



FUMC Newsletter

DECEMBER 2015

426 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX 78629

Phone: 830-672-8521 Fax: 830-672-4612 www.fumcgonzales.org

Pastors Corner

First United Methodist Church in Gonzales has been in service to Christ's Kingdom for over 175 years. Before Texas was even a state, Methodists in this area dared to gather together out of their love and devotion to God. It was not legal for Protestants to openly practice their faith, yet a faithful group of Christians laid the foundation for this congregation.

I love this church's history. I am reminded of our rich heritage every time I pass by the mural in the narthex. It is fitting for us to remember and honor our loved ones who have returned to our Lord this past year: **Sue Grauke, Ruth Steen, Sandra Dickey, Bob Spoon, Marilyn Qualls, Catie Wendell, Morris Keck, John Boyd, Ruth Dullnig, Alfred Spohler, Harold Bruns, Al Garrett, Herman Harris, Bill McMurtry, Yvonne DuBose, and Jane Johnson...** These wonderful people contributed to the building up of the Body of Christ and to the ongoing life of this congregation. We love them, honor them, and shall miss them until we are reunited together in the presence of God.

I am grateful for how this congregation continues to welcome new members into its life. This past year we had 16 professions of faith and 18 transfers from other congregations. We also had 10 infant baptisms. My greatest joy is seeing this congregation so full of children. As a Pastor, I LOVE the sounds of stirring children in worship. I am NOT bothered or distracted in the least. I love the children's moment during worship and how our dedicated volunteers offer a special message and time for our youngest members. (please express your own appreciation to these wonderful volunteers when you see them in worship)

We have much to be grateful for, and we have much to look forward to. 2016 is going to be a busy and exciting year. One of our hopes is to begin renovation of the Stockton Building. The building committee has been hard at work. They made a presentation to the church on November 22 outlining the hopes and dreams of this building. It is our intention to keep the existing structure. Engineers and architects have thoroughly evaluated the building and determined the feasibility of using the existing foundation and walls.

This building is a wonderful gift by the Frank and Helen Stockton family, and we have the opportunity to do something good with this property. With your financial commitment we can incorporate this structure into the ongoing life of this congregation. Those who follow us will give thanks for how we contributed to the Kingdom.

In Christ's Service,

Andy

ADVENT OPEN HOUSE

All are welcome to the Advent Open House at the parsonage, 215 South Fair, on December 13, from 1:00-4:00. Bring the kids or grandkids, enjoy some goodies, and share some fellowship with your church family.



*Altar Flowers for December
are given by:*

December 6

Nancy Logan and Family
In Memory of Jim Logan,
Fannie Mae Logan, and Obert Logan

Donna and Commie Hisey

December 13

Pal and Bethel Lester
Tom and Pam Lester
In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Stayton R. Lester, Sr.

December 20

Christmas Poinsettias

December 27

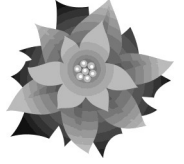
The Fletcher and Jane Johnson
Grandkids
In Memory of "Pop"

Staff

Rev. Andy Smith, Senior Pastor
Ruth Smith, Youth Pastor
David Smith, Director of Discipleship
Willa Keck, Children's Ministry Director
Felicia Cantu, Office Manager
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager
Shirley Goss, Wesley Nurse
Craig Aamot, Music Minister
Christina Menking, Organist
Bill Meadows, Pianist
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director
Rosannah Green, Attendance
Lupe Longoria, Custodian

Special Service Time
Sunday, December 27th
One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
No Sunday School

It's time to order your Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. The flowers will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 20th. There are a limited number of plants, so place your order early. The cost will be \$17.50 per plant. Fill out the order form found in the church bulletin and return to the church office by Monday, December 14th. Make checks payable to FUMC-Poinsettias.



Texas State School of Music Presents
"Where We Belong"

A Holiday Concert with VocaLibre

Under the direction of Craig Aamot

Saturday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.

*at the Performing Arts Center Recital Hall
of Texas State University.*

Tickets available at txstatepresents.com



Ladies Luncheon
at the Alcalde`

Monday, December 7th
at 11:30 am

At the Alcalde` Grill

If interested, please prepay \$10
at Church Office.

Come one, Come all ladies of the Church

Book Club News

Our group met on Thursday, November 19, to discuss our November selection Go Set a Watchman, the sequel to the classic To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. The story of the writing of the book and its relationship to Lee's classic is an interesting story in itself. The book is a good read and a very accurate description of racial tensions of the 1960's, but it is not anywhere near the masterpiece To Kill a Mockingbird. If you are a fan of that book, you definitely should read this one. If you have never read TKaM, read it first. Martha Jo Whitt led the discussion.

For December, we have chosen The Christmas Portrait by Phyllis Clark Nichols, a former Gonzales resident when her husband was pastor of First Baptist Church. It is a sweet coming-of-age story about grief, love, friendship, and redemption in the Christmas season which will touch your heart and strike a chord of familiarity for many. Norma Fink will lead the discussion. Please call 672-9307 for the date of our meeting for December.

We would love to have any of you join us and bring a friend. Merry Christmas to all!

Martha Jo Whitt

God With Us

Faith isn't about knowing all of the right stuff or obeying a list of rules. It's something more, something more costly because it involves being present and making a sacrifice.

Perhaps that's why Jesus is sometimes called Immanuel — "God with us." I think that's what God had in mind, for Jesus to be present, to just be with us. It's also what he has in mind for us when it comes to other people.

—Bob Goff, *Love Does*

Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. - Jeremiah 29:11

I am announcing my retirement and transitioning from God's servant as a Wesley Nurse to working with my family in a new business. Am I feeling a bit anxious? The answer is yes, but I am filled with joy and expectation at my new opportunity. We are all capable because God empowers us.

I am blessed to have been your Wesley Nurse. As a congregation, we will need to offer continued support and encouragement to a new Wesley Nurse. It was because of you that I was able to provide assistance to the needy of this community. See you at church.

Love, Shirley Goss

Earth Angels

Happy Thanksgiving! It is impossible to list all the things for which Earth Angels are thankful. However, Earth Angels are especially thankful for the judges of our Christmas Challenge blocks: Daisy Scheske Freeman, Kacey Lindemann Butler, and Terri Towns. All blocks will now go to Craft Crossing to be judged by the public during Winterfest. We are also thankful for all our members who contribute so much to the needs of our community.

The December meeting of Earth Angels will be our Christmas gathering on Dec. 8.

Women who are interested in quilting make up our group called Earth Angels. Meetings are usually held at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month, in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Center. A typical meeting involves an inspirational reading followed by the mentioning of persons who may be in need of prayers or in need of being "wrapped in God's love" by the presentation of a quilt. Members share ideas, show quilts they have made, and engage in quilting projects. Fellowship and sharing play a major role in Earth Angels. Feel free to visit our next meeting on December 8, 2015; we'd love to have you.

STATISTICAL REPORT OCTOBER, 2015

DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL	SS	OFFERINGS
4	64	110	181	45	\$ 10,913.92
11	165	139	304	79	\$ 10,850.50
18	119	123	243	83	\$ 8,159.20
25	85	124	209	72	\$ 9,974.87
TOTALS:	433	496	937	279	\$ 39,898.49
AVERAGES:	108	124	234	70	

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH:	\$ 51,671.75
NET GAIN OR LOSS FOR THE MONTH:	\$ 11,773.26
APPORTIONMENTS PAID TO DATE:	100%

HAPPY BIRTHDAY


12/1	Coylene Oliver Fred Robinson Laura Zella	12/13	Lisa Escobedo Marian Hayes Billy Hornung	12/27	Melissa Currie Pal Lester Sandra Morris
12/3	Michael Ehrig Steve Ehrig	12/14	Mary Willman Kayla Barta		Bill Mayer Logan Sample
12/4	Grace Morgan Jeff Braune	12/15	Barry Boothe, Jr. Dayton McCray	12/28	Amanda Lackey Tanner Hardcastle
12/6	Lee Meyer Crystal Campos Shelley Thomas	12/17	Sadie Thibodeaux		Brie Schauer
12/7	Bunkie Selman Donna Gray Kailyn Malaer	12/18	Lauren Parr Tara Lester		Zane Whitehead Colt Robinson
12/8	Johnnie Fogle Micah Medellin Joelee Lester	12/19	Lupe Longoria Brad Zella Hannah Keck	12/29	Arline Pettus Ronnie Menking Stacy Fogle
12/9	William Hornung Kelli White Melissa Schauer Patricia Tenberg Brian Schauer	12/21	Kerry Morgan Trent Malaer Tildon Gray	12/30	Cullen Eppright Maggie Matejcek Lainey Witzkoske
12/10	Rosemary Hindman Tim Henry Scott Koehler	12/22	Joe Britt Hindman Noelle Stowers Mary Tomas	12/31	Debbie Crozier Garland Tenberg, Jr. Lisa Gindler
12/11	Greg Sengelmann	12/23	Chance Boyd Anthony Mikesh Bill Hallmark		Rosannah Green Scott Hindman Monroe McGuffin Ryleigh Campos
12/12	Larry Ehrig Trey Kridler Colton Riedel	12/24	Patrick White Jill Schauer		
		12/25	Linda Arledge Peyton Brzozowski		
		12/26	Bill Keck Jimmy Borrer		

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/3	Judy & John Gentry	12/22	Patricia & Donnie Tenberg
12/6	Christi & Kenneth Leonhardt	12/25	Michelle & Leroy Lavender
12/9	Sammie & Jeff Massie	12/27	Kathy & Rickey Gibson
12/11	Ginger & Sammie Gibson	12/28	Jenice & Jim Benedict
12/14	Tonya & David Eppright	12/29	Jackie & Gene Kridler Kelly & Ricky Lester Lynda & Stewart Frazier Mary & Daniel Tomas
12/16	Tammy & Kerry Morgan	12/30	Melissa & Rusty Clampit
12/17	Cheryl & Bill Meadows		
12/18	Maydell & Charles Pankey		

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

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	December 6, 2015	8:30 A.M. SERVICE	10:45 SERVICE	
		Mallory Clack Braden Clampit Natalie Tenberg	Kylee Watson Baron DuBose Sadie Thibodeaux	ACOLYTES (cross)
		Emmitt Currie (Lead) Bill DeBerry Dena Fritz Commie Hisey John Lucas	Pal Lester (Lead) Jenice Benedict Jim Benedict Mike Davis Bitsy Henderson	USHERS
		Dale Graham Willa Keck	Pam Lester Willa Keck	LITURGIST CHILDREN'S SERMON
	December 13, 2015	8:30 A.M. SERVICE	10:45 SERVICE	
		Addyson Kardosz Brendon Mercer Ancel Atkinson	Morgan Farrar Landon Holub Weldon Holub	ACOLYTES (cross)
		Emmitt Currie (Lead) Erwin Ckudre Kenneth Fink Herman Grauke Joe Britt Hindman	Pal Lester (Lead) Eldon Farek Dick Goss Shirley Goss Greg Griffin	USHERS
		Rosemary Hindman Lisa Gindler	Kelly Allen Lisa Gindler	LITURGIST CHILDREN'S SERMON
	December 20, 2015	8:30 A.M. SERVICE	10:45 SERVICE	
		Cree Stowers Megan Tenberg Quinn Atkinson	Faith Lester Joelee Lester Kiley Allen	ACOLYTES (cross)
		Emmitt Currie (Lead) Ronnie Menking Greg Sengelmann Steve Taylor Jimmy Borrer	Pal Lester (Lead) Bobby Morgan Cheryl Meadows Ray Neitsch Leslie Ploeger	USHERS
		Emily Neuse Commie Hisey	David Bird Commie Hisey	LITURGIST CHILDREN'S SERMON
	December 27, 2015	8:30 A.M. SERVICE	10:45 SERVICE	
		Hadley Borrer Brody Borrer Sydney Clack	Ava Medellin Grace Morgan Sadie Morgan	ACOLYTES (cross)
		Emmitt Currie (Lead) John Whitt Martha Jo Whitt Billy Boothe Sue Boothe	Pal Lester (Lead) Mary Tomas Justin Pope Kelly Allen David Bird	USHERS
		Bill Keck Allison Davis	J. Lynn Barnick Allison Davis	LITURGIST CHILDREN'S SERMON



If you are unable to serve on the date scheduled, please contact the church office, 672-8521.

December 2015

December 2015

January 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 29 - Dec 5	Nov 29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5
			10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 6:30pm The Gathering-C	8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-CO 1:00pm Alzheimer Supp 2:00pm WN Exercise-F 3:30pm Pioneer Club 4:00pm Jr. High Youth 5:00pm Pageant Practic 5:30pm Hosanna Choir 5:30pm Praise Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	6:00am Men's Fraternity-N 9:30am Communion @ Care Centers 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 3:30pm Children Decorate Tree at The 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PS 4:00pm Reunion Group-		2:00pm Private Event-N
Dec 6 - 12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Pageant Practice-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 2:30pm Communion @ Romberg House 6:00pm Christmas Pageant-S	8:30am Happy House 11:30am Ladies Luncheon-Alcalde Grill 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 12:00pm Grief Support Group-BP 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Wesleyan Circle-N 6:00pm Quilt Group-FC 6:30pm The Gathering-	8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-CO 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 3:30pm Pioneer Club 4:00pm Jr. High Youth 4:50pm Hosanna Choir 5:15pm Christmas Craft 5:30pm Praise Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	6:00am Men's Fraternity-N 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack-CR		
Dec 13 - 19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	8:30am Worship-S 9:00am Food Box Assembly 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 1:00pm Parsonage Open House 4:00pm 4-H Meeting-FC 5:00pm Youth Bible Study-YR	8:30am Happy House 11:00am Food Box Distribution 12:00pm Cancer Support Group-N 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 3:30pm Hosanna Choir Christmas Caroling 6:30pm The Gathering-C	10:00am Bible Study-CO 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 4:00pm Jr. High Youth 5:00pm Hosanna Choir Practice-S 5:30pm Praise Band Practice-S 6:30pm Choir Practice-CR 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	6:00am Men's Fraternity-N 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO		
Dec 20 - 26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 5:00pm Youth Bible Study-YR	2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC		Office Closed Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	
Dec 27 - Jan 2	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 16	2
	10:00am Worship-S	2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC	Lego Camp-FC 10:00am Bible Study-CO 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Praise Band Practice-S 6:30pm Choir Practice-CR	Office Closed New Years Eve 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS		

Children's Corner

Wow! The Christmas Season is upon us! I can't believe it. Many of us become stressed and worried during this time. What gifts to buy, what food to prepare, etc. Is that how God wants us to live each day? No!! God tells us do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. God provides for us each day. Worry doesn't get us anywhere! Turn your troubles and anxiety over to God. Enjoy each day! It is Gift from God!! May you feel Gods surrounding love, peace and serenity this Christmas season.

Decorate the tree in the Sanctuary with Chrismons during Children's Time in both services, Nov 29, 1st Sunday in Advent.

Dedication of the UMW Sock Tree-Sun, Nov 29 @10:20am in the Narthex. Donate new socks, undergarments & warm ups for local children. UMW give to local elementary schools & Legacy Ranch. Help decorate the tree!

Hosanna Choir-On practices, I will contact all Hosanna choir members of upcoming dates.

- **1st practice - Wed, Dec 2 at 5:30** in choir room right after pageant practice. Very important to make this one!
- **2nd practice - Wed, Dec 9 at 4:50pm** in choir room. (This is Christmas craft fair day so we need to start early) After this practice, Craig and I will decide if need to call a Sunday practice on Dec 13.
- **3rd practice - Wed, Dec 16 at 5pm** in the Sanctuary. Hosanna choir will warm up by themselves and then practice with Chancel Choir. Again, this is a very important practice!
- **Christmas Caroling** at Nursing homes and Romberg House on **Tues, Dec 15. Van pick up** from East Ave, Gonzales Elem, and North Ave. Leave church by 4pm. Pick up at church at 5:30pm. RSVP to Willa!
- **Hosanna Choir will sing** at both services with Chancel Choir on **Sun, Dec 20.**

Christmas Pageant

- **Pageant Practice-Wed, Dec 2-Shepherd's Choir (3rd-8th grade) at 5pm in the Sanctuary. Angel's choir (2nd grade & younger) gather in the Sanctuary at 5:15pm.** (Angel's choir sings at the end of the pageant)
- **Pageant Practice**-All cast practice on **Sunday, Dec 6 at 9:45am** in the Sanctuary. (Angel choir (2nd grade and younger) do not need to come to Sanctuary until 10:15am). **All children and youth are invited and welcome to participate. Senior High-Be present for practice!** Contact Ruth for a part in the pageant.
- **Senior high (Nativity Characters) arrive by 5:30pm.** Meet in the choir room to dress in costume.
- **Shepherd's choir (3rd gr. – 8th gr.) participants arrive by 5:30.** Meet in Fellowship Hall to dress in costume. **Costumes provided!** Jr high Shepherds have special costumes & are part of the Shepherd's choir.
- **Angel's choir (2nd grade and younger)** wear holiday or Sunday dress and meet in the Narthex by 5:45pm. You wear a tinsel halo that is provided.
- **Pageant begins at 6pm on Sun, Dec 6.** Parents don't forget to bring cameras for pictures with Santa!! And don't forget to bring food too!! Help is needed for set up beginning at 4pm, getting shepherd's dressed in costumes, attaching halo's to the little ones, setting up food, and always, clean up after pageant.

Nursery – relish tray
1st & 2nd – chips and dips
5th & 6th – sandwiches
9th-12th – cookies, desserts

Kindergarten – cheese and crackers
3rd & 4th – sandwiches
7th & 8th – fruit trays
Adults – bring any refreshment they would like

Pioneer Club

- Wed, Dec 2 and Wed, Dec. 9.-change in the schedule: After snacks, and free time, go directly to class. (pageant practice at 5)

Christmas Craft Fair, Wed, Dec 9, 5:15pm – 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

- Parents and families join your children in making Chrismons, other Christmas crafts and decorating cookies! Make memories with your children! All are invited to participate!! Guess what! The kids have a Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall to decorate with the ornaments you make!
- **This is the last Pioneer Club meeting for fall.**
- Senior high and junior high invited to assist children!

Service Projects

- **Help decorate a Christmas Tree at The Heights on Thur, Dec 3. Meet at church after school.** No school pick up. Snacks provided, then head to The Heights! Parents pick up from church at 5:15pm. RSVP to Willa.
- **5th and 6th gr Sunday School class help prepare Christmas Food Boxes Sun, Dec 13.**
- **Donations to the UMW sock tree can be made through Dec 13.**

LEGO CAMP in December– One Day Mini Camp, Wed, Dec 30. Theme - Minecraft. -Ages 5-7: 9am-12:00pm. Ages 8-12: 1-4pm. Registration Fee \$25.00. Checks Payable to First UMC Children. Registration Forms available in Narthex and Office. Call Willa for more information 857-6630.

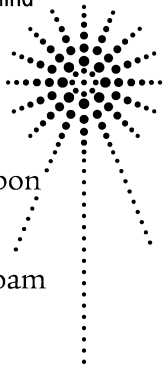
Merry Christmas to everyone and may Peace be with you, Willa

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker



What you do:

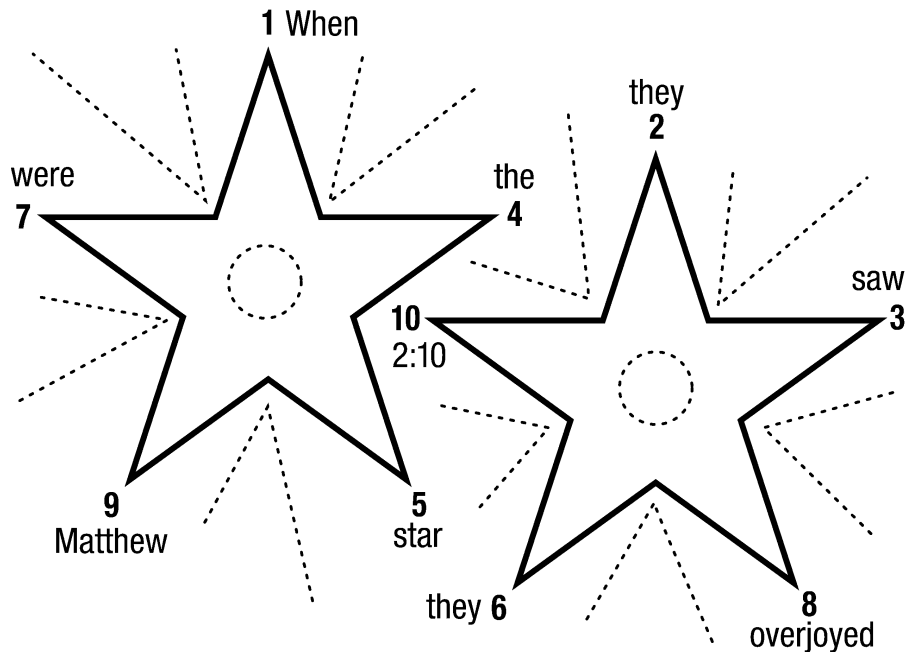
1. With the paper plate upside down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.



The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.



“ _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ ”
 _____ : _____ , NIV

Answer: "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:10, NIV



Christian Symbol - Pax

This Latin word for peace is frequently seen in Christmas art and decorations, reminding us that Jesus came as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). After announcing the Savior's birth to the shepherds, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on each peace ..." (Luke 2:14, NKJV).

Discipleship News

For the past ten weeks, a faithful group of about 13 men have chosen to give up an extra hour of sleep to participate in our men's group called Men's Fraternity. For ten weeks these men have gathered together every Thursday at 6:00AM in the church's Narthex to work through a series called *The Quest For Authentic Manhood*. Each week we eat breakfast together, watch a teaching session, and end with small group discussion to process the material. It is an in-depth 24-week series broken up into two semesters. We are nearing the end of our first semester together before we take a break for the holidays and resume in January. This series by Dr. Robert Lewis is purposed for men to discover what true, authentic manhood looks like. This first semester has been primarily about addressing the problem of manhood in our culture today, "unpacking" our wounds as men, and learning how to seek healing for these wounds. We have learned that a "wound" in a man's life is "any unresolved issue where lack of closure adversely impacts and shapes the direction and dynamics of a man's life now." We have learned and explored at length that there are primarily five wounds men must deal with: The Absent Father Wound, The Overly Bonded With Mother Wound, The All Alone Wound, The Lack Of A Manhood Vision Wound, and The Heart Wound.

Here are some thoughts from men who have been participating in Men's Fraternity:

"We go back to our childhood and determine how mom influenced us or how dad influenced us (separately). Dad's are often times absent which leaves a boy or young man looking for that positive male role model. Every child needs both parents but dad is especially important because of the male influence he has on a young boy."—John Meadows

"I think there is something in here for everyone. It would be great if more of our church men could go through this class." -Commie Hisey

"It is a profoundly insightful series that reveals what the true Christian life looks like as manifested in our manhood." -Dewey Smith

As the facilitator for this group of men, I have been so impressed and thankful for the toughness of these men to get up early every week to gather together, the willingness of these men to be honest with each other in the small group discussion, and the courage of these men to address the wounds in their lives. Personally, God has used this group and this series to reveal wounds in my own life that need to be addressed before I can really pursue authentic manhood. A wonderful, important aspect of this series is that each man is required to develop his own "Manhood Plan"—practical steps he can take to address his own unique wounds and move toward a life of authentic manhood. I am looking forward to having a complete Manhood Plan by the end of these 24-weeks so I can move closer to being an authentic husband, an authentic son, and one day, an authentic father.



United Methodist Women News

Don't Forget the Sock Tree

In January, when we deliver the socks, underwear and warm-up pants to the nurse at East Avenue, she is always so excited. There are so many children that need these essential undergarments in order to stay in school.

So once again, we will have a dedication of the "Sock Tree" in the Narthex on November 29th at 10:30am between services.

Donations of socks, underwear, and warm-up pants for **children** at East Avenue will be accepted beginning on that day and continuing thru Sunday, Dec. 13th.



Special Call for Help

On Sunday, November 15th at the Cluster Charge Conference, there was a discussion and call for help! The Legacy Ranch Foster Home on Hwy.183 North is in need help. The facility is temporary housing for girls and boys who have been taken from their homes. These children range from infants to teenagers. The children come to the Ranch at all times of the day and night; many with only the clothes on their back. They could use socks and underwear.



All things YOUTH

Looking back at the month of November, our youth group has had many moments of fellowship, worship and service. To give you all a quick recap of youth group, we spent the month of November in a series called *Prayer*. In this series, we learned the purpose and power of prayer and how that plays out in our daily lives. Also in November, we participated in a service day, held a successful first Turkey Bowl, fellowshiped at our Thanksgiving Meal and held a parents meeting. I want to thank everyone who came out and helped with all of these events. I am so THANKFUL for this past month and all the ways God has moved.

Entering into the month of December our youth group will finish out our series on *Prayer* and continue to have more opportunities where fellowship, worship and service can be had. Please check our calendar below for ways you can get involved.

IMPORTANT DATES & ACTIVITIES:

⇒ **Jr. High Youth: 4:00-5:00PM** *Snacks are provided for Jr. High*

⇒ **Sr. High Youth: 6:30-8:00PM** *Dinner provided for Sr. High*

⇒ On December 6th is Christmas Pageant Practice in the Sanctuary at 9:45AM the Christmas Pageant takes place that evening at 6:00PM in the Sanctuary.

⇒ On December 9th we will be helping out with the Children's Christmas Craft Fair from 5:00-6:15PM

⇒ On December 13th during Sunday School we will be helping out with the food boxes

⇒ On December 16th we will have youth during our regular time, but please wear a tacky Christmas sweater as we will be celebrating Christmas.

⇒ **On December 23rd and December 30th there is NO Youth Group! Enjoy Christmas Break**



DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 YOUTH GROUP Jr. High 4:00-5:00 Sr. High 6:30-8:00	3	4	5
6 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT@ 6PM	7	8	9 YOUTH GROUP Jr. High 4:00-5:00 Craft Fair 5:00-6:15 Sr. High 6:30-8:00	10	11	12
13 BIBLE STUDY 5:00-6:00	14	15	16 YOUTH GROUP Jr. High 4:00-5:00 Sr. High 6:30-8:00 *Tacky Christmas Party*	17	18	19
20 BIBLE STUDY 5:00-6:00	21	22	23 NO YOUTH	24	25	26
	28	29	30 NO YOUTH	31		



Events to Look Forward to in December

- 11/29 First Sunday of Advent**
Hanging of the Greens
Dedication of the Sock Tree ~ 10:20 a.m.
- 12/6 Second Sunday of Advent**
Children & Youth Christmas Pageant ~ 6:00 p.m.
- 12/7 Ladies Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Alcalde Grill
- 12/9 Christmas Craft Fair & Family Activities ~ 5:15 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- 12/13 Third Sunday of Advent**
Missions Committee Requests Volunteers to Help with Assembling Boxes
at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Open House at the Parsonage ~ 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- 12/14 Missions Team & Volunteers available for Food Box pickup ~ 11 a.m.
- 12/14 Happy House Christmas class parties, then dismiss until January 6.
- 12/20 Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Christmas Cantata at both services
- 12/23 - 12/25 ***Church Office Closed***
- 12/24 Christmas Eve**
Services at 4:30, 7:00 and 11:30 p.m.
- 12/27 One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School.**
- 12/31 - 1/1 ***Church Office Closed***

First United Methodist Church
426 St. Paul Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Christmas Eve Services
Thursday, December 24th*

*4:30 p.m. Family Communion
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
11:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion*

