



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

December 2022
January 2023

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



Every few years, when we approach New Year's, I think it's interesting to see what people are predicting for our future. For example, some French scientists (Scientific American) are working on an Earthquake Acoustic Shield. Basically, scientists believe they can refract the energy of an earthquake around cities, redirecting that power to a place where less damage is done. Next year we will see TWO lunar eclipses and TWO solar eclipses! These, of course, will be accompanied by any number of wild predictions about the end of the world. There are always dire predictions.

But how many people are making positive predictions? I suppose these are not as glitzy. However, (and it should not surprise you to hear this from me) but we have God on our side. We are the church! Some people question the future of the church, which is unwise. But the more important question is what will our role be in it?

I recently bought a book with the catchy title Does Your Church Have a Prayer? – (In Mission Toward the Promised Land). I know this sounds negative, but the book really isn't. It does, however, ask some questions that I think we should all be aware of. Have we, like Peter (John 21) been fishing all day and all night in the same old lifeless waters without so much as a nibble?

Jesus called out to Peter in this case and told him to fish off the right side of the boat. We can see this as an invitation to fish in different waters. When we survey the promised land, do we see giants there? What are they?

What are the most fearsome giants we see that prevent us from being the church God calls us to be? Put another way, what obstacles do we see as too big or too insurmountable that they make us not even want to try to get to the Promised Land?

“What are the current challenges you face as a church? Are there congregational or neighborhood demographics, financial challenges, an aging facility...?” Does our vision of discipleship and how we invite others to church move beyond self-focused concerns? Have we looked within our walls for things that hinder us from living as God's people?

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The book asks if we have a tribe in our church called “the good old days”. It also asks if we have a tribe called “Apathy”. It asks us to identify our various tribes always with an eye out for the one tribe we really need the most – the Tribe of Remembering Encouragers. This tribe helps the church live into the calling of God. This tribe often asks, “How can we move forward together as a community of faith”? Are there things we should KEEP doing? Are there things we should STOP doing? And maybe most important of all, are there things we should START doing?

In the end this book asks an important question about which reality we choose. In other words, do we choose the negative reality where everything is grim and nothing good will happen, OR do we choose God’s reality? The one where miracles happen, where God makes a way where there is no way, where mountains move and life wins! In God’s reality people walk on water, new life is given, eyes are opened, and hearts are renewed! But...in order to enter the Promised Land one thing must happen. We must empty ourselves of our own agendas. We must let go of “the human need to win”, we must look to the interests of others, and embrace the mission of Christ. If we do, WOW what a journey it will be!

Mike

Welcome New Members!
Charles and Beverly Sawyer



The Sawyers transferred their membership to FUMC in November from Acton United Methodist Church of Hood County, Texas. They have also become members of the Open Door Sunday School Class.



Thanks to the Open Door Sunday School Class and many other church members who provided toys and nonperishable foods for the November Cruise-In sponsored by the Lake Country Classics Car Club.

We collected three classic pickups full of toys for the Rainbow Room and one very packed pickup for the

Christmas Sharing Food Pantry, plus over \$2,000 in cash gifts.

Again, FUMC demonstrated Christian leadership for those with need. You are appreciated.

Darrell Slabaugh

Lake Country Classic Car Club

Meal Teams for WNL*

Dec. 7 Covenant Class
Dec. 14 Covenant Class



A 2023 meal sign-up schedule will be generated to the Sunday School classes for Spring 2023.



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
Lynda Gibson	Ron Wimp
Bruce Grider	

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

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.



December & January

8:30 a.m.

Bill McPherson
Randall Gary

11:00 a.m.

Steven Fulce
Peyton Krutcher

*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

December Worship

Dec. 4	2nd Sunday of Advent Romans 15:4-13 “Snails in Heaven”
Dec. 11	3rd Sunday of Advent (Christmas Choir/No 8:30 Service) Isaiah 15:4-7a “Racing Hearts”
Dec. 18	4th Sunday of Advent Matthew 1:18-25 “Joseph in the Coffee Shop”
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Service, JOY Hall 7:00 pm Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
Dec. 25	Christmas Day at 10:00am w/Liberty Luke 2:1-10 “Why Shepherds?”
Jan. 01	New Year’s Day at 10:00 am w/Liberty Revelation 21:1-6 “All Things New”

Communion Rail Offering

Christmas Sharing

“Let’s be the Church that Jesus calls us to be!”



BELLS ARE RINGING!!

The Christmas Season is upon us and I am sure everyone is thinking of gifts, family and food.

The Bell Choir invites you to be at the 8:30 or 11:00 service on December 18 to hear us ring in this glorious season of our Savior's birth. Let's remember this, the holiest of season's, with a joyful heart and prayers of thankfulness for this amazing gift we have been given.

Merry Christmas to you all

Becky



CHOIR NOTES

Nothing makes Christmas more special than the music of the season and the opportunities that it brings to sing and worship together! Advent has begun and we will be singing some wonderful standards and some glorious new Christmas songs together.

Please come join us for our special combined worship service on Dec. 11th as we sing, enjoy our wonderful choir, and worship together. On the following Sunday, the J.O.Y. Rings Bell Choir will ring in the Christmas season. We will then be blessed with our Christmas Eve services, starting with our Family Service in Joy Hall at 5:00 pm followed by our Traditional Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

You will have another opportunity to join us in the choir in the new year. We will take a bit of a break after our worship service on December 11th but start up again on January 11th when we begin working on our Easter music and other wonderful choir pieces. All voices are welcome!

Keep Singing His Praises!
Vickie Smolek

Youth

As I sit and think that the year is almost up and, for the most part, is already coming to an end, I ponder on the year. This past year has been filled with growth for me personally but also filled with moments of questions, doubt, frustration, and heartache. As I look back over this past year, I see growth in everything. I see the hand of God working in ways that I would not presume to have known.

As we move forward through the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas and into a New Year, I cannot get past one of the strongest moments of the year. The words of one of our students that were left on a rock in New Mexico rings beauty and hope to my ears. "From the largest mountains to the smallest ant, God created the Earth so that we may witness and experience the power and glory of our LORD, God of heaven and Earth, our merciful and graceful God, who is worthy of all our praise for all eternity. Even with His glory and power, God still sees every one of us. Despite our sins, God still sees us. Thanks be to Jesus Christ who took our sins on the cross so that we may live in the presence of God for all eternity.

This promise allows us to keep our faith and endurance when the hardship and trials of life that may be thrown at us.

Thanks be to God."

May you have a blessed holiday season with friends and family this year!!

During these times, would you take a moment to remember those students who have spent this year away from home, growing into their profession, or embracing a new environment. Would you consider sending a note to recent graduates:

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; Successfully graduated welding school in Missouri!

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

Ethan Reynolds; Reynolds, Ethan, D 0855 527 Avenue Unit 4114 Sheppard AFB, TX 76311

Children

I sincerely thank the volunteers who plan to help decorate and serve food at Breakfast With Santa on December 3rd. FUMC Quitman has been doing this event for area children for many years and it is a blessing to continue this joy. The children look forward to December programs (both children and youth are needed for the Family Christmas Eve Service) and wish our friends a Happy New Year.

Jennifer

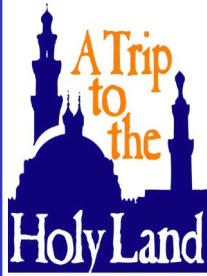


Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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.

Financial Update (As of Nov. 29, 2022)

(YTD) Giving: \$ 359,307
 (YTD) Expenses: \$ 418,979
 (YTD) Loss \$ 63,263
 (YTD) Budgeted Expenses: \$ 444,467



	12/14 Heather Marcee	12/31 Allie Medlin
	12/14 Brenley von Reyn	
	12/15 Kevan Burroughs	
	12/16 Becky Bradfield	
	12/16 Jan Lumley	
	12/16 Vanessa Simpkins	
12/1 Parker Simpkins	12/17 Doni Hampton	
12/2 Darrell Gary	12/18 Jentri Jackson	
12/3 Kenneth Fette	12/18 Greg Taylor	
12/4 Mark Breeding	12/19 Kayla Emmert	
12/4 Brooklin Benson	12/19 Kevin Emmert	
12/5 Ethel Kelley	12/21 Shelby Tackett	
12/6 David Dobbs	12/25 Stephen Fulce	
12/10 JaNan Straznicki	12/26 Katie Pepler	
12/13 Mikayla Hubbard	12/27 Stephen Cates	
12/13 Gary Thurman	12/30 Katie Hatcher	



	1/10 Bill McPherson	1/27 Melissa Bashioum
	1/10 Ron Wimp	1/27 Sherri Young
	1/11 Mike Cline	1/28 Betty Dalhoff
	1/12 Sandra Grider	1/28 Sue Edwards
	1/12 Marilyn Robinson	1/29 Jani Taylor
1/3 William Leake	1/12 Blake Thurman	1/29 Carley Tucker
1/3 Colton Otto	1/14 Daniel Cainin Lee	1/29 Darrin Whiddon
1/3 Maggie Styles	1/18 Donna Martin	
1/5 Lindsey Baker	1/20 Sally Leake	
1/6 Rita Reed	1/22 Layni Marie Baker	
1/8 Keaton Cameron	1/22 Patricia Kostial	
1/9 Sarah Medlin	1/23 Chloe Hatcher	
1/9 Beth Moore	1/25 John Huffman	
1/9 Sue Bonnette	1/26 Bert Blair	



Bountiful blessings on all who purchased contents, packed, and funded shipment for the 203+ shoeboxes from our congregation for Operation Christmas Child.

Then several of those same folks worked tirelessly during OCC National Collection Week (Nov. 14-21) receiving and packing for shipment all of the 1,577 shoeboxes from Wood County into shipping cartons headed for Tyler.

From there, three semi-trailers took them on to Coppell for sorting. Next stop: over 100 countries!

This year celebrates 200 million shoeboxes that have been distributed over the years. So start now, gathering items as you shop so we'll be ready next fall to spread more of the Good News that brings Great Joy.

Thank you so much.
 Marti Busbee
 Busbee



During this time of thanksgiving, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the kindness you extended to me and the members of **Jarvis Christian University Choir**. Our visit to your church last month was both memorable and uplifting. Your kindness and hospitality are appreciated.

I also thank you and the members of First United Methodist, Quitman, for your financial donation to the school. Those funds will help cover choir scholarships and other school related expenses

Again, thank you and we look forward to visiting you in the future.

Cordially,
 Bruce A. Thompson
 Director

LIBERTY LINES

This is the time of year that most of us enjoy and generally eat too much food. We are all very blessed and we should always thank God for our country, freedom, church and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are also blessed as a church family at Liberty. I am always amazed how things get done. I remember a quote from Henry Blackaby “when someone new joined the church he wanted to know the reason that God brought them to his congregation. God does give each of us a purpose and duty to fulfill in our church. We are all Better Together.

Our Thanksgiving meal was a real success. Thank you to Connie and Candy for providing the ham and 2 turkeys. We had 28 participants, several were not from Liberty. This was a great outreach for Liberty.

Liberty currently supports 9 charities, local and International. Crafty Christians just finished their Fall Festival, and it was a great success. The quilt winners from the raffle were Janet Painter, lap quilt and Patty Hurt a queen size quilt. Total raised was \$4,628.50 and it will be going to The Rainbow Room, Quitman Elementary and other local charities. Thanks to everyone that was involved in producing quality item and all those that bought the merchandise.

We have completed our part of the paperwork to leave UMC and should be finalized at the UMC Special Session on the December 3rd meeting. We have also applied to the GMC and our new name will be Liberty Methodist Church, GMC effective January 1, 2023. We will maintain our relationship with Pastor Cline and First Church as we go into next year.

We are also thankful for our long-term relationship with First Church.



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 November 27, 2022

YTD Giving: \$112,645
YTD Expenses: \$100,288



Holy Communion Offering
Christmas Sharing

Happy Birthday! *Happy Anniversary*

Dec. 7 Betty Head	Dec. 4 Bill & Candi Fry
Dec 8 Jerry Hurt	
Dec. 14 Deborah Dopson	
Dec. 21 Donna Holt	
Dec. 28 Woody Gasperin	
Dec. 31 Patty Hurt	
Jan. 1 James Carey	
Jan. 11 Rev. Mike Cline	
Jan. 14 Mitchel Rye	
Jan. 27 Pat Murry	
Jan. 29 Billy Bradshaw	
Jan. 30 Ann Flake	
Jan. 30 Jim Gould	



Operation Christmas Child

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”