



First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor * Brenham, Texas 77833-3213

December 1, 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORS

“What is Christmas, and when does it come? Surely Christmas is more than a date on a calendar. Surely Christmas is more than a vague annual nod in the direction of Bethlehem. Surely Christmas is more than poinsettias and presents and parades and pageants as nice as those are. What puts the meaning of Christmas deep in our souls? What writes the Christmas spirit indelibly on our hearts?” (*Christmas Gifts that Won't Break* by James Moore, p. 18)

The answer to these questions is quite simple – “Love.” God’s love for us, our love for God, family and others – wherever and whenever love is shared, Christmas comes.

A woman in her nineties spoke of the best gift she had ever received. The gift was a promise of a weekly letter or postcard from her granddaughter. She keeps them all in a box. They remind her of the faithful and constant love of a granddaughter for a grandmother. She hopes the gift will continue into a new year.

Did you hear our little children share what they are most thankful for? On top of the list are mommies and daddies, grandmas and grandpas, brothers and sisters. Knowing that they are loved is their most prized ‘possession.’

God’s great gift was – and is – God’s love made real to us through the birth of a baby. May you be reminded of God’s faithful and constant love of a gracious God for each of you. Christmas already is here.

Phone: 979-836-2008

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Open Hearts . . .

Open Minds . . .

Open Doors . . .

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 10 Cable TV.

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dale Chance
PastorDale@FUMCBrenham.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Terry Dougherty
PastorTerry@FUMCBrenham.org

Christmas Open House at The Parsonage

1800 Shady Lane

Sunday, December 5, 2010

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Come join us for a tour of the “little houses” and Snowbabies displayed during the holiday season at the Chances’. There will be refreshments and fellowship to make your day merry!

...and then at **6:30p.m.**, join us in the Activity Center for the
“**Star Of Wonder**” Christmas Musical
presented by the A.C.T.S. Troupe.

Newsletter Deadline and Other Information

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Thursday, December 9, at 10:00 a.m.**

If you have a submission for the newsletter, please email your written article to 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

Ashley Abbey, Interim Director – 979-830-8661

SUNDAY November 14, 2010

Church Attendance:

Nursery	4
Worship 8:15 a.m.	70
Worship 11:00 a.m.	114
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	54
Worship Total	242
Sunday School	84
Offering:	\$ 7,842.50

SUNDAY November 21, 2010

Church Attendance:

Nursery	3
Worship 8:15 a.m.	67
Worship 11:00 a.m.	147
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	56
Worship Total	273
Sunday School	112
Offering:	\$12,469.10

SUNDAY November 28, 2010

Church Attendance:

Nursery	4
Worship 8:15 a.m.	60
Worship 11:00 a.m.	128
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	50
Worship Total	242
Sunday School	115



The Christmas season is finally here and we are excited. The CDC has lots of fun things in store for this month. Our first event will be the Cookie Stroll on December 5th following the Children's A.C.T.S program at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, December 5th.

Come enjoy the show and pick out your \$5.00 or \$10.00 box to fill with a variety of homemade cookies.

Dec. 5 th	Cookie Stroll
Dec. 8 th	Santa visits
Dec. 17 th	Christmas Caroling
Dec. 22 nd	Christmas Program
Dec. 24 th	CDC closed
Dec. 31 st	CDC closed



The Wish Tree

In the lobby of the preschool, we have a tree decorated with ornaments. These ornaments have pictures of toys or supplies that the children or teachers would like to have in the classrooms. If you would like to donate, just pick off the ornament and give to the CDC office.

If you are looking for somewhere to drop off your old toys, the CDC is also accepting gently used toys for ages 1yr to 5yr.

Prayer Concerns



Ruth Ann Marshall
 Tricia Gustafson
 Jim Hickey
 Nona Taylor
 Kathy Revenaugh
 Stanley Schneider
 John Klein
 Jane Moore
 Kenneth Bryson
 John Michaels
 Rebecca Ocanos
 Elmo Davis

Our homebound members
 Those serving in the military

Condolences

Our deepest condolences to the family of Rev. Glenn Ferguson who died on November 12, 2010

Join the Children's Ministry of FUMC in supporting
 New Beginnings Pregnancy Center with a

Christmas Baby Shower

We are collecting new items to put together in baby bags
 OR
 you can put together a complete bag with the following items:

- 🌸 Quilt, Blanket or Receiving Blanket
- 🌸 Package of Wipes
- 🌸 Clothing (gender neutral) size NB - 24 months
- 🌸 Burp Cloth/Cloth Diapers
- 🌸 Package of Diapers (sz. NB - 3)
- 🌸 Hooded Towel & Baby Soap
- 🌸 Bottles & Bibs
- 🌸 Pacifier or Teething Ring
- 🌸 Stuffed Animal
- 🌸 Rattle or Baby Toy

Please gather your baby goodies in a disposable bag and place in marked boxes in the AC, Parlor or Office **by Sunday, December 19.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Jennifer Patrick, Program Coordinator, Jennifer@FUMCBrenham.org

A.C.T.S. Troupe presents
The Christmas Musical...

STAR OF WONDER

**Sunday, December 5
6:30 p.m.**

Activity Center at the
First United Methodist Church
the corner of Market St and Academy St

Admission is FREE!

COOKIE STROLL

Sunday, December 5
Begins after the A.C.T.S.
Christmas Musical

\$5 & \$10 boxes

Proceeds to benefit
our Methodist
Weekday School



Celebrate Advent in Sunday School

*Join us each Sunday
for fun games, crafts
and activities that
go with the season
of Advent.*

*November 28 – HOPE
December 5 – LOVE
December 12 – JOY
December 19 – PEACE*

No Sunday School on December 26

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**Monday, December 20
5:30 p.m. meet in the AC**

We will share carols with
those in nursing homes.
Afterwards we will have
pizza & decorate
Christmas Cookies!



Support Your Church Friends in the Brenham Children's Chorus

Sunday, December 12
Singing with the Brazos Valley
Symphony Orchestra
Christ United Methodist Church
5:00 p.m. Ticket Cost is \$20

Saturday, December 18
The Heart of Christmas Musical &
Nativity Performance
2:00 p.m. WW O'Donell PAC at Blinn
Ticket Cost \$5 kids, \$8 advanced
for Adults, \$10 at the door

Church Members include:
*Bailee & Leah Rettig, Mollie &
Rylie Patrick, Allyson & Lindy
Jenkins, Elizabeth Chisholm, Lilly
Jones, Makenzie, Reyna, Taryn
Kate Ruiz, Nick Summerour, Ally
Trostle and Anitra Thomas*

YOUTH "H.A.L.O" NEWS

Rick Ruiz, Youth Director rcruiz1020@yahoo.com

Thank you!

FUMC Youth want to take this opportunity during the Thanksgiving week to thank all of their church family here at First United Methodist Church in Brenham for all of their support of the youth. Thank you to those who have given their service by volunteering to help us as chaperones during our activities. Thank you to those who are always present to say a word of encouragement or congratulations. And thank you to those who support the youth by donating their gifts so that we can continue to keep a strong, growing youth ministry!

**On behalf of all the FUMC Youth...
Happy Thanksgiving Week!!!**

December Youth Schedule

Sat. Dec. 4 - Community Service Project
Sat. Dec. 11 - 5:30-10pm - Youth Christmas Party
Sat. Dec. 18 - 3-11pm - Kemah
Sun. Dec. 26 - No Youth

Thank You

Our 40th annual Harvest Festival was huge success this year and I can't say thank you enough to all those who helped make that possible. This was a truly amazing year from beginning to end. I am so thankful and very much appreciate each person who helped in anyway to make that happen. I want to sincerely thank all of my UMW friends and circles for all your hard work, from making the dressing, preparing the meals, serving the meals and cleaning up - you all did an outstanding job. Thank you so much to all the Methodist men for setting up the tables, cutting up the turkeys in record time, serving the drinks, always lending helping hands in the kitchen and cleaning up, ya'll are the best. Thanks to all those who sold tickets, made a dessert, donated items to the country store or silent auction, we couldn't have done it without you. Harvest Festival is a team effort and this was an amazing year of teamwork by everyone.

The Silent Auction and Country Store committees would like to sincerely thank everyone for their part in making each one on these venues a wonderful success as well. Thank you for all your donated items and getting them to the church. Each committee puts in a lot of time and work and your continued support is appreciated by all.

I love my church and I love the people in it. I am very thankful and grateful for your continued love and support each year in keeping our Harvest Festival tradition alive and well. That is something we should all be very proud of.

*God Bless you all,
Kim Limmer*



WILL YOU STAY UP ALL NIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE?

I'm guessing most of us won't be. Santa Clause might be out kind of late, but even he will call it a night at some point. There are some really good folks in Brenham that will be staying awake though, our Policemen, EMS crews, dispatchers, Sheriff's deputies, and Firefighters. They are going to be awake and away from their families on this very special night that most of us just want to be home for. They will be patrolling our streets, going out on calls and putting their lives on the line, just for us, so we can be safe and enjoy this special night with family and friends.

First United Methodist church can make it a little nicer for these men and women. The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Christmas treat for these wonderful folks.

We ask, as you make holiday cookies, snacks, candy or any special treat, that you make a little extra this year. Put it in the freezer or store it in an airtight container and bring it with you on Christmas Eve to one of the two services. There will be two large baskets, one at the entrance coming in from the back parking lot, the other at the front entrance on Baylor Street. Just drop your goodies and/or a hand written note or card thanking them for their dedication. At the end of the second service we will divide the Christmas goodies up and drop them to the EMS station, police station, dispatchers, sheriff's office and fire department.

Let's show these great folks how much we care and appreciate them. Thanking you in advance, Michele Smith, Chair/Evangelism

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 p.m. The Story of Christmas including musicians young and older, carols, a special message for children and candle-lighting

7:00 p.m. Traditional service featuring the Chancel Choir, special music, inspiring sermon and candle-lighting.

A special offering to support Methodist Children's Home, Methodist Mission Home and Golden Cross will be received at both services.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2010 Harvest Festival was a huge Success:

Dinner Profit: \$4,336.38
Silent Auction Profit: \$2,923.50
Country Store Profit: \$3,562.40
Total Profit: \$10,822.28

Patty Stratton, Treasurer

Thank you for your support!

**UMW members,
Please turn in your reading lists to Jo Powell. She needs to send them in for conference credit. Thank you.**

Wednesday Prayer Vigil

The Wednesday Prayer Vigil needs substitutes to occasionally fill in for an hour when a regular member can not attend. If you would be willing to pray for an hour, between 8am to 6pm on Wednesdays, please call Chris Rogers at 251-7528 and leave your name and phone number.

Wesley Heritage in England and Scotland

Join Pastor Dale as he explores London and travel the English countryside on a road trip to Scotland. Along the way you will learn more about John Wesley, visit Shakespeare's birthplace, and enjoy the wonder of Stonehenge. Castles, more history and beautiful scenery will await you in Scotland. The journey begins on April 26, 2011 and will come to a close on May 6, 2011. Registration forms are located in the church office.

United Methodist Men's Christmas Dinner

The annual United Methodist Men's Christmas Dinner for members and spouses, widows, and single ladies of the church will be held on Thursday, December 9th at 6:30 pm in the Activity Center. The meal will be catered by Schovajsa and members of the Brenham Chorale will entertain. Invitations will be going out soon, so please circle this date on your calendar.

Faithbuilders Sunday School Class Christmas Party

The Faithbuilders Sunday School Class Christmas party will be held at Frank and Jody Tyson's' home at 6pm on December 17th. Checks should be paid to Ann Pieper by December 12th for \$8.50 per person.

(Menu: Roast Beef and trimmings)

Catered by Jay's Bar-B-Q

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

by: Barbara Robinson

December 1-5

Wednesday – Saturday: 7:30 pm

Sunday: 4:00 pm

Adults: \$15 Students: \$10

At the Unity Theatre

979-830-8358 300 Church St. Brenham, TX 77833



London Clock Tower



Edinburgh Castle



John Wesley



December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>1</p> <p>1:00 CARE / Library 6:00 Handbells / Sanc 6:30 Celebration Band 6:45 Cantata 7:15 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 Yoga / AC 6:00 Girl Scouts / AC</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 Emmaus / Library 6:00 Downtown Christmas Stroll</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 – 3:00 Epiphany 9:00 Youth / Community Service Project 10:00 ACTS set up and rehearsal in the AC</p>
<p>5</p> <p>1:30 Open House at the Parsonage / 1800 Shady Lane 2:30 Worship @ Brenham Rest Home 3:30 Worship@ Kruse 6:30 ACTS Program "Star Of Wonder" Cookie Stroll following program</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:15 Wesley Group @ Blinn</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 UMW / Christmas Coffee / Hyatt</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Santa Comes / CDC 12:00 UMM Christmas Party Set up / AC 6:00 Handbells / Sanc 6:30 Band / AC 6:45 Cantata Rehearsal 7:15 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Yoga / AC 10:00 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 UMM Christmas Party Set up / AC 6:30 UMM / AC</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Emmaus / Library</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 Cantata Rehearsal / Sanctuary 5:30-10:00 Youth Christmas Party</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:15 & 11:00 Cantata "A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols" 12:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:15 Wesley Group @ Blinn 1:00 CDC Ad. Board Meeting / Library</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 Evangelism Dinner / Smith</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Christmas Chapel 7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Yoga / AC</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Emmaus / Library 6:00 Faithbuilders Class Christmas Party / Tyson</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3:00 Youth / Kemah</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00 Cantata "A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols" 12:30 Confirmation / FH 4:00 Songs of the Season / Sanctuary</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:15 Wesley Group @ Blinn 4:00 Church Caroling and Cookie Decorating 6:30 Finance / FR</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 Hinners / Tate Post / Jones Rogers / Amerson 12:00 Susanna / Buller 6:30 Trustee / FR Wesleyan / Meschwitz</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closes at noon</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed CDC Closed 5:30 Family Christmas Eve Service 7:00 Communion Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas!</i> </p>
<p>26</p> <p>11:00 Sunday Service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:15 Wesley Group @ Blinn 3:00 42 / Mission</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 Trustee / FR</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closes at noon</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Office Closed CDC Closed</p>	

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place red poinsettias for our Christmas services, please complete and return this form to the church office along with your check payable to FUMC by Sunday, December 12, 2010. The cost is \$12.00 per plant. The poinsettias will be displayed in the church sanctuary and activity center Sunday, December 19. They may be picked up after the Christmas Eve services on December 24.

I wish to purchase _____ poinsettia(s).

(please print)

In Honor of:

or:

In Loving Memory of:

Placed by:

The cost of each plant is \$12.00. My payment of \$_____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Phone # _____ e-mail _____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia(s).

_____ I will not pick up my poinsettia(s) and would be happy for it/them to be delivered to a shut-in.



Christmas Happenings



DECEMBER

Sunday 5, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Parsonage Open House

Sunday 5, 6:30 p.m.

A.C.T.S Children's Musical
"Star of Wonder" in the A.C. &
Cookie Stroll to benefit our
Weekday School

Sunday 12,

8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

Christmas Cantata
"A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols"

Sunday 19, 9 a.m. Worship

Christmas Cantata
"A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols"

Sunday 19, 4:00 p.m.

Songs of the Season with Van Miller
& Ann Wackman

Monday, 20 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Caroling and Cookie
Decorating

Friday 24

5:30 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m.

Communion Christmas Eve Service

Sunday 26

One Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.
and NO Sunday School

*More details on all these events will be in upcoming newsletters and
on the website at www.FUMCBrenham.org.*

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Brenham, TX 77833

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