

Missions Meeting

July 9, 2026

Members Present:

Pastor Kallie Jodie Claes Sean Claes Marcy Puente Ruby Puente
Trudy Gove Dakotah Norton Sheila Boes Barbara Ricks Gloria Salinas

The meeting began with prayer led by Pastor Kallie.

Blessings Box:

Purchasing items for the Blessings Box has gone much smoother this month. \$850 seems to be a good amount allotted for each month. As of meeting time, \$344.50 has been spent in July. Jodie called Dakotah to help unload items purchased, which made the process much quicker. The help was greatly appreciated. Jodie is trying to buy things on sale as much as possible. The food pantry is currently well stocked, but additional items will be purchased around the 15th of the month.

For safety purposes, no glass containers are permitted in the Blessings Box. Any glass baby food jars or other food items in glass containers will be removed from the box and offered on food distribution days. Gloria often checks dates on food items in the Blessings Box, rotates them, and restocks as needed.

Blessings Box restocking schedule:

Sunday: Sean	Thursday: Marcy
Monday: Shannon	Friday: Anna/Lisa
Tuesday: Alissa	Saturday: Sheila
Wednesday: Trudy	

Food Distribution:

The time for clients to pick up food is currently from 1:00-2:30p.m. That time will change to 1:00-2:00 p.m. on August 13. Most of the clients arrive and pick up food between 1:00-1:45 p.m. Volunteers will work from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. Fliers will be handed out at the next two food distribution days, July 16 and 30, to inform clients of the time change which will begin on August 13.

Marcy has requested enough food for 30 families from the Hays County Food Bank each time. Drivers will leave at 11:30 a.m. to pick up food.

An abundance of seed packets was donated to Marcy to be given out during food distribution days. Since there are so many and they have expiration dates, some will be packed to put in the Blessings Box. Sean suggested they be offered free online. Gloria suggested reaching out to teachers for classroom use.

The July 16 Food Distribution will take place as usual in the FLC during VBS week.

VBS Rally: No rally by the Blessings Box is scheduled this year.

Backpack Drive:

There are 82 total signups for backpacks. 54 are for PK-5th grades; 28 for secondary grades. 18-20 kids were signed up during the July 2 Food Distribution. There are students from 28 different schools in the area, San Marcos, South Austin, as well as a few in the Valley.

Signup displays and tables will be set up by Sunday, July 12 for members of the congregation to choose items they would like to purchase. There will be bags for elementary and secondary grades with lists stapled on them to fill with school supplies. The approximate cost for an elementary bag is \$20 and \$25 for secondary. Each bag list is to fill one backpack. There will also be a signup sheet for items to be purchased in bulk. Supplies are due by July 26. Supplies will be sorted, and needed items will be shopped for during the week of July 27. Extra help may be needed for these tasks. Backpacks will be packed on Thursday, July 30 at 6 p.m. Fliers with upcoming KUMC events will hopefully be available to put in each bag. Events include Fall Fest/Costume Giveaway on Oct. 9, Thanksgiving Meal on November 19, and the Nativity/ Santa event on December 6. An abundance of backpacks is on hand for all those signed up as well as some extras if needed. Any leftover backpacks and/or supplies will be stored for next year.

There are still a lot of volunteer slots to be filled for the Aug. 2 event. In addition to the backpack giveaway stations, there will also be tables offering KUMC and community information for those attending. They tentatively include tables for church information, prayer requests, a book giveaway, Hays Hope, Unforgettable Families and Friends, Ancora, and one possibly with community resources in the Buda area.

Backpack bling stations will be available for children to decorate backpacks. Laser engraved tags will be made by Pastor Kallie in her office. One station will be for making Shrinky Dinks tags and another for iron-on patches.

Chairs in the FLC will need to be cleared before the Aug. 2 evening event. If they are moved after the late service, volunteers are asked to wait for about 15 minutes or so to allow Pastor Kallie to talk to visitors or anyone wishing to speak with her.

Sean has asked the Masonic Lodge to cook and serve hot dogs and chips. He is also asking if they will provide funds to purchase the needed items. Kitchen volunteers will be needed if the lodge is unable to provide the meal.

Life Together:

The meal for Saturday, July 11 will be prepared by Marcy and Barbara. Trudy is providing dessert. Dakotah will pick up at the church and leave by 3:00 p.m. to take everything to the community center. Volunteers help out from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Funds remain to provide meals through September if it is decided to continue this ministry. The Missions Team is committed to serving through September.

Life Together began as a ministry of The Journey and has been led mainly by Janie Perez and Terri Hartley. Its original intent was to provide meals for people in the Kyle area, but it eventually transitioned to the Southside Community Center. It has been funded by a grant from Methodist Healthcare Ministries. The decision needs to be made whether to continue and try to receive another grant. Janie is working with San Marcos Methodist churches to see if they are willing to

fill the spot on the second Saturday each month if it is decided we discontinue to serve at the center. Ideas about having community meals at KUMC in the future are being contemplated.

Hays Free Fridge Program: Dakotah has not received any response to emails.

Additional Info:

umc.wiki is up and running for anyone wishing to post information.

A list of possible places to leave fliers for future KUMC events include:

WIC, the Library Thrift Store, Poco Loco, Daily Grind, Kid to Kid, CommuniCare Health Center, TXB, and the Shell station on FM 150. We can also check with Ancora and Communities in Schools.

The meeting ended in prayer led by Jodie.

The next Missions Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Admin Office.