

Acorn News

January 2015

First United Methodist Church

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

WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

10:30 am Morning Bible Study
6:00 pm Dinner
6:30 pm Bible Study & Youth
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Laugh & Learn Day School

9:15 am- 2:15 pm Mon/Wed/Fri



Mark Your Calendar

January 10	8:00 am	UM Men's Breakfast
	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Circle
January 11	12:00 pm	Finance
	12:00 pm	Fundraiser Lunch
	12:30 pm	All Ministry Team Meetings
	3:30 pm	UMW Executive Board
	4:30 pm	UMW General Meeting
January 14	6:00 pm	Fellowship Dinner (Passionate Worship)
January 15	6:30 pm	Stephen Ministry
January 18	12:00 pm	Coffee with the Pastor
January 21	6:00 pm	Fellowship Dinner (Safety/ Trustees)
January 22	7:00 pm	UMW Friendship Circle
January 24	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Circle
January 25	12:00 pm	Mission Trip Meeting (Parents & Youth)
January 27	10:00 am	UMW Circle of Love

Contact Information

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facebook.com/fumcro
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Please scan the QR code
for immediate Electronic Fund Transfer or
Debit Card donations.



A Pastor's Pilgrimage: "It's All True!"

By Robyn Young

Pastor of Line St. UMC and UCF at Hill College



As I turned my head 360 degrees, I realized I was seeing what Jesus had seen. On the boat of the Sea of Galilee, I was seeing the same mountains surrounding us, the same ripples on the water, the same pattern of the sun and clouds breaking over the mountains. It was in that moment of silence that I heard the still, small voice of God speak to me. "It is ALL true. It really happened as you have read."

This pilgrimage to the Holy Land was the trip of a lifetime for me. For decades I had wanted to go, and with the Bishop setting up this wonderful pilgrimage, it became a reality. Partly it was to authenticate the places and take the Old Testament and New Testament happenings from the abstract to the concrete. Mostly it was to travel where Jesus had been, to see what He had seen.

I am a visual person. I like to see things in perspective with other things. In using maps and seeing the geography, topography, distances between places, makes it more real in my mind. "Is it 100 miles or is it a football field away?"

This pilgrimage has embedded these places in my mind. Sunday I preached on the woman caught in adultery. I could bring the story alive with talking about the steep slope of the Mount of Olives, the tombstones that filled the side, and the broken glass mortared into the top of the wall to deter vandals, the Temple wall that still remains. My path may have been that of Jesus. By sharing my witness of the actual place, it became more alive in the congregation's



minds. They had a first person testimony of the site. Every site that we visited will now be something that I can share, whether it is the caves where Jesus may have been born, the walls of Jericho, the Garden Tomb or fifty other holy places we visited. I can share the sights, the smells, the sounds, the feel, the atmosphere of the site.

As a pastor, this was a pilgrimage for me. Some would call this trip a spiritual discipline. I would be in that number as it was a time for me to open myself to God's presence.

In a private monastery- owned garden of Gethsemane, we were allowed access, I sat on a low wall and just let the fact that Jesus had prayed here saturate me. I was so overwhelmed, that tears just flowed down my face, unashamedly. It did not matter that very few others were affected in the same way, but it was a life-changing event for me. I felt God's love wash over me. Wave after wave after wave it rolled over me. I prayed and this time, it was just to listen—to let God tell me, "It was all done out of love for you." I felt so unworthy, but so uplifted at the same time. It confirmed my call to ministry in bold, uppercase, underlined, highlighted letters.

Whenever I hear or read our history in the Old and New Testaments, I will remember and hear God's words: "It is ALL True. It was all done out of love for you."



In Memory of Billy G. Britton

Billy G. Britton, 81 of Red Oak, a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, passed away Monday, December 22, 2014 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. He was born to the late Charles W. Britton and Nellie F. Wimberley Britton in Hico, Texas on February 16, 1933.

Billy proudly served our great nation in the United States Army. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Red Oak for 30 years and operated a water supply business until his passing. Billy will be missed and continually loved by so many.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Elizabeth Britton; his daughter in law, Sharon Britton; his sister, Wanda McBee of North Richland Hills; his grandsons, Christopher Britton and his wife, Monica, Clayton Britton and his wife, Kinsey; also by his great grandchildren, Daniel and Mackensie Britton and Abbott and Annsley Britton.

He was preceded in death by his son, Mike Britton.

A service celebrating his life was held on Wednesday, December 24, 2014 in the Pat Boze Memorial Chapel of Wayne Boze Funeral Home with Rev. Allen Grant officiating.



In Memory of Wanda Jo Hazard

Wanda Jo Hazard, 84, passed away on Monday, December 22, 2014 in Red Oak. She was born on March 11, 1930 to R.P. and Gladys Trees.

Wanda worked for Red Oak School District for 20 years and enjoyed cooking, sewing, gospel music, and being with her family. She was also a member of the United Methodist Church in Red Oak.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Hazard; 4 sisters; and 1 brother.

She is survived by her children, Tony Hazard and his wife, Phyllis, and Teri Browning and her husband, Jerry; brothers, Von Trees and wife, Kimberly, Jimmy Trees, and Phillip Trees; grandchildren, Chris Browning and Melissa Browning; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends and loved-ones honored her life on Sunday, December 28, 2014 in the Pat Boze Memorial Chapel of Wayne Boze Funeral Home.

Words Cannot Express...

The Family of Bill & Mike Britton would like to express loving appreciation for all thoughts, prayers, food and flowers.

There are simply no words to express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy and support you have extended toward our family during this time of loss.



*with sincere
Gratitude*



Bingo

by Joan Pomeroy
Writing for Enjoyment

Matthew 6:6

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



A brand new year has once again begun; all of the celebrations for Christmas are now tucked away in the memories of 2014. This time of the New Year often leaves me with a feeling of quietness.

Living in the mountains of Colorado, the coldest and the biggest snow storms came in January. The snow often piled upon snow, the spring froze over, the ice had to be broken before we could get water and we used more wood and coal in the stoves. It was also the flu season.

When the school closed because of the flu, I would get cabin fever staying inside all day and all night; except for fetching water, wood, coal or shoveling the walk way to the out-house, spring and highway. We played cards but that can become boring. We did not have television, and the books we owned I had read several times or had no interest in ever reading.

The year was 1962. I was in the eleventh grade in high school. The wind had been blowing all day, circling the house like a banshee, whistling through the screen door and blowing the snow around. Finally night came and the wind stopped. Oh how good that felt! I was sitting alone in the front room and had just put wood in the stove. The soft music was playing on the record player. I had sat down, closed my eyes, and thanked the Good Lord for this moment in time, when it suddenly occurred to me that faith, and prayer needed to be nurtured just like the wood had to be placed in the stove to keep the fire going.

Since that special night in January I have always looked for the stillness and peacefulness that is offered, to each of us. What we do with the special time is our choice. However, I find during January I can easily return to daily pray, set my goals for the New Year and thank the Good Lord for teaching me the importance of sitting quietly and listening to the sounds of my surroundings. It is in this moment of time, when my mind is at peace that I feel closer to the Good Lord.



Music Ministry Matters

by Larry McCord

FUMCRO Minister of Music



*But now we have been released from the Law,
having died to that by which we were bound,
so that we serve in newness of the Spirit
and not in oldness of the letter.*

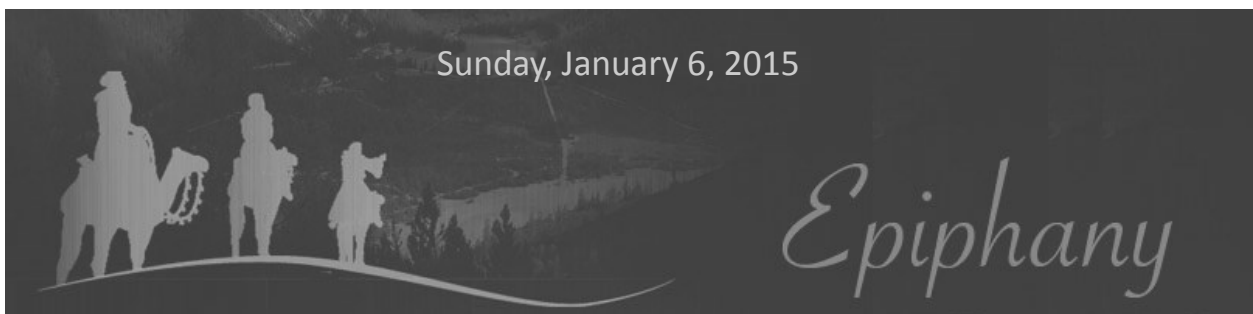
Romans 7:6

This time of year our focus is often on new beginnings. Much is made of New Years resolutions, most of which have to do with starting to do something we have not been doing that we feel would improve the quality of our lives or ceasing some activity we find detrimental. Throughout scripture, however, we are exhorted to take a very different approach. In the second chapter of his letter to the Colossians, Paul asks why, since they have been freed from the elemental way of living that consisted of man-made rules and regulations such as don't eat this or don't touch that, do they still insist on living under such rules which only have an appearance of wisdom and strong will power but really make no difference in their lives.

Although we may not still live according to Jewish rules and customs, do we not sometimes attempt to live our Christian lives in this manner? Do we not many times make our lives about "do this, don't do that" rather than living, as the scripture above states, "in newness of Spirit"? If we read the entire seventh chapter of Romans and the beginning of chapter eight, we find Paul once again reminding a community of believers that the Christian life is about just that...new life, rather than attempts at improving an old one.

As we begin this year, focus on the new life of Christ within rather than changes in outward behavior for, as we do so, that new life will bring real change which is everlasting.

Larry



Prayer List

- The Family of Bill Britton
- The Family of Wanda Hazard
- Larry McCord and Family
- The Sacketts and Family of Martha Donelson
- The Family of Johnny Wood
- Bonnie Mack
(mother of Monique Ballard)
- Sharon Zampino
(sister of Judy Cox)
- Pastor Allen & Darlene Grant
- Ramon Gonzalez
- Mike Sackett
- Jamie McAlister & Baby Maecy
- Jessica Aberg & Baby Wyatt
- Barbara Hudson-McKelvy

January Memory Verse

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. -Hebrews 12:1

Scripture Readings

January 4

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

January 11

Genesis 1: 1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19: 1-7
Mark 1: 4-11

January 18

I Samuel 3: 1-10
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
I Corinthians 6: 12-20
John 1: 43-51

January 25

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
Psalm 62: 5-12
I Corinthians 7: 29-31
Mark 1: 14-20



The "Mission Statement" for the United Methodist Women:

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

United Methodist Women is a one-million member organization whose purpose is to foster growth, develop leaders and advocate for justice. Members raise approximately \$25 million per year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world. Plus one receives the added bonus of developing a special bond with the other women within our church. We could not be prouder of what we have accomplished and can accomplish together, and we welcome you to join us.

UMW General Meeting: January 11th

On Sunday, January 11th, at 4:30 PM in the Sunshine Classroom, the UMW will have its first meeting of the year. The meeting will focus on planning for the year's programs, review and approval of the 2015 budget, and a brief installation of officers. All ladies are invited to join us as we begin a new year of mission and fellowship.

UMW Friendship Circle Bible Study: January 22

The next meeting of the UMW Friendship Circle is scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd, at 7:00 P.M. The Bible study is Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians. At the January meeting, we will discuss Lesson Six: "The Aroma of God Among Us." The scriptures are 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 and 6:14 - 7:1. This lesson focuses on Paul's use of the ancient practice of epiphany processions as a metaphor to clarify his authority and to emphasize that all followers of Christ are called to show their faith in action. Dani Muckleroy will provide the devotional, and Jane Aberg will provide refreshments. All women are invited to become a part of this UMW circle of friends. We always have good fellowship, delicious refreshments, and lively discussions...come join us! If childcare is needed, please call the church office. Call Jo (972-617-0672) if more information is needed.

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. 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. Look for more information and details in February's newsletter.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life of Central Ellis County is having their Kickoff January 15th at 6:00 P.M. at the Red Oak Library. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to learn more about Relay for Life to join our team. There are too many of us that have been touched by cancer. If you would like to join our team, The Wesley Warriors, I have already signed our team up. Please call or email me if you have any questions.

Jane Aberg
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Get Your 2015 Calendar Today

2015 wall calendars are on sell in the foyer now to support the Youth Mission Trip. Get yours today for only \$6. These calendars include beautiful pictures, inspirational scriptures, and are great for your home, office, or to give as a gift.



11 FACTS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1. Globally, the average cost of a slave is \$90.
2. Trafficking primarily involves exploitation which comes in many forms, including: forcing victims into prostitution, subjecting victims to slavery or involuntary servitude and compelling victims to commit sex acts for the purpose of creating pornography.
3. According to some estimates, approximately 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involves labor exploitation.
4. There are approximately 20 to 30 million slaves in the world today.
5. According to the U.S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. More than 70% are female and half are children.
6. The average age a teen enters the sex trade in the U.S. is 12 to 14-year-old. Many victims are runaway girls who were sexually abused as children.
7. California harbors 3 of the FBI's 13 highest child sex trafficking areas on the nation: Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego.
8. The National Human Trafficking Hotline receives more calls from Texas than any other state in the US. 15% of those calls are from the Dallas-Fort Worth area.
9. Between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year.
10. Human trafficking is the third largest international crime industry (behind illegal drugs and arms trafficking). It reportedly generates a profit of \$32 billion every year. Of that number, \$15.5 billion is made in industrialized countries.





Laugh & Learn Update:

Laugh and Learn Preschool would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

Please join us on January 28 for our first Fellowship Dinner. We look forward to providing a meal to all and hope to see everyone there!

Also, please notice there are extra tubs in the Fellowship Hall. Many items were donated to Laugh and Learn. Pepsi, Dr. Pepper and Frito Lay donated sodas, chips and cookies and we are selling sodas for 50 cents and cookies and chips for 25 cents. Please help support the preschool!

The staff is looking to provide a monthly "date night". This will entail the staff providing care for children for a 3-hour time frame for parents to reconnect, and just enjoy the evening out. The cost will be \$25 per child. Dates are forthcoming, and we will need at least ten children for it to be worth the venture. Get the word out. We will care for all children, not just Laugh and Learn children; and they will simply need to provide the staff with phone numbers and any emergency information for the evening. Spread the word!

If anyone has gently used toys or supplies they no longer need, we take all donations. This time of year is a good time to look through your "toy box" to determine if all the new toys fit... We appreciate all the support from everyone and hope you remember to pass the word on to friends and family so they can join our amazing program of learning and care! Remember, FUMCRO has the BEST OF THE BEST in teaching staff!!

Teri Pearson, Director



#GivingTuesday Shows the Strength of a United Denomination

Online Donations up 15 percent - total more than \$2.5 million

United Methodists once again responded on UMC #GivingTuesday with extravagant generosity – donating more than \$2.5 million online through The Advance to support mission and ministries around the world. More than 770 projects and missionaries received more 8,700 gifts through UMC #GivingTuesday, and the response was global with donors from 25 countries giving generously. The Advance is the designated giving channel of the United Methodist Church. The General Board of Global Ministries matched the first \$1 million in gifts to help build excitement and leverage donations.

Noting that donors can partner with Advance projects and missionaries throughout the year, Thomas Kemper, who leads Global Ministries, said, “Having one day when United Methodists from around the world are united around giving shows the strength of the denomination’s connection, while strengthening the impact of the gifts to each ministry. Every gift made through The Advance this season makes a difference in the lives of the people they touch.”

The projects and missionaries supported through The Advance were key to the success of UMC #GivingTuesday. According to the head of The Advance, Ellen Knudsen, “The relationships our projects have with churches and individuals generated excitement for supporting specific ministries.”

While there was a cap on how much of each gift was matched by Global Ministries, so that as many organizations as possible received some of the matching funds, Knudsen said that projects were also encouraged to work with faithful donors to develop their own matches.

“Many of them found unique ways to connect through their networks, building on toolkits we created for them. These messages gained momentum and were shared electronically around the world through the grassroots,” she said.

This is the second year that The Advance participated in UMC #GivingTuesday, part of a larger international movement that provides an alternative to the shopping traditions following Thanksgiving—Black Friday, Local Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. According to Mashable, the number of nonprofits that received an online donation this year on #GivingTuesday increased 15 percent from 2013, while the total number of transactions was up 50 percent.

The United Methodist Church has become a model for other organizations wanting to participate in the larger #GivingTuesday campaign. Global Ministries was among the partners invited to the White House by the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Partnership to promote and support #GivingTuesday. And an article in USA Today highlighted The United Methodist Church among the significant participants, reporting, “Big names – Microsoft to United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and PayPal –got involved this year with promises to match donations.”

Denominational agencies such as The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Board of Discipleship, Commission on Religion and Race, and United Methodist Communications united to help promote giving through The Advance on UMC #GivingTuesday.

A full report of projects that were supported and the gifts that Global Ministries matched are available at umcmmission.org on December 15.



Contribute to the needs of saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
Romans 12:13 NRSV

January 2, 2015

Dear First United Methodist Church of Red Oak,

On behalf of the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club, we wish to thank you for hosting our recent Amateur Radio Extra Class License Course. I am happy to report that of the seven people who completed the class and took the exam, all seven passed and have their licenses upgraded. Several of these people are storm spotters who voluntarily assist the National Weather Service in helping to notify the local community in the event of severe weather events such as tornadoes or other possible life threatening events.

Your outstanding hospitality in opening your church to us is very much appreciated. We hope that you will consider hosting another ham radio course at a later time.

John Dennison—AIGA

Kettle Drive Classics



Liz Sanden & Family



Keven Davis

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00PM AA	2 4:30PM YU-GLOH CLUB	3
4 HOLY COMMUNION 8:30AM TRADITIONAL 9:40AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:50AM BLENDED 12:00PM FUNDRAISER MEAL 2:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 4:00PM BOY SCOUTS 6:00PM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	5 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 5:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 6:00PM GIRL SCOUTS	6 5:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 6:30PM ALA-NON ALA-TEEN 7:00PM AA	7 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN	8 6:00PM GIRL SCOUTS JR. GIRL SCOUTS 6:30PM BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS 7:00PM AA	9 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 4:30PM YU-GLOH CLUB 6:00PM GIRL SCOUTS YOUTH LOCK-IN	10 8:00AM UM MEN'S BREAKFAST 10:00AM PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE 5:30PM SCRAPBOOKING
11 8:30AM TRADITIONAL 9:40AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:50AM BLENDED 12:00PM FINANCE 12:30PM ALL MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS 3:30PM UMW EXEC MTG 4:00PM BOY SCOUTS 4:30PM UMW GENERAL MTG 6:00PM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	12 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 5:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 7:00PM CUB SCOUT DEN	13 12:30PM WRITING FOR ENJOYMENT 5:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 6:30PM ALA-NON ALA-TEEN PACK COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00PM AA	14 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 10:30AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00PM DINNER 6:30PM ADULT & YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM CHANCEL CHOIR	15 9:30AM SCRAPBOOKING 6:00PM GIRL SCOUTS JR. GIRL SCOUTS 6:30PM BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS STEPHEN MINISTRY 7:00PM AA GIRL SCOUTS	16 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 4:30PM YU-GLOH CLUB	17 7:00AM LION'S CLUB PANCAKE BREAK FAST WITH SANTA
18 8:30AM TRADITIONAL 9:40AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:50AM BLENDED 12:00PM COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR 2:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 4:00PM BOY SCOUTS 6:00PM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	19 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 5:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 6:00PM GIRL SCOUTS	20 12:30PM WRITING FOR ENJOYMENT 5:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 6:30PM ALA-NON ALA-TEEN 7:00PM AA	21 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 10:30AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00PM DINNER 6:30PM ADULT & YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM CHANCEL CHOIR	22 6:00PM GIRL SCOUTS JR. GIRL SCOUTS 6:30PM BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS 7:00PM AA GIRL SCOUTS UMW FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	23 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 4:30PM YU-GLOH CLUB	24 10:00AM PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE 1:00PM CUB PACK DERBY
25 PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING 8:30AM TRADITIONAL 9:40AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:50AM BLENDED 12:00PM MISSION TRIP MTG (PARENTS & YOUTH) 4:00PM BOY SCOUTS	26 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 5:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 7:00PM CUB SCOUT DEN	27 10:00AM UMW CIRCLE OF LOVE 12:30PM WRITING FOR ENJOYMENT 5:30PM GIRL SCOUTS 6:00PM AMATEUR RADIO 6:30PM ALA-NON ALA-TEEN 7:00PM AA	28 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 10:30AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00PM DINNER 6:30PM ADULT & YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM CHANCEL CHOIR	29 6:00PM GIRL SCOUTS JR. GIRL SCOUTS 6:30PM BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS 7:00PM AA	30 9:00AM LAUGH & LEARN 4:30PM YU-GLOH CLUB	31 1:00PM CUB PACK DERBY



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Open Hearts • Open Minds • Open Doors
The People of The United Methodist Church