



**Pastor Cathie
Evins**

What Do You Want For Christmas?

That's a pretty common question this time of year. We ask our children, our spouse, our family members.....what do you want for Christmas? And we get asked that question ourselves. When I was a child, the Sears catalogue had lots of ideas to help children answer that question! We never wanted clothes, though we almost always got some. We wanted toys and games and fun stuff!

Imagine God asking you.....what do you want for Christmas? How would you answer that? Perhaps you would give the Miss America answer....."World Peace". Perhaps you would keep it more personal.....healing for a loved one or financial stability in your family. Maybe you'd pray for an end to schism and discord in our society. What do you want for Christmas? A better job? An engagement ring? A new pet? An end to bullying? A cure

for cancer? Relief from chronic pain? The sky is the limit in imagining how we might answer, if God asked us what we wanted for Christmas.

Christmas is a time to remember that God gave us what we needed most when he sent us the Christ-child on that first Christmas morning. Jesus is the greatest gift of all.....the gift of love and forgiveness and grace, all wrapped up in a baby that first Christmas day.....a gift from God to each one of us, individually. Christ gave His best for us.....His very life on the cross so that we might have eternal life.

I pray that this Christmas season will restore in you a sense of hope, joy, peace, love, and faith.....it's been a difficult year in so many ways and we all need what only Christ can offer. May the gifts of God in Christ be yours in abundance now and forever more.....Merry Christmas! Pastor Cathie



Weekday School children line up to walk to the Christian Cupboard donating 115 Thanksgiving meal bags for local families in need this holiday season.



*The Scroll is a monthly publication
of FUMC, Seguin.*

*The next deadline will be December 11.
Articles may be submitted to office@fumcseguin.com*

Let There Be Christmas

Please join us for Advent and Christmas at First United Methodist Church as we prepare for and celebrate Jesus' birth.

Most of us are very good at decorating and preparing our homes for Christmas, but how well do we prepare our hearts? The activities, ministries, Scripture readings, musical offerings, and worship services detailed on these pages are designed to help us prepare our hearts for the arrival of the Prince of Peace, the Christ child. I invite you to take advantage of these activities and suggestions to make the season holy, and to keep it about Jesus.

Of course, the high points of our Christmas celebrations are our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship services. Each service (5:00, 7:00 and 11:00) celebrates in unique ways, and includes the singing of carols, and concludes with the entire congregation holding lighted candles and singing "Silent Night."

Let there be Christmas!

Pastor Cathe

Christmas Poinsettias



Poinsettias add a wonderful and meaningful element to worship each year during Christmas and we hope to continue this tradition. If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the chancel area the Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve services, please fill out and place this form, along with your check, in the offering plate or bring it by the office. Any donations over the number of poinsettias needed will go to Outreach Ministries.

Flowers are \$10.00 and will be ordered only for those who select that option. All other monies will go to the donation fund.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Salvation Army needs you! First United Methodist Church is scheduled to ring bells outside Walmart on Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for 2 hour shifts. Call Tim Gerhardt at 830-660-6791 if you would like to participate.



The Songs of Christmas

Christmas Cantata, 2020

This year's Christmas Cantata will be quite different from years past. Instead of utilizing a full choir, this year we will be presenting the Cantata with just a quartet. Cheryl Erxleben, Bonnie Dixon, John Hudson, and me, Keith Robinson, will be joining our voices together in some beautiful, close harmonies, even as we maintain safe distances from one another and from the congregation. In its style, The Songs of Christmas is a beautiful, thoughtful, reflective Cantata, which seems most appropriate as we move toward the end of 2020. Beautiful music, compelling lyrics, and a script created by our own Gretchen Ricker, all combine together to focus our hearts on that silent, holy night when love came down to earth, allowing us to leave behind, momentarily, the realities of this bleak winter of 2020.



Children's Christmas Pageant

"Something Great is Going to Happen"

Sunday, December 13th

10:30 Season's Service



Christmas Offering for Methodist Children's Home

Founded in 1890, the Methodist Children's Home (MCH) serves children and their families by outreach services in 13 communities across Texas and New Mexico. Familiar to many Texans are the residential Waco MCH campus and the MCH Boys Ranch.

The well-known organization is NOT funded by the denomination, but rather depends on generous individuals and churches. You are invited to give generously for this special Christmas offering. Checks should be made out to Seguin First United Methodist Church. (Denote for MCH) More information about Methodist Children's Home can be found at mch.org



HOPE
First Week of Advent

God, our Hope, is present with us as we pray and as we share our hope with others.

- Nov. 29 8:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Seasons Worship Service, CLC
- Dec. 2 5:30 p.m. Youth to Thrive, CLC



JOY
Third Week of Advent

Let us remember that Jesus is the source of our true Joy, overflowing to other lives we touch.

- Dec. 13 8:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Seasons Worship Service and Children's Pageant, CLC
- 2:00 p.m. Advent Women's Bible Study, Rm 10
- Dec. 16 5:30 p.m. Youth to Thrive, CLC



PEACE
Second Week of Advent

Let us remember that the Prince of Peace dwells among us at this moment, and we are called to "pass it on."

- Dec. 6 7:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast, CLC
- 8:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Seasons Worship Service, CLC
- 2:00 p.m. Advent Women's Bible Study, Rm 10
- Dec. 9 5:30 p.m. Youth to Thrive CLC



LOVE
Fourth Week of Advent

God, who is Love, is with us now as we pray and as we act upon our prayers.

- Dec. 20 8:00 a.m. Worship Service and Cantata, Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and Cantata, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Seasons Worship Service, CLC
- Dec. 24-25 Church Office Closed
- Dec. 28-31 Church Office hours 9 a.m. to Noon
- Jan. 1 Church Office Closed



CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24

- 5:00 p.m. Family friendly candlelight service, CLC
- 5:00 p.m. Traditional candlelight service with Congregational Carols, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Traditional candlelight service with Congregational Carols, Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols, Knolle Chapel

In celebration of the birth of Christ, everyone is invited to bring a bell from home to ring during the singing of the Gloria in "Angels We Have Heard on High" during evening services.



Pastor Ray Perales

Politics is becoming – and in many cases has already become – the religion of the people. What I mean by this is that politics has become the number one priority in so many people’s lives. Whether one identifies as a “D” or an “R” determines their worth in the eyes of others. Heaven forbid that you be independently-minded, politically-speaking! That simply will not stand! I pray you can pick up the sarcasm in those last two sentences, although I would contend that many of you have seen or experienced this in your daily lives.

What is the basic unit of Christianity? Many might say that it is the Church, or perhaps the local congregation. I believe that it is the family, even more so than the individual. While our relationship with God is made and maintained on an individual basis, we can look to Creation and see that God did not intend us to be our own, individual unit of faith. Having formed Adam and breathed life into him, God did not declare it “good,” the first instance of this to appear in Scripture. Instead, God continued and made Eve, thereby creating the first family. To be clear, Adam and Eve were a family, even before the birth of any children. It is the group (two or more) and relationship (spouse, parent, sibling, step, etc.) that makes

the family, not necessarily children. That said, a single parent with his or her children is a family, even without a spouse (group and relationship).

The danger in placing politics at such a high place of priority, aside from the obvious, is that it displaces the family as the most important group and replaces it with the government. Government has its place, don’t get me wrong. It is not to replace the family or the Church, however. In so doing, the State becomes a god.

What is more, we must remember that our rights are not given to us by the government, but by the Creator. This is so embedded in our culture as a nation as to be included in our Declaration of Independence. Our government is to recognize these rights, but not grant them. Again, that is a displacement of God. I hope that I am able to not call on my government to be Christian in nature, but simply to be fair and just, to recognize my God-given right to be Christian in my living. At the same time, I hope that I can always call on myself to act and live with godly righteousness, by God’s grace. We cannot be a Christian nation unless we are a nation of Christians, and it is by faith made flesh that our Christianity is made evident.



Memorials Gifts

In memory of:

Gene Bachman

From:

Dennis & Ellen Huber

In memory of:

Bonnie Bartels

From:

Dennis & Ellen Huber

In memory of:

Bill Dean, Jr.

From:

Dennis & Ellen Huber

In memory of:

Maxine Garner

From:

Dennis & Ellen Huber

In memory of:

John Kannard

From:

Betty Kannard

In memory of:

Violet Lillie

From:

Edith Chick

In memory of:

John Nash

From:

Rozalia Johnson, Karla Curry & Kristin Lickliger, Sue Williams-Harper, Dennis & Ellen Huber

In memory of:

Frances Wegner

From:

Teri Nash, Sue Williams-Harper

In memory of:

Lydia Woehler

From:

Clara Linebarger & family, Jeff & Denise Mund, Herb & Arline Eberhard, Al & Kathy Hewell, Wilfred & Betty Bartoskewitz, Alice Buck, Seguin Diesel Truck Svc., Gloria Winters & family

In memory of:

Doris Woods

From:

Dennis & Ellen Huber

Year-to-Date Financial Report October, 2019

Donations	\$656,333.00
Expenses	\$655,528.00
Donations Exceed Expenses by:	\$805.00

Checking Account Balance	
Beg. Balance as of 1/1	\$50,563.00
End. Balance as of 10/31	\$53,515.00



Wednesday Youth to Thrive
 5:30 - 5:45 pm Games, Hanging Out
 5:45 - 6:15 pm Dinner
 6:15 - 7:00 pm Devotional

Pastor Melissa Lind
 Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adult Ministries

December is a time of abundance and giving. This year with all we've faced and the turmoil in the world around us, we may need to search a little harder for God's abundance and blessings. Psalm 23 reminds us "my cup runneth over." God is not only with us in our darkest times, but God is also blessing, filling, and giving us what we need in abundance.

God gives with abundance and yet we may not always be ready or able to receive God's blessings. We may hesitate to receive God's good gifts and blessings, feeling guilt, telling ourselves we don't deserve to be so blessed. But here is the beautiful fact about God's kingdom: it's not about earning and deserving; it's about believing and receiving. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not

perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

When we receive God's abundant blessings with a grateful heart, God rejoices. The pleasure God has in giving and our pleasure in receiving flow together in joyous harmony. It flows in all the aspects of our lives and relationships. He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32.

I pray that you feel this joyous harmony of God's abundant blessings this Christmas and may you continue with a grateful heart, to rejoice in the glorious gifts that Christ has offered you.

Merry Christmas,
 Pastor Mel

Children's Ministry News:

Children's Christmas Pageant

"Something Great is Going to Happen"
 Sunday, December 13th
 10:30 Season's Service

We will continue learning our Christmas songs every Sunday during the Sunday School hour.

We will have 2 dress rehearsals that your child will need to attend to be in the pageant.

1. Sunday, Dec. 6th 12:00 – 1:00 in the CLC. Lunch will be provided.
2. Saturday, Dec. 12th, 5:00 - 7:00 in the CLC. We will be wrapping gifts for our Christmas service project and having a final run-through before the pageant. Dinner will be provided.

Thank you, parents and church members, for donating to our Christian Cupboard food drive. We were able to provide 115 families with a Thanksgiving meal. We will be adopting Grandparents from a local resident facility for Christmas. What a blessing it is to be able to help people in our community.

Please join us every Sunday morning in Room 208 for Sunday School at 9:15 followed by choir in the Knolle Chapel. Children are

to be picked up in the Knolle Chapel at 10:15.

Basic Truth for December:

I can trust God no matter what.

Monthly Life Application:

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Monthly Memory Verse:

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11, NIV



Loneliness

Before March of 2020, our lives were full of friends, family gatherings, going to church on Sundays, meetings, and volunteering. Then COVID-19 came along and changed our lives. Many activities that were a normal part of our lives came to a quick halt. Our schedules changed from going from one activity to another to only leaving the home for absolute necessities. Hugs and handshakes were replaced with facial masks and social distancing. There was a movement from interacting with others on a routine basis to being isolated and lonely.

Nobody wants to be alone. Being humans, we are wired to be social. The National Poll on healthy aging, reported that in 2019 sixty-one percent of those surveyed are lonely. Loneliness is reported among all generations, income levels, living situations, and gender. Americans in Generation Z (18yrs-22yrs) have the highest rate of loneliness at 79%; the Greatest Generation (72yrs+) reports the lowest percentage rate of loneliness at 38% according to Emily Barone/Elijah Wolfson for TIME / Source CIGNA Survey. In other words, ANYONE can be lonely.

What does being lonely look like? Symptoms of loneliness include: irritability, inability to concentrate, low motivation, low self-esteem, sense of being abandoned, and boredom. Loneliness can be confused with depression. Being lonely does not mean you are mentally ill, but it is dangerous to your health. Loneliness is more dangerous than obesity and as damaging to your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day according to Care More Health System.

How do you combat loneliness? First, it must be identified; second, it has to be prevented. Loneliness is prevented by:

- Regular, meaningful, interaction
- Good physical and mental health
- Balance of:
- Sleep
- Daily Activities
- Socialization
- Life/work balance

We are never truly alone but that does not mean you might not feel lonely. Reach out to your family, friends, church family, Sunday School class, and the staff of FUMC. Give people the opportunity to help you; let them know that you are lonely. Together we can make a difference.

Stay Well, Danna Meyers, RN

Source: Addressing Loneliness and Isolation in the Faith Community During COVID19 and other Isolating Events Webinar by Elizabeth M. Long, DNP, APRN-BC, GNP, CNS, FCN



Melissa Zwicke (top left.) joined on November 8.

Charlotte Olivia Ray (top right) child of Miles and Tracy Ray, grandchild of Travis and Sue Cox, was baptized on November 15.

Jade Dahlke (middle left) was confirmed on October 25.

Taylor Brannan (middle right) was confirmed on October 25.

Mary Elizabeth Hanson (bottom left) was confirmed on November 8.

Malaya Raby (bottom middle) was confirmed on November 8.

Jeremy Fuentes (bottom right) was confirmed on November 8.



Habitat for Humanity Update

We are making great progress with the house on Shannon St. During November we completed nearly all the exterior work on the house and yard. We are making great progress on the interior as well. By the end of the month we should have the house insulated, drywall up, and the tape/float & texture work nearly complete.

Reminder, if you're interested in volunteering, please contact Robin Roark (512-695-3125 or TXRoarks@yahoo.com). No prior home building skills needed and no tools needed. We'll be glad to help you learn and we have all the tools needed.

And of course, there are always opportunities to shop, donate, or volunteer at the GVHFH store at 256 W. Court St. The Re-Store hours are Tue-Sat from 10:00am to 5:00pm. As well, if you have some good stuff you need to get rid of - think about donating to the GVHFH. Give them a call (830-401-0422) and they will even schedule a time to come pick it up for you.



Home in a Week

If you're wondering if a group can really build a home in one week – it can and it really does happen. As a matter of fact, it's been happening annually for nearly 2 decades. I believe this year's house will be the 17th house built thru the Home-In-A-Week program. On November 14, a group of about 50 folks (including Eric, Betty, Robin, and Tom from Seguin FUMC) gathered at the Gruene Methodist Church to start preparing the materials for the build that will occur in late January, 2021. The two main activities in November were building the trusses for the house and getting a coat of primer on the siding.

If you want to join in the fun of working on this project, the next pre-build dates are:

Dec 5th – Dripping Springs United Methodist Church – floor boxes & interior walls

Jan 9th – Seguin – 1st United Methodist Church – exterior walls

Start time is 9:00AM for both pre builds.

And then we are off to the RG Valley:

Jan 16-22, 2021 – Donna, Texas – We'll build a Home-In-A-Week

If you want to learn more, here are two web links. The face book page also has a time-lapse of last year's build. In a few minutes you can see a house being built in 6 days.

<https://www.facebook.com/Home-in-a-Week-464684690319887/>

<https://homeinaweek.org/>

DECEMBER

Tuesday - December 1

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

6:30p Mission Team Meeting, Rm HH

Wednesday - December 2

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

Thursday - December 3

Safety Team Mtg, HH

Saturday - December 5

8:00a Habitat Workday

Sunday - December 6

7:00a UMM Breakfast, CLC

8:00a Worship, Sanctuary

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

10:30a Seasons Worship, CLC

2:00p Advent Bible Study, Rm 10

Monday - December 7

6:00p Mom's Bible Study, Doss Home

Tuesday - December 8

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

Wednesday - December 9

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

Thursday - December 10

6:00p Weekday School Board, HH

Sunday - December 13

8:00a Worship, Sanctuary

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

10:30a Seasons Worship, CLC

2:00p Advent Bible Study, Rm 10

Monday - December 14

10:00a My Healthy Child Diaper Program

6:00p Mom's Bible Study, Doss Home

Tuesday - December 15

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

6:30p Finance Mtg, HH

Wednesday - December 16

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

Thursday - December 17

6:30p Board of Trustees Mtg, HH

Sunday - December 20

8:00a Worship, Sanctuary

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

10:30a Seasons Worship, CLC

Monday - December 21

6:00p Mom's Bible Study, Doss Home

Tuesday - December 22

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

Wednesday - December 23

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

Thursday - December 24

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday - December 27

8:00a Worship, Sanctuary

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

10:30a Seasons Worship, CLC

Monday - December 28

6:00p Mom's Bible Study, Doss Home

Tuesday - December 29

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

Wednesday - December 30

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

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