

December

FUMC Newsletter - Sterling City, Texas 76951

Church Services

- Sunday School- 10am
- Worship Service-11am

Issue includes:

- Prayer List
- Pastoral Letter
- Monthly Celebrations
- Monthly Calendar
- November Financial Report
- West District News



Please look through this newsletter, attend, worship, and follow us @
www.sterlingmethodists.com or check out our Facebook page

Sterling City First United Methodist Church

Pray Without Ceasing

Travelers during holidays

Lora Duncan

Cynthia Browne

Lupe Escobar

Susan & Tommy Wyatt

Bill Eubank

Rosemary Rodriguez

Shawna Walker

Sam Lucero

Florence Bodine

Emery Holt

Hunsley Strickland

Haley Stallings

Ramone Navaro

Kent Beard

Carol Brown

John Blackstock

Grover Johnson

Dr. Pat Moore

Jo Foster (Nana)

Mike & Jaynell Bodine

Beverly Pruitt

Bill Jones

The Hogan Family

Terry Quinn Family

Randy Williams & Family

Jack Clark

James Thomas

Wade Jones

Jim Gerner—Cancer

Adela De Hoyos

Anna Robledo

Albert & Phillip Estrada

Mary Rodriguez

Jere Thomas

Ronnie Kilpatrick

Bitsy Durham

Grace Copeland

Dolly Rauch

Donnie Hinderliter

Betty Fields

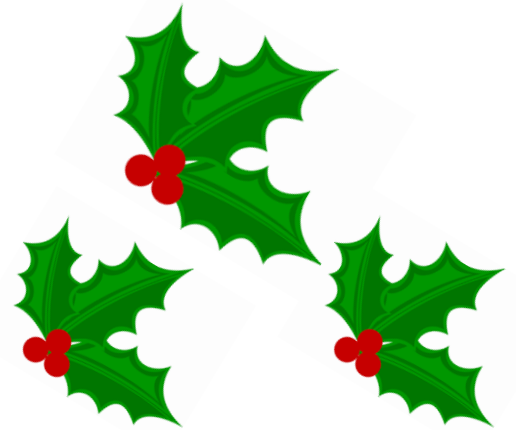
Eileen Sonberg

Skeete Foster

Chad Kane & Family

Ollie Schneemann

David Longoria



Heavenly Father,

May our Christmas season be

A time of reconciliation and

Peace

May the love of Christ be with us

May His Peace surround us

May our Christmas be a time

Of healing, giving and sharing

May Your Spirit be with us

As we share and care in Jesus'

Blessed birth,

Amen!



November 29th, 2017



Evil in a Broken World

Hello Church! I just spent the better part of today with ~100 other church leaders (clergy and laity) at a security training focused mainly on active shooter scenarios. It was very informative and I'll discern soon the best way to disseminate the best of the information to you all. I'm thinking Wednesday evening would be best, but am discerning dates with all that is going on. Stay tuned and please don't miss this critical information.

Pledge Cards

At the suggestion of the Finance Committee (a great one I believe) we are doing pledge cards for the first time in some time. They are available in the gathering area of the sanctuary but if you need one, I will even hand deliver them. These are a vital tool for our Finance team to budget and spend conscientiously. We asked for them to be turned in by this Friday so please turn them in as soon as you can prayerfully discern filling them out. You don't have to write the entire amount you intend to give, an estimate is fine. I know many folks like to give largely in December. You can even put an amount for the entire year if you'd like. Our team also greatly appreciates regular giving via Electronic Funds Transfer, even if it's only a portion of the total pledge. Talk to Karen Hodges, Stan Horwood, myself, or another member of our Finance Team if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous support!!

Christmas Is Not Your Birthday!

We ran a mission campaign last year for the first time emphasizing that, "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday." It is the birthday of Jesus the Christ! He had few material possessions, was functionally homeless, and gave of all he had for us. I am so proud of our fundraising last year! A guideline suggested by the man who coined the phrase above is to spend the same amount toward missions each Christmas as you spend on presents for yourself and your families. The money raised last year has worked this year to improve the poorest of the poor in Malawi. Thank you again!

This year, we've been asked by Conference Leadership to raise money toward the Conference approved commitment (\$500K total over 3 years) toward Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI) in El Paso, Texas. LPI is an incredibly fruitful ministry (a high school) for very poor youth mainly from Juarez, Mexico. Many LPI students literally risk their lives each day to cross the bridge from Juarez and attend LPI. LPI has deep connections to our conference and our area and is nothing short of amazing. You'll be hearing more about LPI in worship soon.

So, I have been praying and discerned that perhaps a 50/50 split would be proper this year. I do not want to abandon MicroFinance and the incredible fruit that is borne of it. But I also believe deeply in the fruitfulness and effectiveness of LPI.

So I ask again to give generously in honor of the birthday Savior and Lord of the Universe! I've included several links below to more information about these two great causes.



<http://www.lpi-elp.org/>

<https://riotexas.org/news/2017/11/28/rio-texas-churches-to-support-lpi-through-christmas-offering>



<https://www.umcmicrofinance.org/>

It is a privilege being your pastor! Stay tuned to all the great happenings this Christmas and Holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Jim Noble".

Rev. Jim Noble

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays

1st Monica Peters
3rd Clyde Parham
3rd BJ Thomason
5th Michael Jaramillo
5th Roberta McCrea
6th Brantley Price
10th Asthin Knittel
10th Haylee Dean Jaramillo
11th Denver McMinn
11th Terry Palradakis
13th Jason Cox
14th Braxton Louder
15th Jessica Louder
15th Nathan Scott Foster
18th Fred Thompson
19th Rose Monreal
20th Lyle Horwood
24th Scot Long

Anniversaries

19th Mike & Robbie Knittel
20th Jack & Janice Clark
22nd Raymond & Lorrie Bratton

Happy Birthday
JESUS

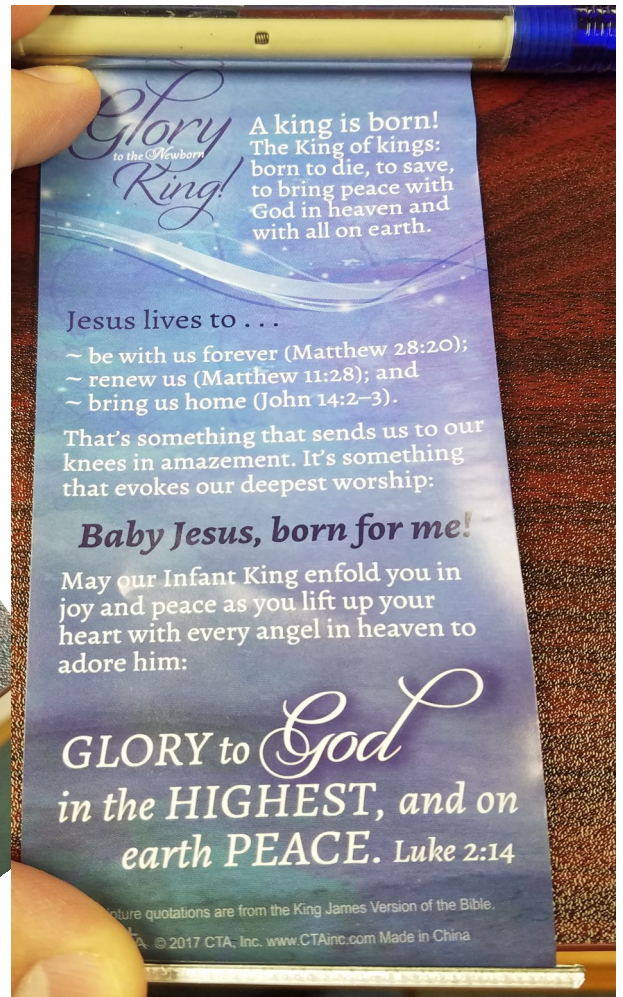


DECEMBER

Events



- ◇ December 6th - Sterling City Christmas Stroll @ 6pm on the Courthouse lawn for lighting of the tree.
**Parents, please have your Hallelujah Handbell ringer (s) at the Courthouse by 5:15pm. **
- ◇ December 10th - Pancake fundraiser @ 9am in FLC.
- ◇ December 10th - Children & Youth Christmas Extravaganza!
- ◇ Don't forget to turn in 2018 Pledge Cards by the end of the year... And get a great pen!!



November Financial Report

Financial Report Operating Fund

November, 2017

**Keep an eye out for the
November Financial Report
in a separate email!**





Poinsettia Order Form

I/We wish to place the following poinsettias at \$10.00 each in the sanctuary for Christmas:

(circle one)

1. In memory/honor of _____
2. In memory/honor of _____
3. In memory/honor of _____
4. In memory/honor of _____
5. In memory/honor of _____

Given by _____

Your order may be placed in the offering plate or given to Roberta McCrea (mail to PO Box 876). Please include your check payable to FUMC with your order and note “poinsettias” at the bottom.

Orders are due by December 10th.





West District News



Good Tidings

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11 KJV

It was Christmas Eve, 2014. Our family was gathered around the dinner table between Christmas Eve worship services where I would preach a sermon titled, "Good Tidings." At the table were our daughter Maggie, her husband Brian, Brian's parents, my parents, Robyn and I. After saying grace, and everyone serving their plates, Brian announced, "Well, we have some good tidings; Maggie's pregnant!"

We sat in stunned silence for a couple of seconds, then we jumped up to hug and congratulate Maggie and Brian. Everyone jumped up but Brian's mother Candy, who sat there slack-jawed for what seemed like a full two minutes before someone shouted, "Candy, breathe!" She then let out a little scream, and joined the rest of us in celebration.

You see, Maggie and Brian had been married for eight years at that point, and we potential grandparents had quit asking if they were ever gonna have a kid. So, the news of Maggie's pregnancy was very good tidings – especially on Christmas Eve!

Annabelle was born the following July. She is our third grandchild (all girls), and the first for Brian's parents. Her birth brought joy to two families. So the birth of the Christ child brings joy to seemingly countless families.

In the frenzied rush of decorating, baking, buying presents, planning and attending parties, visiting relatives and general merry-making, it is easy to forget that what we are celebrating is the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord.

When God decided it was the right time, he chose to show himself to us by becoming one of us. Jesus is God's way of saying, "This is what I look like." "This is who I Am." Jesus' gospel (literally, good tidings) of words and deeds teaches us how to live and love. Jesus' passion (trial, death and resurrection) forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. Good tidings, indeed!

For unto us is born on Christmas day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! Thanks be to God! Wishing you hope, joy, love and peace this Advent and Christmas.

Andy



A Christian Greeting

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Proverbs 1:7

Every Person has the power to make others happy.

Some do it simply by entering a room, others by leaving the room.

Some individuals leave trails of gloom; others, trails of joy.

Some leave trails of hate and bitterness; others, trails of love and harmony.

Some leave trails of cynicism and pessimism; others trails of faith and optimism.

Some leave trails of criticism and resignation; others trails of gratitude and hope.

WHAT KIND OF TRAILS DO YOU LEAVE????

William Arthur Ward

Today you may be bombarded by people giving advice, talk show hosts, fake news, or just someone's opinion! Take more time to listen to God than to television. At the end of the day, assess which words of wisdom you applied (or should have!)

More of Him, Less of Me,

Gini