

Coming Events



Early Communion
Sundays—9:00 am
In the Chapel
Except on the first
Sunday of the month
when it is held in
morning worship.



5:30—Dinner—*Mexican Casserole*
5:45—Kids Hand Chimes
5:45—Youth
6:15—Kids Bible Story
6:15—Adult Bible Study
Jonah and Ruth
7:00—Choir

Women's Bible Study
Resuming
Tuesdays—1:30 p.m.
Board Room



October 28, 2017
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

BBQ dinner
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Watch for more details
in newsletter

Church Board Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 17
6:00 p.m.



Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 20
11:00 a.m.
Church Parlor

Women's Ministry Group
(formerly UMW)
Monday
Sept. 18
10:00 a.m.
Board Room

Grand Opening
Honoring the
Newly Expanded
Infant and Toddler
Program at

**First Methodist
Preschool**

Thursday, Sept. 21
4:00-5:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be
served



**First Presbyterian
Church**
Thursday, Sept. 21
6:30 a.m.



First United Methodist Church
Ministers: Every Member
Pastor: Rev. Jenn Pick
Organist: Linda Fox
Music Director: Sunday Crider
Youth Director: Michael Hensley
Preschool Director: Sherry Miller
Administrative Assistant: Carol Ann Dawley
Maintenance: Juan Avila

Church Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9 to 12 and 1 to 4
Closed Fridays

Website: www.fumcmexia.org
Email: pastor@fumcmexia.org
admin@fumcmexia.org

First Methodist Preschool



In celebration of our expanded infant and toddler program at First Methodist Preschool we are having a **TOY SHOWER**. The last time we helped out the Preschool in this way was 14 years ago when we helped stock the Preschool Library. The Preschool staff has developed a list of toys that are age-appropriate and meet standards set by the state child-care licensing guidelines. The prices may seem high, but we must purchase items whose quality can stand up to the high usage of a child-care facility setting.

We are asking that you donate toward the purchase of these toys by:

1. Donating the total amount for a particular toy(s) OR
2. Making a donation in any amount you are able to give.

You may give your donation in memory or in honor of someone if you wish. Checks should be made out to "FUMC" and write "Toy Shower" in the memo line.

Kid's Hand Chime Choir



Calling all Kindergarten-5th Graders! Pastor Jenn has started a hand-chime choir on Wednesday evenings. Don't know how to read music? No problem. We will all be learning together. Chimes are a fun way to learn to work as a team, listen to one another and start being able to read music. We will start at 5:45, so come at 5:30 for some dinner and then come on over for some fun with an awesome musical instrument! After choir is over, the fun keeps going with Bible Story time!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—JONAH AND RUTH

Remember learning about Jonah and the whale in Sunday School when you were little? There is so much more to the story, as there always is. What about the love story of Ruth? Come and join us on Wednesdays at 6:15 (after dinner at 5:30) to delve deeper into these two lesser known books of the Bible. We will learn about symbol and story and also be looking at some artwork in the process. This is an 8 week course, and open to those who have never studied the Bible before and for those who are pros. Come join us!

First United Methodist Church

September 17, 2017
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Seeds of Abundant Life



Welcome to Worship



We Gather

Greeting & Announcements

A Moment of Silence for Worship Preparation

Prelude Linda Fox

***Call to Worship** Pastor Jenn

L: In the beginning, God sang, and the heavens and earth were created.

P: God is a Songwriter filled with words of life.

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: God is a Storyteller filled with words of love.

L: Words of love are scattered and sown like seeds.

P: God is a Gardener filling the world with words of hope.

L: Words of hope are given over to the wind and the wild, to rocks and to risks.

P: Let us worship the One who makes us new, filling us with words of life.

***Opening Hymn** *Wonderful Words of Life* UMH 600

We Affirm Our Faith

***A LITANY for OPENNESS:** Donna Williford

L: Sower of life and love, you call us to scatter the seeds of your grace with wild abandon. You call us to throw gospel seeds high and far and wide. You have called us to plant seeds in the darkness and to keep on planting.

P: Open our eyes and our minds and our hearts to the glory of life. Open us to the movement of your Spirit and help us to grow.

L: We are planting seeds in places of beauty long forgotten. We are planting seeds in the deserts of hurt.

We are planting seeds of hope where there has been only despair.

P: Open us to the movement of your Spirit and help us to grow.

L: Open our hearts in the rebirth of wonder.

P: Open us to the movement of your Spirit and help us to grow.

L: One by one, open those places in our lives...

P: Where we refuse to be overcome by surprise.

L: One by one, open those places in our lives...

P: Where we fight the movement of real growth.

L: One by one, open those places in our lives...

P: Where we cannot see the new thing you are doing within us.

L: Sower of life and love, open us. Open us this day. Open us, we pray.

P: For it is only then that we will grow and change and be transformed. For you are a wild and wondrous God of newness and possibility!

Response *Glory Be to the Father* UMH 70

We Pray to God

Pastoral Prayer and Church Concerns Pastor Jenn

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us, from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

We Respond to God

***Hymn of Praise** *When Seeds of Love Are Sown* Insert

Offering

Offertory Music *The Light of Glory* Choir

***Doxology** *Praise God From Who All Blessing Flow* UMH 94

We Hear the Word

First Lesson *Isaiah 55: 10-13* Pastor Jenn

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23*

Sermon *Seeds of Abundant Life* Pastor Jenn

Invitation to Christian Response and Witness

As we sing, an invitation is extended to all who desire membership in this church on Profession of Faith or by transfer of membership from another church. During the singing of the hymn, please come to the altar and be warmly greeted by the pastor and congregation.

We Are Sent Into the World

***Closing Hymn** *Hymn of Promise* UMH 707

*Benediction/Blessing

Postlude Linda Fox

*All those who are able are invited to stand.



Seth Wilson
Yvonne Fortson
Ann Smith
JW McKeand
Bill Crider
Dale Bottoms
Mary Spurlock
Barrett Campbell
Larry Hensley
Walt Harrison
Bryan Bradley
Bill Bryan
Brandye Weaver
Sarah Greenup
Jack Ballard

Lowell Posey
Betty Bosley
Martha Mann
Patsy Henry
Bill, Tommie and Charles Sims
Jan Masso
Bobby Beene
Wayne and Margaret Jackson
Rebecca Sheehan
Ada Conner
Gracie Gardner
Knox Shrieve
Ivan, Sr., Dolly, and Christi Jackson
Thelma Bolton

Names will remain on this list for 30 days unless otherwise requested to be listed for a longer period of time.

Nursing Home Residents

Mexia LTC
Loda Crutchfield
Kathleen Flowers
Dorothy Vinson
Wayne Jackson
Martha Mann

Manor Nursing Home
Sonia Kendall

Skilled Care of Mexia
James Shivers

Bowie House
Ruby Bailey
Selma McClure

Fairfield Nursing Home
Margaret Troutz

Groesbeck LTC
Thelma Bolton
Starlene Yelverton
Betty Fox Killingsworth
Sue Franks

Windsor Healthcare Residence
Delilah Jones

At Home
Joe & Nancy Bounds



Thank You for Supporting God's Church

General Offering Sept. 10—\$3,456.48 Weekly Need \$3,878.00
Designated Offering \$2,576.98
Worship Attendance Last Week—70

Lay Readers

Sept. 24—Cheryl Karkheck Oct. 1—George Tidwell

Head Usher: Galen Day
Ushers: Mike Lang, James Dawley, Gilbert Reyes, Paul Barker
Offering Counters: Deborah Rawls, Betty Thetford
Sound & Video: James McKeand