



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

March 2022

“Come expectantly seeking Jesus. Follow Him boldly. Go witness intentionally.”



“When I was little, my grandfather used to make me stand in a closet for five minutes without moving. He said it was elevator practice.”

These are the words of the comedian Stephen Wright. I know this sounds a little weird, but Stephen Wright’s grandfather may have been on to something. 99% of the time people spend in elevators is spent looking at three things: the floor, the ceiling, or the buttons on the wall. This is a poor choice if you are in the job market or have something you need to promote about your company or yourself.

In most communities 40 to 60 percent of people have no church relationship. That means most of your neighbors don’t know where to turn when crisis hits. That means that most of the people gathered around the softball game or baseball game don’t have a church. When we get our hair cut, or go out to eat, or attend a band concert there are people all around us who need to hear our elevator speech. It is very likely that the nurse who helps you, or the person who checks you out at the grocery store, or the wait person who serves you lunch do not have a church. And if you know that the Holy Spirit is working in every moment, you will also know that God has probably placed those people next to you for exactly that purpose.

Bishop Robert Schnase wrote: *“Hospitality means we pray, plan, prepare, and work toward the purpose of helping others receive what we have received in Christ. Hospitality is more than common politeness to newcomers, name tags for greeters, or a few visitor parking places... Hospitality is a quality of spiritual initiative, the practice of an active and genuine love, a graciousness unaffected by self-interest...”*

Our church council has approved the formation of a Hospitality Committee. We need people who are loving, kind, and have a ready elevator speech for our guests and visitors. In the church AND outside of it. Over the top, crazy generous, radical hospitality. Is it you? Will you pray, plan, and prepare?

“Then he said to them, "Whoever **welcomes** this little child in my name **welcomes** me; and whoever **welcomes** me **welcomes** the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest." Luke 9:48

Mike

Happy Birthday

March 4	Jack Neel	March 15	Ryan Hampton
March 4	Vicky Selman	March 17	Brooklyn Mercee
March 4	Jessi Otto	March 17	Jeff Taylor
March 5	Frank Dalhoff	March 18	Gena von Reyn
March 5	River Asmussen	March 19	Jake Jackson
March 7	Jerry Nichols	March 21	Will Burroughs
March 8	Sharon Schneider	March 24	Eric Hatcher
March 9	Sandra Evans	March 26	Martha Johnson
March 10	Jack Robinson	March 30	Harriett Bevil
March 11	Neal Poppenhusen	March 31	Glenda Barnett
March 13	Martha Scroggins		
March 15	Greg Eberhart		



Beth Aikman	Jerry Nichols
Bob Asmussen	Marilyn Odom
Elaine Asmussen	Bobby Phipps
Mickey Barnett	Mary Phipps
Bert & Darlene Blair	Kay Robinson
Betty Bozeman	Gary Simpkins
Wally Bradfield	Eddie Steck
Ann Crawford	Barbara Thompson
Lynn Emmert	Becki Wimp
Bruce Grider	Mary Wimp
Mike Kostial	Ron Wimp
Diane Mosley	Keith Zimmerman

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
FUMC Life Class
Time: 9:30-11:00 am

USHERS MONTH

March 2022

8:30 a.m.
Bill and Becky McPherson
Randy Bennett

11:00 a.m.
Steve Straznicky
Gail Lumley
Shelby Tackett
Kingston Straznicky

Taste n See: A fellowship bible study for young women in our community, 6-7:30 pm at Lost Creek Ranch, March 20, 2022.

Contact Sharon Thomas at 903-765-3171 by the Friday before gathering so she can set a place at the dinner table for you.

Financial Update (As of 2-28-22)

(YTD) Giving:	\$74,412.00
(YTD) Expenses:	\$69,116.00
(YTD) Budget:	\$76,923.00

Communion Rail Offering

March
Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Mark Your Calendars Weekly at FUMC

Sunday

8:30 a.m.	Worship Sanctuary
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship Sanctuary
5:30 p.m.	Youth Game Night

Monday

9:00 a.m.	Line Dancing
5:15 p.m.	Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday

5:15-7:00 p.m.	WNL! For Adult, Children & Youth (Meal Provided)
7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

9:00 a.m.	Line Dancing
5:30-7:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts meet in JOY Hall

Lenten Lunches

11:45 am-1:00 pm

J.O.Y. Hall

March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5

Open to all

Lunch and Devotion

Healthcare Heroes Sunday

March 20, 2022

We will honor and recognize area healthcare staff at the 11:00 service.

Trivial Pursuit: Church Memberships



Do you realize that there are three categories of Church Memberships in the United Methodist Church?

Full Membership Once baptized into the Christian faith, a person may become a member by saying “Yes” to the question, “Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church and to this Methodist church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service?”

Affiliate Membership As before, an Affiliate member remains a member of another United Methodist Church but wishes to be involved in another particular UMC Church (Discipline, Para 227)

Associate Membership As before, an Associate member remains a member of another Christian denomination may become a member of a local United Methodist Church (Discipline, Para 227).

All three memberships are valid throughout the whole United Methodist denomination.

For more information ask your local pastor or email texmethhist@gmail.com

Bill B. Hedges, Archivist
TXCUMC

We Extend A Very Warm Welcome to Our Newest Church Members!



Janet Lundy

Transfer from
FUMC Grand Saline



Randy & Pam
Hennington

Transfer from
Presbyterian Church
in Dallas Metroplex



Venita Holbrook (Left)
Robyn Delozier (Right)

Transfer from
FUMC Mineola

BELLS ARE RINGING!!!



This month, I want to introduce to you our most recognizable ringer as he is the only male ringer at the moment, Bill McPherson!! Bill “No Fear” McPherson

has played bells in the past but has never had the challenge of playing a 6 foot table full of bells! Not only does he give us his best efforts with the bells, he gives us his dry humor and his opinions! He can truly hold his own with 11 other women in the room but has on occasion been left speechless!

Bill would welcome another guy or just another person to help with all the bells he has to play! We certainly have room for one more if you would be interested. We practice on Monday evenings at 5:15.

We are scheduled to play our Easter season music at both services on Sunday morning, March 27. Hope to see you all there!

Becky Bradfield



CHOIR NOTES



So far, this year has been a wonderful blessing. The choir continues to sing beautifully and

we are currently working on our Palm Sunday worship service and our Easter Music. If you can't commit to every Wednesday night practice, consider joining us just for these special services. We will rehearse Easter music from 7-7:30 starting in March and I have links to all the songs so you can learn them at home as well. If you are interested, please let me or another choir member know - or just show up on Wed. night! We are also looking for others to join us for our regular choir as well. All are welcome and we rehearse every Wednesday night from 7-8. Come join us and sing a joyful song!

In other news, some of the folks in your choir will once again embark on a trip to sing at Carnegie Hall in NYC in November. We had the wonderful experience of doing this 4 years ago and wanted to take advantage of another opportunity. We will be having 2-3 fund raisers throughout this year. The first will be in May with a do not want to miss musical dessert evening. Then look for another in July - possible Fish Fry/Gospel singing night. Both will be fun for the whole family and we hope to make them wonderful community events.

Singing Joyful Songs
Vickie Polnac Smolek

YOUTH NEWS

March 2022



February 12th Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser was a big success. It was fun to cook and serve our dinner guests and earn money for camp.



12 youth and 3 adults loaded the church bus for a fun afternoon of bowling February 14th. No “300” games were reported!!



Girl's Powerlifting for advancing to UIL Regionals and team finishing 2nd with some individuals advancing to State.

Boy's Basketball for qualifying for playoffs and winning Bi-District.



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Night 5:30-7:00 p.m.

WNL: 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
5:15 p.m. Meal



Hello All!

I really enjoyed going to the recent Long Range Planning Meeting. We had so many good ideas and initiatives that came out of the meeting, including a portion focused on kids. Some of the thoughts included more volunteers, a full-time Children's Minister, etc. But, before we start looking toward the future,

Let's look back at what we can take pride in, right now!

- We have redecorated the nursery, youth bathrooms, etc., making them more “kid friendly”.
- We now have Kids Church in place during the 11am service, in addition to the Nursery during Sunday School and the 11am service, and two Sunday School Classes.
- We have had multiple events for children; from this past years community-wide Trunk or Treat on the square, to Easter Egg Hunts for two different age groups of kids, Parents Night Out, and a fun End-of-VBS Swim Party.
- We have a rotation of incredible volunteers for our Children's Moments during church, including Teresa Dunn, Mary Ann Nichols, David Dobbs and now Pastor Mike and the youth.
- We have a part-time Children's Minister to help support and organize KidMin.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY...VOLUNTEERS, those who help with Children's Moments and others. Ketzie DeGorostiza, Hilary Henk, April Mathias-Bautista, the NUMEROUS YOUTH volunteers, Christy Floyd, Bill Hedges, Bill McPherson, Martha Scroggins, Sam Scroggins, Pete O'Neil, AND SO MANY MORE! Vital for KidMin!



Looking forward, there are so many more ways that we can service this vital part of our congregation! Some came out as a part of the Long Range Planning Meeting, while others are simply things that come up and are addressed on an ongoing basis.

- Working with the Trustees to have changing pads placed in the JOY Hall bathrooms, so parents (Moms and Dads) do not have to walk to the Sunday School Hallway and are able to clearly locate a changing area.
- Recognizing and finding joy in the “noise” that follows children; whether in the sanctuary, in classrooms or in JOY Hall/our recreation area.
- Taking steps to help, in your own way, to be part of our FUMC-Quitman “church family” that is helping support and raise our children and to make sure that we are creating a space for our “entire” congregation.

“Preach the Gospel always, when necessary use words.”- Unknown

Valerie McWhorter
Director of Children's Ministry

Liberty Lines

By: John Sparks

Among the new members of Liberty United Methodist Church is a couple who share a special relationship with the Church. In June 2020 Donna and Dean Bengé were joined in marriage in Liberty Garden—the very first time that our garden facility has served as a wedding venue. The hundreds of volunteer hours that members put into developing the property between our two main buildings finally served one of the intended and most logical purposes.

Although a new member, Donna is no stranger to Liberty. With a continuing interest in quilting and sewing crafts, she has been active in our Crafty Christians for several years. The wedding and her involvement and close relationships with the others in the group inspired her to move her Methodist membership from First Church—Quitman to Liberty. Dean followed.

Donna's first marriage of fifty years produced three children who have blessed her with 11 grand-children and three great grands who are scattered in Texas, Colorado, South Carolina and Missouri. Donna and her first husband owned and operated a retail appliance business for 19 years in Grapevine.

Dean who is a native of Indiana, received his college education at Indiana University. He was previously married, but had no children with his first wife. Family-wise, he grew up with two sisters. Dean pursued several majors—primarily in the advanced sciences at Indiana. His real interest was photography, which benefitted from those college courses, primarily in his photo darkroom work.

The later-in-life marriage, has Dean & Donna residing on CR 2119 in Clear Lakes, where they are back-door neighbors with Marty Vess. Marty, of course, was the featured new member in last month's Liberty column.

Dean & Donna share a couple of acres with five dogs, five cats and a rabbit with ground left over for the practice of gardening—a passion for Dean. He has plans for lots of vegetable plants this year. We're all going to have to train him in the practice of "crop sharing" Sundays on the benches outside Fellowship Hall.

Both Dean and Donna also have an on-going love of music—he on tuba and keyboard and she on dulcimer. Dean's musical compassion was quite active with a Symphonic Band when he lived in the St. Louis area for a number of years. He worked for a group of newspapers as a photo-journalist while in Missouri.

Dean was recently initiated as a new member of Crafty Christians as the ladies talked him into installing a quilt display rack on the eastern wall of Fellowship Hall.



Liberty United Methodist Church
2581 Highway 154 East
Quitman, TX 75783
www.libertymc-Texas.com

8:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group

www.libertymc-texas.com

As of 2-21-22
YTD Giving: \$22,661.73
YTD Expenses: \$14,882.69



Holy Communion Offering
Pastor's Discretionary Fund



Marty Vess	March 2
Robin Stewart	March 5
Clarece Hill	March 12
Gin Lange	March 12
Bob Stewart	March 12
Margo Cobb	March 24

Happy Anniversary
Jack & Priscilla Massey March 3

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Four Great Options

CLASS NAME	STUDY FOCUS	AGE CONCENTRATION	CLASS ROOM & CLASS LEADER
Covenant Class	<i>Bible Lessons & Informal Discussion</i>	<i>Couples & Singles Ranging from 40-65</i>	<i>Covenant Classroom Mary Ann Nichols</i>
Journey Class	<i>Discussion Oriented Contemporary Issues</i>	<i>Diverse Age Range</i>	<i>Church Annex Keith Zimmerman</i>
Life Class	<i>Bible Study with Focus on Family</i>	<i>Mostly Young Adult Singles & Couples</i>	<i>Life Classroom Teresa Dunn</i>
Open Door Class	<i>Varied Selection of Special Topics & Bible Studies</i>	<i>Mostly Age 55 to 70+</i>	<i>Celebration Room Carol Denson</i>

Classes Meet on Sunday Mornings 9:45-10:45

First United Methodist Church

406 E. Lane Street
903.763.4127

Sanctuary Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sanctuary Worship 11:00 a.m.
YouTube Delayed Recording 6:00 p.m.
FUMC Quitman

www.fumcquitman.org

Liberty United Methodist Church

2581 E. St Hwy 154
903.638.9634

Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m.

www.libertymc-Texas.com

**HAVE YOU MOVED, CHANGED
YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR
EMAIL?**

If so, please contact the church office.



First United Methodist Church
P O Box 1643
Quitman, TX 75783

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“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”