



First United Methodist Church

408 North Baylor * Brenham, Texas 77833-3213

December 1, 2009

A Message from the Pastors

It's Advent again. Time again to make preparations to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Time again to (re)consider how we will prepare. Our world urges us to celebrate by storing up things. Yet our faith tells us that Advent is about being emptied out so that we can become full. Advent points to the essentials of life; the secular world tells us we need more.

How many of the gifts that you received last year did you use or are still using? How many gifts do you remember giving or receiving?

We know loving means giving. God so loved the world that God gave and still gives. We give back to God through our worship, by serving others and doing our best to follow God's Word. We give lots and lots of things to show our love to those we love – and the more we give the more we believe we are showing our love. Right?

Be still and remember the times you felt that incredible sense of being loved. A very special gift, carefully chosen just for you may be a part of such a memory, yet not always. Perhaps it was baking cookies with your grandmother or going fishing or hunting with your father. Maybe it was reading a book with a grandchild or singing Christmas carols with church friends. That list is a lot easier to make than remembering gifts given and received over the years.

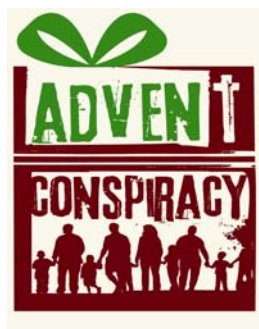
This year, we encourage you to make a lasting memory. Give yourself to others just as God gave God's self fully to us through the birth of a baby, our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

What if Christmas became a world-changing event again?

Join us as at the Celebration Service each Sunday Advent as we explore what it means to

Worship Fully
Spend Less
Give More
Love All

After the service all are invited to stay and join the discussion during the Sunday School hour.



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

- 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 10 Cable TV.

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dale Chance
PastorDale@FUMCBrenham.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Terry Dougherty
PastorTerry@FUMCBrenham.org

Newsletter Deadline:

Your next newsletter deadline will be Thursday, December 10, at 1:00 pm. The newsletter will be sent out on Monday, December 14.



METHODIST WEEKDAY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Carole Horton, Director – 979-830-8661 or Carole@FUMCBrenham.org

SUNDAY November 15, 2009

Church Attendance:

Nursery	6
Worship 8:15 a.m.	70
Worship 11:00 a.m.	104
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	40
Worship Total	220
Sunday School	6
Offering:	\$ 6,871.00

SUNDAY November 22, 2009

Church Attendance:

Nursery	7
Worship 8:15 a.m.	80
Worship 11:00 a.m.	120
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	54
Worship Total	261
Sunday School	95
Offering:	\$ 9,525.00

SUNDAY November 29, 2009

Church Attendance:

Nursery	5
Worship 8:15 a.m.	74
Worship 11:00 a.m.	127
Celebration 9:00 a.m.	52
Worship Total	258
Sunday School	94
Offering:	\$ 3,182.71

Loose \$1 bills placed in our collection plates will be used to support Hurricane Ike recovery work in the Texas Annual Conference.

Prayer Concerns



Linda Beard
Diane Davenport
Elmo Davis
Eunice Glidden
Bob Johnston
Alice Limmer
Marti McLemore
Peggy Robertson
Ed Sidebottom
Johnnye Van Hook

Also in our prayers are the family of

Beverly Burt whose daughter Susan Evans died on Nov. 11

Holiday Time

It really is a busy time around the CDC. If the children weren't excited enough, we make certain that they are this month. Just a few things will be going on at the CDC. We have our **Annual Christmas Bake Sale** scheduled for December. The **Bake Sale** is open to any one who fills out an order form, so make certain that you pick up your form from the school credenza or the church office. These forms are due back by December 10 and pick up will be on the December 16. There will be cakes, breads and cookies for sale. Just think....you don't have to do all that cooking for the holidays!

Santa will pay a visit to the CDC and bring lots of candy and goodies. Even though some of the children are frightened by him, our Santa is always there with a smile and a hug.

The 3's and Pre-K will go caroling to the LaRoche Center at Krause Village, The Trinity Care Center, Brenham National Bank and Chase Bank. That's about all these little guys can do.

Our Christmas Program, entitled **Christmas All Around**, will be on December 16 at 9:00 a.m. Karen Chance will be the accompanist for this musical. It will be held in the Activity Center utilizing the stage. This year all of our parents should be able to see!

The CDC is feeling the economic squeeze as well as the rest of the community so please remember us in your Christmas giving.

Have a joyous season...

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Jennifer Patrick, Program Coordinator, Jennifer@FUMCBrenham.org

Upcoming Christmas Events!



SOLID ROCK CAFE

A.C.T.S. Musical

Sunday, December 6

6:30p.m. in Activity Center



YOUTH “H.A.L.O” NEWS

Rick Ruiz, Youth Director rcruiz1020@yahoo.com



Crosses go on Sale Sunday, December 6

The youth have been working diligently making decoupage crosses and hearts. Decoupage is the process of putting a covering (i.e. tissue paper, etc.) onto an unfinished piece of wood. Everything turned out great! Some of the items you can hang on a wall, others can be put on stands, some big, some small, but they are all made by FUMC Youth with tender loving care. They will be affordably priced and quantities are limited to what has been made. Be sure to look for us outside the sanctuary and Activity Center starting this Sunday. Small 8” crosses are \$10 and large 16” crosses are \$20. All proceeds will go to support Youth activities.

Congratulations to Three Youth Cub Band Members

Eric Ruiz (French horn). Emily McLemore (tuba), and Kara Jurden (percussion) were all selected to participate in the Brenham High School Symphonic Band this Spring. Please join me in congratulating them on this stellar accomplishment! Stay tuned for details of their upcoming performances.

Thank you to Nick DeSalvo and Eric Ruiz for their service in helping the Brenham Heritage Society prepare for this year’s Stone Mansion Holiday Tour.

December Youth Calendar

Sunday, December 13 – Youth in Activity Center, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 19 – Progressive Dinner, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. (TENTATIVE)

Sunday, December 27 – No Youth activities

Sunday, January 3 – Youth in AC, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

J.O.Y.

Program Coordinator, Jennifer Patrick Jennifer@FUMCBrenham.org

*****PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER*****

J.O.Y.

Christmas Party

**Join us for a Christmas Celebration
Dinner and a Christmas Sing-a-Long
Thursday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Brenham House: A Premier Bed and Breakfast

705 Clinton Street – Brenham

The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person. The entertainment is **FREE!**

Please register for this event by Thursday, December 10. Forms will be available in the church office, Sunday School classes and in the Narthex of the Sanctuary.

Angel Tree Christmas Program



As in years past, you found a small tree in front of the sanctuary and another in the Activity Center this past Sunday. Each tree had angels and stars tied on to some of the branches. I hope you had a chance to go by the trees and pick one or more of these angels and stars, each representing a child whose parent is incarcerated and unable to send gifts at Christmas, or a resident at the Brenham State School.

For the next couple of weeks we will be busy purchasing gifts for these children and adults, hoping to help make this Christmas special for them. If you haven't already gotten a name, please either call me or visit with Brenda in the church office. We will help you get the names, ages, and gift ideas for you.

There are several guidelines for these gifts:

- Brenham State School gifts must be dropped off in the church office unwrapped by December 6 (these gifts should be valued around \$25 each)
- Two gifts should be purchased for each Angel Tree child, each valued at about \$20; one gift of clothing and one for entertainment. These gifts should be wrapped and must be at the church by December 13.

Please let me know if you'd be willing to deliver some of these gifts this year. All families are in the Brenham area this year.

Pat Clark (830-1950 or pclark6629@gmail.com)

Methodist Children's Home Visit

On November 5, a small group from FUMC Brenham visited the Methodist Children's Home (MCH) in Waco. Although our Missions and Outreach budget sends supporting funds to the MCH each year, making a trip to the actual campuses in and near Waco helped open our eyes to what is happening there.

MCH presently serves 180 children who are neglected; delinquent-prone and need supervision; whose family cannot adequately care for them; with emotional or behavioral problems; who suffer from the trauma of rape, incest, abuse, death or abandonment; or whose parents suffer from health problems that prevent them from maintaining full responsibility for the child. Skilled social workers and other childcare staff attempt to build positive relationships with youth as they offer love, compassion and a supportive living environment.

The campus in northwest Waco is on 130 beautiful acres and has 16 individual houses where the children live. They attend school at the on-campus University Charter School. At the Boys Ranch, about 10 miles north of Waco, 50 youth live in six homes on about 500 acres of land. They learn to work with animals and learn woodworking and welding skills. At both campuses the children learn lifelong skills by assisting the food service staff with meal preparation in their homes. Staff members build healthy relationships with the youth to help them develop their strengths and talents.



Dena Miller, Pat Clark, Glen and Jetta Goodman, Mary Ann Strom and Ann Pieper during the visit the Methodist Children's Home in Waco, TX.

The MCH offers a comprehensive program of care to meet the physical, emotional, academic and spiritual needs of youth. As we visited the various buildings on both campuses, we all agreed that the children who make it to the Waco MCH are definitely fortunate. We could really feel and see the commitment of those who work with the children and know they are making a difference in the lives of these children. ---

Pat Clark, Missions and Outreach Chairman

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The exterior of the main church building (Sanctuary, education/CDC, and Sunday School/office) is in need of major repairs. The entire gutter/downspout system has deteriorated and needs to be removed and straightened/repared where possible or replaced where necessary. While this is being done, any rotten wood (some of which is already evident) concealed by the gutters will be replaced. Some associated roof repairs to stop leaks will also be done. The Board of Trustees has spent the previous year and a half investigating how to best solve this problem conferring with multiple contractors. The cost to perform these repairs is a minimum of \$34,000 with the exact amount determined by the amount of hidden damage to be repaired.

Additionally, repairs to the limestone trim on the front of the sanctuary are required. Two large sections of the trim are cracked, loose, and in possible danger of falling. Estimated cost to repair this is an additional \$3,500.

There is not sufficient money in the special maintenance projects portion of the 2009 church budget to complete these repairs. Failure to make these repairs at this time will result in further deterioration and increased cost to correct. Therefore, donations are needed to complete these repairs. This situation presents an excellent opportunity for special year-end giving to First United Methodist Church.

--- Board of Trustees



THANK YOU to all who returned pledge cards on Commitment Sunday and to several more persons who took the time to bring completed cards to the church office. We hope to receive responses from all of our active members. Pledge cards are available in the church office. Please call the church office if you need a card mailed out to you.

The ministries of FUMC Brenham are possible only through your continuing prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. 112 pledge cards have been received with \$405,392 pledged to date.

Thank You

We want to let our Pastors and the entire Church family and community know that we are so grateful for the love, support, words of comfort, cards, floral gifts, monetary gifts, food, phone calls, visits, encouragement, and prayers that we received from you at the time of Jim Tom's death. We were overwhelmed by the many who attended his visitation and his celebration service. We feel so blessed to have a wonderful Church Family.

Jim Tom loved the church and served it in many ways as long as he was able.

Jim Tom planned his own funeral service in 1975 and it was done as he wanted except for a few minor updates.

Thank you for caring. Lydia House and family

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I want to add my thanks to the women's Circles who decorated the tables for the Country Store. I wanted to thank all the women and men who donated items for sale. I want to thank all those who bought. Last but foremost, I want to thank God for all his blessings on this church. Sincerely, Diane Davenport

* * * * *

Thank you to my church family for all the prayers, visits, food, flowers, cards, calls and heavenly interventions during my recent surgery. --- Diane Davenport

In Memoriam

Ruby Byrd by Clifford and Betty Brisbin of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by Rev. and Mrs. Larry Embry of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by Jim and Nell Faucett of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans, Beverly Burt's daughter, by Jim and Nell Faucett of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by Cordelia Cummings of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by Gary and Kay Ivy of Brenham, TX

May Elizabeth Blackhurst Freeland, Jean Shoup's mother by Gary and Kay Ivy of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans, Beverly Burt's daughter, by Gary and Kay Ivy of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by Jim and Susie Forsythe of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by Drs. Wilfred and Bobbie Dietrich of Brenham, TX

A. Q. Plummer by Drs. Wilfred and Bobbie Dietrich of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans, Beverly Burt's daughter, by Drs. Wilfred and Bobbie Dietrich of Brenham, TX

Susan Evans, Beverly Burt's daughter, by Tom and Carol Ann Post of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by Kermit and Lorraine Teufel of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by James and Emily Henkhaus of Brenham, TX

Jim Tom House by San Marcos Veterinary Clinic of San Marcos, TX

Jim Tom House by Brenham Area Music Teachers

Jim Tom House by Mr. and Mrs. William B. Kitzman of Pattison, TX

Jim Tom House by Kenneth and Jill Kitzman of Ellicott City, MD

Lynn Schultz by Dena and Jim Miller of Brenham, TX

Merry Musical Christmas



If you love and appreciate music and attend one of the traditional 8:15 or 11:00 a.m. services, be sure not to miss any of the upcoming December Advent Sundays.

Sunday, December 6, we will enjoy the music of a Brass Quintet from Brenham High School during both the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. services. They will accompany our carol hymns, as well as provide Christmas selections for the prelude and offertory.

Sunday, December 13, the Chancel Choir will present "The Mystery and the Majesty," a cantata by Joseph M. Martin at both services. Scripture readings and narration will be provided by choir members and our youth. The Handbell Choir will ring for 15 minutes prior to each service for your enjoyment.

Sunday, December 20, Sarah Muckleroy, flutist, will accompany the choir anthem, "Manger Carol," at the 11:00 service.

Sunday, December 20, "There's a Song in the Air," a concert by Dr. Van Miller at the piano, Ann Wackman, soprano, and Karen Chance playing the organ, will be presented in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. There will be a reception in the Activity Center following the concert. Bring a friend. All are welcome!

On **Christmas Eve, December 24,** the Chancel Choir will sing at the 7:00 p.m. service. Music will be presented by the Celebration Band at the 5:00 p.m. service.

So you can see we will be prepared for the coming of our Christ Child through the presentation of the glorious music of the season, as well as the spoken Word. Don't miss any of it. Your heart will be glad you didn't!

Ladies Night

Presented by the United Methodist Men

On the Thursday, December 10, the UMM will have host a Ladies Night banquet in the Activity Center. Take pleasure in a wonderful evening of fellowship and beautiful Christmas music while enjoying a great meal. Tickets will be available from any of the UMM members, which is most of the men of the church. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. will Dr. Van Miller will dazzle everyone with his hands on the keyboard. A delicious meal will be provided for only \$9.00. We hope fun will be had by all. See you there.



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Dec. 1 10:00 am UMW Christmas Coffee / Cordelia Cumming's Home	Dec. 2 6:00 pm Handbells/Sanct. 6:00 pm A.C.T.S. /AC 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Celebration Band	Dec. 3	Dec. 4 9:00 am Emmaus Meeting/Library	Dec. 5 12:00 pm Wesley Class Lunch/Jones Farm 1:00 pm A.C.T.S. Rehearsal / AC 6:00 pm Brenham Christmas Parade/DT
6 Christmas Music by Brass Ensemble AM Services 12:30 pm Confirmation Class / FH 1:00 pm A.C.T.S. Rehearsal/AC 2:30 & 3:30 Gazebo & Argent 6:30 pm A.C.T.S. Musical – Rock Solid Café / AC	7 12:00 p.m. Wesley Christmas Party/Bliinn	8 8:30 am Yoga / AC 9:00 am Card Group/ Mission House 5:30 pm Mission Brenham	9 9:00 a.m. Santa Visits CDC 12:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Lunch 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Celebration Band	10 6:30 pm UMM Christmas Dinner/AC Ladies Night	11 9:00 am Emmaus Meeting/Library 9:00 am CDC Caroling	12 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice/Sanct. 
13 <i>The Mystery and the Majesty</i> Cantata - 8:15 and 11:00 am Services Handbells before 8:15 and 11 am Services 12:30 pm Confirmation Class / FH 4:00 pm Caroling @ Nursing Homes 5:00 pm Youth/AC 6:30 pm Choir Party@Hyatt	14 1:00 pm CDC Ad Board Mtg/Library 2:00 pm DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER	15 9:30am Smith/Tate Post/Amerson Murphey/Chance 12:00 pm Susanna/Muckleroy 6:30 pm Wesleyan/Ketchem 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting/FH	16 8:00 am CDC Christmas Program / AC 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Celebration Band	17 5:30 pm JOY Dinner / Brenham House	18 9:00 am Emmaus Meeting/Library	19 5:00 pm Progressive Dinner/Youth (Tentative)
20 12:30 pm Confirmation Class / FH 4:00 pm <i>There's A Song in the Air –</i> Piano & Vocal Concert/Sanct.	21	22 8:30 am Yoga / AC Circle Meetings 9:00 am Card Group/MH 10:30 am DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER 6:30 pm Evangelism/Smith	23 11:00 am CDC Christmas Lunch / AC 7:00 pm Celebration Band	24 Church Office Closes at Noon 5:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service 6:15 pm Choir 7:00 pm Communion Service	25 Church Office Closed 	26
27 No Celebration Service This Sunday Only No Confirmation Today Only	28 3:00 pm 42 / MH	29	30	31 10:00 am Deadline for Donations	1 	2

Christmas



Happenings

More details on all of these events are in this newsletter and on the website at www.FUMCBrenham.org

Tuesday, December 1 – 10:00 a.m.

United Methodist Women's Christmas Coffee at Cordelia Cummings home

Sunday, December 6 – 6:30 p.m.

Children's Musical presented by A.C.T.S.

"The Solid Rock Café" in the Activity Center

Thursday, December 10 – 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist Men presents

Ladies Night Christmas Dinner in the Activity Center

Sunday, December 13 – 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship Services Christmas Cantata

"The Mystery and the Majesty"

Sunday, December 13 – 4:00 p.m.

Family Caroling for our Nursing Homes

Thursday, December 17 – 5:30 p.m.

J.O.Y. Trip – Dinner at the Brenham House and Christmas Sing-a-Long

Sunday, December 20 – 4:00 p.m.

"There's a Song in the Air"

Piano and Vocal Concert in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 24

5:00 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m. – Communion Christmas Eve Service

Wesley Class Christmas Party

The Wesley Class will have a Christmas Lunch on Saturday, December 5, at noon. This will be a covered Dish luncheon and will be hosted at Luene Jamison Jones farm.



Flowers

The church has posted the new flower sign-up sheet for 2010 on the bulletin board just outside of the parlor. If there is a special date that you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday services, sign up early! Thank you from the church offices.

Charitable Donations for 2009

The deadline for donations for Fiscal Year 2009 will be 10:00 a.m. on December 31, 2009. In order for your donations to be counted for the year, all monies must be deposited into our account by noon on December 31, 2009. In order to get deposits to the bank before their closing deadline, I must have all donations by 10:00 a.m. Unfortunately, due to IRS rules, there will be no exceptions. Thank you for your cooperation. Any question, please call Kris at the church office.

7th Annual "Homes for the Holidays" Gingerbread House Auction and "Tour of Homes"



Join Washington County Habitat for Humanity for appetizers and drinks at the final auction of this year's masterpieces!

Unity Theater

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 7

All proceeds benefit
Washington County Habitat for Humanity Chapter.

For more information call Leslie Harrell 979-251-2481.

Online information www.wchh.org or
www.downtownbrenham.com

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a red poinsettia on the altar for Christmas services, please complete and return this form to the church office along with your **check payable to FUMC by Sunday, December 13, 2009**. The cost is \$12.00 per plant. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary and Activity Center. They may be picked up after the 7:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

I wish to purchase _____ poinsettia(s).

(please print)

In Honor of:

or:

In Loving Memory of:

Placed by:

The cost of each plant is \$12.00. My payment of \$_____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Phone # _____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia(s).

_____ I will not pick up my poinsettia(s) and would be happy for it/them to be delivered to a shut-in.



Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues

Seven Week Small Group Study begins on January 4, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.

Can we talk with each other about controversial issues such as
abortion, the death penalty, and homosexuality?

Does the Bible speak to these and other controversial issues?

Can Christians make a positive difference in society?

Join us to explore these and other questions.

We will not avoid controversy, but together we will seek the truth and grace of God.

This study is based on the book by Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. For more information or to sign up to participate please contact Pastor Terry at the church office or at PastorTerry@FUMCBrenham.org

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