



**First United Methodist Church**  
 408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213  
 November 22, 2013

Phone: 979-836-2008  
 Fax: 979-836-6202  
[www.fumcbrenham.org](http://www.fumcbrenham.org)  
 Email: [fumc@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:fumc@fumcbrenham.org)

# Advent & Christmas Happenings

*More details on all these events will be in upcoming newsletters and on the website at [www.FUMCBrenham.org](http://www.FUMCBrenham.org).*



*Open Hearts . . .*

*Open Minds . . .*

*Open Doors . . .*

## DECEMBER

**Tuesday 3, 10:00 a.m.**  
**UMW Christmas Coffee**  
*at the home of Twila Tate*

**Thursday 5, 6:30 p.m.**  
**UMM Christmas Dinner in the A.C.**

**Sunday 8, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Children's Musical presented by A.C.T.S**  
**"Out of the Box Christmas" in the A.C.**  
**Followed by the Cookie Stroll**

**Sunday 15, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services**  
**Christmas Cantata**

**Sunday 15, 9:00 a.m. Worship in the AC**  
**Sounds of the Season: A Music Celebration**

**Sunday 15, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Family Caroling for our Nursing Homes**  
**followed by dinner and the Sights, Sounds,**  
**and Smells of Christmas**

**Tuesday 24**  
**5:30 p.m. Family Communion Christmas Eve**  
**Service led by the Celebration! Band**  
**8:00 p.m. Communion Christmas Eve Service**  
**led by the Chancel Choir**

**Sunday 29**  
**One worship service at 11am in the Sanctuary**



### SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FUMC

- 8:15 a.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast in the Activity Center
- 8:45 a.m.** Refreshments in the Parlor
- 9:00 a.m.** Celebration Service in the Activity Center
- 10:00 a.m.** Sunday School classes for all ages
- 11:00 a.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary

*Nursery care provided*

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

#### Pastoral Staff

Pastoral Staff  
 Rev. Jon Stouffer  
[jon@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:jon@fumcbrenham.org)

Pastoral Staff  
 Rev. Kay Reed  
[kay@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:kay@fumcbrenham.org)

#### Newsletter Deadline and Other Information

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, Dec. 6, 2013 at 10:00 am.**



If you have a submission for the newsletter, please email your written article to [fumc@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:fumc@fumcbrenham.org) or please 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.

# METHODIST WEEKDAY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Tami Stevens, Director – 979-830-8661

**SUNDAY Nov. 3, 2013**

**Church Attendance:**

Nursery	15
Worship 8:15 a.m.	99
Worship 11:00 a.m.	123
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	64
<b>Worship Total</b>	<b>301</b>
Sunday School	102
<b>Offering:</b>	<b>\$13,884.26</b>

**SUNDAY Nov. 10, 2013**

**Church Attendance:**

Nursery	19
Worship 8:15 a.m.	75
Worship 11:00 a.m.	135
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	76
<b>Worship Total</b>	<b>305</b>
Sunday School	101
<b>Offering:</b>	<b>\$14,603.05</b>

**SUNDAY Nov. 17, 2013**

**Church Attendance:**

Nursery	10
Worship 8:15 a.m.	88
Worship 11:00 a.m.	132
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	90
<b>Worship Total</b>	<b>326</b>
Sunday School	125
<b>Offering:</b>	<b>\$9,916.17</b>

**OCT. TOTALS**

Oct. Income:	\$58,738.66
Oct. Expense:	\$58,440.95
<b>Oct. Total:</b>	<b>\$297.71</b>

**YTD TOTALS**

YTD Income:	\$522,592.47
YTD Expense:	\$529,600.59
<b>YTD Net Total:</b>	<b>(\$7,008.12)</b>



*2013  
Methodist Weekday Child Development Center  
Thanksgiving Feast*





## **Instructions for scheduling your portraits:**

Enter the following address into your computer's address bar:  
<https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/firstunitedmethodistchurchbrenham/index.php?page=10>

### **To schedule your portrait session, follow these three steps.**

Step 1: **Select Number in Group.** Using the drop down to the left, select the number in your group (larger families may require more time).

Step 2: **Select Day.** A calendar will now display. Select the month and day for your photography session. (Our time is Tuesday-Friday, January 7-10 (2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) and Saturday, January 11 (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Step 3: **Select Time.** A list of available times will be displayed. Click the center of the white box next to the desired time. You will then be prompted to register for your portrait session. Greyed boxes are already reserved.

### **To Change or Cancel Your Portrait Session:**

Already scheduled a portrait session? Need to review, change or cancel? Use the login feature above to manage your information

Please call Carol Ann Post (251-9199) or Michele Smith (251-9840), if you have any questions.

### **About Your Portrait Session:**

Please allow up to one hour for your professional portrait session. Be prepared for your session and show the real you! We suggest solid colored shirts with long sleeves.

### **Prayer Concerns**

Marnie Whitmarsh  
Robert Smith  
Jacque Ketcham  
Aubrey Johnson  
Bennie Waggoner  
Richard Coghlan  
Frank Goodrich  
Linda Daughtery  
Bob Moran  
Kathy Rote  
Carol Eason  
Jim Clements  
Bob & Catherine Craig  
Glenn Amerson  
Justin Flanagan  
Frances Sidebottom  
Gordon Densmore  
Roy and Ruth Ann Marshall  
Henry and Blondean Kuecker  
Weylin and Jenny Oden  
Shanna Bryson  
Jessica Sandavol  
Roy Hodges  
Chris Rogers  
Juanita Hickey  
Marti McLemore  
Jim Hickey

Our homebound members  
and those serving in the military

### **Donations Received**

*In memory of*  
**Virginia Coffee**  
By  
The Susanna Circle



**The 2014 United Methodist Women Officers  
on Installation Sunday**

# UMYF

# NEWSFLASH



**THE BIG DAY**  
**OF SERVING**  
a one-day youth mission event



## COOKIE STROLL 2013

Our first fundraiser for our mission trip next summer is a cookie stroll. We need everyone to help in the stroll. Please make at least 3 dozen cookies, bars or treats and bring them to the church kitchen on Sunday, Dec 8 by 4pm. Five dollar and ten dollar boxes will be sold after the ACTS musical.

## UMYF Happenings

**Nov 24 6-8pm**

Meal provided Henkhaus'

Help decorate the AC for Christmas

**Dec 1 6-8pm**

Movie Night on the Lawn, bring chairs and blankets. We will have popcorn and drinks and watch a Christmas movie on our outdoor screen.

**Dec. 8 NO UMYF** Come to the ACTS musical at 6:30pm

**Dec 15** Christmas Caroling at 3pm followed by dinner

# A·C·T·S· *Sounds of the Season*

*The Children's Musical  
Troupe Presents...*

## *An Out-of-the-Box Christmas*

**Sunday, December 8**

**6:30 p.m. in the Activity Center**

Followed by a Cookie Stroll sponsored  
by the Youth for their Summer 2014  
Mission Trip

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**  
**In the *Celebration!* Service**

Join us as our children, youth and  
adults help us celebrate the season  
in music and song. If you or your  
child/youth would like to  
participate please contact  
Jennifer Patrick.



**CHURCH FAMILY CAROLING**

**Sunday, December 15**

**Meet at 3:00pm in Activity Center**

Join us as we share in fellowship and  
outreach to those in rest homes and  
residents of the State School. Bring  
your friends and family and make this  
your family's tradition.

After the caroling we will share in a  
meal and Pastor Jon will share a special  
message with us. Then we will have a  
special time for crafts and treats for  
kids of all ages.

## **Christmas Eve Service**

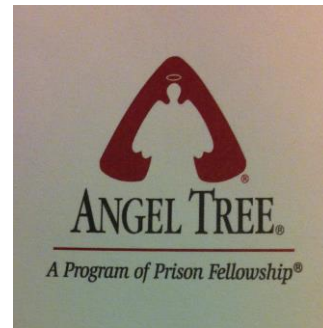
**5:30pm in the Sanctuary**

*Communion Service led by the Celebration! Band*

**8:00pm in the Sanctuary**

*Communion Service led by the Chancel Choir*

## Christmas 2013 with



and the

## State Supported Living Center

Our annual support for these two outreach ministries starts on Sunday, November 24th. That is the day when you will be able to select an "ornament" with a gift suggestion for either a child of an incarcerated parent or a resident at the Living Center. These gifts, at a cost of between \$15.00 and \$25.00, help share the love of Christ.

### Dates to remember:

- November 24 and December 1 - select an ornament
- December 8 - on or before have the **unwrapped** Living Center gift to FUMC
- December 15 - on or before have the Angel Tree gift to FUMC
- December 22 - help deliver the Angel Tree gifts



Please help our youth group by making three dozen cookies, bars or treats for our Cookie Stroll. You can bring your baked goods to the church on Sunday, Dec 8 by 4pm. All the proceeds go toward our Summer 2014 Mission Trip to the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. Five dollar and ten dollar boxes will be sold the night of the stroll. Thank you in advance for your support!!



## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas



We are all familiar with that great Christmas story, of how the family was fast asleep and all those amazing things happened on Christmas Eve. To most of us, it is a special night every year as well, we celebrate with family and friends. We go to the candlelight service, we drive around looking at beautiful lights and we get ready for Christmas morning. We then go safely to our beds and sleep the night away. However, for many members of our community that isn't the case. They stay up all night and watch out for us, and for our family's safety. I'm talking about the police and sheriff officers, EMS workers, police dispatchers, firemen, and nurses.

This year, like we have done in the past, we'd like to take time to thank these people for their service to our community. You can take part in our church's thank you to them; just bring something to put in their gift basket on Christmas Eve. It can be cookies, crackers, candy, fruit breads, or anything else you would like. There will be a container set up outside of the church parlor and at the entrance to the church off of Baylor St. to drop off these goodies. The items will be divided up into baskets, and then right after second service starts, they will be delivered.

If you would like to help make the baskets or help deliver them, please contact Michele Smith, 979-251-9840, it is true blessing to be involved in this evening. Please help us show our love and support to those that "Stay up all night, the night before Christmas."



# A Fast of the Heart, Mind, and Mouth During Advent

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

While some of our friends were at The Gathering in September, we heard Dr. Frank Thomas, Jr. ask all of us, "Has anyone inquired of the Lord? Has anyone called for a fast? Who has called a prayer meeting?" This message resonated deeply with the gathered body that evening and continues to guide us as Chairs of our Orders and Fellowship of Local Pastors. We believe that we are at a time in the life of the Church and our Annual Conference like no other we have experienced! We need each other to live faithfully in this time. To that end, please consider this invitation to keep a Fast of the Heart, Mind, and Mouth during the season of Advent.

#### **THE FAST:**

In all our thoughts and speech, fast from all that is destructive, derogatory, and mean-spirited within our covenant relationships as leaders in the church. As Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus (4:29 THE MESSAGE):

*"Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth.  
Say only what helps, each word a gift."*

#### **THE FEAST:**

In all our thoughts and speech, feast on all that is a gift of grace, speaking the truth in love, allowing God to live and move through all we think and say within our covenant relationships as leaders in the church. As the Psalmist wrote (19:14 NRSV):

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."*

#### **PRAYING FOR AND WITH ONE ANOTHER:**

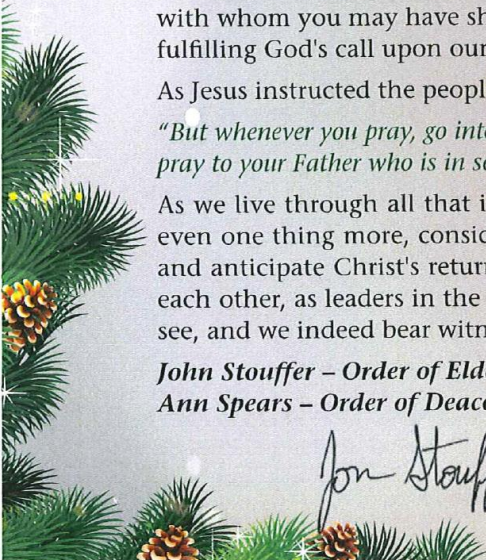
Please pray for fifteen minutes at one or more of these times each day: 6:00 am, 12:00 noon, 6:00 pm, 12:00 midnight. As we pray at these times, please focus your prayers for the strengthening and restoring of our covenant relationships across the Annual Conference, including our Bishop, Cabinet, Conference and District Staff, those in your district, all across the Conference, those with whom you may have shared difficulties in relationships, and all who seek to live faithfully fulfilling God's call upon our lives.

As Jesus instructed the people in the Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 6:6 NRSV):


*"But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and  
pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

As we live through all that is life and ministry this Advent, when we seemingly have no time for even one thing more, consider this invitation that as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child and anticipate Christ's return in victory, we should endeavor together that our relationships with each other, as leaders in the church, be such that the Love of Jesus Christ shines through for all to see, and we indeed bear witness to the Love of God in this world.

**John Stouffer – Order of Elders, Linda Snow – Fellowship of Local Pastors,  
Ann Spears – Order of Deacons**



*John Stouffer Linda Snow Ann Spears*



## Stouffer's Food For Thought . . .

At the beginning of October I was afforded the opportunity to be on retreat with a number of other clergy as we learned together. At the close of the retreat we were asked to write a letter to ourselves and the other day I received this in the mail:

2 October, 2013

*My Dear Self –*

*You are a beloved child of God! You are held in loving hands with the immeasurable gentle strength of the Creator! God's Desire for you is to Be, to Become, and to Believe w/ such Clarity, Peace, Conviction, and Patience and to TRUST the Vision that is being birthed w/in you so that all that comes to fruitfulness Allows & Invites & Welcomes others to Live in the Abiding Peace that is the Present Incarnation of the Living Word of God!*

Please DO What Fosters

Vision => Fruit

1. *Keep Silence*

2. *Pray Offices*

3. *Live Hessed*

4. *Read*

5. *Rest*

6. *Work*

7. *Lead*

*Love*

*Live as*

*Solitude in Community*

*Ask Better Questions*

*Speak Only When It*

*Improves the Silence*

*With all my Love, Strength. you have my deep & aiding commitment to you! your dear self,*

*Jon*

I must say it was a little weird receiving this in the mail until God impressed upon me the reality that if I don't completely believe what I say I believe neither will anyone else. So, I share this for three reasons:

**First** – that you might write a letter to yourself about God's call upon your life.

**Secondly** – that this letter from me to me might help guide your prayers for me as a fellow follower of Jesus and as one of your pastors.

**Thirdly** – that we might both know the deep and abiding presence of God every day that we serve together in ministry

give your Love to JESUS & be fun!



### Things For Which I Am Thankful

Any attempt to list every blessing for which we are thankful will meet with astounding defeat. However, can we not at least try? Here are just a few things for which I am thankful. Maybe you can make your own list.

For the privilege of being alive.

For the awesome mystery of the changing seasons.

For Blue Bell Ice Cream.

For old friends that continue to be friends.

For new relationships that are becoming friendships.

For a free pulpit from which to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ.

For a Mother and Father and Sister and Brother who know me and yet love me.

For a terrific staff to work with every day.

For quiet time in the morning.

For Nicholas and Noel my puppies.

For Brenham, my home, and for First United Methodist Church, my spiritual family.

For all the thoughtful things you, the members, have done for me this year.

For sunrises and sunsets.

For people who believe in me.

For the deep conviction I have that this life is temporary and that death is only a door to a more abundant life in Christ.

For not being born a turkey (though some may disagree with me about this).

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Kay



# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	1 9:00 Emmaus/ Parlor	2
3 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 4:00 ACTS/ Rm. 139 Sunday Study Group/ FH 6:00 UMYF/ AC	4 10:00 Fellowship Study Group/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn	5 8:45 UMW Exect./ Library 9:30 UMW/ AC	6 5:30 Handbells/ FH 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	7 9:00 Yoga/ AC	8 9:00 Emmaus/ Parlor	9
10 4:00 ACTS/ Rm. 139 Sunday Study Group/ FH 6:00 UMYF/ AC	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> 10:00 Fellowship Study Group/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn 1:30 CDC Board/ Library 6:00 Missions/ FR 	12 9:00 Card Group/ MH 6:00 Evangelism/ FR	13 5:30 Handbells/ FH 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	14 9:00 Yoga/ AC 6:30 UMM/AC	15 9:00 Emmaus/ Parlor	16
17 <b>UMW Installation Sunday</b> 4:00 ACTS/ Rm. 139 Sunday Study Group/ FH 6:00 UMYF/ AC	18 10:00 Fellowship Study Group/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn 7:00 Admin. Board / FR	19 9:30 Goodman Circle/Goodman Post Circle/ Beckendorf Reiland Circle- Reiland/ FH 6:30 Wesleyan Circle/ FH CDC Thanksgiving/ AC	20 1:00 Care Team/ 5:30 Handbells/ FH 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	21 9:00 Yoga/ AC	22 9:00 Emmaus/ Parlor	23
24 <b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b> 10:00 Choir Practice/ Choir Room 4:00 ACTS/ Rm. 139 Sunday Study Group/ FH 6:00 UMYF/ AC	25 10:00 Fellowship Study Group/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn	26	27 <b>Offices will close at noon</b>	28 <b>Offices Closed Happy</b>  <b>Thanksgiving</b>	29 <b>Offices Closed</b>	30
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

**Previously**, I mentioned in my “Food For Thought” about decorating for Advent and Christmas: I wrote:

Sunday, November 24, beginning at 5:00 PM  
Decorating the Sanctuary and Activity Center  
for Advent and Christmas followed by Supper

After that went out, some friends stopped by the office and shared concerns about logistics, existing plans, and our time frame. As we considered all these factors, I realized that “my eyes were bigger than my stomach,” so to speak, and though this is a good idea, the logistics of schedules and plans that are already in place were greater than the time we have between now and then to put this idea into a workable plan. So,

Our Worship Committee and Leaders will be decorating our  
Sanctuary and Activity Center for Advent and Christmas as is our custom.

We will NOT be having a big gathering to assist with decorating.

We will NOT be having a big supper afterward.

I am thankful for those who helped me think through the logistical challenges that face us in the next two-and-half weeks were we to attempt to implement my idea. Thank you for your continued prayers for our congregation, our leaders and ministry teams, our staff and pastors as we seek all seek to be faithful to Christ’s call upon our lives. Thank you for your faithfulness to participate in the ministry of our congregation.

Thanks,  
Pastor Jon

Return Service Requested

First United Methodist Church  
408 North Baylor  
Brenham, TX 77833



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Organization  
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