



First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213
December 4, 2012

The Gifts of Advent

When asked to explain what the four candles of the Advent wreath represent, seven-year-old Luke began to explain, "There's love, joy, peace, and..." His six-year-old sister piped up, "I know!" She said excitedly, "Peace and quiet!"

If there is anything that Advent doesn't bring to us it's peace and quiet. We sing, "Silent Night," but our hearts are far from being silent. We read the heavenly hosts' words about peace on earth, but peace has escaped not only our lives, but our vocabulary.

What's a person to do? There always seems to be two ways of thinking about the matter. First, just accept it. This is the way the Christmas season is. Just cope with it as best you can. Or second, just forget it. Christmas is way too commercial. Let's just get rid of all the hype and gaudy trappings.

Perhaps there is another way. I don't believe we have to resign ourselves to the frenzy, nor do we have to trash all our Christmas decorations. Just as in our everyday lives, true peace comes not from a lack of activity around us, but from within us. It comes from having our hearts and minds focused on what is truly important.

Remember that Christmas is about Jesus and why He came to earth and lived in human flesh. Remember that Christmas is about sharing the love and joy that we have because of the love that was shown to us through Jesus Christ. Remember that all of the decorations and activities are pointless unless you have a reason to celebrate.

Do you want a little peace and quiet during the holidays? Think about Jesus and how much God must have loved you to send Him to earth. Do that a couple of times a day between now and Christmas. I think it will make a difference.

I want to thank everyone for the gifts and cards I have received over the past two months. As of today I have received over 100 cards, meals every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and even some surprises on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Several have driven me to doctor appointments, the hospital, and picked up groceries. I want you to know that your love, concern, and friendship have blessed me more than I can tell you. There is no greater feeling than to know you are loved and appreciated.

I wish I knew the right words to say so you would know how much I love you and appreciate all that you do for me. So, as soon as I can, I will continue to do my best to show my appreciation as I serve this great church and all of you who are a part of it. May God continue to reward your faithfulness, bless each of you with His peace and presence and fill your life with good things.

Love,
Pastor Kay

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

- 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

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dale Chance
pastordale@fumcbrenham.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Kay Reed
pastorkay@fumcbrenham.org

METHODIST WEEKDAY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Tami Stevens, Director – 979-830-8661



December

SUNDAY November 18, 2012

Church Attendance:

Nursery	7
Worship 8:15 a.m.	65
Worship 11:00 a.m.	140
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	61
Worship Total	273
Sunday School	106
Offering:	\$11,768.75

SUNDAY November 25, 2012

Church Attendance:

Nursery	9
Worship 8:15 a.m.	87
Worship 11:00 a.m.	101
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	71
Worship Total	268
Sunday School	115
Offering:	\$5,871.77

NOVEMBER PRELIMINARY TOTALS

Nov. Income:	\$46,675.19
Nov. Expense:	\$48,195.15
Nov. Total:	(\$1,519.96)

YTD PRELIMINARY TOTALS

YTD Income:	\$569,868.17
YTD Expense:	\$586,214.51
YTD Net Total:	(\$16,346.34)



The Thanksgiving Feast was a blast; it was great to have everyone celebrating together!!



In November the Three's and Pre-K classes enjoyed reading Dr. Seuss books, and even made their own green eggs and ham to eat!

December's Up Coming Events

*Dec. - Pre-K and 3's go to the library every Monday

Dec. 11th – Christmas Celebration with Santa plus milk and cookies 6:00 -7:30 in the A/C

Dec. 21st - Pre-K class will go caroling at Brenham National Bank

Dec. 24th and 25th- Closed for Christmas

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Jennifer Patrick, Program Coordinator, Jennifer@FUMCBrenham.org



FAMILY CAROLING

Sunday, December 16

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. After we Christmas carol we will come back for pizza & a craft. Bring your friends and family and make this your family's tradition.

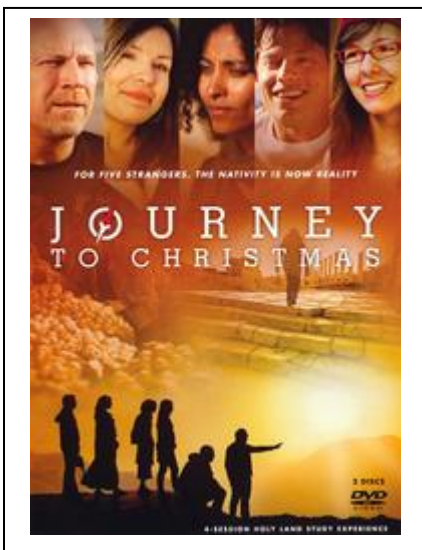


Sounds of the Season

Sunday, December 9th at 9:00 a.m. in the *Celebration!* Service the children will help in leading the worship service in music and song. If your child would like to participate please contact Jennifer Patrick.

Christmas Eve Service

This year we are looking for children who will be in town on Christmas Eve. We plan to have a reenactment of the nativity scene with the children as the scriptures are read in the Family Service at 5:30pm. If your child would like to be a part of this special night please contact Jennifer.



Monday Morning Advent Study

Join us for a 4 week study during the season of Advent. We will meet on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship House. The first Monday is November 25. This is a DVD series entitled *Journey to Christmas*. If you would like to see a trailer about the study go to www.youtube.com and search for "Journey to Christmas".

December Youth Calendar

subject to change

Sun., Dec. 9 – Youth 5-8 p.m. in the AC, “Love Thy Neighbor”/Gift Giving

Sat., Dec. 15 or 16– Youth Christmas Party, date & time tba, Lights of Tejas

Sun., Dec. 23 – Christmas weekend, No youth

Sun., Dec. 30 – Youth 6-10 p.m. in the AC, Game Night & New Year's Celebration

Insight into Youth Activities...



“Loving Thy Neighbor”

After very positive feedback last year, the Youth are doing a “Loving Thy Neighbor” activity during December. What this activity does is to allow each youth that chooses to participate the opportunity to bring a “gift” to someone; either a “neighbor”, someone they might not know very well, or just someone special to them other than a relative. The gifts are very modest and are provided by Rick. They are gifts that the youth would probably like for themselves, but they are strongly encouraged to give them away. This activity brings people closer together, allows our youth to share fellowship with people they might not normally, and allows them to be the hands and feet of God as we celebrate the birth of his Son and the joy that it brings to our lives.

Donations Received

In memory of

Harry Ketcham
(Jody Tyson's brother)

By
Gary and Kay Ivy

In memory of

Elverda Kiecke
(Val Kiecke's mother)

By
The Susanna Circle

In memory of

A.B. Smith
(Carolyn Baker's father)

By
The Susanna Circle
Art & Smitty Hinners

In memory of

Bette Odale
(Debi Meschwitz's mother)

By
Carol Cangelosi

In memory of

Ada Nodmeyer
(Edna Rote's sister)

By
Art & Smitty Hinners

In memory of

Kermit Teufel

By
Art & Smitty Hinners
Betty Jean Wiesepape
Mable Wright
Marilyn Whitmarsh
Otto & Christine Janner Jr.
Donald and Gwen Spiess
Robert & Sherry Whitmarsh

Twas the Night Before Christmas!

We are all familiar with that great Christmas story, and how the family was fast asleep and all those amazing things happened that special night. Christmas Eve is a very special time to most of us. It's a time of great memories, a time with friends and family, candlelight services at church, driving around looking at the beautiful lights and many other family traditions. Then at the end of the night we go safely to bed and wake up on that special morning, Christmas morning. However, there are many folks in our community that don't get to do what most of us take for granted, there are those who stay up all night and work, for us and our families safety. I'm talking about those amazing people like policemen and sheriffs, fireman, ems and dispatch workers, nurses, etc.

This year, like we did a few years ago, 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, on Christmas Eve just bring an item to put in their gift baskets when you attend one of our Christmas Eve services. Items can be any holiday treats you would like to make or share; candy, cookies, fruit breads, etc. or anything else will be greatly appreciated. There will be a container set up outside of the church parlor and at the front entrance to the church off of Baylor Street to drop off these goodies. The items will be divided up into baskets then right after the second service they will be delivered.

If you would like to help divide and make the baskets, or help deliver them please let us know by contacting Michele Smith @ 979-251-9840. Please help us show our love and support to those that "Stay up all night, the night before Christmas".

*Save
The
Date!!*



Celebrate the Holidays

with

Jim Connors, Astros Organist

(Jim played at our Organ Dedication in September)

3:00 P.M. FUMC Sanctuary

Sunday, December 16th

Prayer Concerns

Kris Weinschenk
Larry Tyrell
Jacque Ketcham
Bonnie Perry
Kathy Revenaugh
Yvonne Moore
Grant Cook
Lane Buban
Ann Talley
Joyce Morris
Leroy Polk
Floyd Chapman
Linda Pipes
Vicki Jordan
Kathy Rote
Alan Williamson
Gladys Vollert
Jim Hale
Sue Perry
Justin Davis
Glen Morris
Bob Sprenger
Alan Hughes
Ederett Kerfer
Linda Daugherty
Marilynn Wrigley
Jim Forsythe
Pastor Kay Reed
Jan Pledger
Gordon Denmore
Peggy Robertson
Jerry & Patty Stratton

Our homebound members and those serving in the military

Thanks FUMC

Thank you all for the prayers, concern, care, and cards. You are all such a wonderful support system to me. You all mean so much to me. Thank you!

Love,
Sandy Delgado

P.S. I miss seeing you all and my babies!

Dear FUMC Friends

It is hard to find words to express my deep appreciation for all the love and care given to me throughout my father's illness and upon his death on November 9th. Your calls, emails, cards and visits were needed reminders of God's love for me and my family. Your presence at my Dad's memorial service helped to fill the Chapel with song and faith, and your donations to Hospice gave a fitting tribute to my Father's life. Thank you for your continuing friendship. Please know how I love you all.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Terry Dougherty

News from the Card Group

Season's Greetings from the Card Group Ladies! As always, our group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Mission House (Brown House). There are many people who save greeting cards they've received and pass them on to us for re-cycling. Cards are displayed and available for purchase (twenty-five cents apiece) in the Walk-Thru and the lobby of the Educational Building every Sunday. When the Church Office is open during the week, just go to the office and up the stairs to the Lobby. Profit from the sales is donated to various church and civic organizations in Brenham. An invitation is extended to anyone interested in becoming a part of this group. The comradeship and fellowship shared in this group is very special and the welcome mat is always there.

Marilyn Whitmarsh





Newsletter Deadline and Other Information

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 11:00 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.



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 ACTS Set-Up & Dress Rehearsal /AC
2 6:30 ACTS Performance & Cookie Stroll/ AC 7:30 Youth/ AC	3 10:00 FSG/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn	4 10:00 UMW Christmas Coffee/ Meshchwitz 7:00 Joy- Play/ Blinn	5 6:30 Celebration Band/ AC 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room	6 9:00 Yoga/ AC	7 9:00 Emmaus/ Library 6:30 Faithbuilders Christmas Party/ Tyson's	8
9 5:00 Youth/ AC	10 10:00 FSG/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn 1:30 CDC Board/ Library	11 9:00 Card Group/ MH 12:00 Susanna Circle/ Buller 5:00 Trustees/ FR 6:30 CDC Santa & Cookies Night/ AC Pastor Dale's Trip Meeting/ Library	12 6:30 Celebration Band/ AC 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room	13 9:00 Yoga/ AC 6:30 UMM Ladies Night/ AC	14 9:00 Emmaus/ Library	15
16 8:15 & 11:00 Christmas Cantata/ Sanctuary 3:00 Christmas Caroling/ AC	17 10:00 FSG/ FH	18	19 6:30 Celebration Band/ AC 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room	20 9:00 Yoga/ AC	21 9:00 Emmaus/ Library	22
23	24 Christmas Eve Offices Closed 5:30 Family Christmas Eve Service 7:00 Communion Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas!  Offices Closed	26 1:00 Care Team/ Library 6:30 Celebration Band/ AC 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room	27 9:00 Yoga/ AC	28 9:00 Emmaus/ Library	29
30 6:00 Youth- Game Night and New Year's Party/ AC	31 Offices Closing Early New Year's Evell 					

Christmas Happenings

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



DECEMBER

Sunday 2, 6:30 p.m.

*Children's Musical presented by the A.C.T.S Musical Theatre Troupe "Dude, You Hear What I Hear" in the Activity Center
Followed by a Cookie Stroll Fundraiser*

Tuesday 4, 10:00 a.m.

UMW Christmas Coffee at the home of Debi Meschwitz

Tuesday 4, 7:00 p.m.

J.O.Y. Trip – Church Basement Ladies at Blinn College

Sunday 9, 9:00 a.m. *Celebration! Service "The Sounds of Season". A service filled with music from our children, youth & adults*

Thursday 13, 6:30 p.m.

UMM Christmas Dinner in the A.C.

Sunday 16, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. *Services Christmas Cantata "Majesty of Heaven"*

Sunday 16, 3:00 p.m.

Family Caroling for our Nursing Homes & State School. Dinner and decorating cookies afterwards

Monday 24

5:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m. Communion Christmas Eve Service

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Organization
Brenham, TX 77833

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Return Service Requested



