



# The Messenger

**First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas**

February 2022

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



As often is the case, many people only see the bad in our world. I even discovered there is a new name for the activity of scanning through a never-ending feed of bad news – doomscrolling. But, just in case you don’t know, there is always something amazing happening in our world. Amazing, cool, God inspired things that SHOULD make your heart soar.

It was right after Thanksgiving when a man named John Burley started crying out from his hospital bed that his precious pet dog named Boomer was in the pound.

“Boomer is in the pound!” “Boomer is in the pound!” John was on the phone to a nurse name Jennifer Smith. Jennifer had gotten to know John as he stayed at the Grand Rehabilitation Center in Rome, New York. John was 60 years old and still had his own apartment, but he was trying to recover from pneumonia and other lung issues. John had family, but they were all in Arkansas. There in New York he was alone.

John asked Jennifer for help. She said, “I will take care of Boomer until you are able to go back home.” Jennifer called the Rome animal shelter and sure enough, they had Boomer. Jennifer rescued Boomer and carried him home. Every day when she comes to work, she brings Boomer too. John tours the facility in his wheelchair, with Boomer in his lap. And the entire place is better for it. Healing happened faster this Christmas because one person saw the opportunity to make a difference.

In another town – Towson, Maryland – there was another man going through a hard time, struggling with depression, and not feeling a lot of hope. When one of his neighbors heard about it, he decided to do something. It was a huge thing. He ran a string of Christmas lights from his house, over the road, to his neighbor’s house. When two other neighbors saw it, they decided to do it too. Then another neighbor got involved. The idea kept spreading all the way through Dunkirk Street. The entire street had Christmas lights cascading over the road. Home Depot ran out of Christmas lights. Another neighbor took wire and shaped it into letters that read, “Love lives here.” They ran lights over that too. Every single neighbor. They even added a big mailbox at the end of the road to hold “letter to the north pole” so all the children can put their letter to Santa in the box, and the neighborhood made sure those letters were answered.

Mother Teresa once said, “In this life we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

And Matthew 5:16 says, “...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

What small thing can we do that will make a big difference?

*Mike*

# Happy Birthday

Feb. 02	Arnold Mott	Feb. 18	Diana King
Feb. 02	Diane Blackwell	Feb. 18	Sandy Jackson
Feb..02	Walter Grider	Feb. 19	Brad Medlin
Feb. 03	Garrett Taylor	Feb. 21	Roger Schneider
Feb. 05	Wyatt Bashoum	Feb. 27	Susan Jerrell
Feb. 05	Beverly Waddleton Johnson	Feb. 27	Carolyn Manning
Feb. 10	Marsha Brown		
Feb. 10	Blane Gibson		
Feb. 10	Trilla Hughes		
Feb. 14	J. R. Evans		



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

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Mary and Ron Wimp  
c/o Rick Garrett  
3435 Rosebay Ct.  
Spring Hill, FL 34609

## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

FUMC Life Class

Start Date: February 1

Time: 9:30-11:00 am

10-week Study of Acts

Study Books are available in the  
Church office

# USHERS

THIS MONTH

February 2022

8:30 a.m.

**Jerry Gibson**  
Randall Gary

11:00 a.m.

**Bob King**  
Brad Medlin  
John Seekins  
Sally Seekins

## Financial Update (As of 2-23-22)

(YTD) Giving::	\$31,827
(YTD) Expenses::	\$23,782
(YTD) Budget:	\$34,020

## Communion Rail Offering

February  
Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center

## 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

## Taste n See: Spring 2022

A fellowship Bible study for young women in  
our community

### Spring Gathering Dates

February 20, 2022

March 20, 2022

6-7:30 pm at Lost Creek Ranch

Contact Sharon at 903-765-3137 by the Friday before gathering so she can set a place at the dinner table just for you.

# January 15 Retreat to Create FUMC's Vision



Members of the Church Council, Sunday School leaders, FUMC staff, and several of their spouses participated in a 3-hour planning retreat on January 15th. To open the retreat, Pastor Mike shared a Demographics Snapshot from a 5-mile radius around the church. It showed tremendous opportunity for church growth and to expand our ministry. (The Snapshot is provided on <https://fumcquitman.org>)

Retreat participants were then asked to project their mindset from 2022 to 2024 and to forecast goals that the church should pursue from the present day through 2024 to improve church membership, attendance, and spiritual growth. To conclude the discussion, the group prioritized the improvement goals. The highest priority are proposed as the Church's Vision for the future. (See the categories and their goals below.)

Work will begin right away to create plans to bring these goals into reality, mainly through the Church's standing committees. If you wish to assist in expanding, planning, and implementing portions of these goals, please notify Pastor Mike or the Church Office.

## How To Attract More Visitors\*

- Initiate formal Greeting Teams
- Improve Communication/Marketing, More Visibility
- Improve Property Appearance

## Appeal To Visitors After Arrival\*

- Warmer arrival and individual follow-up
- Communication/Stay in contact.
- Mentorship on Christianity, Methodism, etc.

## How to Follow-up With Visitors\*

- Timely follow-up after service with gift such as food (banana nut bread, etc. or pie).
- Conduct after-worship service "tea"
- Provide area near sanctuary for fellowship

## How We Have Improved the Worship Service\*

- Implement video technology in sanctuary
- Employee more theme services
- Add a first service song leader
- Modernize the sanctuary

## How We Improve Our Music Program\*

- Praise and worship music/Band
- More space for Choir
- Resume WNL sing-alongs

## Improved Children's Program\*

- Expand fine arts
- Increase the number of volunteers
- Adult mentoring program for kids

## Improved Youth Program\*

- Young men and young women retreats
- Mentorship program (pray, connect, go to events)
- Gym
- Active in UM Army

## Improved Adult Programs\*

- Discipleship training
- Increase Small Groups with diversified interests
- Ages 30-55 Sunday School Class

## Improve Program for Young Professionals\*

- Cultivate singles appeal
- Periodic survey of interests
- Enhanced Welcoming/Accepting

## Improved Programs for Divorced, Widows, Widowers\*

- Stephen Ministers for one-on-one care
- Grief counseling group sessions
- Pastor Visitations

## Programs for the Unchurched\*

- Annual Block Party
- Church Orientation, Methodist, Dialogue, Christian growth
- Small groups outside church building

## Expanded Local Mission Support\*

- Widows, Widowers and Seniors
- Special Needs
- Minorities (Blacks and Hispanics)

## Extend Out of Area Missions\*

- Continue current missions
- Heifer International
- Develop an International Sister Church

## Generous Deeds\*

- Energize the Emergency Response Team
- Create a "Carpenters' Hands" group
- Local Helping Hands (adults & youth)

\* Note: Numerous ideas were presented in each category. The goals shown above were given top priority.

## BELLS ARE RINGING!!!



The Bell Choir is gearing up for a great Spring of wonderful music! We will be playing at our church services for the Lenten Season and hope to have a Spring Concert.

We certainly appreciate your support in attending our previous concerts. These concerts allow us to play all kinds of music and meet new people in our community.

Our time together as a choir allows us to ring praises to God, fellowship with one another and become a close knit family.

Playing bells is different than singing in a choir or playing in a band. You are the only one that plays your note and you have to rely on everyone else to play their notes at the right time. May sound a little intimidating but with faith and encouragement from each other it works! If you don't hear the melody to the song, we haven't done our part.

If we as the church aren't doing all we can do to bring in new believers, maybe we as the church aren't playing our notes at the right time!

If you would have a desire to play with us, please let me know. Whenever we have an opening, I would be glad to contact you.

*Becky Bradfield*

## CHOIR NOTES



I hope everyone has been having a wonderful 2022 so far!! I have had some time to look back on 2021 and it has been a joy working with the choir and leading in worship.

The choir has a lot of plans in 2022 including, another trip to Carnegie Hall in the fall! Look for more information about that in the future!

Also on the horizon will be a couple of concerts for the community and a wonderful Palm Sunday presentation.

all

If you are interested in joining in on all the fun with our choir, just come to a rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 7:00. If you just want to be a part of the special Palm Sunday service, we will begin rehearsals on that this month.

*Vickie Smolek*



# YOUTH NEWS

February 2022

The New Year ran past quickly and we are running hard. The students have been involved in many activities already. We have had some exciting basketball games, close wrestling matches, heavy lifting, and proud FFA show moments. Our students are active in their school life, their athletic endeavors, and their own home lives.

Things can become hectic quickly as many of you know. Life is fun. I would like to challenge you to find a student and encourage him or her in whatever they are doing.

We started this year with a new series called “Welcome to the Planet: What on Earth am I here for?” It has been interesting to watch the students reach for a better understanding of our purpose on this playground we call Earth. They are beginning to realize there is so much more to life than surviving the school day. The students had an amazing opportunity to demonstrate their growing understanding of worship during our Youth Led Service on the last Sunday in January. It has been amazing to watch our students prepare to lead in worship.

Things are moving forward. We have some big things coming up among the smaller excitement. We will be providing fundraisers for our students to raise funds for our events this year. There will be dinners, dramas, flowers, soap and suds, and others in the near future. There will also be work days where some of our students will serve members of our church and community and earn funds to attend camps and trips.

Sign up forms are already prepared for the big events through the summer. The quicker we have students and parents sign up the faster we can make appropriate arrangements for our trips. Reach out to those students in your family and let's make this summer amazing!!

Sign up forms are available in the foyer of the sanctuary, in The Well, and from Joseph.



**February 12  
Valentine's Dinner  
Fundraiser**

**February 13  
Valentine's Cards to  
Nursing Homes and  
Super Bowl Party**

**February 14  
Mystery Trip**

**Every 5th Sunday of  
the Month is  
Youth Sunday with  
Worship Service led by  
FUMC Children and  
Youth**



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!

Excited to start our Winter Games WNL series! This past Wednesday we had our “Snowball Fight” and introduced the challenge that is starting for our kids! The Ignite Sunday School Class (3rd—5th) are being challenged to learn the Apostle’s Creed, while our younger Spark Sunday School Class (K-2nd) is being challenged to learn the 10 Commandments! What happens if they meet our challenge; they will have earned a day pass to either Splash Kingdom or Six Flags Over Texas. If you see our kiddos around church or out and about in the community don’t forget



**Volunteers  
Needed**

**We still have plenty of opportunities to support KIDS in our church!**

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

- Unknown

Valerie McWhorter

Director of Children’s Ministry

# Liberty Lines

By: John Sparks

In last month's column, the names of those who are relatively new additions to our congregation appeared. As was indicated, Liberty Church, like any religious organization, is dependent upon the continuing growth of its congregation and the collective God-inspired and God-driven energy devoted to that growth effort and to the stimulation provided to each and every member of the congregation as we worship. It is our duty to deliver God's message and bring others to Christ through individual and collective efforts.

This month we are featuring a brief profile of one of those new members—Marty Vess. We'll add others in future columns.

Marty and her husband Herman were married in 1978. They live in Clear Lakes. They have had no children, but Herman grew up in a family of nine children, so when they were joined, Marty very suddenly had a large diverse family. Herman has enjoyed his lifelong career as a nurseryman from which he has retired, but he has not lost his love for the diverse plants with which he has worked over his career. He is still an active master gardener. Marty helps with some of the gardening chores at their home, but only under close supervision from Herman.

Marty is a native Texan and has remained in East Texas all of her life. She grew up as an only child. After completing her college education she became a teacher and taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and other early elementary children in Quitman ISD for several years until she moved to private industry as a computer programmer in Tyler in 1984. She retired in 2020.

Marty credits Gail Hall, the pianist at both Quitman and Liberty, for suggesting that she visit Liberty Church and meet some the people there. Marty transferred her membership from the larger congregation in town and is looking forward to getting to know more of us. All her life Marty has received joy from serving others—whether it be running errands or shopping for her neighbors, pet sitting (including chickens) or driving to medical appointments. It is a good bet that her phone will be ringing.

At the January meeting of the Liberty Council, we voted to produce a new directory of our membership. Carolyn Hicks will head up this effort and is asking for any volunteers to assist. The Directory committee would also appreciate submission of any photos of our events and activities that our members might have.

Future new members to be profiled are: Dean Bengé and Donna Roberts Bengé; Bill & Candi Fry and Connie Holiday



**Liberty United Methodist Church**  
**2581 Highway 154 East**  
**Quitman, TX 75783**  
**[www.libertymc-Texas.com](http://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](http://www.libertymc-texas.com)**

2021 Giving: \$90,365.20

2021 Expenses: \$98,951.93



**Holy Communion Offering**

**East Texas Food Bank**

**February**

## BIRTHDAYS

<b>John Redmon</b>	<b>2/03</b>
<b>Cathy Taylor</b>	<b>2/07</b>
<b>Teddy Shampine</b>	<b>2/12</b>
<b>Linda Price</b>	<b>2/18</b>
<b>Jean Price</b>	<b>2/23</b>
<b>Ann Sparks</b>	<b>2/25</b>
<b>Thomas Allyn Lewis</b>	<b>2/28</b>

## ANNIVERSARY

<b>Jim &amp; Martha Gould</b>	<b>2/14</b>
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# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Four Great Options

CLASS NAME	STUDY FOCUS	AGE CONCENTRATION	CLASS ROOM & CLASS LEADER
Covenant Class	<i>Bible Lessons &amp; Informal Discussion</i>	<i>Couples &amp; 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 &amp; Couples</i>	<i>Life Classroom Teresa Dunn</i>
Open Door Class	<i>Varied Selection of Special Topics &amp; 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](http://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](http://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”