

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

December, 2008

Church Family,

We are about to enter the season of Advent. The word “Advent” means coming. The season proclaims the coming of the Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings. Each Sunday of Advent has its distinctive theme: Christ’s coming in final victory (First Sunday), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sundays), and the events immediately preceding the birth of Jesus Christ (Fourth Sunday).

I hope that this Advent season is a special one for you and that we will all grow closer to one another and God as we anticipate the coming of our Savior. As many of you well know, this time of year can be hectic with all sorts of activities – family gatherings, office parties, special church programs, etc. We would all do well to remember that in the midst of all the activities, the season of Advent is a time to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of our Lord. This is an excellent season to examine our hearts and grow as disciples as we ask ourselves, “What should I do with my life in response to what God has done for me in Jesus Christ?”

Below I have listed the scripture selections for each Sunday in Advent. Take time during Advent to reflect on these passages of Scripture and pray about your response.

First Sunday (November 30th)

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

Second Sunday (December 7th)

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15, Mark 1:1-8

Third Sunday (December 14th)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, I Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Fourth Sunday (December 21st)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:47-55, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Have a great Advent season, and remember that Jesus came to live and die for you so that you may have life and have it more abundantly!

In Christ,

Rev. Brad Brittain

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 6th, will be hosting our annual Breakfast with Santa program in the fellowship hall. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. Bring your children and grandchildren to come see Santa and have some great pancakes!

Children's Christmas Party

We will be having a **BIG** children's Christmas party on Sunday, December 7th, at 4:30 p.m. The members of Cogdell UMC in Waco will be hosting us and have lots of fun games and surprises for our children. We will leave the church parking lot at 3:30 p.m. Adults are encouraged and welcome to attend the party. In addition to the party, we will share in a meal with the members of Cogdell. We will be taking the church van for those who need transportation; however, we encourage parents to come along with your children.

Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, December 7th we will have a special Hanging of the Greens worship service during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. This is a special worship service in which we decorate our sanctuary and prepare it for the season. In addition to the lighting of our Advent candles, we will be blessing the Chrismon Tree and Advent Wreath.

Church Christmas Party

We will be having a church-wide Christmas party on Saturday, December 13th, at 6:00 p.m. "Holy Smokes" Catering will be serving our meal for the evening, which will consist of your choice of smoked or fried turkey, dressing, green beans, dessert, and drinks. Tickets are \$15 per person. Child care will be provided by the church.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Our FUMC Chancel Choir will join forces again this year with the Choir of Christ Episcopal Church to present *A Service of Lessons and Carols* on Sunday evening, December 14th, 7:00 p.m. We will present a variety of anthems that will enhance the themes of Advent and the Incarnation, along with scripture readings and congregational singing of Christmas carols. *Lessons and Carols* is less about performance and more about worship, involving not only the two choirs and our Chancel Ringers, but also those of you who attend. This year, *Lessons and Carols* is on the last evening of First Baptist Church's Christmas Pageant, so be sure to attend that event on Friday or Saturday, and come join us on Sunday Evening.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Each year we have a special Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve service. This year our service will be on Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m. This service is a great opportunity to bring family that might be visiting from out of town. It's always good to meet everyone's family!

December Birthdays*

7th—Charlotte Posey, Seth Wilson, 8th—Roger Brown, 11th—Pat Simmons,
13th—Jacob Allen, 14th—Kirkland McCulloch, 15th—Gary Beard,
JW McKeand, 17th—Caroline Kendall, 18th—Sherry Miller, 22nd—Helen
Stonecipher, 23rd—Carl Williford, 24th—Sheila Walitsch,
28th—Cindy Bullard, 31st—Ray Lynne Stanford

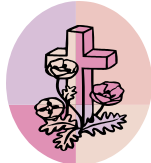


December Anniversaries*

27th—Ed & Pat Cunningham, 28th—Tim & Sadie Edwards,
30th—Micah & Brook Anderson, Tammy & Chris McCulloch

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

Memorial



Sammy Goswick
Lillie Mae Atkins
Upper Room
Adult Fellowship

Youth M&M Fundraiser

\$948.47

Contact Kortney or one of the youth for your M & M tube. Enjoy the candy and then fill it with quarters and return it.

Thanks to All!

The GRACE that was shown by all the wonderful church members on Sunday November 9th, for our 5 children from McBay who were in need is so greatly appreciated. It is an honor to belong to such a wonderful church with such wonderful and giving members. A Thank You may not come from those who are the ones in need, but A Heartfelt Thank You comes from Valerie and Tammy.

God Bless You All For Your Giving Hearts.
Valerie Bolton & Tammy McCulloch

Have you read the Bible all the way through recently???

The Alfa & Omega Sunday School. class is doing just that; but not real fast. Each week we cover 2, 3 or 4 chapters. The last several weeks we have covered Genesis 16-20, (Abraham pleads for Sodom), chapters 21-24 (The birth of Ishmael & Isaac and the arrival of Rebekah), chapters 25- 30 (jealously erupts.) Come and see what's next.

We meet in the fellowship hall at 9:30 A.M. Sunday mornings.

Thanks Craig & Linda Kegerreis



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
from
*Brad, Mary, Richard, Charlotte, Wynona, Kortney
Barb & Cass*



DON'T FORGET BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
December 6, 2008

*Family Fun for the Holidays
Puppet Show!*

Come join the fun at this annual holiday event. Pancakes will be served (ALL YOU CAN EAT) along with sausage and juice from 8:30-10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. SANTA WILL BE THERE TO VISIT! We will be taking pictures of the children-or you are welcome to bring your own camera. Also-the puppet musical-"The Gift Goes On" will be presented at 9:00am. Tickets are available in the Preschool office, in your classrooms or at the door.



PLEASE COME! IT WILL BE GREAT

Your Church Staff

Brad Brittain, Pastor
Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music
Kortney Kelsey, Youth Director
Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator
Wynona Lipsett, Organist
Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator
Cass 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.