As we plan for November this year, which of course includes the Thanksgiving holiday and all the traditions and significant memories that families associate with that particular event, this year is a bit different. I know some of us are giving thanks that we have completed Charge Conference already (if you aren’t aware, we have in the recent years had Charge Conference in late November or early December), so that this important connectional event is now in “the books” and our attention can be drawn to Advent and yes, Christmas planning.

But before we get to the Advent and Christmas seasons, November has its share of meaningful events. Of course I have already mentioned Thanksgiving, but November also is the month for All Saints celebration, Veterans Day, and Christ the King Sunday.

I personally find great comfort and joy in celebrating All Saints Day, a special time recalling the power of unity with the saints of the past, present, and future. This celebration allows me to remember so many dear and wonderful people while recalling the lives of our Saints from our church who have gone now to the eternal church during the past year. We will remember all of these Saints of course, as well as the multitude of saints in each of our personal lives during both services on All Saints Sunday, which is November 6th this year.

On Sunday November 13th, we will recognize our military veterans during both worship services. There will be a slide show and a moment to say thanks to our veterans that day. If you are a veteran or know someone in the church who is, please help us by supplying a photograph suitable for inclusion in the slide show on that Sunday.

November 20th is the last Sunday in the Christian year. That Sunday is fittingly known as Christ the King, or Reign of Christ Sunday, to celebrate the presence and power of Christ as the One who redeems us and restores us under the gentle rule of Christ Jesus both now and for eternity.

The church’s Thanksgiving meal this year will follow the 2nd service on November 20th. I hope each of you can be present and give thanks for all that God has blessed us with. The church continues to respond faithfully for our mission “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. While some might quickly point to our newest building project, which hopefully will be complete in November, I give thanks for the countless prayers of support, for the sacrifice that so many make, for the generosity of so many, for the willingness of current and future leaders, and all the other things that are really what makes a difference in making disciples of Jesus above and beyond brick and mortar.

Let’s give thanks to God for God’s continuing and amazing grace!

See you in worship!

Brian

Ministry Evaluation Team Begins Work

At the October 9, 2016 Administrative Board Meeting, a Ministry, Program, and Activity Evaluation Team was enlisted to carry out the required evaluation of all church ministries to ensure that every ministry, program, and activity of the church is fulfilling both the mission and vision of the church. This team, which is currently composed of Debra Wilkinson, Cheryl Renfro, Annette Stephens, and Pastor Brian, met on October 18th to begin this work that was called for and approved as a part of “Prescription 1” of the Healthy Church Initiative Report approved in May by the Charge Conference.

The first step, undertaken by the Team, was to communicate to the church, especially the entities that are being evaluated, that this evaluation is underway for all ministry, program, and activities. In addition, the Team reviewed the current ministries, programs, and activities that currently exist and will be sending follow-up communication to those entities where clarification is needed on how the mission and vision of the church is being carried out by those entities current efforts. The Team’s goal is to have all current ministries in compliance, or have articulated goals and measures in place for any ministry that is not yet in compliance, within 6 months. Thanks to all for making disciples of Jesus Christ!
November Happenings

**First Fridays**
Friday, November 4
6:00 p.m., Nursery

**All Saint’s Sunday**
Sunday, November 6

**Veteran Recognition**
Sunday, November 13
8:30 & 10:50 Worship Service

**Trustees Meeting**
Tuesday, November 15
6:30 p.m., Character Builders Classroom

**Decatur Methodist Women’s Ministry**
Tuesday, November 15
6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Staff Meeting**
Thursday, November 17
12:00 p.m., Character Builders Classroom

**Deliver Thanksgiving Baskets**
Saturday, November 19
9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner**
Sunday, November 20
12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Church Office Closed**
November 24 & 25
Thanksgiving Holiday

**Men’s Breakfast**
Saturday, November 26
7:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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**CHURCH FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

Jimmy Brummel, Betsy Freeman, Dan Dimock,
Dave Eaton, Thad Kinney, Family of June Bowyer Sowell,
Family of C.B. Hoyl Jr., David Deaton, Charles O’Bryan

**In the Military:** Charlie Fortenberry, Michael Jordan,
Jake Logue, Garrett Muelstein, Josh Murphy, Chris Hammond,
Matthew Roberson, Kolin Rottner, Joshua VanNoy,
Matthew Broker, Keygun Beaver and Bryce Dudley

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**November Birthdays**

1 - Lahoma Cartwright, Kathryn Highlander
2 - Charlie Allard, Virginia Caraway, Hannah Walden
3 - Murvelle Chandler
4 - Debbie Rankin
7 - Alex Brown, Ronnie Ramsey
8 - Dalton Behringer, Kahty Sisk, Ronnie Walker
9 - Andie Keller
10 - Martha Carillo, Lillian Laremore, Terry Sanders
11 - Aaron Peterson
12 - Carla Bass
13 - Sherry Henderson
14 - Steve Behringer, Susan Cocanougher,
  Nick Oberle
15 - Clyde Holt, Greg Sadberry
16 - Kate Bosworth, Finley Boyd, Sandra Irish
17 - Debra Walker
18 - Rex Keese, Fannin Sewell, Fleming Smurthwaite
19 - Becky Black, Nanci Nellis
21 - Ken Baker
22 - Loraine Burton
23 - Tamara Behringer, Jason Culpepper,
  Morgan Goss, Beth McCurdy
24 - Whitney Jaramillo, Kristi McQuiston
25 - Payton Browning, Lex Smurthwaite
26 - Mardell Schaible, Morris Smith
27 - Brandon Thornton, Ann Williams
29 - Audrey Buckley
30 - William Bastian, Claire Edwards, Thomas Laird,
  James McAlister

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Thank you for making Pastor Appreciation Sunday a blessing for us. We are honored to be your pastors and we appreciate everyone for supporting us and showing that you care!

Zack and Brian
Church Office Closed Friday November 25th

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th as a part of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Donations for WARM
Personal Care Items

Sunday Refreshments
Character Builders

Sunday Morning Greeters
Life Builders

Visitor Follow-Up
Mardell Schaible

Care Corp
Mary Nella Armes - Notifier,
Lorraine Burton - Co-Notifier, Doris Goodwin,
Debbie Waggoner, Betty Carson, Angela Smith,
Mildred Terrell, Shirley Byers

Church Office Closed Friday November 25th

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for being there for me.
Thank you for the words, the cards, the flowers, the thoughts and encouragement in a trying time. But most of all thank you for the prayers. I felt them all and with the Mighty Hand of God and the prayers of many, the last month has only been a bump in the road. These are the times the Body of Christ prevails. Again, thank you and God bless you and God bless this church.

Jim Henderson

I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love, support and encouragement leading up to and during my Walk to Emmaus. It was a life transforming and empowering experience that I will never forget. I urge you to not delay if you have ever considered attending a Walk. You will not regret it!

Your sister in Christ, Cari Whittenburg

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

November 6th
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Barbara Haley
Communion Servers: Virginia Caraway & Marguarette Roberts
Acolyte: Eleanor & Ben Bond
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Sally Rieger
Communion: Don & Annette Stephens
Acolyte: Kathryn Highlander & Kennedy Hafer
Counters: Mason Woodruff & Richard Pitman

November 13th
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Virginia Caraway
Communion Servers: Sharon Meyer & Thomas Laird
Acolyte: Noah Holt
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Valleri Sewell
Acolytes: Nolan & Shelby Sewell
Counters: Barbara Swan & Jennifer Vaughan

November 20th
8:30 Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Youth
Communion Servers: Youth
Acolyte: Audree Knox
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Youth
Acolyte: Wiley Stone & Emma McAlister
Counters: Jack Tucker & Dwight Reeves

November 27th
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Rita Tucker
Communion Servers: Asa Johnson & Ronnie Walker
Acolyte: Ellie & Lexie Miller
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Fred Renfro
Acolytes: Julie Stone & Parker Deaton
Counters: Brian Knox & Fred Renfro

November Communion Set Up: Unnamed Class
HCI Update

Worship Design Team
Members of the worship design team have been going around visiting other modern/non-traditional services to get ideas for the new worship service.

Family Ministries Team
The family ministries team has recently sent out a survey to ask church members and the community about gaps in our ministries. They are looking for new ministries that we could begin to better serve the needs of the community.

Community Ministry Team
The Community Ministry team has been developing plans to increase our outreach in the community. They are developing plans to offer mission events for all ages on a regular basis.

Discipleship Team
Members of the Discipleship Team recently went to a Discipleship Training event that was held at FUMC Richardson. There, we learned about how to develop and implement a discipleship pathway.

Church-wide Thanksgiving Meal
November 20th

It’s time for us to celebrate our thanksgiving for all God has provided. Everyone is invited to the Church Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 20th following the late worship service. Please plan on attending and it’s always a blessing for you to invite someone to come as a guest.

Church-wide Thanksgiving Meal
November 20th

Plans are being made to have a Christmas float in this year’s Moonlight Madness Parade on Saturday, December 3rd. We need servants to help decorate and ride on the float. If you would like to join the fun and help spread the Christmas Spirit call or text Cari Whittenburg (940) 626-0000 or email at cariwburg@yahoo.com.

Church-wide Thanksgiving Meal
November 20th

Shelby Sewell helping Asa Johnson greet Tom Harris for worship.

Blessing of the Animals
October 8th
Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 2
UMYF—Wesley Center @ 5:30 - 7:30

Friday, November 4
5th Quarter @ 10:00PM—12:30AM

Sunday, November 6
Senior High Trip after Late Service

Wednesday, November 9
UMYF—Wesley Center @ 5:30 - 7:30

Sunday, November 13
Confirmation during Sunday School

Wednesday, November 16
UMYF—Wesley Center @ 5:30 - 8:15
Community Youth Thanksgiving Service

Saturday, November 19
Deliver Thanksgiving Baskets
Meet at Wesley at 9:00AM

Wednesday, November 23
No Youth

Sunday, November 27
Youth Work Day after Late Service

Wednesday, November 30
UMYF—Wesley Center @ 5:30 - 7:30

5TH QUARTER

It is our time to host 5th Quarter on Friday, November 4!
There are many opportunities to serve with this event.
Donate Cookies, small bags of chips, hamburger buns, water, hamburger fixings, and soda
Help make hamburger patties and cut up veggies
Help with crowd control
Donate Gift Cards for give-a-ways

Please let Laura Landis know if you can help. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call Laura at 254-216-0124!

I love UMYF

You have the chance to volunteer in our partner school, Carson Elementary!

There are a variety of opportunities to serve children and help the educators. Please stop by the table in the narthex and pick up a background check. As soon as it gets turned in (to the church office) and processed through the district, you will be matched with a teacher to assist or a student to mentor. This is a wonderful program! Please see Laura Landis for more information.
Children’s Ministry is now accepting donations for our annual Thanksgiving baskets.

Cost per basket is $35.00.

We as a church will deliver the baskets to the families in need on Saturday, November 19th.

The children will be presenting their Christmas musical Sunday, December 4th during the 10:50 a.m. service.

Rehearsal Dates:
- Nov. 6 - 12:00 - 1:00
- Nov. 13 - 12:00 - 1:00
- Nov. 20 - 12:00 - 1:00
- Dec. 3 - 10:00 - 12:15 (Dress rehearsal)
Changes Ahead

Recently, I have gotten into a popular show on television, it is called Game of Thrones. I’ve seen all the episodes of the show, and now I have gotten into the books. In the story, there are a bunch of families who battle for power and of course, as the title gives away, a Thrown. Each family also has a banner with its sign and a slogan that tells a little about the family. One of the fan favorite families is the Starks’. Their slogan is “Winter is coming.” It is a saying that always reminds them of the changes ahead, and more importantly preparation because they were one of the most northern families in the story.

But I have said all of this to tell you that “Winter is Coming!” There are changes ahead at the church. You of course probably are reminded about this each time you come or even drive by the church. Progress is being made on the new building each day, and we are all anticipating the new things ahead. However, I am not talking about any of those changes. I am talking about the changes that you will soon see in the current church building. The Hospitality Team has been working hard on a few things related to connecting and reaching out to our guests. One big change that you will soon see is our Guest Connections Tables. These will be places where guests can get information about our church and talk with a member of our Guest Connections Crew. These new tables will bring with them a few changes. Yes, changes. To make room for these tables, we will have to move a few couches and chairs around the church. While this might mean that the couch you normally sit on might be in a different place, I want to remind you that we are doing this for a very good reason. When a guest comes to our church for the first time, they are looking for a place to connect, and in today’s world, we need to make that chance to connect very convenient. Our hope is that a first time guest will be able to connect with us, so in turn, we can connect them with Christ. While it might change the look of our lobbies or the place you normally sit and relax, remember that this change is about connecting people to Christ.

Also, as a part of this new system for connecting first time guests to Christ, we will have new Welcome Bags with a small gift inside. These will be one of the things a first time guest pick up at our Guest Connections Table. The Hospitality Team is also working on a new system for capturing guest and member attendance information on Sunday mornings as well as new interior and exterior signage for the church. Our hope is that you will bear with us as we make these changes as we work on connecting with our guests.

In Christ’s Service,
Zack

An event brought to you by:
Wise County Christian Counseling

Hope through the Holidays
A workshop for people walking the road of grief

Let’s get together and explore how to navigate through the holidays.

When: Tuesday, November 15th, 6:30 - 8:30
Where: The Fireplace Room at the Decatur Church of Christ, 920 Preskitt Road, Decatur, TX

Please RSVP by 11/10/16 to reserve your spot! (940)627-1618 or email britt@wiseccc.org

2017 CARE CORP NEEDS YOU!
The Care Corp organizes and serves meals for funerals. There a variety of ways you can help. Set up the meal, serve, send a dish, make phone calls, or be available to be called on as necessary for back up.

If you would like to participate in this wonderful ministry, please contact the church office or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.
THIS NEWSLETTER CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

Like us on facebook
FUMC Decatur, Texas

Follow us on Twitter
@fumcdecaturtx

Follow us on Instagram
fumcdecaturtx

Newsletter DEADLINE!
Monday, November 28 at 1:00 p.m.

Folding Team
Thursday, December 1
8:30 a.m.—Character Builders Classroom

For any submissions you would like put in The Voice either call the church office at 627-3362 or email administrator@decaturmethodist.org.

If you want to see your church event pictures in The Voice, send them to us! We would love to include those for all the church members to enjoy.