



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

May 2022

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



Did you know that Babylon began as a city somewhere around 2300 BC? During the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, it was the largest city in the world. The ancient wonder of the world known as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were located there. Scholars are pretty sure that the Tower of Babel was there.

The base of that tower was 300 feet per side and its height matched this. The top of the tower was covered in glazed blue bricks, and it housed a temple. The extravagant Ishtar Gate became part of the city wall in the 6th century BC during Nebuchadnezzar’s reign also. This gate was 50 feet high and 100 feet wide. It went 45 feet into the ground! This gate was once also one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World until it was replaced by the Lighthouse at Alexandria in the 300’s BC. This place was one of the key locations in Babylon.

Now, it is likely that you have a gate somewhere around your home or office. You may even be required to pass through a gate sometimes. The airlines will surely make you pass through a gate. If you get picked for jury duty you will pass through a gate. Most major sports venues now require you to pass through a gate.

But you probably don’t have to pass through a gate to enter your town. I can’t think of any city in the U.S. that has a wall around it and a gate you must go through to enter it. In Old Testament times gates had a much more important function. In those days, the gates were closed every night at dark. If you were travelling across the desert on your double-hump camel with the kids all crying “Are we there yet?!?!?” you would want to make sure you reached the next city before dark. Because if you didn’t you would be locked out. The city gatekeepers would not care if you had a reservation at the Babylon Hilton. You would not get in.

And if you were stranded outside of the city, you were fair game to whatever evil lurked out there. But the prophet Isaiah came along and had a vision. He said, ***“Your gates shall always be open; day and night they shall not be shut...”*** (Isaiah 60:11). His vision was of a time when the people never had to be worried about getting locked out of the city. Isaiah’s vision was of a place where nobody was hindered from entering, and no one objected to people entering in. John’s vision while on the Isle of Patmos was similar. ***“The gates of the city will stand open all day; they will never be closed, because there will be no night there.”*** Revelation 21:25

This vision is the Church. It is a place where you are welcome, no matter where you have travelled from, no matter where you have been. We are welcome in this city. All of us can enter in and find shelter from a world of hardship and pain. God will not close the doors on us. Or on anyone else. The people already within the city must always remember this vision.

Mike

Happy Birthday

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--------|-----------------|
| May 01 | Sarah Roberts | May 19 | Teresa Fulce |
| May 01 | Stella Lundy | May 20 | Sandra |
| May 03 | Michelle Dobbs | | Narkiewicz |
| May 03 | Garrett Peek | May 21 | Daisy Bennett |
| May 05 | Ketzie DeGorostiza | May 24 | Andrew Marcee |
| May 06 | Julia Gary | May 24 | Shaun Baker |
| May 11 | Carol Denson | May 24 | Jerry Busbee |
| May 11 | Brian O'Neal | May 26 | Addison Marcee |
| May 11 | Steven Smolek | May 27 | Ricky Cameron |
| May 13 | Gerry Taylor | May 27 | Elaine Asmussen |
| May 15 | Michael Kostial | May 29 | Don Heinert |
| May 15 | Joe DeGorostiza | May 29 | Melanie |
| May 16 | Michael Hampton | | Poppenhusen |
| May 18 | Ray Andrews | | |



| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 | Becki Wimp |
| Ann Crawford | Mary Wimp |
| Lynn Emmert | Ron Wimp |
| Bruce Grider | Keith Zimmerman |
| Mike Kostial | |
| Diane Mosley | |

On May 25 from 8:00-9:30 am FUMC will continue the traditional **QISD Graduating Seniors Breakfast**. Pastor Mike is leading the cooking team and may need a few extra hands.

Marti Busbee is handling decorating chores and she will need help with setting up tables and decorating May 24.

USHERS THIS MONTH

May 2022

8:30 a.m.
Jerry Gibson
Bill Bonnette

11:00 a.m.
Brad Floyd
Brady Floyd
Kristee Orr
Wayne Orr

*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 |

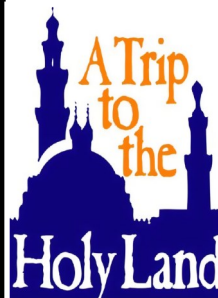
Thursday

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Line Dancing |
| 5:30-7:00 p.m. | Girl Scouts meet in J.O.Y Hall |

* May 18th is last WNL for the summer. Youth may meet, Joseph will keep Youth informed. See Youth section for summer dates.

Communion Rail Offering

**May
FUMC Scholarship Fund**



There is a sign-up sheet located in the Sanctuary Narthex for an informational meeting concerning a November 2023 trip to the Holy Land. If you are interested, please sign up: A date for the presentation will soon be announced.

The presentation is for information and/or questions only. No commitments will be required at this time.

Thank you, Susan Jarrell

The Custom of “Pounding”

Pounding is a ritual in Christianity in which a new priest or minister is given gifts by members of the congregation of that church at which he is assigned to preach. The practice can be traced back to at least the 19th century, when communicants of a church visited the parsonage and dropped off a pound of an item, such as coffee, sugar, flour or honey. The practice of pounding takes place across Christendom, in the countries of Africa as well as those of North America. It is done throughout many Christian denominations, including the Methodist, United Brethren, and Quaker traditions, among others.

The Open Door Sunday School class members gave new employee Pete O’Neal a “pounding” April 24th. Pete has taken residence in the Youth Director House adjacent to J.O.Y. Hall. While Pete is not a minister, this custom was modified for 2022 to include our Media Coordinator.



Gifts and gift cards (even easy to spend cash) played a part in the pounding!



**Operation Christmas
Child Shoebox
Packing Party
July 13, 2022 in
J.O.Y. Hall**

**Time will be
announced in June.**



BELLS ARE RINGING!!!



This month I would like to introduce you to Janet Lundy!

Janet visited our church one Sunday when the bells happened to be playing. I introduced myself and she told me that she played

bells. The position that I had open just happened to be the bells she was familiar with.

Janet recently joined our church and has been a blessing to all the music programs. She sings in the choir as well as rings in the handbell choir. Janet is such a joy and we are so fortunate to have such an enthusiastic member!

The handbells will be playing on Sunday, June 5 at both services. We will be playing our patriotic pieces so come and wear your red, white and blue!!

Till next month,
Becky Bradfield



CHOIR NOTES



The Choir is planning to participate in another musical

event in New York City in the fall of 2022, not in Carnegie Hall this trip, but in renovated Lincoln Center.

They will join other small congregational choirs who travel from throughout the United States to take part in the concert.

The Choir plans several fundraisers this summer to help with travel expenses. Your participation in these fundraisers will be sincerely appreciated.

THANK YOU Church family, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for the donations for my new house.

It feels like home!
Pete O'Neal

YOUTH NEWS

May 2022

Hey Church and Youth Families:

I hope all is well with you. I have been praying that our youth will find the love of Christ in all they do as they prepare to finish up this school year.

During our WNL youth service we are taking a look at how we use the screens in our lives. We are challenging our youth to consider the effects media has on their hearts and minds. It has been fun and interesting to reveal where we spend the majority of our free time.

We have a lot of things coming up for the rest of this year and into the summer. Please mark your calendars!

We are still fleshing out some of the ideas and details for this summer, but I wanted to make sure you were aware of what is being planned. I will be contacting the youth directly at youth services and via text to help get them pumped!

Keep a watch of the church Facebook page and website for further information and details.

Joseph

e

May 6&7 Mother's Day Rose Bush Fundraiser

May 12 Emergency Medical Training church-wide

May 15 Parent Camp Meeting after church in The Well

May 22 Senior Sunday with lunch following the 11am service. Seniors are asked to RSVP with the church office so that they may have a table prepared for them.

May 29 Youth Sunday Service

June 4... Youth Trip to Six Flags 8:30am-10:00pm (Adult leaders and helpers needed)

June 19-25 Church Camp, Glorieta, New Mexico

July 10 Mission Trip Final prep meeting after church in The Well

July 17. Frisco Roughriders Baseball Game (Adult leaders and helpers needed)

July 20-24 Big House Mission Trip, Frankston, TX

July 29 Danny Gokey Concert in Tyler, TX



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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

WNL Events will be announced



To the Quitman High School Track team for making District Champions and advancing to Area. The next step for some will be State Meet since placing in the top four in the Area Meet

Softball is stirring up some dust with making it to the Playoffs. This will be the first appearance in several years.

Seniors will be provided a table to "show off" their accomplishments and achievements as well as future plans on Senior Sunday, May 22nd. Lunch will be served after the 11:00 am service. Please RSVP to church office so that we can provide a meal for everyone


Children's
MINISTRY



Liberty Lines

By: John Sparks

Crafty Christians, the quilting and sewing crafts organization, is approaching its 20th year of sustained activity. The group was started during the Pastorship of Jay Jackson by ladies from the two Methodist Churches—First United Methodist Church of Quitman and Liberty United Methodist Church—serving the citizens of Quitman and the rural Wood County area immediately East of Quitman.

The two Churches have established long histories of community service and Christian-based outreach leadership through their members and ministers. Crafty Christians, of course, is one such expression. Among the founding members, Teddy Shampine and Donna Bengé remain active all these years later.

Production was established in Liberty's Fellowship Hall where the group has met nearly every week since to produce the quilts.

Current members include Cathy Goodman, Connie Holiday, Priscilla Massey, Joanne Nelson and Billie Wilder in addition to Shampine and Bengé. About two years ago, the group accepted a quilting machine—which makes the process of quilt-making much easier and the quilters more efficient. The machine was donated to the group by Missy Duke, daughter-in-law of Gary and Joyce Duke and coordinated by Crafty Christians member Priscilla Massey.

During most of its history, the Crafty Christians group donated the majority production of quilts to Parkland Hospital and a few local organizations, such as Rainbow Room, Wood County Advocacy Center, Highway 80 Mission, and the Quitman Hospital among others. However, Shampine was advised by Parkland that the Parkland had enough inventory and continuing local suppliers that they could no longer accept quilts from the organization. Teddy panicked at the news and sought out other outreach organizations who distributed quilts. She found Linus Project which conveniently had a staffed-operation in nearby Tyler.

The two organizations immediately agreed to work together to assure distribution of the Crafty Christians created quilts. A total of 76 quilts had been distributed through Linus after 18 months of the agreement. And, earlier this month Linus picked up 40 additional quilts.

Anyone interested in exploring membership in Crafty Christians should speak to any of the members listed above.



May 1 Lynda Gibson
May 6 Connie Holliday
May 19 David Hicks
May 24 Candi Fry
May 25 Bill Fry
May 27 Andy Smith

May 1 Gin & Sam Lange
May 12 Chuck & Donna Holt
May 28 John & Kay Redmon



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 4-50-22

YTD Giving: \$43,534.57
YTD Expenses: \$28,692.62



Holy Communion Offering
Methodist Retirement Home



CRAFTY CHRISTIANS

Anita Nance
Donna Bengé
Priscilla Massey
Teddy Shampine
JoAnna Nelsom
Connie Holliday
Kathy Goodman



May 8, 2022

Honoring Mothers

*Special Videos both
services*

Come and Join Us!

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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Quitman, TX

“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”