



Phone: 979-836-2008
 Fax: 979-836-6202
 www.fumcbrenham.org
 Email: fumc@fumcbrenham.org



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—Lead
 pastorbobbie@fumcbrenham.org

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

First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213

December 2018



Every Sunday in December plus 2

Starting December 2 through Epiphany Sunday, January 6, bring new items appropriate for infants – 2 year-olds. It's our Baby Shower for Jesus!



A Christmas Celebration Sunday Afternoon, December 16th, 2:30 p.m. WW O'Donnell Performing Arts Center, Blinn College

Your spirits will be lifted and your hearts will be warmed by voices from our choir and praise team, instrumentalists including horns, strings, and piano, and the narration of *Emmanuel Christmas Prayer*, a Christmas poem by M. Y. Lee. Cookie Stroll to follow in the Black Box Theater.

Volunteer opportunities for the Christmas Celebration include:

Ushers, Greeters, Golf Cart drivers, Hosts/Hostesses for the reception, decorators for the reception. Please sign up on the clipboard in Celebration or write "Christmas" on your registration form if you attend traditional worship. A coordinator will contact you.



Advent Wreath

Friends,

I would like to invite children/youth and their grandparent(s) to light the Advent Wreath in worship this year. If you are a grandparent and would like to invite your grandchild to light the wreath and read the texts or if you are a grandchild and would like to invite your grandparent(s) to perform this service for the church with you, please contact me quickly. If the grandparent is part of our church family and the grandchild is not, that's fine, and visa versa.

The dates include:

Sunday, December 2nd, 9th and 23rd at the 8:15 or 9:00 or 11:00 worship services.

Sunday, December 16th at the 11:00 or the 2:30 p.m. Christmas Celebration Worship at Blinn.

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th at 5:50 p.m. (Celebration) or 7:00 p.m. (Traditional)

My email address is pastorbobbie@fumcbrenham.org or call me at the church office: 979-836-2008. Thank you!

Dear Friends,

The season of Advent is upon us...already! The people of God are invited to anticipate the arrival of the Christ-child in our hearts and our homes while, simultaneously, we take time to examine carefully our hearts and our world as we live in the expectation that Jesus will return and God will reign forever.

While it's a challenge to hold the reigns on celebrating Christmas proper, try to remember that Advent is a holy season of anticipation and reflection. Of course there will always be a blending of Advent into the twelve days of Christmas but this year we're going beyond Christmas. Our worship theme for December – January is **Beyond Advent and After Christmas**. The pivotal point in all of it is the birth of Jesus, the Messiah King.

Too often we jump right over Advent and celebrate Christmas, so do we also feel like Christmas is limited to one day, December 25, when it's actually not! The twelve days of Christmas extend to January 5th, closing with Epiphany on January 6th, 2019. This year, let's make the most of it all!

This is our **Beyond Advent and After Christmas** schedule:

The Sundays in Advent include: December 2, 9, 16, and 23. In all three services we will light the Advent wreath and share an "Advent Moment," a short description of Advent symbols. Sunday, December 16 is the *Christmas Celebration at WW O'Donnell Performing Arts Center at Blinn College at 2:30 p.m.* This choral and dramatic presentation of the message of Christmas will include our voices from our congregation in a choral presentation, our own instrumentalists will contribute special music and the narration will follow the poem, *Emmanuel Christmas Prayer*.

Sunday December 16th: *One Morning Worship at 11:00 in the Sanctuary*. Because the Christmas Celebration will be in the afternoon and because we broadcast our 11:00 worship service on the radio, we'll have only one morning worship at 11:00 in the Sanctuary. Sunday school classes will meet as they desire.

Monday, December 24th, *Christmas Eve*: The Celebration Christmas Eve worship will be in the Activity Center at 5:30 p.m. and the Traditional Christmas Eve worship will be in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Both will include candlelight and communion.

Sunday, December 30th: All three worship services will follow their usual schedule.

Sunday, January 6th, 2019: Epiphany! All the worship services will celebrate Epiphany when the Wise Men found and worshipped Jesus Christ. We'll also celebrate communion this day.

Throughout the entire Beyond Advent and After Christmas season, our congregation will have a **Baby Shower for Jesus**. Bring unwrapped necessities appropriate for children from infancy through 2 years old (that's about how old Jesus was when the Wise Men found and worshipped him.)

Good Advent, Merry Christmas and Happy Epiphany!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Bobbie

*Don't Forget!
Mark your calendar!
Sunday, December 16th
One morning worship
at 11 in the Sanctuary*

December



2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 1:00 PM Christmas Choir 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR	3 9:30 AM MWDCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn	4 10:00 AM UMW Christmas Coffee At Design II	5 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:00 PM Financial Peace/MH 6:30 PM Choir/CR DISCIPLE 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band	6 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	7 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	8
9 1:00 PM Christmas Choir 4:00 PM Christmas Caroling	10 9:30 AM MWDCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 1:30 PM MDCDC Board/Library	11 9:00 AM Card Group/MH	12 4:00 PM Newsletter Deadline 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:30 PM Choir/CR DISCIPLE 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band	13 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 11:30 AM Book Club/FH 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH 6:30 PM UMM-Ladies Night/AC	14 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/ Parlor	15
16 11:00 AM Combined Worship Services 2:30 PM Christmas Celebration/ WW Donnally at Blinn	17 9:00 AM MWDCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 6:30 PM SPRC/FR	18 12:00 PM Susanna Circle/Hyatt 6:00 PM Wesleyan Circle/FH	19 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	20 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	21 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	22
23	24 5:30 PM Celebration Christmas Eve Service/AC 7:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service/Sanctuary	25 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS NO OTHER ACTIVITIES	26 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS NO OTHER ACTIVITIES	27 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS NO OTHER ACTIVITIES	28 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS NO OTHER ACTIVITIES	29
30	31 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS NO OTHER ACTIVITIES	1 JANUARY 2019 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS NO OTHER ACTIVITIES	2 JANUARY 2019 NORMAL ACTIVITIES RESUME 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:00 PM Choir/CR	3 JANUARY 2019 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	4 JANUARY 2019 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	5

Sunday, November 6, 2018
Church Attendance
 Nursery: 5
 8:15 Worship 57
 9:00 Celebration: 72
 11:00 Worship 96
 Sunday School: 56
Offering: \$11,798.50

Sunday, November 11, 2018
Church Attendance
 Nursery: 3
 8:15 Worship 70
 9:00 Celebration: 86
 11:00 Worship 76
Total: 235
 Sunday School: 53
Offering: \$19,180.35

Sunday, November 18, 2018
Church Attendance
 Nursery: 3
 8:15 Worship 50
 9:00 Celebration: 58
 11:00 Worship 67
Total: 178
 Sunday School: 53
Offering: \$8,806.00

Sunday, November 25, 2018
Church Attendance
 Nursery: 2
 8:15 Worship 52
 9:00 Celebration: 64
 11:00 Worship 67
Total: 185
 Sunday School: 53
Offering: \$6,197.00

October Totals
 Income: \$57,639.00
 Expense: \$56,558.00
Total: \$1,081.00

YTD Totals
 Income: \$518,155.00
 Expense: \$547,205.00
Total: (\$29,050.00)

Memorials
Received
 In memory of
Doris Straten
 from
 Kay and Gary Ivy
 Smitty Hanners
 Joan and Bill Powell

In memory of
E. H. Bass and
Regenta Jenkins
 from
 Susan & Ronnie
 Manchester

Thank you all so much for your prayers and expressions of sympathy when we lost Carol Ann's mom and especially to those who helped clean out her room in the nursing home. We are so blessed to be a part of such a loving church family.

Blessings,
 Carol Ann and Tom Post

Prayer Concerns within our Church Family

Jenifer & Glen Amerson	Lydia House
Calvin Beckendorf	Kathi Ivy
Mary Burgess	Barbara & Keith Killgore
Beverly Burt	Jean Laws
Jim Clements	Sue Perry
Wanda Curbo	Harold Pool
Ellen Ellison	Marjorie Reed
Jeff Folton	Edna Rote
Walter Fortune	Jerry Stratton
Bud & Marshia Foster	Jody Tyson
Miriam Gillis	Don Wilhelm
Luene Harmer	Linda WinStanley

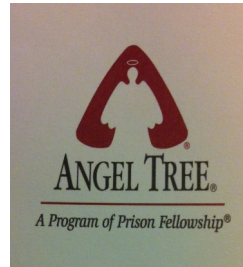
Prayer Concerns outside our Church Family

Jess Bolton	Marge Roberts
Jim Clements	Richard Royal
Carole & John Haarmeyer	Susan Sanclemente
Melissa Hale	Annie Schultz
Donna Jacobson	Garland Smith
Cynthia Lewis	Marisa Spangler
Maxine Little	Connie Warmke
Paul McIntyre	Cheryl Williamson
Cindy Mullins	Nancy Yeary
Kathy Revenaugh	

Pray for our homebound members and those serving in the military and our nation.

**The office will be closed
 December 24th-January 1st for the holidays.**

Christmas 2018 with
 The Brenham State Supported Living Center
and the
 Prison Fellowship's



Our annual support for these two outreach ministries started on November 18th. That is the day when you were able to select an "ornament" with a gift suggestion for either a child of an incarcerated parent or a resident at the Living Center. These gifts, at a cost of between \$15.00 and \$25.00, help share the love of Christ.

Dates to remember:

- December 2nd or before take your **unwrapped** Living Center gift to the FUMC Office
- December 16th or before take your **wrapped** Angel Tree gift with its tag taken to the FUMC Office
- weekend of December 22nd and 23rd - help deliver the Angel Tree gifts



My Journey to Ordination

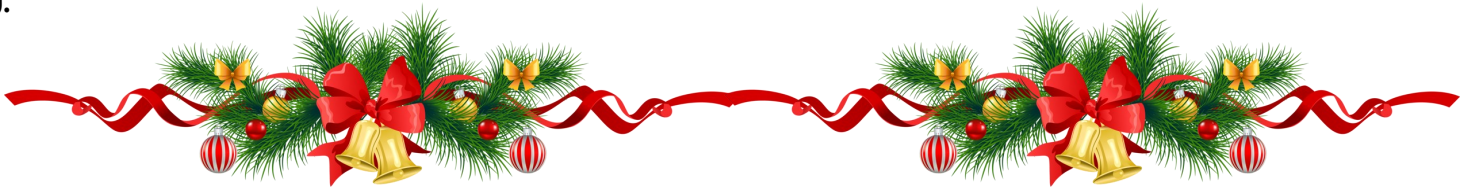
This May, I was commissioned as a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church. This is a two year process before I become an ordained elder. But you might wonder what that two year period looks like. It starts with an orientation event which took place in May before Annual Conference. There you learn what the next two years will look like. There are three groups that I am now a part of. One is a Residency Covenant Group (RCG) which consists of others who are also going through the residency program. In this group we will meet 6 times in the two year period. So far we have met twice and one of the times we will actually meet here in Brenham (they heard we have great ice cream here). The second group is the Residency Effectiveness Team (RET) which meets twice, once at the beginning and once at the end of the two year period. Finally there is the Lay Consultation Team (LCT) which will meet 6 times as well over the two year period. This team is comprised of members from Brenham FUMC. The LCT has a few roles in this process. They will spend time evaluating the effectiveness of my ministry. They will also evaluate 2 of my sermons and 1 teaching session as well as to make sure that I am following my growth plan.

Now you are probably wondering what is a growth plan (either that or you are still trying to remember what RCG, RET and LCT mean). A growth plan is specific to me, my situation and my needs. After my first RET meeting I have my growth plan together and will focus on five areas. The first is making sure that I have a good work and life balance where I not only focus on my ministry at the church but also make sure that I am spending time with my family. This includes making sure I have date nights with Amber and special bonding times with Charles. As someone once told me in college, "What good is it to have a great ministry and preach great sermons and yet lose your family?" Second, I will be working on broadening my experience in developing and creating the liturgy and other aspects of the worship services. Third, I am looking to expand my skills in leadership by better understanding the roles of Trustees and Finance by sitting in and observing meetings of these two groups. This will help me when I am eventually a lead pastor. Fourth, is to develop new spiritual disciplines in my life, which is important for my spiritual growth. Finally, I am going to continue to meet with my clergy group that meets once a month in College Station where I will get advice and help during this process to make sure I am prepared and ready for when I meet with the Board of Ordained Ministry during my second year.

You may be wondering, what you can do to help during this process. The first is prayer. Please pray that this time of residency will be a time of growth for me both personally and in ministry. The second is encouragement. This is a journey and not a sprint and there will be much that I will have to do until I am ordained in May 2020. There will be times when I get discouraged, frustrated and just want to give up and complain that I should have been a lawyer instead. You probably won't see those times but they happen, not just to me but anyone who is in ministry. Your encouragement will help me to keep going.

I look forward to sharing more with you on this journey.

T.J.



UMW



We had another great Harvest Festival this year. Having made some major changes this year, I was a little anxious about how things would go, but as always, we made it work. I know there were some who were upset there was not a dine-in dinner this year, some of us were too, but we didn't miss all the extra work that we would not have had help for. Overall, I think it was a great choice and worked out so well. I can't thank everyone who was involved in any way to the success of our drive thru and Country Store enough. It is amazing watching everyone come together and making things work, even when it gets a little hectic. I so appreciate the love and support I get each year, but this is no doubt a team effort and I couldn't do this without all the amazing help I have. I would like to give a special thank you to Debi Meschwitz for all she does for making the dressing and running the Country Store, you do an amazing job.

Thank you again to everyone who helped in any way.

Kim Limmer

Missions Corner



Sager Brown Mission Trip

Please be in prayer for those who are going to the Sager Brown UMCOR depot in Baldwin, LA from November 25 through November 30. Please pray for their safety as they travel and work but also that this would be a time of amazing ministry and spiritual growth. We look forward to hearing a great report from them when they return.

2018 Year in Review

As we look back over 2018, we celebrate an exciting year for the missions committee. This year we have continued to support monthly Faith Mission, the Couch Family and New Beginnings Pregnancy Center.

In July, we were able to host the Couch Family and had a mission's lunch where we not only learned more about what the Couch Family was doing but also hear what happened during the junior and senior high summer mission's trips. The missions committee was also able to give them a \$500 check in support of their continued ministry. As a church, we came together and donated three large moving boxes full of school supplies to the local school supply drive put together by *For the City*. Through Dollar for Missions we were also able to give \$500 to *For the City* to buy extra school supplies which was needed because they were running out. This helped so many local students start the new school year off right. Another project we did was to get over 600 bottles and hand sanitizer and put prayers on the labels and give them to all the staff and teachers at each of the local schools. This was an opportunity for them to know that we as a church not only loved and appreciated all they did but also to know that they are being prayed for. The schools and teachers were surprised and grateful.

The outreach to Blinn College in August was a success and was well needed. Not only was it hot but the city water had to be boiled before anyone could drink it so the water we handed out was very much appreciated. We also handed out flyers with information about the church and the Wesley Foundation that meets on campus. We had a wonderful turnout from the church that came and showed these new students and their families the love of Jesus in a practical way. In October, we had a mission day at the Texas Annual Conference Mission Center where we learned about what is done there as well as helped to verify and put together hygiene kits.

A huge thank you to all the members of the mission committee: Gary Bogan, who is the Mission chairperson, Kathy Schatte, Sandra Husman, Joyce Brown, Perry Ratcliff, Jan Herbst, Suzette Moser and Roxanne Maxwell who have done an amazing job. Also, a huge thank you to all who give each week and to those who contribute through the weekly offering to the Dollar for Missions program. These projects and events that happened this year in which we were able to share the love of Jesus in a practical way to our community and around the world were made possible by your generosity.

In 2019, we look forward as a committee and a church to continue to find ways of sharing the love of Jesus in practical ways both in our community and around the world.

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

As the Christmas Celebration approaches and the New Year looms we have much to look forward to. The Christmas Choir has been practicing hard and will be presenting eight pieces based on traditional Christmas Carols. We will be joined by piano, violin and cello to celebrate the season. Next year as the church celebrates 175 years of community, we will be blessed with the performance of an original anthem composed for our church.

All music groups will take a break from rehearsals the week of December 23rd-29th.



COOKIE STROLL

December 16 after the Christmas Celebration at Blinn

We would like the **entire church** to join us in making cookies for our Cookie Stroll Fundraiser. The money raised will go towards the youth mission trip to the Navajo Nation. Here's how you can help!

- make 3 doz. (or more) homemade cookies/bars/candy
- Bring them to Blinn before the 2:30pm worship service starting at 1:30pm. We will have some platters but feel free to bring your own.
- After worship purchase a \$5 box or \$10 box and fill them with your own selection of cookies church members have made. These boxes make great gifts!

Thank you in advance for your help!



Everyone is invite to come Christmas Caroling!

Sunday, December 9 at 4:00pm
meet in the Activity Center

Don your most festive Christmas apparel and join us as we spread some Christmas cheer. We will take a hayride through Kruse Village and the visit some of our home bound church members. Carrying a tune is not required. We will need some folks to take their vehicles. This means a lot to so many folks.



December 9, during the Sunday School hour we will decorate cupcakes and celebrate Jesus' birthday. As a gift, we are asking families to donate a gift card from a gas station, store, etc to be given to a few families in need this season. We want to be sure all families can feed, clothe and give a few presents to their children for Christmas. Let's help be an answer to their prayers.

We are looking for kids to play the characters in Jesus' birth story for our Christmas Celebration at Blinn College. We will pass out parts and practice the next 2 Sundays.



A BIG thanks to everyone that came out and made dressing for Faith Mission's Thanksgiving meal.



DEC 2—no UMYF activities

DEC 16 — UMYF party TBA

DEC 30 — no UMYF activities

Dec 9 - Christmas Caroling

Dec 23 - no UMYF activities

Jan 6 - no UMYF activities



Methodist Weekday Child Development Center

We now have 72 kids enrolled in MWCDC with 3 on the waiting list! Our staff includes our director and assistant director, 7 teachers and 7 aides.

We are using a wonderful curriculum called *Frog Street*. This month we will be talk about Christmas and why we celebrate it. We will, also, be going over the letters. Week one= Make Choices, Week two= Healthy Choices, Week three=Healthy Habits, Week Four= Problem Solving.

We completed our fundraiser. Our Sweet and Salty fundraiser resulted in a profit of \$540!

Holiday Schedule:

Dec.11th we will have Cookies with Santa at 6pm in the active center.

Dec. 24th-26th MWCDC will be closed for Christmas.

Dec.31st we will close at 2:30pm for New Year's Eve.

Jan. 1st we will close for New Years.

We welcome you to come by and visit our center Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm.

May God bless you with a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Newsletter Deadline

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Wednesday, December 12th by 4:00 PM.** If you have a submission for the newsletter, please email your written article to 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.

Permit 270
US Postage PAID
Non-Profit
Organization
Brenham, TX 77833

First United Methodist Church
408 North Baylor
Brenham, TX 77833
Return Service Requested

