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*Open Hearts. . .*

*Open Minds. . .*

*Open Doors. . .*

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FUMC

- 7:30 a.m. Refreshments in the Parlor (all morning)
- 8:15 A.M. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast in the Activity Center
- 9:00 a.m. Celebration Service In the Activity Center
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

*Nursery care provided*

The 11:00 service is Broadcast each Sunday on Brenham radio KWHI/AM 1280 and Channel 96 Cable TV.

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Bobbie Maltas—Senior  
 pastorbobbie@fumcbrenham.org

Rev. T.J. Gabelman—Associate  
 pastortj@fumcbrenham.org

# First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213

March 2019



## A Message from Bishop Scott Jones, Texas Annual Conference:

To the United Methodist people of the Texas Annual Conference, God still has work for us to do. The deliberations at General Conference yesterday were painful for many people. The General Conference voted by 438 to 384 to maintain our current teaching on the practice of homosexuality and our teaching on marriage. For many persons who were hopeful of a movement in a more progressive direction, this was a devastating blow. The whole Church knows you're hurting and we want you to know we love you.

For people who were fearful that a change might be made they felt they could not live with, in a more conservative manner, well, their fears were relieved. And yet, it didn't go as far as they wanted. We love you too.

The General Conference did adopt the Traditional Plan. Parts of it were declared unconstitutional. This plan maintains our current teaching on these matters. Some measures to strengthen accountability for bishops and clergy were included and were constitutional. They also approved a disaffiliation, or gracious exit plan. However, it's not clear that it will be constitutional. In any case, all the things that were approved yesterday take effect January first of next year.

Friends, I know emotions have been running high. There have been things said on social media and to each other that, well, weakened our ties together. My hope is that we will stay together as a church and that we will now focus on our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are, indeed, stronger together. I'm blessed to belong to a church where both conservatives and progressives are together.

I know that in many of our congregations in our Texas Annual Conference there are people who are on different sides of this issue and yet worship in the same pews and sometimes attend the same Sunday school classes. I think our diversity is a treasure.

I want you to know that I'm really focusing on the words of Ephesians 4 and I appeal to you now: *I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

We need to remember John Wesley's words in Catholic Spirit that, "*Our disagreements do not prevent us from loving each other.*" Our unity in the Spirit is being tested. Now is a time to breathe deep, to avoid quick reactions and instead to thoughtfully ask, "How can God use us to serve Christ and God's purposes in the places where find ourselves.

Focusing on our mission and working together is the best way to move forward. May God bless The United Methodist Church and the Texas Annual Conference in the days to come.



*While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. - Luke 24:15*

Yes! We have an Emmaus community at Brenham First UMC and this spring it's expected to grow.

The Walk to Emmaus is a 3-day experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

#### UPCOMING EMMAUS WALKS

Men's Emmaus Walk #114, April 11 – 14th

Women's Emmaus Walk #115, April 25-28<sup>th</sup>

*You can learn more about Emmaus, including participating in an Emmaus Walk, at the Brazos Valley Emmaus Community webpage: [www.bvemmas.org](http://www.bvemmas.org) or contact Pastor Bobbie at the church office.*

The next Emmaus Community Gathering is Saturday, March 2, 5:00pm, Christ UMC, College Station. This worship and fellowship event is for those who have been on a Walk, their families, friends, and anyone else who would like to attend. Bring a covered dish to share and enjoy!



HEAR OUR MISSION

#### Servant Opportunities for YOU!

1. **Greeter** – We have several new greeters for the Sanctuary! Thank you so much to our new greeters, Lorie Woodward, Martha and Perry Ratcliff, Laurie Kloch, Dianne Davenport and Pastor Kay Reed !!! We still have greeter slots open in Celebration. Please contact Martha Ratcliff at [Martha\\_ratcliff@yahoo.com](mailto:Martha_ratcliff@yahoo.com) or 979-551--0162

2. **Communion Coordinator** – The communion coordinator purchases juice for all worship services and fresh communion bread for the traditional services. This servant helps support our current communion steward teams with reminder calls, information, and coordinating from our substitution list. Contact Sue Hewitt at [suehewittlpc@gmail.com](mailto:suehewittlpc@gmail.com) or 979-836-0643.
3. **Lay Readers** – Would you serve Christ through the church by reading scripture in worship at 8:15 or 11:00? Each assigned Sunday you'll receive a script, complete with the biblical texts you'll read. Come up to the lectern of pulpit at the appointed time and bless the congregation with the Word of God. Contact Patty Stratton at [pattyandjerry10@att.net](mailto:pattyandjerry10@att.net) or 979-251-9751
4. **Stewardship Committee** – Join the members of the stewardship committee and help our congregation grow in our understanding of stewardship in all aspects of our lives. Our chairperson, Haley Henly, and her committee is excited about the prospective stewardship strategies we're exploring this year. Come be part of this team. Contact Haley Henly at [h\\_wendler@yahoo.com](mailto:h_wendler@yahoo.com) or 979-777-0858.
5. **Nominations and Leadership Development** – Thank you!! At the April Administrative Board meeting we will add the following church members to this committee: Joy Goedeke, Joe Sharkey, Michael Brown, and Mary Ann Sharkey.



I wanted to share an update with you from the Couch Family, missionaries that we support monthly here at FUMC Brenham:

Our Christmas and New Year has been a busy one but full of fun and joy. Just before Christmas as we pushed to get in one more hike with the students, the weather turned. In order to keep everyone safe our poor beloved land rover was left on the side of the mountain in a foot of snow. It was subsequently rescued and now has its own story tell just like the stories shared and created on the mountains.

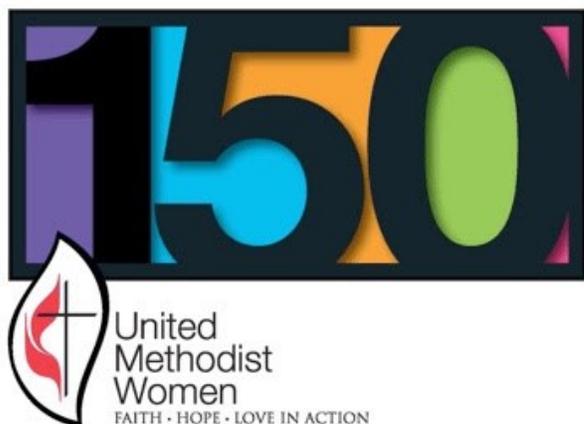
Because secular Christmas is celebrated in Kosovo, we used the opportunity to have a party for the exchange students from the two years we've been here. It was another great time of connecting and we shared our reason for celebrating Christmas - God stepping down from heaven to show us true life. While we did have a small tree, lots of food, and even sang silent night (in Albanian) it wasn't quite your typical Christmas party.

The New Year has been full of hope for as we continue seeing students and those around us step up into building God's kingdom. Students from the last two exchange programs decided to help struggling families this holiday season in their city and surround villages. Far exceeding their expectations of helping 6 families with food, they were able to raise money for 46 providing clothing, blankets and food. Another group made up of volunteers/friends of Berat and Valdete's came together last year to help a family in need and now growing in their own initiative, have taken on a new family. The family recently lost their 13 year old son, have a house in terrible condition lacking windows and a solid floor, and have run out of firewood. As we are learning to live in a house heated by a wood stove, I can't imagine the thought of trying to survive weeks of below freezing temperatures with no heat. It was a joy to get to deliver the first load of wood to them and to see the plan put into motion to make their house livable again.

We thank you and your congregation for your support this past year and are excited to be joining you in seeing God's redemptive work and hope spreading in Kosovo in 2019!

Blessings,

Thomas and Karen



**We would like to extend an invitation to all women to attend our Celebration of 150 Years of Women in Mission and Service. We're trying to get a big group up to attend this event. The date is March 23, 2019 and the location is FUMC Bryan, 506 E 28th St, Bryan, TX 77803 . We plan on carpooling and taking the new church van. The cost is \$10. There will be free childcare for children 12 & under. Registration is due by March 18 and can be obtained in the church office or from a UMW circle leader. (If you need childcare the registration is due by March 10).**

**We are looking forward to a day of sisterhood. The \$10 fee covers brunch at arrival, lunch, beverages all day, goodie bags and door prizes. The celebration will be from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. We would love to have you join us. You don't have to be in UMW or Methodist so please feel free to bring a friend.**

# UMYF

## SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

More fundraising opportunities coming up this spring!



### OUR UMYF T-SHIRTS ARE IN!

Please bring your \$10 to UMYF and you will get your shirt. You get it once you've paid. I did buy a couple extra ones in case you didn't give me your size but would like one.



## June 24 - 27

If you are interested in helping this summer with our AWESOME Vacation Bible School please contact [Jennifer@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:Jennifer@fumcbrenham.org). We are always looking for helpers to guide our kids to their stations or help out the station leaders. No experience required! Join the FUN!



Join us every Sunday morning at 10am in the Activity Center Kitchen as we "COOK THROUGH THE BIBLE"

We have a few college students that have started attending worship. They are away from families, and I am so excited that their walk with Christ is important to them. We are looking for a few good families/couples/singles to adopt a college student.

So what does it mean to adopt a student? You will be given their name, address and phone number. Simply make contact with them, offer to pick them up for church, purchase a meal ticket our church is selling, write them a letter of encouragement, send a little care package full of goodies, invite them to a lunch or dinner out or in your home. The possibilities are endless. The most important thing is to remind them someone is praying for them and cares about them here in Brenham.

If you would like to sign up please email me at [jennifer@fumcbrneham.org](mailto:jennifer@fumcbrneham.org) or call the church office and let me know you would like to be an adoptive family, and I will get all the info to you. Please prayerfully consider this outreach opportunity.



## Music Ministry Notes:



**Youth Choir:** Youth Choir rehearsals are Sundays at 5:00 PM in the choir room before Youth. Any Jr. High through High School youth are invited to participate.

**Bells of Praise:** Handbell Choir is rehearsing in the Fellowship House Wednesday nights from 5:00-6:00. Anyone interested in joining is invited.

**Adult Choir:** The Chancel Choir meets Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00

PM. New members are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining any of the music ensembles that make up our music ministry please contact Matt. [Matthewhulon@gmail.com](mailto:Matthewhulon@gmail.com)

**Coda:**  
I recently had the opportunity to substitute on a Saturday night at another church. As I played the prelude and postlude I was struck by the stark contrast between how this church approached prelude and postlude music and how we approach them. The church I was substituting at used the prelude more as background music and the congregation was all but in their cars by the time I started the postlude. In our church the prelude is a musical offering meant to call our hearts and minds from the world and center them on the act of worship. Our postlude is meant to be a triumphant anthem sending us out into the world, a musical offering to help bring joy to our hearts before facing the week. While the prelude and offertory always have our attention, I'm as guilty as anyone of not taking time to truly listen to the postlude. So next Sunday as the postlude plays, take a little time to truly listen to it and reflect on the joy that God can bring to us through music.



**Sunday, February 3, 2019**

**Church Attendance**

Nursery: 4  
8:15 Worship 49  
9:00 Celebration 90  
11:00 Worship 75  
**Total: 218**  
Sunday School: 53  
**Offering: \$9,574.00**

**Sunday, February 10, 2019**

**Church Attendance**

Nursery: 6  
8:15 Worship 48  
9:00 Celebration 99  
11:00 Worship 80  
**Total: 233**  
Sunday School: 45  
**Offering: \$13,998.40**

**Sunday, February 17, 2019**

**Church Attendance**

Nursery: 2  
8:15 Worship 53  
9:00 Celebration 84  
11:00 Worship 82  
**Total: 198**  
Sunday School: 58  
**Offering: \$15,169.91**

**Sunday, February 24, 2019**

**Church Attendance**

Nursery: 2  
8:15 Worship 56  
9:00 Celebration 77  
11:00 Worship 80  
**Total: 215**  
Sunday School: 52  
**Offering: \$5,730.00**



**Prayer Concerns**

<b>Glen Amerson</b>	<b>Kathi Ivy</b>
<b>Ed Baker</b>	<b>Barbara &amp; Keith Killgore</b>
<b>Calvin Beckendorf</b>	<b>Jean Laws</b>
<b>Mary Burgess</b>	<b>Beverly Leyrer</b>
<b>Jim Clements</b>	<b>Nynvia Mills</b>
<b>Wanda Curbo</b>	<b>Evelyn Newman</b>
<b>Ellen Ellison</b>	<b>Sue Perry</b>
<b>Jeff Folton</b>	<b>Harold Pool</b>
<b>Walter Fortune</b>	<b>Marjorie Reed</b>
<b>Bud &amp; Marshia Foster</b>	<b>Edna Rote</b>
<b>Miriam Gillis</b>	<b>Jerry Stratton</b>
<b>Joycine &amp; Louis Hannath</b>	<b>Don Wilhelm</b>
<b>Luene Harmer</b>	<b>Linda Winstanley</b>
<b>Virginia &amp; A.W. Hodde</b>	

**Memorials Received**

In memory of  
Edith Peterson  
By  
Imogene Laws  
and  
FUMC's UMW

In memory of  
Richard Coghlan  
By  
Kay and Gary Ivy  
And  
Susan & Ronnie Manchester

In memory of  
Ron Wise,  
Bettye Garrison,  
Les Summerville  
By  
Pat and Bobby Clark



# March 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	<b>2</b> 8:00 AM Epiphany Training 5:00 PM Emmaus Community Gathering/ Aldergate UMC, College Station
<b>3</b> 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF/AC	<b>4</b> 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 6:30 PM SPRC/FR 7:00 PM Shepherd's Team/Library	<b>5</b> 8:45 UMW Exe. Meeting/Library 9:30 AM UMW general meeting/AC	<b>6</b> 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 5:30 PM Confirmation Class/FR 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service Choir Practice will follow the service	<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/ Parlor	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc.. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Card Group	<b>13</b> 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:30 PM Choir/CR 7:00 PM Praise Band	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 11:30 AM Book Club/FH 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH 6:30 PM UMM/AC	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 6:00 PM UMYF; Confirmation Class/AC	<b>18</b> 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 5:30 PM Evangelism/Library	<b>19</b> 9:30 AM Hewitt Circle/MH Goodman Circle/FH 12:00 PM Susanna Circle/Pastor Spiller's Home 6:00 PM Wesleyan Circle/FH	<b>20</b> 2:00 PM Worship Com/FR 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:30 PM Choir/CR Disciple 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor 4:00 PM Newsletter Deadline	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM UMW 150th Celebration/ FUMC Bryan
<b>24</b> 6:00 PM UMYF; Confirmation Class/AC	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Card Group	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Care Team/FR 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:30 PM Choir/CR Disciple 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band/AC	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 6:00 PM UMYF; Confirmation Class/AC						

# Methodist Weekday Child Development Center

Enrollment: 82 kids and 3 on the waiting list

Staff: 8- Teachers /1 cook  
4-Teacher Assistants  
5- Aides  
1-Asst. Director  
1-Finance person  
2-Substitute Teachers



Don't forget our Gourmet Cookie Dough Sale, March 1st-March 15th; \$20 per tub. Purchases can be made in the church office or the MWCDC office.

MWCDC would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## Newsletter Deadline

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> by 4:00 PM.** If you have a submission for the newsletter, please email your written article to [fumc@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:fumc@fumcbrenham.org) or submit a handwritten article to the church office. This is the best way to make sure that all the information for your article is accurate. Thank you.



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