

June, July, August 2026

The Church Mouse

China Methodist Church

205 West Washington, China, Texas

The Rev. Mark Fleming, Pastor

Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART—

Church milestones have been on my mind lately.

May 24, of course, was Pentecost, the day we celebrate as the birthday of the Christian Church. It was also Aldersgate Day, the anniversary of John Wesley's "heartwarming" experience at Aldersgate Street in London, which kindled the fire of the Methodist movement.

May 1 marked the fourth anniversary of the Global Methodist Church as a legal entity. Annual Conference in June is being held at Christ Methodist Church in College Station, the same place where the Trinity Annual Conference was established in early 2023 (though it was the Eastern Texas Conference at the time).

At the end of the summer, the Global Methodist Church will hold its first "regular" General Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, two years after the Convening Conference in Costa Rica.

But milestones aren't supposed to be about looking backward. They should encourage us to look forward and ask how we can continue the work of our spiritual forebears in our own time and place.

In the narthex there's a plaque with the names of the men and women who were charter members of China Methodist Church. They built a foundation that has lasted more than 125 years. How will we keep that work going?

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETINGS will be **June 10, July 8,** and **August 12** at 7:00 p.m. If there are any ideas or activities that you would like to suggest, please attend.

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INFORMATION FOR THE CONGREGATION—

On Sunday May 17 2026, our church celebrated several special accomplishments with prayers of thanksgiving and joy.

We honored **Maria Godinez** on becoming a new citizen of the United States of America and presented her with a Bible dictionary. Maria also graduated from college and became engaged the same day to **Colt Kolander**! Congratulations to them both!

We also would like to congratulate **Ella Alvey** and **Clay Kolander** upon their graduation from Hardin Jefferson High School! Both graduates received Bible dictionaries as well.

May God bless each one of you with much success and many blessings in the future!

HISTORICAL UPDATE—The administrative board has approved using the glass cabinet in the Pastor's office to display some of the historical items and pictures that have been accumulated in recent years. The office provides the best climate control currently available to help preserve and display documents, photos and memorial items from earlier years up to the present. This will free the display case in the narthex of the sanctuary to be used for special occasion and seasonal displays. Work on setting up the historical items is projected to begin this summer. When completed it will be made available for the congregation and other interested people to view.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE—The previous newsletter updated the utility work that has and is in the process of being done at the church concerning the water and gas lines. Other maintenance projects that have recently been done include ceiling tiles, eaves patching and lighting repairs in the Education Building and Fellowship Hall. The administrative board has also received some serious interest outside the church in obtaining the Conklin Building and is working on finalizing the details on how the removal and transport of the building will take place.

A new item that was placed on the long term list is replacing the carpet in the sanctuary. It is the original flooring and has general wear and stretching and received some damage near the side door from Hurricane Rita in 2005. A recent estimate to replace all of the carpet was a little more than \$18,000.00 . The estimate included the labor to take up and then put back all the furnishings except the organ. That would be the church's responsibility. While the full "wish" list that appeared in the February/March newsletter earlier this year can appear overwhelming; prayer, faith and patience have seen some of the items being removed and/or have potential to be removed. The administrative board is open to hear from the congregation any thoughts and/or concerns about these items or others.

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Missions:Teacher Appreciation Week

On Wednesday May 13, 2026, we provided lunch for the teachers and staff at China Elementary in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week. This is an annual mission we do to let the faculty and staff know how much we appreciate everything they do for the children of our community.

We have an ongoing mission where we collect the service packs that are included with all to-go orders. Our sister church, Forest Park, joins us in this mission. First United Methodist Church, Beaumont, uses them in their mission of Kario's Kitchen. There is a container in the foyer to place the plastic covered utensils you get when you pick up "to go" food from restaurants.

The Hardin-Jefferson Hunger Initiative: Help stock the food pantry using calendar below. Please avoid donating extra large sizes of items as regular size items are much easier for distribution. You can take them to the pantry on N. Broadway or bring them to our church basket in the narthex. Monetary donations and volunteers are always appreciated.

Requested items:

June— Instant Potatoes

July— Tuna Fish

August- Canned Fruit

COOKBOOK: Our church cookbook, Cajun Country Cooking, is over 50 years old. The original print date was 1975. It has been reprinted 7 times for a total of 11,000 copies. It has been sent to many states and overseas to foreign countries. **It is a great gift for a summer bride.** You can purchase this cookbook for \$30 from any church member. Mail orders will be \$35. You may also obtain copies by calling. 409-752-3541, 409-656-9809, or 409-658-7604. You can place an on-line order from the church web page, [https:// chinatexasmethodist.org](https://chinatexasmethodist.org), using PayPal or credit/ debit card. Businesses that have our cookbook for sale: Diamond S Diner, Sour Lake City Library, Red Apple vendor at Larry's Trade Days.

CHURCH YARD VOLUNTEERS—

June- Granger

July-King

August- Colt Kolander

September-King

October-Budd

November & December- Thornton & Sherman

CONTACT INFORMATION—

Church office: 409-752-3541

Pastor Mark: 713-295-1824

Email: mark@markfleming.info

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CONTACT INFORMATION CONTINUED:

Church website: ChinaTexasMethodist.org

The church mailing address is: P.O. Box 8, China, Texas 77613

Church email: chinamethodist.chinatx@gmail.com

office@ChinaTexasMethodist.org

Pastor's office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-5 p.m. and/or by appointment

June Birthdays

1—Claude Box
8—Monique Orrenmaa
12—Addi Whittington
30—Austin Orrenmaa

July Birthdays

8—Noah Harris
8—Renee' Kuebodeaux
12—Tresea Kolander
13—Diana Fregia
16—Brett Kolander
17—Leigh Ann Schroeder
24—Gayla Brottem
26—Felicia Seaman

August Birthdays

6—Perry McCown
8—Jennifer Clark
12—Richard Mackan
18—Reagan Allen
19—Al Bieber
20—Mary Nell Armentrout
21—Ellie Brottem
22—Jason Whittington
25—Joe Budd
27—Mickey Adams

Anniversaries

4—Roger & Tommie Sue West
9—Jason & Jennifer Clark
11—David & Sheila Studdert
12—Joe & Debbie Budd
14—Craig & Salena Harris

Anniversaries

13—Brett & Tresea Kolander
14—Jerry & Debbie Thornton
28—Roger & Diana Fregia

Anniversaries

9—Terry & Cay Granger
15—Matt & Rachelle Williams
17—Tim & Gayla Brottem
21—Stacy & Gina Bankhead

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Prayer Concerns:

Church Members: E.C. Guidry, Shane and Carmen Sanders McFarland, Alvey Family, and Debbie Budd

Friends and Family: Sharon Cotton, Eddie Patton, Rev. Randy Carreon, Sue Hebert, Ronnie Lampkin, Frances Bowman, Rebecca Chance, Sam Parker, Catherine Armstrong, Tara Whittington, Roger Satterfield, Lexi Jones, Burl Jones, John Walters, Lisa Glaze, Steve Lemons, Uethal Burrows, Katherin Poole, Jolee Kolander, Terry Daniels, Brandon Glaze, Chad Bitel, Dianne Mackenzie, Anna McLemore, Beckman Ross, Judy Clark, Angie Cisco, Alyssa Wilson, Connie Kiker, Emmy Sherman Harding, Jeannie Turk, Jerry Steppan, June Poole, Tommy Hanna, Brent Etheridge, Emmitt Murff, Gerry Kirkland, and the family of Shirley Rhymes Rand.

Calendar:

June (Instant Potatoes)
4-6 Annual Conference Woodlands
7 Pentecost Sunday
10 Administrative Board Meeting 7:00
21 Father's Day (Vicki will get gift)
21 Laity Sunday.
28 MYF Sunday

July (Tuna Fish)
4 Independence Day
5 Independence Day Sunday
8 Administrative Board Meeting 7:00
Plan Education Sunday

August (Canned Fruit).
12 Administrative Board Meeting 7:00
First day of Instruction for HJ
16 Education Sunday
Blessing of the Backpacks & Teachers
21 Newsletter Deadline. (September October)
30 5th Sunday Sing Song
30-5 General Conference – Johannesburg

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