The Messenger

WEDNESDAY Nite

LIVE Resumes Sept 5

3:30 pm Fellowship Games
5:00 pm Dinner
5:30 pm Nursery
5:30 pm Chancel Choir
5:30 pm Ignite Voices (Children’s Choir)
6:00 pm Ignite Kids (Children Ministry)
6:00 pm Youth
6:00 pm Bible Discussion Group
6:30 pm The Stand (Begins Sept 12)
Is there any more important question in life than “Who is God?” The way we answer this question should affect the way we live every moment of our lives. In James 1:17, we are given a picture of who God is:

*Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

James explains that God is the great giver of every perfect gift which includes our new creation life in Jesus Christ. James describes God as being the source of all light such that God has no shadow internal or external! God harbors no darkness. It makes you wonder why we hold so stubbornly to the dark, shadowy practices of our lives. Why in our new creation lives that are gifts from God do we love being selfish so much?

In James 1:18 it explains:

*In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

Our new creation birth comes from the seed of God’s word of truth. The good news of Jesus Christ breaks forth in our hearts so that we become God’s offspring, God’s children, the sprouts of God’s garden!

James encourages us to be quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19). Have you ever noticed that it is difficult to listen to others intently and be selfish at the same time? The act of listening with focus to other people pulls us out of our selfish nature, providing an opportunity for our roots of new life to be nourished in the gift of Christ’s righteousness. When we combine listening to others with the restraint to be slow to speak and slow to anger, we allow God’s righteousness to be expressed in our relationships.

James also encourages us to avoid the behaviors that we know are bad and will lead to greater wickedness in our lives. We should cooperate with the *implanted word* that God has placed in us, walking away from our self-indulgent ways and live beyond our self-destructive and relationship-destructive behaviors (James 1:19-21).

Finally, James wants to know if we are God’s sprouts, the first fruits of God’s planting, why don’t our lives demonstrate the presence of God? James 1:22 calls us, *But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.* Having been born of God, let’s remember that our lives represent our Father and Jesus Christ, God’s son. Let’s build relationships that demonstrate God’s presence in us.

Blessings,
Stephen Cotten
HONORS and MEMORIALS

In Memory of Mike “Doc” Reed
Scott & Kelly Newsome

In Honor of Sanctifying Grace
Scott & Kelly Newsome

In Honor of Tom & Susan Sample
Scott & Kelly Newsome

In Honor of Church Staff
Scott & Kelly Newsome

In Honor of Kelly Newsome
Ellen Jaggers

In Honor of Linda Moore
Ellen Jaggers

In Memory of Francis Pearson
Jerald & Mary Lou Mowery
Tim & Linda Philhower
Neil & Carol Ann Scott
Gail Reed
Bob & Sharon Sehon
Lisa Lowry
Rex & Carolyn Tillery
Ruby Neely
Chuck & Nicki Armstrong

Members of First United Methodist Church express our thanks to each of you who have recently given a special financial gift in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Prayer List

Tara Allen
Willie Bane
Wade Bradshaw
Jenny Bergman
David Bergman
Betty Bogue
Marvin Bradford
David Brewer
Patti Brewer
Janie Bynum
Patty Cheatwood
Tim Clipson
Carolyn Dalton
Norma Jean Draper
Kenny Duck
Joanna Earl
Sharron Meek Elliott
Chuck Etheridge
Stevie Joe Evans
Freda Evans
Victoria Fletcher
Jan Banman Gracia
Richard Haynie
Jean Lowry Hays
Nadine Jennings
Jolynn Johnson
Blake Jones
Robert Jones
Margaret Mann
Jean Ann Marshall
Samantha Massey
Lou Gene Maxton
Dennis McBride
Charlotte Whitesides McFarlin
Kenneth McGee
Susan McGee
Jacqueline Bateman Miller
Jessie Mills

Lanny Moore
Marla Nolley
Blaine Nordin
Dawn Parsons
Dorothy Parsons
Helen Price
Lena Mae Reeder
Don Rose
Chris Shelton
Sarah Shelton
Leye Ann Smith
Peggy Stutts

Sympathy to:

.....Lena Mae Reeder & family on the death of her daughter, Terri Coleman, and the death of her son, Randy Reeder.


Please Note: Names added to the prayer list will remain on the list for 30 days if needed. They will be relisted by request.

If you would like to have a prayer request emailed out or would like to add someone to the prayer list, please email the Church office at office@fumcmv.org

Our Choir welcomes any and all to join us as we begin work on our Christmas music. Rehearsals are each Wednesday evening from 5:30 -7:00. Perfect voices not needed...just a desire to make a joyful noise to the Lord and be part of a group that loves to offer praises through music.

A few good men and women are always needed and appreciated. Please call the church office if there are any questions or just simply show up in the Church sanctuary each Wednesday night a little before 5:30. We would welcome you!!!
VISION TEAMS CONTINUE TO PRESS FORWARD ….

The number 1 priority of all the Vision Teams is Prayer. We constantly seek the Lord’s wisdom and vision for our church and community. Due to so many being on vacation and school being out for the summer, Vision Teams will continue “behind the scenes” operations with more activity becoming visible in the Fall.

If you have any questions regarding the Vision Process or any of the Vision Teams, please contact Jean Ann Marshall, point person for the Vision Team Process. 903/537-4569 or jeanannm@suddenlink.net.

PROVIDE PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES AND EXPAND

Kayce Jordan is the Chair of this team. This group will meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday night starting September 5th @ 6:00 pm.

EXPAND PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

The current chair has stepped out of the position at this time. If you are being called to lead this initiative, please contact Jean Ann Marshall. This fall the youth will continue to work on projects to be sold at the Mt. Vernon Country-Fest. You will also see them participating in the Fall Family Fun Fest.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

VISION TEAM

ADULT MENTORING AND HANDY MAN SERVICES

This Team is busy with on-going projects like - First Fruits and “Circle of Friends Book Club”, and we’re looking forward to Fall when lots of new things will be kicking into gear. The collection for “First Fruits” is where everyone is asked to bring canned food on the first Sunday of each month (September 2nd will be the next one). There is a tub in the narthex for collections to be taken to our Mt. Vernon Food Bank to help provide for local families in need. Your donations on an average month is 198 pounds of canned goods. This is food families would not have if not for your generosity. “Circle of Friends Book Club” is a reading program sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Library. The program’s mission is helping adults with disabilities enjoy books, friends and their community and is having a great impact on these special individuals. The Mt.Vernon Library needs about $125/month to provide books, snacks and supplies for the book club. Please see Judy Kirby for details. Also, we have a new “Handy Man Service” to help around the home of our church people who need assistance. A sign-up sheet, including a list of services we can provide is at the Information Center. We also welcome anyone who would like to become a part of our “Handy Man” team to join us. Please see Stan Silva for details. Other community service ideas are being explored, such as Adult Education Study, community-wide garage sale, new church directory, etc. If you have ideas and/or want to get involved with this Community Service Vision Team, please contact Sharon Sehon, 903-767-3464.

FELLOWSHIP GAMES

(a variety of board games, card games and domino games.)
Returning September 5, 2018 @ 3:30
in the Family Life Center, Room 201

This is a fun group with a mission of bringing friends and neighbors together in adult fellowship in order to know, to care for, and to serve each other more deeply. They continue in the fall to meet each Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:00 in the Family Life Center, Room 201. An average of 10 folks gathers each week to enjoy Cribbage, Rummikub, Canasta, 42 and other games.
More Additions to Rainbow!

With all of the new improvements to our school, we have opened all of the classrooms. Now, there is a waiting list for the 2 years olds and infants. Due to the increased enrollment, we are needing more teachers.

Another exciting new addition is a picnic table and chairs. Jerald Mowery designed and made the table and chairs but Georgia and Hall Gibson transformed them into a magical setting.

Georgia painted the tables & chairs with a very whimsical design of numbers and letters that has captivated the children.

Georgia said, “Hal did most of the prep work in sanding, priming and painting the multiple coats of white pain and painting the legs and underneath the table. I would still be painting without his enormous help.”

Everyone associated with the school thanks you very much.
Our school age children enjoyed a final field trip before heading back to school at the Sweet Shop USA in Mt. Pleasant. We all gowned up and set off on an hour and a half behind the scenes look at everything that goes into the making of handcrafted chocolate candies. At the end of the tour each child received a goody bag filled with delicious candy. Yum Yum! It was the perfect way to wrap up our summer with our school age kids. Our Pre-k and three’s class were able to “Splash into the New Year” with the water slides set up for IGNITE KIDS. Thank you Pam for always thinking of our Rainbow kids. They had a blast! Summers end brought many new enrollments and now ALL of our rooms are FULL and we even have a waiting list. Thanks be to GOD!!

Ashley Trantham
Rainbow Director
Many children and their families attended our Back to School Bash last Wednesday, August 29th. Hamburgers and Hot Dog baskets were served during the event and kids played on the waterslides. Dinner will be served on Wednesday Nights starting at 5:00 pm., Ignite Voices (K-6th grade) begins at 5:30 pm and Ignite Kids begins at 6:00 pm. We were so excited to see all the kids ready to begin Ignite kids this year.

Pam Greenberg
Children’s Director
The youth have survived the first week of school!! They want to just be with each other so we chilled out on Wednesday painting ceiling tiles in the youth room. These tiles are a small part of their story and I think that one day they will come back to this room where we have laughed & cried (mostly the adults have cried) to reflect on their past. We are family and that’s what it’s all about…being so different and yet having our Savior in common.

We are kicking off our Wednesdays with a six week series on relationships and I am looking forward to diving into the word! God has a place, a purpose, provision & parameters in our lives. What more could we ask for?

Please keep us in your prayers.

Grateful,
Cindy McDonald
Youth Director

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR TRANSPORTATION GROUP

We have formed an individual group who is willing to provide transportation to and from doctor’s appointments when a person is unable to drive due to recovering surgery or illness. If you need a copy of the drivers, please check with the INFO CENTER.
Believers in Grace Bible Study:

We are excited to begin our next study, “Anxious for Nothing” by Max Lucado on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the Upper Room.

Study guides cost $7.50 and are available now in the church office. Max Lucado has also written a companion book you may wish to purchase online separately, if you would like to dig deeper. The study lasts five weeks, and will conclude October 9.

Please bring a friend! Together we will explore the practical applications of living out the wisdom of Philippians 4:6-7:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.


A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
Beginning Sunday, Sept. 9
9:45 am
Room 101
(facilitated by Roger and Betsy Gekiere)
The class will begin with John 15.
This is a study and discussion group.

EXPAND NEWCOMER SERVICES
The mission statement of the Team is to “Recognize New Members and contact people in the community to share the love of Christ”. The following are things we are doing to live up to that mission statement.

• New member luncheon
• Phone calls
• Dinner and Family Fued evening
• Pizza & a Movie night

Information about our church and its activities can be found at the INFO CENTER.
Altar Flowers

The First Sunday of each month altar flowers are provided by Flowerland and given by the Charles Bruce Flower Fund. If you would like to provide altar flowers on any Sunday, in honor or in memory of, sign up at the info center. You may contact Flowerland (903-537-3755 or 903-588-4881), or you may bring an arrangement from another florist, or create an arrangement yourself on the special day you signed up for on the calendar. The office would like to recognize this special occasion and ask that you make arrangements 2 weeks prior to that special day.

WNL Dinners

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<th>Team</th>
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If you are willing to make cookies, cakes or brownies, enough for 60 individuals for a Wednesday Night, please sign up at the Info Center. All teams would greatly appreciate more help. Please sign-up to help. Call the office @ 903-537-3616 and let the office know when you can help.

Finance Counters

September

2 Neil Scott
9 Tom Sample
16 Linda Barnhart
23 James King
30 Stan Silva

Mike Fisk
Randall Byrd
Neil Scott
Linda Moore
Gail Reed

Administrative Meetings

Rainbow
Monday, September 10
5:15 pm

Trustees
Monday, September 10
6:00 pm

Finance Meeting
Monday, September 17
6:30 pm

Church Emails

If you want to be on the church email list, please contact us at office@fumcmv.org.
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Widows of All Faith are Invited.

"A Safe Place to Surrender; A Fun Place to Be"

Presents

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE
Fun Day

September 18
11:00 - 3:00

Grace Fellowship Ministries
711 East Coke Road
Winnsboro, TX 75494
(903) 342-6810

Movie, Lunch and Popcorn provided at
NO CHARGE