



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

July 2022

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



In June of 2021, the Barna Group shared some statistics on PRAYER. The article I read said, “Currently, Barna data show that the majority of Americans (64%) pray to God at least once every seven days, though this percentage has been dipping since 2012 (which saw a national average of 83%). Keep in mind, prayerful Americans are not only those who practice the Christian faith—people of various religious backgrounds, and even those who don’t adhere to a religion, pray to God.” Somehow, Barna has also figured out which cities pray the most. I do not know how, but they share the following:

- Monroe, LA (94%)
- Evansville, IN (93%)
- Augusta, GA (91%)
- Tyler-Longview-Lufkin-Nacogdoches, TX (90%)
- Montgomery, AL (90%)
- Florence-Myrtle Beach, FL (90%)

You won’t be surprised to know that the topic of prayer turns up a lot in the Bible. I once tried to look up how many times PRAYER was mentioned in the Bible, and I came up with the number of 498 times. But prayer mentioned is not nearly as cool as prayer displayed. Take for instance Psalm 119. And I mean take a deep look at this psalm. It is an acrostic psalm. In fact, it is THE acrostic poem in the Old Testament. This means that each section of this psalm begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. There are then, 22 sections because there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Each section has 8 lines, and each line begins with the same Hebrew letter, but with different Hebrew words. The psalmist wanted us to see that this psalm covers everything in creation – completeness. The topics covered are many. Prayers for a spiritual life, prayers for comfort in crisis, prayers about life’s problems, and prayers about how we honor God with our life. There is much more of course, it is the longest psalm of all. But readers in the ancient world would have found this psalm very precious. It is a guide on how to have a happy life. In fact, the very first word of the psalm is *ashre* – which means ‘happy’.

Rolf Jacobson is Professor of Old Testament and Alvin N. Rogness Chair in Scripture, Theology, and Ministry at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minn. Writing about this psalm he said:

“At the heart of these petitions is a very realistic theological anthropology. The psalmist knows that we cannot by our own strength or effort, believe in God, keep God’s word, or defeat the power of sin. That is, left to our own will, we cannot maintain a relationship with God. We cannot keep our feet on the narrow path. We cannot defeat sin. Therefore, we need guidance (a light to shine in our darkness) and we need rescue (from ourselves and from other human powers) and we need blessing. In short, we need a teacher: God.”

This is a person who longs for God. This is a person who wants God to be involved in everything. This is a person who wants God to be the light to her/his path. Always. Every minute of the day. But included in this psalm is more than just heart-felt attraction to God. This psalmist has a mind. Understanding God’s word is just as important as feeling God there. Every verse adds something about understanding God’s Word in the Bible. So, how is your prayer life? Mike

Happy Birthday

July 3 Pete Andres	July 16 Logan Simpkins
July 4 Sandra Mott	July 17 Grayson Baker
July 4 Austin Dobbs	July 20 Mary Wimp
July 4 Elizabeth Taylor	July 20 Doug Lee
July 7 Mary Anne Fitzgerald	July 21 Teresa Dunn
July 7 Greg Simpkins	July 21 Jason Edwards
July 7 Mark Ward	July 24 Nicholas
July 11 Diane Moseley	Poppenhusen
July 11 Mary Phipps	July 27 Susan Ukleja
July 15 Brad Gibson	July 31 Julianne Hampton
July 15 Jimmy Johns	July 31 Sally Seekins
July 16 Marja Heinert	July 31 Shirley O'Neal



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

Taste n See: Summer 2022

A fellowship Bible study for young women in our community

Summer Gathering Dates

July 10, 2022
August 14, 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.



July 2022

8:30 a.m.

Bill Bonnette
Keith and JoAnn Zimmerman

*11:00 a.m.

Michelle Dobbs, Abby Dobbs,
Kevan Burroughs, Ava Burroughs

***We need ushers! Please call the church office to volunteer.**

Financial Update (As of)

(YTD) Giving: \$ 218,560
(YTD) Expenses: \$ 229,151
(YTD) Budgeted Expenses: \$ 222,204

*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 (summer break)

Wednesday

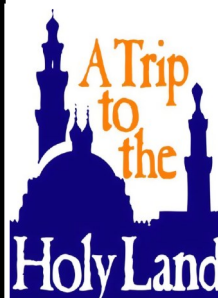
6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (summer break)
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Thursday

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

Communion Rail Offering

Wood County Child Protection Board



There will be an informational meeting for the Holy Land trip on July 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Open Door Classroom. All who are interested should attend, if possible.

Rebecca Owens, of Owens Travel, will present a video and review the itinerary for the **2023** trip scheduled for November 7-17.

Susan Jarrell



This year is for you Class of 2022



Dear QFUMC,

I ~~to~~ wanted to thank you for awarding me with the scholarship this year. I appreciate all that you do for our youth. Thank you again for all the memories you've allowed us to make growing up in this church. Best of wishes for the future!

Love,
Brooklyn Marcee

To My Church Family and Scholarship Committee:

Thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the First United Methodist Church \$1,000 scholarship. I feel blessed by your willingness to invest in me and my future. Thank you also for your recognition of us seniors with the Senior Sunday lunch and senior tables.

Many blessings to you all,
Avery von Reyn

Dear FUMC,

First of all, thank you very much for the scholarship. These funds are greatly appreciated and will be put to immediate use as I begin to navigate life at ORA in the next few weeks. Secondly, thank you for the senior celebration. It was so fun getting to be with my FUMC classmates, their families and our church family. I recieved money on the money tree from several, and while I do not know who these individuals are, please accept my thanks on their behalf.

Thank yall so very much for all the love and support throughout my childhood until ~~as~~ now. I love yall!

#MavUp
Ava Burroughs

Pastor Mike

Thank you for the bag of goodies and for making us feel special on Senior Sunday.

Parker Simpkins

Continued next page

I am honored to be a recipient of the \$1000 First United Methodist Church of Quitman Scholarship, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support.

This fall I will begin my studies at the University of Texas at Arlington to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Once I've obtained my degree, I plan to apply to their Master of Science in Nursing program to become a Nurse Practitioner. Upon successful completion, I hope to return to Quitman, TX to serve my community as a Nurse Practitioner where I can make a positive difference in people's lives.

By awarding me the First United Methodist Church of Quitman Scholarship you have lightened my financial burden which will allow me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Donors like you make life brighter and I can only hope that one day, I too will be in a position to bring a smile to another student.

I cannot express my gratitude enough, and I want you to know that your generous support will see me achieve my dreams at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Sincerely,

Alexis O'Neal

Alexis O'Neal

BELLS ARE RINGING!!!



July and August
Summer Break

CHOIR NOTES



July and August
Summer Break



PACK A SHOEBOX

Send **Good News** and **Great Joy**

LEARN MORE AT TCCNJ.CHURCH



The Operation Christmas Child church-wide shoebox packing party will be in August or September in J.O.Y. Hall. Please start gathering items that can be used for packing shoeboxes this fall. There will be a box in the Narthex starting July 10 to place items donated for the packing party.

YOUTH NEWS

July 2022

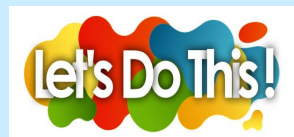


July 10 Mission Trip Final prep meeting after church in The Well

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

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

July 31 Youth Sunday



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Night 5:30-7:00

WNL Events will be announced

Six sleepless nights, 1,452 miles later, in two rental cars and a limping bus, the youth group returned to Quitman, TX. Sounds like a Hallmark movie. Church, I want to personally thank you for allowing me the privilege of leading our youth to camp this summer. It is an honor to be trusted with the youth and to be trusted not to lose any youth on our trip. It was a crazy week with tremendous sensory overload for our youth. They got to experience things they may never experience again. They were amazed at the beauty of the mountains and the unexpected sights during the ride. There was confirmation for me as I listened to the conversations in the bus going to camp. The conversations started all about the video games and the latest Tik-Tok videos that they had seen. By the time we left Amarillo the conversations transitioned into how amazing the sights were and the excitement of Cadillac Ranch. We had students focused on the changing environment and the vastness of West Texas that they forgot their phones and videos for a while. Once we entered into New Mexico, our students began to get excited about the mountains. We ended our driving with the youth mesmerized by the size of real mountains.

As our youth said, the worship was phenomenal. The speaker did an awesome job of relating the truth that God has so much more in store for their lives. The first night was a celebration and the last night was a celebration. I loved hearing some of our students speak about the concert at the beginning of the week and later they spoke of that same experience as worship. Lives were touched and authentic worship was experienced by our youth and leaders.

I would like to encourage you, in the next few days, to check out the church website and find the youth page. There are hundreds if not thousands of pictures from our trip to and from camp. There are interviews with the youth and leaders. There is also the video from our Sunday worship service when we returned. Several posts were made on the church Facebook page as well. There will also be some blog entries that will discuss some of the experiences from camp. We will be talking about this week for a little while.

We still have some excitement for the summer. We have our Mission Trip coming up in July. There will be a parent meeting on July 10th after church in the Well. We also have our RoughRider Baseball game that we are going to on July 17th.

Joseph



Children's MINISTRY

Hello All!!!

We had another great VBS! Such a blessing to our church and community. We had about 65-85 kiddos every day and more importantly everyone that came, made it home safely! They also had a great time and enjoyed learning about God. Thanks to the support of so many volunteers and individuals that chose to invest in our communities children!

Mark your calendars for next year, last week of June 2023!



"No, I'm not Sparky! We're just good friends."



"Teresa, let's tell them a story...a Bible Story" - Bill



"Hey, aren't you the bus man?"



"I got this." - David



"La la la la!!!"

Liberty Lines

By: John Sparks

In last month's *Lines*, I reviewed the decades old debate within the Methodist denomination regarding acceptance/unacceptance of gay clergy and gay lifestyle. The disagreement between liberal-oriented individuals and conservative-oriented individuals within the church have been at issue since 1972. Argued, debated and studied, the chasm has proven to be so wide that a separation of the two thought groups within the existing UNITED Methodist structure has proved irresolvable.

Thus, there will be a split of the major factions into at least two separate organizations. The impact on local congregations is choosing an organizational path forward. Liberal congregations will apparently retain the name (United Methodist) and symbol (Cross & Flame). Conservative congregations will re-identify.

Two such emerging re-identifying organizations are "Free Methodist," which has existed for several years and "Global Methodist" which officially launched on May 1, 2022. A third possibility for individual congregations is an "unaffiliated" status.

This issue I am featuring a brief review of the fledging Global Methodist Church organization catering to the conservative split-off congregations.

"The Global Methodist Church will warmly welcome people eager to join others in fulfilling its mission," said the Rev. Keith Boyette, Chairman of the Transitional Leadership Council and President of the Wesleyan Covenant Association. After having worked for years to renew and reform the United Methodist Church, in late 2019, theological conservatives faithfully joined leading UM Church bishops, and leaders in centrist and progressive advocacy groups to hammer out an amicable and orderly plan to divide the UM denomination.

That plan, known as the *Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation*, rapidly gained the support of people across the UM connection. It appeared headed for approval at the denomination's May 2020 General Conference. Unfortunately, after two previous postponements, UM officials announced still another General Conference postponement due to worldwide covid-19 related travel restrictions.

Consequently, the *Protocol* could not be adopted this year, so faithful and patient Methodists will not be afforded the opportunity to part ways with the UM Church according to the *Protocol's* yet to be approved terms. Under its draft provisions, however, every theologically conservative local church and annual conference would be allowed to join the Global Methodist Church with clear title to all of their property and assets in perpetuity.

It is anticipated that some theologically conservative local churches will find annual conferences willing to negotiate fair and just exit provisions, while others unfortunately face obstacles placed in their paths. The Transitional Leadership Council decided it was time to launch the Global Methodist Church, so those who can leave early will have a place to land, to begin building and growing, and making room for others to join later.

Cont'd on back page



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 June 26, 2022

YTD Giving: \$63,545.97
YTD Expenses: \$45,818.99



Holy Communion Offering

Crafty Christians

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 13 John Sparks
July 27 Sharon Clifton
July 29 DEoyle Nelson
July 30 Donna Benge
July 30 Carolyn Hicks
July 30 Neva Potts

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 3 Sam & Clarece Hill
July 18 Ron & Kathy Goodman

Liberty Lines cont'd

Over the past two years the *Transitional Leadership Conference* has met on almost a weekly basis to create a Global Methodist Church in *formation*. Through the work of the Wesleyan Covenant Associations Global Council, Legislative assembly and dozens of task force teams that prepared white papers covering a host of issues, the members prepared a *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. This Book will govern the church during a transitional period prior to a convening General Conference in the next 12-to 18-months. The *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines* and much of the Transitional Leadership Council's work can be found on the new church's website, <https://globalmethodist.org>, and in Crossroads, the weekly e-newsletter it publishes. Persons and churches interested in aligning with the Global Methodist Church may express their interests through the new website.

"Many United Methodists have grown impatient with a denomination clearly struggling to function effectively at the general church level," said Boyette. "Theologically conservative local churches and annual conferences want to be free of divisive and destructive debates, and to have the freedom to move forward together. We are confident many existing congregations will join the new Global Methodist Church in waves over the next few years, and new church plants will sprout up as faithful members exit the UM church and coalesce into new congregations."



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

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Quitman, TX

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.

"Transforming God's Children Into Disciples"