



First United Methodist Church

December 1, 2014

Volume 70, Issue 22

The Methodist Messenger

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Mark Your Calendar

- 2 Poinsettia Deadline, Dec. 21
- 3 Youth go to Santa Land, Dec. 3
- 3 Youth Council, Dec. 7
- 3 Youth Christmas Party, Dec. 17
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- 3, 7 Parents' Night Out, Dec. 12
- 4 Light-a-Light Deadline, Dec. 21
- 5 Christmas Cantata, "Journey of Promises," Dec. 14
- 5 Senior Friends Planning Meeting, Dec. 3
- 5 Senior Friends Christmas Dinner, Dec. 8
- 6 Blue Christmas, Dec. 21
- 7 Christmas Tea, Dec. 11
- 7 Methodist Men's Auction, Dec. 4



Immediately before writing this article I wandered through our Fellowship Hall and took a look at the first signs of Christmas to be found among us. Yesterday, that is Sunday, November 23rd, following worship, two opportunities came our way. Both of these are evident this morning in that important part of our facility. Following worship time yesterday our Fellowship Hall was essentially divided in two for the purpose of moving us forward with Christmas.

At the far end of the building, the side where the trains always cause the wall to vibrate, our mission ministry folks gathered to assemble Thanksgiving food boxes which are shared, in partnership with Tri-County Assistance. A casual count promises a total of fifty boxes filled or in the process of being completed. These will assist families in our community.

The other half of the Fellowship Hall housed our family wreath-creating enterprise. A variety of church families gathered around tables loaded with Christmas enhancements. People of all ages saw to the creation of some marvelous wreath designs. During my morning wandering today I noted at least twenty wreaths. These will be available for the enjoyment of the congregation in display form until just before Christmas when they will make their way home for the holidays. I did note that there were six wreaths created by families who were not part of the life of this congregation at this time last year.

And one more thing . . . at this writing, there is a crew of volunteers in the sanctuary who are decorating our facility for the season. We will enjoy the fruit of their labor starting this Sunday. As you know the first Sunday of Advent is upon us. Throughout the four weeks ahead Gilmer First UMC, your place of choice as the home of your family of faith, will provide some marvelous opportunities to bring the holiday home as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

See you this Sunday, if not before. Regards and God Bless . . .

Richard

Mission Statement:

First United Methodist Church is a loving, supportive family of faith working together to share God's love.

Contact Us

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Gilmer, TX 75644
903-843-2610

www.gilmer-fumc.com

Pastor, Richard Laster
pastorlaster@etex.net

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fumcsect@etex.net

Financial Secretary, Lamon Geddie
fumcacct@etex.net

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Closed for lunch from Noon - 1 p.m.)

WE SHOW OUR LOVE

By Our Prayers . . .

Courtney Allen, Evlyn Boyd, Alyssa Craddock, Montie Erwin, Linda Forrester, Adam and Lisa Fenlaw, Barbara Fix, family of Beth Fowler, Jean Hammons, David and Melba Jenkins, Cherie Nazzal

Remember ongoing prayers for loved ones with serious illnesses, our shut-ins, family and friends in the military service and the leaders and staff of our church and our country.

Remember to check our Web Site for up-to-the-minute prayer requests.

Prayer Ministry

Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. -- Philippians 4:6

Submit requests to Church's web page:
www.gilmer-fumc.com

Or Call: Church Office – 903-843-2610
Jane Wilson – 903-725-6848



Like us on Facebook
First United Methodist Church
of Gilmer

Our Presence

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Visitors
11-2	85	201	21
11-9	96	191	24
11-16	98	202	31
11-23	87	163	19
Average Year to Date	87	166	23
Average Last Year	87	170	22

Our Worship Service is broadcast on ETEX, Channel 999, Sunday, 6 p.m. and Monday, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.



Joined November 16, 2014 ~ Scott, Kim and Brice Beene



Confirmed November 16, 2014:
Brice Beene, Matthew Faggione, Blake Morris, Joseph Fenlaw, Benjamin Fenlaw (left to right)

Poinsettias

may be purchased (\$11 each) in memory or in honor of loved ones. (Deadline to order, December 21)



Youth News

by Matthew Potter

Hello everyone! I hope this Thanksgiving has been a wonderful and blessed time spent with family and friends. Now that we are moving into the month of December, there are a few things that you need to make sure to mark on your calendar.

Mark Your Calendars...

Dec. 3 - Trip to Santa Land, 6 p.m.

Dec. 7 - Youth Council, following Worship

Dec. 17 - Christmas Party, 6-8 p.m.

The first thing you need to mark on your calendar is our annual trip to Santa Land. **We will be going to Santa Land on Wednesday, December 3rd and will be meeting at the church at 6:00 p.m. to eat and load up.**

The Youth Council will meet in the Coffee House following worship on Sunday, December 7th.

The next thing on our calendar is our MYF Christmas party. **We will be having our Christmas party on Wednesday, December 17th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** We will be doing a small gift exchange that includes gifts that are no more than \$10. I hope everyone will come out and celebrate with us!

The youth are also trying to help collect items to take to Newgate Mission for Christmas again this year. We are asking for YOUR help to gather the following items for those in need this holiday season: warm gloves, hats, scarves and toiletry items



Children's Corner

by Chandra Sorrells

Merry Christmas! I hope you are enjoying this wonderful holiday season.

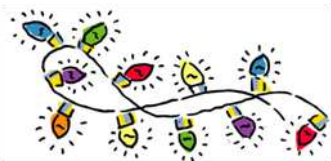
We have several opportunities for the children to enjoy. **Dec 7th is the annual Puppet Christmas performance. Dec. 12th we are hosting a Parents' Night out. Then on Dec. 14th the Joy Singers will be performing in worship followed by Children's church.** This is going to be an exciting time as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Playground Update

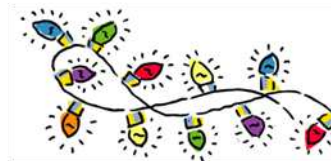


Great news! The contract for our new playground equipment has been signed. We should expect the equipment to be shipped in the next 6-8 weeks.

After it is delivered we will start the process of installation.



A Christmas Tradition LIGHT-A-LIGHT CELEBRATION



As part of our Advent celebration in preparation for Christmas, lights will be added to an unadorned, undecorated Light-a-Light tree in the sanctuary “in honor of” or “in memory of” loved ones. You can also add a “thinking of you” light or a light as a “birthday present to Jesus.” The lights will vary in price as follows:

Gold \$50 Green \$25 Blue \$10 Red \$2 (given by children under 18 only)

Your gift will be listed in the December bulletin insert. In addition, a gift notification card can be mailed if the honoree will not see our bulletin insert.

Yes, I would like to light a light on the Christmas tree to celebrate Jesus’ birthday!

Note: Complete a separate designation for each light. Use additional forms, if needed.

Light #1: Gold Green Blue Red

In memory of in honor of thinking of you birthday present to Jesus

Person’s name as you want it listed in the bulletin: _____

Please mail a gift card to: _____ No gift card needs to be mailed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Light #2: Gold Green Blue Red

In memory of in honor of thinking of you birthday present to Jesus

Person’s name as you want it listed in the bulletin: _____

Please mail a gift card to: _____ No gift card needs to be mailed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Print your name as you want it printed in the bulletin and on gift card, if applicable:

Amount attached: _____

Watch Our Tree Glow as it Grows with Gifts of Love
Deadline for inclusion in the bulletin insert is Sunday, December 21st



Music Notes

by Lora Robison

The sights and sounds of the Advent and Christmas Seasons are upon us with the Sanctuary beautifully decorated and with the music that is being prepared for all of our December services here at FUMC!

The scripture for our December 7, communion service is from Mark 1: 1-8. The sermon title is "Mark's Nativity." As a prelude to the service our newly formed Jubilation Trinity (Robin Woodson, Susan Laster, and Loring Marshall) will be ringing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," arranged for handbell trio. After the lighting of the advent wreath candles we will sing "People, Look East" from *The United Methodist Hymnal*. The Offertory will be played by Bill Marshall, organist. He will play "Gesù Bambino" by Pietro Yon arranged for organ. This piece of music was given to Bill as a personal gift by Irene Arnold, longtime teacher, friend, and organist of First Baptist Church. The Chancel Choir will be singing "Prepare" by Joseph Martin.

The December 14, service is filled with wonderful scripture and songs as we focus on Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. The scripture is from Matthew 1:17-25. The sermon topic is "Thought Out and Ready." The Prelude "Carol of the Bells" arranged by McChesney will be rung by Jubilation. The opening hymn will be "Angels from the Realms of Glory." There will be a CONGREGATION'S CHOICE of favorite Christmas Carols from the hymnal chosen by the congregation as second hymn with closing hymn "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine." The JOY SINGERS will be singing "A Perfect Rose" by Schram with Misti Monk singing the solo. The offertory will be "Joseph's Lullaby" by Keil sung by soloist, Raymond Sorrells. The Chancel Choir will sing "The Hands that First Held Mary's Child" by Forrest as the anthem for the day.

Sunday evening, December 14, the CHANCEL CHOIR will present *Journey of Promises* by Joseph Martin and Pamela Martin. The candlelight cantata will feature soloists including Shelbi Herndon, Brent Heatherington, Jodi Mitchell, Melanie Richardson, and Darren Richardson. Accompanist will be Bill Marshall. Narrators will be Reverend Richard Laster and Susan Laster. Jubilation Bells will be ringing "Love Came Down at Christmas" arranged by Dobrinski.

The "sights and sounds" will continue throughout the Advent and Christmas Seasons here at FUMC as we give "GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING"!

See you in worship!

Lora



Senior Friends

The planning meeting for the Senior Friends committee will be December 3rd, at 10 a.m. in the Parlor.

The Senior Friends Christmas dinner will be held **Monday, December 8th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall.** This will be a very special event and we hope you will join us for good food and great fellowship.

Vicki Winn

Blue Christmas

- *A Service of Wholeness and Healing*
- *Longest Night of the Year*

On Sunday, December 21 at 6 p.m. in our sanctuary there will be a special service.

“Comfort, comfort my people, says God”

Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we can get through the holidays.

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort - tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah expressing a belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us.

If you are looking for comfort, hope, wholeness, and renewal, join us for a time of quiet reflection and meaningful words and music. All shared in the good news of “God with us: Immanuel!”

Annette Breazeale



Thanks to all who participated in the Operation Christmas Child project. As I type this on Monday morning, I just returned from taking our boxes to the collection site. We ended up with 34 filled boxes plus some online donations! For our first time, I think that is great!

Also, thanks to those who helped fill boxes of food for our Thanksgiving donation. We ended up filling 50 boxes, and I'm sure there will be some thankful families receiving them. We would also like to provide 50 boxes for Christmas. At this time, we only have enough money for 25 boxes. If you would be willing to donate, please bring your cash donations to the church office. (\$25 provides one box of food).

Next up--the Mitten Tree for Newgate. Now it's time for us to decorate that tree with warm gloves, hats, scarves and toiletry items that will be shared at Newgate Mission later in December. More details on this later.

Robin Woodson

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS Worship

Special thanks to all who help make our Advent and Christmas services so beautiful and worshipful:

- *Families lighting the Advent wreath each Sunday.
- *Children and youth helping in the Hanging of the Greens.
- *Donations to the Light a Light project
- *Poinsettias given each year.
- *Those who so faithfully create our beautiful worship centers and decorate our sanctuary for the season

How blessed we are for all the time and talents shared by so many at this time. Blessings for you all during this Holy Time as we celebrate the Coming and Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Annette Breazeale



You are invited to a
Christmas Tea
with guest speaker
Kathy Murphy, the Pulpwood Queen
Thursday, December 11th
at six o'clock in the evening



First United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
105 North Montgomery, Gilmer, Texas

RSVP is required to reserve your seat
by signing up at the church or call/text
903-452-6663

United Methodist Men

will meet Thursday,
December 4th, at 6:30 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall, for dinner
and

Annual Auction

If you have any items (no junk, please!)
to donate to the Auction,
please bring them to the Fellowship Hall.

Jerry Steger, Auctioneer



Proceeds benefit
Upshur County Child
Protective Services.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

December 12, 2014

6-10 p.m.

Children Ages K-5th grade

During this hectic season, we can all use a night out. The Children's Ministry would like to invite parents to drop off your kids for a fun night of fellowship. We will play in the gym, have story time, crafts, games, a light snack time and end with a great seasonal movie. Please drop your kids off at the gym, and then pick them up at the Nursery door.

Remember to eat dinner before you come.

Donations are accepted and will go toward the purchase of new children's choir robes.

Chandra Sorrells

Flowers for ...

December 7 Rob and Lora Robison
 December 14 Melvin and Jo Reynolds
 December 21 Sarah Greene
 December 28 James and Kathy McClain

The Sanctuary Flowers for...

November 9 were given by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Morse, Lauren Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. John Hunt and families in memory of Lisa Morse Martin.

November 16 were given by Linda Keller in honor of her church family.

Deadline for Newsletter Articles...

December 10, Noon



College Scholarship applications are now available on the table outside the church office. If you have graduated from high school, are continuing your college education, and are a member of FUMC, please stop by and pick up an application. **The deadline for submission is Thursday, 5:00 p.m., January 5, 2015.** If you have questions or need additional information, please call Carol in the church office at 903-843-2610.



Puppets for Jesus

by Babs Crombie

Cows...Pigs...Horses...Donkeys...Chickens...Sheep...Cowboys ..."Action!" Everyone on the Puppets for Jesus team is getting ready for their part in our Christmas musical, **Cowboy Christmas**, to be presented **Sunday, December 7th at 6 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.** The musical is a Western, toe-tapping, and inspirational Christmas message that the entire family will enjoy.

Ranch-hand Flint tries to find the ranch's missing cow, "Trouble," in a snowstorm. Flint discovers what his buddy Jeb has told him about for years, the Love of God. He finds the cow and accepts the Baby born in a cow manger. One of my favorite puppet songs in the performance is "Born in a Barn." The song talks about how when kids leave the door open someone might ask them "were ya born in a barn?" But because Jesus was "born in a barn," now the door to Heaven is open for us.

Invite the neighbors, bring all the kids and come to one of our best musicals ever! There will be cookies, cocoa, and Santa after the performance. We hope you will come support the youth, the puppet ministry team, and enjoy the fellowship of all our wonderful church family. Make a note on your calendar for **Sunday, December 7th at 6 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.**

Blessings,
Babs

