



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

February 2024

"Come expectantly seeking Jesus. Follow Him boldly. Go witness intentionally."



Greetings church family,

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank you for welcoming us to First United Methodist church here in Quitman. It is an honor and privilege to do life and ministry with you.

My wife and I are settling into the parsonage and my daughters are adjusting well to their new school. February brings with it a new five-week sermon series entitled "Foundations of our faith", basic Christian Orthodoxy that grounds us in our common faith.

We are continuing our study on the book of James each Wednesday evening at 6pm in the Celebration Room next to J.O.Y. hall.

This month will begin the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Each year Christians observe the forty days leading up to Holy Week and Easter Sunday as a time of reflection and preparation. I hope you will join us for our Ash Wednesday service at 6pm on the 14th, followed by our weekly Lenten lunches every Tuesday during lent in J.O.Y. Hall.

I am excited for this new season of ministry that God has placed my family and I in together with each of you. My prayer for the church as we continue to get to know on another is that we will grow in our love and affection as we work to be the people and church that God is calling us to be at FUMC Quitman.

-Rev. Thomas Harper



Bob Asmussen	Carolyn Manning
Elaine Asmussen	Diane Moseley
Bill Bennett	Sandy Narkiewicz
Mickey Barnett	Jack Neel
Bert Bair	Pat Neel
Darlene Blair	Marilyn Odom
Betty Bozeman	Bobby Phipps
Pamela Dountas	Mary Phipps
Ann Crawford	Steve Rhodes
Lynda Gibson	Gary Simpkins
Bruce Grider	Brian White
Stella Lundy	Mary & Ron Wimp

February Sermon Series **“Foundations of the Faith”**

February 4 That a God Should Bleed

February 11 The State of God and the State of Us

February 14 Ash Wednesday

February 18 Rules as a Means to a Relationship

February 25 The Church: The Power of the Holy Spirit to Transform us and the World

Communion Rail Offering

NorthEast Texas Child Advocacy Center

Communion Preparation

Keith and JoAnn Zimmerman

***Mark Your Calendars**

Sunday

8:30 a.m.	Worship Sanctuary
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship Sanctuary

Monday

9:00 a.m.	Line Dancing
5:15 p.m.	Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday

5:00 pm	Youth Meal & Bible Study
6:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

9:00 am	Line Dancing
---------	--------------

Financial Update

Unavailable at time of publication.
Check the online MESSENGER next week.



February 2024

8:30 a.m.

Keith and JoAnn Zimmerman

11:00 a.m.

Michelle Dobbs
David Dobbs
Kevan Burroughs
Marty Jarrell

FUMC Quitman Church Family:

I am grateful for one last opportunity to convey my/our gratitude, love and prayers for the Family of Faith which is First United Methodist Church of Quitman. Our time together was short but very rich – owing, in large part, to the Spirit’s stirring warmth and hospitality within and among you (even amidst the significant griefs you experienced through the last year). For all the ways you seek to “be the Church that God has called you to be,” please do not overlook or dismiss the ways that you are already that community. I do look forward to hearing great things about the oasis of fellowship and hospitality found among the United Methodist Christians of the greater Wood County area.

I am happy to report that Kathy’s surgery (on Wednesday, January 17) went very smoothly. We are now about one last game of “wait” (for pathology reports) and “hurry up” (through radiation). Confidence in our doctors and prayers like yours have us resting and proceeding with great joy and peace.

As you are in the Bryan area (yes, including Bill McPherson), please know that we’d love to reunion with you over a cup of coffee or a glass of tea.

To Each and All of You, God’s Rich Blessings and Keeping

Jim & Kathy Reiter



02/02 Arnold Mott
02/05 Beverly Waddleton Johnson
02/09 Cooper Marcee
02/10 Marsha Brown
02/11 Robyn Delozier
02/18 Diana King
02/19 Jennifer Goodson
02/19 Brad Medlin
02/27 Susan Jarrell
02/27 Carolyn Manning

FUMC’s Communion Rail Offering February 2024

NorthEast Texas Child Advocacy Center

NETCAC offers a safe space for all children 2-17 years who allegedly have been sexually/physically abused or witnessed a violent crime.

Children come to NETCAC to tell of their experiences to a trained forensic interviewer in efforts to both establish the facts and reduce their trauma.

NETCAC is located just south of Winnsboro.

As parents and grandparents, we all want the best for our children and grandchildren. We strive to provide them with love, support, and guidance as they navigate the journey of growing up and maturing. One of the most important ways we can support our children is by providing them with genuine and meaningful conversation and encouragement. Encouragement plays a vital role in a child's development, shaping their self-esteem, resilience, and overall well-being.

Reality is that encouragement is more than just praising a child for their accomplishments. It involves providing them with conversations that offer the emotional support and confidence they need to face challenges and pursue their goals. When children feel encouraged, they are more likely to develop a positive outlook on life and a belief in their own abilities. This foundation of self-assurance can carry them through the ups and downs of life, empowering them to take on new experiences and overcome obstacles.

Providing children the opportunity to voice their opinions, their fears, concerns, and disappointments allows them to develop the skills needed to communicate their desires and needs. This is done to teach children that there is an appropriate way to express themselves and offer another solution rather than hide themselves in the screens of today.

One of the key aspects of encouragement is the emphasis on effort rather than innate ability. When children are praised for their hard work, determination, and perseverance, they learn that their actions and attitudes are what truly matter. This mindset fosters a willingness to take on challenges and learn from setbacks, rather than being discouraged by the fear of failure. As a result, children become more resilient and adaptable, traits that are essential for success in both academic and real-world settings.

I am not advocating that every child deserves a trophy. However, every child deserves the opportunity to attempt whatever desire they choose. Our role is to nurture that with realistic expectations and be there for them when they discover they won't be the next major league player.

It is parental encouragement that helps children develop a healthy sense of self-worth and confidence. When parents, grandparents, and other caregivers provide sincere words of support, children internalize these messages and begin to see themselves in a positive light. This positive self-image can shield them from the negative effects of criticism and rejection, enabling them to maintain a strong sense of self-esteem even in the face of adversity.

In addition to building confidence, positive conversation and encouragement also strengthen the parent-child bond. When children feel genuinely supported by their parents, they are more likely to seek guidance and share their thoughts and feelings openly. This open line of communication fosters a strong and trusting relationship, allowing parents to provide the guidance and mentorship their children need as they navigate the complexities of childhood and adolescence.

Church, this is where many of our children and youth among the community crave to be. In a safe and encouraging environment. Your words, demeanor, attitude, high-fives, pats on the back, all seem insignificant but to some young person, that is absolute gold.

Cont'd page 5

Cont'd from Page 4

As we consider the profound impact of encouragement on a child's development, it becomes clear that this form of support is a powerful tool for nurturing happy, confident, and resilient individuals. By fostering a culture of encouragement in our homes, our church, and our community, we can empower our children to embrace challenges, pursue their passions, and cultivate a strong sense of self-worth. In doing so, we equip them with the skills and mindset they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

I have seen this in action here at FUMC Quitman. The adults have been so quick to interact with our children and youth to make them feel comfortable. One of our kids told me several weeks ago after engaging with one of the adults, "He made me feel like I was the only one in the room." It is moments like this that place value in the connection of our church.

I believe it is one of our sacred duties as adults, and especially as leaders, parents and grandparents, to protect the children in our lives. They are weak, vulnerable, and impressionable and God has given us the responsibility of guarding them. It is witnessed, unfortunately, in too many instances of such failure to protect but instead to neglect or betray. The physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual damage that occurs when this happens can be catastrophic. Let us commit ourselves to stand guard and protect our children and their friends where needed. If we can't be there physically, may we escort them to the One who is their fortress and defender.

God, we pray now over our children and those in their circle of influence. We ask that You would hide them in the shelter of Your presence. God, please keep every child safe from those who would conspire against them. With Your help and wisdom may we do our part to keep them safe—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Lord, give us the strength and love to stand as their guardians, defenders, and shepherds as we imitate You in those roles. Would that we, as a church, forever be mindful of the children and their friends that we encounter in our daily lives. May we always see them as Your image bearers.

We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Joseph



**2024 Church Council Schedule,
1:30 pm, Celebration Room, J.O.Y. Hall**

March 17th

June 23rd

September 15th

October 27th

November 17th Charge Conference

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY 6
VETERAN'S BREAKFAST
J.O.Y. HALL
8:00-9:30 AM

FEBRUARY 10
VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER
J.O.Y. HALL
5:00-7:00 PM
BENEFITTING YOUTH MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 11
POT-LUCK LUNCH
J.O.Y. HALL
12:00-1:00
CONGREGATION-WIDE LUNCHEON
BRING A DISH TO SHARE

FEBRUARY 14
ASH WEDNESDAY
5:00 PANCAKE SUPPER IN J.O.Y. HALL
6:00 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE IN
SANCTUARY

FEBRUARY 22
EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK
QUITMAN DISTRIBUTION
BUD MOODY STADIUM
10:00-11:00 AM
(VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE AT 9:00)

Invite a friend to lunch...



COMMUNITY *Lenten Lunches*

Quitman First United Methodist Church

Every Tuesday from
February 20 through March 19, 2024

Noon to 1 p.m.
(Lunch service opens at 11:45 a.m.)

Lunch, music, and a short devotional.
J.O.Y. Hall at First United Methodist Church

No reservation is necessary.
No charge for lunch * Donations are accepted**

Everyone is welcome!

Check www.facebook.com/fumcquitman/
For the Weekly Speaker.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
QUITMAN

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

LIVE MUSIC

ENTERTAINMENT

ENTREE | MAIN COURSE | DESSERT

10th
FEB.
2024
5:00 PM

HOSTED BY
FUMC QUITMAN
YOUTH

406 E. LANE ST. QUITMAN, TEXAS 75783
RSVP | 903.763.4127

The Myth of the Golden Years

The Golden Years myth coddles up with
Promises of doing only what one feels like

Truth may be that genetics programs us to continue to strive,
Problem solving an contribution being energy of the soul.

When focus on productivity and purpose is discontinued,
What if, nature withdraws her support?

Bitterness and depression can fuel a drift and
Separate from humanity that sustains us.

Every stage of life has its different circumstances,
We must adapt or misery will be our constant companion.

Why do we pretend death does not await us all
And that we can win the contest of life?

We teach from the infancy of our intellect on
That good guys eventually get happy "ever-after".

But the years educate us with their lessons,
At times there's injustices, bad luck, and tragedies.

We finally realize death is not our worse enemy,
It's pain and loss of function before the body goes.

Do we look away to avoid the devastating inevitability
Or use the knowledge to savor the moments and loved ones of life?

Do we pack away the fear to keep it from stifling our joy, or
Do we value life's precious moment more because of our limited
time.

Do we cherish only friends of our age with similar experiences;
Because it's easier to interact and communicate with them?

Or, do we reach out to develop friendships of all ages,
Lest we be alone and useless if our peers precede us in death.

Do we do the hard work of adapting to changing times and skills,
Or sit back mutely and let the current of time pass by?

Do we resign ourselves to that the "wonder years" are gone.
Or interpret life with "I wonder what I can do with the time I have
left"?

Kay Andres
August 16, 2014



“Be the church we are called to be!”

Help Us Reduce the MESSENGER Cost!

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and you have access to the web, please consider switching to the on-line version of the MESSENGER. It will reduce printing and postage costs and get it to you several days sooner, and in color! Call 903-763-4127 to opt in.

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.
plus
Worship on Facebook Live and
YouTube Delayed Recordings

HAVE YOU MOVED, CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL?

If so, please contact the church office.

DONATIONS MADE EASY

Want to simplify your giving of tithes, memorials, and other offerings? Then consider using the “Make a Donation” link on the Church’s secure web-site, fumequitman.org, or simply focus on the QR Code on the right.

PayPal is very safe and reliable and will allow you to Add Special Instructions that specify how your offering is to be applied. It will also provide you with an emailed receipt for your bookkeeping and tax records.

The Quitman First United Methodist Church is a 501(c)3 non-profit religious organization. Your donations are tax deductible, and all are sincerely appreciated.



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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 14
Quitman, TX

“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”