

First United Methodist Church
Center, Texas



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with Lucretia's Christmas Wish. We also appreciate all the donated items. We were able to provide gifts for over 160 students.

Mary Lynn Tinkle

I would like to thank all the members of the First United Methodist Church for the beautiful prayer cross. All the prayers are so appreciated and very much needed. It was devastating for me to hear the diagnosis of cancer; but I know that God has a plan for my life, as He does for each and every one of us. I intend to fight this battle and have asked God for the strength to do it. I know that God is in control and His will, will be done. Thanks again from the bottom of my heart for remembering me and adding me to your daily prayers. May God Bless You All.

Sincerely,
Tina Vaughn



Call the church office to reserve a date!

“BHAG” an acronym I had not seen until this last week. The Bishop had it listed on the agenda for the Core Leadership Team meeting I attended. It is an acronym used in business to help direct the organization. What does it stand for? **Big Hairy Audacious Goals.** (Except Bishop Jones changed Hairy to Holy!)

Big Holy Audacious Goals. The Bishop has some BHAG's for our conference. As we prepare for our leadership retreat this weekend I think we need to look at our BHAGs. Are our dreams and plans and goals for our church **big** enough? Are they Holy? Have we taken the time as individuals and committees to look around our community and see what might be breaking God's heart hers in Center? Where are there needs that no one is filling? Are our goals easy or audacious? For me audacious goals are those that can only be achieved with God's leading and direction? Are they Do they cause us to think in a new way or offer a new way to be the church in our community? Do they help define and direct our work and mission? What are our goals? One thing I do know and believe is that if we don't determine our goals, we will drive by any wind that blows. We will become ineffective for God's Kingdom?

It is often said that the church is the only institution that exists for people who are not members of the institution. That is true in part. Our members' spiritual needs must be met before we can grow in our love of God and love of others.

Karen

If you have left over Christmas bags that you no longer need, please bring them to the church office. They will be used for Lucretia's Christmas Wish gifts.

Attendance 1/14/2018	
Sunday School	32
8:30 am Worship	39
11:00 am Worship	49

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



Annual Planning Retreat

Friday, January 19, 2018
6:00 pm-8:00 pm
In the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 20, 2018
9:00 am-2:00 pm
In The Fellowship Hall

Breakfast & Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 17th!



Something to Ponder came about while I was searching Scriptures for answers to a current issue. I was led to Luke 2:19. Mary had just received a word from God through the angel. "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Often we receive words from the Lord which we need to take to our heart, hold them there, and allow them to grow in our spirit. Then when we hear our Jesus calling, we can respond quickly! Father God, help us to treasure Your Word in our hearts so we may hear Your voice calling above the noise of the world. Amen. You may contact Terri for prayer requests at (936)598-3484 or at (936)-332-2717, or at btlacher@sbcglobal.net

No Greater Love: The Four Chaplains and the Sinking of the Dorchester

On **January 23, 1943**, the USAT Dorchester left New York harbor bound for Greenland carrying 902 officers, servicemen and civilian workers. The Dorchester was escorted by three Coast Guard cutters. On **February 2**, one of the cutters detected the presence of a submarine but failed to find the submarine's position. The C.O. of the Dorchester ordered the men to sleep in their clothing, with life jackets close at hand. They were only 150 miles from Greenland and daylight would bring air cover from the American base.

Down in the old converted cruise ship's hold, four U.S. Army chaplains circulated among the frightened young men, some lying wide-eyed in their bunks. **Those newly commissioned chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Reformed.** Chatting with the troops, the chaplains eased tensions, calmed fears and passed out soda crackers to alleviate seasickness.

Early in the morning of **February 3** the chaplains were still up just before 1:00am when the torpedo struck. Those service members not trapped below rushed topside. The four chaplains quickly moved among the bewildered men, calming them, directing them to life rafts, urging them to escape the doomed ship. Many had forgotten their life jackets. The chaplains located a supply in a deck locker and passed them out. When the bin was empty they pulled off their own and made others put them on.

Only two of the 14 lifeboats were successfully used in abandoning ship. Soldiers leapt into the icy sea. They clutched the gunwales of the two overloaded lifeboats, clung to doughnut-like rafts or floated alone. Some men were insulated by the thick fuel oil that coated them and floated in lifejackets for eight hours.

The four chaplains remained on the ship's slanted aft deck, standing together, arms linked, heads bowed in prayer, as the Dorchester slipped beneath the waves. Their sacrifice would be remembered as one of the most touching stories of the Second World War, and their legacy continues to this day.

To honor their memory and sacrifice and to honor the men and women that serve in our military today, our rail offering on **Feb 4** will be used to purchase **Military Bible Sticks** for our service personnel and their families. This is an audio drama New Testament and Psalms from the ESV Bible. More information will be coming to you. Please continue to pray for our service members as so many stand in harm's way for us. Truly, no greater love exists than to lay one's life down for one's friends.

Memorials

Mary Anna Menefee

Vickie Warr
Billie Sue Payne
Bill Carroll, Bob Carroll, Courtney Carroll Davis
Suzanne Ihlo
Judge & Mrs. Guy Griffin
Family of Pam & Jerry Phelps

Bobbie Turk

Darrell Rundle & Carolyn Rundle
Suzanne Ihlo

Pam & Jerry Phelps

Suzanne Ihlo

Danny Foster

Suzanne Ihlo

Don Schmutz

Suzanne Ihlo

Sue Howard

Suzanne Ihlo

Bobby Warr

Suzanne Ihlo



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!