



# The Messenger

## First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

April 2024

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

Happy Easter everyone! It was so wonderful to celebrate Holy Week with so many of you for the first time this year. From Wednesday night Bible Study to Good Friday, to Easter Sunday morning, we had an incredible week celebrating our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Last month we welcomed 14 new people into church membership as well as hosted our weekend discipleship program with our youth. We had hundreds of people participate in our community Easter Egg Hunt with our children and of course we welcomed many families and new friends to worship on Easter Sunday.

Our new sermon series "The people called Methodists" will look at our Wesleyan heritage and what makes Methodists unique from other church denominations. If you ever asked the question, what does it mean to be a Methodist, this sermon series is for you.

Our Wednesday night Bible Study will be focused on Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul calls on Christians to live in a religious and politically diverse society with humility and grace towards others, while standing firm on the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

There is a lot going on in the life of the church these days, I hope that you will join us in the month of April. The grave is empty, we have heard and seen the risen Lord, now is the time to proclaim to the rest of the world the good news. Jesus Christ is not dead, He is risen!

-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

**WEEKLY CORE 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**

<b>YTD Revenue</b>	<b>\$101,590.64</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>\$105,409.77</b>
<b>YTD Loss</b>	<b>\$ 3,819.13</b>



**We extend a special thanks to Gail Hall for sharing her extraordinary musical talent.**

**Communion Preparation**

**Bill & Becky McPherson**



**April 2024**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Bill and Becky McPherson**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Gail Lumby  
 Shelby Tackett  
 Robert Ukleja  
 tbd**





# Welcome New Members in March

**Jeff & Debbie Young**



**James & Judy Parris**



**The Armstrong Family**



**Nancy Kinder**



**Jim and Martha Gould**



**Bryan and Joan Swenson**

We survived and our church rocked during March in the build up for Easter. It was beautiful seeing the church worship together in so many different ways. It seems like there is more to get excited about each year as we advance our efforts to become the Church that Christ calls us to be.

One of the goals of the youth ministry is to connect our youth with the many adults in our church who are willing to mentor and guide them. I believe that there is a correlation with youth who are well-connected in the church body at the time of their high school graduation and the church's retention of those youth during and after college. Statistics say that 7 out of 10 students leave the church after high school graduation, but I believe that solid church connections made between students and adults curb the rate of later disassociation.

In March we had several great opportunities to enhance the adult/youth relations. We held a Weekend retreat for our youth where we talked about what a Godly man and Godly woman look like according to Psalm 31. It was awesome to see many of the church's adults take the time to invest in our students. Several caring adults came late Friday night and facilitated small group discussions then returned on Saturday afternoon to spend more time listening and supporting our youth. One of our girls has since mentioned that she comes to church on Sunday morning simply because "someone cares about me."

I am not normally a very big fan of small groups but I believe that the March weekend retreat was perfect for the youngsters who participated. I sincerely thank the adults who took time to hang out with us during that weekend. I also want to thank our church for supporting our efforts to reach students that might otherwise be left out.

March also brought us an amazing Easter Egg Hunt for the community. Weather caused us to postpone it for a week but the response from the community was great. Our church shined like rock stars at this event. We had the Gilmore DJ, a live hopping bunny (Peyton 😊), petting area, snacks and drinks, and exciting egg hunting for children of all ages.

Every time we reach out to the community with events such as this it opens the door for the church to say that we are here and are proud to be part of this community. Several volunteers helped stuff the plastic eggs before the event. We also had several church members come out in our bright yellow shirts to assist and represent the church. I know that Jennifer and I may have crazy ideas sometimes but without a church willing to support us in very special ways, these ideas could be less than successful.

Lastly, I would like to invite you to our church website and Facebook page to see the short video that showcases the Easter Egg Hunt. FUMC's youth and children's ministries cannot express our thanks enough for this church and its desire to reach children, students, and families. On to the next adventure!!

Thank you,

Joseph and Jennifer



When young people serve God by serving as an acolyte, they are doing more than carrying a flame to the altar candles. They are symbolically bringing in the light of Christ's spirit into the worship service. An acolyte may also be Crucifer, or cross-bearer on special days. The word acolyte actually is a Greek work meaning servant or attendant.

That being said, meet Elissa Harper, Cedar Stone, Sophia Harper, and Carley Goodson - our special light bearers who set the tone for worship. If you have attended the 11 am service, you recognize these sweet faces. They are wearing the traditional garments of acolytes: a red cassock and white cotta (the white cotta symbolizes purity). The next time one of these young people come down the aisle, notice the color of ribbon around their neck. White ribbon indicates 1<sup>st</sup> year; red ribbon indicates 2<sup>nd</sup> year; blue ribbon indicates 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

FUMC Quitman is so proud and blessed to have these young folks be an integral part of Sunday service. Please let them know how much they are appreciated!

If you have a child 7 years or older who would like to wear a handsome red cassock and cotta and light things up on Sundays, we urge you to Contact Carol Denson or the church office.



# TOTAL ECLIPSE TAILGATE PARTY

**Eclipse Begins**  
12:25pm  
**Totality (4 Min)**  
1:42pm  
**Eclipse Ends**  
3:04pm

**APRIL 8**  
**11:30-3:30**  
**\$5/CAR**

**Never Look at  
Partial Phases of  
the Eclipse Without  
Certified Eye  
Protection!**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PARKING LOT**

**FOOD, MUSIC, & FUN**

FUMC Volunteers are needed to help make the Tailgate party a fun event. The City has granted a permit to close Goldsmith Street like we normally do for Trunk or Treat. We have planned a Tailgate party starting 11:30 am with music, Chick-fil-A sandwiches, Eclipse Cookies, and more for sale and, most importantly, the opportunity to experience the Total Eclipse together for four minutes starting at 1:42 pm. Certified eye protection will be available to purchase.

Please call the church office 903-763-4127 for details & to volunteer.



- April 04 Jhett Jackson
- April 09 Debby Slabaugh
- April 11 Billy Armstrong
- April 12 Mary Jane Young
- April 16 Kathy Burford
- April 21 Gloria Jean Roswell
- April 23 Faye Armstrong
- April 23 Kelly Roberts
- April 27 Marilyn Odum
- April 29 Darlene Blair



Our Youth spent a week-end in fellowship last month.

Thank you church members who hosted meals, met with our youth, and provided support.



Thank you church members who contributed candy and small toys for the hunt, and to those who volunteered to stuff eggs. The Easter Egg Hunt took place on March 30 at Jim Hogg City Park. FUMC contributed an estimated 400 stuffed eggs!



## **April Communion Rail Offering**

United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR) comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters—famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable.

### **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, [fumcquitman.org](http://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.



First United Methodist Church  
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**“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”**