



First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213
January 10, 2017

Phone: 979-836-2008

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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

Rev. Bill Taylor- Interim Lead
bill@fumcbrenham.org

Rev. Kay Reed- Associate
kay@fumcbrenham.org

“See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare . . .”
(Isaiah 42:9b NRSVA)

On January 1st it was my pleasure to begin a six-month intentional interim ministry with you at Brenham First United Methodist Church. Pastor Jon Stouffer will be on a six-month sabbatical which will include time away for study, spiritual development, rest and preparation to assume a new pastorate effective July 1, 2017. Jon is as excited about this opportunity as I am to be with you in Brenham.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you can see a picture of my family and read a biographical statement that introduces me. Although this is an efficient manner to distribute information I want to meet as many of our church members personally as I possibly can. I will be in Brenham most weeks on Monday – Wednesday.

It has been brought to my attention that some are concerned with the suddenness of this pastoral change. If you have questions or concerns I am happy to discuss them with you. My deepest desire is to journey with you in a positive way over these next six months as we prepare to receive a new lead pastor on July 1st.

As Isaiah proclaims in chapter 43:19, *“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it.”* God’s promises are sure and I am certain that God is at work in Brenham. I look forward to getting to know you as we anticipate how God will continue to lead this great church into 2017 and beyond!

Peace,
Bill Taylor
Intentional Interim Lead Pastor



The 51st Annual Methodist Men Pancake Supper

Friday, January 27, 2017

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center

Tickets are \$8.00 and available from any Methodist Men member or in the church office. All the pancakes and sausage you can eat!

It’s Already Confirmation Time Again

I can’t believe it’s almost Confirmation time again! Do you have a 5th or 6th grade young man or young lady in your home that would be interested in going through a church membership class? Beginning with an orientation on Sunday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m., I will be offering our annual confirmation class for those who have not been baptized, confirmed, or joined the church.

When the class is completed those who so choose will proceed with the steps that lead to church membership.

Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, May 28, 2017. If you would like your child to be a part of this class, please give me a call at 836-2008.

Kay



Prayer Concerns

SUNDAY December 4, 2016

Church Attendance:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Nursery | 2 |
| Worship 8:15 a.m. | 69 |
| Celebration 9:00 a.m. | 94 |
| Worship 11:00 a.m. | 94 |
| Worship Total | 259 |
| Sunday School | 94 |
| Offering: | \$22,382.00 |

SUNDAY December 11, 2016

Church Attendance:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Nursery | 3 |
| Worship 8:15 a.m. | 79 |
| Celebration 9:00 a.m. | 143 |
| Worship 11:00 a.m. | 104 |
| Worship Total | 329 |
| Sunday School | 107 |
| Offering: | \$13,649.00 |

SUNDAY December 18, 2016

Church Attendance:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Nursery | 3 |
| Worship 8:15 a.m. | 91 |
| Celebration 9:00 a.m. | 73 |
| Worship 11:00 a.m. | 98 |
| Worship Total | 265 |
| Sunday School | 94 |
| Offering: | \$11,702.00 |

SUNDAY December 24-25, 2016

Church Attendance:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Worship 5:00 p.m. | 160 |
| Worship 7:00 p.m. | 146 |
| Worship Total | 306 |
| Nursery | 2 |
| Worship 11:00 a.m. | 79 |
| Worship Total | 81 |
| Offering: | \$8,686.00 |

December TOTALS

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Dec. Income: | \$62,652.00 |
| Dec. Expense: | \$60,908.00 |
| Dec. Total: | \$1,744.00 |

YTD TOTALS

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| YTD Income: | \$621,744.00 |
| YTD Expense: | \$662,200.00 |
| YTD Net Total: | (\$40,456.00) |

Luene Harmer
 Frances Sidebottom
 Alan Williamson
 Bob & Susan Jenkins
 Roberial & Dorothy Boenker
 Mike Kalil
 Ronnie Ochoa
 Eloise Carmen
 Jim & Linda Clements
 Kathy Revenaugh
 Kalyan Meschwitz

Jeffery Janner
 Norman Kitzman
 Kristi Vanzura
 Sam & Beverly Duree
 Steve Ritchie
 Rev. Max Grubb
 Ivan Wubbenhorst
 Hugh & Aniela Pitts
 Sarah Keller

Our homebound members and those serving in the military

Donations Received

In memory of
Eileen Raschke
By

Gerald & Deborah Muckleroy

In memory of
Ken Goedeke
By

John & Sherry Barkman
Gerald & Deborah Muckleroy

In memory of
Bob Perry
By

Ronnie & Susan Manchester
Gerald & Deborah Muckleroy

In memory of
Kathyrine Jones
By

Gerald & Deborah Muckleroy

In memory of
Buddy Dorow
By

Louis & Joycine Hanath
Al & Suzanne Veselka
Mike & Mimi Mushaway
Gerald & Deborah Muckleroy

In memory of
Henry Kuecker
By

Louis & Joycine Hanath
Donna Sprenger
Marilyn Whitmarsh
Gerald & Deborah Muckleroy
Eugene & Mary Lou Kamas

In memory of
Elaine Dorow
By

Al & Suzanne Veselka
Gerald & Deborah Muckleroy

In memory of
Bob Sprenger
By

Alan & Cheryl Williamson





Bill grew up in Texas City, Texas and is a graduate of Texas City High School; he earned an A.A. degree from Lon Morris College in 1970, a B.A. degree from Centenary College of Louisiana in 1972, and a M.Th. degree from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in 1976.

Reverend Taylor is married to Roxanne, a retired public school teacher. Mrs. Taylor holds degrees from Lon Morris College, Centenary College, and Southern Methodist University. They have two sons, Dawson, Collin and a daughter, Anna. Collin and his wife have three of Reverend Taylor's four grandchildren. Both Dawson and Collin have followed Bill into ministry and Anna and Abby, like Roxanne, are public school teachers. Anna and her husband have one daughter Kathryn Wright who is the Taylor's fourth grandchild.

In 1973, Bill was ordained a deacon in The United Methodist Church and in 1977 was elected into full membership in the Texas Annual Conference. It was during this session of the annual conference that he was ordained an Elder.

Following graduation from seminary in 1976, Mr. Taylor was appointed as the Minister of Outreach at West University UMC and in October of 1977, Reverend Taylor assumed the pastorate of Covenant United Methodist Church. After a successful four-year ministry in Southeast Houston, Reverend Taylor was appointed to Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Santa Fe, Texas in 1981. In 1985 he began a five-year ministry as the senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Wharton, Texas and was appointed in 1990 to Spring Woods United Methodist Church in northwest Harris County. In 1995 Bishop Woodrow Hearne invited Bill to serve on his cabinet as the district superintendent of the Texarkana District, and in 2001 he was appointed to serve as the senior pastor of Conroe First United Methodist Church. William R. "Bill" Taylor, Jr. was appointed district superintendent of the North District of the Texas Annual Conference on June 1, 2008 by Bishop Janice Riggle Huie. He retired from the North District on July 1, 2016. Reverend Taylor is the only Elder in the Texas Annual Conference to have served 14 years on the Bishop's cabinet.

Reverend Taylor has served in a number of positions in the Texas Annual Conference and on the cabinets of Bishop Woodrow Hearn, Bishop Alfred Norris and Bishop Janice Huie. Bill's hobbies include fly fishing, photography, hiking and running. He has successfully completed five half marathons since January 2012.

Dear Friends of First United Methodist Church of Brenham,

On behalf of our family, please accept our most sincere thank you for three and a half years of ministry together. We are so touched by your thoughts and words and your hugs, handshakes, and howdies at our reception on December 18th. Please know that we are well and embracing our transition as part of the appointive process for our family and First UMC this year. Sabbaticals have become more the norm with the continued increasing complexities of ministry and I receive this six-month time of learning, discernment, and rest as a gift. Please know that you, dear friends, will remain in our thoughts and prayers and that you will have a place in our hearts always. I now leave you in the care of your appointed interim minister, The Rev. Bill Taylor. May God bless you all!

May Christ be our sufficiency,
Jon & Holly Stouffer



The time has come to add a new van to our 'fleet'. Our Child Development Center, Youth, and Wesley programs are growing!

The day care and afterschool program at Time Well Spent closed recently. Our school and afterschool programs have ballooned as a result. We went from about 32 kids to 60 children! A good problem to have. Our daycare is doing really well financially under the direction of Raemona Burks.

The missions team is more active, talking the van for a week this past October and this is something they will likely be doing more often.

FUMC Youth group is at an all-time high attendance (more great news) and will be needing the van for various mission trips as well. Last year there were 50 attending youth missions. This year there will be as many, plus lots of side trips to other area events, concerts, corn maze's etc. We have over 25 in youth and the Director of Student ministries, who's van they have used at no cost to the church for the past 3.5 years, can no longer accommodate the number of students.

Wesley is also at an all-time high of about 18 in attendance. They are planning on attending a concert this year as well.

Additionally, the only places that continue to rent multi-passenger vans are no longer located in Brenham, resulting in travel to Houston and back to pick up a rental.

There is now a real need for a 15 passenger bucket seat style van which will be much better for seniors to access. In addition, a 15 passenger van means we shouldn't need any class C licensed drivers.

We have done some preliminary research and the cost is estimated to be in the \$30,000-35,000 range. We have currently received donations in the amount of \$13,000, and have therefore established a Designated Van fund. Once the funds have been raised, we will commence with the purchase.

Newsletter Deadline



Your next newsletter deadline will be **Monday, January 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** 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.

Thank You for a Great 2016

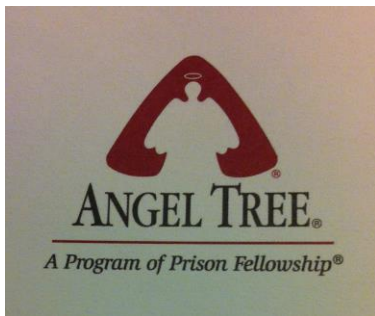
As I write this first column for 2017, I cannot keep from saying once again how great you are as a congregation of deeply committed and faithful Christians. This is a great church! Great churches don't just happen. They are the result of great people who have a deep faith in Jesus Christ and a strong commitment to the work of God's kingdom in the local church.

It is a privilege and an honor to stand in your pulpits on Sunday and preach God's Word, to lead you in worship, in singing, and in praying. I believe the best is yet to come. God has great things for us to do and good experiences that will enrich our lives and strengthen our faith. Let us continue the work that God has started in us as we begin 2017!

I want to thank everyone for the gifts and cards I received over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. I want you to know that your love and friendship have blessed me more than I can tell you. There is no greater feeling than to know you are appreciated. And you have shown your support and appreciation in many, many ways.

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, but it's hard to put it down on paper. So I will continue to do my best to show my appreciation as I serve this great church and all of you. May God continue to reward your faithfulness, bless each of you with His peace and presence, and fill your life with good things as we begin the New Year together.

See you Sunday,
Kay



To the generous members of the FUMC congregation who again this year participated in the State School and Angel Tree ministries of sharing joy with those less fortunate:

FUMC Brenham provided forty-one State Supported Living Center residents with gifts they received at their annual Christmas party. The Center's Community Relations staff members, who regularly interact with the over 700 residents, have asked that their appreciation and the thanks of the residents be passed along to you.

The squeals of happiness and joy on the faces of thirty-seven "Angel Tree" youngsters as they received their packages were their "thank you." The additional caregivers' smiles, hugs, and expressions of gratitude make this ministry a true blessing.

In brief, your efforts on behalf of the State School residents truly demonstrate the belief that caring for others who can't care for themselves is a basic tenet of Christianity. Similarly, your involvement with the Angel Tree Project was instrumental in helping to achieve the nationwide Prison Fellowship goal of maintaining contact between an incarcerated parent, step-parent or grandparent and a child, with the hope that after rehabilitation, the inmate can return to the family as a productive member.

Thank you so very much for all you do and have done!

Barb Murphy, *Angel Tree Project Coordinator*

Notes from the Choir Loft

Dr. Nancy Taylor Ginsburg

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!! Glorious Epiphany!

Many thanks to everyone who joined together to make Advent and Christmas extra special at FUMC, Brenham...people who decorated, who rearranged as the weeks went on, who led and read and sang during worship. There are so many opportunities to join in! Thank you!!

The holidays – the holy days – just keep coming! I love this season of Christmas that begins on Christmas Day and extends for twelve days...with Epiphany the next day! These are the real twelve days of Christmas. What gifts do you have to offer the King, our Savior, on Epiphany?

This IS a season of celebration. This IS a season of new beginnings. For me, it's a time to consider the light of Christ that shines in and through me and my presence in this life. How can I better share this light? What gifts do I possess that I should better offer to the King?

One way I LOVE to share the light of Christ is through texts of songs. Some of these texts are truly beautiful poetry. One such poem is "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman. The choir will sing a setting of this poem in 2018! Here is the poem:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make [music](#) in the [heart](#).*

*My hope is that you will find new ways for the work of Christmas to be reflected in your life. **Perhaps it's time for you to join the choir!***

Choral music ministry, the sharing of God's story through powerful texts set to music, is such an amazing thing! At FUMC, the BIG choir is the entire congregation...and I am so thankful we shared beautiful moments of word and song during Advent and Christmas. Christmas morning was really super. We sang a LOT of carols!

Oh, by the way, I heard some wonderful singers in our FUMC congregation during our late Advent and Christmas worship services. If you are one of those voices, there's a chair in the choir loft ready and waiting for you!

But here's the truth: choir isn't about super singers (though they are always welcome!!!) Choir is about people who know that sharing God's story through powerful texts set to music is a wonderful ministry. When a few "I-can-hold-a-tune" singers come together, the music can be amazing! And that's what choir is about: many voices coming together in one song.

Are YOU ready to make music in your heart? If you LIKE to sing, please come to the choir room any Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and join us as we come together for a time of fellowship, prayer, and music-making. We need YOU!! Easter is less than four months away!

Blessings & Joy! ... Nancy



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>11:00 One Service/ Sanctuary</p> <p>2:30 Brenham Rehab Service</p> <p>3:30 High Hope Service</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Offices Closed</p> | <p>3</p> <p>8:45 UMW Exec./ FR</p> <p>9:30 UMW/ AC</p> <p>11:30 First Tuesdays Together/ FH</p> | <p>4</p> <p>10:00 Worship/ FR</p> <p>7:00 Choir/ Choir Room Celebration Band/ AC</p> | <p>5</p> <p>9:00 Yoga/ AC</p> <p>5:30 Exercise Class/ FH</p> | <p>6</p> <p>9:00 Ladies' Emmaus/ Parlor</p> | <p>7</p> <p>8:00 Epiphany/ AC</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>12:00 UMYF/ AC</p> | <p>9</p> <p>10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study/ FH</p> <p>1:30 CDC Board/ Library</p> <p>6:00 Missions/ Library</p> <p>6:30 Finance/ FR</p> | <p>10</p> <p>9:00 Card Group/ MH</p> <p>6:30 Nominations/ FR</p> | <p>11</p> <p>5:30 Bells of Praise/ FH</p> <p>7:00 Choir/ Choir Room Celebration Band/ AC</p> | <p>12</p> <p>9:00 Yoga/ AC</p> <p>5:30 Exercise Class/ FH</p> <p>6:30 UMM/ AC</p> | <p>13</p> <p>9:00 Ladies' Emmaus/ Parlor</p> | <p>14</p> <p>11:00 Van Eman-Reiland Wedding/ Sanctuary</p> |
| <p>15</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Offices Closed</p> <p>7:00 Admin. Board/ FR</p> | <p>17</p> <p>9:00 Hiners Circle/ AC Healy Circle/ MH Amerson Circle/ FH</p> <p>12:00 Susanna Circle/ Hyatt</p> <p>6:30 SPRC/ FR Wesleyan Circle/ FH</p> | <p>18</p> <p>5:30 Bells of Praise/ FH</p> <p>7:00 Choir/ Choir Room Celebration Band/ AC</p> | <p>19</p> <p>9:00 Yoga/ AC</p> <p>5:30 Exercise Class/ FH</p> | <p>20</p> <p>9:00 Ladies' Emmaus/ Parlor</p> | <p>21</p> <p>9:00 L.E.A.D. Institute/ FUMC Bryan</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>6:00 UMYF & Confirmation/ AC</p> | <p>23</p> <p>10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study/ FH</p> <p>12:00 Wesley/ Blinn</p> | <p>24</p> <p>9:00 Card Group/ MH</p> <p>6:30 Trustees/ FR</p> | <p>25</p> <p>1:00 Care Team/ FR</p> <p>5:30 Bells of Praise/ FH</p> <p>7:00 Choir/ Choir Room Celebration Band/ AC</p> | <p>26</p> <p>9:00 Yoga/ AC</p> <p>5:30 Exercise Class/ FH</p> | <p>27</p> <p>9:00 Ladies' Emmaus/ Parlor</p> <p>5:00 UMM Pancake Supper/ AC</p> | <p>28</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>6:00 UMYF & Confirmation/ AC</p> | <p>30</p> <p>10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study/ FH</p> <p>12:00 Wesley/ Blinn</p> | <p>31</p> | | | | |



Thanks FUMC!

We would like to thank each one of you for your donations to Russell and Kara (our niece) McClendon, whose home recently burned to the ground. Fortunately they weren't home at the time of the fire, however, they lost everything except the clothes they were wearing and their car. Our congregation is such a caring and sharing group! Again, we appreciate your kind generosity.

Blessings,
Glen & Jetta Goodman

Return Service Requested

First United Methodist Church
408 North Baylor
Brenham, TX 77833



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