

Our Youth And FoundationKids Answer The Question...



"Isn't There Anyone Who Knows What Christmas is All About?" was the Charlie Brown-based theme of the Advent season. The December 22 Children's Pageant answered that question. The left photo shows the FoundationKids grouped around the Nativity Scene. The right photo shows the very talented Charlie Brown Gang, a.k.a., Weston Henry, Kallan Grewell, Paige Salzwedel, Grace Corman, Marlee and Luke Williams, and Perry Grewell. The congregation enjoyed the meaningful presentation of the Christmas story.

New Office Hours On Fridays

Dear Church Family,

Effective January 3, 2020, First United Methodist Church will change their hours of operations on Fridays. Offices will open at 8:00am and close at noon on Fridays. Hours will remain the same for Mondays through Thursdays, which are 8:00am to 5:00pm.

We are blessed with a wonderful support staff. These past two years, I have emphasized wellness to all of our staff (including myself). I realized one way we can support a healthy balance for peak performance is to allow the support staff to end the work week at noon on Fridays. We do this in the summers so why not all year long? . We all know that there are church seasons and events that require the support staff to work beyond the normal work week. There is no doubt that over the year they work an

average of 40 hours per week. Also, these three ladies commute from Crane, Midland and Gardendale daily. It was important for me to recognize this with our economy and traffic.

Our support staff is instrumental in all aspects of not only church operations but also ministry.

Pastors and ministry staff primarily do ministry outside the church building. The Bible does not call pastors to office hours, but rather to equip the saints. Ministry is a culture of "go to the people" rather than "people come to us." People still do pop in our offices and say "hello" but not nearly as many people randomly want an hour of pastors or ministers time without an appointment. We cannot do ministry without the right support staff. We are here to serve God, you and the community.

To God be the Glory, Pastor Karin



A beaming Luke Williams is pictured moments after he passed the review board for his Eagle Scout badge on Dec 21. Luke is a Life Member of our church sponsored Scout Troop 91. For his Leadership Service Project, Luke updated the entryway to St. John's Episcopal School. Luke is very active in our Youth Ministry.



Todd Salzwedel

Welcome to 2020! Are you ready? Have you, like so many, made resolutions to improve your health, your personal/professional life, or take on a new spiritual discipline? Are you worried that you won't be able to realize those resolutions, and that this year might be like all

the rest where your best intentions become derailed by the obstacles of life that get us sidetracked?

Over the Christmas and New Year's holiday, my family and I had the chance to attend church where Rev. Jim Hawk was filling the pulpit. He used portions of the Covenant Service attributed to John Wesley. Today, we generally see the Covenant Service around the New Year, though that was not always the case. While it might feel comforting to believe the covenant prayer and service have remained as we might know it today since the days of John Wesley, we would probably be a little disappointed. But, it is

true that since 1755, the people called Methodists have participated in aspects of the service that have been around since it was first done in London.

In the service, it is common to finish with the Covenant Prayer. It's hard to tell whether Wesley actually used the prayer as we know it today, but there are surely aspects of the prayer that have sustained the test of time. In the Covenant Prayer, we are reminded that the covenant we share with God and one another allows us to recommit ourselves in personal piety and social holiness. And unlike when we fall short of our New Year's resolutions, we recognize that through God's grace and mercy, we are invited to recommit ourselves each and every day to realizing the Kingdom of God here on earth!

I look forward to another exciting and amazing year here at FUMC! And I know the promises of God in our lives (personally and collectively) will continue to guide and encourage us! And as the Covenant prayer states, "may the covenant (we) have made here on earth, let it be ratified in heaven!" *Pastor Todd*

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

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 by 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.



Volunteer to Serve

As disciples at FUMC, we are all called to serve as part of our connection in Christ. There are many ways to serve, so let us help you find your niche. Contact Karin at karin@fumcodessa.org or 432-337-1527 to sign up and be trained.

- ✝ Greeter
- ✝ Usher
- ✝ Communion Server
- ✝ Children: Wed. 6-7:30 pm
- ✝ Youth: Wed. 6-8pm



New Lay Leadership For 2020

A special thank you to Barbara Browning and Betsy Triplett-Hurt for their years of serving as leaders of the leaders. Barbara has served as Church Council Chair and Betsy as Lay Leader for countless years. Both ladies serve with excellence not only to FUMC but to the community of Odessa. One word that describes these ladies is "consistency." Consistency is a prerequisite of excellence and it reinforces the vision and values of the Kingdom. Their passion for God reflects in their leadership. The FUMC Church Family is truly grateful for their servant leadership!

The lay leadership *baton* of Church Council Chair will be passed on to Lori Nelson and Nancy Sims has said yes to receiving the Lay Leader baton. Below is a chart of the 2020 Lay Leadership team.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (UMC) MISSION STATEMENT is to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

(Matthew 28:18-20; 22:36-40)

This mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be disciples of Jesus Christ in their home and communities around the world. Hence, two key principles of FUMC lay leadership committees are (1) to seek first to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and (2) feel called to serve and are committed to gathering leaders who will function as a network of teams working toward the shared long-range future of the church. Church Family, please pray consistently for your lay leaders and where God is showing you where to serve. *Thank you, Pastor Karin*



2020 LAY LEADERSHIP

Church Council Chair: **Lori Nelson** Vice Chair: **Brett Emerson**

Lay Leader: **Nancy Sims**

Leaders: **Susie Schnaubert, Ann Moore, Larry Hackleman, Mike Forrest, Leldon Hensley, Tammy Hawkins**

BUILDING TRUSTEES

2020

Scott Coulter
Dan Ferguson
Gabe Grewell

2021

Brad Watts
Danny Pool
Gary Sims

2022

Colby Brazil
Chas Weatherby
Britani Severance

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2020

William Stewart
Gary Leathers
Connie Grewell

2021

Terri Woodward
Jo Forrest
Larry Johnson

2022

Cindy Fowler
Shay Vanley
Cherie Hensley

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2020

Josh Stumpner
Kevin Wilson
LaDoyce Lamber

2021

Judy Hayes
Gary Moore
Clyde Shugart

2022

Becky Guerrero
Aaron Wood
Glenda Adams

NOMINATION & LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

2020

Danny Schnaubert
Tricia Elrod

2021

Sara Dyrstad
Kallan Grewell (youth)

2022

Dan Brazelton
Tamara Stumpner

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES for 2020

Jody Wallin

Connie Grewell

Joni Vincent

...who Empowers us to make a difference in our church, our community and our world.

Reflections Of C



The Traditional Worship Service on Christmas Eve was filled with glorious music, rituals, and love. Traditional Choir Director David Corman is framed between the Christmas trees and the Nativity Scene as he leads the congregation in singing

carols. Organist Shari Santorelli lights the Advent Candles as her daughter, Jessica Massey reads Scripture. Senior Pastor Todd Salzwedel lights the candles for ushers Paul Lucas and Greg Journey.



The Light Of Christmas Love shined brightly on Christmas Eve as the congregation lighted candles and lifted their voices up through Christmas carols.



The Children's Ministry had a great time together celebrating the joy of Christmas on **Family Night, Dec 18**. Parents and children enjoyed the gingerbread house decorating contest. The trivia

game reviewed the Christmas story and the children did a wonderful job showing that they truly understand the Christmas story at their own personal growth levels. It's an awesome experience to watch the children's excitement to learn more about God's word each Wednesday night! -- *Melanie Taylor, Asst. Family Ministry Dir.*



Foster Angels: Sylvia Watts and Janice Wilson are pictured on Dec 9, surrounded by the staff of Children's Protective Services who

accepted the gifts our congregation provided for 30 children in foster care.



The Blue Christmas worship service on Dec 19 in the chapel, offered a comforting time of reflection and comfort for those who have endured losses of loved ones.



Christmas 2019



ECHO youth had a great time spreading Christmas cheer caroling for our members at Parks residence on December 11. We visited and caroled to **Letha Allen, Clarice Claiborne and Genelle Thompson**. Along with caroling the youth also presented each resident with a poinsettia. Mrs. Clarice was generous enough to bake us some very delicious pecan and chocolate chip cookies. The residents were so thankful and complimentary. Mrs. Genelle even gave our students a quick lesson on the importance of serving others the way Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet. What touched me the most was to witness the residents smile and tear up as the students sang Christmas carols for them. What a blessing this time of year is bringing people of different generations together! – *Caleb Eckel, Family Ministry Director*





Our Spice of Life group met on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019. We had a wonderful turnout

with about 36 in attendance! Russell Kimble with Dee Melton's assistance made a wonderful home-made Christmas dinner. Our beautiful decorations were compliments of Marsha Melton and they certainly set the proper mood for Christmas time. Thank you all so very much. We are truly blessed by all of our volunteers!

Our program was given by Jody Wallin. He read a short story entitled "A Christmas Story to Remember." The story reminded us of the great reason for Christmas and that is remembering the gift of Love that came down in the form of the Christ Child... A free gift



The December Spice of Life honored Joe Moss with two celebrations: his birthday and the 65th wedding anniversary to his wife, Marlene. (L-R) Joe, Congregational Care Pastor Jody Wallin, and Marlene.

from God to us, not because we deserve it, but because of the Great Love of God for us all. The story told of a man and his son who blessed a poor widow, neighbor and her children with food, shoes, candy, and firewood during the cold of Christmas' winter, all because he had a heart of compassion for them. It was a wonderful reminder of the true spirit of giving at Christmas time. If you haven't come to Spice of Life in a while (or maybe ever), we hope you will come join us next month. You will enjoy the food and fellowship and be glad you came. We always meet on the

third Thursday of each month at 11:30 – 1:00.

Blessings to you all, Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor



DISCIPLESHIP and BIBLE STUDY

Our goal at First United Methodist Church is to help all men and women become deeply devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Married, single, parent, non-parent, working, not working, you belong here. FUMC provides opportunities for adults to worship, grow, help others and enjoy lives God has given us.

Each day that we chose to read the Bible and learn more about God is a good day! For it allows God to be the lead in our day and in our life. One of my favorite passages in leadership is when God speaks to Joshua right before Joshua was actually leading the Israelites into the Promised Land.

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." **Joshua 1:7-8**

Read and meditate on Scripture daily for transformation. May we discipline our days to study Scripture so that God is leader in our successes. Two main avenues for Bible study at FUMC are the **Disciple Study-Fast Track** and **Sunday School** classes.



DISCIPLE

FAST TRACK

WEDNESDAYS Jan. 29-April 29
9:30-11:00am at Park Methodist Village
6:00-7:30pm at FUMC Room 104
Books \$13

TRACK 1: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE

STUDY...NEW TESTAMENT

This spring we will immerse ourselves in the New Testament. You read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly 90-minute meetings.

We will not wait like in the Bible the estimated 400 years before we begin with the book of Matthew in the New Testament. Join us either in the morning or the evening!

Pastor Karin

Memorials

In Memory of Charlie Grewell

Given by

Sam, Jan, Sammy, & Lori Rice
Barbara & Rick Browning
Cherie & Leldon Hensley
Betty Dale
Jean, Julie, Jeff and Lelia Stinson
Christine, Catherine, & Cecil Holcomb

In Memory of Mike Halldorson

Given by

Barbara & Rick Browning
Robbie & Dan Brazelton

In Memory of Bob & Roberts Bacon

Given by

Barbara Purnell

FUMC Sanctuary Choir Fund

In Memory of

Charlie Grewell

Given by

Stephanie & John Latimer

Honorariums

In Honor of

Joel Roberts

Given by

Judy Hayes

In Honor of

Judy Hayes

Given by

Joel Roberts

In Honor of

The 2019 Church Council

Given by

Barbara & Rick Browning

In Honor of

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Brazelton

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Murray

Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Pipes

Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Hawkins

Mr. & Mrs. William Stewart

Mr. & Mrs. Craig Echols

Given by

Barbara & Rick Browning

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

These groups meet from 10:00-10:50am every Sunday.

CLASS	ROOM	AGE RANGE
8:00 AM Sunday School	102	Early Risers
Boosters	107	50 and above
Builders	102	50 and above
Challengers	B-5	50 to 60
Cornerstone & Seekers	202	50 to 60
Mosaic	201	25 to 40

Wondering which class may be right for you? Want to start a new group? Email Associate Pastor Karin Carlson at karin@fumcodessa.org or call her 432-337-1527.



**UMW meets
January 9, 2020
9:30
Room 102**

End of Year Giving Deadline

Give by January 10, 2020 for your gifts to be credited to 2019. Contact Finance Manager Marcy Ortiz at 432.337.1527 for more information



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Bring A Friend This Sunday

8:00 AM	Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM	Traditional Worship —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Sunday School, all ages
10:16 AM	The Bridge Worship, —3901 E. Yukon
11:00 AM	Fellowship Worship —Fellowship Center

First United Methodist Church, Odessa, Texas, founded in 1890, is a community of Christians who have pledged to support this church with their presence, their service, their gifts and their prayers. We dedicate ourselves to spreading God's Word throughout our community and to providing meaningful worship experiences, fellowship, and opportunities to fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ through a variety of ministries. As United Methodists, "our doors, our hearts and our minds are open to all those who seek God's Grace."

The *CULTIVATOR* is a monthly publication whose exclusive purpose is to help FUMC-Odessa accomplish its Mission by communicating and "cultivating the presence of Christ in the lives of this congregation."

First United Methodist Church-Odessa Mission Statement

We exist for *LIFE*...

*To Love others, Invite them to join us as we Follow Christ,
who Empowers us to make a difference.*

**FEAR
IS THE
ENEMY OF
HOPE!**

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join my *Financial Peace University* class, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future . . . together! Interested? Join me on **Monday, February 3, 2020, 6:30—8pm**. This is a 9 weeks class. Day care is available. Feel free to text me your questions or sign up at fpu.com/1108964
Mary Blain
432-352-0083