



FIRST UNITED METHODIST GONZALES

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

426 Saint Paul St, Gonzales, TX 78629

Phone: 830-672-8521

www.fumcgonzales.org

email: fumc@gvec.net

Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year, Church!

Whew! 2020. That was something, wasn't it? We started the Christian new year back at the beginning of Advent, because we all needed to reset. As we begin 2021, I have no doubt that some really amazing things will happen this year because God is with us and at work in and through us.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

This is your reality in Christ. This is the invitation to a new reality that we get to live into by the power of the Holy Spirit. As we move past 2020, give thanks to God for how He was present. Give thanks to Him. Give thanks for the good that He has done. Give thanks for the people He brought into your life. Give thanks for the grip of His love and Mercy in the good times and in the bad. Give thanks for the things you get to move on from. I am convinced that living into life as a new creation in Christ is reflected by living a life of gratitude. Let's press into our good and faithful God in this new year. Let's ask Him what He's up to and let's join him with all that we are and all that we have.

On January 3rd our worship time will include Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service. This is a time of commitment to living holy lives through Christ Jesus. Let's enter into this new year together expectant of what God is going to do.

Pray with me, John Wesley's Covenant Prayer:

"I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine and I am thine. SO be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

God Bless you, Church!

I'm honored to be your pastor.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to your support and generosity, we have completed the preparation and distribution of 160 food boxes for needy families in the Gonzales area. I want to thank each of you for your donations of money, time and groceries in making this project a success. We extend a huge thank you to all of the volunteers that helped prepare the boxes and distribute them. This project would not be successful without the hands, feet (and backs!) of volunteers. We also are grateful to HEB for making a very generous contribution to our project. This project helps those less fortunate to have some extra groceries and also be able to fix a nice holiday meal for their families. I feel this outreach is a testament to our faith and the loving spirit of Christ at work in our community. All of the recipients expressed their gratitude and want you to know that it does make a difference.

Thanks, Rosemary Hindman

Happy House News



January Events:

- January 4th – School Holiday
- January 18th – School Holiday
- January 20th – Book Orders Due
- January 25th – Fundraiser Begins online

Happy New Year Everyone!!

Sandra Jandt, 672-7879



Celebrating Jesus' birthday by wearing pajamas and enjoying Wacky Packs from Sonic!

Staff

- Rev. Dr. Matt Pennington, Lead Pastor
- Brian Sherman, Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries
- Katrina Sherman, Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries
- Allison Davis, Dir. of Children & Family Ministries
- Felicia Cantu, Office Manager
- Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager
- Janelle Lester, Wesley Nurse
- Christina Menking, Organist
- Bill Meadows, Pianist
- Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director

Believe.
HOPE.
Encourage.
PERSEVERE.

Thank You!

Dear First United Methodist Church,
 Thank you for helping us celebrate our bundle of joy with your thoughtful gifts. "The Story for Little Ones" book is perfect and we are already enjoying reading Everyly stories from it. The handmade quilt from The Earth Angels Quilters is so special and beautiful and we will cherish it forever. We really appreciate all of you thinking of us during this exciting new chapter of our lives.

Love,
 The Irons; Roy, Brie & Everly

Dear Allison and the FUMC Angels,
 Thank you so much for your generous donation? The coats and clothes are already coming in handy, and I know the rest will go quickly after the next cold snap. Have a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Sincerely,
 Traci Henze
 Gonzales Primary Academy Counselor

STATISTICAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2020

Finance	<u>Jan - Nov</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	<u>623,227.68</u>
Gross Profit	623,227.68
Expense	
40000 · Facility Operations	93,873.12
60000 · Ministry Work Areas	21,804.39
65200 · Lawn Care	4,589.38
66000 · Payroll	317,286.33
66100 · Staff Benefits	23,576.03
67000 · Church Clergy Exp.	41,075.10
76000 · Apportionments/Conf. Treas.	<u>60,064.54</u>
Total Expense	<u>562,268.89</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>60,958.79</u>
Net Income	<u>60,958.79</u>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Jimmy Mills	15	Jordan Escobedo	24	Dale Graham
5	Tommy Barnick		Trace Herndon		Madelyne Parr
	Cody Witzkoske	16	Bill Meadows	26	Zachary Taylor
	Angelica Castro		Cheryl Meadows		Linnea Cowan-Merrill
6	Bill Reaves	17	Janet Currie		Bubba Ehrig
	Daniel Tomas	18	Carol Wallace		Dennis Jahns
7	Lisa Barnick		Britt Hindman	27	Herman Grauke
8	Ellen Johnson		Robbie Heldarsen	28	Byron Freeman
	Joyce Harris		Angela DuBose		Beth Newman
10	Michael Lackey, Sr.		Andrew Sullivan	29	Phil Koehler
	Jessyca Malaer		Parker Petras		Kenneth Gottwald
11	Erik Currie	19	Nicholas Casares		Al Wayne Ehrig
12	Courtney Williams	20	Rachelle Pearson		Christina Jahns
	Roy Johnson		Todd Crawford		Jax Lipke
	Maria Sullivan		Andrew Storey	30	Read Staton
13	Cree Stowers	21	Norma Ehrig		Allie Balfanz
14	Carolyn Cain		Jack Dubose		Liz DuBose
	Scarlett Crawford		Zac Clack		Glenn Pruess
	Glen Sachtleben		Tessa Quintanilla	31	Connor Fogle
	Fisher Davis		Hannah Gottwald		
	Bowen Davis	23	Sherri Schellenberg		
	Nate Pennington				

ANNIVERSARIES IN



- 2 Dewey Amanda Smith
Brian & Katrina Sherman
- 6 Brad & Stacy Zella
- 7 Lance & Leah Behlen
Steve & Kathleen Ehrig
- 8 Jimmy & Hope Mills
- 12 Johnnie & Debbie Fogle

Please contact Felicia at the church office, 672-8521, if your information is missing or incorrect.

Altar Flowers for January are given by:

January 3-Jason and Stephanie Carter ~ In Memory of Donald and Emily Neuse and Sam and Lorine Hunter

January 10-Erwin and Mary Ckudre ~ In Memory of Our Parents

January 17-Bill and Sally Storey and Philip, Natalie, Parker, Dylan, & Andrew Storey ~ In Memory of Lee and Evelyn Carnes, Sue Carnes, and Glynn and Feetie Storey

January 24-Billie Bruns ~ In Memory of Harold Bruns

January 31-Charles and Maydell Pankey ~ In Honor of Loretta Pankey

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lacy ~ In Memory of Harry and Marie Lacy

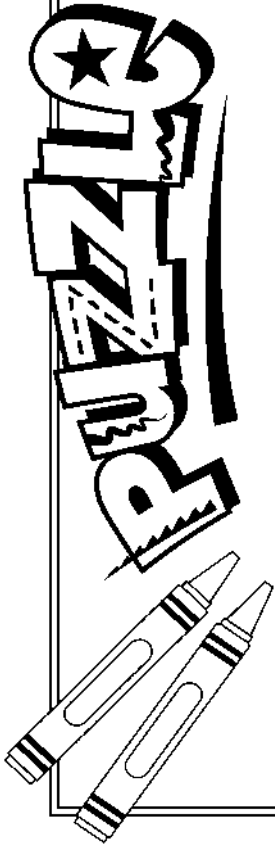
Children's Corner

We survived the season of Advent and are headed straight into the new year. I can't thank each of you enough for your generous support of our Children's Ministry Program. I always know that you are ready and willing to step up to the call of serving our children. We have taken on the task of evolving this program to continue to lead children to the love of Christ. It has been true joy to serve in this capacity with each of you. There are always volunteers with faithful hearts working together for the enrichment of our children.

We ended Pioneer Club this semester with a movie day in the fellowship hall. It was enjoyed by kids and adults the same. We watch the animated version of the Grinch and enjoyed fun snacks. I am so thankful for our Wednesday afternoons together.

Pioneer Club

First Gathering of the semester will be January 20th



One Baptism

The "one" theme of Ephesians 4:4-6 assures us that we need to be baptized only once. Yet a relationship with God involves approaching him with a humble heart each day.

Directions: Inside the 1, fill in words using the spaces as a guide. Then unscramble the circled and boxed letters to reveal John's message about baptism in Mark 1:4.

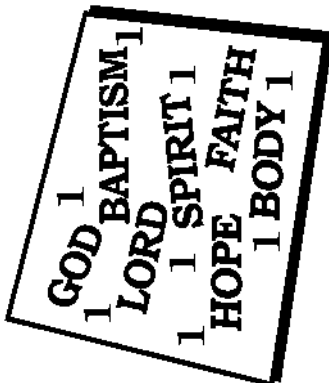
hope Spirit body baptism Lord Father God

n _ n _ n _ c _ e
 v _ n

Answers: body, Spirit, hope, Lord, baptism, God, Father, repentance, forgiveness

"ONE" PAINTING

Ephesians 4:4-6 talks a lot about one. Create one painting that says it all.



What you need:

- Foam letters or letter stickers
- White painting canvas
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrush or sponge
- Water

What you do:

1. Place letters on the canvas to spell out the "ones" in Ephesians 4:4-6 (one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God).
2. Paint over the letters, using various colors.
3. When the paint is dry, peel off the letters to reveal words that explain important Bible truths.
4. If desired, finish by painting some number 1's in any blank spots.

Wesley Nurse News

Dear Church Family,

The obstacles we have endured during this past year have added stress to each our lives. As 2020 comes to an end and we begin a new year, remember to be gentle with yourselves and count your blessings.

“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” - Psalm 62:8

Practice some stress busting techniques. Here are some ideas:

- **Leave.** If the noise level is too much or the crowds are closing in, just leave. You don't have to stay in the toy store with all of the screaming youngsters, and you don't have to converse with the know-it-all at the party. You can walk away.
- **Close the eyes.** Take a break from the lights and activities. Closing the eyes is a great way to get re-centered.
- **Try some solitude.** In the middle of so much activity it helps to have time alone. Use the quiet time to set priorities, to pray, or to count your blessings.
- **Go outside.** Fresh air and sunshine can make a difference in how you feel. Being in God's creation and going for a walk can help find extra energy.
- **Locate some water.** Listen to it, watch it, drink it or sit in it. Water refreshes in so many ways. He knows what we need; maybe that is why God put so much on earth.
- **Breathe!** Remember to exhale occasionally. When the shoulders are up to the ears, it's time to take some deep breaths. Fill the lungs completely from the bottom to the top. Pause for a couple of seconds. Exhale letting all of the air out of the lungs from the top to the bottom. Repeat three or four times. Your shoulders have relaxed with the rest of the body. Stress causes shallow breathing. Deep breathing releases it.
- **Listen to music.** Choose whatever type makes you happy. Sing along. It's amazing how good this can make us feel.

Give yourself the gift of peace in the midst of a world in chaos. Have a great holiday and share your peace with those around you.

In His Service, Your Wesley Nurse,
Janelle Lester, BSN, RN

References: www.counseling.eku.edu/self_help/holiday_stress.php - Eastern Kentucky University's Counseling Center – tips for dealing with stress
www.nmha.org/go/get-info/ - Mental Health America – search 'holiday depression' for information to assist consumers
www.medicinenet.com/ - MedicineNet.com – HON approved and peer reviewed – search 'holiday depression or stress'
www.helpguide.org – sponsored by Wise & Healthy Aging – information on families, mental health, seniors, and healthy lifestyles reviewed by therapists and physicians
www.apahelpcenter.org – American Psychological Association
www.bio-medicine.org/ - an online organization and Web portal devoted to biology and medicine – search 'holiday depression,' 'stress'
< www.mayoclinic.com >

Announcements –

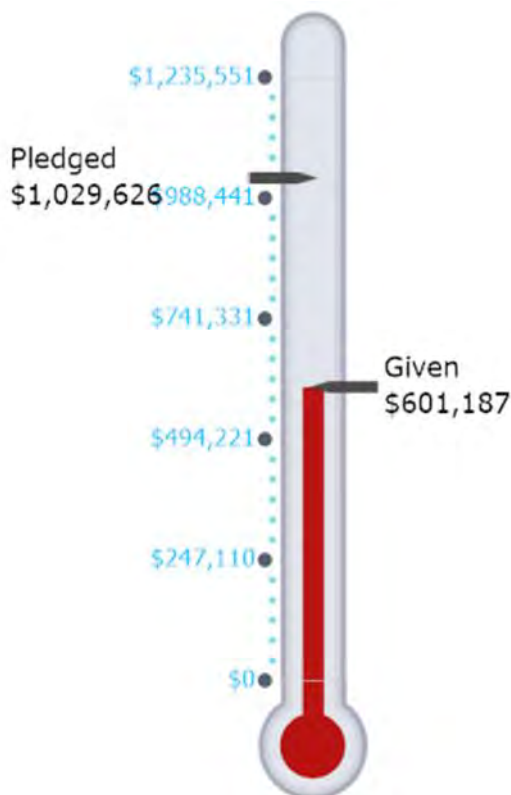
- On Sunday, December 13th, we hosted our fourth blood drive of the year. Through your generous and heroic hearts, were able to collect 43 units of blood. That is up to 129 lives that were positively impacted by the donations received that day! From the bottom of my heart, thank you to all who donated and/or tried to donate blood. Your act of kindness does not go unnoticed and because of you, lives have been and will be saved. Our next drive is not yet scheduled but will be in March of 2021.
- As we are all continuing to learn to coexist with COVID-19, my office visits look a little different. I am available to take in-person office visits for individuals who need any of my services. These appointments will follow a specific process, starting with pre-appointment telephone screening and we will continue to practice social distancing. All patients will be required to wear a mask in the Wesley Nurse's office. However, I am still not available for any group classes. Please call or email me, and we can arrange for a phone visit if you are unable to come in for an in-person appointment. You can reach me by phone at 830.888.9780, or by email at jlester@mhm.org.

As we look forward to starting a new year but are still struggling with circumstances and restraints regarding COVID-19, I would like to offer you some options to continue your support of our church, it's ministries and our congregation. Donations can be made in several ways:

- Bring to worship services when you are able to attend in person. Offering plates are available in the Sanctuary each week.
- By mail – Use our mailing address of 426 St. Paul Gonzales, Texas 78629. I would be happy to send you a supply of addressed envelopes, just call the office to request them.
- Electronic funds transfer. This option is easy, safe and secure and ensures that your contributions go directly to our bank account. Donations can be scheduled once or twice monthly. I am available to answer any questions you might have. Contact me in the church office to set up or to get an enrollment form.
- Via PayPal – visit fumcgonzales.org and click on the Donate Now button. If you have an existing PayPal account, you can schedule a recurring payment to us.
- Bill pay through your bank. Visit with your bank personnel if you need assistance in setting up automatic payments on their websites.

Thank you for your dedication and continued support,
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager

Capital Renovation Campaign Giving Toward Pledges through 12/15/2020



Book Club News

The 13th Gift, our December selection by Joanne Huist Smith, was written from journals she kept after the sudden death of her husband in October 1999. Celebrating Christmas seemed impossible as she dealt with her grief despite the needs of her three children. Twelve days before Christmas, an anonymous giver begins leaving small, inexpensive but meaningful gifts and poems (based on "The 12 Days of Christmas" song) on their porch. A tiny poinsettia, bows, cards with angels, wrapping paper, golden apples were small tokens that helped this family find joy for Christmas during a very difficult time. Smith wrote the book in 2014 when she finally discovered who these angels of joy were and discovered they had been doing this lovely mission for numerous families over a twenty plus year period. What a wonderful mission to restore peace and joy to a hurting family at Christmas!

For January, we will be reading The Pioneers by highly acclaimed author David McCulloch. The book tells the story of the settling of the Northwest Territory after the Louisiana Purchase in a highly-readable fashion. McCulloch uses the stories of a few families to explain the importance of this area of our country.

As we begin 2021, we all hope for better times, so the Book Club members would love to have new people join us in a safe meeting on Jan. 28 in the Bride's Room at 9:30. For info call 830-672-9307.

Martha Jo Whitt

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MEMORIALS 4th Quarter 2020

CLARENCE WESLEY BAHLMANN

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

DAVID GUERRA

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

DIANE MENKING FLOYD

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

Ludene Poe

HENSLEY T HURT

The Children of Ernest & Ruby Kapavik-Music

Carolyn Harrell

James Scheske

Norman & Jean Burns

MARIAN BERNICE MOELLER

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

MILDRED ROEBER

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

GARRETT MILLER

Beth Newman

Eva Boscamp-Stockton Building

Charles & Maydell Pankey

Steve & Laurie Taylor

Emmitt & Marie Currie-Happy House

Kathleen Borrer

SANDRA JEAN MOSELEY

Steve & Laurie Taylor

WILBERT R BENES, SR

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

Ludene Poe

BARON BOONE DAVIS

Tom & Pam Lester-Children's Ministry

Bobby & Rebekah Morgan- Children's Ministry

Carol Wallace- Children's Ministry

Howell & Pam Howard- Children's Ministry

Pal & Bethel Lester- Children's Ministry

Kerry & Tammy Morgan-Stockton Building

Mike & Sarah Miller-Children's Ministry

Jimmy & Debra Springs

Ludene Poe

Cindy Bailey

FREDDIE FINCH

Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

Ludene Poe

HILDA 'SUSY' PARKER

Barry & Lauren Boothe- Children's Ministry

Jason Breitschopf

Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

Bobby & Rebekah Morgan-Music

John & Edith Lucas

Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Capital Renovation

Kenneth & Laverne Brzozowski-Trustees

Jim & Jenice Benedict

Ludene Poe

ELMO ALEX SAMPLE

John & Edith Lucas

DALE SCOTT

Jeff & Sammie Massie

AUBREY J PULLIN

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

Ludene Poe

KATHLEEN H MCLAIN

Bobby & Rebekah Morgan-Stockton Building

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

Lee & Dana Williams-Youth

Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

Carolyn Harrell

Nancy Burns-Bereavement

Ralph & Ida McGarity

Sue Penney

Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Capital Renovation

Kathleen Borrer

Katie Garrett

CHARLES FREDRICK 'FRED' BEESON

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

Kenneth & Laverne Brzozowski-Trustees

Ludene Poe

Harold & Brenda Grauke

Bill & Kathy Morrow

Bill & Ann Reaves-Bereavement

Steve & Laurie Taylor

Emmitt & Marie Currie-Missions

Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

Scott & Joann Keck

Larry & Beth Mercer

Rosemary Morrow

Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Capital Renovation

Joyce Harris-Bereavement

Ray, Judy & Tracey Neitsch-Happy House

John Tinsley

Glynda Storey Christian

Kasey Floyd

Charles & Maydell Pankey-Scholarship

Sue Penney

RUTH K DENMAN

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth

Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

Jeff & Sammie Massie-Music

Peggy Kokernot Kaplan-Missions

Diana Kokernot Britton-Missions

Jan Kokernot-Missions

Dale & Sherri Schellenberg-Worship

Florence Baker

Jimmy & Susie Selzer

Barry & Lauren Boothe-Children's Ministry

David & Mona Bivins

Carolyn Harrell

John Tinsley

Kenneth & Laverne Brzozowski-Trustees

Jason Breitschopf

Phil & Jackie Breitschopf

Nancy Burns-Bereavement

Tommy & Liz Ervin

Sue Penney

James "Bunkie" Selman & Mary Jones

Linda Stulting-Bereavement

Tom E & Pam Lester

Ralph & Ida McGarity

Steve & Laurie Taylor

Kyle & Debbie Crozier

Bill & Sally Storey

MEMORIALS CONTINUED:

RUTH K. DENMAN - continued

Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Capital Renovation
James Scheske
M Joy Kokernot
Norman & Jean Burns
John & Iris Anna Mohrmann
Tom & Diane Gtes
Phyllis, Zack & Ashley Mraz
Reg & Amy Othold

LAWRENCE 'LARRY' EHRIG

Jack & Dyna Dubose-Youth
Kenneth & Laverne Brzozowski-Trustees
Emmitt & Marie Currie-Missions
Jason Breitschopf
Phil & Jackie Breitschopf
Dale & Shirley Carleton
Rusty & Melissa Clampitt
Craig & Melissa Peck Hamilton
Iris Peck & family
Ludene Poe
Bill & Ann Reaves
James "Bunkie" Selman & Mary Jones
David & Mona Bivins
Norma Fink-Happy House
Joe Britt & Rosemary Hindman-Stockton Building
Tom E & Pam Lester
Steve & Laurie Taylor
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Scott & Joann Keck
Eva Boscamp-Stockton Building
Nancy Burns-Bereavement
Kyle & Debbie Crozier
Emmitt & Marie Currie-Happy House
Jay & Donna Gray-Scholarship
Carolyn Harrell
Bill & Sally Storey
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Capital Renovation
Joyce Harris-Bereavement
John Tinsley
Kathleen Borrer
Katie Garrett
Roy Colmenares & Kay Floyd
Charles & Maydell Pankey-Scholarship
Norman & Jean Burns
John & Iris Anna Mohrmann
Barry & Lauren Boothe-Children's Ministry
Billy & Sue Boothe
Sue Penney

BILLIE JEAN COLLIE

Ludene Poe

ELNORA JUREK

Steve & Laurie Taylor

JOYCE SCHELLENBERG

Norman & Jean Burns

CLARENCE OPIELA

Billy & Sue Boothe
Emmitt & Marie Currie-Stockton Building

IN HONOR OF BILL & JEANETTE MAYER

Eva Boscamp-Stockton Building

Earth Angels

Earth Angels continue a variety of activities. We enjoyed our potluck supper so much, we decided to have another one for our Christmas meeting. Members exchanged BOGO blocks and fabric to be used for quilts. Everyone had a great time. We also continue to pray for rain, for comfort and healing for those who are ill, for comfort and peace for those who grieve, and for a vaccine to end the Covid 19 virus.

Earth Angels plans to convene again on January 12. Women interested in quilting meet the second Tuesday of each month in the FUMC Fellowship Center at 6 PM. Meeting items include mentioning those in need of prayers or in need of being "Wrapped in God's Love" by donation quilts, sharing quilt ideas and tips through programs and projects, inspirational readings, and Show and Tell items which can be viewed on our Facebook page. Anyone is invited to join us at our next meeting for a great time of fellowship and sharing. Don't forget your mask! Continue to stay safe & healthy.

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

--Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

Youth News

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

Advent by Candlelight for Women

We had a great group of youth girls who joined the women in this advent event. It was a beautiful time of fellowship and worship together.

Testimony Night to end the semester

We played games, won prizes, heard stories of God's greatness, and worshiped together!



WHAT'S COMING UP?

January 10 First Confirmation Class & Parent Meeting

Join us in the Youth Room at 3pm to learn more and begin confirmation classes. Also available on Zoom. Please visit our youth page on the church website to register. fumcgonzales.org/youth-ministry

January 13 Youth Group Resumes

Open to all 7th & 8th Grade students. Join us at our first youth group of the spring semester. We will continue to meet in large open spaces and take added sanitizing measures.

Winter Retreat

February 5-7, 2021 Revive Winter Retreat at Camp Eagle

Register today online at revivetexas.org! \$175 for the weekend. Contact Brian or Katrina if you are interested in a scholarship.

WEEKLY PROGRAM

Youth Group

Every Wednesday

JH: 5-6PM, Dinner/Games: 6-7PM, HS: 7-8PM



CONTACT:

Brian Sherman

Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries

(830)377-2279

bdsherman7213@gmail.com

Katrina Sherman

Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries

(956)202-9992

ksherm0331@gmail.com



Sendhub

To get weekly updates of youth events....

Parents, text the word "parents" to (956)752-3909 and follow instructions.

Youth, text the word "gonzales" to (956)752-3909 and follow instructions.



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