

December 2, 2014



Methogram

“The mission of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee is to glorify God, make disciples, and transform lives in Christ

Dan’s Divinities

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This Sunday, December 7, is Celebration Sunday and we will have a unified worship service. The service will be at 11:00 a.m. so we can have a Celebration Covered Dish Luncheon afterward at noon. There will not be a 9:00 a.m. service, and Sunday School will be at its normal time of 10:00 a .m. Bring a dish of whatever you would like, and leave it with our volunteers in the kitchen when you come to our campus. They will keep it cool or warm as needed, and put it on the serving table for you.

With this newsletter, you will find a pledge card. Please ask the Lord what he would have you give to the church for the General Budget during the coming year. You are asked to bring your pledge card and turn it in on Sunday during our worship service.

If you have been supporting the ministry of this church, thank you! Without you, our church could not exist as an instrument of the God’s grace in our community. With your help, we are able to minister to our church members and many others in powerful ways. We reach children with the Gospel through programs such as our afterschool Faith Weaver Friends program, Sunday School, Vacation



Our youth on mission at the Houston Food Bank

Bible School, and the myriad of special activities we have for children. We guide youth to Christ through UMYF, Sunday School, sum-

mer camp, and the many activities in which our youth are involved. Because of your support, we are able offer two worship services through which people draw close to the Savior. Adults are reached through our Covenant



Covenant Bible Study

Bible Study, Primetimers, grief support groups, the Chancel Choir, Sunday School, our Methodism101 class for new and prospective members, and other small groups. Persons in financial need are helped through our Local Help fund and through our support of the Christian Care Center, where so many



All Faiths Day School Staff

of our members volunteer. We partner with All Faiths Day School, Boy Scouts,

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Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, WIC, the Hardin County Mediation Services, and Narcotics Anonymous to minister further to our community. Through your gifts we put into action our vision of glorifying God, making disciples, and transforming lives.

There are two reasons we ask you to fill out and return a commitment card each year. First, it allows the church to plan accurately for ministries, since we can base our ministry budget on the dollar amount our members plan to give. Second, and more importantly, the act of filling out a card is a way of inviting you to prayerfully re-evaluate how the Lord is leading you to invest in his work with the resources God has given you, and to set to a goal for giving during the coming year.

You've already shown yourself to be a generous giver, and I would like for you to pray about and consider what you can pledge for the coming year. I encourage you to give the biblical tithe, 10% of your income, to the church. If you can't take that step this year, perhaps you can move toward a tithe by increasing your giving. For me and my family, tithing is one of the great blessings in life. We find great joy in knowing that by giving to the church, we can be a part of something bigger than we are.

I know that some of you receiving this letter are struggling financially and may not be in a position to give right now. Know that we care, and if there is any way we can be of support to you—by praying with you, praying for you, talking with you, or providing other assistance—please contact us.

Enclosed you will find a commitment card. Please take a few minutes to pray about your giving for next year and fill out the front of the card. Then bring the card with you this Sunday. We ask that when you come forward for Holy Communion, you place your commitment card in the urn at the front of the church. If you are unable to be with us Sunday, you can return the card to the church office in person or by mail, bring it to worship the following Sunday, or by calling (385-5568) or emailing (finance@silsbeeumc.com) your commitment to us.

Thank you for all you do to further the mission and work of First United Methodist Church. You make a difference here!

I am looking forward to celebrating with you God's provision for his church this Sunday. I'll see you then!

Pastor Dan

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

An Update by Director
of
Children's Ministries,
Glenda Delano



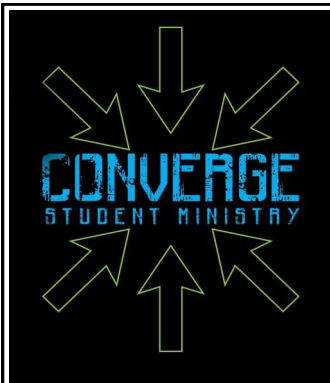
FaithWeavers last meeting of 2014 will be on Dec. 17th. We will then take a break for the Christmas holidays. We will return on Jan.14th.

On Dec. 14th I would like for our children's Sunday School classes to be in the live nativity scene during the Sunday School hour. Please let me know if your child would like to be involved. This is a great ministry and I believe that the children will enjoy it.

Thank you for your support of the Children's Ministry!

Christmas is around the corner. I am always looking for a way to make our church more welcoming and have better curb appeal. The pumpkin patch was one of those and now Christmas is the second one. I have brainstormed and come up with the idea of having a large Christmas tree in the fenced-in yard. The church will provide lights but will need your help to decorate it. We are having an ornament drive. You can donate, create or buy ornaments to put on the tree. This will be the Silsbee FUMC Family Tree. I am hoping that AFDS and all the Sunday School classes will get involved in helping decorate the tree. The tree will be set up where the live nativity will still be able to be seen. The tree is set up now, and we are working on putting up the lights. You can hang your ornaments from the tree yourself or you can bring them to the front office and we will make sure to get them hung on the tree as soon as possible. If you have any questions please call me or email me.

~James Borello



The youth were at it again this past weekend. Four youth from Converge and three adults had a blast in Houston. While in Houston they served at the Houston Food Bank for four hours and packed a lot of boxes of canned food. They also got to ride a merry-go-round and see a movie. On Sunday they worshipped at the Memorial Drive UMC contemporary worship service. We had a blast and want to thank everyone for the prayers and gifts.

The youth are also planning on doing a float for the big thicket parade.

On December 7th the youth will be having a progressive dinner instead of youth. We will be enjoying a meal in a different kind of way. We will be making three stops for this dinner. First stop will be for appetizers, second will be main course and finally third stop will be for desert. At each house the family will give a small devotional. This is a great opportunity for our parents to give back and for our kids to fellowship together.

Sing for your soup will be on the 21st of December at 4pm. We will meet at the church and make our round caroling at our shut-ins and maybe some special houses. We will then return for supper at church and a devotional for the UMYF. This will take place of youth for that night.

Lock-ins are always fun and what a better way to bring in the new year than with your friends at church. We will be having a lock-in on December 31. Time and more information will be in the next Methogram so stay tuned to get details.

Hot hearts is January 23-24. Please get with me and let me know if you are interested in going. We need to buy tickets pretty quickly.

James Borello, Director Of Converge Student Ministries



Christmas Caroling!

You are invited to join with other church members and friends of all ages as we go Christ Caroling on Sunday evening, December 21. Bring a pot of soup, a pan of corn-bread, a dessert, or whatever you would like, and we will have a meal together afterward. We call this event, "Sing for Your Supper!" We will gather in McDonough Hall at 4:00 p.m., receive assignments of people we will sing to, travel in caravans to the various locations to sing, and return to the church for the meal at 6:00 p.m. If you don't sing, you can always tag along with one of the groups, or stay in the kitchen with Pastor Nancy to help with the food. If you would like to receive a group of carolers or have a suggestion for someone who might to receive a visit from the carolers, please give Pastor Nancy a call. She composes our caroling list. If you play a guitar or another portable musical instrument and would like to accompany a group of carolers, please bring your instrument and let Nancy or Paula Darby know you will be there. We have little booklets of Christmas carols for everyone to sing from, complete with guitar chords for the instrumentalists.



FYI, parents, Church Camp at Lakeview next summer is July 13-17. Be sure and plan your vacation around these dates so your child(ren) can go to summer camp! We will also be needing adults to go as counselors, so please begin praying and see if you would like to serve the Lord in this way.

Whatever Happened to that Survey?

When we mailed out the church survey last spring, one person responded by saying that they would not fill out the survey because nothing would be done as a result of the survey. We are happy to report that a lot of things are being done as a result of the survey! Here are a few of the things that have been or are in process of being done:

- As suggested, we have hired a full time youth director.
- An increase in youth activities
- We are saying the Apostles Creed regularly in the 11:00 a.m. worship service
- A church directory will soon be published
- We are publishing the Methogram more frequently
- Staff concerns are being addressed by the SPPRC
- Administrative concerns are being addressed like having an adequate number of registration pads printed and ready for use, and keeping the church web-site up to date
- Holy Communion is being taken to shut-ins, which means they are being visited regularly by our church members.
- We have had numerous unified worship services with a blended style of worship
- A gaga ball pit has been built for our youth.
- In response to requests for more in depth Bible studies, Covenant Bible Study groups were begun in the fall.
- We had a Back to School Sunday School activity for children with a bouncy house and carnival activities
- We had a Back to Church Sunday to reach out to inactive members
- When the pastor is not teaching a new member class, he has visited various Sunday School classes.

We appreciate the effort of everyone who filled out a survey, and the efforts of all of those who have worked so hard to respond to the many good ideas provided by our laity.

New Year's Eve Service and Youth Lock-in

A Watch Night service for persons of all ages will be held on Wednesday, December 31, at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel in the Sanctuary building. Following the service, the youth will have a lock-in for the night featuring lots of fun and crazy activities.

Christmas Cantata

Our Christmas Cantata this year will be on Sunday evening, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. *Go Tell It!* proclaims the story of Christmas in song and through readings. It is the story of the Son of God becoming the Son of Man, the second person of the triune God humbling himself to become like us, one of us, so he could be our eternal Savior. The cantata uses a wonderful mix of familiar and new music to announce the birth of Jesus the Messiah. The Chancel Choir of First United Methodist church along with guest singers will joyfully sing of angels from the realms of glory, of Mary, and of a silent night. Our children's group, the Sunday School Singers will open the cantata with "There Was a Little Baby," and will take the lead in singing the "Christmas Medley," with the Chancel Choir lending their voices for part of the medley. Bill and Jamie Voigtman will read the script between the songs.

Following the cantata we would like to have a reception so everyone can share in the Christmas spirit. If you would like to bring some food or drink for the reception, or volunteer to serve the refreshments, please call the church office. Your help is needed!

Church Meetings

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m. to hear our monthly financial reports, and the Church Council will meet on Monday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m.

There will be joint meeting of the Church Council, the Finance Committee, and the Memorial Committee on Monday, January 5, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. to hear the end of the year financial reports and to make a decision about how much of our 2014 apportionments will we will be able to pay.

Apportionments

The Finance Committee voted on October 13 to form an Apportionment Fund for those who would like to make designated gifts toward the payment of church apportionments. Apportionments are our fair share of the expenses of our denomination on the district, annual conference, and national levels. Many worthy causes are supported by our apportionments. Recently, the fund received a \$5000 gift from one of our church member families, and they encourage other members of our congregation to join them in striving to do what we can as a congregation to meet our connectional obligations. Including this gift we have collected over \$16,000 towards the payment of our apportionments. Our 2014 apportionments are \$52,076.

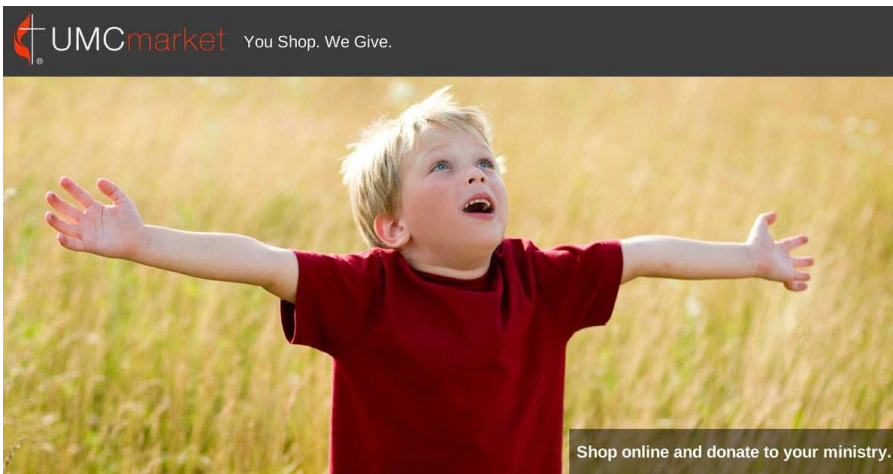


We will have two Christmas Eve Services this year. Pastor Nancy will preach at the 5:00 p.m. service and Pastor Dan will preach at the 7:00 p.m. service. Both services will feature the singing of Christmas carols and guest soloists.

Trustee's Report

The Trustees are considering two proposals from our volunteer church electrical consultant. One is to replace the lights in the fellowship hall area of Craven's Hall. The current lights are obsolete, in poor repair, and bulbs and parts have been discontinued. A bid of \$1650 has been received.

The second proposal is to replace the leaking and rusted out condensate pan on one of our 15-ton Sanctuary air conditioners. A bid of approximately \$2000 has been received for this project. Our consultant considers both of these bids to be outstanding values. If anyone wants to make special gifts to the church for either of these projects, your donation would be appreciated.



Your Giving Matters

The General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church is pleased to present UMCmarket, a tremendously rewarding opportunity to earn money for our local church. UMCmarket makes it possible for our church to receive donations from retailers every time you make an online purchase. The best thing is that you don't need to change anything from how you shop today, and every small donation makes a difference. This allows our church family to do together what we cannot do alone.

How it Works.

Every store at UMCmarket is happy to pay a percentage of the purchased amount as a donation. There is no additional cost or charge for either you or our church. The stores send UMCmarket the contributions within a variable time frame of 30—90 days. Once our church reaches \$100 in total donations, a check will be mailed.

Signing Up is Free!

You can easily sign up for free. When you go to UMCmarket, you will click on the "Get Started" button. You will have the option to sign up with your Facebook account or enter your email and create a password. You will then be prompted to download the Easy Give Button and find our church. With these three simple steps, you are ready to shop and donate!

Together Making a Difference!

We hope you will sign up and try it out. The more of our members participate, the more donations we receive and can put towards our church mission!

In Loving Memory

Martha Bradshaw

Tom and Rosie Nelson

Nelson Long

Jan Plunk

Wayne Carr

Dolores Nicar

Nelson Long

James Wells

Nelson Long

<u>Worship</u>	
11/09	122
11/16	111
11/23	131
11/30	130
<u>Sundav School</u>	
11/09	78
11/16	77
11/23	74
11/30	73
<u>Gifts</u>	
11/09	\$3,479.10
11/16	\$2,913.75
11/23	\$3,369.30
11/30	\$5,271.00

Sign Up Now!

Elizabeth Auer has graciously agreed to be our volunteer coordinator for the Live Nativity this year. She will be putting together teams of people to be in the scene each night it is open. We are currently planning on having the Nativity open December 12, 13, 14, and then again on December 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23. It will run each night from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.



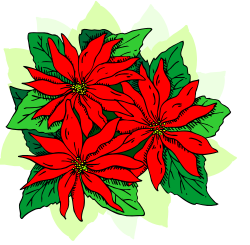
What we really need now is people who are willing to be in the Nativity. Would your Sunday School class like to volunteer for a night? Would your family like to start a new holiday tradition and take a night? This nativity scene is a beautiful statement to our community about the true meaning of Christmas, and a wonderful way that we can reach out to Silsbee during the holidays. Please contact Elizabeth Auer at 658-8526 if you would like to help with this event.

To Parents of Sunday School Singers:

Once again, our Sunday School children will join the adult choir in presenting a cantata on Sunday night, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary! Mrs. Jan Boothman will lead them, just like last year. Parents should pick up words and a CD to practice with from your child's Sunday School teacher (if you haven't yet!), so kids can sing the choir anthem during the week. Please



bring your children to the Saturday morning dress rehearsal on December 13, from 10:30—11:00, so they can practice with the choir. If you have a conflict, they can still sing on Sunday evening! Kids and their families should arrive early and sit in the front row(s) of the sanctuary, where they will have easy access to the risers. The cantata will be followed by refreshments in Cravens Hall. We hope all Sunday School singers and their families will stay to share that will us!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Orders for Christmas poinsettias are now being taken. Please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate or bring it by the church office.

The cost of each plant is \$12.50

We have 40 plants ordered so order early so that you may have a plant.

Name _____

No. of Plants _____

In Memory Of _____

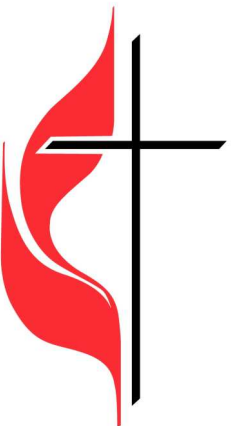
In Honor of _____

Payment is due by December 22nd.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 29
Silsbee, Texas

First United Methodist Church
670 North 5th Street
Silsbee Texas 77656

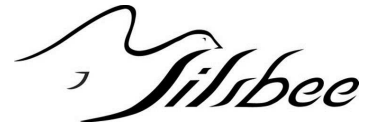
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED





2015 PLEDGE CARD

First United Methodist Church



My/Our Commitment to Christ and His Church is (fill in just one)

\$ _____ per week, or \$ _____ per month, or \$ _____ per year

(THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Date** _____

My pledge is an increase over last year.

My pledge is a step up towards tithing, my eventual goal.

My pledge is a full tithe (10%) of my income.

I would like to give through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or automatic check directly from my bank account. (The church can no longer set this up for you. You must set this up yourself online or with your bank. If the church can help you, please call the church office)