

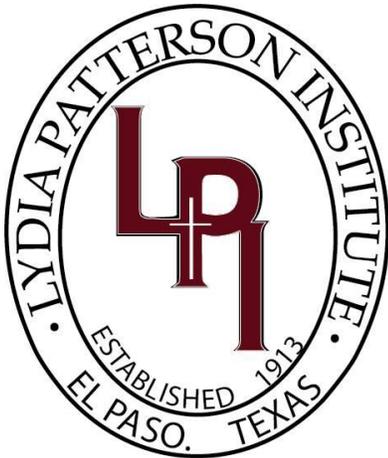


# January



First United Methodist Church ~ 134 W. Pearl St. Goliad, TX 77963 ~ 361-645-254

January's communion rail offering will support the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso Texas.



For almost 100 years, United Methodists have responded to the need for a quality education for those Hispanic students that face tremendous challenges obtaining a quality education. What began in 1913 with Mrs. Lydia Patterson, a Methodist laywoman acting through the Women's Missionary Society of her church, noticing that young Hispanic boys in el barrio had no school to attend began to setup schools in the homes of some Mexican Methodists. Her spirit and vision is still alive today at Lydia Patterson Institute where over 400 young men and women, a majority of whom are from Ciudad Juarez, continue to be educated in a challenging academic environment while being nurtured in Christian values. LPI was one of the first schools in the US to emphasize the teaching of English as a Second Language in 1921 and to then merge students into the appropriate grade level to put them on the path toward graduation from high school.

Excellence and outstanding achievement has been the trademark of LPI students. Graduation rates of students exceed 95% of those entering as freshmen and over 98% of the graduates continue their education at colleges across the US. The graduation class of 2010, for example, earned 2.1 million dollars in competitive college scholarships.

With the support of the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, LPI is positioned to keep faith with its historic commitment to academic excellence and intentional spiritual nurture. LPI is also extending its horizons to the limitless possibilities of cross-cultural enterprises by which she aspires to serve the general Church.

The Staff and Administration see themselves as strategically situated geographically, demographically and historically to serve as a bridge that will span the social, cultural and spiritual realities of a very diverse population. Today's conditions offer us an exciting and challenging moment in which to serve God as we serve mankind.

We find ourselves at a hinge-moment as 2019 has come to a close and 2020 is here! As such, I'm filled with gratitude as I look back over what we accomplished together *and* as I look forward to what lies ahead!

Did you know in 2019...?

- We paid 100% of our apportionments to the district, conference and denomination. This means that we fulfilled our commitment to support ministries of The United Methodist Church locally and globally!
- 23 women went on the Ladies' Retreat.
- We averaged a weekly worship attendance of 59 individuals.
- We collected 276 books for Bloomington Elementary after their library was destroyed by a bat infestation.
- Through our monthly rail offerings, we supported many ministries beyond our annual budget.
  - Lydia Patterson Institute: \$256
  - Wesley Community Center: \$166.50
  - UMCOR Sunday: \$301
  - Justice For Our Neighbors: \$147
  - UM Missionary Willie Berman Ramirez: \$207
  - Vacation Bible School: \$440
  - Heifer International: \$256
  - Back-to-School Health Fair: \$249
  - Goliad Ministerial Alliance: \$193
  - ZOE Ministries: \$1,399.14
  - UMCOR International (Hurricane Relief): \$329
  - Harvest Sunday: \$227
  - Metro Ministries: \$219
  - Methodist Children's Home: \$1533

**That's a total of \$5922.64 extra-mile giving!**

- In addition to financial gifts, food and cleaning supplies were given each month in order to care for our neighbors in Berclair.
- We gave 10 young people Bibles on Children's Sabbath.
- We had 53 children attend Vacation Bible School and numerous adults volunteer to make this a special experience!

How did God bless you in 2019 through the communal life of the Church?

I celebrate all that God accomplished through the people called Methodists in Goliad County! And, I celebrate that God is not done with us yet! The next page will detail some calendar dates as well as our new committee leadership. I share these with you so you can find meaningful ways to engage in our community and join in on what God is doing in our midst!

+Be Present+  
Pastor Missy

### **2020 La Bahia Worship Dates**

*Sundays at 3:00pm*

March 22

June 14

September 6

November 29

### **2020 Holy Days**

Jan 5: Epiphany

Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)

Apr. 5: Palm Sunday

Apr. 9: Maundy Thursday

Apr. 10: Good Friday

Apr. 12: Easter Sunday

May 31: Pentecost Sunday

Oct. 4: World Communion Sunday

Nov. 1: All Saints' Sunday

Nov. 22: Christ the King Sunday

Nov. 29: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

### **2020 Church Committee Chairpersons**

Lay Leader: Hal Davis

Church Council: Matt Bochat

Finance: Lee Grimsinger

Church Treasurer: Wendy Naranjo

Pastor-Parish Relations: Erika Bochat

Trustees: Mark Hancock

Nurture Ministry: Robin Barnhill

Outreach: Hal Davis

Worship: Anna White & Cheryl Worley

### **Upcoming Events in the Coastal Bend District and Broader UMC**

Jan 24-26, 2020 Midwinter Retreat (see District Ministries/Youth Page for Info)

February 27, 2020 District Pro's Meeting - Karnes City United Methodist

March 7, 2020 Lay Servant Classes (see District Ministries/Lay Servant page)

April 17-19, 2020 District Women's Retreat (see District Ministries/Women Retreat page)

April 27, 2020 Clergy Convocation

May 5-15, 2020 General Conference

June 10-13, 2020 Annual Conference

July 12-18, 2020 Sacramento Youth Camp



# Wesley Nurse Newsletter

## January – Year of Health:

*“This is a permanent law for you, to purify the people of Israel from their sins, making them right with the Lord once each year.” Leviticus 16:34 NLT*

In the Chinese culture, the New Year is the time dedicated to finish with the old and to start with the new. Their traditions include visiting friends and family to re-establish relationships, cleaning the house to prepare for the coming year, stocking cupboards with household provisions, settling all old debts, and putting forth their best behavior. These activities are to make the new year better and healthier.

What are you going to do for your health this year? Are you going to keep all of your old habits and ignore healthier ones? For example, have you considered limiting your meals at fast-food restaurants? Can you develop healthier choices at the grocery store? Will you improve your exercise habits by walking or joining a health club? Have you considered the health benefits of practicing self-care and a well-balanced lifestyle? Any and these will guide you to a healthier life.

Once you decide to make an improvement, you must first choose what area to change then make the commitment to see that change occur. Many of us take the first step of making the promise to change our behavior or habit but find it difficult to take the actual steps and then follow through on the lifestyle change. To be successful when making the commitment to alter behavior you need to have dedication, strategy, and action. Until you have a plan and begin to follow it, change is only a verbal statement.

The New Year is a good time to look at your life and determine what you need to change or improve. Start the year by considering your health. Follow the monthly tips from your parish nurse to see how you can become healthy, prevent disease, or minimize complications to your current health. Focusing on the future and a well-balanced life will help you participate more fully in the love and joy of your family.

Reference [www.healthierus.gov/prevention.html](http://www.healthierus.gov/prevention.html) - sponsored by the Dept. of Health and Human Services – information and links about screenings [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthscreening.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthscreening.html) - from MedlinePlus, information on schedules for various health screenings [www.nutrition.gov](http://www.nutrition.gov) – sponsored by USDA.gov – government sponsored information on nutrition and exercise [www.nationalwellness.org/](http://www.nationalwellness.org/) - National Wellness Institute, Stevens Point, WI – peer reviewed information on all types of wellness [www.intelihealth.com](http://www.intelihealth.com) – health search engine from Aetna and Harvard Medical School – search any health topic mentioned in the articles [www.health-webs.com/](http://www.health-webs.com/) - Health Webs.com is a directory of health-related web sites – food, diet, exercise, medical information, health insurance and many more topics [www.myoptumhealth.com](http://www.myoptumhealth.com) – My Optum Health has information on disease, medications, diet, and all others health topics – HON approved [www.kidnetic.com](http://www.kidnetic.com) – interactive site for diet and exercise advice in children’s format which has been reviewed by medical and scientifically trained personnel

### Upcoming events:

January 3, 2019 – Living Well with Diabetes Class

- 8:00 – 2:00 pm (free Hg A1C, BMI, BP, glucose screening)

January 7, 1:00 pm – Health Ministry Team Meeting (2020 Program Planning)

- FUMC FLC

Your Wesley Nurse,

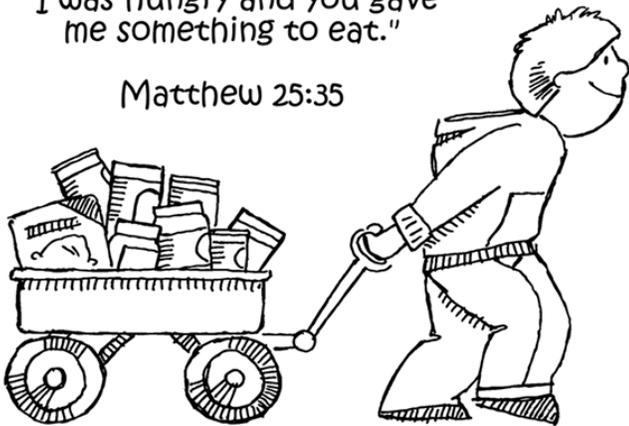
Elizabeth Wilson BSN, RN-BC

## Food Drive for the Berclair Community

The Berclair community is very thankful for the donated food pantry items. Blankets, warm socks and cleaning supplies are needed. Drop off items in the collection boxes in the family life center.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



## December Worship Attendance

December 1 – 52

December 4 - 13

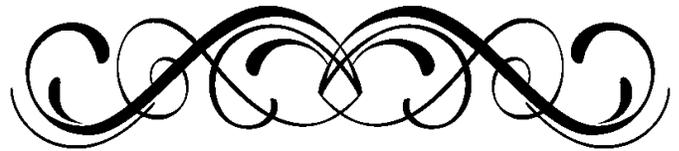
December 8 - 73

December 15 - 53

December 22 – 69

December 24 (Christmas Eve) - 97

December 29 - 46 La Bahia - 27



5 families donated 3 SUV loads of children's toys & clothing to the community of Berclair. The Grimsinger's, Wenske's & Blaschke's were among those families.



The community was oh so grateful that our children were so giving to their children.

# Star Wars, Moses, and Life Purpose

By Rev. Joseph Yoo

The pursuit of living a life of purpose comes with surprises, challenges, and obstacles. Take my son for example: My son loves Star Wars. He just doesn't know it yet.

There's so much depth and richness in the overarching Star Wars story that's been weaved into the fabric of our culture for the past five decades. So I can't wait to introduce him to the characters and universe of Star Wars and hopefully I won't have to go see future Star Wars movies in theaters by myself (my wife wants nothing to do with the franchise).

So not long ago I sat in the theater (with tickets for one) anticipating the familiar theme song with the scrolling text. I most looked forward to seeing where Luke Skywalker was in his journey in "The Last Jedi" (Possible spoilers ahead).

### Star Wars and life purpose

When we finally got to hear Luke Skywalker speak, he was no longer the hero that we last saw when he brought Anakin back from the Dark Side.

He was... jaded. Grumpy. Disconnected. Disinterested.

He secluded himself from the universe.

I couldn't figure out what was more surprising to me: his insistence that the Jedi order needed to be extinct or that he completely cut himself off from the Force.

We learned what led Luke to live on the lonely planet of Ahch-To alone. And here was the young rising hero, Rey, come to pull Luke out of seclusion, trying to get Luke to again be the hero she believed he was.

Driven by guilt and disillusioned by his failure to train Kylo as a Jedi, Luke was blinded to the hope that was represented in Rey.

### Moses and calling

It reminded me of another story:

Moses thought himself as the hero for the Israelite slaves. After all, he had connections no other Hebrew had.

So when Moses saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite, he decided to take a step towards his heroic destiny and intervened by killing the Egyptian.

The following day, when he tried to break up a fight between two Israelites, he discovered that he wasn't considered a hero. In fact, he was met with some resentment. Fearing for his life, he fled Egypt.

He ended up in Midian and married a local girl.

For forty years, he tended the flock of his father-in-law's sheep — going through the motions of life. Then one day, he saw the burning bush.

Many feel that Moses saw that one bush on that particular day. But I've always felt that the bush had been burning for most of the past forty years. In fact, I even like to think that God tried to get Moses' attention in other ways — maybe with like a burning, flying bird.

Disillusioned by his failure to be Israel's hero, Moses was blinded to the hope that's found in God.

Both Rey and the burning bush were trying to get their heroes to stop looking in on themselves and to start looking up to see how much they were needed by the world surrounding them. The heroes needed to understand they still had a purpose.

But both Luke and Moses were resistant to step into their destiny once more. Their failures stung. They were unsure of who they were and what their purposes in life were. They were content with dying alone in their self-imposed exile.

A simple plan

The truth of the matter is, following God's plan is simple, but it's never easy.

The pursuit of living the God-following life comes with challenges and obstacles. It often competes with and complicates the life we want to live.

When God's plan doesn't align with what we want — it often leaves us broken; bitter; jaded; disillusioned; guilt-ridden; detached...

Yet God (... or the Force) wasn't done with our heroes.

In this season of life, one of the more powerful words I keep coming back to is "yet."

Moses and Luke both had not yet fulfilled a greater purpose.

The burning bush and Rey were able to get our heroes to move away from their disillusionment and into their purpose, respectively (and eventually).

I may not know you personally, but there are two things I do know. First, you have a greater purpose in life and the most fulfilling, powerful, meaningful, and purposeful life is in following Christ.

And if you're having a difficult time accepting that — perhaps a sign of hope and affirmation has been around you this whole time (a la a burning bush/Rey) and were too distracted to notice. Yet God, remains faithful and loving in spite and despite of us.

Because, the other thing I know is, you matter deeply to God — even if God may not matter to you (yet).

Yes, may the force be with you.

But also know that God is always with you. And God isn't done with you yet.

# Epiphany

R B L M G Y A A P E O C Y A H  
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J T K R H D I G Y F N W R V S  
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D T R T V K H S F R S C R H R  
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D A I A R E G N A M S E K Y F  
L E R B E T H L E H E M C R F  
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BALTHASAR  
BETHLEHEM  
CHILD  
EPIPHANY  
FEAST  
FRANKINCENSE  
GASPAR  
GIFTS  
GOLD  
HOMAGE  
JESUS  
KING

MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MELCHIOR  
MYRRH  
NIGHT  
OFFERING  
STAR  
THREE  
TREASURE  
TWELFTH  
WISEMEN