

Dec 2022 / Jan 2023

The **Messenger**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Craig's Column

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. It is intended to offer a time to reflect once again on the meaning of the incarnation, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus for us. In the season of Advent we focus on the threefold coming of Jesus Christ to the world in the flesh, in the Word and the Sacraments, and in glory. At this time each year we in the church should ask ourselves "Why would the Lord of all the universe care enough about us mortals to take our flesh and share our woes?"

The answer to this question lies in the heart of Christmas. Jesus came as God with us, not only in physical form but also through his Word and Sacraments. He is Immanuel, "God with us" (Matt 1:23). By taking on our human nature he identified himself fully with our joys and sorrows, setting an example for us to follow. His coming into the world was a sign that we are loved unconditionally by God – no matter who or where we are – and that there is hope even when all seems lost or hopeless.

At Christmas time we remember how much Jesus loves each one of us; how he entered history so as to redeem it from sin; how he sacrificed himself out of love for humanity; how his death on the cross opened up a way back home for those who have gone astray. We celebrate Christ's birth because it marks an opportunity given to each one of us: allowing access into relationship with God which leads ultimately towards eternal life if followed faithfully through repentance, faithfulness and obedience. The Advent season prepares believers spiritually by reminding

them that they must be constantly ready because nothing can separate them from their Lord's love (Rom 8:39).

Since the season of Advent occurs during the four weeks prior to Christmas Day, it can be easy for us to focus our eyes only on the baby Jesus cradled in the manger. But if we pull back the curtains a little farther we can bring into view all the ways that God comes to us. We can remember that the Lord of all creation loves us enough to come and dwell with us, at Christmas and every day.

During the season of Advent we can remember that God comes to us in a variety of ways: through relationships, nature, music and art. He also comes to us in our everyday moments - when we are filled with joy or sorrow; when we experience restlessness or peace; when life is overwhelming and chaotic or calm and quiet. We can find Him in the midst of it all because He is always present.

Advent reminds us that no matter where our journey takes us, God will be there waiting for us with open arms ready to offer comfort, guidance and love along every step of the way. This season let's take time to pause from all the hustle-and-bustle around Christmas preparations so that we may really focus on how God continues coming into our lives in a fresh way, each day and everyday!

Grace and peace



Honors & Memorials

In Memory of Joe Andrews

Becky Arterbury
 Jerald & Mary Lou Mowery
 Tom & Susan Sample
 Arlen & Doylene Bryant
 Connie McGill
 Ellen Leslie
 Helen McMichael
 B. F. Hicks
 Roger & Betsy Gekiere
 Sue Whiteley
 Randall & Barbara Olson

Members of First United Methodist Church express our thanks to each of you who have recently given a special financial gift in memory or in honor of loved ones.

FINANCE COUNTERS

DECEMBER

4 Jerald Mowery	Eric Law
11 Lindsey Hunnicutt	Steve Wright
18 James King	Tom Sample
24 Steve Wright	TBD
25 TBD	TBD

Administrative Meetings

Rainbow Board Meeting

Monday, Dec. 19th @ 5:15pm

Finance Meeting

Monday, Dec. 19th @ 6:00pm

Offering / Donations

Many of our church family are choosing to donate electronically. This is such an easy and convenient way to support the church. Just scan this code to get started.



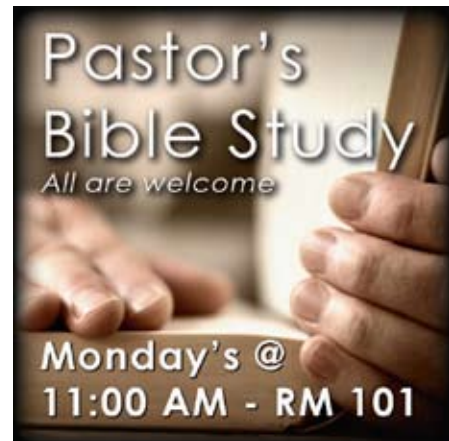
FUMCMV - PayPal

Prayer List

Ruth Averitt	Mike Rader
Victoria Fletcher	Courtney Thurman Family
Christy Jones	Pat Wright
R.A. Jones	Charles Winfield
Beverly Kelley	

Please Note: Names added to the prayer list will remain on the list for 30 days, if needed. They will be relisted by request.

If you would like to have a prayer request emailed out or would like to add someone to the prayer list, please email the Church office at office@fumcmv.org





Our hearts are full! We have been blessed to be able to give back in so many ways, to experience working side by side & preparing our students for life. We've had experiences with our graduates that brought so much to the table as young leaders. Inviting new students and in the meantime they are trying to figure us out and how we operate! I want to share a list of this past year so you can have an idea of their busy lives in youth alone with homework, jobs, athletics, one act play, cheer...these are just a handful!!

Good Friday, WNL meals, lessons & games, Pay It Forward, Missions out of town and in Mt Vernon, Lunches of Love, VBC, Auction, Lock in, Seniors graduating, Beavers Bend. Hosting another youth group who cleaned up the garden & trimmed trees. Thank you Dan Auringer & Lauren Newsome for helping out.

We are looking forward to our Christmas gathering with Pastor Craig & Christina, Salvation Army, our White Elephant gathering & The Christmas Carol in Dallas. Please continue to pray for all of us! We want to thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts for your support. Safe travels this holiday season and Blessings from FUMCYOUTH.

Much Love,
Cindy, Corrine, Melissa, Lindsey & Eric







December will find our Ignite Kids and Sunday Bible Teaching students very busy with family, school and church. Through the fall semester we have been studying the Fruits of the Spirit. They have done an amazing job learning all 9 fruits and what they mean and how to use them to help other people know who Jesus is and that He loves them! We will also make our annual trip to shop for Operation Christmas Shoe Boxes on December 7th and then have a Christmas celebration at CiCi's pizza in Mt. Pleasant. If you would like to have a child shop for you, you can give a cash donation of as little as \$7 to Ms. Pam or the church office. Ignite Kids will take our Christmas break after December 7th and will return in January on the 11th.

For our Bible Teaching Curriculum this Christmas, we will go on a "Christmas Road Trip". A road trip can lead us to some fun and exciting adventures. This Christmas, kids will take a road trip to Bethlehem (and beyond) to discover the fullness of God's love for us.

Please, also be praying for drivers to come forward for a Sunday bus route. We have kids who have expressed how much they would love to come on Sundays, but would need the church bus to pick them up. We have volunteers willing to coordinate the schedule with the anticipation of driving once every five to six weeks.

Praising God for His amazing gift to us all,

Ms. Pam

Fun Times with Our Kids





JOHN 21:17

**December 5th
and
January 9th**



“Prepare the way of the Lord” declares John the Baptist, and 2000 years later we still need the special time of Advent to do exactly that.

As we prepare our homes, yards, and churches, we certainly feel tired, yet satisfied, knowing we celebrate the promise of a Savior, the remarkable gift of Jesus.

I pray our hearts and spirits will be renewed and filled with the love, joy, and peace only Jesus gives.

Our choir and church invites you, your friends, neighbors, and family to our Christmas celebration program on December 11th, at the 11:00 service.

The Christmas story will be told through narration, music, instrumentation and song.

We want you to be part of the celebration. Please join us!

With blessings and grace to all,
Marilyn

The Community Food Bank of Franklin County

provides food, free of charge,
on a once a month basis, to those in need.

822 Leftwich Street in Mt. Vernon

OPEN: Tuesday 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

The Samaritan Shop of Mt. Vernon,

located West of the square on Main Street,
has a variety of clothes in a range of sizes, household goods
and knick-knacks available to those in need. They request
a donation for items taken, if possible. The donation is used
strictly to help pay the building rent, utilities and items used to
stay in operation.

OPEN: Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays 10am - 3pm
Saturdays 10am - 2pm

***First United Methodist Church of Mt. Vernon is part of these ministries and
contributes monetarily each month to help provide these services.***

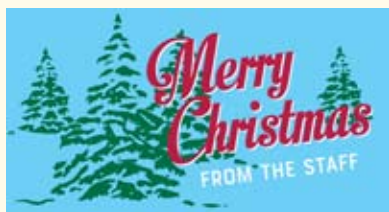


Chelsea Williamson	12/01
Madalyn Morgan	12/01
Bill Craig	12/03
Wayne Woods	12/07
Jackie Carlson	12/08
Griffin Standridge	12/09
MaKayla Morgan	12/11
Kelly Newsome	12/12
Lynne Overstreet	12/14
Chad Wardrup	12/15
Diane Newsom	12/17
Chuck Switzer	12/21
Claire Rutledge	12/21
Jenny Grolemond	12/21
Connie Wafford	12/22
Mike Rader	12/22
Mary Ida Stone	12/23
Cathy Vanden Eykel	12/24
Nel Thames	12/25
Zach Auringer	12/26
David Thames	12/27
Glen Slaughter	12/27
Cameron Kettwich	12/28
Sara Rader	12/28
Max Rutledge	12/31

Randall Byrd	01/01
Mason Cook	01/01
Mike Hammonds	01/02
Carolyn Tillery	01/04
William Smith	01/04
Nick Carr	01/10
Mason Hart	01/10
Marcy Yates	01/11
Jim Solomon	01/13
Dara Fisk	01/15
Donna Ledbetter	01/17
Steve Wright	01/19
Colin Clasby	01/19
Kaden Lester	01/20
Ed Joyce	01/21
Harry Earl	01/22
Harold Lightfoot	01/23
Pat Hudson	01/23
Jeremy Byrd	01/23
Patricia McQuiddy	01/24
Stephen Marshall	01/26
Blossom Barnett	01/26
Emily Young	01/26
Ellen Leslie	01/27
Pam Greenberg	01/27
Sarah Simmons	01/27
Barbara Lea	01/30

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from your FUMC Staff!!



Please see the
December & January calendars
for our Holiday Schedules.



DECEMBER

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				<p>1 6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 8:30am Traditional Service 9:45am The Stand 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Children's, Connections, Horizons, Roundtable 11:00am Traditional Service 11:00am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Today's Christians, Children's Bible Teaching Time (Youth to Salvation Army)</p>	<p>5 F.E.E.D. 10:00am Workout Buddies 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>6 9:00am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>7 10:00am Workout Buddies 5:00pm <i>Ignite Kids - Shopping & Pizza</i> 5:30pm Choir 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm <i>Youth - White Elephant Party</i></p>	<p>8 6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 8:30am Traditional Service 9:45am The Stand 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Children's, Connections, Horizons, Roundtable 11:00am Traditional Service 11:00am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Today's Christians, Children's Bible Teaching Time, Youth Bible Time</p> 	<p>12 10:00am Workout Buddies 10:00am Rainbow sings @ MV House 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30pm Rainbow Christmas Program in Sanctuary</p>	<p>13 9:00am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>14 10:00am Workout Buddies 5:30pm Choir 6:00pm Confirmation</p>	<p>15 6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 10:00am Youth trip to Dallas on FUMC Bus</p>
<p>18 8:30am Traditional Service 9:45am The Stand 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Children's, Connections, Horizons, Roundtable 11:00am Traditional Service 11:00am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Today's Christians, Children's Bible Teaching Time, Youth Bible Time</p>	<p>19 10:00am Workout Buddies 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study 5:15pm Rainbow Meeting 6:00pm Finance Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 10:00am Workout Buddies 5:30pm Choir</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23 FUMC OFFICE CLOSED RAINBOW DAYCARE CLOSED</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Services - 5:00pm FLC 7:00pm Sanctuary</p> 
<p>25 10:30 Christmas Service ****(1 service only)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">← FUMC Office Closed →</p>					<p>31</p> 

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10:30am New Years Day Service *****(1 service only)****</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>FUMC Office & Rainbow Daycare Closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Workout Buddies 5:30pm Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Service 9:45am The Stand 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Children's Connections, Horizons, Roundtable 11:00am Traditional Service 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Today's Christians, Children's Bible Teaching Time, Youth Bible Time</p>	<p>9</p> <p>F.E.E.D. 10:00am Workout Buddies 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Workout Buddies 5:00pm WNL Meals 5:30pm Choir 5:30pm Ignite Kids 6:00pm Youth 6:00pm Confirmation</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Service 9:45am The Stand 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Children's Connections, Horizons, Roundtable 11:00am Traditional Service 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Today's Christians, Children's Bible Teaching Time, Youth Bible Time</p>	<p>16</p> <p>MLK Day - FUMC Office Closed 10:00am Workout Buddies</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Workout Buddies 5:00pm WNL Meals 5:30pm Choir 5:30pm Ignite Kids 6:00pm Youth 6:00pm Confirmation</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Service 9:45am The Stand 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Children's Connections, Horizons, Roundtable 11:00am Traditional Service 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Today's Christians, Children's Bible Teaching Time, Youth Bible Time</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Workout Buddies 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Workout Buddies 5:00pm WNL Meals 5:30pm Choir 5:30pm Ignite Kids 6:00pm Youth 6:00pm Confirmation</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Service 9:45am The Stand 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Children's, Connections, Horizons, Roundtable 11:00am Traditional Service 9:45am <u>Sunday Schools</u>: Today's Christians, Children's Bible Teaching Time, Youth Bible Time</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Workout Buddies 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00am Women's Bible Study</p>				

First United Methodist Church
Hwy. 37 North of I-30
PO Box 659
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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Christmas Services

Dec 11 - Christmas Cantata

Presented by the Chancel Choir
11 am *in the Sanctuary*

Dec 24 - Candlelight Services

5 pm - Modern with Children's Impromptu Pageant
in the Family Life Center

7 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service
in Sanctuary

Dec 25 - Christmas Day

One Service @ **10:30AM**
in Sanctuary