

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8*



Hopefully at this time everyone in our church family is working on filling their *Operation Christmas Child* boxes. Our church is such a loving, caring group of believers. We have always been so supportive of this ministry. Praise God!

Remember the deadline date for our church is November 9. The boxes will then be taken to the collection site to celebrate National Collection Week. We will have a *Service of Blessing* over the Boxes on November 13. Operation Christmas Child packing boxes are available in the church office or on the table across from the chapel. Instructions for packing the boxes, including labels and postage information, are available.

Please pray for the child who will receive your box. Write a personal note to your child. This may be the first time this child has known the love of Jesus Christ. You can make a huge difference in the lives of these children. God bless each of you.

## Possible Change to Worship Location

Due to a drop in our giving both morning worship services will temporarily change location January 1, 2017 and be held in the Fellowship Hall. This decision was made in an effort to conserve energy and reduce expenses. It costs approximately twice as much to heat/cool the Sanctuary as it does to heat/cool the rest of the Church, including the Fellowship Hall. Our expenses have outpaced our giving. As a result the Church is being forced to move our services to the Fellowship Hall, however if our giving increases this step may not be necessary. The Church Council will meet in December to re-evaluate this decision. We all have a Sanctuary that we love to worship in so let us join together to insure that we will continue to meet there in the days ahead.

## Annual Thanksgiving Lunch

The Annual Thanksgiving luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 13, immediately following the 10:40 Worship Service. The *Spirit Seekers* class will be your host and will provide the turkey, dressing, rolls, and tea. They ask the congregation to bring side dishes and/or desserts. We will be serving the shut-in's again this year. Come and worship and then stay and enjoy the food and fellowship!

## The Pastor's Page

We've all heard about taking two steps forward and one step back. It's not the most effective way to move forward, but some days are like that. Well, the same goes for organizations whether they are businesses, governments, or churches. It can be a good way to describe the events of the day. I guess you could call it the rule of struggling forward. The key is to always keep moving forward, so the steps ahead far out way the steps back.

When Jesus sent out 70 disciples to spread the word to the towns and villages he would visit he knew there would be good days and bad ones. Some of the towns would celebrate with the disciples by opening their homes to them and breaking bread together. Others would refuse them. Jesus counseled the disciples not to worry about the rejections, but to wipe away the dust of the town and to move forward. In other words, celebrate the success of the Spirit and don't dwell on the setbacks. Just keep working and moving forward.

Our Church is, of course, no exception to the rule of struggling forward. For a year and a half, we went without a Youth Director. Hard working volunteers filled in the gap but we did lose ground. On the other hand, the Children's Ministry continued to thrive and move forward. But these two ministries are closely related feeding into and supporting each other. Parents are looking for a church that can connect both children and youth to God. They are vital to the health of our church and our mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ. This fall we have a Youth

Director and the results are impressive. Our Wednesday youth program continues to be strong while our Sunday night program has been revived and now includes Sr. High Youth!



We have enjoyed an increase in outings, outreach in mission work and even a trip to Six Flags, which I'm still trying to recover from! Our children's program has seen an increase in attendance due to some thoughtful marketing and coordinating efforts with the schools. We even have the School Bus dropping off children at the Church for Kidz Klub! These are just two of our ministries moving forward and living out *our vision to be a community of Christ's followers by modeling God's love*. Next time you run into Mindy Sullivan (Children's Ministry Director) or Donna Williams (Youth Director) make sure and give them a big thank you for all the hard work they are doing. And don't forget about the army of volunteers they work with to keep these ministries going. We are a people moving forward! At the same time, we did experience a dip in giving this year. A step back even as we are moving forward into our future. It's important to remember that everything we do is linked together, all of our missions, building plans, worship and day to day operations are connected.

Our worship is affected by our utilities, our building renovation is affected by our ability to pay our building insurance and the list goes on from there. This year we had to borrow from the Renovation Fund to pay for the building insurance so we can have a building to renovate. We may need to temporarily move our worship service into the fellowship hall to save on heating and air conditioning. The Church Council will meet in December to review our income and expenses and hopefully will find the change unnecessary. I don't believe this is how anyone wants to go about the work of the church. But we need everyone working together to keep us moving forward.

We have a mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is a sacred mission Christ has given to all of his people:

*<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)*

We have a vision to guide us in our work, one based on the life and teachings of Christ. "To be a community of Christ's followers by modeling God's love." If we follow this simple, powerful vision, in all that we do and say we will prosper and continue to move forward. Our challenges will be addressed, and they will pass. Our missions will continue to reap a good harvest for our Lord. We are a people moving forward!  
God Bless,

*Pastor Rick*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:30 UMW Business mtg. 4:00 Confirmation Class - Library  <b>6:30 Holy Yoga</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30 Prayer 3:30 K. Klub 4:00- MS Yth 5:30 Fajitas 6:15 choir 6:30 HS Yth <b>6:30 Bible Study</b> 6:30 Trustees 7:00 CrossFire	<b>3</b> 10:00 hosting Ministerial Alliance  7:00 - WFF	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> All Saints Day  Youth Movie night	<b>7</b>  6:30 Church Council 7:00 - WFF	<b>8</b> 10:00 Pledge & World Service 4:00 Confirmation Class - Library 6:30 E. Sullivan <b>6:30 Holy Yoga</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30 Prayer 3:30 K. Klub 4:00- MS Yth 5:30 Chili Pie 6:15 choir 6:30 HS Yth <b>6:30 Bible Study</b> 7:00 CrossFire	<b>10</b>  7:00 - WFF	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Thanksgiving            Celebration            lunch</b>  Youth - craft/paint	<b>14</b>  7:00 - WFF	<b>15</b>  4:00 Confirmation Class - Library <b>6:30 Holy Yoga</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 Prayer 3:30 K. Klub 4:00- MS Yth 5:30 Soup & Sandwiches 6:15 choir 6:30 HS Yth <b>6:30 Bible Stdy</b> 7:00 CrossFire	<b>17</b>  4:00 Commodity dist. 6:00 Worship mtg. 7:00 - WFF	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  6:45 Alive @ :45
<b>20</b> Acolyte training after 10:40 service  Youth - Bowling	<b>21</b>  7:00 - WFF	<b>22</b>  <b>6:30 Holy Yoga</b> 6:430 Youth go to Faith Miss.	<b>23</b>  No Wed. activities	<b>24</b> Office closed  	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  No Youth	<b>28</b>  7:00 - WFF	<b>29</b>  <b>6:30 Holy Yoga</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 Prayer  3:30 K. Klub 4:00- MS Yth 6:15 choir 6:30 HS Yth <b>6:30 Bible Stdy</b> 7:00 CrossFire			



## Come Alive @ 45

Come Alive @ 45 service is being planned for Saturday, Nov. 19. CrossFire will provide its great music, and this will be a super worship service. We invite all of you to plan to attend and support this great ministry.

### “Thanks” Tree?

During the month of November at Kidz Klub the children will be transforming a Christmas tree into a “Thanks” tree. Each week they will be writing on the back of a leaf something that they are thankful for and hanging it on the tree. By the end of November the tree should be full of thankfulness. The tree will be located in the area by the Chapel. Be sure to check it each Sunday and watch the transformation.

What are  
you  
thankful  
for?



Thank you to all volunteers who make Kidz Klub possible each week! Your time, donations and prayers are greatly appreciated!!

Mindy Sullivan,  
Coordinator

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer.*

A friend is one who stands by us, wants the best for us and wants to help us move forward in life. True friends are few and far between. We often misuse the word friend when we refer to someone who may be nothing more than an acquaintance.

God is our only true friend. He is not a chain-gang boss who is sitting at a control panel waiting for us to commit some infraction. Instead, he patiently waits for us to come to him seeking a personal relationship with him.

If you have seen the picture of Jesus standing outside the door knocking, you will notice that there is no door knob for Jesus to simply open the door and enter. He waits for us to invite him in in order to begin our relationship with him. God pursues this intimate relationship with us day after day in our lives. We need only open door and ask him to enter in.



*“A friend loves at all times...” Proverbs 17: 17a*

Prayer: *Abba Father, your friendship is all I seek. You loved me before I was created and continue to love me, even when I am unlovable. May I seek your face and truly enjoy the friendship that you offer. Amen.*

Carole 🎵



On the menu for November is:

Nov. 2 - Fajitas  
Nov. 9 - Frito Chili Pie  
Nov. 16 - Soup & Sandwiches

*Our vision is to be a community of Christ followers by modeling God's love.*

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### Save the Date!

Kidz Klub  
Christmas Program

"Too-oo-oo-oo Busy!!!"

Dec. 3, 2016  
4:00 p.m.

### Charge Conference

Dec. 4, 2016

3:00 p.m. @

First UMC, Wichita Falls



*Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 6*

### Save the Date!

Chancel Choir  
Christmas Cantata

*Images of Adoration*

Dec. 18, 2016

8:15 a.m.

### Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, O my \_\_\_\_\_, and forget not all his benefits."

- A. people
- B. soul
- C. heart
- D. children



Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV)

- \* Carole Venhaus, Minister of Music
- \* Pat Doan, Keyboardist
- \* Stacia Arredondo, Secretary
- \* Rachel Spears, Nursery Attendant

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