FUMC Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2017

426 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX 78629
Phone: 830-672-8521 Fax: 830-672-4612 www.fumcgonzales.org fumc@gvec.net

Pastor's Corner

As you know, First United Methodist Church has an incredible relationship with a missionary family in Haiti. Matt and Sarah Rideout and their family have become part of our extended family, and I believe God has connected our church with them to support them in every way we can.

Matt and Sarah recently announced that they are following God's call to move to Bombardopolis, Haiti to assume an exciting new ministry opportunity. They will be stepping into roles managing a rural hospital, AIDS treatment program, cistern building program, and discipleship program in partnership with International Missionary Fellowship.

If you would like to check out more about the ministry they are joining, you can find out much more at www.haitihospital.org. As the Rideout family makes their way into this new journey, I'd like to invite you to commit to pray for them daily. Join me in assuring them that they're covered be a community praying for them and their children. Pray for their transition, God's provision, and for God's strength and wisdom in the challenging new roles they will assume. Pray that God will save and transform many lives through their ministry.

I would also like for you to consider supporting them financially. Whether it is a one time gift, or a regular gift to them directly, I believe that God is at work in and through them. I count it a true joy that God has given our church family the chance to partner in ministry with the Rideouts on the other side of the world!

Our February 5 Communion Rail Offering will go toward supporting Matt and Sarah in their ministry!

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing in Haiti!

Blessings,
Pastor Matt

You Are Cherished

We must understand that God does not "love" us without liking us — through gritted teeth — as "Christian" love is sometimes thought to do. Rather, out of the eternal freshness of his perpetually self-renewed being, the heavenly Father cherishes the earth and each human being upon it. The fondness, the endearment, the unstintingly affectionate regard of God toward all his creatures is the natural outflow of what he is to the core — which we vainly try to capture with our tired but indispensable old word "love."

—Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Youth Sunday

On February 26th, the youth will be leading both church services in worship.
Youth Volunteers please contact Brian (830-377-2279) or Katrina (956-202-9992).

Altar Flowers for February:

February 5

Darren, Melissa, Travis, and Allyson Schauer
In Memory of Stephen Best

Emmitt and Marie Currie
In Memory of Our Parents and Family

February 12

Emily Neuse, Glen Preuss, II,
and Jason and Stephanie Carter
In Memory of Loved Ones

Steve and Mary Willman
In Honor of Our Moms, In Memory of Our Dads

February 19

Barbara Brandon, Jon, Martin and Sandra Dawe
In Memory of Fay and Ester Martin,
Stanley and Mary Dawe, Tommy Dawe,
Mamie Dawe and Debra Dawe,
and Buddy Brandon

February 26

Marian Gindler
Bruce and Lisa Gindler
In Memory of Otto Gindler and Larry Gindler

Colors of New England Tour

Rev. Dana Hamilton is hosting a tour of the fall foliage and other exciting sights throughout New England, October 3-10, 2017. Anyone interested in the adventure please contact Dana at revdlove52@gmial.com or call her at (512) 963-5758.

Highlights: Boston, Woodstock, Quechee Gorge, Stowe, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Rocks Estate, North Conway, Lake Winnipesaukee Cruise, Kancamagus Highway, Boothbay Harbor, Lobster Dinner.

Cost includes: transportation from Gonzales to Airport in Austin-both ways; roundtrip airfare; hotels; 6 breakfast meals and 3 dinner meals; costs for entrance fees to sights. We will visit 4 New England states.

Happy House News

February Events:

February 1st – Spring Fundraiser Begins
February 6th – Group/Individual Pictures
February 12th – Bake Sale Between Services
February 13th – Class Valentines Parties
February 15th – Book Orders Due
February 15th – Zoo Show @ 10:30 in Fellowship Hall
February 20th – School Holiday
February 27th – Spring Fundraisers Due

Registration for 2017-2018 school year is currently taking place this month for In-house students and church family. We will open enrollment up to the public in March. School hours run 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Registration forms are available in the church office or school office.

Please feel free to call or stop by the school office for question or more information.

Sandra Jandt, 672-7879

Announcement from the Trustees

The Trustees have decided to remove the exterior Sanctuary lift. The lift is in disrepair and is no longer needed or utilized since we have the lift in the Narthex.

Staff

Rev. Matt Pennington, Senior Pastor
Brian Sherman, Director of Youth Ministries
Katrina Sherman, Director of Youth Ministries
Willa Keck, Director of Children's Ministries
Felicia Cantu, Office Manager
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager
Janelle Lester, Wesley Nurse
Craig Aamot, Music Director
Christina Menking, Organist
Bill Meadows, Pianist
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director
Rosannah Green, Attendance
Lupe Longoria, Facilities Coordinator

Dear Church Members,

Hal and I want to thank you for your cards your prayers your phone calls your visits and most of all the help with the food. It certainly has helped to make my long journey a little easier. We wish for you a very blessed 2017.

Charlotte and Harold Wilson

Earth Angels & Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful quilt and the diapers. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and are so excited Maverick Cross is finally here and to share him with all of you! He is an absolute blessing and we are beyond blessed. Thank you!

Love,
Derrick & Janelle Lester

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. The time and love you all have put into it is very much appreciated. Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers during this time.

Sincerely,
Jayna Gray

Dear Ladies,

Thank you so much for your donation to the Harwood Baptist Church in memory of our son Marshall. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Art & Renee Fairchild

Dear Ladies of Earth Angels,

Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt I received. Your love and prayers that go into making these beautiful quilts are very much appreciated. Thank you for thinking of me in this difficult time.

Love,
Jayna Gray

Dear Church Family,

Although this is late, a big THANK YOU goes out to all the ladies (and men) who helped with the First United Methodist Church's First Annual Tea and Luncheon. We made a net profit of $2,500.00 and I think that's really great for the first luncheon! You made this possible by all the help you provided and then your help made it so much easier! What a wonderful way to start the season and to glorify God in such a beautiful way. God proved again, He is awesome! I'm sure I've left someone out but I do want to give a special thank you to all who helped: The Steel Magnolias (for their entertainment), Bill Meadows for leading our Sing-a-long, Dale Graham and his crew for serving, the office staff, Rosemary Hindman and Felicia Cantu, for their assistance, printing of tickets and programs, and participation, the table hostesses: Mona Bivins, Cheryl Meadows, Anita Hornung, Kathleen Borrer, Katie Garrett, Jean Peterek Burns, Patrice Shanklin Gray, Sue Boothe, Edith Lucas, Shirley Goss, Jenice Benedict, Willa Keck for added last minute details that simply put the frosting on the cake, caterers for the event: Mary Martha Ehrig and crew for luncheon, and Johnnie Fogle for sweets, and Royce and Terry Towns for tying all those tea bags. God bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Emily Neuse

STATISTICAL REPORT DECEMBER, 2016

DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL	SS	OFFERINGS
4	100	101	201	84	$ 14,203.00
11	96	138	234	78	$ 13,663.01
18	92	106	198	73	$ 8,265.67
24 *(Christmas Eve Services)*			438		$ 3,925.00
25	—	138	138	—	$ 33,538.00
TOTALS:	**288**	**345**	**1,209**	**235**	**$ 73,594.68**
AVERAGES:	***96***	***115***	***242***	***78***	

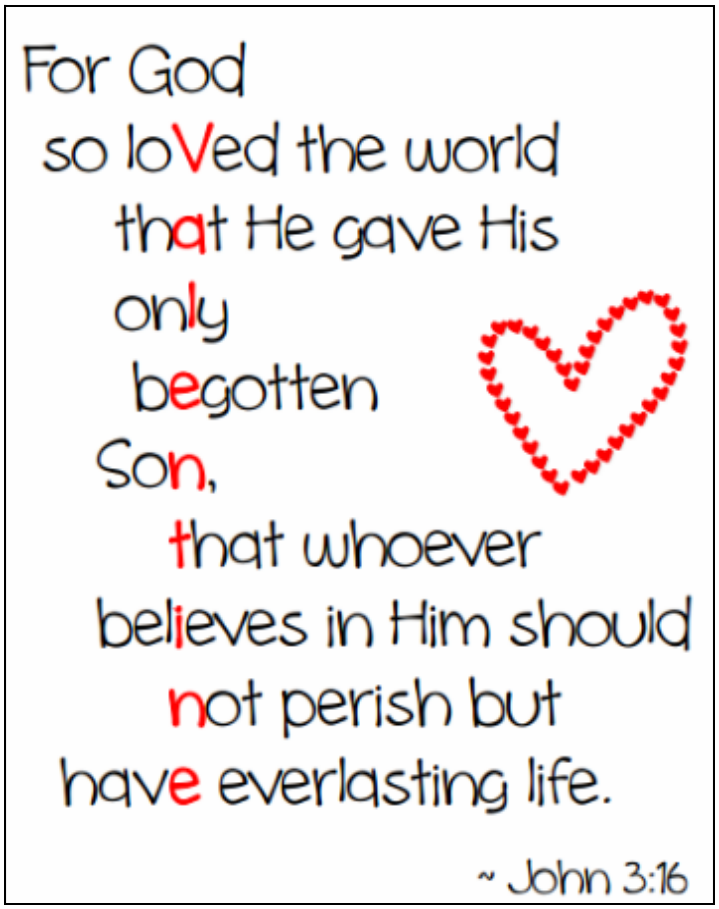
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH: $ 44,388.45
NET GAIN OR LOSS FOR THE MONTH: $ 29,206.23
APPORTIONMENTS PAID TO DATE: 100%

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Felicia Cantu
	Jeanette Mayer
2/2	Daniel Lester
	Travis Raabe
2/3	Marie Currie
	Tyler Morgan
2/4	Josh Lucas
	Lacey Ploeger
2/5	Kelly McGuffin
2/6	Thom Raabe
	Chelsea Petty
	Samantha Barnick
2/7	Samantha Turk
2/8	Amanda Smith
2/9	Edith Lucas
2/10	Bill St. John
	Sue Gottwald
	Helene Seidel
2/11	Jaylen Johnson
	Danni Lester
2/12	Kyle Crozier
	Isabella Crawford
	Kara Watts
	Matt Wyant
2/13	Christi Leonhardt
	Anne Boothe
2/14	Jackie Hodgkiss
	Paden Boothe
	Kohen Mills
2/15	Carli Gindler
2/17	Stayton Lester
2/19	Kathleen Howard
	Jacey Lester
	Sue Ortman
2/20	Bernice Heldarsen
	Elliott Ehrig
	Layton Ervin
2/21	Clay Wyant
2/22	Lynda Frazier
	Bill Weaver
2/23	Dyna Dubose
	Travis Keck
2/24	M'Kenna Matl
	Matt Pennington
2/26	Mike Kosser
	Trent Schauer
	Shirley Lassig
2/27	Tommie McMurtry
	Barry Boothe
	Billy Boothe
	Gay Riedel
	Josh Avant
	Henry Georgiou
	Jarren Johnson
2/28	Twan Brady

ANNIVERSARIES IN

2/04	Martha Jo & John Whitt
2/05	Joyce & Dannie Schellenberg
	Janet & Mike Yoakum
2/08	Natalie & Philip Storey
2/11	Jo Ann & Scott Keck
2/14	Linnea & Bob Cowan
	Leann & Pete Wilkerson
	Laura & Wade Zella
2/16	Pat & Lynn Wilburn



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

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2017	**8:30 SERVICE**	**10:45 SERVICE**	
	Cole Boothe	Paisley Gibson	**ACOLYTES**
	Morgan Boothe	Landon Holub	
	Josie Stowers	Sadie Morgan	(cross)
	Emmitt Currie (Lead)	Pal Lester (Lead)	**USHERS**
	John Lucas	Greg Griffin	
	Ronnie Menking	Bobby Morgan	
	Greg Sengelmann	Ray Neitsch	
	Steve Taylor	Leslie Ploeger	
	Emily Neuse	Dick Goss	**LITURGIST**
	Willa Keck	Willa Keck	**CHILDREN'S SERMON**
February 12, 2017	**8:30 SERVICE**	**10:45 SERVICE**	
	Hadley Borrer	Addyson Kardosz	**ACOLYTES**
	Brody Borrer	Dixie Lester	
	Natalie Tenberg	Ashtyn Kardosz	(cross)
	Emmitt Currie (Lead)	Pal Lester (Lead)	**USHERS**
	John Whitt	Mary Tomas	
	Martha Jo Whitt	Justin Pope	
	Billy Boothe	Kelly Allen	
	Sue Boothe	David Bird	
	Maydell Pankey	Shirley Goss	**LITURGIST**
	Lisa Gindler	Lisa Gindler	**CHILDREN'S SERMON**
February 19, 2017	**8:30 SERVICE**	**10:45 SERVICE**	
	Mallory Clack	Faith Lester	**ACOLYTES**
	Braden Clampit	Joelee Lester	
	Ancel Atkinson	Peyton Ruddock	(cross)
	Emmitt Currie (Lead)	Pal Lester (Lead)	**USHERS**
	Jimmy Borrer	Jeffery Braune	
	Gary Clack	Eldon Farek	
	Erwin Ckodre	Mike Davis	
	Bill DeBerry	Bitsy Henderson	
	Amanda Smith	Gene Kridler	**LITURGIST**
	Commie Hisey	Commie Hisey	**CHILDREN'S SERMON**
February 26, 2017	**8:30 SERVICE**	**10:45 SERVICE**	
	Cree Stowers	Baron DuBose	**ACOLYTES**
	Vance Lucas	Morgan Farrar	
	Quinn Atkinson	Sadie Thibodeaux	(cross)
	Emmitt Currie (Lead)	Pal Lester (Lead)	**USHERS**
	Kenneth Fink	Dick Goss	
	Dena Fritz	Shirley Goss	
	Herman Grauke	Jim Benedict	
	Joe Britt Hindman	Jenice Benedict	
	Terry Towns	Pam Lester	**LITURGIST**
	Kiley Allen	Kiley Allen	**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

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

February 2017

February 2017

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				

March 2017

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
Jan 29 - Feb 4	**Jan 29**	**30**	**31**	**Feb 1** 8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-EB 10:00am Walking Class-FC 1:00pm Alzheimer-Dementia 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:00pm Jr. & Sr. Youth 5:15pm Praise Band Practice 6:15pm Choir Practice-CR	**2** 9:30am Communion @ Care Centers 10:00am Walking Class-FC 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC	**3** Revive Youth Camp	**4**
Feb 5 - 11	**5** Revive Youth Camp COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 2:30pm Communion @ Romberg House	**6** 8:30am Happy House 8:30am Happy House Spring 10:00am UMW Study-N 10:00am Walking Class-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-EB	**7** 10:00am Staff Mtg-L 10:00am Walking Class-FC 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC	**8** 8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-EB 10:00am Walking Class-FC 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:00pm Jr. & Sr. Youth 5:15pm Praise Band Practice-S 6:15pm Choir Practice-CR	**9** 10:00am Walking Class-FC 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting-FC	**10**	**11**
Feb 12 - 18	**12** 8:30am Worship-S 9:30am Happy House Bake Sale-N 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 4:00pm 4-H-FC	**13** 8:30am Happy House 10:00am Walking Class-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-EB	**14** 10:00am Staff Mtg-L 10:00am Walking Class-FC 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 12:00pm Cancer Support Group-BP 12:00pm Wesleyan Circle-N 6:00pm Quilt Group-FC 6:00pm SPRC-CO	**15** 8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-EB 10:00am Walking Class-FC 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:00pm Jr. & Sr. Youth 5:15pm Praise Band Practice-S 6:15pm Choir Practice-CR	**16** 10:00am Walking Class-FC 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC	**17**	**18** 10:00am Private Event-FC
Feb 19 - 25	**19** 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 1:00pm Private Event-FC	**20** 10:00am Walking Class-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-EB	**21** 10:00am Staff Mtg-L 10:00am UMW Communion @ Care Centers 10:00am Walking Class-FC 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC	**22** 8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-EB 10:00am Walking Class-FC 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:00pm Jr. & Sr. Youth 5:15pm Praise Band Practice-S 6:15pm Choir Practice-CR	**23** 9:00am District Board of Ordained Ministry-EB 9:30am Book Club-L 10:00am Walking Class-FC 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 11:00am Lunch & Learn-FC	**24** 1:00pm Private Event	**25** 10:00am Private Event-FC
Feb 26 - Mar 4	**26** 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S	**27** 8:30am Happy House 10:00am Walking Class-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-EB	**28** 10:00am Staff Mtg-L 10:00am Walking Class-FC 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC	**Mar 1**	**2**	**3**	**4**

Book Club News

All the Way from Yoakum? That's the title of a book? Yes, and an interesting autobiography written by Marjorie Meyer Arsht in 2006. Mrs. Arsht was born in Yoakum in 1914 and was the only Jewish child in the town and school. Her story is an intriguing one because she finished high school at 14 and was accepted at Rice Institute in Houston (now Rice University) when women students were rare and there were no dorms for women. After graduating from Rice, she spent time studying at the Sorbonne in Paris, taught school in Yoakum and Houston, married, had three children and became important in the birth/growth of the Republican party in Texas. She openly described her personal life as part of a large, prominent Jewish family where the uncles made most of the decisions for the family. She candidly shares her mother's bouts with mental illness and how that affected her life as a child and an adult. An interesting book with close central Texas ties!

For February, we branch out to Utah and read Young at Home, a biography of Brigham Young, long time leader of the Latter Day Saints Church, written by one of his daughters, Clarissa Young Spencer. It is an interesting look into another belief system and lifestyle told by a first hand participant. Ginny Briggs will be our leader.

As always, we welcome new readers, so come join us on Thursday, February 23 at 9:30 in the church library. If you have questions, please call me at 830-672-9307.

Martha Jo Whitt

United Methodist Women News

The United Methodist Women will begin a new service project. They will be taking Holy Communion to Romberg House, The Heights and The Texan on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Any woman who is interested in helping, please contact Dana Hamilton at 512-963-5758.

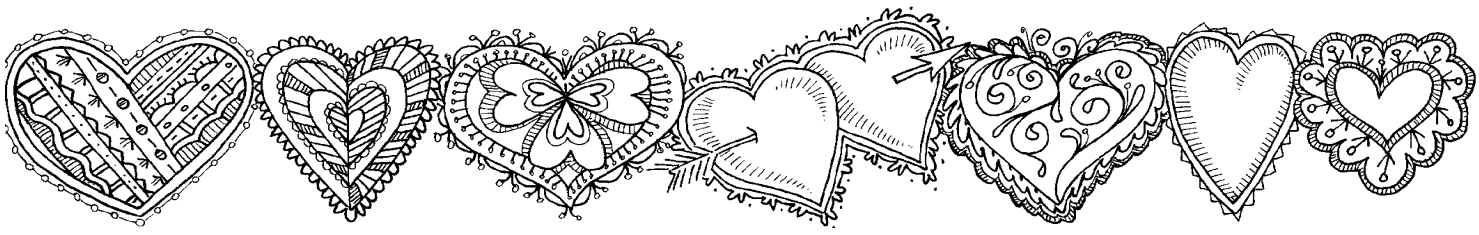
UMW Sponsors A Study on entitled Climate Justice Study (A Call to Hope and Action)
February 6, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We live on a small blue planet in the midst of a mind-bogglingly huge universe. It is a fragile planet, and it's the only one we have to call home. Our responsibility is to learn how to live in the right relationship with God, each other and with the earth itself.

Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action invites you to seek climate justice, which means setting right our relationships with each other and the earth. Climate injustice is the result of climate change. This study will challenge you to see what needs to happen for climate justice to become a reality in the world today. The church needs to more powerfully model how to address climate injustice. This entails not only focusing on the environment, but also asking hard questions regarding financial profit, a growing economy, our independent way of thinking, and our understanding of efficiency. (Words from the back cover of the study book.)

Marsha Priesmeyer, a member of the Rio Texas Conference UMW Pathways for Education work **area** will be leading the study. She is an excellent leader and I hope many of our church members will consider joining us for this timely study.

Please contact Cheryl Meadows at 672-7711 or 857-6417 by February 3 to let me know you plan to attend. Please call to help us better plan for the number for lunch. Please join us on February 6 at 10 A.M.



Children's Corner

Since we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, I thought I would look up all the Scriptures that talk about love! These are some of my favorite verses! And there are so many! One of the things I talk about with the kids fairly often on Wednesdays is for them to show God's love through their actions and words. I want others to see Christ in them. Now, I know all of us make mistakes and don't always do this. But we have a loving and forgiving God. He loves us, he just doesn't always love our behavior! God continues to love us and forgive us! He just ask that we change that behavior and ask for forgiveness! So, besides giving valentines and flowers stating your love for someone, how are you showing God's love to others? "This is my commandment: love each other in the same way I have loved you". -John 15:12

February Events:
Wed., Feb 1– Pioneer Club***,*** afterschool – 5:30pm
Sun, Feb 5 –Communion and Worship at Romberg House at 2:30pm.
Wed, Feb 8 – Pioneer Club***,*** afterschool – 5:30pm
Sun, Feb 12– **Happy House Bake Sale in Narthex** - Help Support Happy House!!
Tue, Feb 14 – **Happy Valentines! God Loves You!**
Wed, Feb 15 – Pioneer Club, afterschool – 5:30pm
Wed, Feb 22 - Pioneer Club, afterschool – 5:30pm

Highlights of Months to come:
Wed, March 1- **Ash Wednesday - All are welcome to the Ash Wednesday Service @ 6pm.**
March - Butterfly caterpillars arrive late March.
Wed, March 1, March 8, March 22, March 29 - Pioneer Club, afterschool - 5:30pm.
March 13-17- GISD Spring Break, **No Pioneer Club.** Activity to be announced. Prepare Spaghetti Supper tickets. Start Easter Egg Hunt preparations.
Wed, April 5 - Spaghetti Supper tickets go on sale
Sun, April 9, Palm Sun - All Children invited to participate in **Palm Processional.** Hosanna/Youth Choir leads Processional at both services.
Wed, April 12 **– Easter Egg Hunt, 5:15pm.**
Sun, April 16 **- Easter Sunday with Butterfly Release between services**
Tues-Fri, April 24-28 **- Prepare for Spaghetti Supper**
Fri, April 28 - **Spaghetti Supper**
May - **Vocalibre** Singing Festival - Date to be announced.
June 19 – Annual Splashway Trip
July 17 -21 - **Vacation Bible School** (tentative)
July 23-26 - **Basic Training Camp at Cathedral Oaks for** exiting 3rd- exiting 5th graders
July 31- Aug 4 **- Lego Camp** (tentative**)**

Earth Angels

Earth Angels is beginning a new year with a new quilt project designed to create quilts from some of our leftover pieces of fabric. It always amazes us how beautiful a quilt can be when made with pieces that seemingly don't coordinate well. Plus, it's a good way to replenish our supply of quilts to ensure that we have plenty available when needs arise. Recently, 18 quilts have been distributed to those in need of being "wrapped in God's love".

Women who are interested in quilting make up our group called Earth Angels. Meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month, in the FUMC Fellowship Center. A typical meeting involves an inspirational reading followed by the mentioning of persons who may be in need of prayers or a quilt. Members also learn from interesting programs, 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 February 14, 2017. Members are encouraged to wear red to this meeting.

Youth News

From the Shermans

We are so incredibly thankful for all the love and hospitality we have received from this church. We were overjoyed when Pastor Matt presented us with the “pounding” of gift certificates. It has been such a blessing and will continue to be over the next few months. We are so grateful to be able to call Gonzales, Texas and specifically Gonzales First United Methodist Church our home.

Youth Group

- Continued youth group on Wednesday nights from 5-7PM.
- Sunday Bible school-9:45am.
- Our first camp of the year is happening on February 3-5. We will be going to Camp Eagle in Rocksprings, Texas for some amazing time of fellowship, worship, and adventure.
- Spring Break-We are looking forward to spring break, so keep your eyes open for information on what the youth will be doing. Exciting things are on the horizon.
- The Youth did an excellent job cleaning out the Stockton Building over the winter break. We wanted to thank Pal and his team for supplying the trailer and making all the junk magically disappear!

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

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