

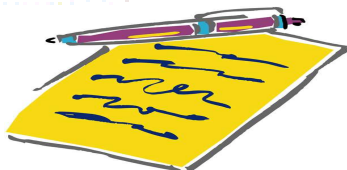


THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

May, 2010



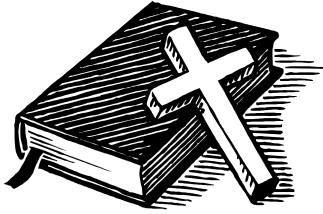
.....Why Worship?.....

I am reading a book that I first read several years ago. This is one of those books that you keep because you know it will have meaning, no matter how many times you read it. It's entitled "*A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*" by Eugene Peterson. The book is a collection of reflections on various Psalms. In one particular chapter Peterson wrote about Psalm 122. Psalm 122 deals with worship. Listen to the words of the first part of the Psalm: "When they said, Let's go to the house of God,' my heart leaped for joy. And now we're here, oh Jerusalem, inside Jerusalem's walls! Jerusalem, well-built city, built as a place for worship!" In writing about worship Peterson said, "One of the afflictions of pastoral work has been to listen, with a straight face, to all the reasons people give for not going to church: 'My mother made me when I was little.' 'There are too many hypocrites in the church.' 'It's the only day I have to sleep in.' There was a time when I responded to such statements with simple arguments that exposed them as flimsy excuses. Then I noticed that it didn't make any difference. Now I listen (with a straight face) and go home and pray that person will one day find the one sufficient reason for going to church, which is God."

I can relate to what Peterson is saying. Not a week goes by that someone does not say to me, "We have really been meaning to get back in church but..." The excuses then come pouring down. I, like Peterson, have learned to listen and simply pray for those individuals. I pray for them not in the sense that something is wrong with them for not worshiping on a regular basis or that I am any better than them for worshiping every week, but in the sense that they have missed the whole point of worship altogether – God! Worship is about praising a loving God who loved us first through Jesus Christ. When was the last time, in the words of the psalmist, did your heart "leap for joy" when you worshiped God? My prayer for all of us is that we rediscover the joy of worship and know that when we come to worship on Saturday night or Sunday morning we are here to worship not ourselves but the living God who is full of surprises and grace. Ask yourself this question the next time you enter our sanctuary for a worship service, "What brings me to this place at this time?" I look forward to seeing you in worship and worshipping the living God with you!

In Christ,

Brad



MYF

From Youth Director Jill Flatt

Methodist Youth Fellowship News:

The youth went to Dallas on Friday, April 16th to The Rock & Worship ROADSHOW at the American Airline center. It featured Mercy Me, David Crowder* Band, Family Force 5, Francesca Battistelli, FEE, Remedy Drive, and Sidewalk Prophets. There were over 30,000 people there aging from kindergarten to middle aged adults. Thanks to Gail McKeever, Kent Kendall, and Clint Flatt, we took 10 youth to experience this kind of worship. It was amazing and can't wait to go to another concert. THEN On Saturday, April 17th the youth helped serve at the Fish Fry. After the Fish Fry, the youth stayed for the worship service, before heading over to the fellowship hall for a Lock-In. Gail McKeever and I stayed up with 20 youth. We ate pizza, painted nails, played hide and seek outside, watched movies, played video games and cards, visited, and stayed up most of the night. It was fun, but glad these activities only happen once in a while. We will be traveling to Waco on May 8th. We will meet at the church at 1pm, do a little "Mom" surprise, then leave for Waco to watch a movie (about \$7) and eat at Rosa's Mexican Café (about \$10). We should be back around 7:30 pm. Movie Night has been moved up due to Memorial Day weekend. The last MYF meeting of this year will be on June 2nd. We will go to the Lake for dinner and fun. We will meet at the church at 4:30 to leave for the lake and be back by 7 pm. Specific details will be available later.

Upcoming Events:

May 8 - Trip to Waco - Movie/Dinner

May 23 - Movie Night

June 2 - "Last MYF" Party

Message from the United Methodist Women:

UMW Day Circle, Secretary Johnnie Christian....

The official 'Purpose' of the UMW groups reads: The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Hugh Ann and Lula were responsible for the program "Gather to Celebrate", and will present another segment on that subject next month. Maps of different parts of the world were used showing areas where UMW activities are involved.

The landscaped area by the entrance to the Fellowship Hall is beautiful indeed. A big THANKS goes out to JACKIE AND GEORGE TIDWELL for this lovely area. Be sure to take a look!

Our next meeting will be held May 17 at 10 a.m. Y'ALL COME ladies and join us in our PURPOSE. It'll do your hearts and spirits good.

Parley Wiggins, UMW Night Circle, Sue Franks, President...

Parley Wiggins Circle met Monday evening, March 15th, in the Church Library. We welcomed Bette Thetford who joined us to share information concerning our UMW budget and to answer any questions we might have. This was especially helpful since we were making our pledges for the year. Other business included discussing ways to honor our graduates this spring. Carol Ann Dawley then led us in a program entitled "For the Love of God" based on St. John's letters. The points brought out were especially meaningful during this Lenten Season. The meeting ended with fellowship as we enjoyed refreshments furnished by Diane Burks.

Thank You to the FUMC Community!

I would like to thank my shepherd, pastor and friend and each and everyone of my church family for your prayers regarding my recent back surgery. It appears to be a complete success and a total healing should be expected.

It was an amazing experience, God truly had His hand on all who operated, treated or cared for me during this procedure.

It was your prayers that God answered; I was just the beneficiary of his abundant grace. Only deep humility can express my feelings at this point. You are an amazing church.

T.J. (Jerry) Hathaway



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

Group 3 and 4 Trike-A-thon—For St. Jude Children’s Hospital Thursday, on May 7th, these children will ride on our pre-planned trike path and keep count of how many laps each child rides. Sponsors may pledge by the lap or may pledge a flat specified amount. All pledges need to be turned in by May 22 to allow us to tally the results and order prizes for children according to amounts collected. The results will be announced at Graduation on June 3.

Group and Individual Cap and Gown Pictures for 2010 Pre K and Kindergarten will be made May 14—Dabbs Photography will take individual pictures for all groups at Preschool. He will also take cap and gown pictures for children leaving Preschool to attend Pre K or K in August 2010. There will be group and individual pictures taken.

Graduation and Parent Luncheon— (2010 Pre – K and Kindergarten Students) Wednesday, June 2 -The 2010 Pre K and K children will prepare lunch and a wonderful program for their parents on Wed. June 2. We invite parents to arrive by 12 noon in the sanctuary for the program. We will then go to the Fellowship Hall where we will have a delicious lunch prepared by the children.

Gymnastics Program—We have had another great year with our Gymnastics Program this year. Jean Ann is so great with the children and they learn so much from their experience in her gymnastics classes. Our program will be held in the Fellowship Hall FUMC Mexia on May 22nd at 8:00 a.m. We will continue with our gymnastic classes during the summer.

Sports Clinics - We will again have our Mexia High School athletes to lead classes: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. during the month of June in the City Park. They are open to Groups 5 and 6.

Computer Classes— P. C. Kidz will be teaching computer classes at FMP this summer. The classes are on Friday mornings and are open to groups 3 through 6. P. C. Kidz tells us that their summer projects will be exciting and fun.

Wednesday Night Meals

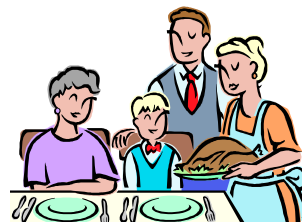
(Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday)

May 5th: Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Dessert

May 12th: King Ranch Chicken, Chips & Salsa, Salad, Dessert

May 19th: Hamburger/Hot Dog Cookout, All the Trimmings,
Dessert

Wednesday Night Dinners will resume on September 1st.



Message from Preschool Director, Sherry Miller (Cont.).....

Library Summer Reading Program – In July the Preschool will again participate in the summer reading program at Gibbs Memorial Library. All groups will participate in the reading program. Books from the library will be brought to the Preschool for teachers to read to their classes. All children will earn certificates for reading a certain number of books or having a certain number of books read to them. Groups 5 and 6 will attend story time at the library on Thursdays. They will attend the end party at Mexia Civic Center. The Library will send a representative to the Preschool for our own “end party” here for those younger groups. This is always a fun activity.

Twirling- June 8-12 the MHS Twirlers will lead classes here at FMP. The classes will be Monday through Friday with the older girls at 10:00 and the younger girls at 9:30. A short program will be held on Friday, June 12 at 10:00 to show what they have learned. This is open to groups 3 - 6.

Cheerleading- June 15-19 the MHS Cheerleaders will lead classes from Group 3 through Group 6 to learn cheers, chants and routines. A short demonstration/program will be held Friday, June 19 at 9:00 to show what they have learned.

Flag Corp - June 22-26 the MHS Flag Corp will lead classes here at FMP. The classes will be Monday through Friday with the older girls at 10:00 and the younger girls at 9:30. A short program will be held on Friday June 26 at 10:00 to show what they have learned. This is open to groups 3 through Group 6.

Girls Dance Camp- Ann Hunt will be teaching a week long dance camp one week during July. Children in Groups 3 through 6 may sign up for this.

KIDS SHOP MEETINGS & MENUS

Wednesday – 5:15pm to 7:00pm

May 5th—Corny Dogs & Chips

May 12th — Pigs-n-Blankets

May 19th --Make your “own” Pizza

May 26th -- Nacho’s

For more information call Tammy McCulloch 903-390-1751 or Kellie Candy 214-214-2315

Fish Fry a Success! We had another great time at our annual community fish fry. We had a great crowd and were able to serve many different people in the Mexia community. After the fish fry we gathered in the sanctuary for a wonderful time of worship. The best part of the event, as always, was the spirit of grace surrounding the day. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with getting everything together for the fish fry and serving during the day. You are the best!

Church Work Day / Landscaping We will be having a church work day on Saturday, May 15th to complete the landscaping project on the east side of the sanctuary. We will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. and begin working. If you have a few hours to spare that Saturday we would appreciate the help. Special thanks to the Trustees and Karen Harrison for their work in preparing this project.

Confirmation Class I have heard from several of you wanting to enroll your children in this year's confirmation class. We will have our class on the following Sundays: May 16, 30, June 6, and 13. We will meet immediately after our 10:30 a.m. worship service. We will have a short lunch and then meet until 1:00 p.m. If you would like to enroll your child please email me or give me a call. So far we have five who have indicated an interest in attending. When I get the final number attending the class I will ask for adult volunteers in the congregation to be mentors.

Basic Lay Speaking Course The United Methodist Church is offering a Basic Lay Speaking Course in May and June for those interested in being certified. This course would be great for those wishing to speak on a regular basis at our Saturday night worship service. The course will be held at Genesis UMC in Fort Worth. Here is the schedule: Sundays -- May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in taking the class, contact Judy Clarke 817-292-9555 email judyclarie@sbcglobal.net. The cost for the course is \$20.

Church in the Park – Pentecost Sunday—May 23rd This year we are going to be celebrating Pentecost Sunday a little bit differently. We will be worshipping at the Mexia City Park instead of here at the church. That Sunday we **will not** have Sunday school and our worship time will be 11:00 a.m. at the park. After the service we will have a cookout and play games together (softball, 42, card games, games for children, etc.). Since it is Pentecost Sunday we will do something creative outdoors to celebrate Holy Spirit in our lives.

Vacation Bible School Vacation Bible School will be the week of June 14th through June 17th. Jackie Tidwell will be directing the VBS program and we are looking for volunteers who would like to work with children during the week. The program runs from Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you have an interest in helping, contact the church office or Jackie. We are wanting to have a big group of kids this year and will certainly need all the help we can get.

Memorial Day Celebration This year our church is doing something special for Memorial Day. We are hosting a community-wide Memorial Day celebration to honor those who have died in service to our country, as well as those who have served or are currently serving. We will have the celebration on Monday, May 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. As a part of this celebration we will be taking up a collection during the event to raise funds for the USO's drive to collect recreational equipment for the troops serving overseas. Invite your friends and neighbors to this special event as we remember the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Saturday Night Praise and Worship Service We have had a great turnout and spirit in our new Saturday night praise and worship service. We worship every Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary in a relaxed, casual setting. We are excited about the great beginning to this service and would love to see it grow in our community. So invite your friends to be a part of the service. Also, if you or anyone you know plays musical instruments, let Gary Watson know and we will get you involved in the music portion of the service

Glen Lake Summer Camp Summer Camp is just around the corner at Glen Lake in Glen Rose, TX. Glen Lake is our camp for the Central Texas Conference. If you have children from the 1st grade up you can register them for camp at www.glenlake.org. The website has all the information you will need -- cost, dates, what to pack, etc.

Facility Study Update Last week we announced in church that our Administrative Board approved the hiring of the architectural firm Raso, Bailey, Dudley, and Rose out of Waco to conduct a facility study of our church. This facility study will give us a long-range direction for our church buildings. The cost for the study is \$8,000 and just last week we had a member step up and donate \$4,000 to the project. This member wishes to remain anonymous and would like to challenge the rest of the church to raise the additional funds by Mother's Day. As of this morning we have \$4,524 towards the goal of \$8,000. If you would like to contribute you may do so by making a check to FUMC Mexia Memo: Facility Study.

Memorial



Nell Robinson: Lola M. Focke

Pat Neill: Wanda Neill, Jim & Laurie Kiniry
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Tompkins, Bette Thetford
Sam Hanes, Shirley Neill, Pamela & Jeff Stuver

Susan & Norman Bonner, Pam & Bob Crider, Sarah & Boone Crider,
Larry & Sunday Pirkle





May Birthdays

4th-JiAnne Williams; 5th-Joey Neubauer, Lucy Harrison; 6th-Alisha Brittain; 7th-Sue Franks, Odessa Hancock; 8th-Joe Neubauer; 11th-Randy Ewers; 14th-Ann Withrow; 15th-Kathy Morgan; 20th-Jordan Hullum; 21st-Pat Cunningham, Joclyn Ewers, Louise Howze, Chris Wallitsch; 23rd-Macey Wilson; 24th-Harrison Edwards; 25th-Grandon Britt; 27th-Wilma Wilson; 28th-JC Hawkins; 29th-Vicki Beard; 31st-Suzanne Weihausen

May Anniversaries

15th-David & Suzanne Weihausen; 16th-Grayson & JiAnne Williams
18th-T.D. & Janise Shivers; 20th-Bug & Joan Paschal
23rd-Lowell & Jay Posey; 29th-Brandy & Murray Agnew



Your Church Staff

Rev. Brad Brittain, Pastor
Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music
Wynona Lipsett, Organist
Jill Flatt, Youth Director
Sandy Imes, 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.