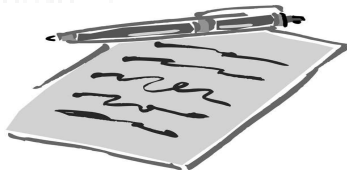


THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

January, 2012



— Ultimate Love —

As I reflect on the plans for February, I notice that this is an extremely important month in the life of our church and in the life of our culture. In our culture, February brings two important days. The first Sunday in February is always, Super Bowl Sunday. Come join us this Sunday as we gather together at the parsonage (830 Krisker Lane) to watch the rematch of the New England Patriots and New York Giant. For many of us football fans, this final game of the season is a wonderful celebration of a great season. However, there are many who don't care one bit about football or the Super Bowl, so in an effort to appeal to this large segment of the population, advertisers began unveiling new commercials during the Super Bowl. Many Super Bowl watching parties have actually turned into commercial watching parties interrupted by a football game. Many of these new commercials are very entertaining. This is where I need your help. Please email (khkoch98@gmail.com) or text (817-637-0682) me your favorite 3 commercials from the Super Bowl. Then on Feb 12th, we are going to be using your favorite commercials from the Super Bowl as the basis for the sermon. Please invite your friends and neighbors, especially those who don't normally attend church, as we engage this cultural event and compare it to our calling as Christians in a fun way.

The other important day in February for our culture is Valentine's Day, Feb 14th for those of us who need the reminder, in which we express our love for our spouse or significant other in some special way. For Holly and I this normally involves cards, flowers and a date out as a couple. For you it may mean doing other things. This is a special day to show our closest loved ones how much they mean to us.

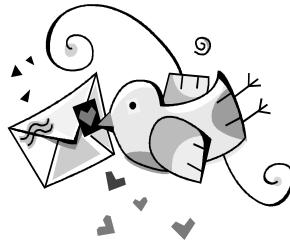
In our church life, February brings the beginning of the season of Lent in which we prepare to celebrate God's love for us as expressed in Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. Lent is the six weeks prior to Easter & is a time that is traditionally spent growing closer to God and preparing for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. This year, we are planning this journey through Lent in a sermon series entitled "24 Hours That Changed the World," as we look at the final 24 hours of Jesus' life. From these snapshots of Jesus' life, we will come to experience God's Valentine's Day for us.

In Christ's Service
Rev. Kory Koch

A message from the Director of the Preschool

According to custom at Valentine's Day we send valentines to our sweethearts and to our friends. Our Annual Valentine's Exchange will be on Tuesday, February 14. The celebration will consist of special valentine's refreshments at morning snack and then opening Valentine's from our classmates. The Valentine's sacks/mail boxes for each group will be on display near the classroom approximately 10 days prior to Valentine's Day. Please allow your child to bring his cards/treats for his/her group.

If any parent would like to provide refreshments, plates, napkins, etc., please let us know in the office. Thanks!



PRESCHOOL STAFF TO UPDATE FIRST AID/RESCUE BREATHING TRAINING FEB. 7, 2012

In accordance with required State Minimum Standards, all staff at Preschool are trained annually in First Aid and Rescue Breathing. We feel that this annual review and update is important in providing a professional and well trained staff for the children enrolled here.



DON'T FORGET!!!

Spring Break at most Public Schools is March 12 – 16 – make arrangements now if you need your School age child to attend fulltime that week.

Easter Egg Hunts on April 5

Group 4 Field Trip on April 10

Open House on April 28

More Details about these things in March and April Newsletters

Sherry Miller, Director

Happy Valentine's Day



President's Day



Ash Wednesday

Kid's Corner

Our Wednesday evening Kid's Klub is going great! We have been hearing and acting out the stories of Jesus in the temple, Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his ministry. The kids love acting out the stories and we have some great actors. Of course we have crafts such as making doves and scrolls to go with our stories.

We are also learning some new songs which we look forward to sharing with our church family. Our meals are something we of course LOVE and many thanks go to Matt, Kevin, and Chelsea Zachery and Colton Quinn for helping with the kids and cooking and cleaning up our meals! They are great!

There will be no Kid's Klub on Ash Wednesday.

Jackie



MYF NEWS:

We finished 2011 with a bang and on to 2012! So far, we have about 8 to 10 youth that come to MYF on a regular basis. These eight and I had our planning meeting when we first started back in January. We have a full calendar which will be attached to the 1ST UMC website. I hope that other members will see all the fun and will want to join in. Our youth are also inviting people every week. We are trying to encourage people to try us out which is part of our goal “to be fishers of men.”

Soooo, we had this amazing Destination Unknown lesson on Dead Battery Road. We had so much fun having our lesson somewhere other than in the Fellowship Hall. On the way back, we encountered a car who had stopped to help 5 stranded puppies. Yup, puppies!!! They looked awful and very thin. The ladies said that they would call Lara’s house in the morning – leaving the puppies out there in the cold. Well, I just so happened to have 5 youth and there were 5 puppies.....yes, each youth grabbed a puppy and hopped back into the car. Needless to say, the Flatt family is fostering 5 puppies. The puppies are doing well, and putting on weight and growing like weeds. There is an adopt-a-thon this weekend so we hope they will be going to good homes.

February is full of great adventures!

February 6th, our MYF will be at the Zachary’s house to watch the Super Bowl starting at 6 pm.

February 10th, we will be going to the ROCK AND WORSHIP ROADSHOW in Dallas.

We will leave a 4:30 and be back around 1 am. The youth need to bring \$10 for meals.

February 22nd, we will be providing the Pancake supper before Ash Wednesday. Dinner will start at 5pm.

We are trying to raise money for about 5 youth who would like to go on the Mission Trip this summer. It will cost about \$250 per youth. We will have other fundraisers thought the spring months.

February 29th will be our Movie Night!

Hope to see you at MYF – Sundays from 4-6

Jill Flatt

A message from UMW.....

The meeting of UMW, FUMC – Mexia met on Monday, 16 January 2012 in the church board room.

Seven members were present. There was no program scheduled as our January meeting is a business meeting. The UMW budget for 2012 was set. A check will be given to FUMC in memory of Tad Burroughs.

Programs for 2012 UMW meetings were set. A mission project was tabled until the February meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 20 February 2012. The program will be given by Linda Kegerris.

Cheryl Karkheck, Secretary

Announcements

Opportunity to help your neighbor—Mike Bolton is starting a ministry to help our neighbors with minor home repair, yard work and possible handicap ramp construction. If you know of a potential client or would like to volunteer to be on the mission team, please contact Mike Bolton or Kory Koch.

Super Bowl Party—February 5th at 5:00 p.m. at the parsonage. Bring your favorite snack!

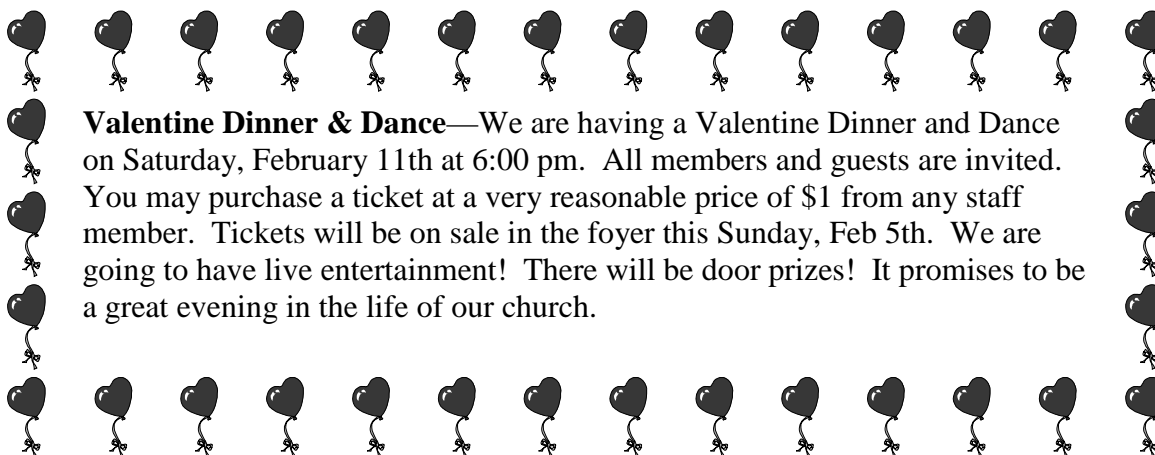
MYF Super Bowl Party—February 5th MYF is having a super bowl party at the Zachary's home at 6:00 p.m.

Alpha Omega Class—will be starting a new book Sunday it is Breakthrough Prayer by Jim Cymbala and Valarie Bolton will be the teacher.

United Methodist Men—A breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb 18th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to attend. Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the meal. Please RSVP with Mike Bolton or George Tidwell.

Pancake Supper—As a start of our Lenten activities, a pancake supper will be served on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd at 5:00-6:00 pm. This will be a fund raiser for MYF for their mission trip this summer. The cost is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. The entire church is encouraged to attend and then join us for the Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary.

Spring Cleaning—If you are wanting to clean out your garage, attic, room, shed, etc. and don't know what to do with the "stuff" you want to get rid of, call Julio Olvera with United Communities. Julio and Stephanie accept any donations to support this worthwhile charity.

A decorative border consisting of two rows of black hearts with small bows at the bottom, framing the central text.

Valentine Dinner & Dance—We are having a Valentine Dinner and Dance on Saturday, February 11th at 6:00 pm. All members and guests are invited. You may purchase a ticket at a very reasonable price of \$1 from any staff member. Tickets will be on sale in the foyer this Sunday, Feb 5th. We are going to have live entertainment! There will be door prizes! It promises to be a great evening in the life of our church.

Memorial



Tad Burroughs

Janis Frost, Wynona & Don Lipsett, Molly Frost
Hermine & Larry Sewell, United Methodist Women,
Upper Room Class, Susan & James Anderson,
Louise & Billy Howze, Lillie Mae Atkins,
Mary & Ed Marcotte, Dick Flatt,
Diana & James Bradley

Carl King

Wynona & Don Lipsett





February Birthdays

1st-Art Nutt, 2nd-Joe Wilson, Vicki Smith, 3rd-Brandon Paul, 7th-Theda Oberholtzer, Rebecca Ray, Bill McClure, 10th-Selma McClure, Alex McCulloch, 12-Sherry Manning, 13th-Buddy Williford, 14th—Jodi Maki, 16th-Walt McKeever, 19th—Delilah Jones, 20th-Diane Burks, 21st-Billy Howze, Don Lipsett, 23rd—Gary Watson, 24th-David Maner, 25th-TJ Hathaway, 26th-Lois Willett, 27th-Penny Gray, 28th-T.G. Temples.

February Anniversaries

5th-Wendy & Pat Simmons, 21st-Louise & Billy Howze
23rd—Vicki & Gary Watson

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



Your Church Staff

Rev. Kory Koch, Pastor
Arthur Nutt, Director of Music
Wynona Lipsett, Organist
Holly Koch, New Beginnings Praise Director
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.