



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

March 2024

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



Greetings church family,

Lent is the time when Christians have historically prepared for Holy Week by marking the forty days leading up to Easter Sunday. It is a time to remember our own mortality and our need for Christ's passion. I invite you to join Christians around the world by intentionally marking the season through prayer, reflection, and temperance. "From dust we have come and dust we shall return, repent and believe the good news of the gospel."

This month we will celebrate lent with lunches every Tuesday from 11:45- 1pm in Joy Hall. Each week will feature a different Pastor and worship leader from the various faith communities here in Quitman and meals will be provided by selected individuals from the church. The youth's silent auction of their artwork will continue to be available for bids during the Lenten lunches. I hope you will join us this month as we gather for these special meals during lent.

Our sermon series "Who do you say that I am?" will help prepare us for Easter as we take a look at the "I Am" statements from the gospel of John.

Our Wednesday night Bible Study will be focused on Luke's gospel as we "Follow Jesus towards the cross." All of this will culminate with Holy Week at the end of the month where we will have special services throughout the week.

There is a lot going on in the life of the church these days, I hope that you will join me in celebrating this sacred time on the Christian calendar. We are an Easter people living into the promise of resurrection and new life. Because of the cross we know that death does not have the final say in this world!

-Rev. Thomas Harper



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

March Communion Rail Offering

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

United Methodist churches commonly have a fund called the pastor's discretionary fund, which is intended to give the pastor complete discretion and authority to provide confidential financial support to persons in need.



Core Weekly Calendar

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

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 as of 2/28/24

YTD Revenue \$57,217
YTD Expenses 66,032
YTD Loss \$ 8,815

Communion Preparation

Bill & Becky McPherson



March 2024

8:30 a.m.
 Bill Bonnette
 Susan Kincaid

11:00 a.m.
 Bob King
 Brad Medlin
 Jim Gould
 Shelby Tackett



February 15, 2024

Dear Caring Friends:

As the chill of winter embraces our community, we want to extend our warmest gratitude for your financial gift for Quitman Backpacks to the East Texas Food Bank.

Your generosity during this cold season has provided much needed comfort and sustenance to individuals and families facing hunger.

The bitter cold exemplifies the struggles of those without adequate resources, and your compassionate donations have been a beacon of hope during these challenging times.

Thanks to your kindness, we have been able to distribute essential food supplies and nourishing provisions to those most affected by the harsh winter conditions. Your contribution has not only fed hungry bellies but has also brought warmth and relief to those battling the cold without adequate resources

Wishing you and your loved ones a season filled with joy and abundance. May the coming year bring you countless blessings and opportunities for fulfillment.

David Emerson
Chief Executive Officer



- March 4 Jack Neel
- March 5 Greg Hollen
- March 6 Cedar Stone
- March 7 Jerry Nichols
- March 10 Jack Robinson
- March 11 Neal Poppenhusen
- March 13 Martha Scroggins
- March 15 Greg Eberhart
- March 17 Brooklyn Marcee
- March 18 Gena von Reyn
- March 19 Jake Jackson
- March 21 Will Burroughs
- March 25 Poppy Stone
- March 28 Linda Farrell
- March 30 Harriet Bevil
- March 31 Glenda Barnett



The world, especially our youth culture, is drowning in gender confusion. What is a real man or real woman? This question has become difficult to answer and seems to be undefinable in our day. How do you teach that to a child or anyone searching for an answer? The direct and simple answer is that God defines real men and women, not the world.

The consistent message from the world that youth hear today is there is no real difference between men and women, except for some body parts. The desire to neutralize or even eliminate the gender distinctions and differences that God has hardwired into human beings (Gen. 1:26–27) is blatant and constant. The flip side of that coin is that the youth of today are being bombarded with false ideas of what a real man or real woman should be, if they choose to identify as such. Worse yet, now a person can “identify” with a gender. Truth, hormones, and physiology do not matter as long as I decide what gender I am. What foolishness! Scripture shows God’s creation of mankind and then lays out what a Godly man or Godly woman looks like.

In the world we live in, real men and real women are rare. Many of those men and woman who appear across the spectrum of entertainment, in the movies, on Netflix, Hulu, or Disney, and even those involved in the teaching of youth today have a skewed view of Godly men and women. Genesis 1:27 says, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him (mankind); male and female He created them.”

The confusion of our culture is a work of Satan to distort God’s creation. It’s effective because the same lie of the enemy has been used over the centuries. The lies are sold through what appears as good. The lies ride on the back of truth and good values. It is like mixing poison with a healthy meal. Satan easily deceives us if we do not have a firm foundation, God’s Word. Satan’s strategy is simple, make sin look normal and make righteousness seem strange. Don’t be fooled! Every one of us is being transformed either into the image of Jesus or into the image of the world.

Most of the world’s messages ride on the back of tolerance, acceptance, and diversity. You are considered intolerant if you do not allow the world’s defined standards into your circle of influence. Leadership in the church has become cracked with those that have different standards than God’s Word. Addiction dependent individuals, open married couples, broken marriages, or anyone practicing lifestyles that are clearly stated as contrary to God’s design. Please know this. Jesus didn’t hang out with sinners as an act of tolerance and affirmation of their sins. He spent time with them, so they would believe in Him as the Savior who saves sinners and changes lives. Our involvement in the world ought to be about restoration with God not recorrecting to our opinions.

Culture cannot correctly define real men and women because it refuses to consider God’s definitions. Changing the definitions of real men and women does not have immediate consequences and without the immediate consequences, the false definitions of real men and women stay with us. Even when exposed as wrong, the world explains the consequences away with other lies and confusion. Inadequate definitions provide fertile soil for chaos and confusion. And Satan wants the confusion because he opposes all that God is.

We, the Church, must stop operating with opinion and theory and accept the facts. God defines real men and women.\

We see this scenario day in and day out in our own kids, week in week out with the kids that come to church. There are plenty of people willing to disciple our kids for us. It can either be celebrities, ideologies, and even politics, or our kids can be discipled by the parents, the Gospel, and the Church. We must never subcontract our child’s discipleship out to the world.

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Therefore, we, the youth ministry of FUMC Quitman, are taking a stand and willingly stepping into this conversation. We are hosting what is called, "The Weekend" and we will be diving into some "Hot Talk." We will have Girl Talk and share words from a Father about the characteristics of a Godly woman. We will also have Guys Talk and express words from a Father about what it looks like to be a Godly man.

We need help from people in the church. We will have breakout groups separated by male and females for these deeper discussions. We would like to have some ladies that could participate with the young girls between 5th grade and high school seniors. In the same manner, we would like to have some men of the church participate with the boys between 5th grade and high school seniors. We would love to hear from you if you desire to participate with us!

May we as a ministry, as a church, and as parents raise the bar of expectations for our young people in such a way that we represent and model the healthy characteristics of Godly men and women.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.—Romans 12:1-2

Joseph



FUMC Children's Ministry performed Special Music during 11:00 am February 25th worship service. The congregation appreciated and enjoyed the music.



The Youth treated approximately 45 church members and guests to a Valentine Dinner February 10 in JOY Hall. Proceeds earned help fund tuition for youth activities.. The festive decorations, live entertainment, delicious 3-course meal and excellent service were enjoyed by all.

Thank you for your generous donations.



The Children & Youth have been busy during Children's Church, Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live. Their Artwork is displayed in JOY Hall and can be purchased through Silent Auction. Notebooks are available to enter your bids. Check and upgrade your bids often.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH 3

TRUSTEES' MEET, 1:30 PM ANNEX

MARCH 5

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

MARCH 17

CHURCH COUNCIL
J.O.Y. HALL CELEBRATION ROOM
1:30 PM

MARCH 24—PALM SUNDAY

NO EARLY SERVICE
PALM SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 AM

MARCH 28—MAUNDY THURSDAY

FUMC SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRIVATE
MEDITATION AND COMMUNION
5:00-7:00 PM

MARCH 29—GOOD FRIDAY

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
FUMC SANCTUARY
6:00-7:00 PM

MARCH 31—EASTER SUNDAY

NO EARLY SERVICE
POT-LUCK BRUNCH—9:45-10:45 AM
J.O.Y. HALL
EASTER SERVICE 11:00 AM

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.

TOTAL ECLIPSE PARTY

APRIL 8, 2024

11:00 AM-2:30 PM

**FOOD
GAMES,
AND WATCH ECLIPSE**

CAR PARKING

\$5.00

**SOLAR ECLIPSE
GLASSES FOR SALE**

**BRING:
LAWNCHAIRS, ETC.**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF QUITMAN

207 GOLDSMITH ST. QUITMAN, TEXAS 75783

903-763-4127



FUMC Volunteers needed to help make this a fun event. The City has granted a permit to close Goldsmith Street as we do for Trunk or Treat. Please call church office 903-763-4127 for details & jobs for volunteers.



**Church Council Meeting
March 17, 1:30 pm
Celebration Room**

**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

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.

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, fumcquitman.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.

OFFERINGS



DONATIONS



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

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“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”