

First United Methodist Church
Center, Texas



FUMC & Bereavement Committee,

Thank you so much for the meal provided after Bobbie's service. It was so nice to have a place for family and close friends to gather. The meal was delicious and truly appreciated. Also, thank you to everyone for the calls, prayers, and acts of kindness. It meant the world to us.

Sincerely,
Ed Turk

Dear FUMC,

We are very grateful y'all allowed us to participate in the Angel Tree Project this year. As you may know, we enlisted CPS to help house the recipients and to distribute the gifts. The CPS workers were very grateful to have the opportunity to help the kids and they worked very hard. Y'all were extremely generous and you can rest assured that this helped many kids have a brighter Christmas.

Happy New Year,
Gary Rhodes

Thank you so much for inviting us to participate in Lucretia's Christmas Wish this year! We oh so enjoyed ourselves and were absolutely thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful opportunity for these children to be able to give to their parents or grandparents.

Blessings,
Miss Kegler's Transition Class,
CES Life Skills,
CHS Life Skills

Dear Friends,

It is time to dream with God about the direction our church takes in 2018 and beyond. So, I am asking each of you to:

- Pray daily for our church and for God's direction in the New Year
- Pray for our congregational leaders and our staff that we will have open ears and hearts for hearing God
- Pray for yourself and ask how God might use you to further God's kingdom this year
- Pray to discern the spiritual gifts God has given you and how you can best use them for God's glory
- Pray for our leadership Retreat January 19-20
- Attend the Retreat if you serve on any Council or Committee
- Not on a committee but want to be a part of the retreat, sign up!

It is important for us to hear from the many voices in our congregation. Let us hear from YOU!

Our study entitled, *The Wesley Challenge*, has begun! It is a 21 day call to a more authentic walk of faith. Pray for those participating. Didn't get in this go round but want to give it a try? Let the office know. A new group will start in a few weeks. Pray for all those participating including our youth! Our first group is reading and will meet Monday, January 15th.

To all those who helped set up and take down our Advent/Christmas decorations I want to say a huge thank you! You helped create a beautiful atmosphere for worship during the holiday season. For the last Sunday of the Christmas season, we looked at the arrival of the Magi. As I read this story I was struck by the fact that the Magi were seeking to see the Christ child. When he heard the news of the child, Herod also sought to find him but to kill rather than to worship him. The more I think about this part of the story I realize how dark a story it is. Herod conspiring with the political and religious leaders who sought to kill Jesus as a toddler were not successful until 30 some years later when they conspired together once again this time with what seems to be success. They just didn't know the rest of the story... that they were ultimately unsuccessful because Jesus lives still today in you and me. Are you seeking to find Christ? What is your motivation? What kind of Jesus do you seek... the one in the manger or Christ the victor? Just a thought!

Karen

**IT'S NOT TO LATE TO RETURN
YOUR 2018 PLEDGE CARDS.
IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE
A CARD, PLEASE CONTACT THE
CHURCH.**

Attendance 1/7/2018

Sunday School	38
8:30 am Worship	58
11:00 am Worship	51

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

**Susan Watkins
2947 CR 3173
Joaquin, TX 75954**



Annual Planning Retreat

Friday, January 19, 2018
6:00 pm
In the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 20, 2018
9:00 am

Leave from church and go to McMahan's Chapel
Breakfast & Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 17th!

PRAYER FOCUS BY BECKY PARFAIT

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9

The truth of the matter is that most of us spend more time during our day with co-workers than we do with our family and friends. So each one of us plays a critical role in our community and it is our responsibility to help build the best community possible. One that is based on love, respect, trust and integrity. And that is truly be a blessing to us all.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for our wonderful community. Thank you for the daily opportunity for us to serve as Your ambassador not only in our workplace but everywhere we go. We pray for your guidance and ask that you teach us to be a voice of encouragement within our community. In Jesus name we pray. Amen. (Inspired by "Everyday Inspiration from God's Creation")

**Kids Grow 'N Christ will resume back on
Wednesday, January 17th.**

**Thank you to all the volunteers who helped take decorations
down from Christmas. We appreciate you all so much!**

The Altar Guild Committee



**Call the church office to
reserve a date!**

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR
MYF SNACK SUPPER!
SIGN-UP PAGE LOCATED ON DOOR TO
FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

*Thank
you*

Dear FUMC,

On behalf of the family of Mary Anna, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your kindness to each of us as we gave honor to her memory. From my first phone call until we finished the delicious meal so lovingly prepared; you made her celebration of life a comfort and a wonderful memory.

A special thanks to the women in the kitchen. What a lovely meal and such beautiful hearts that prepared it!

My heartfelt love,
Sally Menefee Stiernberg

Memorials

Bobbie Turk

Mr. & Mrs. Neilson Davis
Judge & Mrs. Guy Griffin
Northeast Texas Electric Cooperative
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Payne

Danny Foster

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Pigg
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Payne

Ronnie Dickerson

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Pigg

Murray Mathews

Murray Mathews Family

Pam & Jerry Phelps

Mr. & Mrs. Rob Payne

Mary Anna Menefee

Frances Ann Jeans
Ann Harmon
Donna Thomason



Church Camp will be July 8-13, 2018 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, TX. You can register online at <https://lakeviewsummercampregistration.campbrainregistration.com/> or call the Lakeview Registration office at (903) 538-2711. Registration ends June 24! Remember: the church pays half of each campers registration fee or we can assist those who are in need of the full amount. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Bohannon!