



**Every year we start a new year the beginning of January. New Year, New adventures!!!!**

**I remember when 2020 looked so promising. The church I was serving had 18 going on their first mission trip in March, our youth group had grown to over 40 every week. New people were coming to the church and small projects were getting done on campus at an encouraging rate. I thought, "This is going to be the best year yet!"**

**While we were on the mission trip we started hearing about a virus...we shrugged it off at first...who knew???? When we came back to share with the congregation about our adventures in mission, there was uneasiness like something was lurking around the corner; rumors of closing down and people getting sick.**

**Then we closed the doors of the church...postponed the youth activities ...spent time reinventing ministry with very closed parameters. Life changed in an instant...and we changed too!**

**We learned a lot about the resiliency of the human spirit, the innovation of people who are serious about serving God. We learned that when something matters, you find a way to accomplish it.**

**We also learned that not only do we know how to switch gears and change because of what is happening around us, but that change can promote new growth and new possibilities.**

**Again we find ourselves at a cross roads with the climate of the United Methodist Church. How do we respond?**

**I have been asking myself this question a lot. We CHOOSE how we respond. Life is NOT about just what happens TO us but how we respond to tough times. I CHOSE to respond to these tough times in our denomination with a renewed sense of determination to be the church and be involved in ministry. I am excited that the leadership of our church has made these same choices to keep our eyes on Jesus and make ministry our priority.**

**I encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus and do not become distracted by any chaos surrounding us. Choose Jesus!**

**Pastor Chris**

# 40 DAYS OF prayer

Join a small group for 40 days of prayer!. Wednesday night Bible Study will be studying the 40 Days of Prayer by Rick Warren. Thursday morning we will also have a small group at the parsonage.

These 40 days will lead us up to lent and through the discernment time in our church. The most important thing our church can do at this time is to pray and seek the face of God.

Journals are available through the church office. Please join us for one of our small groups!



FOR WE ARE HIS  
WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN  
CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD  
WORKS, WHICH GOD  
PREPARED BEFOREHAND,  
THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN  
THEM.  
EPHESIANS 2:10 ESV

## REAP International Ministry

**Anthony and Cindi Holland will be joining us in worship January 15th to share about their ministry in Africa. Anthony and Cindi have been serving in Africa for 21 years and represent REAP International ministries. We are excited to have them join us for worship and share their ministry. I pray that our church can get involved with their ministry through our love and prayers. We can help make a difference for the Gospel in the WHOLE world through our missionaries!**





## Women of the Church

# Women of the Church

We are back!!!

Ladies, if this is your church home or you would like for it to be, we ask that you come to the Women of the Church brunch **Saturday, January 21, 9:30 to 11 a.m.** We have a **new** calendar year and a **new** year for our church.

As Women of the Church, we want to know/plan how we can be involved in the ministries of our church.

Thank you and see you on Saturday, **January 21 at 9:30 a.m.**

Mary Barnhill

## Dominoes!!!! Everyone Invited!

**Daylight Dominoes will resume meeting on the first and third Fridays in the Joy Classroom from 10:00 to noon. We have added several new players and this might mean that I will have to move a larger table into the room or move to a different location. That is not a bad problem.**



Sonshiners starts back next week!!!!

Come join the fun and singing every Tuesday! The church van will pick up at the elementary school. Just let us know that you need a ride!

Wonderful time of singing and playing together!!!!



It's been a busy season in the life of RUMC's Youth Ministry. We celebrated our annual Christmas Party, gathering in my and Charsy's living room, reading the Christmas story from the gospel of Luke, swapping gifts, and celebrating the season. In total, nearly thirty of us were present. It was a holy time as we fellowshiped, ate, laughed, and prayed together. Charsy and I always look forward to hosting this special time with our students. It was a great way to bookend our year of serving them.

We're also gearing up for a lot of fun and growth together in the new year! Starting on Sunday we're beginning a new study series at Youth Group entitled "Taste and See", based on Psalm 34. Together we'll be exploring new ways to experience God in our daily lives and be reminded that the more we experience the goodness of God, the more we will desire to be in the presence of God. To go along with our study of scripture, we'll also play all kinds of themed games that will be sure to provide a lot of laughs while driving the point home.

In February, our youth will compete in our annual "Month of Madness", an event like no other that we look forward to every year. Month of Madness or M.O.M. as we affectionally refer to it, is a month-long competition where our group divides up into several teams and scores points through things like acts of service, church attendance, games at youth group etc.

At the end of the month, the team with the most points wins a big prize. Month of Madness also serves to remind us of the importance of practicing our faith daily and putting our beliefs into action. It's a fun and exciting time of team building where students get to know each other better, and an excellent opportunity to invite a friend!

As always, your prayers for our students, their families, and this vital ministry of our church are coveted and greatly appreciated! Join me in praying God would bring youth to a saving knowledge of Jesus this year and that those who are already following Jesus would be further encouraged and strengthened in the faith.

In Christ,

Wes Anderson

# JAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



We have been growing! JAM kids on Sunday has grown by several kiddos in the last couple of months. We average 14 kids on Sunday mornings now!! That's amazing!!! Make sure if you see our new friends that you introduce yourself and get to know them and their families. We are so excited to

have more friends in Christ that are eager to learn more about the Word. If you wish to occasionally help out with this ministry, please see me. We need more eyes and helping hands for projects. This is a wonderful ministry where you actually see the difference you are making in the world. Children are the future of not only this world, but this church.

We had a fantastic time at our annual Christmas party. The children were just amazed and had the best time. We had a great turnout. We had many smiling faces and everyone took home a present for Christmas. We appreciate everyone that helped us with this event. It was wonderful.

We have set the date for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt/Fellowship time for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm at the Newberry/McKinney homes. This is not just for families of small children, it is for everyone in the church. We always have a wonderful time. If you would like to help stuff eggs, please let me know prior and I can get everything to you. Sign up sheet for food will be placed in connection cove a few weeks prior.

We are still in talks about the new playground equipment. We officially made \$6,100 from the fruitcake sales. I can't thank you all enough for all the hard work and help you provided. The playground equipment looks to be around \$25000. So, we will continue to hold a few more fundraisers. If you have any suggestions on fundraising, please forward them my way.

Love & Peace in the New Year,  
Jessica McKinney







# CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**Coffee/Donut Monday School** - Monday 8:30am

**Food Pantry** - Monday 10:00am-12:00pm

**Come & Go Coffee** - Tuesday 8:30am– 10:00am

**Wednesday Night Activities:**

**5:15 pm Supper**

**6:00 pm :** JAM, Youth, Bible study, choir practice

**Men's Prayer Group** - Thursday 7:00am

**Women's Bible Study** - Thursday 10:00am at parsonage

**Daylight Dominos** - Friday 10:00am (1st and 3rd)

**Preschool Chapel** is every Wednesday morning at 10 & 10:30



The new website is now up and running,  
[www.Robertsdalechurch.org](http://www.Robertsdalechurch.org).

It is still a work in progress and if anyone has any suggestions or something they think should be on the website feel free to contact the office.



The office has a new email address, if you will add this to your contact list it should keep mail from going to spam folder.

office@robertsdalechurch.org