MISSIONS @ WILDWOOD

Missions is not only what we do, it is who we are in Jesus Christ



Impacting the lives of others

September and October were busy and meaningful months for our Missions teams, with opportunities to serve our neighbors in a variety of ways. We have many men and women participating in the Kairos weekend at Luther Prison, two particularly challenging ramp builds were completed to provide safe and accessible entryways for individuals in need, and families were treated to a puppet show and nightly meals during our Family Promise week. I am personally excited to have the opportunity to attend the closing ceremonies for the Kairos weekend on Sunday afternoon!

Each of these efforts reflects the heart of our mission: putting faith into action through hands-on service, compassion, and a willingness to meet people where they are. A heartfelt thank-you to all the volunteers who gave their time, energy, and resources to make these ministries possible. Your commitment continues to make a difference in the lives of others!

- Cindy

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Our Mission

Wildwood strives to provide faith-based, community-wide solutions to individuals and families who need hope for a better future. Whether the need is a ramp enabling a wheelchair-bound individual to achieve a better quality of life, a family in need of groceries, or parents unable to provide gifts for their children at Christmas, Wildwood offers services year-round. Our outreach spreads from Magnolia to as far away as Honduras so see where your talents can be used for the Glory of God! We can always be reached by email at Missions@Wildwood-UMC.org.

Cindy O'Donnell, Missions Chair
Rev. Jessica McMullen, Associate Pastor

Mission Leaders

Adopt a Reading Buddy - Rev. Jessica
Angel Tree - Beverly Robertson
Big House - Rev. Jessica
Family Promise - Kathy Miller
Food Pantry - Cindy O'Donnell
Hearts & Hugs Bear Ministry - Chris DuBois
Household Assistance - Mike Cooley
Littles Mentor Program - Rev. Jessica
Prison Outreach - Glenn Smith
Ramps - Steve Ramsey
Sew Much Love - Jean Kreutzer
Stitches of Love - Cindy O'Donnell
The DAD University - Jeff Springer
Worship for All - Rev. Jessica

Reach Out!

Wildwood UMC
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Wildwood-UMC.org

Looking ahead ...

Neuro-Welcoming Worship Service - Nov. 15th

Christmas Blessing Bags at Luther Prison - December 12th

Neuro-Welcoming Christmas Eve Worship Service - December 20th

Ramps

Steve Ransey

For our September project, the Texas Ramps Project has given us a real challenge and was a multi day undertaking. We needed to demo the existing deck and re-frame it in preparation for the ramp build.

Day one was hard work to demo the deck, pulling nails, and removing the debris but we accomplished it in a bit over a hour. Next was installing the new rim joists around the perimeter then filling in with floor joists. With all the joists in and additional support posts, we were ready to start the decking.

Day two got off to a hot start as we began placing the starter deck boards at the end where the stairs would go in first. As one group of guys fit those boards on, another began on the handrails and stairs.

With the finished deck (LOAD TESTED, of course) we completed the deck renewal.

Margaret we absolutely thrilled with the finished deck. She said this was the first time she'd been able to really go outside in many, many months. I'm sure she'll enjoy it.

Also, the Sew Much Love mission provided one of their quilts for Margaret and she gave me quilting materials for the group to continue their mission.

As noted, I am very thankful for the crew that came out in 95 degree temps to finish this deck for Margaret. So, to Lamar Hutcherson, Ron Newman, Kerry Kilgore, Mike Cooley (hiding back there behind Kerry), Jacob Hobbs, Rick Ruhman, Ken Roemershauser, Jonathan Hutcherson, Frank LaBrecque and Greg Miller. This project renewed and old deck, 192 sq-ft in 71.5 man-hours, in mid-90's temperatures. That is a huge effort!











Ramps (cont'd)

Steve Ransey





While not the biggest build, October's project certainly presented some challenges, because "home" moves occasionally. Yep, our client lives in an RV and occasionally she has to drive it away to refill the built-in propane tank!

We started with a basic 8'x5' platform then put together an 8'x4' ramp section. We installed the platform and "the trick". The aluminum plate is hinged so it can move in and out about 6" or so. The knob is a hold down, to prevent it from moving away from the RV, when parked and to hold it back, before she drives off. We then added the ramp section, the TRP-Entry piece and handrails

Now Debra can get in and out of her RV and drive it away as needed. I have to thank Rick Ruhman, Doug Kerins, Ken Roemershauser and Mike Cooley (photographer) for all their help on this project. While not a big project we had the right size crew to get it done. I also have to thank Derrick McMullen for the aluminum plate we put to use on this project, as it was the most effective material we could have used to create the means for bridging the gap between the RV and the ramp. In all we created 24' of ramp (104 sq-ft) in 20 man-hours.













Household Assistance

Mike Cooley



The Housing Assistance group completed a 125 ft. wood picket fence for our single mother in Magnolia on Saturday and she and her children were really happy. The fence would likely have cost well over $2700 if a contractor had built the fence. Our humble thanks go out to Steve Ramsey, Greg Miller, Jim Harvey, Johnathon Hutchison, Ron Newman, Dick Fulmer, Doug Kerrin, and Norm Quinn. We also thank our anonymous donors for making this project possible. Here are some pictures of the project.





Hearts & Hugs Bear Ministry

Chris DuBois

The Hearts and Hugs Bear ministry is continuing to make bears and two new members joined us in September. The church garage sale proved helpful as we were able to get some fabric there - thank you! We have a church member who graciously made a bear pattern for us and is helping to cut out bears with his fabric cutting machine - thanks Norm Quinn!! It is a great help.

I have mentioned before that we partner with Jesse Norman who takes plastic grocery bags and makes tote bags for children in crisis and homeless people. We have had several new members since her last visit, so she graciously came and explained their process again. We supplied her with a bunch of plastic bags and a bag of bears. We also supplied bears to Roaton!

Sew Much Love

Jean Kreutzer

We are continuing work on our project for the Montgomery County Women's Shelter. We hope to deliver their quilts in early December. We meet on Wednesdays, 10am - 2pm. If you're interested in learning more, or wish to join us, please contact JeanKreutzer@icloud.com.

Stitches of Love

Cindy O'Donnell

Thank you to Barbara Taylor for taking a delivery of blankets to Meals on Wheels to gift their shut-ins. We meet at 2:00 p.m. each month, although our meeting dates vary, so be sure to check the website for the current schedule. Yarn is provided, with plenty to choose from! Come join us and be part of this wonderful ministry.

Worship For All

Rev. Jessica

Exciting things are happening with our Worship for All special needs ministry! We have welcomed students into our Sunday Buddy Program during the 11:15 AM worship service and continue to see families join us for our monthly Neuro-Family Worship.

In November, we look forward to a special worship service centered on thankfulness, with meaningful activities for all ages and abilities.

We are also excited to offer a Neuro-Welcoming Christmas Eve Worship Service on December 20, creating a space for individuals and families who may find traditional Christmas Eve services overwhelming.

How can you help? Simply spread the word! Share this ministry and our upcoming services with families and individuals who may be looking for a welcoming, flexible, and supportive place to worship.

Our hope is that Worship for All continues to be a place where everyone knows they belong, everyone can participate, and everyone can experience God's love in a way that meets them where they are.

Adopt a Reading Buddy Program

Rev. Jessica

September was a busy and exciting month for our Reading Buddies ministry! We visited our partner schools, met new kindergarten students and teachers, welcomed new staff, and helped each child adopt their very own reading buddy bear.

Since those first visits, I've had the opportunity to return to a few schools and it has been wonderful to see how excited and eager the children are to learn to read.

We are looking forward to returning in November and December to reconnect with our kindergarten friends, encourage them, and see how their reading journey is progressing. What a joy it is to be part of these little learners' lives!

Family Promise

Kathy Miller

We provided meals for Family Promise the week of October 26–30 for 5 mothers and 13 children between the ages of 1 and 18.

Thank you to the following small groups for their participation - Challengers, Crossing, Jesus Connection, Tuesday A.M. Group, and Navigators.

The DAD University

Jeff Springer

Plans are underway for the Fatherhood Gala, scheduled for May 1, 2027. Visit thedaduniversity.com for the latest updates and additional information, including the following. Check out our courses at thedaduniversity.com/curriculum.

Vision:
Equipping Men for Victory

Mission:
The DAD University is in the business of changing and shaping the lives of men. The work we do at our non-profit is aimed at providing men the tools needed to become the D.A.D. - Daily-Active-Devoted

Goals:
To acknowledge and celebrate the fathers who are involved and perform their role as the DAD.

And ...
To exhort fathers falling short of their responsibilities, to get in the game, and to suit up for their children.

Prison Ministry

Glenn Smith

Kairos #17

Kairos #17 is currently underway at Luther Prison. The team extends its heartfelt thanks to the congregation for the outpouring of support through prayers, donations, prayer chain links, handmade placemats, and delicious chocolate chip cookies. Your generosity and continued support help make this ministry possible and touch the lives of those participating. Stay tuned for next months report for highlights of the weekend.

Christmas Blessing Bag Day IV

Christmas Blessing Bag Day IV is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 2;00 pm -7:00 pm. If you are interested in serving on this event, please contact Glenn Smith (drwgsmith@att.net). There are only eight spaces still open on the distribution team. The following seventeen men have already volunteered to serve: Cedric Allen, Tom Cook, Royce Davis, Bobby Escobedo, Morllo Faulkner, Tod Harrison, Doug Kerins, Greg Miller, David Kennedy, John Osborne, Ronnie Schindler, Jeff Smalley, Glenn Smith, Nick Smith, Glenn Taylor, Joe Webb and Bill Wise.

Prison Ministry (cont'd)

Glenn Smith

Here is a tentative schedule of the event:

2:30 PM Volunteers arrive at the Luther Unit
3:00 PM Volunteers arrive in the Gym
3:15 PM Volunteers and selected Stewards assemble the Blessing Bags
4:45 PM 1400 Blessing Bags are counted & placed in carts (200 per cart)
5:00 PM Volunteers eat dinner in the Officer's Dining Room
6:00 PM Blessing Bags are distributed to 1400 inmates
7:30 PM Volunteers leave the Luther Unit

Class Program

Wildwood UMC sponsors the following classes: GriefShare (7 inmates), Winning at Work and Home (52 inmates), Quest for Authentic Manhood (53 inmates), Hebrew Basics (9 inmates), Disciple Classes I-IV (42 inmates), Disciple I in Spanish (25 inmates), Life Skills - English (20 inmates), Life Skills - Spanish (20 inmates) and Catholic Orientation (12 inmates). Currently, we are awaiting TDCJ approval of a Beginner's Guitar Class. Andy Rhodes will soon be co-teaching a Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) class.

Glenn Taylor and Luther Assistant Warden Justin Wade are counseling a group of twenty inmates who are addicted to K2 (a powerful synthetic marijuana). Inmates at the unit have overdosed resulting in numerous deaths and hospitalizations. The counseling has been very effective.

In addition, Glenn Smith is working with several inmates serving as Merit Coaches, Life Coaches and Field Ministers at the Luther Unit to initiate a prison-wide anti-drug program called IMPACT. This program has the approval of the Warden, Assistant Warden, Major and Chaplain.

Music Program

Wildwood UMC volunteer David Kennedy oversees the Luther Chaplaincy Music Program on Mondays from 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon. On Mondays he rehearses the Kairos Band, which plays for the Kairos Weekends and Kairos Prayer and Share on Saturdays. And, on Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon he rehearses the NRC (Non-Roman Catholic) Band, which plays for the Protestant Worship Services on Sundays.

Wildwood Pastors in Prison

Dr. Deanna Young will preach on Sunday, November 15, 2026. Cindy O'Donnell is now TDCJ trained and approved and will be eligible to attend the worship services when Drs. Jarboe and Young preach in prison. The 2027 preaching schedule is in process.

Certified Volunteer Chaplain Assistant (CVCA)

Andy Rhodes is now a Lay Chaplain at the Luther Unit. He has received the final approval as a Certified Volunteer Chaplain's Assistant (CVCA) from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in Huntsville. David Kennedy is currently training to complete the CVCA training and internship. Kennedy and Rhodes join Wildwood Volunteers Glenn Smith and Joe Wilson who have been CVCAs for almost sixteen years.