



# The Messenger

December 2025  
January 2026

**First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas**

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



It's that magical time of year again where we celebrate Emmanuel (God with us) and the coming of the Christ Child. Christmas shopping, decorating Christmas trees, and trips to see

family members, are all reminders to us that God has become flesh and dwelt among us in order to reunite creator back to creator again.

Christmas can also be a difficult or stressful time for many of us. A time when we are reminded of our loved ones that are no longer with us. A time when we are pressured to spend money that we don't have or see family that are difficult to spend extended amount of time with. This year we will have two services on Christmas Eve. Our 5:30 service in Joy Hall will be our "Christmas Remembered" service for those of us who grieve the loss of a loved one during the Holidays. Our 7:00 "Traditional Candlelight" service will be in the sanctuary and will combine some of the elements of the family service that we have done in the past. I hope you will make us a part of your family Christmas by attending one or both services.

Our sermon series for Advent is "Voices of the Angels" where we are looking at different perspectives on the Christmas story through God's messengers the Angels. Our Wednesday night Bible Study is continuing to walk through Paul's second letter to the church of Corinth, how does Paul offer us a unique perspective on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ?

Back when I was young this was my absolute favorite time of year. A time when the promise of good food and new presents kept me up during those long winter nights. As a child I would hear the Christmas story as the whole family gathered together each Christmas evening and wonder when we would get to "the good part" of opening presents. As an adult I now know that the story was the good part, and the joyful associations of Christmas time that I had as a child continues on because Christ is the greatest gift the world has ever received. I hope you will take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and experience the joy of Christ with your family this year.

-Rev. Thomas Harper

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*Come &  
Worship*



# HANGING *of the* GREENS

Photos Provided by Faye & Tony Gardner





Mickey & Glenda Barnett	Pat Neel
Harriet Bevil	Marilyn Odom
Darlene Blair	Steve Rhodes
Betty Bozeman	Martha Scroggins
Ann Crawford	Gary Simpkins
Pam Dountas	Maddox Story
Lynda Gibson	Bryan Swenson
Diana King	Ron Wimp
Sandra Mott	Jeff & Debbie Young
Sandy Narkiewicz	

**Financial Update as of 10/31/2025**

YTD Revenue	\$370,568
YTD Expense	338,479
YTD Net Income	\$ 32,089

**Pastor Thomas Announces  
“Ignite Worship”**

As a pastor I understand that different people like to worship Jesus in different ways. Some people love the historically traditional setting with Hymns and liturgies, while others prefer a more contemporary service with modern worship music and a laid-back atmosphere. To that end I am excited that we launched a new Contemporary Worship service this fall that we are calling “**Ignite Worship**”. It is a more laid back, come as you are, coffee and donuts type of service.

The Ignite Worship services are held in J.O.Y Hall every Sunday morning at 9am. Whether you're looking to start a new family tradition of worship, with a new community of passionate people who are seeking after Jesus, or it has just been a while since you have been to church. I want to personally invite you to experience our new Ignite Worship.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to us here at the church.

**\*Mark Your Calendars**

**Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary  
 9:00 a.m. Ignite Worship J.O.Y. Hall  
 9:30 a.m. Gathering The WELL  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship Sanctuary  
 1:30 p.m. Board of Trustees (1st Sunday)

**Monday**

9:00 a.m. Line Dancing

**Tuesday**

8:00 a.m. Veterans Breakfast (1st Tuesday)  
 Noon J.O.Y. Ringers Rehearsal  
 5:30 p.m. Circle of JOY (2nd Tuesday)

**Wednesday**

5:00 p.m. WNL Meal  
 6:00 pm WNL Bible Study  
 7:00 pm J.O.Y. Singers Rehearsal

**Thursday**

9:00 am Line Dancing



On October 12, Kelly and Mary Anne Nichols were welcomed as new members of FUMC.

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: FUMC's 2025 Members and Volunteers Stood Tall!



Dear Church Family,

Our church once again served as the Operation Christmas Child Drop-off Site for Wood County this past week. Each year, National Collection Week is the culmination of the OCC shoebox ministry by collecting all shoeboxes across the U.S. and globally. FUMC Quitman church members stepped up in a big way, with 21 of 23 volunteers coming from our church. As of Monday, November 24th, we collected 1,405 shoeboxes! Our church members donated 67 shoeboxes this year. I will be able to report more information on regional and national data in January.

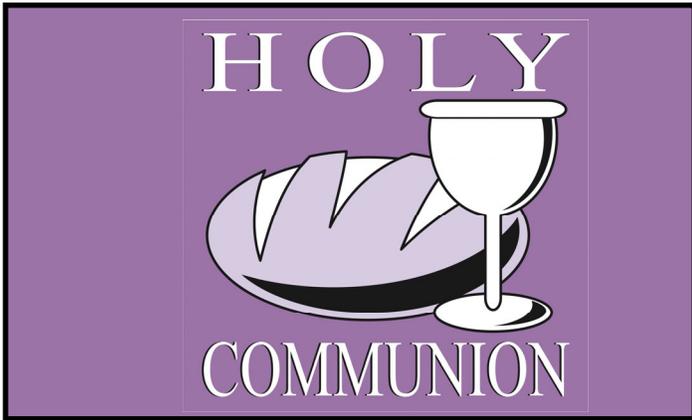
For now, I would like to thank the following church members for going above and beyond, in no particular order: Marti and Jerry Busbee for the donation of their trailer, Marty Jarrell, for towing the trailer to Tyler twice, the last trip in especially nasty weather, Susan and Robert Ukleja, Dawn McCampbell, JoAnn Zimmerman, Mary Bass, Bob and Linda Farrell, Judy and David Johnson, Carol and Shelby Tackett, Joan Swenson, Randy Hennington, Susan Jarrell, Robyn Delozier, Cheryl & Jim Franck and Spencer Rye.

I am humbled and honored to have worked with each and every volunteer listed above! During this season of Thanksgiving, I am most grateful to every church member who prayed, built boxes and volunteered. THANK YOU!

*Pat Kostial*

Pat Kostial,  
OCC Project Leader  
OCC Wood County Drop-off Leader





**December Communion Rail Offering  
Methodist Children’s Home**

Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) remains true to our mission to equip children, youth and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support. Founded in 1890, MCH is a nationally accredited, nonprofit child-care ministry that relies on the generosity and support of individuals and churches which empowers all we serve to experience life to the fullest.

Throughout its history, MCH has been blessed with resources that have enabled them to provide the highest quality of care and facilities for children and youth. Today, MCH serves children and youth through residential programs on the Waco campus and Boys Ranch, and through foster and kinship care, transition services and a variety of services in communities throughout Texas and New Mexico.

**Communion Assistants**

**December Prep Team**  
John & Sally Seekins

**January Prep Team**  
Keith & JoAnn Zimmerman

**January Communion Rail Offering  
Wood County Child Protection  
Board (AKA Rainbow Room)**

The Board provides children that are placed in foster care with an initial clothing allowance, a monthly allowance, back-to-school money to help with clothes and school supplies, Christmas gifts and money to help with summer activities. They also operate the Wood County Rainbow, that serves as a no-cost outlet for clothing, hygiene items, and other supplies for children just coming under Child Protective Services supervision.

In 2025, the Board converted its main building into a new service facility for foster children called “The Nest”. The Nest provides a private area for natural parents to meet with their child in a private, but supervised facility, while that child is under court-ordered foster care.

The Board is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so all donations are tax deductible within the limits imposed by federal law.

**Circle of J.O.Y.**

FUMC’s **Circle of J.O.Y.** women’s group meets at 5:30 pm in the Celebration Classroom on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

In August, the group began a study of “Fierce” Women of the Bible who Changed the World, authored by Jennifer Cowart. The study is being led by Dr. Beverly Wadleton-Johnson.

For more information, please contact JoAnn Zimmerman.



December 01	Parker Simpkins	January 04	Jim Parris
December 02	Stephen Rhodes	January 07	Carley Goodson
December 03	Beverly Sawyer	January 08	Keaton Cameron
December 06	David Dobbs	January 08	Venita Holbrook
December 09	Thomas Harper	January 09	Sue Bonnette
December 13	Jessica Armstrong	January 09	Sarah Medlin
December 13	Mikayla Hubbard	January 09	Beth Moore
December 13	Gary Thurman	January 10	Bill McPherson
December 14	Heather Marcee	January 10	Ron Wimp
December 14	Brenley Diane von Reyn	January 12	Sandra Grider
December 15	Kevan Burroughs	January 12	Marilyn Robinson
December 16	Jan Lumley	January 13	Tammy Gilmore
December 16	Vanessa Simpkins	January 19	Anna Stone
December 18	Jentri Jackson	January 19	Bryan Swenson
December 21	Shelby Tackett	January 22	Patricia Kostial
December 22	Charles Sawyer	January 27	Sherri Young
December 24	Judy Parris	January 28	Sue Edwards
December 25	Stephen Fulce	January 30	Jim Gould
December 30	Mary Anne Nichols	January 31	James Goodson
December 31	Elissa Harper		
December 31	Allie Gail Medlin		



### December 2025

**8:30 a.m.**  
Bill & Becky McPherson

**11:00 a.m.**  
Brad Floyd  
Brady Floyd  
Pam & Randy Hennington

### January 2026

**8:30 a.m.**  
John & Sally Seekins

**11:00 a.m.**  
Stephen Fulce  
Teresa Fulce

**Backups:**  
Darrell & Debby  
Slabaugh

## WNL/GATHERING HOSTS WINTER 2025/26

<u>WNL</u>		<u>GATHERING</u>	
Dec. 3	Life	Dec. 7	Open Door
Dec. 10	Open Door	Dec. 14	Covenant
Dec. 17	Covenant	Dec. 21	Journey
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Dec. 28	Life
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve		
Jan 7	Journey	Jan 4	Open Door
Jan 14	Life	Jan 11	Covenant
Jan 21	Open Door	Jan 18	Journey
Jan 28	Covenant	Jan 25	Life

# BREAKFAST WITH Santa

Saturday  
December 6th  
9am - 11am  
First United  
Methodist Church  
J.O.Y. Hall



207 N. Goldsmith St. Quitman, Texas 75783



## VETERANS

★ Breakfast ★

FUMC is pleased to host the monthly veterans' breakfast provided by Caraday Healthcare, Wesley House, Reflections Hospice, and Lowe-Gardner Funeral & Cremations, with backing from several other Quitman firms. Vets and their families are welcome to join us at 8:00am on the first Tuesday of every month.



### Show Your FUMC Team Spirit

A new batch of all-cotton FUMC Quitman t-shirts in a variety of sizes are available for purchase in the church office.

Only \$12 each while they last.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 406 E. LANE ST.  
 QUITMAN, TX 75783

**FUMCQUITMAN.ORG**

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**  
 TRADITIONAL 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
 (MEETS IN SANCTUARY)  
 CONTEMPORARY 9:00 AM  
 (MEETS IN J.O.Y. HALL)




“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**

**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.

**OFFERINGS**



**DONATIONS**



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

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**“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”**