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*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

Rev. Jon Stouffer  
[jon@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:jon@fumcbrenham.org)

Rev. Kay Reed  
[kay@fumcbrenham.org](mailto:kay@fumcbrenham.org)

# First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor St. Brenham, Texas 77833-3213

February 6, 2015

### ***New Bible Study Beginning***

Every Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. a small group meets for Bible study over in the gray house. The group is beginning a new study ***This Holy Mystery***. The study offers a United Methodist understanding of the theology and experience of the sacrament of Holy Communion. The seven-week study examines things you experience in the sacrament of Holy Communion: Thanksgiving, Sacrifice, Fellowship, Action of the Holy Spirit, Remembrance, and Foretaste of the Future. Everyone is invited to come and study and share.

Remember only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less. So, attend church and Bible study. It could save your life.

### ***It's Confirmation Time Again***

Do you have a fifth or six grade child or grandchild that has not yet joined the church and would like to go through a church membership class? If so, beginning in February through May, Pastor Kay will be leading a Confirmation Class for those who have not been baptized, confirmed, or joined the church. We will meet on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Activity Center.

Baptism is the sign of "Christian initiation" into the family of God and Confirmation is a way of giving knowledge to the young person so that they may confirm or accept their baptism before the lord. In the classes we will talk about the Bible, religious beliefs of the Church, and our own congregation. We will also learn about worship, the sacraments, prayer, and what it means to serve Jesus Christ in our lives.

When the class is completed, those who so choose will proceed with the steps that lead to church membership. If you have questions or would like your child to attend this class come on Sunday evening or give Pastor Kay a call.

#### Newsletter Deadline and Other Information



Your next newsletter deadline will be **Monday February 23, 2015 at 10:00 am.** 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.

**SUNDAY January 4, 2015****Church Attendance:**

Nursery	4
Worship 8:15 a.m.	72
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	82
Worship 11:00 a.m.	101
<b>Worship Total</b>	<b>259</b>
Sunday School	106
<b>Offering:</b>	<b>\$17,500.57</b>

**SUNDAY January 11, 2015****Church Attendance:**

Nursery	3
Worship 8:15 a.m.	61
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	86
Worship 11:00 a.m.	105
<b>Worship Total</b>	<b>255</b>
Sunday School	108
<b>Offering:</b>	<b>\$10,023.22</b>

**SUNDAY January 18, 2015****Church Attendance:**

Nursery	4
Worship 8:15 a.m.	81
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	83
Worship 11:00 a.m.	104
<b>Worship Total</b>	<b>272</b>
Sunday School	101
<b>Offering:</b>	<b>\$11,202.30</b>

**SUNDAY January 25, 2015****Church Attendance:**

Nursery	4
Worship 8:15 a.m.	80
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	76
Worship 11:00 a.m.	117
<b>Worship Total</b>	<b>277</b>
Sunday School	103
<b>Offering:</b>	<b>\$6,129.30</b>

**SUNDAY February 1, 2015****Church Attendance:**

Nursery	4
Worship 8:15 a.m.	68
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	61
Worship 11:00 a.m.	107
<b>Worship Total</b>	<b>240</b>
Sunday School	96
<b>Offering:</b>	<b>\$16,726.00</b>

**YTD TOTALS 2015**

YTD. Income:	\$51,119.61
YTD. Expense:	\$46,056.78
<b>YTD. Net Total:</b>	<b>\$5,062.83</b>

***Prayer Concerns***

Marnie Whitmarsh	Charles Sander's niece Sophia
Richard Coghlan	Edwin Sidebottom
Gene Moss	Harold Pool
Ron Walberg	Leonard Cloud
Marti McLemore	Jeff McCoy
Audrey Simpson	Jim and Linda Clements
Delmer McAdow	Rozanne Goddard
Glenn and Luene Harmer	Ann Northworthy
Steve Biggers	Aubrey Johnson
Ed Baker	Marshia Foster
Marilyn Wrigley	Bennie Waggoner
Glenn Amerson	Charles Schulte
Art Hinners	Cameron Winchell
Buddy and Elaine Dorow	Denny Wells
Henry Kuecker	Curtis Namken
Christopher Goodrich	Linda Winstanley
	Our homebound members and those serving in the military

***Donations Received***

***In memory of***  
**Johnnye Van Hook**  
 By  
 The UMW  
 Art and Smitty Hinners

***In memory of***  
**Joe Edwards**  
 By  
 Shirley Kwiatkowski  
 Art and Smitty Hinners

***In memory of***  
**Jacque Ketcham**  
 By  
 The UMW  
 John and Ruth Walker

***In memory of***  
**Christine Pendergrass**  
 By  
 Art and Smitty Hinners  
 Debi Meschwitz

***In memory of***  
**Ruby McBride**  
 By  
 Art and Smitty Hinners  
 Tom and Carol Ann Post  
 Gladys Davis

***In memory of***  
**Pat Rayzor**  
 By  
 Art and Smitty Hinners

# UMYF

## NEWSFLASH

### KID Stuff!

VBS planning meeting Feb 8  
at noon in the Activity Center



Mark your calendars:  
**VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL 2015**  
June 29 – July 2

### Youth Stuff



UMYF begins a new study  
on Feb 8. Come and bring  
a friend!

Agape Party Feb. 8  
at 10am in the  
Activity Center  
**FUN**  
**food**  
**CRAFTS**

**A.C.T.S.** begins Sunday,  
Feb. 22 @ 4 p.m. in Rm. 139  
Spring Musical –  
Parablooza! Performance  
date: April 19

### UMYF MEALS

Feb 8	Jeff & Tiffany Jenkins AND Cathleen Smestchuen
Feb 15	John & Tricia Trostle AND Doug & Cheryl Middleton
Feb 22	Amber Zelenka AND Sharon Schwartz

### SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2015

Junior High – July 9-12  
Waller, TX

High School – July 19 – 24  
Crockett, TX



### St. Valentine

Since Valentine's Day is coming up, I thought I would share with you one of the legends of St. Valentine and this day.

There was a priest, who was also a physician, who lived in Rome during the reign of Claudius the Goth. His name was Valentine. Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and he had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. Valentine did not preach the gods of the Romans, so he was put in prison. Before he was sent to prison, he raised beautiful flowers in his garden and often gave them to children who lived nearby.

Now the children missed him, so they picked flowers, made little bouquets, and tied notes to them. On each note was written, "I Love You" and the flowers were tossed to Valentine through his prison window. In the year A.D. 269 on February 14, Valentine was put to death for his Christian faith.

This saddened the people of Rome. In his honor, on the following February 14, many people sent notes to friends and relatives carrying the message "I love you." As the custom continued over the years these "notes" came to be called "Valentines."

What is often left out of the story is the fact that it was the love of Jesus Christ that made the difference in Valentine's life. He showed great love to all who came to his garden because he had been shown great love.

The problem we have with our valentines is that too often we leave the love of Jesus Christ out of our relationships. If we want our valentine love to last as long as the witness of St. Valentine, we need the love of the Savior to be present in our love just as it was in his.

"We love because he first loved us."

1 John 4:19 (NIV)

See you Sunday,

**Kay**

### Care Team

One of the important but not well-known teams at our church is the Care Team. The Care Team meets the last Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. These members help Pastor Kay with visiting the homebound, nursing and retirement home members, sending birthday and get well cards. Several members have had to step down from the team and we are looking for some new folks who might want to help us. If you would like to help or have questions call Pastor Kay at the church.

## *News From Mission Team*

Karen and I are missionaries in training for cross cultural work in Kosovo in order to share the light of the world, Jesus, with the local people. We are partnered with The Mission Society based in Norcross, GA. We have been married 6.5 years and have two life giving daughters, Sarah – age 3, and Hannah – 6 months. During our time in Kosovo we will be working with a local couple and American couples to join in the work Jesus is doing in making His name known and growing the local body of followers. We will be training Kosovars to go and further spread the glory of Jesus and his church through discipleship in outdoor ministry and within other avenues as they are opened to us. We have a special calling on our hearts for the college and young adult age group and seeing their energy transformed into spreading the Kingdom of God.

Prior to meeting in college, Karen and I were involved in various short term missions both locally and internationally. Karen traveled to Guyana three times on mission trips during her early college years to help fix up a local youth camp and teach worship through music. My first experience in international mission work was a weeklong trip to Mexico which quickly turned into two full summers with a mission organization running week long camps at the border. Through these experiences God began to foster the desire for long term missions.

In the time between graduating college and the present, God has continued to prepare us for missions. Karen took a youth director position at our local church and after visiting missionary friends in Peru she quickly began to organize a youth mission trip. The next summer we brought a team of high school students to build a playground and more importantly build relationships with the Peruvians. We have continually found ourselves in disciplining relationships with the college age group both in church settings and developing out of the secular world.

The desire to see Jesus followed in “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the Ends of the Earth” has grabbed ahold of us. As we continue to learn about the people of Kosovo our hearts are drawn to them. We ask that you partner with us in prayer that they may know the freedom of a right relationship with Jesus.

*Thomas, Karen, Sarah and Hannah*



### ***Thanks Helping Hands!***

The Helping Hands group came and cleaned, trimmed, and raked leaves in my yard. Some of the adults even brought their children, what a wonderful way to the children how to help others. There are not enough words to thank this wonderful group. It's hard not being able to do the things you have always done for yourself. Thanks again and God bless this wonderful group!

***Juanita Hickey***



## Thanks FUMC!

To our wonderful and incredible church family: as Pastor Jon tells us "God is good all the time; all the time God is good." The best example of this has been our own church family during the past two months, as our family has gone through some very difficult times. God hears and answers the prayers of his people. The Scriptures tell us so. What a special and healing blessing your prayers have been for each one of us. On a daily basis, we have received beautiful cards, each one different from all the others. Each one had a handwritten note of condolence, get well wishes or encouragement. The cards alone have been an amazing and powerful outreach as each one reminded us of the support, concern and love we were receiving continuously from our church family. We have had so many phone calls from so many of you offering concern and support. Then there was the food! We had food brought to us when we lost Jacque, and again when I came home from the hospital. Each single act of kindness has helped to lift us from sorrow, worry, illness and possibly even death. How can we possibly thank you adequately for all of this? Knowing these words are so inadequate, please accept a personal, humble and sincere thank you to each of you who has done so much for us. We thank God for each of you, and pray that your kindness will be returned to you many times over in as many ways as possible. We also want to thank those of you who came to the visitation, and those who were able to attend Jacque's service at the church. If you attended the service, we feel sure that you went away blessed by the beautiful words offered by Pastors Jon and Kay. They painted such a wonderful and true picture of who Jacque really was as a daughter, sister and aunt. Again, thank you and may God's richest blessings pour out on you both now and in the future.

### **Jody and Frank Tyson and the Ketcham family.**

Thank you for all of the cards, kind words, and prayers for our family on the passing of Keith's Uncle. We appreciate you, our church family for all of your support

### **The Killgore Family**

## **Stouffer's Food For Thought . . .**

Maybe you've noticed that sometimes I get distracted at the most inconvenient times, for instance, while I'm preaching! And yesterday, when my sermon title was to be explained in the story that set up the closing of the message, I got distracted. Here's the explanation of "What's All This About Them Parakeets!"

Following the last hour of prayer at the monastery, all is quiet, and everyone goes about their night entering "The Grand Silence" of the darkness until the morning offices begin. Two of the friends that I have been making pilgrimage to Gethsemani for many years and I would often walk out of the sanctuary to the steps leading out to the world and stand in silence, embracing the night, with the cold and dark enveloping us in peace. Sometimes we might share a thought. Often we are silent.

One night, our friend Jim said, "What's All This About Them Parakeets!" Jim was making reference to the third verse of the hymn we sang:

*O Father this we ask be done  
through Jesus Christ thine only Son,  
who with the **Paraclete** and thee,  
now lives and reigns eternally. Amen.*

The word "Paraclete" is from Greek and means "the Advocate" or "Comforter" in reference to the work of God's Holy Spirit.

The point of the message I was trying to share is **the Peace of Christ in us is both:**

**1. Gift**, we receive this from Christ through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, (Paraclete). Reference John 14:25-27

**and**

**2. Fruit**, that which we cultivate in our faith practice just as a gardener grows vegetables. Reference Galatians 5:22-23 (Fruit of the Spirit)

That's the story about the parakeets and the point of the message yesterday! As we go out to be God's People in the World, may we truly receive the gift of Peace from Jesus and cultivate practices in our lives and the world that bring about Peace for all.

give your Love to JESUS & be fun!

*Jon*



# February



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 5:00 UMYF-Super Bowl Party/ Summerour's	2 10:00 Monday Bible Study/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn 5:30 Worship Team/ FR 7:00 Admin. Board/ FR	3 9:30 UMW/ AC 12:00 Tuesday Together/ FH	4 7:00 Choir/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	5 9:00 Yoga/ AC	6 9:00 Ladies' Emmaus/ Parlor	7
8 5:00 Youth Choir/ Choir Room 6:00 UMYF & Confirmation/ AC	9 10:00 Monday Bible Study/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn 1:30 CDC Board/ Library	10 9:00 Card Group/ MH	11 7:00 Choir/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	12 9:00 Yoga/ AC 6:00 UMM/ AC	13 9:00 Ladies' Emmaus/ Parlor	14
15 5:00 Youth Choir/ Choir Room 6:00 UMYF & Confirmation/ AC	16 10:00 Monday Bible Study/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn	17 9:30 Rogers Circle/ FH Tate Circle/ Parlor Cummings Circle/ MH 12:00 Susanna Circle/ Husmann 6:30 Wesleyan Circle/ FH	18 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service/ Sanctuary	19 9:00 Yoga/ AC	20 9:00 Ladies' Emmaus/ Parlor	21 8:00 Epiphany/ FH
22 2:30 Brenham Rehab Service 3:30 High Hope Service 4:00 ACTS/ Rm. 139 5:00 Youth Choir/ Choir Room 6:00 UMYF & Confirmation/ AC	23 10:00 Monday Bible Study/ FH 12:00 Wesley/ Blinn	24 9:00 Card Group/ MH	25 11:45 First Lenten Lunch/ AC 1:00 Care Team/ Library 7:00 Choir/ Choir Room Celebration Band/AC	26 9:00 Yoga/ AC	27 9:00 Ladies' Emmaus/ Parlor	28 8:00 Epiphany/ FH
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

**Attention FUMC!**

***VBS will be held the week of June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Mark your calendars!***

Return Service Requested

First United Methodist Church  
408 North Baylor  
Brenham, TX 77833



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