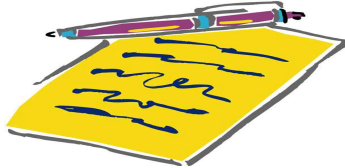


THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

March, 2011



..... **Take, Eat.....**

We are about to begin the season of Lent and one of the things we do as a congregation during Lent is celebrate Holy Communion each Sunday. Communion, for me, has become a crucial part of worship and is not just "ritual". It is a sacred time when we gather around the Lord's table together as a family. Every family is made up of different personalities and from time to time families have conflict, yet they still gather around the table and love one another. As we share in communion during this Lenten season let's remember that we are all children of God and our church would not be what it is without the distinctive gifts of each member. I have recently been reading a collection of C.S. Lewis' writings and thought I would share with you what he said about communion: "The command, after all, was Take, eat: not Take, understand. Particularly, I hope I need not be tormented by the question, "What is this?" -- this wafer, this sip of wine. That has a dreadful effect on me. It invites me to take "this" out of its holy context and regard it as an object among objects, indeed as part of nature. It is like taking a red coal out of the fire to examine it: it becomes a dead coal. To me, I mean. All this is autobiography, not theology."

Just as we will never fully "understand" communion, we will also never fully understand or appreciate how God has put all of us together in this church. Perhaps during this Lenten season we can see one another through the eyes of Jesus. So the next time you kneel at the communion rail take a look at the person to your left or right and remember that he or she is not just another church "member" but a child of God. Take, Eat!

In Christ,

Brad

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

We think maybe Spring is just around the corner. This time of year we start to think about the end of the school year, our Annual Open House, and a fun and exciting summer ahead. We are thankful you and your children are here at FMP to be a part of all this. Happy Spring

IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING FOR SUMMER AND FALL 2011

We are beginning to plan for the 2011 summer and fall enrollment – it will be here quickly! Since we only enroll full time children, we are assuming each of you will be here full time unless we hear differently.

The summer part time possibilities and the summer public school teacher policy were announced last year. If you need clarification on these, let me know.

PUBLIC SCHOOL OBSERVES SPRING BREAK FROM MARCH 14-18. PRESCHOOL WILL BE OPEN MARCH 14-18. PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS IF YOUR CHILD'S SCHEDULE CHANGES DURING THIS WEEK.

FMP WILL BE CLOSED APRIL 22 FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

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***ROCK-A-MOTION CHOO CHOO TRAIN
2011 ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AND FUN FEST
SATURDAY, MAY 7 9:00 am***

Please put this date on your calendar now. We are excited each year as we have a special two-week unit with daily puppet shows and lots of music and fun. Those puppet shows will be from April 25 through May 6. All groups will enjoy the daily morning puppet shows and music. We invite all parents and friends to come that Saturday morning, May 7, to celebrate 32 years in ministry here at FMP!

SPRING INDIVIDUAL and GROUP PICTURES BY DABBS

Dabbs Photography to Take Individual and Group Pictures
Friday, April 29

GRADUATION PICTURES WILL ALSO BE MADE THIS DAY FOR ANY CHILDREN WHO WILL BE GRADUATING FROM PRESCHOOL

EASTER EGG HUNTS PLANNED
THURSDAY April 21 – In the Morning
Details will be in April Newsletter

Attention: Group 4 children

Don't forget our Annual End of the Year Trip on Friday, April 1. We will be going to Disney on Ice, Pixar's Toy Story 3 on this date at the American Airlines Center in Dallas. You have already purchased your tickets. We will be contacting each of you by Mid March to verify plans for transportation and other details. We look forward to this fun day with our future 2011 graduates.

Sherry Miller, Director



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Architect Master Plan Presentation—On Sunday, March 6th our architect will be presenting a master plan proposal for our church facilities. The meeting is open to anyone interested in learning more about the proposed project. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Our lunch will be provided by Kirby's BBQ. We are looking forward to beginning the process of making some concrete decisions on the future of our church.

Special Called Charge Conference—On Sunday, March 20th we will be having a called Charge Conference where the Trustees will be making a proposal to the church regarding the funds from the Rufus and Estalee Price estate. Our church has been blessed by this estate, and the Trustees, along with our Finance Committee, have spent much time over the past couple of months preparing to make this proposal. Pat Hall from the Central Texas Methodist Foundation will be here as well and has been and will continue to be a great resource for us in this process. The Charge Conference will take place in the sanctuary immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on the 20th.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service—Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the lenten season as we move towards Easter. We will be having our Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. On that particular Wednesday we will not have our church supper or Bible studies and youth and children activities. We want everyone in the church to take part in this special service together.

Saturday Night Worship Moving to Sunday Night—Our Saturday Night Praise and Worship service will be moving from Saturday evenings to Sunday evenings effective Sunday, March 6th. It will be the same style service just on a different night. The time of the service will be 6:30 p.m. Come and join us as we worship God together.

Divorce Care—Our church is currently offering Divorce Care -- a 13-week seminar/support group for those recovering from divorce/separation. The group meets on Sunday afternoons from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. There is no cost for the course and child-care will be provided by the church. Spread the word in the community for any that might benefit from this program.

Lenten Book Club -- "Unconditional? The Call of Jesus to Radical Forgiveness"—During Lent this year we will have a lenten book club and discuss the book *"Unconditional? The Call of Jesus to Radical Forgiveness"* by Brian Zahnd. If you would like to join us, you may purchase the book through any major book retailer and come to our discussion of the book on Sunday, April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Dan and Sue Franks.

McCurdy School Mission Trip -- June 25-July 1st—This year our annual mission trip to McCurdy School in Espanola, New Mexico will be the week of June 25-July 1st. If you are interested in attending please come by the church office and pick up an application. We would love to have some more new members on our trip this year. Each year is a blessing. We not only do some good work for the people at McCurdy but we grow closer together as a group as well.

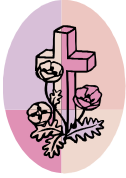
Message from UMW

The UMW Day Circle and the Night Circle met at the Coffee Cabaret for their monthly meeting. They are considering becoming one group—the Day Circle—if it can be worked out. A suggestion by a member of St. Luke’s UMW ladies was received by our group—that each group occasionally visit the other group at business meetings. This was well received and discussed for future planning.

Our group is working on plans for our annual Book Review and Tea—more about this next time.

The ladies of FUMC are gain cordially invited to become a part of the UMW. It is another way to be blessed by our friendships, our studies, and most importantly, our Savior.





Memorial

Charles Yelverton

Lula Goswick, John and Janie Cox
Donna and Buddy Williford

Dorothy Anderson

Donna and Buddy Williford

Honorarium

Mike Bolton

Charles and Nan Ramsey



Wednesday Night Meals

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

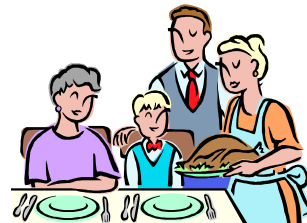
March 2—Fish Fry

March 9—Youth hosting Pancake Supper

March 16—Spring Break (No Meal)

March 23— Hamburgers

March 30—Taco Salad





March Birthdays

1st—Connie Carter, 2nd—Jack Forrest, 3rd—Chris McCulloch, 4th—Brittany Fulmer,
5th—Austin Beard, Lowell Posey, 8th—Benjamin Brittain, Charles “Bubba” Paul,
9th—Dawn McKeand, 10th—T.D. Shivers, 12th—John Burks, Tracy Machacek,
14th—Carol Ann Dawley, 16th—Tad Burroughs, 19th—Clint Flatt, 21st— Ann Neill,
22nd—Kamry Brown, Colton Brady, Patsy Henry, 24th—Jackson McCulloch,
27th—Annie V. Sheffield-Britt, Loda Crutchfield, Billy Hinton, Micah Anderson
28th—Wynona Lipsett, 29th—Tammy McCulloch, 30th—Bob Fain

March Anniversaries

9th—Joe and Kathy Paschal
22nd—Harriet & Gerald Atkinson
22nd—Craig and Linda Kegerreis

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





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.