

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

October, 2008



... “Consecration Sunday is Coming?”

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church’s mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation’s finance committee has selected the *New Congregation Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, “What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?” During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church’s ministry.

Every attendee and member who completes the Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship members will make their commitments as a confidential act of worship. We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Consecration Sunday Chairperson,
Michael Miller

Message from Program Coordinator Charlotte Posey...

All FUMC Women and guests are invited to attend a new Women's Bible Study that will begin Wednesday evening, October 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will finish each week by 7:00 p.m. Come have some fun studying "Bad Girls Of The Bible - And What We Can Learn From Them." If the title sounds intriguing, join us for this 6-week study. All you need to bring is your Bible, and pen and paper, if you enjoy taking notes. There is no homework required for the study. I will be teaching.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study continues to meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Boardroom, We are studying James and Hebrews. If you have the time please join us for coffee and good discussion.

Knit Wits continue to meet each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 1 pm. We already have given out 27 prayer shawls. If you would like to join us just stop by any Thursday and for those of you who are new to knitting we have a teacher to help you. On the last Thursday of the month we have a pot-luck lunch. If you know of someone you would like to give a prayer shawl to please let us know, we have several ready to go.

Message from Preschool Director Sherry Miller...

F. R. O. G. Time Enjoyed in the Book Nook

FMP Library Open to Our Parents

Our classes are enjoying spending time in the Book Nook each day with Ms. Alisha at F. R. O. G. Time. Apple Annie (Letter "A") and Benjamin Bunny (Letter "B") have been wonderful learning friends as the children of FMP begin their journey through the alphabet. Songs, Crafts, Books, Activities, and much more support the letter of the week study.

Also in the book nook we have over 1,000 selections of age appropriate books for our Preschool children and families to enjoy. Each Wednesday the children will have an opportunity to check out a book to take to their classroom to enjoy. If Parents want to check out books to take home, please let us know.

Message from Sammie Carter, Secretary– UMW Day Circle News....

We took a little summer break, as we had no meetings in June or July.

Sunday, August 3rd, we had our annual tea and book review. Kathy Morgan gave reviews from several books she had read. If you have not heard Kathy give a review, you have truly missed a treat. UMW served refreshments after Kathy's presentation.

Sunday September 21st was UMW day. We felt blessed to be a part of the Sunday service. Hugh Ann gave a report on our purpose and the things UMW have done in the pass year. Bette Thetford read the message "God's Song in God's Mission.

Epiphany

On Saturday, October 4th and Sunday, October 5th, we will be having another Epiphany at Camp Rip for the Mexia State School boys. This is a time when we share the love of Christ with the boys and introduce them to the Christian faith. If you would like to learn more about what we do at Epiphany, we encourage you to come to Camp Rip at Lake Mexia on Saturday or Sunday to observe and get a feel for how we help these boys. Thanks again to all who have volunteered over the years for this important ministry.

St Mary's BBQ

St. Mary's Catholic Church 48th Annual BBQ Dinner with all the trimmings plus dessert will be Sunday, October 5th. Serving from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dine in or take out is available for \$7.00 per plate. Plus there will be a bake sale, kids games, jump house, country store with homemade crafts and gifts. Live Auction starts at 1 p.m.

Flu Shots

Family Care of Texas will be here on Wednesday, October 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to administer flu shots. The cost of the flu shots is \$25 for those not on Medicare. Contact the church office to sign up. Please sign up in advance by calling or stopping by the FUMC office. Flu shots will be given in the Boardroom.

Wesleyan Theology Class

We are going to have a class on Methodist theology, and in particular, the theology that formed and shaped John Wesley. We will be reading the book **“The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today”** by **Theodore Runyon**. In addition to this book, for those who would like more background on Wesley and the history of the Methodist church, I recommend reading **“Wesley and the People Called Methodists”** by Richard P. Heitzenrater. If you would like to be a part of our class / discussion group, you may purchase the book at Amazon.com or other booksellers. We will have three class sessions that meet on Sunday evenings – October 12, 19, and 26th. We will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Common Grounds Book Club

The next gathering for the Common Grounds Book Club will be on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:00 p.m. The group meets at Coffee Cabaret to discuss the book of the month. The book we will be reading for October is **“Living the Resurrection: The Risen Christ in Everyday Life”** by Eugene Peterson. You may purchase this book at a bookstore or through Amazon.com. We are always open to new members and encourage you to bring a friend!

Emmaus Gathering – October 27

Our next Emmaus Gathering will be on Monday, October 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you are in the Limestone Emmaus Community we encourage you to come and join us for a meal, fellowship, and worship.

Trunk or Treat

This year we will be having our annual Trunk or Treat for Halloween on Wednesday, October 29th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Last year we had a great time serving candy and other goodies to children from our cars and trucks in the church parking lot. Feel free to decorate your car or truck and wear a costume yourself! If you would like to participate, simply show up at 5:30 p.m. in the church parking lot with your candy!



Charge Conference

This year our charge conference will be held on Sunday, November 2nd at 7:00 p.m. We will be having a Cluster Charge Conference with three other churches in our area – St. Luke United Methodist, Dennis Chapel, and Coolidge. At Charge Conference we nominate and elect church leadership for the next year, as well as review the previous year's ministries and look forward to next year's ministries. We will meet in the sanctuary. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.



New Children's Ministry Program K through 5th Grade

We have begun a new children's ministry program for children K-5th grade. The program is called LIFE (Living In Faith Everyday) and is on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The program consists of music, games and activities, arts and crafts, etc.

We will split the group up into two age groups – K-3rd grade and 4th and 5th grade. If you have children or know of children in this age group please invite them to the church to participate in this new program. If you have any questions or would like to help in this new ministry, contact Alisha Brittain at 562-3485 or alishambrittain@hotmail.com.

Habitat Update

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the construction of the Habitat House on Titus Street in Mexia. Members of our church, along with others in the community, have worked together to provide this home for a family who would not otherwise have a home of their own. If you would like to get involved with the Habitat project, contact the church office and we can provide you with all the details. This is an ongoing local mission project in which we can help individuals and families right here in our community.



Flood Buckets

Our church will be collecting flood buckets to send to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to assist individuals and families cleaning up after the recent storms and flooding. We are asking that the flood buckets be brought to the church by Sunday, October 5th. A group from our Conference will be delivering the flood buckets to UMCOR in Baldwin, LA the middle of October. A flood bucket consists of the following:



- 5-gallon bucket with reseal able lid
- L Bleach (two 1-quart or one 82 oz. bottle. Do not include bleach if you are shipping the bucket through the US Postal Service, UPS or FedEx)
- 5 scouring pads
- 7 sponges
- 1 scrub brush
- 18-cleaning towels (reusable wipes)
- Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle)
- 1 household cleaner, 12-16 oz. Bottle
- Disinfectant dish soap, 16-28 oz. Bottle
- 50 clothes pins
- Clothes line (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.)
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pair latex gloves
- 1 pair work gloves
- 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags, 33-45 gallon (remove roll from box before placing in bucket)
- 1 Insect repellent spray, 6-14 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below.)
- 1 Air freshener, 8 or 9 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below.)

Important Kit Assembly Information

1. All items included in kits must be NEW items.
2. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.
3. Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

October Birthdays*

5th—Gael McKeever, 6th—Katelinn Hancock, 7th—Aileen Womack, 8th—Brooke Anderson, 9th—Steve Bullard, Donna Williford, 11th—Glenn Williford, 12th—Shelby Candy, 13th—Kyle Hancock, 15th—Jackson Tacker, 19th—Elizabeth Withrow, 22nd—Michelda Brown, 24th—Cathy Ward, 28th—Julia Faye Hamilton, 29th—Jill Flatt, Woodrow Wilson, 30th—Starlene Yelverton

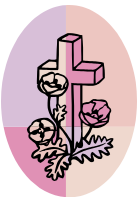


October Anniversaries*



1st—Seth & Wilma Wilson, 15th—Mike & Mary Ann Ray, 18th—Bob & Pam Crider, 21st—John & Diane Burks, Jack & Ina Beth Forrest, 24th—Steve & Cindy Bullard

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



Memorial

Ken Kegerreis
Hulit & Peggy Connally

Attendance for September

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
9/07	73	129
9/14	56	155
9/21	55	146
9/28	34	124

Menu for October

October 1 Mexican Casserole
 October 8 Stew & Cornbread
 October 15 Ham
 October 22 Spaghetti
 October 29 Salad Medley

Sunday Morning October 19th
 Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy

Remember all children in our Youth Programs eat free. All others just \$3.00

Youth M&M total to date \$836.40

Deadline for the
 November Newsletter
 October, 23rd

Parley Wiggins Circle
Saving Labels

Parley Wiggins Circle is again collecting Campbell's Soup can labels and Box Tops for Education labels to be sent to the McCurdy School in New Mexico. Please put your labels and box tops in the container in the foyer. Thank you.



RELAY FOR LIFE FMP TO RAISE “COINS FOR CANCER”

As you probably know, the Limestone County Relay for Life Event will be during October. We have been encouraged to let the children of FMP help to raise donations to this worthwhile cause to help fight cancer.

There will be a GIANT jug in the Main Hallway, the children are encouraged to fill it with “Coins For Cancer”. The jug will be out starting October 1st.

On a date to be announced Group 5 will be going to Blackcat Field to “walk” for the Relay for Life around the track. We will leave Preschool at 11:00 am and return at 11:45am. We will be talking to the classes about how important it is to help others in this way. Our donations will be combined with donations from McBay Elementary School here in Mexia.



Your Church Staff

Brad Brittain, Pastor
Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music
Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator
Wynona Lipsett, Organist
Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator
Mike Bolton, 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.