



First United Methodist Church

P. O. Box 352 - 206 S. Dowling - Hallettsville, TX 77964
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:40 a.m.

MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship): Wednesday - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

"Helping God Make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World"

-Don't Miss It- Mark your Calendars!

January

10th – MYF resumes 5:30pm

13th – Music lessons resume

February

7th – Lunch & Learn

11th – Youth Sunday &
Congregation Appreciation
Lunch

Yard Signs

**Please remember to
return your Christmas
Eve Service yard signs to
the church so we can use
them again next year.
Thanks to everyone who
displayed a sign.**

Happy New Year dear ones!

One of the most wonderful things I have experienced in the year now gone – 2017 – is the privilege of seeing your ongoing spirit of Christ like generosity. What a joy it has been to witness, from time to time, just a few of your many acts of quiet kindness and reassurance to those in need.

The kindness I have seen in individuals and in small groups of people in this church bring feelings of deepest gratitude and assurance as I read these words from scripture on the subject:

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 (NLT) ⁶ Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ⁹ As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." ¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. ¹¹ Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. ¹² So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. ¹³ As a result of your



OUR PRAYER LIST

Dean & Andy Anderson
Anne
Margie Becker
Family of Ernest Berger
Mary Ann Berger
Vern Brenton
Caroline
Lynn & James Catto
Annie Cerny
Cody
Cookie Crandall
Barbara Drozd
Bill Drozd
Daniel Drozd
Nan Drozd
Andy Evans
Anna Ruth Evans
Bob & Fannie Griffith
GG & family
Henke Family-Newlyweds
Rev. Dennis Herring
Billy & Bobbie Hobbs
Lundy Hooten & Family
Jackie & young daughter
Kathy & Gary
Gary Janak
Jacob Janak & family
Jerry
Alene Wilson Kirklen
Michael Kopp & family
Marlene
Marvin
Gok McConnell
Pastor Melanie & Family
Mendez Family
Noah
Robbie Norris
Odefey Family in Wharton
Fonis & Margaret Payne
Joe P. Pelot
Jackie Powell
Bill Russell
Grady Sanders
Sarah
Geoffrey Seuser
Karen Seuser
Wilma Seuser
Sierra
Dean Stewart
Loretta Teiwes
Vic
Victor
Jessie Villareal
Wehling Family in Houston
Richard Wehling
DeDe Barnes Welder
Jeanne Wilson
Lauren Wilson
Lyn Wyatt

New Additions:

Jayden Darilek
Cole Ohrt
Logan Herrington

ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. ¹⁴ And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. ¹⁵ Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

Not only do I feel inspired and reassured by acts of kindness and generosity on the part of individuals and small groups of people in this church, I am deeply moved by the privilege of witnessing the generosity of heart and life and gifts our church has offered to others out of the bounty of God's provision for us.

I believe this generosity of heart and mind and life is a gift that comes directly from God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. There are signs everywhere that God has mightily blessed us every time we have given generously of our hearts and minds and resources.

Let us pray that we individually and as a congregation may continue to grow in this life-giving, life-affirming gift of generosity in ways that glorify our God. May God use us in some way to make creation a better place for all.

I pray that this will be a truly blessed year for you and for all who are precious to you.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Melanie

THANK YOU . . .

Many thanks to Nancy Fuhrken, our congregation's certified lay speaker, who served our congregation so generously as I recovered from a car accident.

I hope to be able to thank each of you personally for your many acts of kindness and service, in some way. For now, let me say thank you for delicious food, for calls and cards and prayers and everything you did to help out in any way in this beautiful season of Christmas. Thanks to those who helped me get around when I could not walk at all. Thanks to those who stepped up to lead in worship and in organizing. Thanks to those who were able to make time to worship and praise the Lord despite the demands and busyness of your day-to-day life.

You are a blessing from God. Thank you with all my heart.

Pastor Melanie

LAYNA JONES

Layna Jones, wife of Casey Jones and daughter-in-law of David and Carla Jones, blessed us by sharing the joy of the Lord in her preaching on December 17. Layna began by sharing a story of joy in the work she and Casey have been called to do with Chi Alpha on campus at Sam Houston State University. Then she shared a sermon on the subject of joy.

We are grateful for the privilege of encouraging this young couple in the life-changing work of campus ministry. Please continue praying for them and for their ministry.

Prayers For Those Who Serve

Logan Herrington, currently serving in the US Army Reserve, has been called up to 9 months service in Northern Egypt. His name will be on the prayer list.
Please keep him in prayer.

There are several open dates on the Flower Chart. If you are not currently in the yearly rotation and would like to provide flowers or plants, please call the church office or sign up on the chart in the church entryway.

Worship Service Schedule				
January	Greeter	Liturgist	A/V System	Acolytes
7	Nancy Hunter	Stephen Hunter	Dawn Jansky	Danna Jansky/Kelly Catto
14	Cate Siragusa	Robert Lundy	Kristin Marak	Sophia Walker/ Rylan Marak
21	Alice Vickers	Marvin Peterson	Sitka Family	Grace & Lora Parvin
28	Mary Ann Defibaugh	Carla Jones	Tullos Family	Emma & Juliet Davenport
February				
4	Beverly Nance	Dick Nance	Dawn Jansky	Danna Jansky/Kelly Catto
11	Susan Housley	Ray Housley	Kristin Marak	Taylor/Christopher Kostelnik
18	Mary Jane Swope	Robert Lundy	Sitka Family	Sophia Walker/Lauren Lundy
25	Betty Jean Metzler	Marvin Peterson	Tullos Family	Grace & Lora Parvin

Baptism of Slayder Grace Kresta

What a joy it was to celebrate the baptism of our newest little sister in Christ on Christmas Eve. Slayder is the daughter of Nick and Callie Kresta and the first grandchild of Reed and Tina Herrington.



Our dedicated hard-working music students held their second Christmas Recital in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 9.

Following the recital, students and guests gathered for a celebration luncheon.

Thank you to all of our students and the people who support and encourage them. Great job!

Special thanks to our faithful and gifted teacher Aaron Boyd for the gift of music in this place!



JOSIE KRAM – PIANO
"TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR"

♦

LYDIA KRAM – PIANO
"GALLOP PONY"

♦

LORA PARVIN – PIANO
"JINGLE BELLS"

♦

GRACE PARVIN – PIANO
"STAR WARS"

♦

YOUTH BAND
DAYTON JANSKY – BASS GUITAR
WYATT KRAM – DRUMS
DANNA JANSKY – GUITAR
GRACE PARVIN – PIANO
LORA PARVIN, LYDIA & JOSIE KRAM – VOCALS
"OCEANS"

♦

DAYTON JANSKY & WYATT KRAM - DRUMS
"LITTLE DRUMMER BOY"

♦

CHRISTIE WHEELOCK – PIANO
"O HOLY NIGHT"

♦

AARON BOYD – PIANO
"THE CHRISTMAS SONG"

♦

ADULT BAND
RAY HOUSLEY – GUITAR
BOB VICKERS – BASS GUITAR
CHRISTIE WHEELOCK – PIANO
DAWN JANSKY – DRUMS
"WINTER WONDERLAND"
"WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS"

Annual MYF Christmas Program and Lunch

What a wonderful Christmas program our kids and youth and leaders presented on Sunday December 10. What a remarkable experience to see hear our kids step up and sing beautiful solos and beautiful group singing. What remarkable progress our kids demonstrate as they step up to lead in reading scriptures and doing their part in the telling of the Christmas story. No one is too young to lead. No one is too young to glorify God.

Thank you to our kids and our youth and their parents. Thank you to our MYF leaders, our MYF Coordinator Christie Wheelock, and to all of our mentors.

Thank you also to our faithful United Methodist Women and to our hard-working new custodian and kitchen guru for an absolutely wonderful Christmas meal and celebration following worship. Thanks to all who brought a bounty of side-dishes to make the meal a delightful feast.

We give God thanks for the privilege of celebrating with about 150 people on that Sunday. It was a true Christmas blessing.



Our 5pm service on Christmas Eve was a very special start to everyone's Christmas celebrations. Thank you to all who read scriptures and led prayers, served as greeters and ushers and operated the A/V System. Thank you to Kylee Tullos, Lora Parvin, Grace Parvin and Christie Wheelock for beautiful solo performances and to Ray Housley and Bob Vickers for their band performances.

What a joy to share in Holy Communion with family and friends, members and visitors. And, of course, we always enjoy the candlelight "Silent Night" time.

Thanks to God and to your generosity we received a special offering of \$1,168.60. This offering from the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is given each year to Providence Place in San Antonio and the Methodist Children's Home in Waco. They will each receive a check for \$584.30. What a privilege to be able to bless these life-changing ministries!

SPECIAL THANKS to all (you know who you are) that helped to beautifully decorate our church for a wonderful Christmas season.



Rio Texas Conference Safety Certification Training

Many staff and MYF volunteers and mentors started this training in early December and have already completed Steps 1 and 2 of the process. **If you were unable to complete your training by the first deadline of December 31, please do so as soon as possible. The final Step 3 of the certification will be scheduled soon.**

Any member of the congregation is invited to go through the training process and become certified. There is no cost to you, as the church and conference pay for the certification. Please contact Christie in the church office if you are interested.

Remember: Everyone working with our children, youth and vulnerable adults must be certified every two years by the Rio Texas Conference (effective June 2018). All training can be done online. **This is for the safety of our children, youth and our vulnerable adults; and for the safety of our volunteers and mentors working with our children, youth and vulnerable adults.**

Thank you Bob Vickers and Tim Sadler for donating laptops to the church. These laptops are available to the congregation for use in the church building.



Methodist Youth Fellowship – resumes January 10th!

Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) Wednesday evenings - 5:30-7pm

We begin each evening with a meal and some outdoor play (when possible).

All ages then gather in the sanctuary for music.

PreK (age 4) through 8th grades meet for interactive praise, worship, sermon, and learning.

Our high school youth gather in their own space for a lesson and fellowship time together.

December – MYF group presented “The Gifts of Christmas” on December 10th during the worship service. The Gifts of Prophecy, a Savior, Joy, Worship and Love were unwrapped for all to see. Our jr. high and high school youth served as narrators and elementary children were Mary and Joseph, gift unwrappers, angels, shepherds and Wiseman. Youth of all ages were greeters, song leaders, soloists, musicians, song leaders, ushers, acolytes and A/V system operators. Special thanks to our mentors for helping make it all come together.



