (no chocolate or peanuts please)

**Volunteers are
 NEEDED for this event**

An Opportunity to Serve!!!

**Path 2 Nourishment
 Saturday, April 1st 10:00 am (CLC)**



new MEMBERS CLASS

RSVP TO ART MOSLEY
 @ AMOSLEY@THEPARKUMC.ORG
 BY 4/20/23

**SATURDAY
 APRIL 22ND
 @ 11:AM
 IN THE
 LIBRARY**

