

# First United Methodist Church

September Edition Newsletter 2019

Sunday Mornings at FUMC

8:45 a.m. Breakfast in the Activity Center

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Celebration Service in the Activity Center

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

*Nursery Care provided.*

The Traditional Service is broadcast each Sunday on Brenham Radio KWHI/AM 1280 and Channel 96 Cable TV at 11:00 a.m.



**Spread the word!**

**Show 'em how it's done!**

**Are you on a committee?**

Do you attend a Sunday School class?

Does your small group need a boost?

**Do you...**

prepare or serve communion?

read Scripture for worship?

love drama?

get excited about serving God?

The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee is hosting

**Ministry Fair 2019/20**

**Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

If you are part of any group, organization, class, ministry team, board, etc. of our church, make sure you have representation!

To reserve a table, contact the church office and get your group on the list. 979-836-2008

Dear Friends,

Welcome to September, when we dare to ask the question, *“What if...”* *What if God has a different plan? What if I’m not seeing the whole picture? What if I miss out because I drew a line in the sand? What if God can do more than I can think or even imagine? What if...* Fill in the blank for yourself.

Our lectionary readings for worship during the month of September are from the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the five weeks we’ll discover so many ways that God can take the ordinary and transform it into extraordinary. Jesus teaches how great honor is born from sincere humility. (Luke 14:7-14) He encourages every Christian disciple to be prepared for the cost of discipleship. (Luke 14:25-33) Have you considered lately just how precious you are in God’s eyes? (Luke 15: 1-10) How might you benefit; how might your family benefit from changing your perspective? (Luke 16:1-13) And have you been settling for stagnant water that does not bring life? (Luke 16: 19-31)

We humans like to see things from our own perspectives, we like to believe that we have the full capacity to determine what’s best for us, and we’ve even been known to throw God an ultimatum or two. “I’m not going to do this unless it goes my way.” But when we live with those limitations we’re also limiting what God accomplish in our lives. We serve a God of surprises and there are blessings, countless and unknown, that will be ours if we can but surrender our control.

Both our worship services in September will open the Gospel of Luke to discover all the possibilities God has for each of us. Bring your imagination but leave your hesitations behind because whether you worship in Celebration or Traditional, God has much in store for you!

**September at FUMC:**

**September 1 – Celebrate Holy Communion**

**September 8 – Wheel of Fortune**

**September 15 – Bring your Bible; Legacy Giving**

**September 22 – Ministry Fair**

**September 29 – Living Water Sunday**

**Grace & Peace, Pastor Bobbie**



### ***Here I am, Lord! Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling...***

There are ample ways that you – yes, you – might choose to use your gifts for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Too often, the nudging of the Holy Spirit to put your faith into action gets muffled by a cacophony of other voices. Take a moment to be quiet and listen to God’s instruction. Set aside the busy-ness, the hesitations, the doubt and pick up the rewards of ministry – joy, new growth, enthusiasm, and deep, deep satisfaction that come with serving Christ.

### **Explore these Servant Opportunities:**

**Weekly Offering Counter** – The church needs a team of 4-8 individuals who will spend approximately one hour each Monday counting and depositing the weekly offerings.

**Communion Servers** – Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month and in special services in both the traditional and Celebration. Communion Servers, along with the pastors, are “table waiters” who serve the bread and juice. The time commitment is during worship and the frequency you serve is up to you.

**Shepherd Group** – Our shepherds help keep watch over the flock and the church grounds. By simply walking around outside or standing at one of the church entrances before during or after worship you can help identify situations or persons that pose a danger to others. Training is available and the time commitment you make is determined by how often you sign up for the shepherd rotation.

**Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee** - In every size congregation, the staff/pastor-parish relations committee (S/PPRC) must focus on building strong relationships between the staff and the congregation, and the congregation and the district superintendent. The time commitment for this committee ranges from 2-8 hours per month.

**Trustee** - As a trustee, you will supervise and maintain all property belonging to your congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective.

Our church also has a very active **Missions Committee**, sponsor of the Blinn College Welcoming & Water Distribution Event, multiple service projects on Sunday mornings, the summer library snack bags, and involvement in local efforts to alleviate suffering, such as membership in the Washington County Food Security Network.

If you’ve been welcomed when you arrived for worship or if you’ve noticed that first time worship guests receive a church mug, then you know our **Evangelism Committee** has been hard at work. By service through Evangelism Committee, you’ll get to know so many people, help them feel welcome, and help our church reach out to those who don’t yet have a church home.

Answer the call! Contact the church office to get involved or email Pastor Bobbie Maltas [pastorbobbie@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:pastorbobbie@fumcbrenham.org).

## **CHURCH IN ACTION**

Thank you church for making a difference in our community this month, from labeling hand sanitizers for teachers, passing out water to incoming Blinn students and their families, assembling Hope Mommies boxes for hurting families and for praying for all of our school campuses.





***Did you know that 82% of the unchurched would be interested in coming to church if invited by a friend and yet in the last year only 2% of church members have invited someone?***

You are all invited all to participate in our “**Back to Church Sunday**” which is being held on **Sunday, September 15**.

This is going to be a great day as we gather together, following the events of the summer that, at times, capture our attention as the days are longer and the weather seems like it’s meant to be enjoyed.

All of us on the Evangelism Team here at First Methodist Church of Brenham are hoping you will join us for this special day. We, also, hope you will take the opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors. We have special invitations and even door hangers you can hand deliver to your friends and neighbors in the community.

The Bible makes it clear that worshipping *Together* is God’s plan for all our lives in Hebrews we find:

***Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now. Hebrews 10:24-25***

The theme for “**Back to Church Sunday**” this year is “**Together.**” That is why we are hoping that *Together* we will find some of those 82% of unchurched people and welcome them to a new home and family of faith here at First United Methodist of Brenham.

For more information on Back to Church Sunday contact Martha Ratcliff or the church office for invitations and door hangers.

Pastor Greg



You have **\$40,000** to spend on **GROWTH!** What will you do?

*If you had all that money to spend on only one thing—connecting the church with unchurched people, what would you do?*

Post a response on our Face Book page  
Send a response to [fumc@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:fumc@fumcbrenham.org)

We are looking for a few families/couples/singles to help offer a family away from home for some Blinn College students. So what



does it mean to adopt a student? You will be given their name, address and phone number. Simply make contact with them, invite them to church, offer to pick them up, purchase a meal ticket our church is selling, write them a letter of encouragement, send a little care package full of goodies, invite them to a lunch or dinner out or in your home. The possibilities are endless. The most important thing is to remind them someone is praying for them and cares about them here in Brenham.

If you would like to sign up please email me at: [jennifer@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:jennifer@fumcbrenham.org) or call the church office and let me know you would like to be an adoptive family, and I will get all the info to you. Please prayerfully consider this outreach opportunity.



## TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

### REPORT TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BRENHAM, TX

Tom Scanio, Lay Leader  
15 August 2019

This is my report to the church on this year's annual conference that took place May 26-29 at the Hilton Americas hotel in Houston.

The bulk of the time was spent on normal, transactional business processes that you would expect for an annual meeting of an organization this large. Reports were given from the various offices of the conference. Budgets were approved. All of this was done under a strict set of guidelines. There were also luncheons and dinners throughout the conference sponsored by different groups and prayer and inspirational breaks during each day.

There were three celebration/services as in the past. One was for retiring pastors. Another was for pastors deceased over the last year. The last was an ordination service. It felt a little odd to me to go to services in a hotel. They were fine but not as inspirational (to me) as last year's at the Woodlands UMC.

There were two resolutions to be voted on. One would have reduced the number of districts in the conference by one (although our West District would not have been affected). The other would have slightly reduced staffing at the conference level. Both measures failed to pass.

Our church did very well in the awards area. We received three. The first was an Archivist Award to our member Bill Hardt for his work in cataloging and preserving conference history. The second was the Copeland Award to the church for most confirmations in the 201-300 average attendance at worship class. The third was a Rising Star Award for our Sunday school attendance. Thanks to all of you that helped make these happen.

Tom Scanio  
Lay Leader



### Leaving a Legacy

**Generosity is the result of a grateful heart. Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also but exactly what constitutes our treasure? Sometimes it's by giving our time and expertise in a given area in order that the church benefits. Or you can give financially.**

**Did you know that our congregation enjoys the benefits of legacy giving? Individuals and families have expressed love and appreciation to the church through significant financial gifts as part of an overall financial strategy.**

#### **Planned giving can include gifts of:**

**Real Estate**

**Life Insurance**

**Cash**

**Property**

**Investments**

**Bequests**

**Annuity Proceeds**

**Appreciated Stocks**

**Mutual Funds**

**Beneficiary Proceeds**

**Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA's (if 70 years or older)**

**On Sunday, September 15th, at 10:45 a.m. in the Activity Center, Ray Weiss, Financial Consultant, will lead a workshop on Planned Giving and everyone is welcome. There is no cost for this workshop; it's sponsored by the Stewardship Committee.**

*A New Way to Help Us Grow:*

# Simplified Giving

*~ Give anytime, anywhere ~*

or decimal to the number and follow the prompts to complete your donation.

ACH – (automatic clearing house) Auto Draft form is downloadable from our Web Page: [www.fumcbrenham.org](http://www.fumcbrenham.org). Now accepting debit or credit drafts.

Give Plus App – In a matter of seconds you can make a weekly offering. Easy Debit/Credit card registration, fast one-time donations, touch login, Option to make gifts recurring or view history, earn miles/points. Download the Give Plus App from your app store. Search: Give Plus Church. Enter our zip code, 77833, and follow the prompts to complete your donation.

PayPal – Simply login to PayPal and select send money using the church email: [fumc@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:fumc@fumcbrenham.org).

Checks – Yes! Your checks are always welcome and we encourage the use of checks over cash, simply because then we can provide you with a statement of giving for your records. Be sure to use the memo line when making special donations or purchases.

Cash – If you make donations with cash, please use a donation envelope, located in the sanctuary pews and on the table in the Activity Center. Label it with your name and date it so we can provide you with a statement of giving for your records.

## Simplified Giving

Did you know giving can be done electronically?

Text – Make a donation to FUMC's New "Text to Give" Number: 979-307-5479. Simply text an amount without dollar



## Save the Date!



"On September 15th, our church will have our annual Bible distribution for our 3rd Graders in the sanctuary and the Activity Center at the 9:30 AM Traditional Service and Celebration Service. Let's decorate the Altar with our cherished, much-read Bibles. Please loan us your Bible for the day to place on the Altar as a visual reminder of the importance of God's Word."

## **175<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration Weekend is October 12 & 13, 2019!**

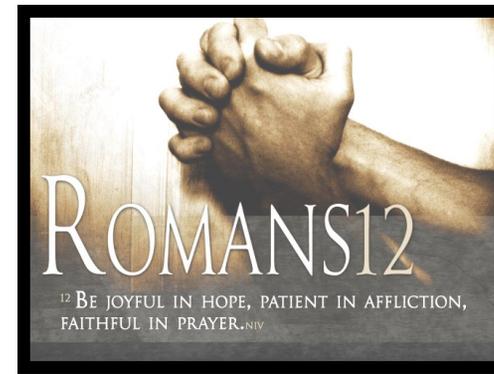
Our Church Wide Picnic is October 12<sup>th</sup> at Jackson Street Park and on October 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have worship service and a catered meal to follow. Tickets for the catered meal are required.

T-Shirts, Golf Shirts, Totes, Commemorative Ornaments, and meal tickets are now on sale outside the Parlor and in the Activity Center on Sunday mornings as well as in the office during the week. You're encouraged to try on the shirts which are located alternatively in the Parlor and the Activity Center.

You can order all items by completing a bright pink order form  
Payment is due at the time of ordering  
Deadline to order is Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

**Additional donations toward the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration are greatly appreciated. Donations will help defray the travel, lodging, and shirts for formal guests (such as former pastors), the composition of an anthem written in honor of our church, and celebration expenses.**

**Your donations must be submitted separately from the purchase of products and can be made by check, cash, PayPal or GivePlus app on your phone. Please note that your donation is for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**



## **PRAYER CONCERNS** **Members**

Glen Amerson  
Barbara and Ed Baker  
Mary Burgess  
Aaron Collier  
Wanda Curbo  
Ellen Ellison  
Dorinda Forsythe  
Joyce & Walter Fortune  
Marshia & Bud Foster  
Miriam Gillis  
Joycine & Louis Hannath  
Luene Harmer  
Smitty Hanners

Lydia House  
Sonny Houston  
Beverly Leyrer  
Sue Perry  
Ann Pieper  
Jean & Harold Pool  
Red Powell  
Marjorie Reed  
Edna Rote  
Billie Schmidt  
Milton Tate  
Jody Tyson  
Linda Winstanley

## **Others**

Jan Agee  
Bret Amerson  
Barbara Biggers  
Jennifer Boudreaux  
Susan Davenport  
Rick Fitzgerald  
Donna Gore  
Claire Green and family  
Carol & John Haarmeyer  
Melissa Hale  
Gale Heisler  
Donna Jacobson

Mike Kalil  
Kathi Ivy  
Cindy Mullins  
Ray Neuse  
Lloyd Pieper  
Marge Roberts  
Stan Royal  
Annie Schultz  
Cindy Smith  
Marissa Spangler  
Connie Warmke  
Cheryl Williamson



### A Moment In Time

Last month's historical sketch related how African Americans in Washington County left the Southern branch of Methodism. This month we will see that German speaking Methodists also found a new home in another denomination after the Civil War.

The first and most important German settlement in pre-Civil War Texas was Industry, just to the southwest of Brenham. Its founder, Friedrich Ernst, wrote letters home extolling the beauty and fertility of the land. After the formation of the Adelsverein to promote German immigration, Industry became a crucial stop on the way to the land grants in the Hill County.

The stereotypical view of German religion—Catholic in the South, Lutheran in the North—obscures a more complex reality. German immigrants to Texas also included a large number with a pietistic inclination, and they were ripe for the message Methodist circuit riders were bringing. On the eve of the Civil War both the Texas Conference and the Rio Grande Mission Conference (today's Rio Texas) of the MECS had German districts which included a church at Industry.

The end of the Civil War presented Germans with same problem it presented African Americans—to stay in the MECS or join another denomination. The Presiding Elder of the Austin District of the MECS which included the Hill Country German churches convened a meeting and told them basically that the denomination was flat broke and could not continue mission payments to the churches. The MEC, on the other hand was relatively well off and had a vigorous publishing concern in Cincinnati that produced German language Disciplines, Bible commentaries, tracts, Sunday School literature, and newspapers for the German speaking conferences that stretched from New York to Iowa. Even before the war, MECS Germans were using publications from the MEC.

The MECS pastor at Industry, Carl Biel, took the lead and changed his church's affiliation from MECS to MEC. When the Texas Conference of the MEC was formed in January 1867, it consisted of about 70 African American preachers and 3 Germans—all of whom were from Industry. More Germans were to follow.

As the German Methodists prospered, they had a problem. The closest German Methodist school where aspiring preachers could go for ministerial training was in Iowa. In 1883 that problem was solved with the creation of Blinn Memorial College at the 4th Street Church. The college began with the pastor, Carl Urbantke, and three students, but from those modest origins came a mighty force for education and evangelism.

The founding of Blinn shifted the center of Texas German Methodist from Industry to Brenham. Young men studying for the ministry could attend classes all week and then go serve a church thanks to Brenham's rail connections. The efforts of the student pastors and transfers from the northern conferences led to the establishment of German MEC churches in all directions from Brenham. The 4th Street Church became a favored site for holding Annual Conference. Thanks to Blinn Memorial College, Brenham became the only town in Texas in which the MEC and MECS churches were roughly equal in size and influence.

Assimilation of German speakers into the English speaking world and the anti-German sentiment associated with World War I diminished the need for Blinn's historic role. When the Depression hit, the church lost control of the school, but Washington County voters created a special district to turn it into a public institution.

The next time you are on the Blinn campus, take some time to look at "Old Main" and remember its Methodist heritage.

Wm. C. Hardt for the Committee

#### Newsletter Deadline

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> by 4:00 PM.** If you have a submission for the newsletter, please email your written article to [fumc@fumcbrenham.org](mailto: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.



Music notes: Choir practice has begun again on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM. If you've been considering joining choir for a while please join us.

Handbell practice will start up on Wednesdays in September at 5:00 PM.

**Christmas rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 PM**

***Not an organ recital, rather an ORGAN STOPS TOUR***

A goodly number of our FUMC congregation participated on August 16<sup>th</sup> in a delightful personalized tour of four churches in the Brazos Valley area. The purpose of the tour was to see, hear and, most importantly, learn about each of their magnificent pipe organs.



The first stop on the tour was the First Presbyterian Church in Navasota. There our Music Director, traveling host, and all-round "good guy" Matt Hulon explained the basic mechanics of an organ and the function of the numerous "stops" that are set to create a multitude of different sounds. From the one instrument we heard trumpets, oboes and a gentle tinkling of bells. Matt ultimately incorporated these tools in a brief, but entertaining "recital."

Matt stepped aside at our next stop, the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in College Station. From Church personnel hosts, including their organist Ms. Bonnie Harris-Reynolds, we were told about the history of the Church's organ, as well as the original keyboard instrument the "Hydraulis" from ca. 270 B.C. Ms. Harris-Reynolds then offered short selections on the Church organ that highlighted the different instrument stops. She followed this with an explanation and demonstration of the Church's beautiful, small harpsichord. (Did you know that the strings of a harpsichord are plucked, not struck?)



Our lunch break was followed by a visit to the sanctuary of College Station's A&M Methodist Church where we were entertained by an obviously knowledgeable and talented church organist, Dr. Junjin Kim. Although Ms. Kim also provided our group with additional information about the mechanics of this particular instrument and its 2,585 pipes, it was

perhaps the thunderous yet melodious product she produced from the organ during another short "recital" that was most impressive.

Our fourth and final stop was to Bryan's First United Methodist Church. There we were learned of the history of this old church and were able to sing hymns along with the music from another majestic organ. At the end of a full, productive, and most enjoyable day, perhaps the words of Ms. Harris-Reynolds, the organist at St. Thomas Episcopal, were still lingering with most of us: "Organ music is painting with sound." Accordingly, to our own "artist extraordinaire" Matt Hulon, many thanks for all you did from the first to the last "stop."

And even more is yet to come with another tour planned for the spring.



**The Methodist Weekday School of the United Methodist Church is seeking to employ a mature, responsible person who loves children to work in our day school. We have an opening for a full time and part time aide. We are, also, looking for a part time cook. Candidates should have one-year experience working in a daycare or with children.**

**If you know someone who is energetic, outgoing and loving, please send him or her our way to fill out an application at 408 N. Baylor St. Brenham, TX.**

**Please continue, as always, to pray for our school, our students and our staff.**

# September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 1:00 PM Christmas Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF	<b>2</b> Office Closed for Labor Day	<b>3</b> 8:45 AM UMW Executive Board Mtg 9:30 AM UMW General Mtg	<b>4</b> 5:00 PM Handbells/HR 6:30 PM Choir Practice/CR 7:00 PM	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise/FH 6:30 PM 175th Planning Committee/FR	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 1:00 PM Christmas Choir/CR 2:30 PM Worship at Brenham Rehab 3:30 PM Worship at High Hopes 6:00 PM UMYF	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study/FH 1:30 PM MWCDC Board/Library 6:00 PM Missions/Library	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Card Group/MH 6:30 PM Nominations and Lay Leadership/FR	<b>11</b> 5:00 PM Handbells/HR 6:30 PM Choir Practice/CR 7:00 PM Praise Band/AC	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 11:30 AM Book Club/FH 5:30 PM Exercise/FH 6:30 PM UMM/AC	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY/ BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE 9:30 AM 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Presentation/ Sanc and AC 10:45 AM Legacy Giving 1:00 PM Christmas Choir/CR 2:30 PM Worship at Argent Court 3:30 PM Worship at Focus Care 6:00 PM UMYF	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study/FH	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Goodman Circle/MH Hewitt Circle/FH 12:00 PM Susanna Circle/ ?? 6:00 PM Wesleyan Circle/FH	<b>18</b> 2:00 PM Worship Team/FR 5:00 PM Handbells/HR 6:30 PM Choir Practice/CR 7:00 PM Praise Band/AC	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise/FH	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:45 AM Ministry Fair 1:00 PM Christmas Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study/FH 4:00 PM Newsletter Deadline	<b>24</b> 9:00 AM Card Group/MH	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting/FR 1:00 PM Care Team/FR 6:30 PM Choir Practice/CR 7:00 PM Praise Band/AC	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise/FH	<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 1:00 PM Christmas Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study/FH					

**Sunday, August 4, 2019**  
**Church Attendance**

Nursery: 2  
9:30 Traditional 124  
9:30 Celebration 73  
**Total: 199**  
Sunday School: 50  
**Offering: \$11,244.25**

**Sunday, August 11, 2019**  
**Church Attendance**

Nursery: 5  
9:30 Traditional 113  
9:30 Celebration 74  
**Total: 192**  
Sunday School: 47  
**Offering: \$7,772.35**

**Sunday, August 18, 2019**  
**Church Attendance**

Nursery: 2  
9:30 Traditional 107  
9:30 Celebration 98  
**Total: 207**  
Sunday School: 47  
**Offering: \$11,778.85**

**Sunday, August 25, 2019**  
**Church Attendance**

Nursery: 3  
9:30 Traditional 112  
9:30 Celebration 74  
**Total: 189**  
Sunday School: 47  
**Offering: \$4,776.00**

**July Totals**

Income: \$41,207.37  
Expense: \$62,441.30  
**Total: (\$21,233.93)**

**YTD Totals**

Income: \$373,630.12  
Expense: \$387,564.83  
**Total: (\$13,934.71)**

**Memorials Received**

In memory of  
**Rev. Calvin Beckendorf**

By

**Nynvia and Ron Mills**  
**Nancy and Arlie Beckendorf**  
**Sherry and John Barkman**  
**Curtis Buck & Sonja Martin**  
**Pat and Bobby Clark**  
**Carolyn and Keith Hale**

In memory of  
**Marjorie Reed**

By

**Marvalyn and Chuck Van Eman**  
**Mary and Don Wilhelm**  
**Carol Ann and Tom Post**  
**Pat and Bobby Clark**  
**Kay and Gary Ivy**  
**Sherry and John Barkman**  
**Joy Goedeke**

In memory of  
**Eloise Carmen**

By

**Smitty Hinners**

In memory of  
**Beverly Burt**

By

**Smitty Hinners**

In memory of  
**Sonny Houston**

By

**Kay and Gary Ivy**

First United Methodist Church

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**Church Staff**

*Rev. Bobbie Maltas*, Senior Pastor

*Rev. Greg Smith*, Associate Pastor

*Jennifer Patrick*, Director of Student Ministries

*Matt Hulon*, Minister of Music

*Diane Garrett*, Organist

*Kris Trevino*, Office Manager

*Delores Hammargren*, Administrative Assistant