



First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213

November 2018

Phone: 979-836-2008
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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

What's the question everyone in church growth is asking? We know that there are people who do not worship in any church...we know there are families in our community who don't know the blessings of having the love and support of a church family...and, yes, we know there are people in our community with whom we want to make a meaningful connection. But here's the question: HOW DO WE DO THAT?

We can have the most engaging worship, the most program ministries, the hottest band, the best preaching but still not be successful in reaching the unchurched. If finding answers to that dilemma intrigues you, please join the United Methodist Women at their general meeting which is being opened to the entire congregation on Tuesday, November 6. The UMW has graciously opened their meeting to all of us because Rev. Morris Matthis, TAC Director of New Faith Communities will be the guest speaker.

Rev. Matthis is an elder in the Texas Annual Conference and has served as pastor, mentor, district superintendent, and now Director of New Faith Communities. Morris has the experience of starting a church and watching it grow and flourish, serving the community around it by sharing the love of God. This fall he has initiated Tour de TAC. What is it? It is a total of 31 gatherings all across the annual conference to talk about how you can reach your church's mission field through new faith communities. It's also a series of bicycles rides in every district across the Conference.

Following the UMW General Meeting, the Tour de TAC will continue with the bike ride. And you're invited to that as well! From Brenham FUMC, bike riders will go to Navasota and then on to the district office in College Station. Who is invited to ride? We want as many people as possible to join in the riding. For safety reasons, no one under 12 can be on the road and riders between 12 and 17 must have a parent/guardian riding with them. All riders must wear a helmet and sign a waiver. There is no charge for any ride. All riders will get their own cool "Tour de TAC" t-shirts (Thank you, Methodist hospital!) as long as supplies last.

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Location: FUMC Brenham Activity Center

9:30 a.m. – Snacks

9:50 a.m. – Presentation by Rev. Matthis

Noon-ish – Bike Ride Begins!



GriefShare is a weekly grief support group for people who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. Weekly meetings include a DVD presentation with helpful information featuring leading grief recovery experts, small group discussion about the video content and

how the group can be supportive of each individual. Childcare is available.

Each participant will receive a workbook for journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics. Workbooks are \$15.00; scholarships available.

Sundays, 4 – 6:00 PM in the FUMC Fellowship House at 309 N Baylor.

Contact the church office 979-836-2008 or the GriefShare website www.griefshare.org for information.



November 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/ FH	2 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	3 SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK TONIGHT!!
4 <i>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</i> All Saints Sunday 1:00 PM Christmas Choir 4:00 PM Grief Share 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF/AC	5 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 6:30 PM SPRC/FR	6 8:45 AM UMW Executive/Library 9:30 AM UMW hosting Tour de TAC/ AC	7 12:00 PM Staff Birthday Lunch 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	8 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 11:30 AM Book Club/FH 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH 6:30 PM UMM/AC	9 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/ Parlor	10
11 UMW Installation during 11 AM Worship 1:00 PM Christmas Choir 4:00 PM Charge Conference/ UMC College Station Grief Share 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR 6:00 PM	12 9:00 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 1:30 PM MDCDC Board/Library 5:30 PM Evangelism/Library 6:00 PM Trustees/FR Missions/FH	13 9:00 AM Card Group	14 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	15 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 11:30 AM Book Club/FH 2:00 PM MDCDC Thanksgiving Prep/AC all afternoon 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH 6:00 PM MDCDC Thanksgiving/AC	16 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	17
18 1:00 PM Christmas Choir 4:00 PM Grief Share 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF/AC	19 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/Blinn 4:00 PM Newsletter Deadline	20 9:30 AM Murphey Circle/MH 12:00 PM Susanna Circle/ Summerour 6:00 PM Wesleyan Circle/FH	21 12:00 OFFICE CLOSES FOR THANKSGIVING 2:30 PM MWCDC CLOSES	22 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING MWCDC CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING MWCDC CLOSED	24
25 11:00 AM Mission Team to Sager Brown 1:00 PM Christmas Choir 4:00 PM Grief Share 5:00 PM Youth Choir/CR 6:00 PM UMYF/AC	26 9:30 AM MWCDC Chapel/Sanc. 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study/FH 12:00 PM Wesley Foundation/ Blinn	27 9:00 AM Card Group/MH	28 10:00 AM Staff Meeting/FR 1:00 PM Care Team/FR 5:00 PM Bells of Praise/FH 6:00 PM Choir/CR DISCIPLE 2/FR 7:00 PM Praise Band/AC	29 9:00 AM Yoga/AC 5:30 PM Exercise Class/FH	30 9:00 AM Ladies Emmaus/Parlor	

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Church Attendance

Nursery:	3
8:15 Worship	48
9:00 Celebration:	68
11:00 Worship	59
Total: 178	
Sunday School:	38
Offering:	\$12,393.00
Estate Sale:	\$6,665.00

Sunday, October 14, 2018

Church Attendance

Nursery:	4
8:15 Worship	51
9:00 Celebration:	89
11:00 Worship	73
Total: 217	
Sunday School:	56
Offering:	\$19,180.35

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Church Attendance

Nursery:	3
8:15 Worship	53
9:00 Celebration:	77
11:00 Worship	71
Total: 204	
Sunday School:	41
Offering: \$8,900.00	

Sunday, October 28, 2018

Church Attendance

Nursery:	5
8:15 Worship	51
9:00 Celebration:	87
11:00 Worship	75
Total: 218	
Sunday School:	51
Offering: \$9,893.00	

Memorials Received

In memory of
Nina Hopkins
By
Linnis and Temple
Richardson

In memory of
Joe Edwards

By
Danna Edwards

In memory of
Richard Powell

By
Jo and Bill Powell

Prayer Concerns

Glen Amerson	Donna Jacobson
Anderson children	Cindy Mullins
Calvin Beckendorf	Sue Perry
Mary Burgess	Jan Pledger
Beverly Burt	Harold Pool
Jim Clements	Marjorie Reed
Wanda Curbo	Edna Rote
Ellen Ellison	Susan Sanclemente
Jeff Folton	Connie Warmke
Walter Fortune	Cheryl Williamson
Bud & Marshia Foster	Linda WinStanley
Miriam Gillis	Nancy Yeary
Lydia House	Our Nation
Kathi Ivy	

Our homebound members and those serving in the military.

Music Ministry

Notes:



Christmas Choir: We are diligently working on Christmas music Sunday afternoons at 1:00 PM in the choir room following a lunch in the Activities Center. If you would like to join us for Christmas it isn't too late.

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

Bells of Praise: Handbell Choir is rehearsing in the Fellowship House Wednesday nights from 5:00-6:00 PM. 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

CODA:

During my brief period teaching high school choir I asked my students to spend one day without listening to music. Not just consciously turning of the radio but to be conscious of the music they encounter in the background of their lives. I knew at the onset what the success rate would be and wasn't shocked to hear none of them successfully spent an entire day avoiding music. Music is everywhere we go. It's in the background of tv shows, movies, and news programs. They play music at restaurants, in department stores and elevators. Music permeates our lives every day and yet we too often treat it as background noise. Perhaps because that **IS** the space it occupies in our daily lives. So on Sunday morning it can be hard to truly focus on the music as more than just pretty background noise. How often do we sing the hymns without paying attention to the words? When we enter into worship we should strive to sing together not because it's beautiful but because there is meaning in what we sing. The United Methodist Hymnal begins with "Directions for Singing" from John Wesley. His last instruction is to, "above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing."



TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 2018
REPORT TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BRENHAM, TX

Tom Scanio, Lay Leader
30 September 2018

This is my report to the church on this year's annual conference that took place May 27-30, 2018 at The Woodlands UMC. This report had been delayed by waiting for further information to be published on the work of the Commission on the Way Forward (see below). Since this is my first annual conference, some items will come from my impressions of the process.

The bulk of the time was spent on normal, transactional business processes that you would expect for an annual meeting of an organization this large. Reports were given from the various offices of the conference. Budgets were approved. All of this was done under a strict set of guidelines.

I attended a general session for the laity. It centered on the overall conference theme of "We Love All God's Children – Read ◦ Learn ◦ Live". We learned ways of implementing this theme.

There were three celebration/services. One was for retiring pastors. Another was for pastors deceased over the last year. Our Pastor Sam Duree was honored and Beverly was there. The last was a commissioning/ordination service which included our Pastor TJ. This was the most inspirational of the three. There were over 1200 people in attendance with a small orchestra for music. The orchestra was completely overtaken by this very large group of people singing. I have never experienced this before and it was something to witness.

There were prayer and inspirational breaks during each day. There were also luncheons and dinners throughout the conference sponsored by different groups. I attended one luncheon discussion on the results from the Commission on the Way Forward.

There were several resolutions and recommendations to be voted on. These dealt with the work of the Commission on the Way Forward and the question of human sexuality within the church. The commission was fostered by the US Council of Bishops and generated a report presenting three options for dealing with the issue. This question will be explored in a special church-wide General Conference in early 2019.

There was a resolution to allow other resolutions concerning the work on the Commission on the Way Forward to be considered by the conference. This came about since the report from the commission came out past the deadline for resolutions to be submitted for the conference. The vote was slightly in favor but a 2/3 majority was required for passage so the resolution failed.

There was a resolution to allow greater tolerance in human sexuality. This resolution failed by an approximate 2:1 ratio.

There was a resolution to allow a "gracious exit" to churches that could not in good conscience live with the results of the special General Conference in 2019 dealing with human sexuality. This resolution failed by a slight majority opposed.

There was a resolution to provide "Heart & Mind Listening Sessions" after the conference so that more opinions could be heard regarding the work of the Commission on the Way Forward. This resolution passed by a wide margin and the sessions are currently in progress.

If you wish to understand more on the Commission on the Way Forward, its report and three suggested plans, I refer you to the conference website at <https://www.txcumc.org/thewayforward>. Bishop Jones has generated several documents showing his take on the general process, the report and the individual plans.



Don't forget to set your clocks back before going to bed on Saturday night, November 3rd. We want to see you all on Sunday morning!!



The office will be closing at noon on Wednesday, November 21st and will remain closed November 22nd and 23rd.



Missions Corner

Texas Annual Conference Mission Center 3rd Saturday

On Saturday, October 20, we had five people participate in 3rd Saturday at the Texas Annual Conference Mission Center in Conroe. While there, we were able to choose from helping to sort and verify cleaning/flood buckets or help sort and verify hygiene kits. There was also a tour of the mission center where all that were there were able to learn more about the mission center and all that goes on there and how we, as a conference, help assist others in Texas, the USA and around the world. It was a great day of service and fellowship. Be on the lookout as we will hopefully schedule another day in 2019!

Update from the Couch Family

Since we've been back we have been busy! We are so proud of Sarah and Hannah who started school, in Albanian, just two days after we landed. Sarah is adjusting (and thriving) to the more rigid schedule of a new school and Hannah is now forging her own way in her school for the first time flying solo without sister. Our primary objective for the past month has been preparing Kosovar students to head to the states spending lots of time meeting with individual families, leading weekly student meetings, and helping the students travel to the embassy to obtain visas. Sunday we sent the students off on their exchange adventure that has been the catalyst for many alumni students to start developing into God seeking young men and women with a heart for bettering Kosovo.

In our free time, we've been working on our new gathering space, meeting with the prime minister of Kosovo, hiking with previous exchange students, connecting with local politicians, and building bridges to outdoor communities. The next few months will be busy as our team presence will be at half capacity with the two other American families in the states for home assignment but the horizon is bright! We ask you to join us in prayer for the students in America, for the starting of discipleship groups, for Sarah and Hannah in school and for continued blessing within the fluid political and social structures of Kosovo.

Thomas and Karen Couch

UMW

CARD GROUP NEWS

Did you know that the Card Group (under the wings of the United Methodist Women of our church) has been "on the job" since 2001? Yes, this volunteer group of ladies has been at work recycling used greeting cards and making them available for all of us at the bargain price of 25 cents each all of these years.



Many changes have been made during these years, but the fundamentals remain the same. The group is now meeting in the Mission House every second and fourth Tuesday each month, enjoying wonderful fellowship and support while busy working under the capable and dedicated leadership of Betty Hodges and Audrey Boney. The welcome mat is always out, and the ladies can come anytime from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Don't let the thought that you aren't artistic keep you away - Betty and Audrey are experts at finding a talent in each and everyone!

Cards are always available - a card rack is in the Walk-Thru from the parking lot to the Sanctuary and another is in the Educational Building foyer. An honor system has been in successful operation for your convenience in making your purchases - a little lock-box at each card rack.

Our United Methodist Women worked diligently preparing dressing for the annual Harvest Festival Take Out Dinner. This is a popular event that many in our community look forward to, and do not even go to our church. Just another way that FUMC Brenham reaches out to our community.



UMYF

DATES HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!!!



Youthworks Mission Trip to the Navajo Nation in AZ

(7th-12th grade *note including current 7th graders)

June 8 - June 16, 2018 (we will travel to the Grand Canyon at the end of our mission time)

\$100 deposit due by Nov 11 (total cost over \$440) We will do fundraisers to get the rest. Everything is refundable until the middle of January.

Big House Texas - Location TBA

(current 5th - 8th graders)

July 11 -14, 2018

\$60 deposit due Nov 11

** 7th & 8th graders can do both. I will need both deposits.



KIDS NEWS



Something NEW this year! All Saints' Day is Nov 4th. This is the Sunday we remember all of our church family that have passed in the last year. It's also a time we celebrate all of our Biblical saints. Their lives have taught us MANY lessons. So on this Sunday, we are encouraging all kids (and anyone else that wants to) to dress up as a biblical character for that Sunday's worship service. We have studied many biblical heroes in our past SS lessons: Adam, Eve, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Esau (they don't have to be good guys to learn a lesson from), Moses, Noah, Esther, Ruth, David, Jonah and that's just the Old Testament! If you are not feeling very creative in the costume area - no worries! We will have some costume pieces in the back of the AC if anyone needs a costume that Sunday. During the Children's Moment the kids will have the chance to share who they are. Please come and see who the children have chosen to represent!





1st Place—Carole Macmanus

Best Display: Bud Foster



2nd Place—Ran Newman

3rd Place—Debi Meschwitz & Carolyn Sander

Taster's Choice:
Roy & Kim Ratcliff

Estate Sale Results

The Egbert Bass and Regenta Jenkins family donated the contents of their parents estate in September. The resulting estate sale was a major success. Not only were we able to donate towels to the animal shelter, sheets and pillows to Higgins Branch, several medical supplies to Brenham Nursing and Rehab, and over 2000 excellent used books, records, and DVD's to the Fortnightly Book Club, but we raised **\$6,665.00!** This money will help offset the current shortage of funds we are experiencing to date. Many thanks to all who helped pack, drop-off, price and staff the sale. Your help was so appreciated and invaluable to me personally. Also, a very special thanks to the most wonderful and artistic and hard-working friend a girl could have, Mary Desalvo, for your un-yielding support and your amazing eye for putting things in just the right place. Our sale was the best I've seen and I simply couldn't have done it as well without your enthusiastic support. We have GREAT members here! Thanks to James and Gail Jenkins for the opportunity and the generous donation.

Special Gift

We have also received the gift of a donated vehicle, a 2007 Suburban. We are in the process of listing that vehicle for sale, the proceeds of which will also help offset our giving shortfall this year. Thanks to the family that donated.

Stewardship Campaign

So far the Stewardship Campaign has received 82 pledges totaling \$372,864. If you would like to enter a pledge there's always time, please call the office or fill out a pledge form. If you are giving electronically you must still sign a pledge form to have your giving entered as pledged income if that is your desire. Call the finance office if you have any questions.

Thanks for your support to the ministries of the church.

Kristine Trevino

Newsletter Deadline

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Monday, November 19th 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.

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