



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

November 2022

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



FUMC Quitman has decided to remain United Methodist. Liberty UMC has voted to leave the UMC. Some of you are very disappointed in this outcome. Some of you are downright angry about it. Some of you are ok with how things are. And some of you are hurt. Of course, I did not have a vote in this whole process. But many of you have tried to figure out where I stand on this vote and where I stand on the church's future. And while I was intentionally neutral throughout this process, I feel like I can now tell you where I stand. As to the future, my prediction is that the church will be just fine. I do not believe the General Conference in 2024 will have the

votes to change anything about our rules, but we shall see.

As to this vote, I did try to hint to you what I think. Had both churches decided to leave, or both decided to stay, my approach to what I do would be the same. At ordination I was asked if I would uphold the rules of our church. And I faithfully said yes. Those rules have not changed. I don't know if they will. But I was also asked *“Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and his work?”* I also faithfully said YES to this question. I approved of the idea that Holy Scripture should be the foundation of my work.

So, for me, whether we had decided to go to the Global Methodist church, OR stay UMC, OR become independent, OR become Presbyterian, my choice would be the same. There is one overarching theme that describes a disciple who follows Christ, and that is Love. And where do I get that? I get it from my source for what I do, the Bible. **Now, let me be clear, not just one teeny tiny part of the Bible, but all of it.** So, when Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13, I can hear him speaking to me. And I know that a life in Christ must hear these words.

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

When I see people doing things I do not agree with, or I see someone raising the thermostat in church when I am dripping sweat!! I may need to check myself and remember that Paul also said: *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...”* (Philippians 2:3-5)

(Cont'd page 2)



All those times I have seen people be rotten to others, or leave worship because someone dared to sit in ‘their pew’, and I want to wring their necks, I am stopped in my tracks by Paul again:

“Now the works of the flesh are obvious...strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions...and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5)

When I meet someone who is downright unlovable, or hateful, or mean, and for a few moments I feel like pushing those people aside, I must remember Jesus saying that there is only one way to tell who His true disciples are: they are the ones who, “...have love for one another.” John 13:35

Of course, there are other passages I hear when I feel alone (Psalm 139), and others when I need encouragement (“Fear not...” Isaiah 41:10). There are passages that convict me when I know I have not acted in the right way. There are passages that inspire me. But the one thing I have learned as a Christian is that taking one passage of Scripture and disregarding all the others, is a very dangerous and slippery proposition. And when I face God in person and I am asked what I did for Christ in this life, and how I served Christ as his representative in this world, I want to be able to say that I tried to teach people how Scripture can save their eternal souls. How ALL of Scripture can save their eternal souls. I want to be able to say that I never cherry-picked the passages of Scripture, but that I held them all together as equally sacred. I promised God I would teach Holy Scripture because people’s souls depend on it. This is not always easy, often not what people want to hear.

But there you have it, where Mike stands on this vote.



Church members and visitors who attended the Jarvis Christian University Choir concert October 23rd in the FUMC sanctuary were blessed with beautiful and inspiring music.

“Under the direction of Bruce A. Thompson, the Choir has toured states throughout the South, Southwest and Midwest. In addition to receiving a special invitation to sing at Carnegie Hall, and major venues throughout Europe, the group will also record a CD in the Spring of 2023.”*

* Concert Program

Meal Teams for WNL*



- Nov. 2 Life Class
- Nov. 9 Covenant Class
- Nov. 16 Journey Class
- Nov. 24 No WNL - 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 | Beverly W. Johnson |
| Bob Asmussen | Mike Kostial |
| Elaine Asmussen | Jack Neel |
| Bill Bennett | Jerry Nichols |
| Mickey Barnett | Marilyn Odom |
| Harriett Bevil | Bobby Phipps |
| Bert & Darlene Blair | Mary Phipps |
| Betty Bozeman | Gary Simpkins |
| Wally Bradfield | Brian White |
| Ann Crawford | Mary Wimp |
| Lynn Emmert | Ron Wimp |
| Bruce Grider | Family of Ila Wisdom |

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

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 dinner table just for you.



November

8:30 a.m.

Jerry Gibson
Bill Bonnette

11:00 a.m.

Brad Floyd
Brady Floyd

***Mark Your Calendars**

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
- 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 Study All Ages
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

- 9:00 am Line Dancing

Sunday Nov. 6, 1:30 pm Church Council meeting in Celebration Room, JOY Hall, Everyone is welcome to attend Council Meetings.

**Communion Rail Offering
Christmas Sharing**

November Worship

- Nov. 6 All Saints Sunday
“A Chair at the Table”
Luke 20:27-38
- Nov. 13 Veterans’ Day
“The Haggai Era”
Haggai 1:15-2:9
- Nov. 20 Christ the King Sunday
Hanging of the Greens
“What Hope?”
Ephesians 1:11-23

BELLS ARE RINGING



We are finally feeling some hints of fall, cooler temps, falling leaves and a renewed spirit with grateful hearts for what we have. Thanksgiving is just around the corner!

The Bell Choir has been diligently working since August to prepare for some upcoming opportunities to ring God's Praises!! We will be playing on Sunday, November 13 at both services and we are preparing one of our pieces to be performed with our choir.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the 13th!

Becky

CHOIR NOTES



Thanks to everyone who joined us for our Gospel Evening this past month! It was a wonderful evening of sharing, singing and celebrating together. There is so much wonderful talent in our church! We will have to do it again - perhaps in the spring!

Speaking of all the talent I'm discovering; we are extending an open invitation to all who would like to sing with us in our upcoming Christmas worship program at the 11:00 service on December 11th. This will be a combined worship service, so if you are in the 8:30 service, you can come sing in the choir that week. We practice our Christmas music from 7-7:30 on Wednesday evenings. Feel free to come and join us!

Keep Singing His Praise, Vickie

YOUTH and CHILDREN NEWS

November 2022

Youth

I was reading an article the other day and I came across the term “Gen Alpha”. This term has been circulating in some educational circles. It hit me that we have yet another classification of individuals. We had the Greatest Generation pre-1928. We had the Silent Generation ranging from 1928-1946. We had the Baby Boomers 1946-1964. Then we had Generation X covering 1965-1976. Following came The Millennials (the problem generation) covering 1977-1995. We have just gotten used to Generation Z claiming those born in 1995-2010.

This Generation Alpha are those kids born from 2010 and on. They are being called Generation Alpha because they are the beginning of many new social dynamics. They are the first to be fully immersed online. Gen Alpha is the most diverse, the first to live in the most “unconventional” homes, the most globally accessible generation. Generation Alpha rises out of a fallen economy, a pandemic, offspring of Millennials and Gen Z meaning that Gen Alpha is also seen to be Generation Hope. This rising generation brings hope for a more adaptable, connected, diverse, and empowered group to lead the future.

These kids are not just pandemic toddlers: they are entering middle school and in just a few short years they will be deciding the future. Now is the time to bring them under solid Biblical guidance and offer the tools to bring equality, humility, acceptance, creativity, and bridge the online and personal worlds.

This generation is the most ethnically diverse, multiracial—global kids group ever. These students come from nonconventional families which is the new norm. This Generation is the streaming generation with global accessibility at their fingertips 24/7/365. These students can pick up a British accent from Peppa and in the same afternoon pick up Spanish or Mandarin from a video review or streaming games. So how do we reach this Generation Alpha?

We must be about observing diversity. Can these students see themselves in the narrative of the Gospel and in the church? We need people who are willing to have healthy conversations around the topics that affect this diverse group.

We must teach something that Google cannot. There is a sense of skepticism and constant questioning of things due to overstimulation and access to information. They are not concerned about five loaves and two fish or three fish and ten loaves. The details aren't as important to them as much as the reality that people were fed and nobody was turned away. We need to encourage and motivate this generation to move their hearts to a passionate and personal encounter with Christ. Head knowledge comes from Google, they need experience and present-day application. Real connections matter. PewResearch showed the average teen has 425 online and face-to-face friends. Sure, this generation does everything online but there is still a desire for real community connections inside and outside the streaming world. It will be through connections that this generation will move their hearts toward hope and purpose in Christ. Students cannot be underestimated. They are creative, intelligent, and complex. It is our job, in the church to use every tool possible to empower, equip, and encourage them to embrace their purpose in Christ. Students are not the future; they are the now.

You and I play a part in what lies ahead. I pray that we can be a community of people that will embrace this generation of students now knowing that there is hope through Christ.

Joseph

Children

We have amazing things happening to Children's Ministry right now.

Wednesday Night Live we are learning about shocking stories from the Bible and how these lessons help teach us biblical concepts for life. Sunday mornings we are learning about personal time with God, why a quiet time is important, and how to build a relationship with God. We are connecting the truth that Jesus is always by our side.

We have some super exciting things coming. I got little message from our dog named Comet: Santa is coming to town and he likes to have breakfast early on Saturdays!

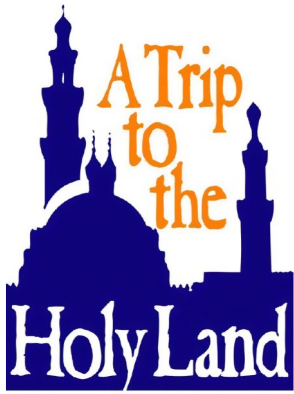
Jennifer



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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

WNL Events will be
announced.



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.



- Nov. 02 Don Thomas
- Nov. 04 Jerry Jackson
- Nov. 07 Emma Hatcher
- Nov. 08 Roy Faubion
- Nov. 08 Raymond Turner
- Nov. 10 Erica Cherry
- Nov. 11 Theresa Wilson
- Nov. 11 Kylie O'Neal
- Nov. 13 Brenda Taylor
- Nov. 15 Claudette Dixon
- Nov. 15 Gail Lumley
- Nov. 16 Julia Simpkins
- Nov. 17 Raelyn Peek
- Nov. 18 Cindy Cline
- Nov. 19 Wanda Haskett
- Nov. 19 Lisa Patterson
- Nov. 21 Cathy Roberts
- Nov. 22 Dalton Poppenhusen
- Nov. 22 Sam Scroggins
- Nov. 24 Bobbie Brown
- Nov. 26 Brad von Reyn
- Nov. 28 Robbie Turner
- Nov. 29 Raymond Peek

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

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



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

Financial Update (As of 10-20-2022)

(YTD) Giving: \$ 327,706
 (YTD) Expenses: \$ 364,836
 (YTD) Budgeted Expenses: \$ 357,211



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, monetary 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.

LIBERTY LINES

Jerry Price

Liberty voted on October 16 to disaffiliate from the UMC. There were 49 ballots cast with 42 in favor of disaffiliation. We have started the process of completing the paperwork for the UMC, preparing new Articles of Incorporation, website, signage etc. The UMC required steps are as follows:

11/14/22 Complete and file disaffiliation agreement with Texas UMC

11/21/22 TAC Board of Trustees considers request to disaffiliate

12/2/22 Special session of the TAC will consider the disaffiliation request

12/31/22 Disaffiliation Date: Liberty will be disaffiliated and the trust clause held by UMC will be released and Liberty will have full ownership and control of our property, banks accounts etc.

10/23 Liberty voted to join the Global Methodist Church (GMC) by a vote of 35 for GMC and 3 for Independent. We will submit paperwork to GMC to join their organization as soon as feasible.

Our current plan is to maintain our relationship with First Church and pastor Mike so long as possible. Liberty has had a long close relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at First Church..

Fall is here and it is an enjoyable time of year with plenty of activities. Everyone is invited to our **Liberty Quilt, Craft & Bake Sale on Saturday Nov 5. 9am-4pm**

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary

Nov. 18 Cindy Cline
Nov. 20 Dean Bengé

Nov. 16 Jerry & Jean Price
Nov. 21 James & Midge Cary



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 Oct. 23, 2022

YTD Giving: \$98,360
YTD Expenses: \$80,897



Holy Communion Offering
Christmas Sharing

Crafts and Bake Sale
Saturday, November 5, 2022
Hours: 9 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Liberty Church Fellowship Hall

Featuring:
A wide variety of hand-made Quilts in numerous sizes & designs. Fabric-clad Children's Books. Pillows, Christmas Ornaments & Holiday Décor Items, Much More

Snacks, Hot Dogs, Popcorn, Chips

Holiday Shopping

Holiday Toy & Food Drive

Saturday, November 19
8:00 - 10:30 am



Please come and drop off
a new un-wrapped toy and/or
a non-perishable food item.

The Courthouse Square in
Quitman, Texas



All donations will benefit the
children under CPS care in
Wood County and Christmas
Sharing holiday baskets.

Help us make Christmas merry for so many!
For more information contact us on
Facebook--Lake Country Classics Car Club
or Gary @ 805.340.6520



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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“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”