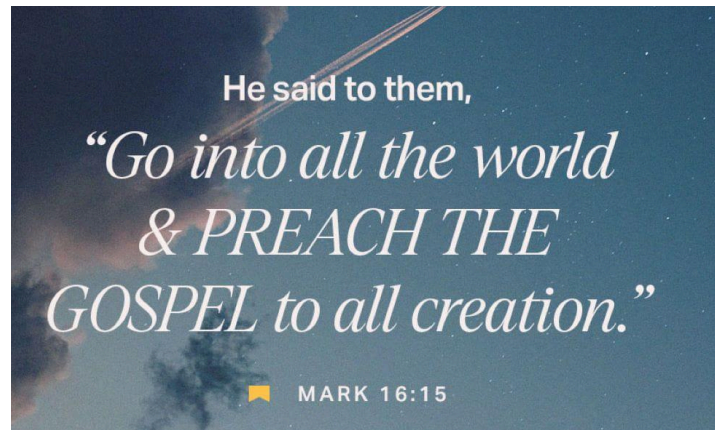


## Outreach at FUMC Pearland: 2024 Plans

Time and time again, I read Jesus saying “Go.” Go to Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Go, and share this truth that I have given you. Go, build relationships and live brand new. Go. When I ask what people want out of a church experience over and over they repeat: *“It has to lead us somewhere.”*



In 2019, Texas Methodist Foundation released a report, “*God’s Mixed Ecology*” that shows the downward trend of those affiliated with religious institutions despite growing interest in spirituality. This reality requires a courageous and innovative approach to reach the unchurched with the good news. Churches that are able to outlive the decline are partnering with the community in innovative ways, diversifying communication and seeking new places to gather and partner with those searching for spiritual connection.

At FUMC Pearland, we noticed this trend and in response added an important focus of Outreach this year, but what does *outreach* mean?



### Outreach at FUMC Pearland

Outreach at FUMC Pearland will be focused on strengthening our current partnerships in order to be a bigger, bolder and more authentic witness to what God is really up to.

This will include continuing and deepening our relationships with Church In Action partners and projects, including:

- Meals on Wheels
- Christian Helping Hands
- Church In Action Projects
- CJ Harris Elementary
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Angel Tree



Outreach will work to build new connections sharing the light of Christ relationally, through input of time, presence and energy with our current on-campus partners:

- MCP
- Scouts
- YoungLife
- MOPS

Outreach will also include some trial initiatives, designed to meet people where they are. These include:

- *Real Talk* podcast about faith and relationships
- Taco Tuesdays, continued faith conversations
- Easter in the Park @ Independence

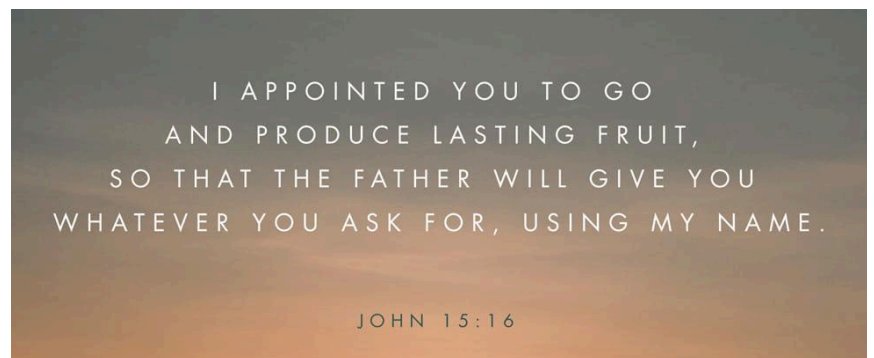
In collaboration with Discipleship, together we will strive to move people into small groups and to serve in ways that will lead them out into the world, moving toward those who are not yet here and sharing their relationship with Jesus directly.

#### **Metrics & Measures of Success to consider:**

- Number of new locations to gather
- Number of participants in gatherings
- Number of volunteers active in service projects
- New relationships built with unconnected people
- New connections to worship and small groups
- Increased participation from present population in Outreach initiatives

#### **Next Step Involvement**

- Pray intentionally about how FUMC Pearland will reach those unconnected
- Notice areas of possible future community
- Lead and invite new leaders to oversee outreach opportunities
- Courageously explore tangible resources for future outreach opportunities



*The people of God are uniquely poised to offer meaning, purpose, grace, mercy, justice, love, hope and joy to those in search of these things. God has called us to be witnesses not just among the familiar but also in the places that take us out of our comfort—to Samaria and the ends of the earth. (God’s Mixed Ecology)*