



The Messenger

March 2026

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

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



Spring is coming and that means that Easter and Holy Week are right around the corner. We will kick off Holy Week with Palm Sunday on March 29th featuring

special music from our choir during the 11:00 service. On Thursday we will have a come and go prayer service where you can receive communion between 5:00- 7:00pm. On Good Friday, our observance of Holy Week continues with our traditional service of the Tenebrae at 7pm in the sanctuary. On Saturday, the children’s ministry will host a community easter egg hunt from 11:00 to 12:00 on the church playground. We will conclude our Holy Week celebration on Easter Sunday, April 5th, beginning with a potluck brunch at 9:30am and ending with our Combined Easter service at 11am. I hope you will join us in the celebration of our risen Lord!

Our sermon series is “Focus on These Things,” where we are learning from the Apostle Paul about where Christians should be focusing their attention on in this crazy busy world. That series will continue through March 15th. After that we will begin a new three-week series titled “Journey Towards Jerusalem,” that will take us into Easter Sunday as we prepare for Christ’s passion.

Our Wednesday night Bible Study is continuing to walk through the letters of Galatians and Ephesians. Join us on Wednesdays at 6pm to see what Paul had to say to the churches in his day and how that still applies to us in our day.

During Lent we will resume our Lenten lunches every Tuesday from noon to one pm. I have invited the various faith communities and their pastors to join us in an ecumenical hour of food, worship, and message to help us prepare for Easter. If you are available for lunch on Tuesdays during Lent, I highly recommend that you attend.

There is a great deal 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 Easter people, living in 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

Come & Worship

 <p>Remember in Prayer</p>	<p>Lynda Gibson Sally Green Diana King Saundra Mott Sandy Narkiewicz Pat Neel Marilyn Odum Steve Rhodes Martha Scroggins Gary Simpkins Maddox Story Bryan Swenson</p>
<p>Mickey & Glenda Barnett Darlene Blair Harriett Bevil Ann Crawford Claudette Dixon Pamela Dountas</p>	

***Mark Your Calendars**

Sunday
8:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Gathering J.O.Y. Hall
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Sanctuary

Monday
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing

Tuesday
12:00-1:00 pm Lenten Lunch
 Throught March 24th.

Wednesday
12:00 Bell Choir Practice
6:00 pm Bible Study all ages
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday
9:00 am Line Dancing



Music Director, Gail Hall, has rescheduled bell practice from noon every Tuesday to noon every Wednesday to free up the calendar for the Lenten Lunches. Practice will resume on Tuesdays at noon beginning on March 31st.

Bells will ring at the March 10th Lenten Lunch and also the 11:00 service on March 8th.

Financial Summary - Year End 2025

Total Revenue - \$456,653
Total Expenses - \$396,121
Profit/(Loss) - \$ 60,532



Church Council



March 2026

8:30 a.m.
Bill & Becky McPherson

11:00 a.m.
Brad & Beth Medlin

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Church Council will meet at 1:30 pm in the J.O.Y. Hall Celebration Classroom:

April 12th
July 12th
October 11th

About FUMC's March 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.

Communion Preparation
Bill & Becky McPherson



- March 5 Greg Hollen
- March 6 Cedar Stone
- March 7 Laura Robbins
- March 10 Jack Robinson
- March 11 Neal Poppenhusen
- March 13 Martha Scroggins
- March 15 Greg Eberhardt
- March 16 Hunter Armstrong
- March 17 Brooklyn Marcee
- March 18 Gena von Reyn
- March 19 Jack Jackson
- March 21 Will Burroughs
- March 25 Poppy Stone
- March 28 Linda Farrell
- March 30 Harriett Bevil
- March 31 Glenda Barnett

<p>Join us for Lunch During Lent!</p> <p>Quitman First United Methodist Church</p> <p><i>Every Tuesday from February 24-March 24, 2026 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m J.O.Y. Hall, 207 N Goldsmith St .</i></p> <p>Lunch, Music, and a Short Devotional</p> <p><i>Open to Everyone / Reservations Are Not Required. No charge for meal *** Donations are accepted</i></p>	<p>Devotional Speakers</p> <p>February 24 <i>David Hicks</i> <i>Liberty Methodist</i></p> <p>March 3 <i>Bobby Strong</i> <i>First Baptist</i></p> <p>March 10 <i>Mike Midkiff</i> <i>Faith Baptist</i></p> <p>March 17 <i>Mike Fletcher</i> <i>Spur On Ministries</i></p> <p>March 24 <i>Dr. Mark Young</i> <i>UMC Retiree</i></p>
--	---



Reignite Your Sundays with Ignite Worship

Ignite Worship meets every Sunday at **9:00 a.m. in Joy Hall**. With fresh coffee and a *come as you are* atmosphere, the service creates an inviting space for worship and community.

The service features contemporary worship music that is uplifting and Spirit-filled, creating a joyful and encouraging environment to connect with God and prepare your heart for the day and week ahead.

Ignite Worship
Sundays at **9:00 a.m.**
Joy Hall

Come experience what Ignite is all about — and let your faith be fired up. 💧

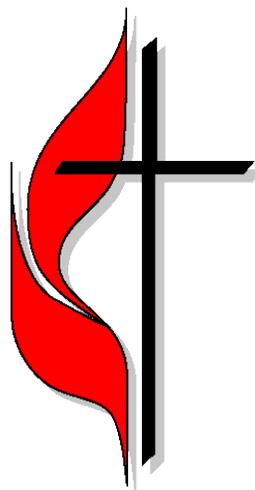
A Breakfast honoring Wood County military veterans is held in J.O.Y. Hall on the first Tuesday of every month, beginning at 8:00a.m..

The breakfast is provided by Wesley House Nursing Home, Quitman Wellness and Rehab Facility (formerly Caraday Healthcare) and Reflections Hospice.

This monthly event would not be possible without them and the generous financial assistance from other local businesses.

The monthly attendance has grown to 40-50 veterans who enjoy visiting and trading “war and/or sea stories”. We are blessed to honor our veterans in this way.

Congratulations to our Confirmands Cedar Stone Sophia Harper Gage Henk





Happy Valentines Day 2026



A message to Darrell and Debby,

As you step into this new chapter of your life, we want you to know how deeply you've touched our hearts and enriched our church family. Your faith, kindness, and service have been a blessing to all of us, and your presence will be greatly missed.

Though miles may soon separate us, we remain united in Christ's love. We pray that your new community will embrace you as warmly as we have, and that God's guidance and peace will be with you every step of the way.

Go with our love, our prayers, and our gratitude. You will always have a home here."



Dear Church Family:

I am so grateful and humbled to serve with you through the Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Ministry and I am pleased to provide you with some totals from 2025, though not all totals are in yet. Our church personally donated 63 shoeboxes and our Wood County Volunteers collected 1,420 shoeboxes during the 2025 National Collection Week. The majority of our volunteers were FUMC church members, for whom I am so proud!!

In addition to our local numbers, the data for 2025 reported thus far is: Neches River Area- 17,353 shoeboxes, a 6% increase year over year. Globally, 12,205,900 shoeboxes were received, giving over 12 million Gospel opportunities to children around the globe! It is the first time OCC has broken the 12 million shoebox mark.

So, for each of you who prayed for OCC, packed a shoebox (or more), volunteered your time and energy during National Collection Week, THANK YOU and may GOD BLESS YOU for your heart for this ministry.

Now, it's time to think ahead to 2026 and beyond! Please first and foremost continue to pray for OCC as their volunteers deliver last year's shoeboxes to outreach sites globally. Also, any time you are shopping, have OCC in mind by purchasing an item here and there to build a shoebox.

I am especially hoping you will consider volunteering to work during our 2026 National Collection Week! So please block your calendars for Monday, November 16th through Monday, November 23rd. I am very open to new ideas, including schedule changes, to help get as many volunteers as possible. So please consider becoming a member of this tremendous team.

Lastly, and this is a goal I am setting for myself, consider volunteering to work at the OCC Processing Center (PC) in Dallas late November to late December. The PC is where the miracle happens, with area volunteers all working and praying together to process every single shoebox and then sending them on their way to their final destination. So many of my OCC friends have said working at the Processing Center is life altering and definitely worth the time and energy. If you are interested, let me know and perhaps our church can volunteer a group to go and work the same shifts.

That's it for now, except to say please reach out to me anytime with questions, ideas and anything that is on your mind regarding OCC. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Pat Kostial, FUMC's OCC Project Leader
pat.kostial@gmail.com / (619) 379-6920





“Be the church we are called to be!”

First United Methodist Church
406 E. Lane Street
903.763.4127
Sanctuary Worship 8:30 am
Gathering 9:30 am J.O.Y. Hall
Sunday School 10:00 a.m
Sanctuary Worship 11:00 am
YouTube Delayed Recording 6:00 pm
fumquitman.org

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, fumquitman.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

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

“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”