



For the past several years our church family has responded to the call to discipleship through the ministry of *Operation Christmas Child*. By simply packing a shoe box, we are able to touch the lives of needy children both here in the US and around the world. We are able to have a part in meeting their physical and spiritual needs. Our children and youth have plans for participation in this ministry. Pray for them as they learn and receive the blessing of giving to others.

The collection date deadline for our church is November 9. This will allow time to transport the boxes to the collection site for the National Collection Week. We will have a Service of Blessing over the Boxes on November 13.

Although any shoe box or plastic box will do, *Operation Christmas Child* packing boxes are available in the church office or on the table across from the chapel. Instructions for packing the boxes—which include labels and postage information—are available next to the boxes or in

the church office. If you wrap your shoe box/boxes –please wrap the top and bottom separately. Place a rubber band around the box and include a personal note to the child if you desire. Tell the child where you live and let them know God loves them. Perhaps you might want to pack a box/boxes in honor or memory of someone you love (child, grandchild, friend, other family members) Maybe even a little “competition” among Sunday school classes!

If possible, include \$7.00 per box to cover shipping and other project costs. Shipping/postage donations are not necessary for packing a box. Please DO NOT let this be a stumbling block. Money for postage/shipping may be given to Stacia in the Church office or placed in the box. Checks should be made to First United Methodist Church Iowa Park.

The most important thing is to pray for the children who will receive your box. Pray for their families and for the *Operation Christmas Child* project. This is our opportunity to touch the heart and life of a child.



The Middle School Youth Group is now underway with some exciting trips and activities in the future.

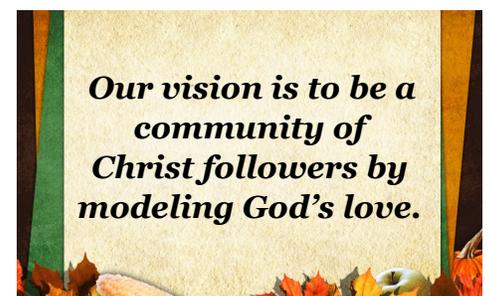
October will be a busy month with trips planned to the Plex for putt-putt and a tentative trip to Six Flags Over Texas.

We will be hosting 2 Hotdog Tailgate parties before the last two home football games. We will also be involved in the *Teens Make A Difference* Community Service Project.

Meetings include: Bible Study on Wed. 4-5:30 with the Church meal to follow and Sunday Funday beginning at 4:00 unless otherwise noted. Check the Church calendar for all activities, dates and times.

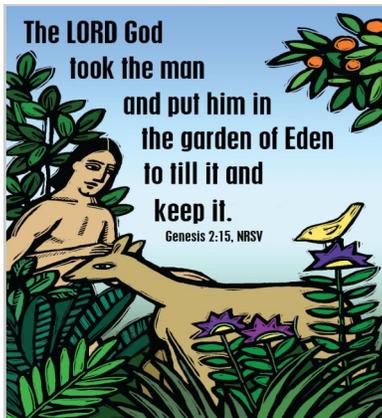
Thank you all for supporting our youth!

God Bless,
Donna Williams



The Pastor's Page

In Genesis, we learn of humanity's role in creation, that of caretaker, stewards of the earth. In the Garden of Eden Adam was given the task of naming the animals, a name which defined them and gave them purpose.



We were the caretakers, the gardeners, the game warden- if you will- of the Garden of Eden. Humanity was God's caretaker of earth, or as they understood it in ancient times, the cosmos. All of creation was under our love and protection, we were walking side by side with God in the Garden. One of the several lessons coming out of Genesis is what a privilege and joy it is to be a steward of God's creation.

The greatest revelation of God is Jesus Christ, who came as a caretaker, redeeming creation, in particular humanity. God is and always has been the steward of the creation. Taking care of the gifts of God in creation is part of the divine call for God's children. The universal church of Jesus Christ is part of God's care for the world. The church is both God's gift to the faithful and a responsibility.

The church bears the charge of continuing Jesus' mission into the world. God has always worked through groups such as the family of Abraham, the tribes of Israel, the church of Jesus Christ. Our part in the salvation plan has never been just about ourselves, but to travel into the world and make disciples of all nations. Together, we have been given the gift of stewardship.

An interesting part of stewardship is its great diversity. There are so many ways to contribute God's holy work in our world. Just consider some of what's being done at our own church as we reach out to our community and the world. We work through our North Texas Conference to supply disaster relief and other vital missions across the globe. Our distribution of food to those in Iowa Park, who otherwise would go hungry, and our support of other *Ministerial Alliance* programs are part of our stewardship in the community. Other stewardship ministries range from the after school program of Kidz Klub to The Christmas Shoe Boxes. Our Youth program and Kidz Klub embrace young people from other churches and those who have no church at all. Even our Confirmation class is part of our stewardship to God's children as we prepare them for a fruitful life within the church. This is but a short list of the work we do in God's garden, and they are made possible by the continued presence of FUMCIP. Our Sunday worship, music program, adult and children's Christian education are all dependent on a strong and vibrant church.

The care, maintenance, and renovation of our building are important aspects of our stewardship. It takes everyone, doing what they can, when they can, to ensure our continued presence in God's kingdom on earth.

During the month of October, we will be celebrating our own stewardship, both as a congregation and individuals.

We will lift up programs (gifts), as well as prayerfully consider our own contributions in the upcoming year of ministry.

Some of our Sunday school classes and a Wednesday night Bible class are working through a study which covers the spiritual aspects and wisdom of stewardship. May the work of our hands and our hearts demonstrate our love for Jesus Christ. May we fulfill our vision to be a community of Christ's followers by modeling God's love.

God Bless,
Pastor Rick

As United Methodist, our mission statement is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our vision statement informs us of how we are going to accomplish our mission. We will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by following our vision. **“Our vision is to be a community of Christ's followers by modeling God's love.”** Think about the power and depth of these words. With the power of the Holy Spirit, our vision will guide us and keep us on Christ mission for our church. Thanks to all who gave their time and effort.

October 2016

@ FUMC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 4:00 Youth Sunday Funday - Putt Putt	3 7:00 - WFF	4 10:00 UMW Business mtg. 4:00 Confirmation Class - Library 6:30 Holy Yoga	5 9:30 Prayer 3:30 K. Klub 4:00- MS Yth 5:30 Meatballs 6:15 choir 6:30 HS Yth 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Trustees 7:00 CrossFire	6 7:00 - WFF	7 6:30 Football Hotdog tailgate	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Kairos Outside overnight 5:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.</div>
9 4:00 Youth Sunday Funday	10 6:30 Church Council 7:00 - WFF	11 10:30 S. Wesley 4:00 Confirmation Class - Library 6:30 E. Sullivan @ Church 6:30 Holy Yoga	12 9:30 Prayer 3:30 K. Klub 4:00- MS Yth 5:30 Chx Tndr 6:15 choir 6:30 HS Yth 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 CrossFire	13 7:00 - WFF	14	15
16 4:00 Youth Sunday Funday	17 7:00 - WFF	18 4:00 Confirmation Class - Library 6:30 Holy Yoga	19 9:30 Prayer 3:30 K. Klub 4:00- MS Yth 5:30 Lasagna 6:15 choir 6:30 HS Yth 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 CrossFire	20 10:00 HCI Pastor's mtg. 7:00 - WFF	21	22 8:00 Six Flags (tentative) 9:00 - 3:00 Kairos 2:00 IPMA Golf Scramble
23 No Youth	24 7:00 - WFF	25 4:00 Confirmation Class - Library 6:30 Holy Yoga 6:45 Faith Mission - Spirit Seekers	26 9:30 Prayer 3:30 K. Klub 4:00- MS Yth 5:30 Potatoes 6:15 choir 6:30 HS Yth 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 CrossFire	27 4:00 Commodity distribution 6:00 Worship 7:00 - WFF	28 6:30 Football Hotdog tailgate	29 Youth 9-12 Teens Make a Difference 9:00 - 3:00 Kairos 5:00 - 8:00 Trunk or Treat
30 No Youth	31 7:00 - WFF					

Wesley Foundation

Thank you to all of those individuals and groups who have donated money to the Wesley Foundation this month. Connie and I thank you very much. We also would like to say a special "Thank You" to the *Spare and Pairs* class for signing up to serve a meal at Wesley. If you or your group would like to serve a meal (Thursdays, 11:00 – 1:00) please call University United Methodist Church in Wichita Falls and get on the calendar. Don Yeager, who is now the Pastor at Floral Heights United Methodist in Wichita Falls, is the new Chairman of the Board of the Wesley Foundation.

Again, Thank you for your continued support of this very important mission of the Methodist Church, and please continue to pray for the Wesley to find a director.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Lalk and
Connie Robinson

O Jesus, I Have Promised

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*

How many times have you heard or said, "a promise is a promise" or "a man's word is his bond?" There's even that age-old children's use of the "pinky swear." In today's world a promise is more often, "I will keep it if I feel like it benefits me."

As Christians, we have a loving God who has promised us a place in heaven, if we will but accept the salvation that he offers us through his only Son, Jesus Christ. That is a promise for the ages. In return we promise to love, serve, obey and praise him with all of our being. This is a commitment we make when we come into a relationship with him. It is not always easy being a Christian, especially in today's world. But if we have accepted Jesus as our Savior, we have made that promise and with all our being must be true to it.

Make an effort to present yourself to God as a tried-and-true worker, who doesn't need to be ashamed but is one who interprets the message of truth correctly. 2 Timothy 2: 15.

PRAYER: *Loving Lord, may my promise be a true one that I commit to you. May I follow you in all I do and give you all the glory, honor and praise. Amen.*

Carole 🎵



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will have a Business meeting at the Church on Tuesday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m.

The Susannah Wesley Circle will meet at the Church Tuesday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m. Amy West, Speech Therapist, will present the program on testing your short-term memory.

The Elsie Sullivan Circle will meet at the home of Jan Bitner Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m., with Jan serving as hostess and Everette Carroll giving the Response.

We welcome all Methodist women to these meetings!

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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On the menu for October is:

- Oct. 5 - Parmesan Meatballs
- Oct. 12 - Chicken Tenders
- Oct. 19 - Lasagna
- Oct. 26 - Potatoes



Golf Scramble
To Benefit the
Iowa Park Ministerial Alliance

Saturday, October 22, 2016
Rivercreek Gold Course
4 Person Scramble
Shotgun Start @ 2:00 p.m.

\$40 Per Person

- Range Balls
- Green and cart fees
- Hamburger Supper
- Awards

Seeking

- ◆ Hole Sponsors (\$50 each)
- ◆ Food Donations for the Hamburger Supper

For more information contact:

Dwight Peters - 940-631-3943
dwijepet@aol.com
Robert Palmer - 940-781-0177

Joe Hughes - 940-733-3384



PEW BIBLES

The Worship Committee is still in the process of purchasing the pew Bibles. We need a total of 78. At present we have enough money to purchase 13 from donations from the congregation. Please consider supporting this project. Thank you!

Carole Venhaus, Worship Committee Chair

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

FUMCIP
Staff

Contracted by Trustees

David & Ginger Falnes, Custodians

Dub Ewing, Grounds Maintenance