



OPERATION  
BATTLE  
BUDDIES



The Schertz  
United Methodist Church

# CONNECTOR



Volume 14 Issue 8

August 2018

For information about Schertz United Methodist Church please call the office at **210.658.3202** or visit our website at [schertzumc.com](http://schertzumc.com)

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM  
Traditional Service

10:15 AM  
Sunday School &  
Small Groups

11:15 AM  
Praise Service

Communion is  
served on the first  
Sunday of the month

1:00 - 3:00 PM  
Youth Group  
(7th - 12th Grades)

6:00 PM  
Connections Dinner  
& Worship

## Thoughts From Pastor Jim

Summer is such a busy time in the life of this church. The churches I served before this one were very quiet during the summer months. It was a time to plan and catch up on administrative tasks. Not here.

The summer is full of Vacation Bible School, Youth Mission Trip, Annual Conference and the summer is not half over!



So now we are working on:

Aligning activities to match our new *vision* statement (more information on Page 3)

Calling people to church positions for 2019

Hiring a Media Director

Developing promotional materials for Connections Worship  
to send to people moving into the area

Raising money to build stairs connecting our courtyard with the new playground

Continuing to develop a path for new believers to become mature Christians

Starting a couple of new Sunday School classes

Implementing updated financial practices

Implementing new guidelines to protect children and the vulnerable

Planning Retreat for the staff to be prepared for the Christmas Season

Experimenting with a Friday Night Youth activity night

Planning a new Prayer emphasis, etc.

I am tired just trying to list it all.

This is why I tell people that I am excited about serving this church and honored to be the pastor. I was recently talking with one of the new couples attending the church who stated that the reason they chose this church is because they can see the potential. They understand that this church has all it needs to grow into all that God wants this church to be.

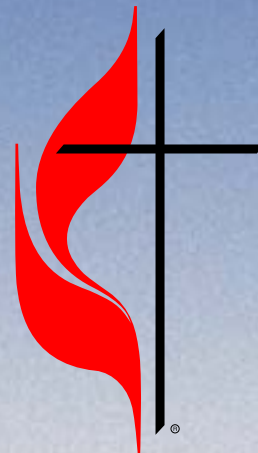
Let us all come together,

Work together

and expect an exciting time while going where

God is taking us.

## CHURCH STAFF LISTING



Senior Pastor  
Rev. Jim Curran  
[pastorjim@schertzumc.com](mailto:pastorjim@schertzumc.com)

Associate Pastor  
Rev. Mike Vlk  
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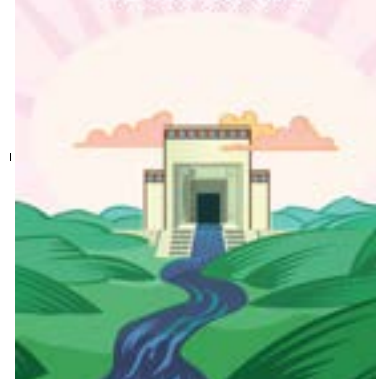
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THE LORD GOD WILL  
BE THEIR LIGHT ...  
REVELATION 22:5



Newsletter Deadline 20th of each month  
[news@schertzumc.com](mailto:news@schertzumc.com)

**Sermon Series for August**

The Sermon Series in August will be “Facing Your Giants” based on God is bigger than any of your problems.

**Altar Rail Offering for August**



The Altar Rail Offering for August will go to support the RACAP Back-to-School Shoe Program. Every summer, the Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program, RACAP, conducts a Back-to-School Shoe program. Families in need of assistance may apply for this program for children in grades K-12. Each child will receive a gift card from PayLess Shoes and a bag of basic school supplies. RACAP receives a 15% discount from PayLess Shoes on the amount spent on each gift card. The gift cards are capped at \$20 and \$25 based on child or adult size. RACAP is seeking financial donations to help offset the cost of this program.

**Back To School**



**RACAP**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED!**

RACAP needs donations of basic school supplies, packed in JUMBO zip lock bags. We hope to provide each child approved for the Back-to-School Shoe program with a bag of basic school supplies. Please collect the following items and fill a bag or two as follows:

**Elementary School Bags**

#2 pencils, washable markers, rulers, crayons, wide rule spiral notebooks, paper and composition books, scissors, colored pencils, glue sticks, and pens.

**High School/Jr High School Bags**

#2 pencils, pens, college rule paper, spiral notebooks and composition books.

**RACAP Food of the Month for August is Spaghetti Sauce again as we are extremely low on that.**



**Backpack Sunday**

Bring your backpacks on Sunday, August 19 for Blessing of the Backpacks. Children’s Sunday school is currently under construction... A check-in process with name tags will be implemented at the beginning of the school year. Due to this, a parent must sign their child in and out each Sunday. All children are invited (Pre-K - 4th) to the fellowship hall at 10 am for Bible fun. At 10:15 they will be escorted to their Sunday school classes.

**Growing Spiritual Grit in Teenagers: The strength they need to do tough stuff**

Parents and youth leaders have an opportunity to participate in a half day training provided by Group. Group has an excellent reputation for creating quality curriculum and training events. Their goal is to help people grow in relationship with Jesus and each other.

Here is a synopsis of the event:

“Now more than ever, teenagers are in desperate need of strength and perseverance--especially as they try to follow Jesus in a culture that is rapidly moving away from Him. Group’s Youth Ministry Local Training is built specifically for ‘a time such as this.’”

This training is designed for parents and youth leaders.

Here are some of the details.

Saturday, September 22, 8:30am-12:20pm  
Grace Community Church in Universal City

We will be sharing more information as we get closer to the training. As always, feel free to contact Kristi or Ginger.



**August Ladies Lunch Bunch**

It’s time again ladies!  
Remember.....No Rules, No Agenda, just good eating!

Join us on Friday, 8/03 at 12:30 pm at Salsalito’s Mexican Restaurant (14535 Nacogdoches Rd, San Antonio, TX 78247) or meet in the church parking lot at 12 pm to ride in the church van. Salsalito’s menu consists of a good selection of Tex-Mex items, salads, soups or hamburgers/chicken for anyone who doesn’t want Tex-Mex.

Childcare is available if needed with a two day notice.

Please RSVP by noon on Thursday, August 2nd as we need to give them a headcount.

Call or Text - Bert Lynch – 210-862-0364 or Linda Paxton 210-379-7109.

Hope to see you there!



Tony Ortiz	8/03	Ashley Funk	8/14	Kathy Gollieher	8/21
Carter Stone	8/03	Amy Rector	8/14	Ruben Gutierrez	8/21
Alec Behun	8/04	Chris Renner	8/14	Gloria Hood	8/21
Ann Blassongame	8/04	Geri Vorpahl	8/15	Fred Lambrecht	8/22
Hannah Marbach	8/05	Ben Barron	8/17	Elaine Sanchez	8/22
Sue Ridgway	8/07	Jerry Trees	8/19	Ethel Rhame	8/26
Millie Parsons	8/08	Alex Greiner	8/20	Joe Behun	8/29
Lorraine Crook	8/09	Tom Padgett	8/20	Jerry Ellis	8/30
Brychan Dilworth	8/13	Debbie Wells	8/20	Kathy Nealy	8/30

**Operation Battle Buddies**

The Operation Battle Buddies Team is thrilled to announce that we have 4 ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) approved Service Dogs!! The last litter training has begun and are doing great!!

Training cost are \$4640.01 - averaging about \$1000 each. Our present funds will not cover ALL of our puppies training.

Cali and Elle will skip a breeding until their next heat (beginning of next year) because of our limited funds. We have a waiting list for Litter #4 which we cannot fulfill without funding. Please help us by donating to SUMC, note **For OBB.**

We hear weekly from our heroes - “I don’t know what I would do without this puppy.” “I feel a little bit normal now and think I can go back into public places.” “She has brought a sense of joy into my life - if I get anxious, she gives me kisses and I know I am OK.” This says OBB is making an impact in the lives of our American heroes!! Sharing the love of Jesus through puppies!!!!

Please pray for OBB and one of our recent recipients who will have brain reconstruction surgery on Aug. 2 at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Thank you and God Bless. Check out the pictures on the back page!!!



**Youth Group News**

As summer comes to an end soon, youth group is ready to launch again for the year. We invite all youth in grades 7 through 12 to join us for the summer retreat. It’s a great time to jump in with both feet to youth group, make new friends, grow in your spiritual walk, and have lots of fun! The retreat will be the weekend of August 10th. We will meet in the evening of August 10th at the church and the retreat will end Sunday morning. Details will follow. If you would like more information or have any questions please feel free to contact Kristi - (210) 823-2887 kstuller@icloud.com or Ginger (210)286-6056 giuttaritg1984@hotmail.com

## Stairs Needed

The need for stairs connecting our courtyard with the playground has become painfully obvious. We are currently raising money to get this done ASAP. (Those who attended the Family Pizza Night witnessed how difficult it is for families to leave our buildings and access the playground.) In order to attract families with children, they must feel welcomed.



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday morning Bible study at 10:00am, will begin meeting after Labor Day.

## Safe Gatherings Implementation

The new policy for Safe Gatherings (formally Safe Sanctuary) is being implemented. All staff have completed training. Many of our key leaders have completed training. Further training sessions are being scheduled. EVERY PERSON who works with children or youth will have to complete BOTH the on-line and face to face portions of the training. This will affect all future Mission Teams, Vacation Bible School, Halloween Festival and all other activities.

Be on the lookout for improved check in / check out for children. This may require us to limit access to Building #1 (Children's Sunday School area) during those hours.

## Communications Person Needed

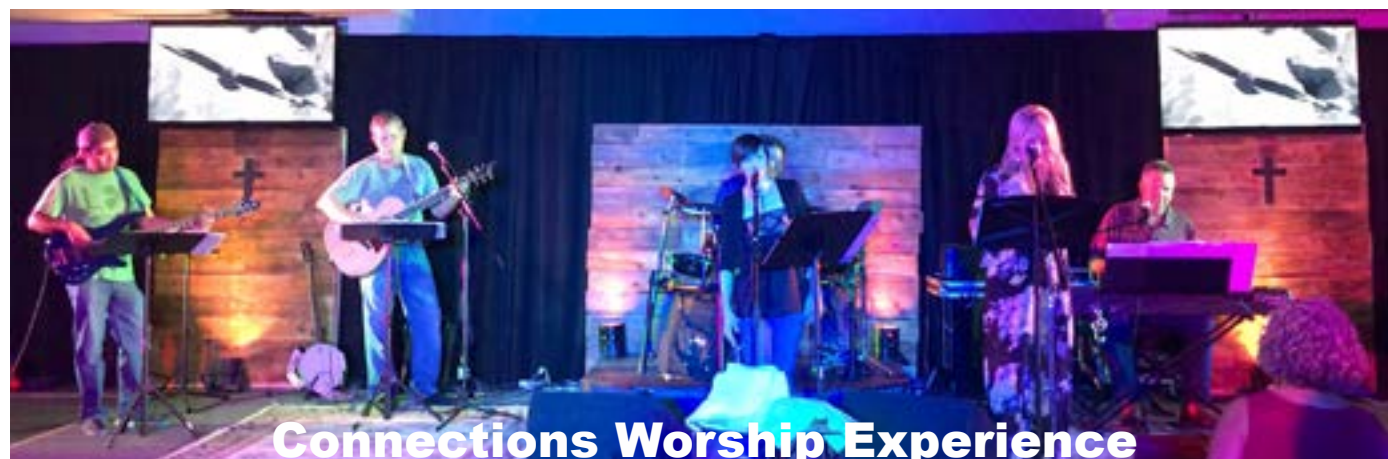
This church is looking for a Communication Specialist. This will be a part-time position (15 hours a week). The focus will be on improving communication (webpage, Facebook, Twitter, Welcome Wagon, print, banners, worship graphics and integration of news to all outlets).

## Mesquite Magnolias

Our summer vacation is over. We will begin meeting, Thursday, August 2, at 11:00 AM, in Room 106 (old choir room) All ladies welcome to join us for Bible based book study, friendship and a lot of laughter.  
Contact: Allie Kuhlmann 210-658-6065

## Diamond Club

All seniors are invited to a pot luck lunch the last Monday of the month (August 27) at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Good food, a program and fellowship, meet the seniors from both church services. If it is your first time with us, don't bring a dish, come as our guest.  
Contact: Vi Dries 210-658-1750



## Connections Worship Experience

Connect with friends during a free meal; Connect with God in a high-energy worship service; Connect with others like you in a small group.

6:00pm - FREE supper

SUNDAY EVENINGS

6:45pm - Worship

7:30pm - Small Groups

## Aligning Efforts with New Vision

The staff is getting close to completing their alignment exercise. The alignment exercise looks at all the tasks and activities that staff does to see if they all are moving us closer to the *vision* God has placed before us. Once the "Staffing Audit" is complete, each group will be asked to list their activities and tasks, then truthfully ask, "How do these move us closer to the *vision* for this church?" If the task does not move us closer, how could it be changed so that it does? If it cannot be changed, then we ask, "Why are we doing it?" All of this is to get everyone, moving in the same direction. That is, moving to all that God wants us to be!



## Breakthrough Prayer Initiative

Very soon, you will hear about the *Breakthrough Prayer Initiative*. This effort will focus the church's prayers on things that are holding us back from all that God is calling us to be. We will ask God to remove the barriers that we cannot remove so that we can do our part in God's plan. We will ask each person to pray at a certain time every day. Suggested prayers will be sent out to help everyone with this.

*Prayers* will be developed that are specific to this church. If you would like to be part of the team developing these prayers, let Pastor Jim know. Each prayer will be coupled with the Scripture passage that is the basis of the prayer.

The next step will be for groups to make "*Prayer Walks*" part of their meeting. Each group physically walks around an area they are praying for or a location that symbolizes what they are praying for. For example, the Grace Place Board would physically walk around Grace Place as they pray OR the Worship Team will walk around the Sanctuary as they pray. All of this is aimed at getting us to ask God to do all the things that we cannot do.



## Healthy Church Initiative Update

Now that the *vision* has been developed and rolled out, the next steps in the process are:

- Alignment of all effort to the *vision*. A team has been formed to look at all efforts in the church.
- Excellence in Finance Team continues to finalize implementation of recommendations of the 2017 audit and HCI. Including a switch to new software.
- Excellence in Communications Team is meeting to improve communications inside and outside our church. Their focus is developing mailings to promote our Connections worship and advertise to new people moving into the area.
- We are currently searching for a Media Director to help us move into the future. The job description has been developed and approved. The search is underway.
- Excellence in Worship is scheduling times to visit other churches to investigate ways to improve our worship experience.
- We continue to investigate reducing the volume of meetings while increasing ministry.
- We continue to make education and learning the focus of every meeting.
- Pastor Jim and Pastor Mike continue to meet with our coach.









**Sunday Morning Schedule**  
 9:00 AM - Traditional Service  
 10:15 AM - Sunday School  
 11:15 AM - Praise Service

# August

**Sunday Afternoon Schedule**  
 1:00 PM - Youth Group (7th -12th Grades)  
 6:00 PM - Connections Dinner  
 6:45 PM - Connections Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 10am - KNOTS Craft Group 6:30pm - UMW 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	<b>2</b> 9am - Ladies Bible Study 11am - Mesquite Magnolias 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7:00pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group	<b>3</b> 9am - Sit & Fit 10am - Round Tuits 12pm - Ladies Lunch Bunch 7pm - AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 7am - Men's Bible Study
<b>5</b> 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	<b>6</b> 6pm - Connections Praise Band 7:30pm - AA Group	<b>7</b> 6:30pm - Sunrise Emmaus 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders 	<b>8</b> 10am - KNOTS Craft Group 6:30pm - SPRC 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	<b>9</b> 9am - Ladies Bible Study 11am - Mesquite Magnolias 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7:30pm - AA Group	<b>10</b> 9am - Sit & Fit 10am - Round Tuits 6pm - Youth Retreat 7pm - AA Meeting	<b>11</b> Con't Youth Retreat 7am - Men's Bible Study 10am - CPR Training 
<b>12</b> 12pm - Youth Return 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - AA Groups 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	<b>13</b> 6pm - Connections Praise Band 6:30pm - Community Connections 7:30pm - AA Group	<b>14</b> 6:30pm - Finance Team 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	<b>15</b> 10am - Wuest Circle 6:30pm - Church Council 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	<b>16</b> 9am - Ladies Bible Study 11am - Mesquite Magnolias 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7:00pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group	<b>17</b> 9am - Sit & Fit 10am - Round Tuits 7pm - AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7am - Men's Bible Study
<b>19</b> 9 & 11:15 - Blessing of Backpacks 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 730pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups 	<b>20</b> 6pm - Connections Praise Band 7:30pm - AA Group Newsletter Submissions Due	<b>21</b> 6pm - New Life Emmaus Board 7pm - New Life Emmaus 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	<b>22</b> 10am - KNOTS Craft Group 6:30pm - GPLC Board Meeting 7pm - Praise Band 7pm - UMM 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	<b>23</b> 9am - Ladies Bible Study 11am - Mesquite Magnolias 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7:30pm - AA Group	<b>24</b> 9am - Sit & Fit 10am - Round Tuits 7pm - AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 7am - Men's Bible Study
<b>26</b> 6pm - AA Group 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 730pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	<b>27</b> 12pm - Diamond Club 6pm - Connections Praise Band 6:30pm - Mission Team Meeting 7:30pm - AA Group	<b>28</b> 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	<b>29</b> 10am - KNOTS Craft Group 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	<b>30</b> 9am - Ladies Bible Study 11am - Mesquite Magnolias 6pm - Reunion Groups 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7:30pm - AA Group	<b>31</b> 9am - Sit & Fit 10am - Round Tuits 7pm - AA Meeting	