

First United Methodist Church
Center, Texas

Love God, Love People, Serve The World

WE ARE A CONNECTIONAL CHURCH!

Connectionalism in the United Methodist tradition is multi-leveled, global in scope, and local in thrust. Our connectionalism is a vital web of interactive relationships.

In *The Pastor and People*, the three principles upon which the connection was built are described: episcopacy, itinerancy, and mutual help. Regarding "mutual help," great emphasis is placed on various funds and collections as ways Methodists share resources. This can be seen as "the strong helping the weak". I believe it is most profoundly demonstrated when we meet human needs of many descriptions.

It is most important always to recognize our common mission by which we actualize the work of Kingdom building. I believe that faithfulness to this connection is realized as we accept our responsibility to participate as a 'grace recipient'. Therefore, a gracious heart becomes our responsiveness.

APPORTIONMENT DESIGNATIONS:

Seven Funds are apportioned to the Annual Conference by the General Conference:

- World Service
- Episcopal Fund
- Interdenominational Cooperative Fund
- General Administrative Fund
- Ministerial Education Fund
- Black College Fund
- Africa U. M. University

The Jurisdictional apportionment is from the Jurisdictional connection and includes the following:

- Jurisdictional Administration Fund
- Jurisdictional Ministries (SMU Campus Ministry, Lydia Patterson Institute)

Other apportionments support unique ministries within the Texas Annual Conference. They are:

- Center for Congregational Excellence
- New Church Transformation Development
- Center for Clergy Excellence
- Center for Missional Excellence
- Center for Connectional Resources
- Pensions
- District Superintendents Fund
- Equitable Compensation
- Medical Benefits Progra

When United Methodists think of apportionments as a privilege of ministry which brings new life for God's people and churches, excitement occurs. Each week in the newsletter and bulletin, we will share more details of these apportionments so you have a better understanding of where your apportionment dollars go.

The **World Service Fund** is the heart of our church's ministry together. Through this fund you become a partner with the church's agencies to be in mission and ministry at home and around the world. World Service is the basic financial underpinning for most of our day-to-day denomination wide work. Through this fund United Methodist churches strengthen evangelism efforts, foster church growth, and nurture spiritual development. Our congregations have been enriched with worship, retreat, and camping resources, leadership training and stewardship development. The fund also supports specific work with children, youth, singles, students, persons who are physically challenged, adults and older persons. Mission workers and others who serve Christ and the UMC around the world are helped through this fund.

Certification for our chaplains, Christian educators, communicators, and musicians is made possible through the monies raised for this fund. The fund has allowed the general church to create a United Methodist presence in mass media and make new communications technology accessible to the church. Through this fund we demonstrate our commitment to God's reign through ministries of peace and justice, and efforts to build a church and a society inclusive of all people. Karen

FINANCE UPDATE

2018 Budget
\$414,701.00
Needed weekly
\$7,975.02
Received on 9/30/2018
\$6,185.00
Received to date (week 39)
\$275,489.55
Needed to date 9/23/2018 (week 39)
\$311,025.78
Difference
-\$35,536.23



Join us
TUESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2018
FROM 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
AT THE WHATABURGER IN CENTER
AND WE'LL DONATE 25% OF SALES TO
CENTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DINE IN & DRIVE THRU

Whataburger logo and "Whataburger Night FUNDRAISER" text are prominently displayed on the left side of the poster. A Whataburger sign with "24 HOURS" is visible on the right.

Sunday Schedule:

8:30am – Worship
 9:30 am – Coffee Fellowship-
 Tinkle/Runnels SS Class
 10am– Sunday School for all ages
 11am- Worship

Second Mile Club

Through “Second Mile Club” giving, we have a wonderful opportunity to partner with God. Donations go directly to the Second Mile Club Fund and are not part of your apportionments. It is a good will and good faith offering. So, as we say “...if anyone would have you go one mile, go with them two miles.” Matthew 5:41.

The suggested donation for each share is \$25.00.

We are grateful for every member of our club, because together, we are making a lot of difference in areas within our district.

Youth Updates

October 9: What A Night Fundraiser
 5-8 p.m.
 October 13: McMahan Chapel Day
 with Bishop Jones Preaching
 October 29: Halloween in the Hole

September 30th Attendance

Sunday School	21
10:00 am Worship Service	131
Total in Worship	131

This Sunday, October 7th is World Communion Sunday. The rail offering will support that cause.

Something to Ponder...

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” **Matthew 9:38 NIV** We recently took a trip to Spokane, Washington and traveled through the countryside through Idaho and back again. The mountain top views were breathtaking as well as the clear blue rivers that ran in the valleys. But the most impressive sight was the miles and miles of golden wheat fields scattered over the hills. Most had already been harvested. Some of the fields were burnt off, leaving dark scars across the land. As we got closer we could see tiny shoots of green where the fields had already been replanted and were beginning to grow into a new wheat crop and begin the harvesting process all over again. It made me think of how our Lord builds our lives, gently molding us into harvesters of those still needing to trust in His Word. We are very much like that field, harvested, and then often subjected to the painful “burning” in our lives in order to receive the new seed planted in us by our Heavenly Father. Those dark and sorrowful times very often create a fertile ground in our souls as we accept our new lives in Christ Jesus! They also allow us to understand those who still struggle in their relationships with the Lord as we are used by our Father in Heaven to help nurture the new seeds of eternal life. Father God, we thank You for Your infinite wisdom in bringing about new life in each of us, even through the rough and difficult times. We give You all the praise for allowing us to be a part of Your great plan in the harvesting of souls to know and love You forever in Heaven.

You may send your prayer requests and praises to Terri Lacher at btlacher@sbcglobal.net or at (936) 598-3484 or (936) 332-2717

THE TIME IS COMING...

Who doesn't want to spend Halloween Night GREETING and TREATING cute goblins, cats, scarecrows, Super Heroes, princesses, hobos, and other assorted precious dressed-up wandering kids!!

If this sounds like a fun night's entertainment, then plan to come out and help us on Wednesday, October 31 between 6:30 and 8:30 for our 2nd annual

HALLOWEEN TRUNK or TREAT EVENT

Decorate a vehicle – of any kind – and have a trunk full of candy and/or treats!

or

Bake or buy cakes, cupcakes, cookies, or other edible delights for the cakewalk

or

Bring bags of candy to Nancy's office for distribution that night.

or

Just come by that night for a while to meet, greet, visit, and take part in the fun!!

Everyone who came and helped had a wonderful time last year; join us this year!!

Memorial

Honor of JW & Bobbie Braden Randall Garrett



You are cordially invited to attend the One Hundred Eighty Fifth Anniversary Celebration of McMahan Chapel on Saturday, the thirteenth of October Two thousand eighteen at ten thirty in the morning Speaker Bishop Scott Jones, Texas Annual Conference

Be our guest for a covered dish luncheon in the Event Center following the service.



We will have the shoeboxes out for you to pick up on October 2nd in the fellowship hall.

Dates for the shoeboxes are October 2nd through November 1st

These shoeboxes are the only way these children know that God loves each of them. Help us to make this happen.

OCC Committee

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