

Phone: 979-836-2008
 Fax: 979-836-6202
 www.fumcbrenham.org
 Email: fumc@fumcbrenham.org



Open Hearts. . .

Open Minds. . .

Open Doors. . .

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FUMC

- 7:30 a.m. Refreshments in the Parlor (all morning)
- 8:15 A.M. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast in the Activity Center
- 9:00 a.m. Celebration Service In the Activity Center
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Nursery care provided

The 11:00 service is Broadcast each Sunday on Brenham radio KWHI/AM 1280 and Channel 96 Cable TV.

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Bobbie Maltas—Senior
 pastorbobbie@fumcbrenham.org

Rev. T.J. Gabelman—Associate
 pastortj@fumcbrenham.org

First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213

February 2019



This past week I started receiving registrations for our 2019 Confirmation class. In June we'll confirm several sixth graders who, even at that tender age, have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior and are ready to make the commitment to membership in The United Methodist Church. But there is much to do between now and then! They will study everything from questions about the Trinity to what is God's plan for me. They will expand their understanding of Christian service and have opportunities to practice evangelism. And, really, confirmation is only one step in a lifelong process of growing in discipleship. Confirmation is just one step.

The United Methodist Church, too, is in the process of growth and change. On February 22-25, 1,000 delegates will gather at a Special Session General Conference to consider the Church's organizational structure by way of three plans: Traditionalist, One Church, and Connectional Conference. If you attended the town hall meeting sponsored by your lay leader, Tom Scanio, and I last spring, this isn't news to you. Or perhaps you read about it in our newsletter or on the website or remember hearing about it in one of the pulpit announcements Pastor T.J. and I made last summer. Some of us have attended table talks hosted by Bishop Jones and some of us have watched the bishop's webinars or read his blog. I hope all of us have held all of the delegates in our prayers because the task before them is challenging. The delegates will make recommendations in answer to whether or not the United Methodist Church will change the language in the *Book of Discipline* about human sexuality, whether or not the Church will allow same-sex marriage, and whether or not the Church will ordain persons who identify as LGBTQ.

The One Church Model is the model recommended by the *Commission on the Way Forward* (www.txumc.org/thewayforward) and the Council of Bishops. The further recommendation of the Council of Bishops is that the delegates consider all the plans and any variations of the plans they deem good for the future of the Church. You can find details about all the plans at the website mentioned above, as well as detailed analyses of each from our bishop.

None of the plans are perfect, just as humans aren't perfect. There is a significant amount of tension among churches, their members, and clergy. The Special Session General Conference won't be the end-all of our church's future. Among families, Sunday school classes, small groups, churches, districts, conferences, and the world...we disagree about the views we hold on human sexuality. And yet, we are all part of the body of Christ.

As our bishop has advised, let's keep the main thing the main thing. Despite the uncertainty surrounding us, we, the church, are mandated to make disciples of Jesus Christ in hopes of transforming the world. Regardless of opinion, we are united with Christ and with one another. We are called by Christ to love one another as God loves us. So join me in providing the best possible witness for those new confirmation students by keeping the main thing the main thing.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bobbie



While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. - Luke 24:15

Yes! We have an Emmaus community at Brenham First UMC and this spring it's expected to grow.

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation they complete an application. The Emmaus leaders prayerfully consider each applicant and in God's time, the person is invited to attend a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle.

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ.

Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant's individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to Discipleship in their home, church, and community.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

Pastor Bobbie will serve as the spiritual director of the Women's Emmaus Walk, April 25-28th. She will join a team of about 30 lay and clergy who lead the spiritual weekend. You can learn more about Emmaus at the Brazos Valley Emmaus Community webpage: www.bvemmas.org or contact Pastor Bobbie at the church office.

The next Emmaus Community Gathering will be Saturday, February 2, 5:00pm, Aldersgate UMC, College Station. This worship and fellowship event is for those who have been on a Walk, their families, friends, and anyone else who would like to attend. Bring a covered dish to share and enjoy!

Servant Opportunities for YOU!



Greeter – Offer a warm handshake and smile to all worshippers on Sunday mornings. And, offer a welcoming gift to first time worship guests! Give just a few minutes of your time before worship to make people feel at home. Contact Martha Ratcliff at Martha_ratcliff@yahoo.com or 979-551--0162.

Communion Coordinator – The communion coordinator purchases juice for all worship services and fresh communion bread for the traditional services. This servant helps support our current communion steward teams with reminder calls, information, and coordinating from our substitution list. Contact Sue Hewitt at suehewittlpc@gmail.com or 979-836-0643.

Lay Readers – Would you serve Christ through the church by reading scripture in worship at 8:15 or 11:00? Each assigned Sunday you'll receive a script, complete with the biblical texts you'll read. Come up to the lectern of pulpit at the appointed time and bless the congregation with the Word of God. Contact Patty Stratton at pattyandjerry10@att.net or 979-251-9751.

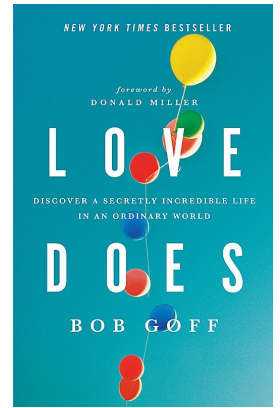
Stewardship Committee – Join the members of the stewardship committee and help our congregation grow in our understanding of stewardship in all aspects of our lives. Our chairperson, Haley Henly, and her committee is excited about the prospective stewardship strategies we're exploring this year. Come be part of this team. Contact Haley Henly at h_wendler@yahoo.com or 979-777-0858.

Nominations and Leadership Development – This committee blesses our congregation with leadership that accomplishes the ministries of the church. For members of this committee, it's helpful to have a broad familiarity with the people and ministries of the church. Contact Pastor Bobbie at pastorbobbie@fumcbrenham.org or 281-793-7558.

Small Groups



In April 2018, an initial meeting was held to discuss the formation of small groups. Out of that meeting we had four small groups form. Disciple 1 Fast Track on the Old Testament was a twelve-week study held during the Summer of 2018. In the fall of 2018, three new small groups began: Disciple 2, Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University and the Supper Club. The Supper Club, which met once a month, would meet for dinner at a different family's home each month which, also, included a time of discussion over the book *Love Does* by Bob Goff. Financial Peace University was a success and finished by December.

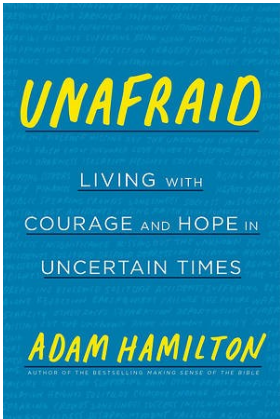


Coming into 2019, we have four small groups in place. Disciple 2 continues to meet on Wednesday evenings. The Supper Club was such a hit that they had to split into two different groups to hold all the people wanting to be a part. One group is led by the Gee and Rogas families and the other by the Ratcliff and Henley's. The newest small group will begin in February and will be led by Gary and Sue Hewitt (see below for details).

If you are interested in leading a small group or would like to know more about what small groups are all about, be on the lookout for another small group meeting which will be taking place in February.

New Small Group

Starting Sunday, February 17th at 9:30 am in the fellowship house, Gary and Sue Hewitt will begin leading a small group study on the book *Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton. Here is a brief description of the study: Truth is, a mere handful of fears work for us—fear of stepping in front of a bus, for example, or not taking care of our health. But the vast majority—fear of others, of failure, of the future—have almost no basis in reality yet tie us in knots and steal our peace of mind. These fears, experts say, are often vestiges of primitive 'fight, flight, or freeze' instincts that, mostly, no longer apply. Making matters worse, our hyper fractious era of hate media, divisive politics, and multiplying natural disasters wreak havoc on our state of mind, leaving us troubled and unhappy. For anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety or who wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions.



If you're interested in signing up for the study or would like more information, please feel free to contact me, Gary or Sue Hewitt. This will be a great study you won't want to miss.

T.J. Gabelman



Confirmation will begin for Fifth and Sixth Graders on Sunday, February 10th, with a Scavenger Hunt and Orientation. Meet in the Activity Center for snack supper at 6:00 p.m. Confirmation will be led by Pastor Bobbie on Sunday evenings, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., February 10 through the month of May. To register, please provide the following information to the church office:

- Full name of the Fifth or Sixth Grade Student,
- Parents'/Guardians' names,
- Date and location of baptism (if known and if he/she is baptized), and,
- If not a member of FUMC Brenham, in what church your membership is

If you believe God could use you as a confirmation mentor to one of the students, please contact Pastor Bobbie and get additional information.

UMYF

MEALS

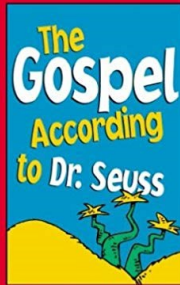
Feb. 3—Super Bowl Pot Luck

Feb. 10—Seeber/Childs

Feb. 17—Ratcliff/Appelt

Feb. 24—Confirmation

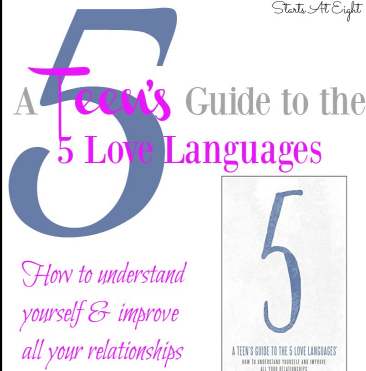
Parents



James W. Kemp

UMYF Junior High Lesson

This spring, we will explore the biblical lessons found in some of our favorite Dr. Seuss stories. We will delve into forgiveness, compassion, empathy, fear, etc. It will be a FUN, maybe unconventional way, to learn more about Jesus' teachings.



UMYF High School Lesson

This February, we will explore our relationships with our friends, family, classmates, etc. How do we show love in a way our peers/parents will receive? Why do we feel unloved sometimes? This will be an excellent study in how we can better our interactions with those around us.

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

AB STAFFING

EXPERIENCE
NAVAJO NATION

High School (8th-12th) \$430 ea.

June 8-16 - still some spots left

Jr. High (5th—8th)

July 11-14

still some spots left

\$160 each

BIG HOUSE

JUNIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP

More fundraising opportunities coming up this spring!

kids



Join us every Sunday morning at 10am in the Activity Center Kitchen as we "COOK THROUGH THE BIBLE"

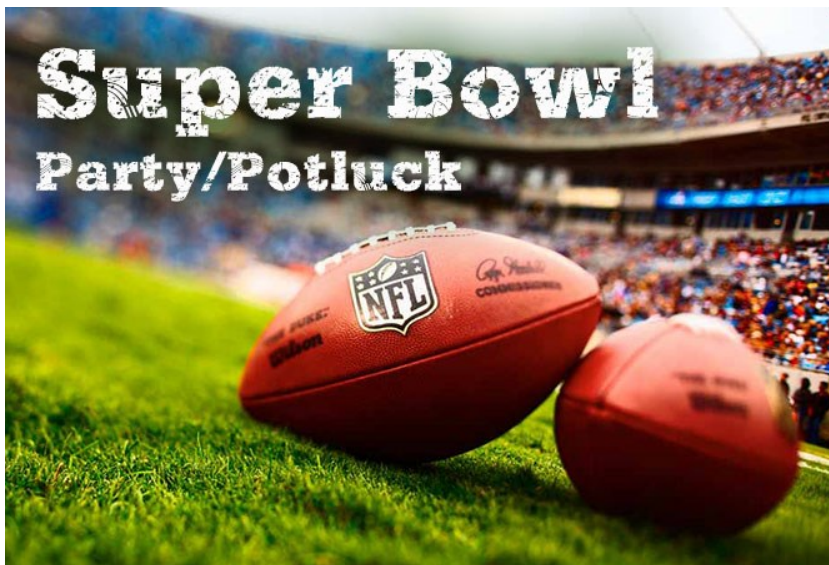


June 24 - 27

We have a few college students that have started attending worship. They are away from families, and I am so excited that their walk with Christ is important to them. We are looking for a few good families/couples/singles to adopt a college student.

So what does it mean to adopt a student? You will be given their name, address and phone number. Simply make contact with them, offer to pick them up for church, purchase a meal ticket our church is selling, write them a letter of encouragement, send a little care package full of goodies, invite them to a lunch or dinner out or in your home. The possibilities are endless. The most important thing is to remind them someone is praying for them and cares about them here in Brenham.

If you would like to sign up please email me at jennifer@fumcbrneham.org or call the church office and let me know you would like to be an adoptive family, and I will get all the info to you. Please prayerfully consider this outreach opportunity.



The church is invited to come to a Super Bowl Party at the Activity Center, Feb 3 at 5:15pm (kick-off is at 5:30). We will have the game projected on the big screen in front of the stage. Bring your favorite Super Bowl snack & drink to share with everyone. For those that don't care about football, bring a board game or playing cards. The youth room will be open but a parent must be present if children are in there. Bring a friend and enjoy the evening. If you would like childcare for your little ones please let me know by Wed. Jan 30. Jennifer@fumcbrenham.org



We would like to extend an invitation to all women to attend our Celebration of 150 Years of Women in Mission and Service. We're trying to get a big group up to attend this event. The date is March 23, 2019 and the location is FUMC Bryan. We plan on carpooling and taking the new church van. The cost is \$10. There will be free childcare for children 12 & under. Registration is due by March 18 and can be obtained in the church office or from a UMW circle leader. (If you need childcare the registration is due by March

10). We are looking forward to a day of sisterhood. The \$10 fee covers brunch at arrival, lunch, beverages all day, goodie bags and door prizes. The celebration will be from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. We would love to have you join us. You don't have to be in UMW or Methodist so please feel free to bring a friend.

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Church Attendance

Nursery:	4
8:15 Worship	66
9:00 Celebration	95
11:00 Worship	81
Total: 246	
Sunday School:	61
Offering:	\$12,627.00

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Church Attendance

Nursery:	4
8:15 Worship	64
9:00 Celebration	85
11:00 Worship	83
Total: 236	
Sunday School:	49
Offering:	\$23,784.00

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Church Attendance

Nursery:	3
8:15 Worship	68
9:00 Celebration	84
11:00 Worship	47
Total: 202	
Sunday School:	49
Offering:	\$9,520.00

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Church Attendance

Nursery:	2
8:15 Worship	52
9:00 Celebration	83
11:00 Worship	68
Total: 205	
Sunday School:	51
Offering:	\$9,309.00

End of Year Numbers

December 2018

MTD YTD

Income	90,891.	650,994.
Expense	56,677.	665,386.
Total	34,214.	(14,392.)

FUMC ended FY 2018 with a deficit of 14,392.

Each year, we are required to report our statistics for the previous year. This is how we ended 2018:

- Church membership grew from 842 to 855
- We celebrated 9 baptisms, two of which were adults
- Our worship attendance dropped from 232 to 216
- Our number of small groups increased from 7 to 21
- Our number of short-term small groups increased from 0 to 5
- Our number of participants in all small groups increased from 245-367

We have much to celebrate in the life of our congregation. This is just a snapshot of our history as it appeared for the year 2018 and we must remember we stand on the legacy of many faithful saints who have gone before. Our future is full of grace!

In many ways, we are no different than the majority of other mainline churches: worship attendance is decreasing. However, where we lead is in the number of baptisms and participation in small groups. Let's all recommit to inviting others to worship and to participation in other ministries of our church as well. Being connected to a church family is a tremendous blessing! Let's be blessed to be a blessing and invite, invite, invite!

Prayer Concerns

Jenifer & Glen Amerson, Calvin Beckendorf, Clifford Brisbin, Mary Burgess, Beverly Burt, Jim Clements, Wanda Curbo, Ellen Ellison, Jeff Folton, Walter Fortune, Bud & Marshia Foster, Miriam Gillis, Glen Goodman, Joycine and Louis Hannath, Luene Harmer, Debra Healy, Hodde Family, Kathi Ivy, Mary Jane Jean, Barbara & Keith Killgore, Jean Laws, Martha Lee, Beverly Leyrer, Shirley & Paul McIntyre, Joyce Medow, Nynvia Mills, Evelyn Newman, Sue Perry, Harold Pool, Marjorie Reed, Edna Rote, Jerry Stratton, Twila Tate, Jody Tyson, Don Wilhelm, Linda Winstanley

Our homebound members and those serving in the military.

Music
Ministry
Notes:



This year for Good Friday, the choir will present a selection of pieces reflecting on the Seven Last Words of Christ. As we did for Christmas we are extending an invitation to any members of the congregation who would like to join us. If you are interested in participating in this special service or joining any of the music ensembles that make up our music ministry, please contact Matt. Matthewhulon@gmail.com

Coda:

After a holiday break, handbell rehearsal began this month. Handbells hold a relatively new place in American worship. They were invented in the early part of the 1700's in England so that change ringers, people who ring the cathedral bells in a bell tower, could practice their patterns inside. They did not arrive in the United States until the early 1900's. While originally only designed as a practice instrument they have grown in use and now are most commonly seen in an ensemble or handbell choir. Bells have been used for centuries in Christianity to call people to church or prayer. Catholics, Anglicans, and Lutherans all use bells during the celebration of the Eucharist. The high priest in ancient Judaism wore bells sewn to the hem of his robe when he entered the Holy of Holies. The modern bell choir is an extension of a centuries old tradition, using bells to make a joyful noise and call our hearts and minds to the wonders of God.



February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	2 8:00 AM Epiphany Training 5:00 PM Emmaus Community Gathering/ Aldergate UMC, College Station
3 5:15 PM Youth and Church-wide SuperBowl Party/AC	4 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 6:30 PM SPRC/FR	5 9:30 AM UMW general meeting/AC	6 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:30 PM Choir/CR Disciple 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band	7 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH 6:30 PM UMM/AC	8 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/ Parlor	9
10 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF/AC	11 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc.. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 1:30 PM MDCDC Board/Library	12 9:00 AM Card Group	13 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:30 PM Choir/CR Disciple 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band	14 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 11:30 AM Book Club/FH 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	15 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	16 8:00 AM Emmaus Training/AC
17 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF/AC	18 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn	19 9:30 AM Hewitt Circle/MH Goodman Circle/FH 12:00 PM Susanna Circle/Pastor Bobbie's Home 6:00 PM Wesleyan Circle/FH	20 4:00 PM Newsletter Deadline 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:30 PM Choir/CR Disciple 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band	21 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	22 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	23 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM Epiphany Training/AC
24 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF/AC	25 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn	26 9:00 AM Card Group	27 10:00 AM Staff Meeting/FR 1:00 PM Care Team/FR 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:30 PM Choir/CR Disciple 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band/AC	28 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH		

Methodist Weekday Child Development Center



Enrollment: 78 kids and 7 on the waiting list
Expecting 3 children to come back mid-January or February from CCMS.

Staff:

- 8- Teachers /1 cook
- 4-Teacher Assistants
- 5- Aides
- 1-Asst. Director
- 1-Finance person
- 2-Substitute Teachers



We will be working on the Sign/Landscaping for the entrance of the building.

MWCDC would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!

Newsletter Deadline

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Wednesday, March 20th by 4:00 PM.** If you have a submission for the newsletter, please email your written article to fumc@fumcbrenham.org or submit a handwritten article to the church office. This is the best way to make sure that all the information for your article is accurate. Thank you.

Permit 270
US Postage PAID
Non-Profit
Organization
Brenham, TX 77833

First United Methodist Church
408 North Baylor
Brenham, TX 77833
Return Service Requested

