

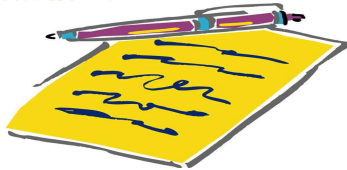


THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

October, 2011



....The Winds of Autumn....

Last week, my 6-year-old daughter, Nora, told me that it must be fall. When I asked her how she knew, she said that she could see the wind blowing the leaves off of the trees. While we are not feeling the effects of fall yet, I always think of fall as a time when things change. The wind begins to blow and the temperature changes. The leaves on the trees begin to change colors and slowly drift to the ground. With the change in temperature, we begin to think of upcoming holidays, like Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Autumn is a time of change.

I love this time of year because it reminds me of the power of God to bring change to the world. The Holy Spirit, like the wind, whips through our church and our community. The Spirit pours faith into us, but it happens differently for each one of us. The Spirit may change us through a sermon, a song, a special event or a service project to someone in need. It may change us through a relationship or a hardship. It may change us through a process of slow growth that happens over time or through a dramatic mountaintop experience. We may experience the Spirit through a loud, booming voice or a still, quiet whisper.

Our job is just to be open to the movement of the Spirit. I encourage you this month to really listen for God, to look for God in the everyday things. Approach your prayer time with a sense of openness. Be willing to consider the changes that God might be bringing to you.

In Christ's Service
Rev. Kory Koch

A message from the Director of the Preschool

Dear Parents and Friends:

Our 33rd Annual Halloween Party will be Monday, Oct. 31 ! Each child in Groups 1B through 4 is encouraged to come to school in costume. (if needed we can change the children back into school clothes after the party). Please have each child bring a trick or treat bag or pumpkin with his/her NAME ON IT and also please have names on all costume parts.

Activities will include Trick or Treating at pre-arranged locations in the neighborhood and refreshments in the Preschool Lunchroom.

Group	Refreshments in Lunchroom	Trick or Treating
1B	8:30	8:45
2	8:30	8:45
3 A	8:45	9:00
3 B	9:00	9:15
4	9:15	9:30

All parents please bring Halloween Treats or Candy (age appropriate) and place it in the containers that will be placed in the hallway around October 20th. We take these treats to the pre-arranged neighborhood locations so the children can receive them when trick or treating.

We welcome any contributions for party refreshments for the various groups. If you want to bring refreshments, please sign up in the office so we will know what is coming. Also, parents are welcome to come join in the fun. Thanks!



**PLEASE SUPPORT THE ANNUAL
FIRST METHODIST PRESCHOOL FALL BOOKFAIR
OCTOBER 17- OCTOBER 21**

Back by popular demand, we will be holding our 17th annual Bookfair at First Methodist Preschool. The books will be displayed in the Preschool lunchroom in the Peyton Building of the church. The Preschool benefits according to the number of books purchased. These are excellent quality books and age appropriate with a good selection. Please shop early for Christmas!

**WEEKLY LIBRARY TIME ON Wednesday!
CHILDREN CHECK OUT BOOKS!**

Children in groups 3A/3B/and 4 will be checking out books from the FMP Book-nook Library Wednesday mornings during their Frog Time.

The books are taken back to their classrooms to share and enjoy. If parents want to, they can take these books home to read by the parents to their children. Reading to children helps them succeed, have higher self - esteem, and do better in school. **BE SURE AND BRING THE BOOKS BACK BEFORE THE NEXT Wednesday BOOK NOOK TIME!** Children who do not return their books are not allowed to check out books the next week.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Trunk or Treat EVENT**

Monday, October 31 5:30 - 7 pm

We hope all our Preschool families will join us on this fun Halloween Evening.

The plans so far include BOUNCE HOUSE HAY MAIZE HOT DOGS

5:30 -7 pm TRUNK OR TREAT - come in costume and trick or treat the circle of cars in our parking lot!

Fun for Whole Family!

**Cornucopia Lunch for Group 4 Children and Parents
Tuesday, November 22
12:00 - 1:00 Fellowship Hall/ Concert**

We hope Group 4 Parents will join us for a Thanksgiving lunch on Tuesday, November 22 at noon in the fellowship hall. The children will share music with us at noon followed by lunch together. Each child may bring 4 guests. There will be a reservation form in the November newsletter. Put this date on your calendar now!

FMP TEACHERS TO ATTEND CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

Teachers from FMP will again attend the Fall Child Care Conference on Saturday, October 1. The theme this year is "In Safe Hands" with keynote address by Kristen Omo, Early Childhood Specialist. After the keynote there will be concurrent sessions including: Infant Care and Standards by Kristen Omo; Emergency Preparedness by Marcy McFarland; and Make it and Take It Fire Safety by Amy Kay Shaw and Crystal Duke.

The new state requirements for our teachers for annual training is 24 clock hours. Our teachers strive to participate in regular training in order to provide the best quality care possible for your children.

Sherry Miller, Director



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.

We will be starting our Wednesday activities on Wednesday, September 7th. 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 youth that came out to help with our local mission to help clean up Mrs. Hamilton's yard. It will be an ongoing mission as we "re-tame" her yard. We are blessed to give back to our community and our members. If you would like assistance with your yard, please contact the church office.

We had a super time at our Movie Night in Corsicana this past month. We saw Dolphin Tale. It was a wonderful movie about a boy, a dolphin and a prosthetic tail. It had a wonderful message about well, you'll just have to go see it! Young or old, it is well worth the trip.

Don't miss out on YOUTH SUNDAY on OCTOBER 9th. We have been working on this for the last month and the youth are excited to present "Keep Fishing, My Friends!" We will also be having a Fundraiser Luncheon after the service to kick start our Summer Mission Project. We will be sending as many youth as we can to Central Texas Youth Commission Missions. It will cost about \$250 per youth to attend a week long mission trip. (We are also helping our local citizens each month as well which is getting the youth excited to go elsewhere to help others.)

NEXT MOVIE NIGHT will be on October 30th. We will travel to the United Methodist Church in Tehuacana and host a Movie night with them in hopes of meeting more youth from that area. We would like to visit and bridge to some other churches and their youth. We will play games and watch a really great movie.

Hope to see you at MYF – Sundays from 4-6
JOY AND PEACE,

Mrs. Jill

Kid's Corner

We are really excited about our children's activities this fall! Our Wednesday evening programs have gotten off to a great start. We are meeting in the Peyton Building at 5:30 for Kid's Choir and the children are doing a fantastic job of preparing songs to sing in our Sunday morning worship. We next divide into groups for Bible stories, games, snacks and crafts. The preschoolers go with Sharon Beene and Kay Roark, while the older children hear and act out stories with Jackie Tidwell and then do snacks and crafts with Kelly Candy. Our stories this month are those concerning Joseph in Egypt.

On Sunday mornings at 9:30 the Mustard Seed Class meets downstairs while the Younger Elementary and Older Elementary meet upstairs. This month our stories, games and crafts all deal with Old Testament Heroes. One Sunday each month is movie Sunday which is always lots of fun!

Of course, we are looking forward to Trunk or Treat which will be in the church parking lot on October 31. You know of course to decorate the trunk of your car for Halloween and have plenty of candy or other treats for all our trunk or treaters! We will have free hot dogs, a bouncy house and a hay maze!

You can even dress up in *your* neat Halloween costume for this fun evening!

Jackie

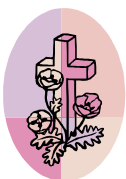
A message from UMW.....

Ladies—welcome back to our new session. United Methodist Women will have the first fall meeting on October 17th at 10:00 am in the Boardroom of the Church. Although we have not held a meeting since April, UMW has been active.

August 7th was the UMW Tea with guest, Nan Brown. Nan presented a program on immigration. Sunday, September 25th was UMW Sunday. A special thank you to Pastor Kay Hawkins of Glen Lake Camp for proving the message.

UMW is open to all women of FUMC. We hope to see you on the 17th of October.

Cheryl Karkheck, Secretary



Memorial

Lewis Blunt

Bette Thetford
Ima & Tad Burroughs

Jo Ann Temples

Ima & Tad Burroughs
Upper Room Class
Lula Goswick
Grandon & Annie V Britt
Billy & Louise Howze

Wannette Gafford

Bette Thetford



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Sunday- Youth Sunday will be October 9th. The theme is “Keep Fishing, My Friends!” A fundraiser luncheon will be served after the service in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to support the MYF of our church family.

Choir Clinic—If you want to be part of the Christmas Cantata, come to the Choir Clinic on Saturday, October 15th. We will have breakfast at 8:30 and then break into parts and start earnest practice on the music until noon.

Trunk or Treat—Trunk or Treat will be held on Monday, October 31st at 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the parking lot. We are planning on a bouncy house and a hay maze. There will be plenty of fun for all. Plan on decorating your trunk, come in costume and enjoy the community fun. We will be offering free hot dogs as well as our annual activities.

A request for hay—We are asking for a donation of hay bales for the hay maze for trunk or treat. Please contact Sherry Miller or Jackie Smith if you are able to donate hay.

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.

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!!**





October Birthdays

5th—Gael McKeever, 6th—Ben & Sam Koch, Katelinn Hancock, 7th—Aileen Womack,
8th—Brooke Anderson, 9th— Donna Williford, Steve Bullard, 11th—Glenn Williford,
12th—Shelby Candy, 13th—Kyle Hancock, 15th—Kellie Candy, Jackson Tacker,
18th—Grayson Williams, 19th—Elizabeth Withrow, 28th—Julia Faye Hamilton, Lisa Paul,
John Fletcher, 29th—Jill Flatt, Woodrow Wilson, 30th—Marcy McFarland, Starlene Yelverton

October Anniversaries

1st—Seth & Wilma Wilson, 11th—Stephanie & Julio Olvera, 18th—Bob & Pam Crider,
21st—Don & Sharon Beene, John & Diane Burks, Jack & Ina Beth Forrest,
24—Steve & Cindy Bullard

*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.