



Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

“A Holy Christmas: Communion, Carols, and Candlelight”

Family Friendly @ 5:00pm

Silent Night, Holy Night @ 7:00pm



One Service

December 29 @ 10am

Come as you are and bring friends to sing carols and share the Christmas story!



connect

grow

Be on the lookout for new events offered by the Connect/Grow Team in 2020!

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2020 Vision and View

How's your vision? "Vision" is how we see. But "View" is what we perceive or what we see from a particular place. "View" is perspective--not so much what you are looking at as **where you stand** to look... where you are looking **from!** We all have a perspective and it is conditioned by where we stand, where we have come from, and which way we are facing.



Leaders talk about Vision and we project that perspective on a screen for all to see. We describe our "View" of the past and our "Vision" for the future. I was proud of our young people leading in worship on December 15. Their energy and enthusiasm is contagious. Mandy Swinson and Jennifer Knight are doing a great job leading them and I can hardly wait to see what miracles will take place in the coming year. What will they do? And how will this congregation be transformed by that? In the next year and beyond? Help them every way you can and lift them in your prayers!

So talking about the coming year is really what I wanted to do in this article. By now, it is a cliché to talk about 2020 Vision. But 2020 is almost here and how we envision that year is vital to the future AND TO THE PRESENT!

"As spiritual leader of this congregation,
the vision I commend and command
is that we will focus on growing younger."

"Impossible!" you say, and you might be right... **if we each look at that prospect individually.**

But if we look at it as a community of faith, growth can come in both ways-- Growing Older AND GROWING YOUNGER! It is the mission of the church to reach ALL people with the transforming message of hope in Jesus Christ! Our need for growing younger is and should be a powerful motivator. Our Mission is broad and includes welcoming and embracing children, youth, and young families with the arms of Jesus!

We **grow older** as a community. We will age out and die as a community if we do not **also** grow younger!

As I said during our Jubilee celebration...we **GLANCE AT THE PAST** but we **GAZE AT THE FUTURE!!** Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World is the Mission of the United Methodist Church. And with 2020 Vision, we will dig into this full speed! Let's go!

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 5
Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 12
Baptism of the Lord
Sunday

Sunday, January 19

Sunday, January 26

8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:

Pat Skaug (903) 259-9875

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Mitzi Parker (903) 886-7364

Trustees Chair:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

Finance Chair:

Jim Brown (903) 886-7439

FUMC Foundation President:

Ann Underhill (903) 886-3922

Worship & Connect Chair:

Pastor Sam (214) 842-9252

Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the end of the month. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at communications@fumccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, January 20 by 9:00am****

Children's Ministry

Sunday School for children PK-5th grade meets each Sunday from 9:45-10:30 in the PK room in the children's wing. Everyone is invited to join in the fun!

Our stories this month are about sharing the Good News and bringing people to God with changed hearts. Our Bible verse is, "So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives." Mark 6:12 and our song this month is "Only You".

- On **January 5** we will learn Mark 1:9-11 (Jesus is Baptized).
- On **January 12** we will read Luke 4:14-30 (Jesus Brings the Good News).
- On **January 19** our class will focus on Luke 5:27-32 (Jesus Calls Levi).
- On **January 26** join us as we read Mark 6:7-13 (Jesus Sends the Disciples).

We hope that you will join us for a fun-filled month as we learn more about God and grow closer to others.

"Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will turn from it." Proverbs 22:4

children's choir

Our Children's Choir for grades 3rd through 5th will start back in February. Look for more information coming soon!

Our Children's Choir shared their special music at the Merry Marketplace on December 5, in worship on December 15, and at Country Homes Estates on December 17.





UMYF had a great time helping out with the families who came out for the angel tree party. All of our youth did a fabulous job making the kids feel welcome by playing games, talking with, and just spending time with the kids.

UMYF wrapped up their year with a Gingerbread make and take and stuffed sock gift exchange.

We have had a great year and can't wait for what's to come!





A Great 2019 Merry Marketplace

It takes a whole church to make each Merry Marketplace successful! Our thanks to all who baked, preserved, cooked, served, planned, priced, moved items from the Dough Rollins, arranged, set up trees and tables, donated to the Antiques and Boutique, sewed, knitted, organized the silent auction, sang, advertised, phoned, publicized, handled the greens sale, cashiered, picked up, did the take-down. Thanks also to all who attended, supported Alternative Gifts; shopped at Prayer Shawl, the Bakery and Antiques/ Boutique; ate lunch and bid in the Silent Auction.

Much appreciation to the generous donors to the Silent Auction, which raised \$1000.00 to go to the church Serve team to benefit missions of the church. We would like to recognize:

1. Adventures in Printing: gift card
2. All the Pretty Things: gift certificate
3. April Showers Florist: gift card
4. Bois d'Arc Studio: Wooden décor item
5. Commerce Fitness: 1 week membership
6. Dos Laredos Tex-Mex Restaurant: gift card
7. El Golfo Mexican Seafood Bar: Dinner for 2
8. Family Smiles: gift basket
9. Fix and Feed: gas griddle
10. Hoover's Automotive: free oil change
11. Huffman Farm Supply: hummingbird feeder and gift basket
12. Jim and Nell Brown: cast iron wood burning stove
13. Kiss 'N Makeup (Karen Helton): brow shaping, brow pencil, brow fixer
14. Landon Winery: Wine tasting for 4 and cheeseboard
15. Latson's Printing: gift certificate for copies
16. Luigi's Italian Café: 3 large single-topping pizzas
17. Mugs: gift basket
18. O'Reilly Auto Parts: gift card & 45-piece socket set w/tools
19. Personalized Printing: gift basket
20. Personalized Printing: gift basket
21. Priscilla McFarland: Little Ark-themed quilt
22. Rootz Flowers and Design: arrangement and gift card
23. Shear Relaxation Spa: 50-minute massage and facial
24. Speight Plumbing: gift certificate
25. Splash Kingdom: 2020 season Pass
26. Texan Theater: Party for 50
27. Tokyo Express Japanese Restaurant: 4 gift certificates
28. Too Good! Treats: gift basket
29. Two Eleven Boutique: gift certificate

So, it takes not only a whole church but also a whole community to make a success of the Merry Marketplace!

In 2019 at our 7th annual Merry Marketplace, we were able to raise \$4945.25 to go to the Serve team to benefit missions of the church, plus greens sale to benefit youth.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner

On Thanksgiving Day, about 125 people braved the rainy, cold weather to come together to enjoy a free traditional turkey dinner. More meals were delivered or taken to go. Those who attended enjoyed fellowship with those they knew and those they just met.

A HUGE thank you to all who worked to make this event a success! To all who made Drop a Dollar donations to fund the meal. To the volunteers who made soup and pie for the dinner, to the women of Mt. Moriah Church for preparing the sweet potatoes, to Brookshire's and Sodexo for their generous contributions to the meal. And to all the volunteers, who came out Thanksgiving day to make the Community dinner a success. These folks decorated tables, worked in the kitchen to prepare food, cut and plated pies, packed to-go boxes for delivery, delivered meals, greeted guests, served the delicious food, and helped wash dishes and clean up. A big thanks to Mike Elwell and Sabrina Green for leading the efforts on Thanksgiving Day! What a joy to see faith and service in action!

Unfortunately we totally forgot to take pictures.




connect **grow**

Connect Grow
Monday, January 13
@ 6pm

FIRST THURSDAY


Potluck Luncheon
January 2
@ 12pm



Holiday Office Schedule

The church office will be closed

- *Tuesday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Dec. 27 for Christmas
- *Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Prayers for our children and youth as school starts back.

In memory of...

Euple Walker

- By: Alta Fay Peden
 David & Luann Huffman
 Martha & John Foote
 Jeff & Jan Helton
 Betty Martin
 Jo Murphy
 Judy Rudoff
 Mariann Andrews
 Susan Lampe & Barbara Gish
 Dough Rollins SS Class
 Pat & Janet Skauge
 Edna O'Quinn
 Jim & Susan Patton
 Mike & Jean Crawford
 Margaret Floyd
 Nell & John Avery
 Rheba Icenhower
 Glenna Julian
 Gary & Beverly Moore
 George and Chery Lacy



Thank
you



Thanks to the members of the Church Staff and the leadership of our congregation and to God for a great year and the unfolding of a new one.

Lois Cranford

By: Dough Rollins SS Class

By the Numbers

Attendance

| | Early | Late | SS |
|--------------------|-------|------|----|
| December 1 | 30 | 75 | 37 |
| December 8 | 33 | 71 | 47 |
| December 15 | 35 | 126 | 68 |
| December 22 | 29 | 69 | 31 |

A NOTE
ABOUT YEAR
END GIVING



Year end giving, and all giving, is greatly appreciated. For financial gifts to reflect your 2019 giving statement, please submit by January 5th with check date of December 31st and 2019 in the memo line.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Nathan Blanks
Randall Bunch (Shay Bunch's father)
Dennis Wilkinson
Our First Responders

Continued Prayers (long term)

Our world and country and our leaders, Glenna Anderson (Dennis Anderson's mother), Betty Casselberry, Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Virginia Collier, Garrett Cramer, Abby Crawford (Janet Skauge's granddaughter), Jack & Gladys Gray, Sally Grove, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Colton Hanson, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father), Zachary Madden, Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents), Betty Morton, Alfredo Muniz, Richard Norton, Walt Parker, Sara Plemons, (Mimi Dobbs' sister), Robert Seay, Odeana Stewart, Donna Tavener

Oak Manor: Helen Cole, Barbara Gish, Nick Heath, Myra Terrell

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn

Briarcliff: Gene Casselberry

Colonial Lodge (Tender Care): Joe McMahan

Greenville Health & Rehab: Mildred Davis

Christian Care Center (Mesquite): Roger & Jean Arnold

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Military separated from family during this holiday season
Lt. Dan Barton
Daniel Chamberlain
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
IT2 Patrick Stogner (Janelle Stogner's grandson in Japan)
Col. Keith Williams

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
James 5:16*

Help us hold each other in prayer by contacting the church office with new prayer concerns and updates on existing prayer requests.

If you have someone you would like to add or remove from the prayer list, please let the church office know (903-886-3220).

**In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Sam at 214-842-9252.**



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Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, January 20 by 9:00am