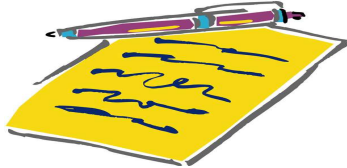


THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

May, 2011



.....Childlike Faith.....

I have been reading a book entitled "Credo" by William Sloane Coffin. It is a book of various writings from Coffin. In one section he wrote about what it's like to have a childlike faith:

"If it's immature to be childish, to remain childlike may be a function of maturity, for as Jesus said, 'Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will not enter therein.' Discussing this passage, biblical commentators like to dwell on the natural humility, the basic obedient and trusting quality of children; and I have no quarrel with such emphasis. All of us could profit from being a little more humble, trusting, and obedient, although Christians have to recognize that obedience to God has more to do with being love abiding than law abiding. By why, I wonder, don't these same commentators talk about the natural idealism of children? It's children who want to save the seals, the whales, and all the rest of us to boot. It's kids who sell cookies for causes, bake bread for brotherhood, save pennies to fight pollution. It's kids who have walkathons against war. And of course we encourage them. We believe in their being generous. But it's also true that we encourage them to outgrow it, as though generosity were a pair of short pants. Do you think Jesus would bless that view of growing up?"

Just something to think about. The next time we think something is not possible or that it is too "idealistic", perhaps we should remember the faith of children. They can teach us more than we think.

In Christ,

Brad

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

Our summer term starts on June 6, 2011 and you will find in this newsletter the list of special summer activities and the permission slips for these activities. Some activities have an extra charge and you must sign up to participate. Remember as long as your child is enrolled at least one day per week, he/she may participate in any activity on any day or days. We look forward to summer 2011.



Spring Individual Pictures for All Children

And

Group and Individual Cap and Gown Pictures for 2011 Pre K and Kindergarten

Were Made on April 29

The Graduation Packets and the Proofs of Individual Pictures will be delivered in a couple of weeks. We will post a sign when they are here!

Graduation and Parent Luncheon 12 noon - 1 pm

(2011 Pre - K and Kindergarten Students-and all of Group 4) Wednesday, June 1

Please put this date on your calendar now. The 2011 Pre K and K children will prepare lunch and a wonderful program for their parents on Wed. June 1. Even if your child does not normally come to Preschool on Wed., please make arrangements for them to drop in all day that day to help with lunch preparations and get ready for the program. We invite parents to arrive by 12 noon in the sanctuary for the program. The graduation and program will last about 20-25 minutes and an unlimited number may attend that special time. We will then go to the Fellowship Hall where we will have a delicious lunch prepared by the children. Your reservation form is attached. Please return it as soon as possible. Due to limited seating in the fellowship hall*, we will have to limit the number per family attending the luncheon. We ask that there be no more than 6 per family attend (including the graduate). There is no limit to the number of guests for the graduation ceremony in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you at Graduation.

Wednesday, May 11

Trike A Thon for St. Jude's Children's Hospital Upstairs Children Bring Your Bike, Trike, Scooter

You will find attached the pledge sheets which Group 3 AND 4 may use to participate in this special fund raiser for the children at St. Judes' Hospital. On May 11, 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 27 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 1.



GYMNASTICS PROGRAM- Saturday, May 21

Vacation Bible School – First United Methodist Church - June 6-9. Children in Group 4 /6 are invited to attend Vacation Bible School each morning from 8:30 – 11:30 here at FUMC. Children, of course, will come to Preschool at their normal time and then we will go as a group to VBS Monday, Tues, Wed, and Thurs. of that week. FMP teachers will be going also and helping where needed. Our theme this year is “Shake it Up” – Kids Carry Out God’s Recipe.

TWIRLING- July 18 – 22 MHS Twirler will lead classes here at FMP. The classes are Monday through Friday (older girls at 8:30 and younger girls at 9:00). The fee is \$10 for the 5 lessons and the girls will need to bring their own batons. A short program will be held on Friday, July 22 at 9:00 to show what they have learned. This is open to groups 2,3, 4 /6.

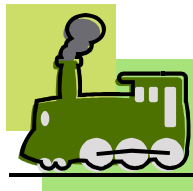
FLAG CORP - June 13-17 MHS Flag Corp representative will lead classes here at FMP. The classes will be Monday through Friday (older girls at 8:30 and younger girls at 9:00). The fee is \$10.00 for the 5 lessons and FMP will provide the flags. A short program will be held on Friday June 17 at 9:00. This is open to Groups 2,3,4/6.

CHEERLEADING- July 11-15 the MHS Cheerleaders will lead classes from Group 2, 3,4 /6 to learn cheers, chants and routines. The classes will be 5 days a week. Older girls will be at 8:30 and the younger girls at 9:00. The fee is \$10.00 for the 5 lessons. A short demonstration/program will be held Friday, July 15 at 9:00.

GYMNASTICS- We will be having summer gymnastics in 2011. Jean Ann May will again lead these classes open to groups 2 – 6. The class times will be determined by Jean Ann depending on the number and ages of the children but all classes will be on Tuesday mornings. These classes will begin on June 7 and end on August 9. (June 7,14,21,28) (July 5,12,19,26) (Aug.2,9) June and July (4 lessons are \$ 32.00) Aug. (only 2 lessons in Aug - \$ 16.00)

COMPUTER CLASSES- P. C. Kidz will be back teaching computer classes at FMP this summer. The classes are on Friday mornings and are open to groups 2 through 6. The cost is 7.50 per lesson. There will be 2 lessons per month (\$15.00 per month) June, July, and August. P. C. Kidz tells us that their summer projects will be exciting and fun.

LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM – In July (dates to be announced). The Preschool will participate in the summer reading program at Gibbs Memorial Library. Groups 3/4/6 will participate in the reading program. Books from the library will be brought to the Preschool for teachers to read to their classes. Group 4/ 6 will go to the library weekly during the 4 week reading program. All children will earn certificates for reading a certain number of books or having a certain number of books read to them. Groups 4 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. This summer 2011 the theme is “Dig up a Good Book” – the Dinosaur theme!



**Rock a Motion Choo Choo
Photo Opportunity
Chicken Limbo under the Railroad Crossing!
Rock - a - Motion
Choo - Choo USA
Saturday, May 7, 10 - 11:30**

- *Open House Celebration**
- *Come Support this Ministry**
- Visit with Staff and Other Parents!**
- * Fun Activities for the Whole Family**

**Rock - a- Motion USA
Face Painting!
Dining Car Refreshments
Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks!
Mini Train Ride
Do the Locomotion!
Clickety Clack Cookie Walk
Tunnel Time Bounce House
Caboose Bean Bag Toss**

Sherry Miller, Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mother's Day -- May 8th

Join us for worship on Sunday, May 8th at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. We will have a special time in which we honor our mothers.

Church in the Park -- Sunday, May 29th

We will have worship at the **Mexia City Park on Sunday, May 29th at 10:30 a.m.** Come dressed for a picnic and bring your lawn chairs! We will worship and then have a cookout and play games (softball, card games, etc.). We will not have Sunday school that Sunday.

McCurdy Bake Sale

The McCurdy Mission team will be selling bake goods in the foyer on May 15th. If you are going to McCurdy, please have your sale items in the foyer by 9:30 am that morning. Donations also are welcome.

Mission Trip to Sager Brown UMCOR (Baldwin, LA)

We have a reservation for a mission trip to the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA the week of July 31st through August 5th. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has a huge warehouse in Baldwin where relief supplies are sent from all over the country to be shipped to those in need. Much of the mission trip involves sorting supplies in the warehouse, as well as working on homes in the Baldwin area (painting, building wheelchair ramps, etc.) If you would like to attend, simply call the church office at 562-5567. The cost for the trip is \$185 per person (includes lodging and meals).

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

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the fish fry on Saturday! We had a great time and enjoyed the fellowship.

Sunday Night Worship

If you have not joined us for Sunday night worship we invite you to come to our service. We worship every Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Message from the Youth Director.....

Hey MYF and families!!

How BEAUTIFUL was the CROSS this past Sunday???? Amazing what a few flowers can do. I want to thank all the youth for helping attach all of those beautiful flowers to the cross. I love watching the youth decorate the cross on Easter Morning. The smell of the flowers is incredible as well. Thanks to all the church members who provided the fragrant flowers for the cross.

We had a SUPER time at the **ROCK AND WORSHIP ROADSHOW** in the American Airline Center in Dallas on April 9th. We left around 2 pm and got at the center very early. We actually stood around outside until the doors opened. We were able to sit right in front of the performance stage on the floor. I didn't realize it was so COLD down there. I found out that there is ICE under the floor for the STARS hockey team!! I learn something new every time I go. Mrs. Gael, Sam, Colton Quinn, James McKeand and girlfriend Bethany, Molly and I, Kyler and Uncle William were all in attendance. We had a wonderful time and can't wait to go back in the Fall.

Thanks to all the youth who were able to come this past weekend and help with the Fish fry. There are some many students going in many different directions so I am grateful for those who can donate their time. It is always a great opportunity to see and talk to many different people. It is good to serve.

We have a few upcoming events in the Month of May! We will have two more regular scheduled MYF meetings on May 4 and May 11th. There will not be any MYF on May 18th because I will be out of town. May 25th will be our Senior Celebration and MYF Summer Party. We will cook out and play with our Seniors one more time!! Bring some embarrassing pictures if you can!! May 29th is our Moving outing. We are heading back to Corsicana to watch a movie.

LOTS going on; HOPE YOU CAN JOIN!!

Ms. Jill

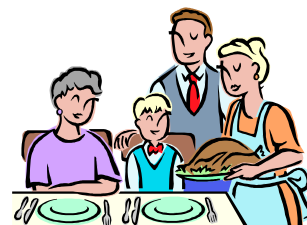
Wednesday Night Meals
(Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday)

May 4—Spaghetti and Meatballs

May 11—Chicken Alfredo Lasagna or Classic Lasagna

May 18 -

May 25—





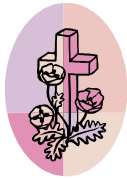
May Birthdays

4th-JiAnne Williams; 5th-Joey Neubauer, Lucy Harrison; 6th-Alisha Brittain; 7th-Sue Franks, Odessa Hancock; 11th-Randy Ewers; 14th-Ann Withrow; 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; 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

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



Memorial

Steve Coffey
Donna & Lawrence Evans

Charles Yelverton
Lola M. Focke

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 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.