Acorn News



Mark Your Calendar

			-
ebruary 4	6:00 pm	Fellowship Dinner (Missions/Evangelism)	All
	6:30 pm	UMW Gathering at the Well	a
ebruary 5	6:30 pm	Stephen Ministry	Larry fu
ebruary 8	1:30 pm	Administrative Council	Heat
	3:30 pm	UMW Executive Board	
	4:30 pm	UMW General Meeting	Monique B firs
ebruary 11	10:00 am	Senior Adult Valentine Lunch Field Trip	Becl
	6:00 pm	Fellowship Dinner	f
ebruary 14	8:00 am	UM Men's Breakfast	Teri Pea
	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Circle	laug
	5:30 pm	Scrapbooking	Judy Co
ebruary 15	12:00 pm	Coffee with the Pastor	
	3:00 pm	UMW Hearts & Flowers Tea	_
	4:30 pm	UMW Call to Prayer	
ebruary 17	6:00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser	f
ebruary 18	6:00 pm	Soup Supper	face
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship	
ebruary 19	9:30 am	Scrapbooking	Ple
	6:30 pm	Stephen Ministry	for immedi
ebruary 20	7:00 pm	Youth Movie Fundraiser	
ebruary 21	6:00 pm	Laugh & Learn Date Night Fundraiser	
ebruary 24	10:00 am	UMW Circle of Love	
ebruary 25	6:00 pm	Fellowship Dinner	_
, ebruary 26	7:00 pm	UMW Friendship Circle	
ebruary 28	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Circle	
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First United Methodist Church 600 Daubitz Dr.

February 2015

PO Box 25 Red Oak, TX 75154

WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Sunua	

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:40 am Sunday School For All Ages
10:50 am Blended Worship
6:00 pm Youth Activities

<u>Wednesdays</u>

0:30 am	Morning Bible Study
00 pm	Dinner
30 pm	Bible Study & Youth
30 pm	Chancel Choir

Laugh & Learn Day School 9:15 am- 2:15 pm Mon/Wed/Fri

Contact Information

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From the Pastor's Desk

By Allen Grant Senior Pastor

Good morning!

I have been preparing the Bible Study for the Wednesday groups who are looking now at the prophet Isaiah. I like Isaiah. Of course, by the standards of other prophets, he must not be very good. Other prophets only speak words of judgment, condemnation and woe. But Isaiah is different. Today we will be finishing up the first four chapters of the book which are interspersed and end with words of hope. Isaiah sees judgment coming for sure against those who lead the people astray; and yes, even to the people who wander away after their own lustful desires. But he ends with a word of hope from God. Salvation is available for those who trust in God and turn back.

Do you ever find yourself in the midst of chaos and potential disaster wondering if there is any hope? Isaiah joins into another theme in the Bible: that you are made in the image of God. You and I have been given great responsibility and power to help with this world. Sometimes the chaos and pain come from somewhere else and sometimes, even though painful to admit, we bring the chaos and pain on ourselves. Isaiah would agree but would also tell us that there is hope. God will deliver those who turn to him.

This week, you have another chance to turn back. As you read these words, offer a prayer to the God of Isaiah who calls us back to reality and back to hope. Give yourself a break from the race you are in. Turn around and embrace the salvation that God is offering to you right now.

Come see me. We gather on Sundays and Wednesdays to worship, study and pray. We come back to the God who saves us in Jesus. See you soon.





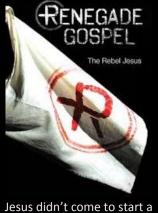
SCOUT SUNDAY Celebrating 105 Years on February 8th, 2015 Youth Ministry through Scouting!

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God ...



The Enrichment Class is currently studying "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton.

Our Lenten study will be "Renegade Gospel; The Rebel Jesus."



religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution. You and I are invited to be a part. In Renegade Gospel, pastor and author Mike Slaughter presents Jesus and his challenging message to inspire us during Lent, Easter, and through the year. Read the red letters and discover Jesus all over again. Central to the Christian faith is a man who denies all our pre-conceived notions about what God should look like. Joining his movement will mean coming to terms with the real Jesus, the rebel Jesus.

Come join us!

Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall 9:30-9:45: Fellowship Time 9:45-10:30: Class

February, the Breath of Spring

by Joan Pomeroy Writing for Enjoyment

Hebrews 10:22

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water (NIV)

Ephesians 4:31-32

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. . (NIV)



Gone are the cold days of January, now we can look forward to spring. And if perhaps all of winter has not left, we know that it soon will.

Lent begins on February 18 this year, but February is also the month of several holidays including Valentine's Day and Presidents Day.

When Jerry and I lived in White Rock, located in Los Alamos County of New Mexico, I had a dear friend, Flo Merit, who would tell me that February is the month to start to prepare the flower beds and vegetable gardens for spring, but it was also the time to look at our own spirituality and take out the old weeds that might be in the way of new growth. Old weeds to her were like the dust that accumulates

upon the items set aside for later use. Some of these old weeds are ideas that no longer fit our needs, or other people's ideas that we kept to think about and then just let them sit.

One day as I was cleaning the closet and sorting the clothing that we no longer wore from the regular clothing, it occurred to me that I was preparing the closet and house for spring. If I would sit down and read from the Bible for a few minutes before I started my spring cleaning, would I realize what needed to be cleared from my mind was the clutter, leaving room for new spiritual growth?

This idea has worked for me. I feel lighter and happier and ready for the Lenten Season to begin. Some of the clutter pertained to: apologizing to those whom I was rude to because the longer I wait to say I am sorry, the harder it is to give them an apology; correcting any information I gave someone and then found out the information was wrong; and above all, if I had taken the easy way out and lied instead of telling how I really felt, I needed to set this straight. Isn't it easier when in a group of people to say, "Oh I am not so sure", when in truth you have strong feelings about the given subject but you do not want to seem to be confrontational? What would be more appropriate for me to say is, "I see things in a different way."

Flo Merit's flower beds and vegetable gardens were cleared of the winter debris and the fertilizer was worked into the soil, waiting for the seeds to be planted and the new growth to show their heads. She too was ready for the Lenten Season to begin.

Picture above was taken in Bandelier National Monument, NM, on February 2002. By Joan Pomeroy

LORDS' ACRE QUILT CUTTING



It's time to start preparing the Lords' Acre Quilt. This a very important part of Lords' Acre. The quilt has been a part of First United Methodist Red Oak Lords' Acre for about 50 years. It is a major fund raiser. We make money when selling the squares with members and their families names on them, as well as the auction on Lords' Acre Day the last Saturday in September. We will meet to cut out the quilt on Monday, February 16th, Presidents' in the Fellowship Hall at 9 A.M. This usually only takes a couple of hour.. We can use help cutting and counting blocks. All who can come and help or come and learn will be appreciated. If you have quilt rulers, rotary cutters and cutting mats please bring them. If you have questions please call Pam Briden at 972 617-7974 (home) or 214 949-5543 (cell).



JOIN US FOR DINNER FEB 4TH!

The Mission & Evangelism Team will be sponsoring an Italian Feast Fellowship Dinner on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, at 6:00 pm, to financially benefit *Nursing Home Betania* in Mexico. This UMC Global Ministry Project aims to provide medical care and spiritual support for the elderly.

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

Would your Ministry Team like to sponsor a Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal? Contact Monique Ballard in the church office to select an available date:

February 11th February 25th March 25th



Prayer List

- Gary Ashford
- Joe Cadenhead
- Dean Doty
- Justin Kelley & Family
- Sharon Zanpino (sister of Judy Cox)

February Memory Verse

I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you . -Psalm 119:11

Scripture Readings

February 1

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 I Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28

February 8

Isaiah 40: 21-31 Psalm 147: 1-11 I Corinthians 9: 16-23 Mark 1: 29-39

February 15 2 Kings 2: 1-12 Psalm 50: 1-6 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9

February 22 Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25: 1-10 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15

Angel Choir and MMM Choir Labs

The Angel Choir (age 3 ½ through Grade 1) and Methodist Music Makers Choir (Grades 2-6) continue to meet at 6:30 – 7:15 PM on Wednesday evenings (see schedule below). We have a good time learning about worship, singing, and preparing to participate in Sunday worship services. We welcome all Little Angels and Methodist Music Makers ready to sing!

Spring Schedule for Wednesday Night Activities

January 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, and 25 (No choirs or Bible study on February 18th because of Ash Wednesday supper at 6:00 PM and service at 7:00 PM.)

March 4, 18, and 25 (No meeting, except Chancel Choir, on March 11th because of Red Oak ISD Spring Break.)

April 8, 15,22, and 29 (No meeting, except Chancel Choir, on April 1st because of Holy Week services preparations.)

May 6 - May 6th is the last date for Wednesday night activities until September.

UMW General Meeting: Sunday, February 8th

The United Methodist Women will have its General Meeting on Sunday, February 8th, at 4:30 PM in the Sunshine Classroom. The program will be presented by Lynne Grandstaff. She will give us a report on her trip to Austin to the UMW Legislative Event. All ladies are invited to join us as we fellowship one with another and continue to be servants in mission.

Hearts and Flowers Tea: Sunday, February 15th

The United Methodist Women are hosting their annual Hearts and Flowers Tea on Sunday, February 15th, at 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Tables will be decorated with our finest china and crystal; hats and gloves are encouraged and fun to wear and show off! Tea, coffee, finger sandwiches and delightful desserts will be served. All women, youth, and girls are invited; bring your mothers, daughters, and friends...anyone who would enjoy an afternoon of good food, fun, and fellowship. Please RSVP to the church office or sign up on the sheet in the foyer so that we will know how many places to set. Child care will be available and a special children's table will be set for the younger girls. Call Jo Wilsford (972-617-0672) for more information.

Soup Supper & Ash Wednesday Service: February 18th

A soup supper and Ash Wednesday service are scheduled for Sunday, February 18th; the supper will begin at 6:00 PM with the service following at 7:00 PM. During the service, participants are marked with ashes in the sign of the cross; the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made by burning the palms blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, the 40 days of self-examination, prayer, reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter Sunday. The 40 days of Lent, a Teutonic word meaning "spring season," represent the time Jesus spent in the desert overcoming temptation. The six Sundays preceding Easter are not counted as a part of Lent; Sundays are celebrated as "little Easters" before the Easter Sunday celebration of Christ's resurrection, this year on April 5th.

UMW Call to Prayer

The annual UMW Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program is scheduled for 4:30 - 5:00 PM, Sunday, February 15th, following the Hearts and Flowers Tea. The program is a time for prayer and reflection upon our reason for being—our mission—as both Christian disciples and as United Methodist women. A special offering will be taken during the service that will equip, educate and empower women and youth with knowledge and skills necessary to improve their well-being and make informed life decisions. All women and girls are invited to join us in the sanctuary for this special program led by Lynne Grandstaff.

Music Ministry Matters

by Larry McCord FUMCRO Minister of Music



Many of us are already thinking about that special someone in our lives for whom we are planning something special on Valentine's Day (or, at least, we probably should be). Regardless of our plans or the way we choose to celebrate, this should be a time when we feel our love for this individual in a particularly deep way. Sadly, in today's world, passion between couples has become a source of much derision and levity, with jokes being made to cover the painful reality of a love that no longer burns as brightly as it once did. Even many Christian couples would acknowledge that the fire or passion has diminished in their relationship or seems completely extinguished. Certainly, the passion that is felt at the beginning of any relationship changes and grows,

but the desire for one another should never be absent.

Lest you think I've decided to take up relationship counseling, which would be somewhat ironic, let's direct our thoughts to a marriage in which we all participate. The church, after all, is referred to as the bride of Christ. Individual Christians and even sometimes entire congregations can lose their passion for the Lord, their desire to spend time with him in intimate fellowship. In the second chapter of the revelation to John, Christ addresses the church at Ephesus (the same one Paul wrote to in Ephesians) and, while praising them for some aspects of their spiritual life, corrects them for leaving their "first love".

Although, in this case, Christ indicates their lack of passion for him is evidenced by some works they used to do but no longer carry on, I don't think this means we should go back to the way we were when we first encountered Christ. Just as, in human relationships, our understanding of love grows and deepens and our expressions of that love take on new forms, we should grow in the knowledge and worship of God through Christ. Neither do I believe that passion is synonymous with acting out our worship in dramatic or purely spontaneous ways (though these can be acceptable). Passion is a matter of the heart and, just as a spouse can feel the love behind a simple act or the apathy behind an extravagant one, so the Lord knows our heart and our devotion to him.

So, during this season of love, let's express our love for significant others and for the Lord with a heart of passion. And if the passion in either seems all but gone, remember we serve a God who does not quench the dimly burning flame and raises dry bones from the ground to live again!





Laugh & Learn Fundraiser:

Laugh & Learn Preschool is sponsoring "Date Night"! Where: First United Methodist Church Date: Saturday, February 21, 2015 Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Cost: \$25 per child. Snacks Provided. R.S.V.P.: No later than Wednesday, February 18, 2015 Contact: Teri Pearson at (972) 617-9100 Email: laughandlearn2014@yahoo.com Or find us on facebook and send a message.

Care provided by staff of Laugh and Learn Preschool. Every member has had a background check and been fingerprinted and approved by the state of Texas. You will be required to pay upon drop off and provide contact numbers. Please feed your child dinner before drop off. Laugh & Learn Update



Laugh and Learn Preschool is having a GREAT start to 2015!! We would like to extend our appreciation to the congregation and their AMAZING monetary gifts to the staff!! It is GREATLY appreciated! Thank you for your continued support!! It means a great deal to know we are valued in such a special way! Thank you!

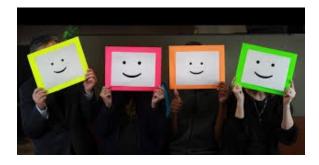
Please note, we are having a "DATE NIGHT" for the month of February. We are scheduled for February 21, 2015 from 6pm to 9pm. We welcome everyone from the community and beyond to enjoy a night out without children. The cost is \$25 per child and we would LOVE for you to help spread the word.

We will be sponsoring another Wednesday night Fellowship dinner on March 4. We hope to see everyone so they can share in the experience of the GREATEST preschool staff!!



Real Happiness is More than Putting on a Face

A UMC.org Feature by Susan Passi-Klaus January 21, 2015



Christian Giraldo had lost all hope of ever being happy. During two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, the former hospital corpsman tried to save others. When he received a medical discharge in 2010, he realized he couldn't even save himself.

Diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Giraldo felt overwhelmed with war-born guilt and shame. The 29-year-old sank into deep depression, nearly drowned himself in alcohol, and misused prescription drugs. A suicide attempt landed him in a psychiatric hospital for six months. It was a dark place. The demons didn't go away.

"I didn't think I was salvageable," Giraldo said. "I thought I was a horrible person."

Putting his life back together has been excruciatingly difficult. Despite the counsel of doctors, input from therapists and support groups, Giraldo said the only treatment that has really helped him is the semester he spent studying happiness at United Methodist-related Wesley College, Dover, Delaware. He is currently a nursing student there.

Course # HU210, Happiness, is taught every semester by Dr. Tony Armstrong--philosopher, "happiness education crusader," and author of Educating Angels: Teaching for The Pursuit of Happiness.

"Pursuing happiness requires training," Professor Armstrong said. "Part of the cure for depression, deprivation and disappointment is training ourselves to manage negative thoughts."

Armstrong's students discuss everything from accepting flaws and finding moments of appreciation to awareness of feelings and unconditional love.

Always first on the class agenda is dispelling misconceptions people have about living on the sunny side of the street.

"It's a myth that life circumstances control your happiness," the professor teaches. "It's not about money, getting a bigger house, a nicer car, looking younger or finding an ideal relationship. Those expectations just lead to a bottomless pit of disappointments." Armstrong also debunks the conventional understanding of happiness being about "us" or the thinking that giving to others requires some kind of sacrifice.

"We shouldn't focus on our own happiness, but on the happiness of others," he said. "By playing a part in someone else's happiness, we make ourselves happy."

Another of Armstrong's happiness-seeking students believed she'd be happy if she could do what she wanted, find someone who loved her like she wanted to be loved, and accomplish what she always planned to accomplish.

Like Giraldo, fellow student Tykia McGriff was also going through a tough time when she signed up for the popular class. She said she was looking for "completeness."

"Now I've learned that happiness is in the moment," the psychology student said. "Happiness is hanging around with people who are good for me. It's letting go and not being so hard on myself. Most of all I feel best when I am helping other people."

Armstrong has always been a philosopher. His own search for happiness began with trying to understand what Jesus really meant when he talked about love. The deeper he searched, the more he discovered. Revelations came.

"They just fell from heaven," he said.

"I've always believed that love was key and the purpose of life. I believe Jesus was very clear about that. The pure experience of love combines both the greatest love and peace—the greatest happiness—we can know."

"When the experience of love is unpolluted with the fear and longing we usually attach to the word, we can begin to understand that the kind of love Jesus taught is agape."

The Rev. Cara Stultz Costello, co-pastor at Faith United Methodist Church, Canton, Ohio, added to Armstrong's message about happiness. Like Armstrong, she believes happiness is an inside job.

"We often begin looking outside of ourselves for the things that will make us happy," she said. "Soon after we discover that these external--these grabs at self-security--are all plastic."

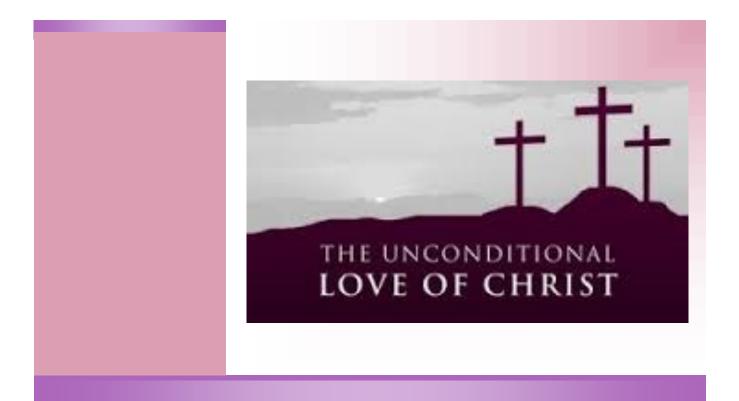
These "plastic" things can't live up to our expectations so the sense of happiness goes flat, she explained.

"In my life and work, I intentionally replace the word happiness with joy," she said. "Happiness is simply an evidence of joy. When we see happiness as the end result, we have stopped too soon. Joy is the fullness of God's intention for all of us."

(To read this article in its entirety, visit www.umc.org)

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
I HOLY COMMUNION 8:30AM TRADITIONAL 9:40AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:50AM BLENDED 2:30PM BILSCOUTS 4:00PM BOY SCOUTS 6:00PM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	2 200am laugh & learn 5.30pm girl scouts 600pm girl scouts 7.00 pm cub scout den	3 5.30Pm GIRL SCOUTS 6.30PM ALA-NON ALA-TEEN 7.00PM AA EMMAUS	4 200AM LAUGH & LEARN 10:30AM BIBLE STUDY 600PM DINNER 6:30PM ADULT & YOUTH BIBLE STUDY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY UMW GATHERING ATT HE WELL 7:30PM CHANCEL CHOIR EAGLE BOARD OF REVIEW	5 600PM GIRL SCOUTS JR. GIRL SCOUTS 630PM BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS STEPHEN MINISTRY 7.00PM AA	6 900am laugh & learn 430pm Yu-geoh club	7 Rogam CUB PACK DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE
8 SCOUT SUNDAY &30AM TRADITIONAL &30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:50AM BLENDED 12:00PM FINANCE 13:0PM ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL 3:30PM UNIV EXEC MTG 4:00PM BOY SCOUTS 4:30PM UNIV GENERAL MTG 6:00PM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	9 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 2:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 7:00PM CUB SCOUTS	10 5.30pm GIRL SCOUTS 6.30pm Ala-NON Ala-TEEN 7.00pm Ал	111 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 10:00 AM SR. ADULT VALENTINE LUNCH FIELD TRIP 6:00PM DINNER 6:30PM DINNER 6:30PM ADULT & YOUTH BIBLE STUDY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY 7:30PM CHANCEL CHOIR	12 GOOPM GIRL SCOUTS JR GIRL SCOUTS GOOPM BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS TOOPM AA	13 200am laugh & learn 430pm yu-gloh club	114 Rodam Limmen's Breakfast 10:00am Praver shawl Circle 5:30pm SCRAPBOOKING
115 8:30AM TRADITIONAL 9:40AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:50AM BLENDED 12:00PM COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR 9:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 9:00PM LOWY CALL TO 9:30PM LOWY CALL TO 9:30PM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	16 sooam lordds acre guilt cutting soopm girl scouts боорм girl scouts	117 5-30PM GIRL SCOUTS 6-00 PM SHROVE TURSDAY PANCAKE DINNER FUNDRAISER 6-30PM ALA-NON ALA-TEEN 7-00PM AA	128 ash wednesday 2:00am laugh & learn 10:30am bible study 6:00pm soup supper 6:30pm financial peace UNIVERSITY 7:00pm Ash wednesday Worship service	19 3:30AM SCRAPBOOKING 6:00PM GIRL SCOUTS JR. GIRL SCOUTS 6:30PM BOWNE GIRL SCOUTS STEPHEN MINISTRY 7:00PM AA GIRL SCOUTS	200 200am laugh & learn 430pm yu-gloh club 700pm youth movie fundraiser	221 200am Pinewood derby 200Pm Eagle Scout court of honor (and rew mexnight) 600Pm Laugh & Learn "Date night"
222 prayer shawl blessing 830am traditional 940am sunday school 10:50am blended 4.00Pm boy scouts confirmation 6.00Pm youth fellowship	23 Rogam Laugh & Learn Sgopm girl scouts Goopm community Troopm cub scout den T-45Pm pack meeting	224 IROOPM UNW CIRCLE OF LOVE 5.30PM GIRL SCOUTS 6.00PM AMATEUR RADIO 6.30PM ALA-TEEN COMMUNITY THEATER 7.00PM AA	225 200am laugh & learn 10:30am bible study 600Pm dinner 630Pm dinner 630Pm ddult & vouth Bible study Financial peace University 7:30Pm chancel choir	226 600PM GIRL SCOUTS JR GIRL SCOUTS 630PM BROWNE GIRL SCOUTS COMMUNITY THEATER 7.00PM AA UMW FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	27 200am laugh & learn 430pm yu-gloh club	28 IGOOGAM PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE



600 Daubitz Dr. PO Box 25 Red Oak, TX 75154

