

# First Look



## Introducing FMC's New App

Coming this month is First Methodist Conroe's new church member app, ShelbyNext! This app will make it easier for all church members to stay connected anytime and anywhere from their smartphone or tablet. Church members will have access to a variety of different and useful features right at their fingertips. With FMC's ShelbyNext app, church members will be able to manage and keep their account details current, access the church member directory, easily see current and upcoming calendar events, check in their child or youth into a Sunday school class or nursery, view their personal giving history, and offer their tithes and offerings.

Starting Sunday, August 13, parents within half a mile of the church will be able to use the app to connect to our church kiosk to check in and print labels for each child or nametags for each youth.

FMC values the importance of engaging all members through different approaches. Creating and establishing relationships with tools such as this app allows the opportunity to connect and grow together as a church. Check your email this week for your individual login link. Once received, follow the steps on page 8 to begin using your ShelbyNext app!

*continued on page 8*

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# The First Word

Rev. Janet Stilwell

My family just experienced the famed summer vacation! We started with an idea which morphed into several conversations. Then, there was the plan. Conversations about where and when eventually led to detailed decisions about what and which day. Armed with anticipation and a bit of uncertainty, the only real and final choice was to say yes to the whole enterprise and live into it. Sometimes things went exactly as expected while other times reevaluations had to take place and a different plan emerged. In the end, we had fun, enjoying the chance to experience new things together.

Journeys are like that. They start with an idea voiced with care and discernment. The idea gets heard, affirmed, and shared; and before you know it, great and big plans are being made. Plans that build anticipation and a bit of uncertainty, some excited and some terse, are shared in conference rooms, parking lots, and restaurants. Then, finally comes the day when the only real and final choice is to say yes to the whole enterprise and live into it. And, so we are. The landscape is changing around us and so are the faces. We may secretly wonder what exactly we were thinking, but God answers us that the journey isn't necessarily about thinking at all, it is about trusting, following, and caring. In the end, we will have memories and stories of experiencing new, life-changing things together.

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May we embrace the journey God has placed before us in ways that surprise even ourselves and bring joy to more than we could have ever imagined.

In God's keeping,

*Janet Stilwell*

## Editor's Note

Welcome to this edition of *First Look*! This publication is released on the first Sunday of each month. The deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. For questions or to submit an item, please contact FMC's Communications and Marketing Director Karen Godinez at [kgodinez@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:kgodinez@fumc-conroe.org).

## Upcoming Events

### Love Shawl Ministry

Monday, August 7 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Room M2

For more details, contact Elaine Alderman at 936-588-8920.

### Grief Support Ministry

Mondays, August 14 and 28 at 5:30 p.m.

For questions, contact Chris Gritzmacher at 936-524-0584.

### Care Quilt Ministry

Tuesday, August 29 from 9 a.m. to noon

For questions, contact Marty Lopez at 936-756-3076.

# CARING MINISTRY

## Picture Frames Drive

You can have a part in the remodel of our youth area by bringing to church picture frames of any size you have laying around the house. Frames can be dropped off in the collection box by the youth room doors leading up to the Upper Room.

Volunteers will paint the frames to enhance the walls of our youth area currently being renovated..

## Christian Back-to-School Tips

Julia Bettencourt

1) **Get Enough Sleep.** (Rest in the Lord)

As parents we all know the benefits of getting our children to bed early on a school night. They need that added rest in order to get up early in the morning. A good night's sleep will work wonders on your attitude the next day and it will help your whole disposition. Resting in the Lord will also make you fit and ready for the day. It will recharge you. (Psalm 37:7)

2) **Get a Healthy Breakfast.** (Have Prayer and Bible Study)

The experts all agree that giving a child breakfast before school helps in knowledge retention, test scores, and overall learning. As Christians we need to get a healthy breakfast of Bible study and prayer. Having some type of personal devotions will fuel you for the day. (Psalm 5:3)

3) **Follow the Rules.** (Use the Bible as Your Guide)

School couldn't be productive if it weren't for the rules: no fighting, talking during class or chewing gum. As Christians we have the best rule book of all It covers all of the basics. We need to use it as a guide on a daily basis. All of those do's and don'ts in God's Word are there to help us live productive lives. (Luke 11:28)

4) **Develop Good Work and Study Habits.** (Develop Good Bible Study Habits)

Children that develop good study habits are the ones who sail through school without major problems. We as Christians need to develop good study habits when it comes to God's Word. Knowing the Word is what is going to make or break us. We've got to know the Word of God in order to live it. (2Timothy 2:15)



5) **Try your Best.** (Do Your Best for Christ)

Teaching our children to do their best will bring results and they can be proud of themselves. It's rewarding to do your best. As Christians we need to strive to do our best in whatever we do. After all we are doing it to honor God. (Colossians 3:23,24)

Try to remember to follow these tips. It is important to be a prepared and productive student of the Lord. **So, are you ready for the school of life?**

(Copyright 2006)

## Orange Training Event

Today, Sun., August 6 at noon  
Asbury Room

Don't forget! If you've signed up to volunteer for our children and youth ministries, our Orange Training is today!

At this training, you will learn the important steps and procedures for your role in our new program. Also, get important dates to save in your calendar for upcoming Orange events.

Once you get to the Asbury Room, please check in at the registration table. The registration area will hand you a name tag. Place your name tag in a visible area along your left shoulder.

We hope this training will provide you with the necessary information about your future responsibility. Our program leaders will be present to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks again for helping us in our new program! This ministry is vital to our mission and will make a huge difference in the life of the church.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact **Rev. Bryan Moore** at 936-756-3395 or [bmoore@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:bmoore@fumc-conroe.org).



## FirstKids in Mission

Wednesday, August 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

New!

Children will go out into the community for various mission projects. This is open to children in grades third through sixth. Register your child now to attend! Contact Julie Medved at 936-756-3395 or [jmedved@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:jmedved@fumc-conroe.org).

Begins  
September!

Our  
Children's Music Ministry  
is on the...

Registration starts  
Sunday, August 27!

Various program activities  
available to children  
ages 4 through 6th grade



## Welcome New Members!



*Sharon Palmer*



*Jeff and Hayley Raymer  
pictured with children,  
Owen and Ella*

## Baptisms



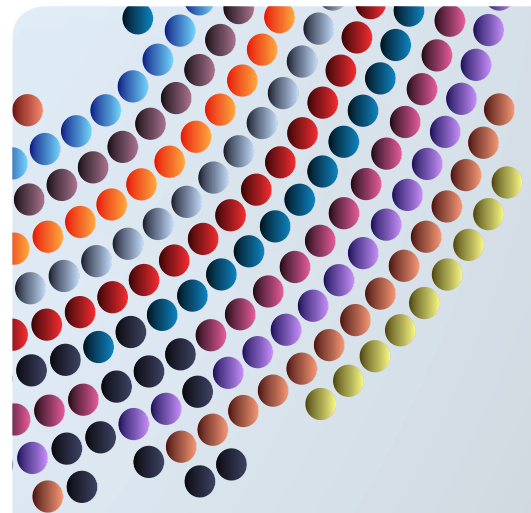
*Alec Jaxon Donatto,  
son of Adam and Sara Donatto*



*Eric Brian and Kaylynn  
Elizabeth Beasley, children of  
Kristi and Brian Beasley*



*Thomas Lloyd and Henry Owen Cook,  
pictured with daughter and sister,  
Savanna; wife and mother, Amanda;  
and, son and big brother, Ryan.*



**Sunday, August 27**

Make FMC your church home! Be a part of this exciting church family and join us at any worship service. Afterwards, all new members and their families will join us for a short reception in Room M2.

Contact **Bryan Moore** at **[bmoore@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:bmoore@fumc-conroe.org)** for more details.

*Joining Sunday*

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study  
and Breakfast:**

***Study on the Book of John***

**Tuesdays from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.**

**Breakfast at 6:45 a.m.**

**Wesley Room**

**Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study:**

***In Community with the Ephesians***

**Tuesdays from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**Room 111**

**Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Study:**

***Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet***

**Wednesdays from noon to 1:15 p.m.**

**Wesley Room**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study:**

***Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet***

**Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Room 113**

## Grace for the Journey

Rev. Mary Tumulty

Sometimes we hear that someone says they have been saved as a way of explaining that their salvation took place on a certain day, a certain moment and is now over.

Salvation is not a static, one-time event in our lives. It is the ongoing experience of God's fractious presence transforming us into whom God intends us to be. John Wesley described this dimension of God's grace as sanctification, or holiness.

Through God's sanctifying grace, we grow and mature in our ability to live as Jesus lived. As we pray, study the Scriptures, fast, worship and share in fellowship with other Christians we deepen our knowledge and love for God. And, as we respond with compassion to human need and work for

justice in our communities, we strengthen our capacity to love our neighbor. Our inner thoughts and motives, as well as our outer actions and behavior, are aligned with God's will and testify to our union with God.

As we grow in grace and live our lives in the gospel, prayer, study of the scriptures, fasting, worship, and connecting deeply with other Christians we shape and form more and more into the image of Christ. These spiritual practices or disciplines are called the Means of Grace.

We are to press on with God's help in the path of sanctification towards perfection.

By perfection, Wesley did not mean that we would not make mistakes or have weaknesses.



He did not imagine that we as humans would ever be without fault, rather he understood our sanctification to be a continual process of being made perfect in our love of God and each other and removing our desire to sin.

Our hope in Christ is to be made perfect in love.

Consider reading: Philippians 2:12-13, Philippians 3:10-13, Matthew 7:24, Colossians 3:10, and John 14:13.

## Help us Support our Local Schools

Gale Drummond



Join FMC support our local schools prepare for the new school year through our Spotlight in Schools ministry.

Here are some ways that you can help this Sunday, August 6:

1. Support our ministry at Sam Houston Elementary School by giving to our Communion offering. The offering will support

our efforts to lift up the faculty and staff at Sam Houston Elementary through small gifts and simple meals at busy times during the school year. It will also help our Girls on the Run program at Sam Houston that encourages physical fitness to girls in the third and fourth grade.

2. Sign up to volunteer at Sam Houston Elementary. Each year, members from our congregation read with individual children, small groups, or even classrooms. This kind of engagement with the children improves their literacy and success in school.

Volunteers also help with classroom preparation by doing

simple tasks for the teachers. Greeters are needed during special occasions such as Meet the Teacher Night and the first day of school. Motivators and coaches are needed for the Girls on the Run program.

3. Bring unused soap, socks, and underwear for elementary-aged children. Our United Methodist Women collect these items and distribute them to local elementary nurse offices through the CISD counseling department. Sizes can be from ages 4 through 12.

For more information, please contact Rev. Janet Stilwell at [jstilwell@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:jstilwell@fumc-conroe.org).

## Open House for Children and Youth Ministries

Parents, children, and youth, you are invited to join us for a special open house event!

Hear about our new features coming this fall to our children and youth ministries, and get the chance to meet our small group leaders. Most importantly, you will also learn how to use our new parent cue app.

Our new programs will follow the *Orange* curriculum, a course designed to combine two critical influences in life, the church and home, to fuel faith in the next generation.

It is important to effectively engage both our church leaders and families to create a strong foundation for our children and youth and their spiritual growth.

Be sure to join us in this educational meeting! For questions, please contact Rev. Bryan Moore at 936-756-3395 or [bmoore@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:bmoore@fumc-conroe.org).

### FirstKids Open House

Sunday, August 13

9:30 a.m. - 3 years old through 5th grade

11 a.m. - Kinder through 5th grade  
Children's Area

### Upper Room Open House

featuring ComedySportz

Sunday, August 20

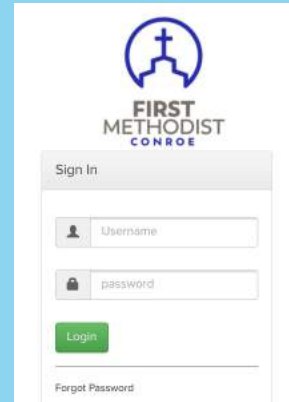
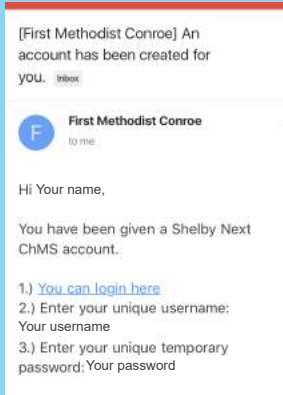
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

6th grade through senior high



# Online Account Setup

Website



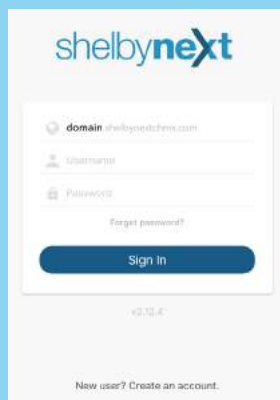
Once you receive an email similar to this, click on the blue link provided to log in.

Enter your provided username and password **exactly** as how it's shown in the email.

**!** Have you received your access email? If not, we may not have an email listed for you. Please contact our church office for assistance at 936-756-3395.

# Download App

App Store



On your mobile device, search **ShelbyNext** in your app store. Choose and download the free app called ShelbyNEXT | Membership by Shelby Systems.

Replace the domain name, which is **fmconroe** and then enter your username and password.

Congratulations! You now have access to FMC's app.



## Serve with Us!

There are many ways to serve our church and community.  
Join us at our next outreach event!  
Contact Rev. Janet Stilwell at [jstilwell@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:jstilwell@fumc-conroe.org)

# OUTREACH MINISTRY

## Improving Lives Within the Community

Sheila Templeton

FMC provides funding to help over 100 individuals/families in crisis annually.

The FMC Community Assistance team meets with individuals and families needing help on Wednesday mornings at the Crisis Assistance Center (CAC) in Conroe. The volunteers work with the families to understand the crisis and the need and provide clothing, food and/or rent/utility payments. The volunteers are familiar with CAC services and other agencies/services in Montgomery County and can direct them if additional help is

needed. Our volunteers also identify individuals who have both the motivation and ability to get out of the poverty cycle and refer them to the CAC Hand Up program that provides longer range goal setting, stewardship, training and support to achieve permanent self-sufficiency.

Some of those seen include:

- Seniors on fixed income with high medical or repair costs that they can't meet
- Individuals who are disabled due to illness or injury who have not yet qualified for disability payments
- Single moms who have been laid off or their children's father has stopped paying child support
- Victims of fire or flooding

Those helped are so grateful and often comment that the help they receive is a gift from God, an answered prayer. One family we recently helped with a mortgage payment wrote us a note which said the following: "It has been a tough year, but your kindness has been a light for us in a dark time. May God continue to bless your church family."

A disabled couple we helped over the last two years wrote to thank us for the help we gave them. They wrote that they were "...so grateful for [our] Christian love." The husband who is legally blind is going to training in Austin to run his own business and the wife just received an email offering her a local job. As they wrote in their note, they feel "God is opening doors" for them.

Won't you take the time to help others in need? Find out more details, **contact Rev. Janet Stilwell at 936-756-3395 or [jstilwell@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:jstilwell@fumc-conroe.org)**.



## Recycle Your Unwanted Items for a Greater Cause

The Choir's recycling program is still active! If you are no longer using the following items, please bring them to the church office to be recycled and help the Choir's recycling program: cell phones, iPads, tablets, iPods, inkjet cartridges, smart watches, and fitness bands. We will also be collecting any gold, silver, and platinum jewelry.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Read more about our  
**Youth Open House**  
on page 7!

## A Word About our Youth

Ruth Ann Person

Have you heard? There are many changes happening for our youth in both the Sunday morning program as well as the Sunday evening program.

Not only will we have a new look, but we will also have a new name, time, and program. Our Youth Ministry will now be known as the Upper Room Student Ministries. Students will have the option of attending Sunday morning small groups in the Upper Room or assisting in the Children's Area for FirstKid's Worship at 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.

Students attending Sunday morning will share in a time of fellowship and then small group discussion. Sunday morning small groups will be divided by grade.

Beginning Sunday, August 20, Upper Room Sunday Night will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our night will include a shared meal, fellowship, worship, and then small group discussion. Sunday evening small groups will be divided by grade and gender, led by adults who are passionate about our youth.

We are excited about using the *Orange* curriculum which believes in taking the fire of the church (yellow) and the heart of the family (red) to combine together (orange) for a greater influence on the lives of our students and children.

We will have an Open House on Sunday, August 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in our newly renovated Upper Room.

We hope to see you there!

For questions about our youth group, please contact **Ruth Ann Person** at 936-756-3395 or [ruthann@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:ruthann@fumc-conroe.org).

## 6th Grade Promotion

Starting Sunday, August 13  
at 9:30 a.m.

All youth going into the 6th grade will be meeting in Room 131 on August 13 and 20. Beginning August 27, they will meet in Room 207 in the Upper Room for Sunday mornings.

This year we will meet for fellowship and donuts and then go to a classroom for teaching and small groups. Our sixth graders will start off the school year using the *Orange* curriculum and will then begin confirmation training in January 2018.



**YOUTH**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
Featuring ComedySportz  
Sunday, August 20 at 5:30 p.m.  
LEARN, LAUGH,  
AND SEE OUR NEW ROOM!



**UR**  
UPPERROOM  
STUDENT MINISTRIES



# Stephen Ministry Training

Begins September 2017

Stephen Ministry is a member-driven caring ministry that equips folks for the opportunity to help those going through some form of life crisis.

We are accepting applications for the training that will begin soon. Training consists of weekly readings and classes that will continue into March of 2018.

If you would like to sign up for this great training opportunity, please email Anita Natale at 936-539-1298 or [anatale@consolidated.net](mailto:anatale@consolidated.net) or Rev. Janet Stilwell at 936-756-3395 or [jstilwell@fumc-Conroe.org](mailto:jstilwell@fumc-Conroe.org).

# College Ministry

## Summer Kick-off Events

Ages 18 through 25

### Bowling

Saturday, August 12  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Bowlero Woodlands

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun!

### Party at the Lake

Sunday, August 27  
2 p.m.  
Lake Conroe

Enjoy some hotdogs and hamburgers, swimming, volleyball, and boating.

**New!**

### Small Group Study

Begins Wednesday, September 6  
6:30 p.m.

FMC is excited to launch a new small group study for young adults and college students between the ages 18 through 25. Join us for our first study, as we discuss the story of our lives and how our stories fit in with God's story.





SAVE THE DATE

# #Something *great*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23  
10 AM TO NOON

TRAIN  
TO  
SERVE

## Disciple I Orientation

Thurs., August 24 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
Room 113

Are you looking for a deeper study of the Bible and discipleship? Come learn more about this course, meet other group members and facilitators, and pick up your study manual, \$40. Classes begin August 31 and last 34 weeks. To sign up, contact Rev. Mary Tumulty at 936-756-3395 or [mtumulty@fumc-conroe.org](mailto:mtumulty@fumc-conroe.org).

## Mom's Walking with God Bible Study

Begins Tuesday, September 5  
from 10:30 a.m. to noon

Moms, join in this wonderful study as we read *Out of the Spin Cycle* by Jen Hatmaker. Childcare will be available. Contact Elaine Snider at [elainesnider6@gmail.com](mailto:elainesnider6@gmail.com) to sign up!

## Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

September 11 through November 14  
Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Asbury Room

You are invited to participate in the newest version of this biblically-based nine week learning experience that will provide you with practical tools to gain control of your finances and set yourself up for long-term financial success.

Cost is \$100.00 per family for the kit. Childcare will be available. To register, call the church office at 936-756-3395 or Deanna Ooley at 936-447-1626.

## Our Deepest Sympathy to . . .

The family of **Marjorie Masters** on her July 2, 2017 death. Marjorie was from Conroe, Texas.

Subeth Burge, John Burge, Kristi Brookshire and David Burge and their families on the July 4, 2017 death of Subeth's husband, and John, Kristi and David's father, **John Burge** of Conroe, Texas.

Kitty Brown, Nancy Mikeska and family on the July 25, 2017 death of Kitty's husband and Nancy's father, **Dr. Patrick Brown** of Conroe, Texas.

Larry Brasher and family on the July 27, 2017 death of Larry's wife, **Gail Brasher** of Montgomery, Texas.



**FIRST  
METHODIST  
CONROE**

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