



The Messenger

August 2026

First United Methodist Church, Quitman, Texas

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



August marks the end of summer and the return of cooler weather as well as college football. We will be praying for our students as they return to school this month with our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the 11:00 service on August 9th. Join us as we pray for all the students as they begin a new school year.

It's been a crazy summer around the church as we just wrapped up a successful VBS. We had around fifty children who attended, with twenty-five adults, and six youth helpers. During the week we collected 324 food items for our mission project that was sent to the Quitman's CS Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's VBS happen!

Our fall kickoff series is "What Robs Our Joy" and will go from August 9th – September 20th. Where we will be looking at how we allow seven things to rob us of the joy that God has for our lives.

Our Wednesday night Bible Study will start back up in September with a brand-new study on the Gospel of John. Join us this fall as we look at the story of Jesus from John's unique perspective writing towards the end of his life as a disciple.

There is a lot going on in the church these days. If you have taken a break over the summer, now is the perfect time to jump back into the life and ministry of the church. May God grant you peace and well being as you begin the fall season!

-Rev. Thomas Harper

***Come &
Worship***





Barnett Family	Lumley Family
Harriett Bevil	Saundra Mott
Darlene Blair	Sandy Narkiewicz
Ann Crawford	Pat Neel
Claudette Dixon	Marilyn Odom
Pamela Dountas	Robbins Family
Martha & Jim Gould	Martha Scroggins
Sally Greene	Gary Simpkins
Venita Holbrook	Janna Simants
Amelia Hood	Maddox Story
Diana King	Swenson Family

*Mark Your Calendars

Sunday

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

Monday

9:00 a.m.	Line Dancing
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Tuesday

12:00 p.m.	Bell Practice (Beginning 8/11)
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Wednesday

7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice (Beginning 8/12)
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Thursday

9:00 a.m.	Line Dancing
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Reignite Your Sundays with Ignite Worship

Ignite Worship meets every Sunday at **9:00 a.m. in J.O.Y. 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. ☹



August 2026

8:30 a.m.

Bill & Becky McPherson

11:00 a.m.

John Stone
Cedar Stone
Marty Jarrell

Financial Update as of 6/30/2026

YTD Income	\$229,915
YTD Expense	\$219,857
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 10,058



August 01	Pat Neel
August 04	Gage Henk
August 05	Andrea Tallant
August 05	Robert Ukleja
August 07	Sophia Harper
August 08	Debbie Main
August 10	JoAnn Zimmerman
August 10	Ernest Burford
August 14	Beth Medlin
August 14	Cheryl Franck
August 16	Brad Floyd
August 16	Bob Farrell
August 25	Ava Burroughs
August 27	Marshall Newsome
August 29	Jerry Gibson
August 30	Carol Tackett



Church Council

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Church Council will meet at 1:30 pm in the Celebration Classroom:

October 11th

Our Next Sermon Series



About FUMC's August Rail Offering

Quitman ISD Backpack Program

The mission of the Backpack Program is to help alleviate child hunger by providing nutritious and easy to prepare food at times when community food resources are not available, such as on weekends. Funding for this mission is mainly through congregational, local, and business donations. Grants are also pursued when voluntary donations are insufficient.

Communion Preparation

Keith & JoAnn Zimmerman

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

Our church is the recipient of an Operation Christmas Child 15-Year Service Award for our member's service as a Shoebox Ministry Drop-Off site for Wood County Texas for the last 15 years. This award, a stunning bronze statue of a man giving 2 children OCC shoeboxes, was presented to Pastor Thomas Harper at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, July 26th. Presenting the award was Gloria Jeane Rosewall, founding Drop-off Site Leader for Wood County, Marti Busbee, Drop-off Leader from 2019 to 2024 and Pat Kostial, current Drop-off Leader.

On behalf of Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan's Purse, Gloria Jean, Marti and I would like to thank our church members for your steadfast support over the years! This award goes to each and every individual who volunteered their time and energy to helping our Drop-off site be successful in its ministerial role.

With that, I would like to let you know that we will again serve as the Wood County Texas Drop-off site this year. **So I am asking you to volunteer during OCC's National Collection Week, which for 2026 will be Monday, November 16th through Monday, November 23rd.** So please mark your calendar and come join the fun as we work to share this wonderful ministry with children around the globe, as well as to instill love and fellowship with all participating churches and individuals. Please watch for future newsletter, Facebook and church announcements for more information!

Lastly, are you interested in learning more about Operation Christmas Child and how to get involved? Our area team is hosting a Project Leader Workshop on Saturday, August 29th, just south of Tyler in Whitehouse, TX. It's a tremendous learning opportunity and the happiness is infectious! Contact me directly if you are interested in attending.

Pat Kostial, OCC Drop-off Site Leader for Wood County, Texas
(619) 379-6920 / pat.kostial@gmail.com



Rev. Thomas Harper accepts the Operation Christmas Child 15 Year Service Award for Quitman FUMC from Marti Busby, Cloria Jean Rosewall, and Pat Kostial



Vacation Bible School was a HUGE success this year! We saw a lot of new faces, along with some familiar ones. Once again, Bob the Bus Driver, a.k.a. Pastor Thomas the Story Teller, was a big hit. During the week, a total of 324 food items were collected and donated to the CS Food Pantry. A big THANK YOU goes out to Judy Johnson and all the volunteers who worked so hard putting this wonderful event together!



COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES PARTNERING WITH THE EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK

Summer Food Program for Children

Our church partnered with the East Texas Food Bank (ETFB) by participating in their Summer Food Program for Children. The program wrapped up on August 4th. During this year's program, we were able to provide summer meals to numerous children in need within our community.



Monthly Mobile Distribution

In addition to the Summer Food Program for Children, we are continuing our long-standing participation in the East Texas Food Bank Mobile Distribution that is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00am at Bud Moody stadium. April's event was very successful with reaching over 300 of our neighbors in need. If you are interested in volunteering for the monthly distribution program, please contact Pastor Harper.

Plastic Grocery Bag Collection

FUMC Quitman needs your plastic grocery bags to be used for the monthly East Texas Food Bank distribution. Collection bins are now placed in both the entrance to JOY Hall and the Narthex. Please drop off your bags here every month, they will be put to good use. Thank you!!



On Saturday September 5th we will be attending **the Rock of the Pines Christian Music Festival** at the beautiful Nature Preserve in Mineola.

If you are interested in attending please see Judy Johnson or call Pam in the church office at 903-763-4127 to get signed up.

VETERANS ★ Breakfast ★

From 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, J.O.Y Hall is the location for a Breakfast honoring Wood County's military veterans.

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

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





“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 am
Ignite Worship in J.O.Y. Hall 9:00 am
Gathering in The Well 9:30 am

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Worship 11:00 am
YouTube Delayed Recording 6:00 pm

fumcquitman.org

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 “Give On-Line” link on the Church’s web-site, fumcquitman.org, or simply activate the QR Code on the right.

The “Tithe.ly Donation System” is safe and reliable, and it allows you to Add Special Instructions that specify how your donation 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 both tax deductible and sincerely appreciated.



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

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“Transforming God’s Children Into Disciples”