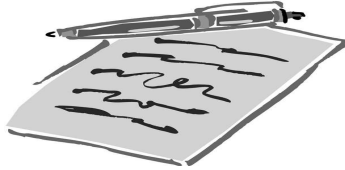


## THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

November, 2011



### Thanksgiving – A Time to Give Thanks for Blessings

I heard a story recently that Thanksgiving used to be celebrated on the very last Thursday in November. Traditionally, it was considered inappropriate for merchants to advertise sales for Christmas until after Thanksgiving. In 1939, during the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt decided that it would help the recession if businesses were able to advertise earlier, so he declared that Thanksgiving should be celebrated on the second to last Thursday in November. About half of the states went along with this recommendation and about half did not. Eventually, a compromise was made in 1941, and Congress established that Thanksgiving would happen on the fourth Thursday of November, so in some years it is the last Thursday and other years it is the second to last Thursday.

I find it interesting that the date that is set aside for giving thanks for our blessings was ultimately set in order to promote consumerism and spending. This, to me, emphasizes the myth that we need material things in order to feel “blessed”. For the past three weeks, we have been in the midst of a sermon series on “Simplicity, Generosity, and Joy”. We’ve been talking about how blessing comes when God scoops out all of the “stuff” that fills us. This “stuff” is all of the things that we put in our lives that we think we need. iPods, computers, televisions, clothes, fancy cars and houses are just a few examples of these things. These things are not bad, but they don’t offer us lasting joy.

What do you have in your life that truly gives you JOY? For me, it is my relationship with God, my family, my church and my friends. What is it for you? This year, at Thanksgiving, consider diminishing the importance of all the “stuff” in your life and give thanks for the true blessings that offer JOY!

In Christ’s Service  
Rev. Kory Koch



***SPECIAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENTS***

***DECEMBER 3, 2011***

***ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – NO CHARGE!***

*Hosted by Preschool Governing Board and Friends of Preschool*

*9 am – 10:30 am*

***MRS. CLAUS IS COMING TOO!***

We want to tell you about this now so you can put it on your Holiday Calendar! This has become a favorite family holiday event for our Preschool families. This year Breakfast With Santa will be at no charge. This is a gift from First United Methodist Church to our community during this holiday season. We hope all our Preschool families will come enjoy Breakfast with us and let the children visit with Santa. We are inviting everyone in the community – it's a great way to start the holiday season! Pancakes, Sausage, Juice!

**Mrs. Claus will be here too! She will be in the Parlor for storytelling! Breakfast and Santa in the fellowship hall. Mrs. Claus and storytelling in the Parlor. We start at 9 am and will serve until 10:30. Don't miss this special family time.**

**December 11, 2011 10:30 am**

We send a special invitation to our Preschool families to join us for worship and lunch on this day. Group 3A, 3B, and 4 children will sing during the worship service.

They will be learning their songs with Ms. Holly during music class. The children and youth of FUMC will present a musical, "An Animal's Christmas" during worship. Immediately following the service we will be hosting all the performers and their families in the fellowship hall for lunch. This is our Merry Christmas to you!

**Annual Birthday Party for Baby Jesus**

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**

This is the day for our class Christmas Parties in the morning. Santa will visit and we'll enjoy holiday times together. Times to be announced in the next newsletter

*Sherry Miller, Director*

## Kid's Corner

Our Trunk or Treat was quite successful thanks to all the help we had from our church adults—many thanks go to Sherry and Michael Miller for setting up and taking down the bouncy house, to Mike Bolton, James Dawley, George Tidwell, Randy Machachek, and the United Methodist Men for the free hot dogs and water, to James Dawley for the hay maze, to all the people who donated candy and other goodies, Jill and Clint Flatt and the MYFers for all the help with the fun activities, and most especially to the many people who passed out candy and treats to all the kids and families who came. **Thank you!**

November promises more fun as we continue to study the heroes of the Old Testament on Sunday mornings. On Wednesday nights we are working hard on the Christmas program we are planning for December. We have some very talented children who are learning lines and special music! Also in November we will be going on a hay ride at the Homestead Heritage Farms where we will enjoy the beauty and fun of God's wonderful creation!

Jackie

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### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

We are in need of a group (or person) to come forward to do the Wednesday Night Suppers as a service for our church membership. This is a very rewarding service. It is an important mission for our youth and for the adults that participate in Bible studies and/or Handbell and Chancel Choir as well as any other meetings that take place on Wednesday. It also is the best restaurant in town and you know everyone that is eating with you. You can't ask for a better social hour than that.

If a group (or person) doesn't come forward, this important function of our church will not be provided! Please contact Kory and/or Sandy if you are interested in providing this service for your church family.

MYF NEWS:

A BIG THANK YOU to all the church members who came to support the youth on YOUTH SUNDAY, October 9<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time coming up with the theme, picking all the corresponding music and scripture readings, and videoing all the “commercials.” Presenting it was the crowning moment. A special THANK YOU to Clint Flatt who stepped in during “crunch time” to help with the video editing. Thank you to Tyler Flatt for the sermon and piano solo, JW McKeand for prayers and leading the music, Caroline Kendall and Chyanne Reyes for the children’s sermon, Chelsea Zachary for the “behind the scenes” help with the children’s sermon, Molly Flatt for her puppeting solo and helping with the children’s sermon, Matt Zachary for our bible reading and ushering, Kevin Zachary for helping with the Lord’s Prayer and ushering, and Alex and Anthony Salas for helping with ushering. I also appreciate all the youth serving the lunch. I do want to apologize for running out of food! We had a bigger turnout than what I had planned for. A *special thanks* to the parents who stepped in to help out with the fundraiser luncheon. We made enough to send two people to summer camp or to participate in CTCYM this summer. [ctcyouthministry.wordpress.com/](http://ctcyouthministry.wordpress.com/)



Central Texas Conference  
Youth Ministry



We had a wonderful time at our Movie Night in Tehuacana. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Watson and their church, First United Methodist Church of Tehuacana, for sponsoring the moving night. We will try to coordinate another moving night in the Spring.

We will not meet on November 20<sup>th</sup>. This is the Sunday before Thanksgiving and many people will be traveling or out of town.

NEXT MOVIE NIGHT will be on November 26<sup>th</sup>. This movie is an action packed thriller movie that will not disappoint. We will meet in the Fellowship hall at 4 till 6:15.

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

*Jill Flatt*

A message from UMW.....

October 17, 2011 saw the first of UMW's 2011-2012 schedule. The program was given by President Bette Thetford, entitled "Making Peace with Mother Earth". It provoked an excellent discussion on how we can assist in preventing pollution, recycling, etc.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. The program will be given by Cheryl Karkheck, entitled "Finding Peace through Action." We hope to see both members and newcomers.

Cheryl Karkheck, Secretary

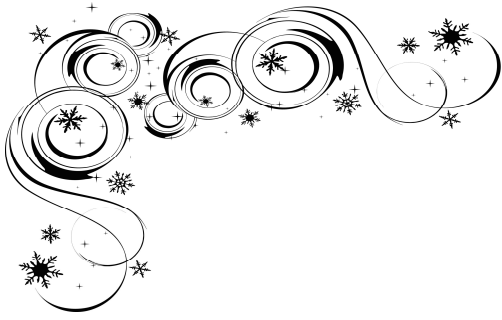
Give me a sense of humor, Lord,  
Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life.

Know Your Hymns

Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns  
Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall be Showers of Blessings  
Contractor's Hymn.....The Church is One Foundation  
The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy  
The Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away  
The Politician's Hymn....Standing On the Promises  
Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My eyes That I Might See  
The IRS Agent's Hymn....I Surrender All

**Mission Projects for Aging/Home Bound**—We are looking for potential clients and volunteers to help with minor home repair, yard work and possible handicap ramp construction within our community. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this mission project, contact Mike Bolton and Kory Koch. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS ALSO!!**

**Kitchen Supplies**—A bulletin board will be placed on the wall by the pantry closet. On this board will be a printed list of common supplies for the kitchen. If you see that supply for an item is getting low please put a check mark by the item. Please don't hesitate to add any items that are not already listed.



**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm**  
**Community Veteran’s Service**

Guest Speaker:  
Lieutenant Colonel Cox R. Crider, Retired  
Reception to follow

**Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – TIME TBA**  
**Hayride at Homestead Heritage Farms**

\*Tentative\*

**Sunday, November 20—6:30 pm**  
**Community Thanksgiving Service**

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9:00 – 10:30 am**  
**FREE Breakfast with Santa**

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am**  
**Children’s Christmas Program**  
Children from the Preschool will perform  
Children & Youth from First Methodist, Mexia will present  
“An Animal Christmas”

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 – 7:00 pm**  
**Children & Youth Christmas Caroling**

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am**  
**Christmas Cantata—”Shout the Good News”**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm**  
**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**



### **November Birthdays**

3rd—Blayne Russ, 4th—Johnnie Christian, Jay Posey, James Shivers, 7th—Bob Henry,  
10th—Kim Meyer, 11th—Hermine Sewell, 13th—Michele Irwin,  
16th—Betty Hawkins, Barbara Candy, 20th—Brandon Candy,  
22nd—Michelda Brown, Skye Olvera, 24th—Zackary Russ, 26th—Becky Brady,  
27th—Bob Crider, Hillary Brady

### **November Anniversaries**

1st—Cass & Kellie Candy, 18th—Bill & Selma McClure,  
19th—Ed & Mary Marcotte, 20th—Glenn & Cindy Williford,  
22nd—Arnold & Penny Gray, 25—Jan & Tommy Puckett

\*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.