



First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor * Brenham, Texas 77833-3213

December 15, 2009

A Message from the Pastors

Christmas soon will be here! The month of December has been one filled with excitement as we watched the A.C.T.S. (Announcing Christ in Theatre and Song) children share a message of the hope that is in Christ. The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir filled our ears and hearts with the joy of the season. Carolers of all ages delighted the residents of our local nursing homes as they shared freely God's message of peace and love. It's hard to believe that there are still more celebrations to come!

On Christmas Eve at both services a special offering will be received to support the ministries of Methodist Mission Home in San Antonio, Methodist Children's Home in Waco and Golden Cross. It is to be our gift to the Christ Child.

At this Christmastime hear the story once again of the wonder and the glory and the divine mystery that is the birth of Christ. May it transform each one of us once again.

O Come, let us adore Him

Christmas Eve Services at First United Methodist Church

***5:00 p.m. Family Celebration
7:00 p.m. Communion Service***

Both services will include special music and lighting of the candles.

Thank You

A special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hodde, Jr. for a gift that will allow the Board of Trustees to proceed with gutter, roof and limestone repairs to the sanctuary, educational/CDC, and Sunday School/office buildings. . . . More help still is needed. We want to encourage everyone to consider additional gifts to this special building maintenance fund. Many of the larger repair bills to the church facility cannot be included in the annual budget and must come from individual gifts. This presents an excellent opportunity for special year-end giving for 2009 to First United Methodist Church.

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 10 Cable TV.

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dale Chance
PastorDale@FUMCBrenham.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Terry Dougherty
PastorTerry@FUMCBrenham.org

Newsletter Deadline:

Your next newsletter deadline will be Tuesday, December 22, at 1:00 pm. The newsletter will be sent out on Wednesday, December 30.



METHODIST WEEKDAY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Carole Horton, Director – 979-830-8661 or Carole@FUMCBrenham.org

SUNDAY December 6, 2009

Church Attendance:

Nursery	5
Worship 8:15 a.m.	101
Worship 11:00 a.m.	156
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	74
Worship Total	336
Sunday School	115
Offering:	\$ 18,451.61

SUNDAY December 13, 2009

Church Attendance:

Nursery	3
Worship 8:15 a.m.	118
Worship 11:00 a.m.	170
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	41
Worship Total	333
Sunday School	111
Offering:	\$ 10,367.01

NOV. INCOME **\$ 50,618.29**
NOV. EXP. **- \$ 52,142.61**
 (\$1,524.32)

YTD. INCOME **\$ 581,324.91**
YTD. EXP. **\$ 595,429.66**
 (\$14,104.75)

Loose \$1 bills placed in our collection plates will be used to support Hurricane Ike recovery work in the Texas Annual Conference.

Prayer Concerns



Linda Beard
Diane Davenport
Elmo Davis
Eunice Glidden
Bob Johnston
Alice Limmer
Marti McLemore
Peggy Robertson
Ed Sidebottom
Johnnye Van Hook

Upper Room for
January/February 2010
is now available in the
Narthex and
in the church office.

Advent Wreaths and Christmas

It is always a challenge to teach the children about the Christ Child coming and Santa Claus at the same time! In Chapel, we use the Advent Wreath, the candles, the tree, and the crèche. By looking at these symbols of Advent, they absorb some of what the season is all about (we hope). Then we have regular Christmas Trees all over the school and Santa Claus pays the children a visit.

When you get right down to it, maybe it's not so different after all. We are all focusing on the coming of Christmas. We put up trees that point toward heaven, decorate them with lights which reminds of the stars twinkling in a night sky, and we place ornaments on the trees which is symbolic of gifts given to us by Jesus. We talk about the candy cane and what symbolic significance it has and tell of the legend of the poinsettia.

All of it seems to be based on the gifts – those we give and those we receive. As the woman in the poinsettia legend says, "Don't you know that a gift is beautiful because it is given? Whatever you give, the Holy Child will love."

Have a blessed Christmas time,
Carole



The three's and pre-k's Christmas Caroling at Trinity Care Center.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Jennifer Patrick, Program Coordinator, Jennifer@FUMCBrenham.org

KIDS CORNER

A huge **thank you** to all the parents and kids who made our musical *The Solid Rock Café* such a huge success. A special thanks to my husband, Kevin Patrick, for running our sound and for getting all our sound equipment arranged in the perfect place. Didn't the kids sound great?! You were able to hear them so clearly thanks to our new portable sound system that was purchased for us thanks to generous donations. It's amazing how much better a show is when you can hear the performers. All our moms & dads did a fantastic job on the set, props and costumes.

It is an absolute blessing to be able to do this for my church. It's not always easy, but it is definitely a gift from God. As long as we have willing children and active parents, we will continue to produce wonderful plays. Thank you to the kids for all their hard work and dedication. You should be very proud of yourselves!!

THANK YOU!!

In Him,

Jennifer Patrick

A.C.T.S. Director



Family Christmas Eve Service

5:00 p.m. In the Sanctuary

*Join us for wonderful Christmas music,
the Christmas story brought to us by
the children and of course the beautiful
candlelight*

YOUTH "H.A.L.O" NEWS

Rick Ruiz, Youth Director rcruiz1020@yahoo.com



Crosses go on Sale Sunday, December 6

The youth have been working diligently making decoupage crosses and hearts. Decoupage is the process of putting a covering (i.e. tissue paper, etc.) onto an unfinished piece of wood. Everything turned out great! Some of the items you can hang on a wall, others can be put on stands, some big, some small, but they are all made by FUMC Youth with tender loving care. They will be affordably priced and quantities are limited to what has been made. Be sure to look for us outside the sanctuary and Activity Center starting this Sunday. All crosses are \$10 each. All proceeds will go to support Youth activities.

December Youth Calendar

Saturday, December 19 – Youth Dinner, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. (TBD)

Sunday, December 27 – No Youth activities

Sunday, January 3 – Youth in the Activity Center, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Faith Builders Christmas Party

The Faith Builders Sunday School Class is having a Christmas Party, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Frank and Jody Tyson's house, 2305 Old Mill Creek Road. Any one not a member of a Sunday School class is welcome to join us. The catered dinner cost \$10.00. Everyone is asked to bring a box of pasta or a can of pasta sauce for Bread Partners. Meet in the Activity Center parking lot if you would like to car pool. Please call Jo Powell for reservations and more info, 836-8171. Hope to see everyone there, this promises to be lots of fun!

In Memoriam

Jim Tom House by Patty and Jerry Stratton of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans, Beverly Burt's daughter, by Don and Mary Wilhelm of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans by Sam and Beverly Duree of Brenham, TX

Mary Freeland, Jean Shoup's mother, by Sam and Beverly Duree of Brenham, TX

Ruby Byrd by Sam and Beverly Duree of Brenham, TX

Don Gregg by Sam and Beverly Duree of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by Marilyn Whitmarsh of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans by Marilyn Whitmarsh of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans by John and Sherry Barkman of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by F.E. and Betty Davis Moss of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans by Sue and William Perry of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans by Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans by Ran and Evelyn Newman of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans by Temple and Lennis Richardson of Brenham, TX

Sue Jenkins, Bob Jenkins mother by Temple and Lennis Richardson of Brenham, TX

Don Gregg by Gulfoil Historical Society of Toledo, OH



Perhaps you have seen the 30-second United Methodist television and internet [Christmas spot](#). No words are spoken. The listener hears the melody of the Christmas carol “What Child is This,” then sees a middle-aged, homeless woman with her belongings in a shopping cart moving slowly down a lonely street. Crawling across the screen in white letters is this invitation: “This Christmas remember those who are shopping for hope, acceptance and love.”

A friend suggested that I watch last Sunday’s edition of “60 Minutes” online. The program featured Dr. Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church and author of [The Purpose-Driven Life](#) and Bill and Melinda Gates, founder of Microsoft and global philanthropists. They were discussing what motivates them to give away so much of their time, talent and money.

Rick Warren commented that a person can give without loving, but no one can love without giving. As a person of Christian faith, he believes that “we don’t give because we should, but we give because we must.” He went on to describe his family’s personal practices of giving, which involve giving away 90 percent of his income.

Bill and Melinda Gates described how they are making a positive difference in the lives of millions of people, particularly women and children. They are absolutely confident that through their own giving and the giving of others, malaria can be eliminated and pneumonia and diarrhea in children prevented. To them every life is equally valuable, and they expect to spend the rest of their lives making life better for others.

Dr. Bill Carter, a Presbyterian pastor, tells a story about a rabbi who was approached by one of his students. The student said, “Rabbi, I love you.” The rabbi said, “Oh, really? Well, do you know what troubles me most?” The student said, “No, I don’t know what troubles you the most.” The rabbi said, “How can you say that you love me if you don’t know what troubles me most?”

As we prepare to celebrate God’s love made known to us in the birth of Jesus, it is not hard to see the various troubles that people close to home and around the world are experiencing. They range from the homeless woman with her shopping cart to families where the primary breadwinner is unemployed to parents watching helplessly as another child succumbs to a preventable childhood disease and many more. All of them long for hope and acceptance and love as well as a food, clothing, shelter and medicine.

We who have been blessed to experience God’s love cannot help but give and give and give — our time, talent and treasure. It is not an obligation. It is a deep and abiding joy. After all, the one to whom you give may well be the one of whom the carol sings, *“This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.”*

God bless you all.

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie

p.s. You can watch the UMCOM television spot on our conference website at www.txcumc.org/christmasspot.



Merry Musical Christmas



If you love and appreciate music and attend one of the traditional 8:15 or 11:00 a.m. services, be sure not to miss any of the upcoming December Advent Sundays.

Sunday, December 20, Sarah Muckleroy, flutist, will accompany the choir anthem, "Manger Carol," at the 11:00 service.

Sunday, December 20, "There's a Song in the Air," a concert by Dr. Van Miller at the piano, Ann Wackman, soprano, and Karen Chance playing the organ, will be presented in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. There will be a reception in the Activity Center following the concert. Bring a friend. All are welcome!

On Christmas Eve, December 24, the Chancel Choir will sing at the 7:00 p.m. service. Music will be presented by the Celebration Band at the 5:00 p.m. service.

So you can see we will be prepared for the coming of our Christ Child through the presentation of the glorious music of the season, as well as the spoken Word. Don't miss any of it. Your heart will be glad you didn't!

"There's a Song in the Air"

Please join us for a concert of carols in the afternoon by:

*Dr. Van Miller
Pianist*

*Ann Wackman
Soprano*

*Karen Chance
Organist*

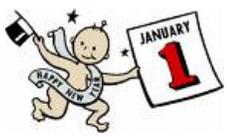
Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

*Reception following in the Activity
Center*

*First United Methodist Church
Brenham, TX*



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Dec. 1 10:00 am UMW Christmas Coffee / Cordelia Cumming's Home	Dec. 2 6:00 pm Handbells/Sanct. 6:00 pm A.C.T.S. /AC 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Celebration Band	Dec. 3	Dec. 4 9:00 am Emmaus Meeting/Library	Dec. 5 12:00 pm Wesley Class Lunch/Jones Farm 1:00 pm A.C.T.S. Rehearsal / AC 6:00 pm Brenham Christmas Parade/DT
6 Christmas Music by Brass Ensemble AM Services 12:30 pm Confirmation Class / FH 1:00 pm A.C.T.S. Rehearsal/AC 2:30 & 3:30 Gazebo & Argent 6:30 pm A.C.T.S. Musical – Rock Solid Café / AC	7 12:00 p.m. Wesley Christmas Party/Blinn	8 8:30 am Yoga / AC 9:00 am Card Group/ Mission House 5:30 pm Mission Brenham	9 9:00 a.m. Santa Visits CDC 12:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Lunch 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Celebration Band	10 6:30 pm UMM Christmas Dinner/AC Ladies Night 2:00 pm DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER	11 9:00 am Emmaus Meeting/Library 9:00 am CDC Caroling	
13 <i>The Mystery and the Majesty</i> Cantata - 8:15 and 11:00 am Services Handbells before 8:15 and 11 am Services 12:30 pm Confirmation Class / FH 4:00 pm Caroling @ Nursing Homes 5:00 pm Youth/AC 6:30 pm Choir Party@Hyatt	14 1:00 pm CDC Ad Board Mtg/Library	15 9:30am Smith/Tate Post/Amerson 11:00 am Murphey/Chance 12:00 pm Susanna/Muckleroy 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting/Gray 6:30 pm Wesleyan/Ketchem	16 8:00 am CDC Christmas Program / AC 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Celebration Band	17 6:00 pm JOY Dinner / Brenham House	18 9:00 am Emmaus Meeting/Library	19 5:00 pm Youth Dinner / TBD
20 12:30 pm Confirmation Class / FH 4:00 pm <i>There's A Song in the Air –</i> Piano & Vocal Concert/Sanct.	21	22 8:30 am Yoga / AC 9:00 am Card Group/MH 10:30 am DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER 6:30 pm Evangelism/Smith	23 11:00 am CDC Christmas Lunch / AC 7:00 pm Celebration Band	24 Church Office Closes at Noon 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service 6:15 pm Choir 7:00 pm Communion Service		26
27 No Celebration Service This Sunday Only No Confirmation Today Only	28 3:00 pm 42 / MH	29	30	31 10:00 am Deadline for Donations	1 	2

UMM Pancake Dinner Tickets Available in Church Office

Pancake tickets for *"The 44th Annual Methodist Men Pancake Supper"* are now available in the Church office. You may also purchase tickets from any UMM member.

Pancake Supper will be Friday, January 15 beginning at 5:00 in the Activity Center.

Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues Seven Week Small Group Study begins on January 4, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.

- Can we talk with each other about controversial issues such as abortion, the death penalty, and homosexuality?
- Does the Bible speak to these and other controversial issues?
 - Can Christians make a positive difference in society?

Join us to explore these and other questions.

We will not avoid controversy, but together we will seek the truth and grace of God.

This study is based on the book by Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. For more information or to sign up to participate please contact Pastor Terry at the church office or at PastorTerry@FUMCBrenham.org

Charitable Donations for 2009

The deadline for donations for Fiscal Year 2009 will be 10:00 a.m. on December 31, 2009. In order for your donations to be counted for the year, all monies must be deposited into our account by noon on December 31, 2009. In order to get deposits to the bank before their closing deadline, I must have all donations by 10:00 a.m. Unfortunately, due to IRS rules, there will be no exceptions. Thank you for your cooperation. Any question, please call Kris at the church office.

Thank you to all of you who have prayed for me, asked me about how I was doing, and sent me cards regarding my recent surgery. Recovery is going well and I'm almost back to 100%. It is special people like you who help the healing go faster. With love and appreciation, Rick Ruiz

FUMC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Church office will be closed during the lunch hour each day.

MONDAYS

Church office hours 8:00 – 5:00

TUESDAYS

Church office hours 8:00 – 5:00

WEDNESDAYS

Church office hours 8:00 – 5:00

Celebration Band Practice

at 7:00 / AC

Choir Practice at 7:00

THURSDAYS

Church office hours 8:00 – 5:00

FRIDAYS

Church office hours 8:00 – 5:00

Ladies Emmaus Reunion Group

9:00 – Library



MONTHLY CALENDAR

1st MONDAY of MONTH

Admin. Board (odd months)

Council on Ministries

(even months) 7 p.m.

1st Wednesday of MONTH

CARE Team Meeting

1:00 p.m. in the Library

2nd MONDAY of MONTH

CDC Advisory Board 1 p.m.

1st TUESDAY of MONTH

United Methodist Women

General Meeting 9:30 a.m.

3rd MONDAY of MONTH

Finance Meetings (even months)

3rd TUESDAY of MONTH

UMW Circle Meetings

9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

2nd/4th TUESDAY of Month

Card Group 9 a.m.

2nd THURSDAY of MONTH

United Methodist Men

6:30 p.m.

4th TUESDAY of MONTH

Evangelism Team Meets

5:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meets

6:30 p.m.



Merry Christmas from the staff at FUMC



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408 North Baylor Street
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