



First United Methodist Church
 408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213
 December 13, 2013

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

Advent & Christmas Happenings

More details on all these events will be in upcoming newsletters and on the website at www.FUMCBrenham.org.

DECEMBER

Sunday 15, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
Christmas Cantata

Sunday 15, 9:00 a.m. Worship in the AC
Sounds of the Season: A Music Celebration

Sunday 15, 3:00 p.m.
Family Caroling for our Nursing Homes
followed by dinner and the Sights, Sounds,
and Smells of Christmas

Tuesday 24
5:30 p.m. Family Communion Christmas Eve
Service led by the Celebration! Band
8:00 p.m. Communion Christmas Eve Service
led by the Chancel Choir

Sunday 29
One worship service at 11am in the Sanctuary



Open Hearts . . .

Open Minds . . .

Open Doors . . .

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FUMC

- 8:15 a.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast in the Activity Center
- 8:45 a.m.** Refreshments in the Parlor
- 9:00 a.m.** Celebration Service in the Activity Center
- 10:00 a.m.** Sunday School classes for all ages
- 11:00 a.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary

Nursery care provided

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

Pastoral Staff

Pastoral Staff
 Rev. Jon Stouffer
jon@fumcbrenham.org

Pastoral Staff
 Rev. Kay Reed
kay@fumcbrenham.org

End Of Year

All contributions that are to count for FY 2013 need to be in the church office by 11:00a.m. on Tuesday December, 31st in order to be deposited on that same day. Any deposits received after that time will be credited to 2014. The office will close at noon. Thanks for your help and your support of your church.

Kristine Trevino

Newsletter Deadline and Other Information

Your next newsletter deadline will be **Monday, Dec. 30, 2013 at 10:00 am.**

If you have a submission for the newsletter, please email your written article to fumc@fumcbrenham.org or please 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.



METHODIST WEEKDAY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Tami Stevens, Director – 979-830-8661

SUNDAY Nov. 24, 2013

Church Attendance:

Nursery	13
Worship 8:15 a.m.	108
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	86
Worship 11:00 a.m.	124
Worship Total	331
Sunday School	124
Offering:	\$8,654.15

SUNDAY Dec. 1, 2013

Church Attendance:

Nursery	6
Worship 8:15 a.m.	85
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	67
Worship 11:00 a.m.	110
Worship Total	268
Sunday School	103
Offering:	\$9,108.59

SUNDAY Dec. 8, 2013

Church Attendance:

Nursery	7
Worship 8:15 a.m.	88
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	90
Worship 11:00 a.m.	141
Worship Total	326
Sunday School	87
Offering:	\$17,091.00

NOV. TOTALS

Nov. Income:	\$47,188.07
Nov. Expense:	\$46,001.92
Nov. Total:	\$1,186.15

YTD TOTALS

YTD Income:	\$569,780.54
YTD Expense:	\$575,602.51
YTD Net Total:	(\$5,821.97)



**The Christmas Program and
Cookies with Santa will be held on
Tues. Dec. 17th at 6:30 p.m. in
the Activity Center**



Happy Holidays!

The Christ Child Christmas Eve Offering

On Christmas Eve, as is our tradition, we will have the opportunity to participate in a special offering that we call the Christ Child Offering. This time of worship includes our singing and placing a special monetary gift in a manger. Gifts for the Christ Child will be shared equally with three United Methodist Ministries: the Methodist Children's Home in Waco, Providence Place in San Antonio (formerly called Methodist Mission), and Golden Cross ministries. Please remember that the Christ Child Offering is completely separate from our regular tithes, offerings and special year-end giving.

The Methodist Children's Home in Waco offers hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community by providing foster care, family outreach services, and residential group care at their campus in Waco and at the Boys Ranch. The Methodist Children's home was established in 1890 and welcomed its first 26 residence in 1894.

Providence Place is a home for young people with disabilities learning to become independent. It is a home for young women considering adoptions; we are a recognized leader in adoption services. We are also home to an innovative family of nonprofits sharing one campus, and sharing resources and expertise. We are a vibrant community where people who have lived on the fringes and felt excluded are welcomed warmly.

The Texas Annual Conference Golden Cross program has been providing a healing ministry to persons in need of assistance with medical care since its beginning in 1921. Many persons have been restored to health and have had their faith restored as well, through the generosity of Christians in the local churches and the benevolent medical care of doctors and hospitals throughout the Conference

Prayer Concerns

Marnie Whitmarsh
Robert Smith
Jacque Ketcham
Aubrey Johnson
Henry Post
Richard Coghlan
Frank Goodrich
Linda Daughtery
Bob Moran
Kathy Rote
Carol Eason
Buddy & Elaine Dorow
Gene & Betty Moss
Glenn Amerson
Justin Flanagan
Frances Sidebottom
Gordon Densmore
Henry and Blondean Kuecker
Nynvia Mills
Charles Sander's niece Sophia
Roy Hodges
Cody Sells
Ron Walburg
Marti McLemore
Jim Hickey

Our homebound members
and those serving in the military

Donations Received

In memory of

Rosalia Oldakowski

By

Art & Smitty Hinners

In honor of

Pastor Jon & Holly Stouffer

Pastor Kay Reed

John & Sherry Barkman

Andrew & Susan Ebel

By

Milton & Twila Tate

In memory of

Michael Baker

By

Janet Gray

Larry & Konnie Thomas

Milton & Twila Tate

Don & Mary Wilhelm

Tom & Carol Ann Post

Gary & Kay Ivy

Thanks FUMC!

Thanks to all my Church family for your prayers, cards, and uplifting thought on the passing of my mother, Rose.

Chris Rogers

Dear Ones at FUMC,

I have almost no words to describe how very thankful I am to have had all the wonderful thoughts and prayers and acts of kindness towards me and my family this past week. Mike and I are truly blessed to been a part of this congregation as a couple. I have no idea how the next few months will happen, but the comforts all of you have given me and our daughters have given me peace that it will be "OK". We have truly been surrounded with so much love as we begin to face the rest of life without him here. Thank you all so very much for your part in helping me start my new path. God is good!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Baker

The Week of Wonder

It's almost here, the week of wonder. As children we looked at the packages and wondered what wonderful things we would get. As adults, parents and grandparents, we look at the children and enjoy the wonderful expressions on their faces as they open their gifts. It's a "wonder-filled" week and it all started in Bethlehem with the birth of Jesus.

On that first Christmas, Mary and Joseph were the first to experience the wonder. They had heard the angel's promises that Mary would give birth to a son, and the baby was the Son of God. For nine months they must have wondered what would happen, what baby Jesus would look like, and when he would be born. At the right time and in the right place, Jesus was born and they experienced the wonder of all time.

And on that first Christmas, the shepherds and the wise men experienced the wonder. A guiding star in the sky and an angelic choir singing in the heavens, what a wonder-filled moment it must have been.

At one of the Christmas parties we were reminiscing about some of our special Christmases when we were growing up and why they were special. There was wonder in every Christmas, and I concluded that the best Christmas is probably the next Christmas because it will be filled with more wonder than those in the past.

When Jesus was born, it was the best Christmas of all because God gave us the gift of Himself.

I want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas. The greatest and most memorable gifts are those which come from the heart. The love you have shown throughout the year has filled my life with rich and lasting blessings. Your kind words, faithful prayers, encouraging support and wonderful friendships have blessed me richly, and words cannot adequately express my thanks to you. My prayer and wish is for Christ to fill your hearts and lives with His peace during the holiday and all of the days of the New Year.

See you Sunday,
Kay

P.S. I thought you might appreciate a report on Operation Christmas Child and the Angel Tree. We collected and sent 122 OCC boxes and 44 gifts for 22 for Angel Tree children and 40 State Supported Living Center residents. Thanks you so much for your generous, loving response.

Financial Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have completed and returned Estimate of Giving Cards to the church office. If you have yet to do this, there is still time! While this may seem mundane when compared to the seemingly more important spiritual practices of reading Scripture, praying for those in need, and participating in worship, planned giving practiced as a part of faithful financial stewardship is an essential aspect of our congregation's ministry. Completing our "Estimates of Giving" assists us in our ability to plan for ministry next year and provides church leadership with an approximation of our church's income for the coming year

This is an opportunity for our congregation to step forward in faith as we renew our commitment to God and to our shared ministry. The effectiveness of our congregation's mission and ministry this year depends on our faithfulness, initiative, and dedication. Thank you for your faithful response to God's faithfulness in our lives and ministry as a congregation.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have." 2 Corinthians 8:12

An Out-of-the-Box Christmas



United Methodist Men Christmas Dinner



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



Merry Christmas
from the Wesley Foundation

Dear UMW, Children's Ministry, & our FUMC Family,

Thank you for the Wesley Foundation meals provided by the different circles of the UMW throughout the semester. For many of our Wesley students that meal was the highlight of their week. Thank you kids and Sunday School teachers for the Goodie Bags during finals. The scantrons were a HUGE hit! A big thank you to the Stouffers for hosting our Christmas party – it was a blast! I also want to say thank you to all of you who have adopted a Wesley student. You may never know how special each of you have become to these young men and women. They talk about you all the time and call you “mom” and “dad” (which sometimes confuse me). If anyone is interested in adopting a student it is not too late. We have more students joining Wesley and would like to be adopted. It is very easy and the blessings are enormous!

In Him, Jennifer



Sounds of the Season

**Sunday, December 15th at 9:00 am
In the *Celebration!* Service**

Join us as our children, youth and adults help us celebrate the season in music and song. If you or your child/youth would like to participate please contact Jennifer Patrick.



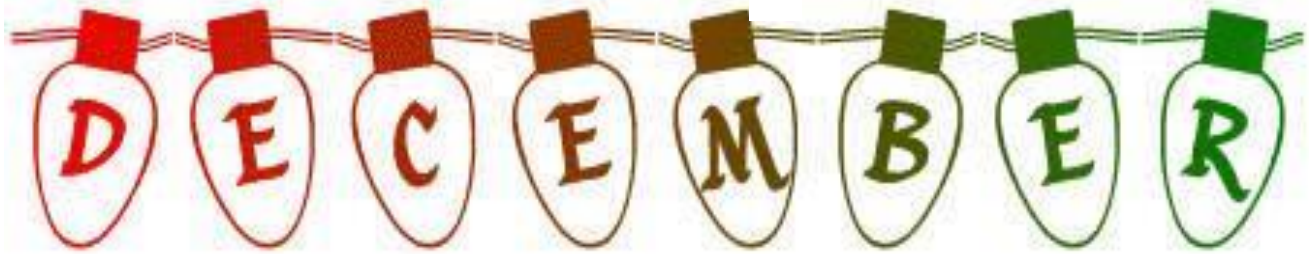
CHURCH FAMILY CAROLING
Sunday, December 15
Meet at 3:00pm in Activity Center

Join us as we share in fellowship and outreach to those in rest homes and residents of the State School. Bring your friends and family and make this your family's tradition.

After the caroling we will share in a meal and Pastor Jon will share a special message with us. Then we will have a special time for crafts and treats for kids of all ages.

Christmas Eve Service

5:30pm in the Sanctuary
Communion Service led by the Celebration! Band
8:00pm in the Sanctuary
Communion Service led by the Chancel Choir



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 4:00 ACTS/ Rm. 139 Sunday Study Group/ FH 6:00 UMYF/ AC	2 10:00 Fellowship Study Group/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn	3 10:00 UMW Christmas Coffee/ The Tate's	4 5:30 Handbells/ FH 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	5 9:00 Yoga/ AC 6:00 UMM Ladies' Night/ AC	6 9:00 Emmaus/ Parlor	7 11:00 Michael Baker's Funeral 1:30 ACTS Dress Rehearsal/ AC
8 6:30 ACTS Performance & Cookie Stroll/ AC	9 10:00 Fellowship Study Group/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn 1:30 CDC Board/ Library	10 9:00 Card Group/ MH 6:30 UMW/ AC	11 5:30 Handbells/ FH 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	12 9:00 Yoga/ AC	13 9:00 Emmaus/ Parlor	14
15 3:00 Christmas Caroling/ AC	16 10:00 Fellowship Study Group/ FH	17 6:30 CDC Cookies w/Santa/ AC	18 7:00 Choir Rehearsal/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	19 9:00 Yoga/ AC 6:30 UMM/AC	20 9:00 Emmaus/ Parlor	21
22	23	24 Offices Closed 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service/ Sanctuary 8:00 Christmas Eve Service/ Sanctuary	25 Offices Closed 	26 9:00 Yoga/ AC Office Closing At Noon	27 9:00 Emmaus/ Parlor Office Closing At Noon	28
29 11:00 Only One Church Service This Sunday	30	31 Office Closing At Noon 				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

We are all familiar with that great Christmas story, of how the family was fast asleep and all those amazing things happened on Christmas Eve. To most of us, it is a special night every year as well, we celebrate with family and friends. We go to the candlelight service, we drive around looking at beautiful lights and we get ready for Christmas morning. We then go safely to our beds and sleep the night away. However, for many members of our community that isn't the case. They stay up all night and watch out for us, and for our family's safety. I'm talking about the police and sheriff officers, EMS workers, police dispatchers, firemen, and nurses.

This year, like we have done in the past, we'd like to take time to thank these people for their service to our community. You can take part in our church's thank you to them; just bring something to put in their gift basket on Christmas Eve. It can be cookies, crackers, candy, fruit breads, or anything else you would like. There will be a container set up outside of the church parlor and at the entrance to the church off of Baylor St. to drop off these goodies. The items will be divided up into baskets, and then right after second service starts, they will be delivered.

If you would like to help make the baskets or help deliver them, please contact Michele Smith, 979-251-9840, it is true blessing to be involved in this evening. Please help us show our love and support to those that "Stay up all night, the night before Christmas."

Return Service Requested

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Organization
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