

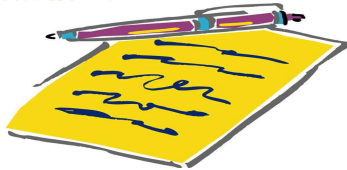


THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

April, 2011



....Faithful to the Core....

In their book *Made to Stick*, Chip and Dan Heath told a story about Southwest Airlines. Unlike most other airlines, Southwest Airlines has been consistently profitable for over thirty years. When asked about what made Southwest Airlines different from other airlines, former CEO Herb Kelleher said that having a core message as a company was crucial. He said that Southwest is "The Lowfare Airline" and that every decision that the company makes is based on that message. Kelleher once told someone, "I can teach you the secret of running this airline in thirty seconds. This is it: We are The low-fare airline. Once you understand that fact, you can make any decision about this company's future as well as I can."

"Here's an example," he said. "Tracy from marketing comes into your office. She says her surveys indicate that the passengers might enjoy a light meal on the Houston to Las Vegas flight. All we offer is peanuts, and she thinks a nice chicken Caesar salad would be popular. What do you say?" The person stammered for a moment, so Kelleher responded: "You say, 'Tracy, will adding that chicken Caesar salad make us the low-fare airline from Houston to Las Vegas? Because if it doesn't help us become the unchallenged low-fare airline, we're not serving any chicken salad!'"

I love that story because it is a great example of how every organization (churches included) needs to remain faithful to its core message. Our core message is found in Matthew 28 -- to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Just like the Southwest Airlines story, we too could ask the same question of everything we do -- "Will this help make disciples of Jesus Christ?" It is so easy to get sidetracked in our work for the kingdom in our churches, and allow peripheral things (while very often good in their own right) to distract us from our real mission -- sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. During this season of Lent may we all evaluate what we do as individuals and as a church in making disciples.

In Christ,

Brad

Message from Preschool Director, Sherry Miller.....

News from First Methodist Preschool

Dear Friends:

April at First Methodist Preschool is one of the most exciting months in the year. It's almost Open House Time! The date is actually on May 7 this year since Easter is in late April. It is a great time for you to spend in support of the children and staff here at the Preschool. It is our day to welcome our friends and parents to the Preschool. Please note the attached flyer and article in the newsletter.

Plans for summer 2010 special activities are underway and will be in the May newsletter. Thanks for your support and for sharing your children with us.

Spring Dates to Remember

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|----------|--|
| April 8 | 2011 Kindergarten and Pre- Kindergarten going to McBay Elementary - We are invited to visit McBay Elementary. We will leave Preschool at 9:15 am and return about 10:30. If your child will be attending McBay in Aug. 2011 please sign the attached permission slip and note need for Car Seat. (Pre K 2011-12 will be ½ Day program.) |
| April 18 | 10 am - Group 4 Vision Screenings at Dr. Jody Tacker's Office |
| April 21 | Easter Egg Hunts (see article this newsletter) |
| April 22 | Closed for Good Friday |
| April 29 | Group and Individual Spring Pictures all groups – Dabbs |
| April 30 | FUMC Free Fish Fry pm
All FMP families are invited to attend |
| May 3 | Kindergarten Registration McBay Elementary School 9 – 3 pm
Free Immunizations from 9 – 1 |
| May 4 | BIKE DAY – GROUP 3 and 4 – Everyone bring a bike or scooter (not motorized!) to ride on the path that is across the street at the FMP Parking Lot.

Trike – a – thon Fund Raiser for St. Judes for Group 4 (packets to go out with May newsletter) |
| May 7 | 32 nd Annual Preschool Open House
9:30 am – 10:30 am |

- May 21 End of year Gymnastics Program HERE AT FUMC MEXIA
 For all gymnastics students
- June 3 Graduation and Parent Luncheon – 12 -1
- June 6 Summer Session Begins

PRESCHOOL STAFF PARTICIPATES IN SPRING TRAINING

Staff Members of the First Methodist Preschool will be participating in the Spring Child Care Conference on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at the First United Methodist Church in Fairfield, Texas. The conference is sponsored by the Limestone, Freestone and Navarro County Extension Service; First Methodist Preschool, Mexia; and Noah’s Ark Preschool in Fairfield. The Preschool staff participates regularly in these events.

The conference is called “RESPECT” and will include topics such as: Music for Motivation (Linda Hamilton, Early Childhood Coordinator), The Trend of Bullying (Jacquelyn White, MS Program Specialist, CEP, Prairie View A & M University), and Marcy McFarland, (Director ICU and Emergency Room, Parkview Hospital) speaking on SIDS/ Shaken Baby. The Key note speaker is Dr. Jean Foster Paulsel, Associate Professor and Extension Child Development Specialist Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Sherry Miller, Director



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Community Fish Fry

Our annual free community fish fry will be Saturday, April 30th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to invite others in the community into our church family. Special thanks again to Bob Candy for catching the catfish for the fish fry!

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Service -- Sunday, April 17th 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service -- Thursday, April 21st 6:00 p.m. (We will be worshipping at FUMC Groesbeck on Maundy Thursday)

Good Friday Service -- Friday, April 22nd 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil Service -- Saturday, April 23rd 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service -- Sunday, April 24th 10:30 a.m.

New Life Sunday School Class

The New Life Sunday school class, which meets in the board room of the fellowship hall building, is beginning a study on the book of Proverbs. Just bring your Bible and join the group. This is a discussion based class.

Sunday Night Worship Service

In addition to our Sunday morning worship service, we have a Sunday evening worship service each Sunday at 6:30 p.m. We have lots of singing and a teaching style sermon. Join us and bring others!

Summer Camp

It's time to register for summer camp at Glen Lake Camp. Glen Lake Camp is located in Glen Rose, TX and the camp is open to elementary age children through high school. To find a list of dates for the camps and to register, go online to www.glenlake.org

Message from UMW

Our group has been meeting at the Coffee Cabaret for the monthly meeting and a “dutch” meal afterwards, with lots of fellowship. However, though we have thoroughly enjoyed that, we have decided that starting March 21st, we will again be meeting at the Church Fellowship Hall, but at 10 a.m. rather than 10:30 a.m.

Our Program for the February meeting was “Mission Giving” presented by Linda Kegerreis. As usual, she did a super job.

Ladies, remember the above date and time so that if possible for any of you to attend, you’ll be in the correct place at the correct time!!

God Bless.... And, ya’ll come!!!



Message from the Youth Director

Hey MYF and families!!

We have had a wonderful lesson series on the **7 Deadly Sins**. Thank you to **Charolett Posey** (message about Greed), **Neal Bowe** (message about Anger), **Glenda Willett** (message about Sloth), **Bonnie Gardner** (message about Envy), and **Kathy Nutt** (message about Pride) for taking on a lesson to share with the Youth!! They have expressed much love for their church family for spending time with them and sharing their knowledge about each sin. (Mrs. Gael and I taught about Gluttony and Lust.)

We have many upcoming event in the Month of April! On April 3rd, we will have Movie Night in the Fellowship Hall Youth room from 4 till 6. Food and fellowship with a great Christian Movie!! Inspiring and entertaining. Hope to see you there. On April 9th, we are going to the **ROCK AND WORSHIP ROAD-SHOW** at the Airline Center in Dallas. We will leave around lunch and be back about midnight!! (Possible sleep over at the Church) An information sheet will be handed out next week with all the information!! Then, on April 30th, we will help with the FISH FRY and then travel to my house to watch a Movie! More information about the fish fry/movie later in the Month. LOTS going on; HOPE YOU CAN JOIN!!

Ms. Jill



Memorial



J. R. Flowers

Donna and Buddy Williford

Jimmy Charles Clark

Donna and Buddy Williford

Charles Yelverton

Pam & Bob Crider

Pat Neill

Pam & Bob Crider

Chris Williford

Pam & Bob Crider

Wednesday Night Meals

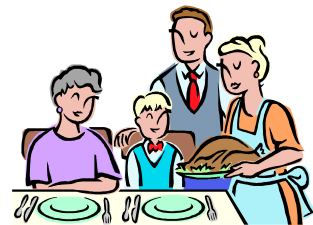
(Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday)

April 6— Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert

April 13— Monster Sub-Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Dessert

April 20— Bake Ham, Potato Casserole, Green Beans,
Rolls, Dessert

April 27— Cowboy Cornbread, Salad, Dessert





April Birthdays

2nd—Jackie Tidwell, 4th—Vicki Watson, 5th—Ed Marcotte, 9th—Nancy Hughes,
11th—Tyler Flatt, 12th—Lewis Blunt, 14th—Brandy Agnew, 15th—Regan Hullum,
17th—Kathleen Flowers, Linda Kegerreis, 19th —Bob Wright, Ed Cunningham, Dan Franks,
Trey Fulmer, Shelli Sears, 20th—Cindy Williford, 23rd—Grayson Williams,
26th—Michael Miller, 27th—Janise Shivers, 30th—Lula Goswick

April Anniversaries

5th—Wayne & Nancy Hughes
7th—Buddy & Donna Williford

*If we missed your Birthday or Anniversary please notify the FUMC office so we can update our records



All Aboard !!!

Church Groups Have Bus Transportation

Times change and needs change. At this time, First Methodist Preschool no longer has a daily need for the bus which is housed on our church parking lot. The bus has served us well for five years but with new restrictions on transporting children and a decrease in our after school age program, we no longer have a daily need for the bus. Our current after school children are transported to the Preschool on the Mexia ISD bus. There may be very occasional times when the bus will still be needed by the Preschool but we are in hopes other groups will start using the bus also.

The future of the bus will be on the April Agenda of the Preschool Governing Board for final approval. However, the consensus is to offer the bus to the church to be used by any church group as needed.

The driver is required to have a Texas CDL driver's license on file in the church office. To reserve the bus for a group outing, please contact the church office.

Your Church Staff

Rev. Brad Brittain, Pastor
Arthur Nutt, Director of Music
Wynona Lipsett, Organist
Jill Flatt, Youth Director
Jackie Tidwell, Children's Coordinator
Sherry Miller, Preschool Director
Sandy Imes, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator
Bob Candy, Building Maintenance
Barbara Owens, Cleaning

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.