



**First United Methodist Church**

P. O. Box 352 - 206 S. Dowling - Hallettsville, TX 77964  
Office: (361)798-2650 E-mail: [hfumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hfumc@sbcglobal.net)

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**

16<sup>th</sup> – Music Program  
Meet & Greet  
10-12 noon

**February**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Lunch & Learn  
  
6<sup>th</sup> – Music Program Lessons  
begin  
10-12 noon

**Happy New Year to one and all!**

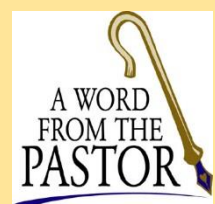
For those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ, the New Year is always a renewed invitation to remember who we are, and whose we are, and to seek opportunities to grow in our faith.

I invite you to join with me in a very special opportunity to focus on Jesus in this New Year. In particular, as a congregation, we will focus on a very special goal in 2016: to SHARE JESUS.

The truth is we live in a troubled world. Everything we think and say and do multiplies. A word or action of kindness or comfort we speak will be passed on to someone else. A word or action of harsh criticism will be passed on to someone else. Christ our Lord invites us to consider the truth that our words and actions are powerful and effective. Will we use our words and our actions according to God's will or according to our own will.

Our invitation in this wonderful New Year is to consider a very specific commitment: to go out of our way to share Jesus in some way every single day of 2016.

What greater gift could we offer each other and our families and our communities than this? Of course we want to SHARE JESUS everywhere we go!! But what does that look like?



## OUR PRAYER LIST

Past & Present Military  
Men & Women

Austin Aiken – Air Force  
Carol Aiken  
Herb & Kay Aiken  
Kathleen Aiken  
Michael Aiken  
Lillian Allen  
Bidge Bairrington  
Beth  
Richard Bierman  
Riley Blum  
Dorothy Boggus  
Douglas Boggus  
Canaan, Amanda & Casey  
Bowers

Anne Brenton  
Bill Burns  
Gertrude Burrow  
Annie Cerny  
Ada R. Cole  
Dean Corgey  
Stephen Cornelius  
Raymond Derry  
Frank & Gail Eckert  
Rev. Ellen Ely  
Charles Evans  
Chez Evans  
Family of Pat Fleming  
Daniel Fric  
Clem Garcia  
Tommy Godwin  
Bill Grafe  
Family of Cheryl Gray  
Fannie & Bob Griffith  
Tara Halla  
Kathy Harding  
Bill Holloway  
Mason Hoot  
Lundy Hooten  
Tristin Van Hoy (infant)  
Wayne Johnson  
Shiela Jones  
Henry Kostelnik  
Kristi Kostelnik  
Lane  
Law Enforcement  
Mildred Lester  
Ron Lewis – Home  
Linda  
Shirey Loden  
Keith McConnell  
BeBe McGee  
Landon McLennan  
Pastor Melanie and family  
Jonell Miears  
Laurie Monical  
Morgan Family  
Charles Ed New  
Lillian New  
Clara Nichols  
June & Bob Page  
Leslie Parvin  
Peg  
Pete Pequeno  
Jackie Powell  
McLain Raybon  
Lester Rice  
Judy Richards  
Fran Ringo  
Lisa Ringo  
Ione Riske – S'burg College Pl  
Vernon Rose  
Heidi Rother  
Prayer List (con't)

Sometimes we imagine that SHARING JESUS is so complicated we have to leave that to the “experts”. We imagine we have to know the Bible inside out, or that we have to preach like Peter or pray like Paul. The good news is that SHARING JESUS really is not complicated at all.

Because we are loved and forgiven and accepted children of God, we know that even in the middle of crises, God is with us, guiding us, directing us protecting us. Hope is *always* a part of who we are, of what we think and say and do.

**1. This means we can SHARE JESUS by staying positive and having a good attitude even in the middle of a crisis in our own lives.**

Because of the way Jesus sacrificed his life, to save each of us, we know that God loves us with deepest respect and dignity,

**2. This means we can SHARE JESUS by treating people with respect and dignity, no matter the circumstance.**

Because we are abundantly blessed, we have abundant blessings to share.

**3. This means we can SHARE JESUS by finding ways to be a blessing to others**

Because we know that God has provided, is providing, and will always provide for all of our needs, we have been set free to do the right thing, everywhere we go.

**4. This means we can SHARE JESUS BY living a life of integrity**  
(this includes times when a cashier gives us too much change, for example.)

As forgiven children of God, it is our joy and our privilege to share that same forgiveness everywhere we go.

**5. This means we can SHARE JESUS by becoming a model of forgiveness**

In this beautiful time of new beginnings, brothers and sisters in Christ, let's SHARE JESUS everywhere we go!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

*Pastor Melanie*



### Hanging of the Greens

Many thanks to Susan Housley, Ray Housley, Brenda Sitka, Roger Sitka, Brice Sitka, Bryant Sitka, Brent Sitka, Blake Sitka, Paula Walker, Summer Davenport, Teddi Scott, Dawn Jansky, Mary Jane Swope and more who participated in any way in decorating the whole church for the Christmas season.

Thank you also to the folks who set up our beautiful manger scene outside and for those who have kept the lights burning. What a joyful remembrance of this Holy season for all of us and for those who pass by this church.

Sarah  
 Sue Schiff  
 Jordan Schott  
 Family of David Schumann  
 Jocelyn Seals  
 Karen Seuser  
 Ed & Peg Shearer  
 Cate Siragusa  
 Rev. Paul Smith & Family  
 Marionelle Smothers  
 Baca St. Ange  
 Lyle Stang – army overseas  
 Stephanie  
 Dean Stewart  
 Lawrence Teaff  
 Amanda Thompson  
 Gene Timm- S'burg Regency  
 Jaelyn Tupa  
 Traylor Walker  
 Dede Barnes Welder  
 Austin & Scott Wilson  
 Keaty & Tanner Wilson  
 Lyn Wyatt  
 Summer Zarate  
 Rita Zaruba

### Invitation to Christmas Eve Services



Join us for  
 Christmas Eve  
 Service @ 5pm

First United Methodist Church  
 206 S. Dowling  
 Hallettsville, TX

Following our Children's  
 Program and Christmas  
 meal on December 13,  
 everyone was asked to  
 take a yard sign inviting the  
 community to our  
 Christmas Eve Service.  
 Thank you all for your great  
 response. We saw signs all  
 over Hallettsville, south on  
 77, North on 77, out  
 Highway 90a and more!  
 Thanks everybody!

### Thank you...

Mary Jane Swope and  
 Mary Ann Defibaugh for  
 helping us serve light  
 refreshments before and  
 after our Christmas Eve  
 service. What a wonderful  
 sign of the generous  
 hospitality of our church  
 family.

### St. Nicholas Ministry . . .

Many thanks to everyone who participated in any way in the St. Nicholas Ministry this year. Many of you donated toys and food. We received a special St. Nicholas Ministry offering in the amount of \$390.00 which was very helpful. Others volunteered their time to assist with wrapping or pick up or delivery of items.

The Bible teaches us that when we care for others in need, in any way, we are actually caring for our Lord Jesus himself.

We are grateful for the leadership of Pastor Herb Beyer in this opportunity to serve Jesus right here.



### New Landscaping

Thanks to our Trustees and our Building and Grounds committee for arranging for the beautiful new landscaping in front of the church. What a blessing to share the beauty of God's world with our community and beyond.



First United Methodist Church  
 Smithville, Texas

12/9/15

Dear Pastor Melanie and the Hallettsville Congregation,

We want to thank you so very much for the generous contribution you sent to assist area flood/fire victims. Every dollar counts!

Please know along with your check in the amount of \$316.00 came affirmation of your thoughts and prayers for the people of the Smithville area.

May God's richest blessings be yours as you continue the Advent journey and minister to those in need in your area as well

In Christian love,  
 Pastor Karen Boehk & the FUMC Family



Hand & Foot Card Group  
 Christmas Party

## Mossy Grove

On Sunday December 6, Mossy Grove UMC hosted their annual Christmas Worship Celebration and Dinner. 33 people attended for a rousing singing of favorite Christmas carols. Following worship, there was the opening of gifts. Then to a delicious covered dish meal of Christmas favorites.



You are always welcome to attend worship at Mossy Grove UMC. You can get to the church by going South on Main Street (Hallettsville) for about 8 miles. You will see the little white church in the middle of a field. Worship services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 6pm. You are welcome to join in the covered dish fellowship meal that follows each worship service.

## Nursing Home Ministry

On the first Sunday of Advent, members of both FUMC Hallettsville and of Mossy Grove UMC met for Nursing Home Sunday. Beginning at Steven's Nursing Home, and then moved on to Hallettsville Rehab, we joined with residents in singing Christmas carols and in sharing in Holy Communion.

Mossy Grove UMC presented each resident with a gift and a Christmas treat.

Many thanks to Mary Ann Swope for her leadership and to every person who attended.

Our next Nursing Home Sunday will be on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 3pm. Hope to see you there!



**Mary Ann Defibaugh delivering sheets & towels to Hospitality Apartments!**



## Methodist Women

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month – Alma Circle at 10am  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month – Bible Study at 10am

“Follow” bible study continues every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.  
Please join us!



The faithful members of the Methodist Women's group ALMA Circle, have been very busy during the Christmas Season. Many thanks for the beautiful new tree and decorations in the Fellowship Hall and for the festive decorations in the sanctuary windows.

The ham and turkeys and drinks and rolls provided for our December 13 Celebration were delicious.

We appreciate all the work that members of Alma Circle do, so much of it quietly and behind the scenes. We are also very grateful for their willingness to organize and lead opportunities for our entire congregation to participate in times of celebration and in time of need as we serve God by loving and caring for our church family.



## Methodist Youth Fellowship

Attention All Youth!!!

MYF Begins Again on January 13, 2016

“Good Behavior” and “Attendance” Rewards will be given!

Our Wednesday Night MYF for Children and Youth program will resume on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, from 5:30 to 7:00pm. The evening begins with a meal, then a Bible lesson and worship in the sanctuary, then age groups separate for more learning activities. The program is open to kids from Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you are already an MYF volunteer, thank you. We love you. We appreciate you more than we can say.

If you would like to help out in the kitchen, or teaching, or in being a trusted adult assistant, please see Kristin Marak or Christie Wheelock.

**Night of Old St. Nick** – Eighteen of our Wednesday night MYF kids along with parents and leaders gathered at French Simpson Memorial Library at 5:30pm on December 4. They sang 8 Christmas carols. In addition, Dayton Jansky on drums, Rylan Marak on fiddle, and Ridge Walker on alto sax played “Little Drummer Boy”. They did a wonderful job. Everyone there, including St. Nick himself (Pastor Herb Beyer) enjoyed the beautiful singing and the fellowship in that place.

Thank you kids, parents and leaders for sharing the joyful birth of Jesus with our community!



**Children's Christmas Program** - On Sunday, December 13, 148 people gathered in praise and worship for the Annual Children's Program. All of our fearless and fabulous MYF Youth and Children's Program leaders, our children and youth, their families, the Alma Circle, the kitchen crew led by Kenneth Swope, including Mary Jane Swope, Ray Housley, Susan Housley, Mary Ann Defibaugh, Nancy Furhken, Doris Barnes, and many other very faithful members of this congregation, all worked together to make the program and the delicious meal afterward a rich and meaningful experience of the Christmas season.

Children and youth led the entire service, with only brief moments led by Pastor Melanie. The program included a reading of the Christmas scriptures, a Play about the Legend of the Candy Cane, and the ABC's of Christmas. We were very blessed to enjoy wonderful solos by Danna Jansky and by Sophia Walker. Our angel choir sang "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and all the kids sang "We Wish you A Merry Christmas". The offertory music was a great performance of "Little Drummer Boy". Dayton Jansky played the drums. Rylan Marak played the fiddle. Ridge Walker played alto saxophone, and Caroline Hrcir played the bass clarinet.

Special thanks to our MYF team led by Kristin Marak, Dawn Jansky, Sara Repka, Brenda Sitka, and Christie Wheelock for your love and dedication and hard work. Special thanks also to all who help with our MYF program in any way, to Paula Walker, Teddi Scott, Summer Davenport, Marvin Peterson, Dave Harris, Elrose Ehler, Mary Ann Defibaugh, Kenneth Swope, Mary Jane Swope, Liz Nunnely, Heather Lundy, Nancy Hunter, Nova Layton, Ronnie Layton, Eric Marak.



