



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

December 2021
January 2022

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



Leonard Bernstein once said: *“To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan, and not quite enough time.”*

This passage from Ecclesiastes is a good one for a New Year. It has to do with time.

¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Now, I hope you don't get the idea that I'm trying to lead you down the wrong path here. But I did a little research on time and wasting time. This, of course, always yields some fascinating if useless information. So... for those of you who are computer savvy you may want to check this out. The following web-sights are reportedly some of the top Time-Wasting sights around: “Map Crunch”, “Window Swap”, and “Find the Invisible Cow”. (Nooooo, I have not checked them out, but if get bored you might hear about it in a sermon 😊).

In the meantime, what is it that God has given us to be busy with? What has God called us to do? And why did God place our church here? I think it boils down to two fundamental ideas. We need to care about what happens to those around us. And we need to NEVER allow ourselves to get so locked in on ourselves that we start to forget about our friends and neighbors.

The next thing we need to do is build new relationships. Did you know that one of the greatest cures for depression is to meet new people? According to Associated Content, *“Meeting new people has to be one of the most adventurous, exciting, and worthwhile things that you can do with your life. Endorphins fire off, adrenaline pumps up, you become excited and attentive.”* There are huge benefits to the adventure of meeting another person. If you happen to point out something you like about that person you will make their day!

The number one reason people decide to go to church is because someone invited them. We need to invite people we know (of course) but we also need to invite people we do NOT know. But just inviting won't do it. We also need to give people the gift of belonging. All people want a place where they belong. (Can anyone sing the “Cheers” song for me?)

Caring about what is happening to others is what makes a difference to people. This is what brings people to the places you go. This is what makes someone want to be where you are. This is what makes a certain location become a place where people want to be...

What are you busy doing?

Mike



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



BREAKFAST with SANTA

Saturday, December 4th 8:00am–10:00am
JOY Hall FUMC

Thank you FUMC elves who volunteered to help Santa!

USHERS
THIS MONTH

December 2021	January 2022
8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Randy Bennett Mike Narkiewicz	Ernest Burford Jerry Gibson
11:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Jerry Jackson Michael Hampton Stephen Fulce Pat Neel Peyton Kruckner	Michelle Dobbs Kevan Burroughs Ava Burroughs Abby Dobbs

Financial Update (As of 11-22-21)

(YTD) Giving: \$321,202
(YTD) Expenses: \$346,878
(YTD) Budget: \$372,784

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

Communion Rail Offering

December Christmas Sharing
January Crafty Christians

Wednesday Night Live Meal Preparation

Dec 1	Doni Hampton Group
Dec 8	Open Door Class
Dec 15	Marti Busbee Group
No WNL! Until January 2022	
5:15 p.m.	Meals served, youth free; Adults \$5.00
6:00 p.m.	Bible Study—all ages Adult Study - Pastor Mike

December BIRTHDAYS

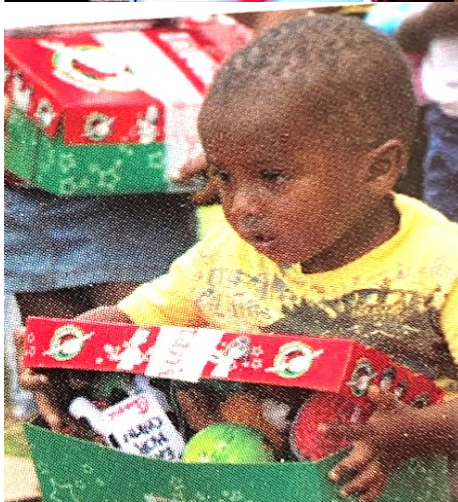
- 12/1 Parker Simpkins
- 12/2 Darrell Gary
- 12/3 Kenneth Fette
- 12/4 Brooklin Benson
- 12/5 Ethel Kelley
- 12/6 David Dobbs
- 12/10 Dell Cox
- 12/10 JaNan Straznicky
- 12/13 Mikayla Hubbard
- 12/13 Gary Thurman

- 12/14 Heather Marcee
- 12/14 Brenley von Reyn
- 12/15 Kevan Burroughs
- 12/16 Becky Bradfield
- 12/16 Jan Lumley
- 12/16 Vanessa Simpkins
- 12/18 Jentri Jackson
- 12/18 Greg Taylor
- 12/21 Shelby Tackett
- 12/25 Stephen Fulce
- 12/26 Katie Pepler
- 12/27 Stephen Cates
- 12/30 Kay Robinson
- 12/30 Katie Hatcher
- 12/31 Allie Medlin

January BIRTHDAYS

- 1/3 William Leake
- 1/3 Colton Otto
- 1/3 Maggie Styles
- 1/5 Lindsey Baker
- 1/6 Rita Reed
- 1/7 Donna Davis
- 1/8 Keaton Cameron
- 1/9 Sarah Medlin
- 1/9 Beth Moore
- 1/9 Sue Bonnette
- 1/10 Bill McPherson
- 1/10 Ron Wimp
- 1/12 Sandra Grider
- 1/12 Marilyn Robinson

- 1/12 Blake Thurman
- 1/14 Daniel Cainin Lee
- 1/18 Donna Martin
- 1/20 Sally Leake
- 1/22 Layni Marie Baker
- 1/22 Patricia Kostial
- 1/23 Beth Aikman
- 1/23 Chloe Hatcher
- 1/24 Lucas DeGorostiza
- 1/24 Mitchel Fry
- 1/25 John Huffman
- 1/26 Bob Blackwell
- 1/26 Bert Blair
- 1/27 Melissa Bashioum
- 1/27 Sherri Young
- 1/28 Betty Dalhoff
- 1/28 Sue Edwards
- 1/29 Jani Taylor
- 1/29 Carley Tucker



Thanks to each one of you who chose to become a part of our 2021 Christmas Child Operation including National Collection Week, November 15-22. From Wood County, we collected 1,422 shoeboxes, and 13,051 shoeboxes from our 4 county Neches River Area.

From First church and Liberty, we collected well over 100 boxes.

Each shoebox represents the opportunity for a child and those who are a part of their lives to learn what it means to follow **Jesus, the Greatest Gift. Your gifts of time and service count for eternity.** After receiving multiple requests, we will have packing parties in 2022 and party for missions!

Get ready to have some fun!
Marti Busbee

BELLS ARE RINGING!!!



RINGING IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2021
2:00 P.M.
FUMC SANCTUARY**

**TO HEAR THE JOY RINGERS
HANDBELL CHOIR
PERFORM A SELECTION OF
CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

Director: Becky Bradfield

CHOIR NOTES



It has been a wonderful year serving as your music director and I look forward to this coming year.

As I look back over this past year, I have seen a lot of changes and a lot of challenges. But amidst all it, one thing remains - God is faithful. Our music program continues to grow - but there is always room for more! If you would like to be involved, just let me know!

The choir is looking forward to presenting our Cntata Worship Service on December 12th. We have been working very hard on it and it will truly be a blessing for the whole family!

Then the choir will have a little holiday break from Wednesday night rehearsals until January 12th. As we look forward to 2022, I see more opportunities for worship, involvement from our youth and children and special fellowship celebrations as we grow together in worship.

May you have a blessed and happy Christmas.

Vickie Smolek

**MISSION:
POSSIBLE**

Email to Keith Zimmerman

Dear Keith: How are you? I am writing this to let you know that the donation of Quitman First United

Methodist is reflected in my staff support account with Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ). We appreciate your partnership in reaching people in Tanzania with the gospel. Pass our love and appreciation to our brothers and sisters at Quitman FUMC.

Blessings,
Ambilike Mwangomo

YOUTH NEWS

December 2021
January 2022

Why does God allow suffering and tragedy? Does science disprove Christianity? Is Jesus really the only way? Why are Christians so hypocritical? Christians throughout the ages have wrestled with questions like these, and chances are, our youth are no different. Having faith isn't always easy. We may not always have the "winning" answer that makes us popular. Sometimes believing the Bible might make us feel like everyone's against us. But it's critical that we don't run from these types of questions.

We are wrapping up a Bible study that will pick up again in January about our own struggles in coming to terms with what Scripture teaches about God, sin, creation and Jesus.

We have been using Scripture and helping our youth understand why believing in God and the Bible is not only reasonable, but also essential. And that's what apologetics is all about. Knowing what you believe and why you believe it, and then being able to share with others why you think your beliefs are reasonable.

Mid-Winter Retreat Coming up!

Uncertainty about the pandemic, school, friends, and fitting in often fills our lives with fear and anxiety. Psalm 23 offers us a picture of what it looks like when we live our life with God here and now, every day. Such a life of connecting with God moves us toward becoming people who live with joy and gratefulness and are able to bless enemies and live intentionally, free of judging others. This "Chill" weekend will show you how God provides for everything you need, that God can be trusted to lead you and restore your soul, and that God walks every step with you in all situations.

Mid-winter weekend is open to all students currently in 7th-12th grade. The weekend will be full of an amazing worship, great food, and friends new and old. We will spend the weekend seeking what it means to trust the Lord. Of course, it wouldn't be Lakeview without a healthy dose of fun, activities and recreation!

Join us Jan. 14-16. The cost per person is \$150.



December 5 Santa Land

Transportation leaving the Church at 5:00 pm with food provided on the return.

\$20 per person for entrance and food.

December 19 Youth Christmas Party

5:00-7:00 pm

White Elephant Gift (\$10 or less) Girls bring snacks, Boys bring drinks

Lakeview
Mid-Winter Chill
January 14-16, 2022
7th-12th Grade
\$150 Scholarships Available



Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

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

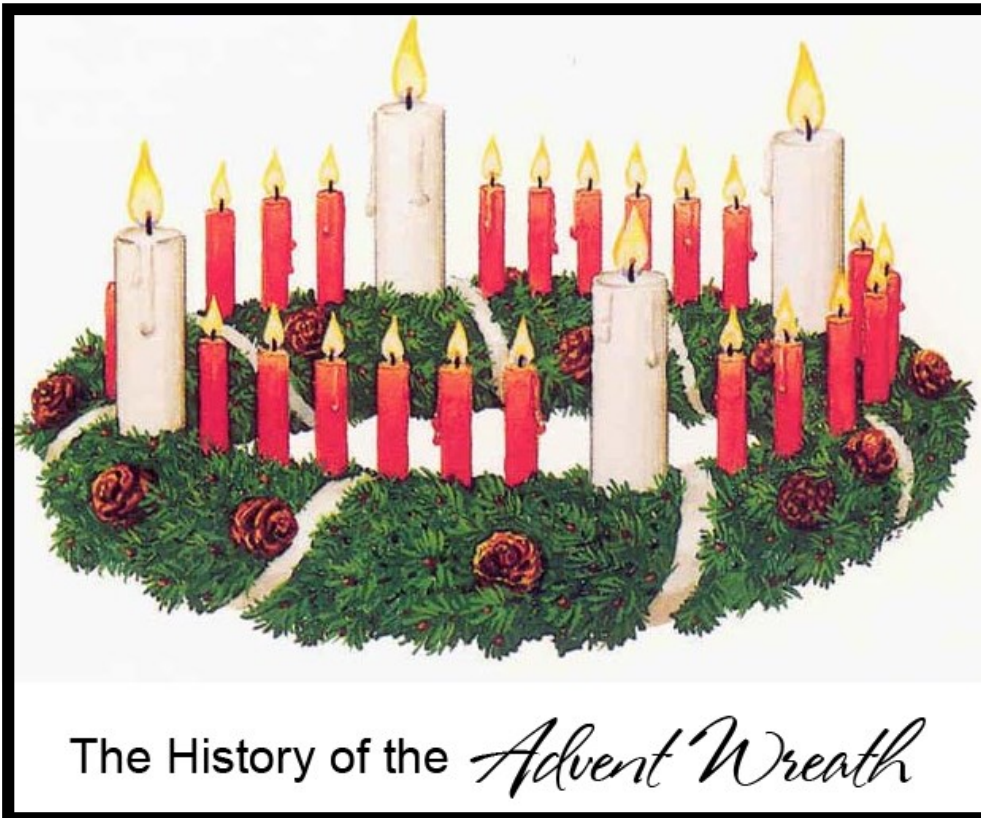
WNL: 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
5:15 p.m. Meal



Hello All!

We will be entering into a period of time the Methodist and other Christian denominations (such as Catholic, etc.) call “Advent”

Advent is a noun and comes from the Latin, meaning “come into”, as Jesus came into the world for us. It is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ.



During this special time, the Methodist church has traditionally used an “Advent Wreath” to help mark this time of preparation. I was unsure of the history of the Advent Wreath myself, but it seems that it was started by German Lutherans in the 16th century as a spiritual preparation, but it wasn’t until 3 centuries later that the modern advent wreath came to be. Johann Hinrich Wichem, a German theologian, is credited with lighting an increasing number of candles as we near Christmas. Wichem was “passionate about urging Christians to minister to the physical and social, as well as spiritual, needs of peoples. He, himself, founded a home for poor children, the Rough

House, in the city of Hamburg. As Christmas approached, the children would inquire about its arrival. In 1839, Wichem thought to use a wreath as a teaching tool. For every other day in between, Wichem placed a small red candle in the wreath. Each day, Wichem would light a candle and teach the children about Jesus. The idea was a success.” (Das Rauhe Haus, “History, From 1832-1881.” Retrieved August 15, 28, from Das Rauhe Haus: <http://rauheshaus.de/stiftung/geschichte>.)

How will you prepare for Christ’s coming this Advent season? Some have Advent Wreaths in their homes. Others countdown with scripture each day of December, and some make it a point to perform an act of service each day. Whichever way you choose to prepare, I hope you make it a special time for your family and a time to mark Christ’s coming.

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

Valerie McWhorter
Children’s Ministry

Liberty Lines

By: John Sparks

Liberty Church, has consistently paid in-full the outreach apportionments that are recommended for financial aid by the Texas Conference. The congregation has also been generous in support of numerous local, national, even international outreaches. One such organization which receives continuing financial support from Liberty members is:

Children's Hope Chest

Children's Hope Chest exists to glorify God by releasing the potential of orphaned and impoverished children and their communities. CHC does this through partnerships that cultivate sustainable two-way transformation. Based in Colorado Springs, CHC was founded by a group of businessmen in 1992. The organization has active on-going relationships in seven foreign countries including Russia, Moldova, India, Ethiopia, Uganda, Swaziland and Guatemala. Ken Sparks, son of Liberty members John & Ann Sparks, has served as President and CEO of Children's Hope Chest since February 2014.

CHC engages in a long-term, community-to-community partnership that:

Empower local leaders to provide food, medical care and hope to their communities, while sharing the Gospel.

Support partnering communities as they engage with overseas communities to create sustainable transformation using healthy international development practices.

Address the complex causes of poverty, including material, spiritual, emotional, social, economic and educational needs.

Transform the lives of children and their communities through a focus on sustainability, independence and long-term self-sufficiency.

Transform the lives of the partnering community members through exposure, education, relationship, service, and perhaps most importantly, instilling hope.

Working together with large Mega Churches and their members, CHC and these partnering Churches and their individual members develop and support master plans to serve these CarePoint communities with the Church addressing capital financial needs such as those related to clean water, nutrition, education and basic medical care while the individual members of these Churches participate in CHC's child sponsorship program.

Sponsored Children are: 27-40% more likely to finish secondary education; 80% more likely to complete university education; 30-75% more likely to become community leaders as adults, and 40-70% more likely to become church leaders.

As reported last month, a quilt made by our "Crafty Christians" was the featured item for a fund raiser for the Rainbow Room and other charitable outreaches of our two congregations. The winning ticket was held by Martha Gould, a Liberty member. The Rainbow Room serves Wood County's fostered, neglected and abused children. The organization has long been the recipient of communion hand rail offerings from both of our churches.



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

2021 Year-to-Date Giving: \$80,040

2021 Year-to-Date Expenses: \$90,805



Holy Communion Offering

Dec. Mission Home, Waco

Jan. Crafty Christians



Dec. 4 Stuart Boswank

Dec. 8 Jerry Hurt

Dec.14 Tommy Baxter

Dec.14 Deborah Dopson

Dec. 21 Donna Holt

Dec. 25 Anna Wilkins

Dec. 26 Richard Clifton

Dec. 28 Woody Gasperin

Dec. 31 Patty Hurt

Jan. 13 Patsy Alaniz

Jan. 16 Vicki Ritchie

Jan. 18 Jim Winkles

Jan. 19 Alice Lee

Jan. 20 Marie Folmar

Jan. 21 Elizabeth Deuson

Jan. 25 Sally Huffman

Jan. 30 Ann Flake

Jan. 30 Jim Gould

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Dec. 1	5:15 pm	WNL Meal
Dec. 1	6:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 4	9:00-10:00 am	Breakfast With Santa, JOY Hall
Dec. 5	5:00 pm	Youth to Santa Land, meet at church
Dec. 8	5:15 pm	WNL Meal
	6:00 pm	Bible all ages
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Dec. 12		No Early Service
Dec. 12	11:00 am	Choir Christmas Cantata, JOY Hall
Dec. 12	1:30 pm	Church Council, Open Door Classroom
Dec. 16	5:00-8:00 pm	Open House, Rev. Mike and Cindy Parsonage, 410 Nathan, Quitman
Dec. 19	8:30 am	Worship Service
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	2:00 pm	Hand Bell Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
	5:00-7:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party
Dec. 22		No WNL
Dec. 23		Office Closed
Dec. 24		Office Closed
Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service, JOY Hall
Dec. 24	7:00 pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
Dec. 26	11:00 am	Combined worship service, Sanctuary
Jan. 14-16, 2022		Lakeview Mid-Winter Chill, 7-12th Grade

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 14
Quitman, TX

“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”