



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

September 2022

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



Want to know if you're happy? According to an article I read there are 5 things that indicate our level of happiness.

#5 – Since 1972 the University of Chicago has done research which continuously shows that happy people watch about 30% less TV than unhappy people. Circumstances don't matter either. The results were the same despite social level, income, job status or other conditions. Happy people average about 19 hours per week. Unhappier people average 25 hours a week. The Reasons: the lower TV crowd spends more time with friends, volunteering, getting involved in Church and generally gets out more.

#4 – Relationships make us happy. Strained relationships make us unhappy. You know this. But those of us with a small circle of friends have a harder time than others because we don't try to broaden our circles and meet new people (something that has been proven to lift our spirits).

#3 – Stress... less is good, more is bad. Meeting new people lowers stress and combats depression.

#2 – What do we seek? According to psychologist Phillip Brickman, if we are constantly seeking some new thing to make us happy, we might well be on the “*hedonic treadmill*” or, in an endless search for something newer and better to make us happy. Pleasure is fleeting and temporary. Contentment is a long-lasting acceptance and enjoyment of your circumstances and surroundings.

#1 – Sleepless nights...what a misery! A psychology professor at the University of Michigan calculated the happiness boost we get from one extra hour of sleep as the same as getting a \$60,000 raise! NEED WE SAY MORE?

We can add these from the Mayo Clinic: Live in the moment, find a purpose, express gratitude, and have appreciation for what we have. But...

I did research on many different sites to see what people, experts, scientists, and others say about how we arrive at happiness and contentment. Do you know that almost every single place I looked there was one common item on the list. You can see hints of it above. **Invest in relationships!** All kinds of them! New ones, old ones, current ones too. Who did you invite to church this week? Last week? Last month? Who is waiting for your special friendship and for a place to belong in a pew next to you?

Based on all this data I have a theory. Turn off the TV, go out and meet people, invite them to church, and help them adapt to the surroundings here. Isn't it amazing that doing discipleship will make us happy? Now excuse me, I'm going to go get that extra hour of sleep...

Mike

Meal Teams for WNL*

- Sept. 7 Life Class
- Sept. 14 Covenant Class
- Sept. 21 Journey Class
- Sept. 28 Open Door Class, Pizza
- Oct. 8 Life Class
- Oct. 12 Covenant
- Oct. 19 Journey Class
- Oct. 26 Open Door Class, Pizza
- Nov. 2 Life Class
- Nov. 9 Covenant Class
- Nov. 16 Journey Class
- Nov. 24 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 7 Covenant Class



*Please call Martha, church office, (903)763-4127 to pick up credit card for food purchase or to order from Ben E. Keith one week prior to designated date for meal.



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Beth Aikman | Jack Neel |
| Bob Asmussen | Jerry Nichols |
| Elaine Asmussen | Marilyn Odom |
| Mickey Barnett | Bobby Phipps |
| Harriett Bevil | Mary Phipps |
| Bert & Darlene Blair | Gary Simpkins |
| Betty Bozeman | Brian White |
| Wally Bradfield | Mary Wimp |
| Ann Crawford | Ron Wimp |
| Lynn Emmert | |
| Bruce Grider | |
| Mike Kostial | |

Taste n See: Fall 2022

A Bible study fellowship with dinner for young women in our community

“Experiencing the Heart of Jesus” by Max Lucado

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| September 11 | Lesson Three |
| October 9 | Lesson Four |
| November 13 | Lesson Five |
| December 11 | Lesson Six |

6-7:30 pm at Lost Creek Ranch

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



September

8:30 a.m.

Jerry Gibson
Bill McPherson

11:00 a.m.

Steve Straznicky, Gail Lumley
Shelby Tackett, Kingston Straznicky

***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 (First Sunday Only)

Monday

- 9:00 a.m. Line Dancing
- 5:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal will start Aug. 8
- 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts, JOY Hall

Wednesday

- 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live (WNL) Meal
- 6:00 p.m. WNL Bible Studies
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

Sept. 17, 10:30-11:30 am, J.O.Y. Hall
All-church (Liberty and FUMC)
Q & A session over the issues and decisions facing the church.



**Communion Rail Offering
OCC The Great Journey**



The First United Methodist Church of Quitman is seeking a part-time (15 hours per week) Children's Ministry Coordinator to join the church staff. Working with children from infants through fifth grade, the Coordinator's goal is to facilitate Christian Biblical Learning with fun and exciting programs that help children grow in their faith.

Responsibilities include Sunday School, the church nursery, Wednesday Night Live classes, Vacation Bible School (VBS), and other special children's events.

Applications and job descriptions are available from office@fumcquitman.org. For more information, call 903-763-4127

Happy Birthday

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Fall 2022, 9:30-11:00 a.m., FUMC Life Classroom

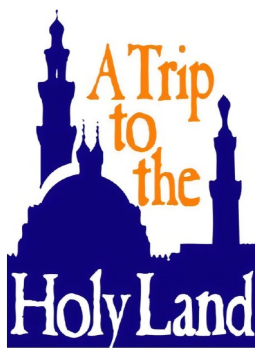


Come September 13th to receive a study book for this fall session and to begin our discussion. We will conclude this study before Thanksgiving.

Sharon Thomas, 903-765-3137
sharonnthomas@yahoo.com

Financial Update (As of 8-25-22)

(YTD) Giving: \$ 270,657
(YTD) Expenses: \$ 299,340
(YTD) Budgeted Expenses: \$ 296,400



Holy Land Trip information is available in the church office. The dates for travel are November 7-17, 2023.

This trip is arranged through Rebecca Owens of Owens Travel. Church coordinator is Susan Jarrell.

- Sept. 3 Michelle Cameron
- Sept. 3 Susan Kincaid
- Sept. 3 Penny Peek
- Sept. 4 Trey Neighbors
- Sept. 4 Keith Zimmerman
- Sept. 4 Steve Straznicky
- Sept. 5 Wally Bradfield
- Sept. 5 Ann Crawford
- Sept. 5 Doris Wilson
- Sept. 5 Joe Fitzgerald
- Sept. 8 Bill Bennett
- Sept. 9 Lina Patterson
- Sept, 10 Katelyn De Gorostiza
- Sept. 11 Joanne Terry
- Sept. 14 Jane Herring
- Sept. 16 Mary Fette
- Sept. 17 Sharon Thomas
- Sept. 19 Bill Hedges
- Sept. 20 Pete O'Neal
- Sept. 21 Tracie Jackson
- Sept. 21 Kathe Pickle
- Sept, 23 Becky McPherson
- Sept. 24 Kay Andres
- Sept. 25 Rita Johns
- Sept. 26 Christy Floyd
- Sept. 27 Deena Eberhardt
- Sept. 29 Fran McKinney

"Be That Church"



SEND GOOD NEWS & GREAT JOY

An Operation Christmas Child church-wide shoebox packing party is planned for November 2, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm in J.O.Y. Hall. Please start gathering items that can be used for packing shoeboxes this fall. If you don't have time to pack a box but would like to participate, donations will be accepted to cover both shoebox items and the shipping expense incurred for the boxes. The Youth Ministry is adopting Operations Christmas child as a mission: you will be hearing more through the youth and regular announcements.

There will be boxes in the Narthex to place items prior to the packing party.

FUMC Quitman and the **Quitman Rotary Club** have partnered to support the **QISD Backpack Program** again this school year. The Program provides weekend meals to QISD children whose families need assistance. Funding for the Backpack Program comes from Rail Offerings, locally provided grants, member donations, and a contribution from the Rotary Club.

Once a month, the food items needed for the month are ordered from the East Texas Food Bank (ETFB) in Tyler. Rotarians then pick up the food items from ETFB and store them in a special FUMC pantry. Every Thursday, two Rotarians or other volunteers pack the food items at FUMC and deliver them to the Quitman Elementary School where they are distributed to qualified students each Friday at the end of the day.

What is provided?: easy-to-prepare protein items and vegetables, cereals and milk, fruit and fruit juice. Currently, sixty children receive these food items each week. It is anticipated that this number will increase as the year progresses.

If you would like to volunteer to help pack the food items on Thursdays, please call the church office (903)763-4127 for an available date. Keith Zimmerman is the leader of the Backpack Program.



CHOIR NOTES



Choir has started after a good summer break. If you sing and would like to be a part of leading in worship, come join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00.

Last month I asked you to save a date in September for a community gospel evening. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, we need to change that date to mid-October. We will be getting that new date out ASAP! We want to have a wonderful evening of worship, fun and fellowship with the greater Quitman community. We will be singing your favorite hymns and songs and listening to some great talent around our community. If you play an instrument or would like to be a part of an ensemble, let me know. You can contact me at mozziecat@outlook.com.

We will begin practicing for our Christmas worship service starting in September. If you can't be a part of our weekly choir, but would like to sing with us for the Christmas service, let me know and I can get you the schedule for Christmas music practices.

Keep Singing His Praise
Vickie Smolek



There will be a Q & A Meeting September 17, 10:30 am in J.O.Y. Hall to answer questions and concerns of FUMC and Liberty UMC members regarding the disaffiliation issues facing our churches.



COMPARISON OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

There are some areas where the two denominations are very similar:

- **Connectional conference** structure is very similar with both having General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, Annual Conference, District Conference, and Charge/Church Conference.
- **Local church organization** is with Church Council, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and Nominations.
- Both groups practice **baptism** with the Wesleyan understanding of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.
- Both groups emphasize the importance of the **confirmation** process for children.
- **Pastor appointment** is very similar with the bishop making appointments with consultation.
- **District Superintendents** (Presiding Elders in the GMC) oversee the pastors and churches within a district.

There are some areas where the two denominations are slightly different:

- The UMC **mission** is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
GMC’s mission: “make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.”
- **Bishops** are elected for life in the UMC. Six-year term limits are imposed in the GMC.
- The GMC does not require a seminary degree for **ordination** as an elder or deacon.
- The UMC teaching on **human sexuality** affirms the sacred worth of all people and states that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The GMC says human sexuality is a gift of God to be exercised only between a man and woman with the covenant of marriage and gender is defined at birth.

There are some key areas where the two denominations are very different:

- The UMC espouses a broad perspective as it relates to clergy and local church beliefs so that pastors and churches can preach and teach **theological views** from very conservative to very progressive.
The GMC requires that churches and clergy teach and preach traditional biblical and Wesleyan doctrines. If churches or clergy fail to teach orthodox Wesleyan theology they can be removed.
- The GMC is a **new movement** while the UMC has been around since 1968.
The GMC’s “Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline” is only a starting point with emphasis placed on “transitional.” There could be significant changes when the GMC convenes its first conference in 2023.
With many conservatives exiting the UMC, there likely will be changes at its next General Conference.
- **Local church property** is held in trust by the Annual Conference in the UMC. In the GMC, the local church has full ownership and control of their property.
- **The ordination of pastors** are similar but for the UMC someone sensing a call to ministry enters a candidacy process, followed by commissioning, and then ordination as an elder OR they can go through the course of study process to become a local pastor.
In the GMC, there is only one process that involves candidacy, ordination as a deacon, then ordination as an elder. When called to be the lead pastor of a church, deacons will be moving eventually toward ordination as an elder. There are no GMC clergy known as “local pastors”.
- **Apportionments** are capped in the GMC at 1.5% for general church ministry and 5% for annual conference ministry. The percentage is calculated off a local church’s operating income from the previous year.
In the UMC, there is no cap and a local church’s portion is calculated off operating expenses from a 3-year average of prior years.
- **Apportionment costs** will likely be lower for GMC churches, but a church can be asked to leave the denomination if they persistently fail to pay their apportionments on time. The UMC does not have a clear accountability process.
- **Social Principles** are not binding on clergy or the local churches in the UMC.
GMC clergy and local churches must agree to support and teach the Social Witness.
- Ordained elders are guaranteed an **appointment** in the UMC but not in the GMC.
- **Clergy retirement** is mandatory at 72 in the UMC. The GMC has no mandatory retirement, but a pastor may choose “senior status” which removes their obligation to be appointed.

There are many other differences outlined in the Disciplines of each denomination, but we have tried to highlight some of the key ones. Please see the expanded version of this comparison at <https://fumcquitman.org>.

YOUTH NEWS

September 2022

WOW! We flew through the summer months. All I remember is we were selling roses to raise money for our summer events and now here we are sending our kids off to a new school year. Now that the kids are gone, we can breathe for just a moment.

We are in the process of wrapping up the year for youth ministry. Most youth ministries have a yearly calendar that coincides with the local school district which means that our year is from September to the following August. So here we are finishing our first year of ministry at FUMC. Looking back, we had a busy year. It was fun, none the less, and we look forward to the coming year.

Thank you to those that participated in our “Wrap Up and Build Up” that we conducted the last Sunday of August. We spent time evaluating nearly everything that we did as a youth ministry and received great feedback. Moving forward, there will soon be information and calendars about what is coming this year. As always, we are looking for individuals that want to invest in our youth.

We also want to give you information about the youth that graduated this past May. Below you will find address for the youth that have moved to their campus locations. Being away from home and making new connections is challenging at times. Words from those that we know and feeling their support and love can make these transitions a little lighter. Please feel free to send letters or notes of encouragement to our youth away from home.

Mitchel Fry; Room 133, Sneed - TTU; 2508 Broadway; Lubbock, TX 79406.

Christian Adamson; PMB 350290 2301 Vanderbilt Place Nashville, TN 37235-0290

Ava Burroughs; KC Hall Attn Ava Burroughs 901 S Oak St, Room 146A
Arlington, TX 76010

Brooklyn Marcee; 3101 S. Taylor Street, Apt #1245 Little Rock, AR 72204

Parker Simpkins; 407 West Highland Avenue Apt. 1H, Nevada, MO 64772
(Graduating in October)

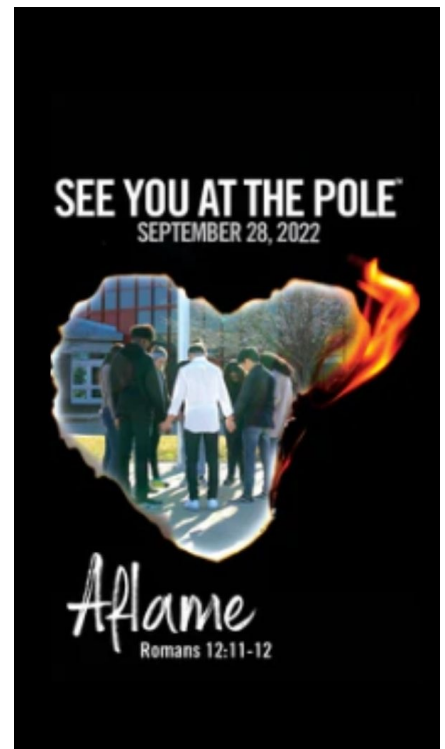
Alexis O’Neal; 300 W. First Street, Box 191446, Arlington, TX 76019

Ethan Reynolds will be graduating Air Force Boot Camp this week. He will be on his way to Shepherd Air Force Base for his technical school. Next step will be to Pensacola, FL to finish schooling.

May we all continue to pray for our students, teachers, school staff, and parents as they navigate through school. Each day is a new challenge and a new opportunity for all. Thank you for being a loving church to our youth.

We had a good event just as school started. This event was a community-wide outreach for anybody of any age to come together from multiple churches for worship, fellowship, and laughs. This event achieved its spiritual goals but not the participation level that we were hoping to see. But that is okay because at the end of the event God was glorified. Thanks to all who supported and encouraged the event, and thank you for those that attended. I pray you were blessed by being a part of this event.

Joseph



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Night Games

From 5:30-7:00 on the first
Sunday of each month.

WNL Events will be announced.

“Be That Church”

Liberty Lines

By: John Sparks

I

The writings I have presented about the formation of the **Global Methodist Church** has been resourced from material provided on the movement's web site. I urge each of us from both congregations to visit that web site as we all develop our own understanding of this alternative to the United Methodist Church.

Fenton explains that the founding council of the Global Methodist Church is methodically organizing for a faithful future. In the early stages of its formation saying... "the Methodist Church continues to welcome local churches into the new denomination and is now witnessing the coalescing of congregations into provisional annual conferences. Two provisional annual conferences have already formed, one in Bulgaria and another in South Georgia, U.S.A. Five transitional conference advisory teams are exploring the creation of provisional annual conferences in their areas, and additional teams are coming together in eleven other regions.

"We're further down the road than we thought we would be at this point" said the Rev. Keith Boyette. "Despite significant challenges and major roadblocks, theologically conservative United Methodist congregations are making their way to the GM Church and they're already connecting with others about their future together. We're doing all we can to facilitate that kind of coordination."

Early this year many local UM churches anticipated separation from the UM Church would happen in an amicable and orderly fashion after the denomination scheduled General Conference adopted the *Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation*. The Protocol created denomination-wide standards that local churches, and even whole annual conferences could use for parting ways from the UN Church.

While a number of local churches have voted to disaffiliate and many others are exploring the option, they all must await the approval of their UM annual conferences. Some annual conferences have scheduled special sessions later this year or early next year to approve disaffiliation requests. Many others will not consider requests until their regularly scheduled gatherings in May or June.

"Given the often-arduous pathways and sometimes confusing timelines for disaffiliation. I'm pleasantly surprised by the number of local churches that have already managed to join the GM Church," said the Rev. Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory, the TLC's Chairwoman. "These local churches are pushing us forward and they're doing a great job of resourcing and assisting others who want to join them."

In June, the TLC began recruiting GMC Organizers in various regions to act as advocates, allies and resource persons in behalf of local UM churches trying to disaffiliate



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 August 24, 2022

YTD Giving: \$79,800.43
YTD Expenses: \$65,596.40



Holy Communion Offering
C S Food Pantry

Happy Birthday!

August 16 John Massey
August 22 Ronnie Taylor

from the UM Church and joining the GM Church. As the organizers talk with other clergy and laity in their regions, they are also tasked with assessing when it right by appropriate for a critical mass of local churches trying to explore the formation of a provisional annual conference. One such advocate in our Conference is Rev. Burt Palmer from Kingwood United Methodist Church.

See you all at the meeting on September 17 in Quitman.



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”