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First United Methodist Church – Iraan



First United Methodist Church – McCamey

INDEX

P. 2 From the Pastor	P. 6 Emmaus & Five-day Academy
P. 3 Prayers/Presence/Gifts	P. 7 Valentine's Day Potluck
P. 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 Nurture Ministries	P. 8 Outreach Ministries
P. 4 Worship & Faith Formation	P. 9 Witness Ministries
P. 5 UM Women, Men, Youth	P. 10 Scheduled Events



FIND yourself AGAIN.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
 The people of The United Methodist Church®

From the Pastor

Grace and Peace!

Welcome to the first edition of the Iraan – McCamey parish *E-newsletter!* This is part of a broader effort aimed at sharing what our two churches are all about, to as many people as possible, in as many ways as possible.

A couple of weeks ago, I asked both congregations this question: What if church was a verb instead of a noun? In short, it is time to **RETHINK CHURCH**. We can and, indeed, we must rethink what it means to be a church in the 21st century if we are to be faithful witnesses of the faith that has been handed down to us through the ages.

Consider what it would mean – to ourselves, our church, and our communities if each of our churches were really intentional about these three concepts.

Welcome – what it means to truly welcome others, looking at ourselves from the outside-in and considering the view from the inside-out. How do our neighbors view the church (and not just the church building)? How do we see ourselves being in ministry *in* the community?

Connect – how we connect with community; ways we connect with our Connection (the United Methodist Church around the world); ensuring we connect with the Creator; and helping others connect with change and transition. Is what we believe as a congregation and as members of a world-wide Church relevant to the residents of Upton and Pecos counties?

Identify – identifying our churches' strengths and core values, and reinforcing our identity (what we're known for) both within our congregation and out in the community. Each church has something to offer – to members, to the un-churched and to seekers. Do know what that something is and how to express/share that something?

Welcoming is how we show kindness, acceptance and hospitality to everyone – guests and members alike. People catch glimpses of Christ through their encounters with us. In a nation that's becoming more un-churched all the time, we need to ensure that seekers encounter in us a Christ they want to know better.

To learn more about the effort to **RETHINK CHURCH**, visit www.10thousanddoors.org today. See what happens when church is more than just something you go to, but is something you are and, more importantly, something you do.

Every blessing,

[Pastor Charles Alkula](#)

(This material comes from the www.RethinkChurch.org and www.10Thousanddoors.org websites.)

"As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your "prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?" The United Methodist Book of Worship, p, 93.

PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for Leslie Adams, Nadine Andrew, Leanna Brewster, Cleatus Brooks, Ron Brown, family of Shirley Campbell, Bernard Christian, Joanne Darby, Johnnie Dempsey, Angela Flores, family of Howard Floyd, Linda Harrison, Roy Hudson family, Patty Jones, Steve Jordan, Billie McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Rosa Mendoza, Cole Mitchell, Kathy Pearce, Pat Pope, Donna Schneider & husband, Doug Smith, Lawrence & Pat Snyder, and the family of Dorothy Young.

Please keep the people of Haiti, the unemployed (especially those with children), our service members, our communities and our country in your prayers.

Please pray for those living on S. Harte Street & Second Street in Iraan and for those living on S. Burleson Ave. & First Street in McCamey.

Please lift up the ministries of the Rev. Jennifer Kelley and the congregation of the First UMC in Rankin (Texas).

PRESENCE (January)

**Average Weekly
Worship Attendance**
Iraan: 17 McCamey: 35

**Average Weekly Faith
Formation Attendance**
Iraan: 6 McCamey: 8

*Are you making yourself available
to the means of grace?*

GIFTS

The gifts placed on the communion rail each month are used to support some of the many ministries of our church beyond the confines of the local community. In January, First UMC (McCamey) sent \$25 to support the Methodist Mission Home.

In February, these offerings will go in support of Human Relations Sunday. The United Methodist Book of Discipline describes the purpose of Human Relations Day as a call to "*the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other.*"



**First
United
Methodist
Church**

NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

**The Ministries of
United Methodist Churches
in Iraan and McCamey**

Faith Formation

Sunday Morning:

Iraan – 10:30 a.m.

McCamey – 9:45 a.m.

LENTEN STUDY

@ FUMC – McCamey
Tuesdays in Lent starting
February 16th (see page six)

Nurture



A worship service is held each Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the McCamey Convalescent Center dining room.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the First UMC in McCamey.

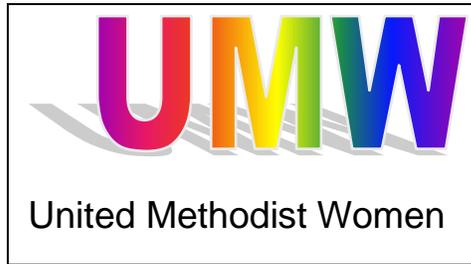
***Six Week
Lenten Sermon
Series***

Begins February 21st

Scripture – Prayer –
Communion –
Baptism – Do Good
– Seek justice

Worship in February

THEME	February	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	7	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)	<i>Where to Find the Holy</i>
Transfiguration Sunday	14	Luke 9:28-36	<i>How holy do you want to be?</i>
Ash Wednesday (First UMC – McCamey)	17	Mark 13:21-37	<i>40 days; 960 hours; 57,600 minutes; 3,456,000 seconds</i>
First Sunday in Lent	21	Matthew 5:17-20	<i>The Means of Grace: Scripture</i>
Second Sunday in Lent	28	Matthew 6:5-15	<i>The Means of Grace: Prayer</i>



Join us for the
United Methodist Women's
Assembly 2010!
April 30-May 2
St. Louis, Missouri
and be sure to join us for the
pre-conference
Ubuntu Day of Service April 29!



At the First UMC in McCamey, the UMW is already busy with activities and ministries for 2010! We meet each month on the second Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor (next to the fellowship hall).

Please join us and help us shape the future of women in the community in the name of Christ! Contact Jean Myrick for details.



**IT'S NO
SECRET.**

Almost twice as many women as men belong to United Methodist Churches, and the absence of men affects the spiritual health of families, congregations and communities.

In partnership with the [Society of Saint Andrew](#), United Methodist Men annually provide nearly 10 million pounds of food for hungry people in the United States.

We support the [Upper Room Prayer Line](#) that receives 36,000 calls a month.

The commission sent 350,000 copies of [Strength for Service to God and Country](#), a book of daily devotions, to U.S. troops.

Every one of these examples illustrates your World Service dollars in mission!

**Helping men to grow in Christ,
so others can know Christ.**



Devozine is a devotional magazine designed just for youth and published by [Upper Room Ministries](#) in Nashville, Tennessee. It is written by teenagers and by adults who work with and care about teens.

The magazine was started in 1996, after a small group of teens in South Dakota challenged the church to come up with a magazine "just for them."

The purpose of *Devozine* is to help youth 12-18 years old develop a lifelong practice of spending time with God and of reflecting on what God is doing in their lives.

Each issue of the bi-monthly, 64-page, full-color magazine focuses on nine themes, one for each week. Each theme includes weekday meditations and a feature article for the weekend.

United Methodist Church Quick Quiz

1. When does Lent begin, and what is the beginning of the Season of Lent called?
2. The World Methodist Council is an association of the churches in the Methodist tradition throughout the world. Where is the council headquartered?
3. Who was the father of John and Charles Wesley (and seventeen others!)?

For the answers to this month's quiz, look at the bottom of this page.



Upcoming Five-day Academy for Spiritual Formation Events

March 7 - 12, 2010

Prothro Center, Lake Texoma, TX

Contact: Rev. Woody Weilage

pastor.woody@verizon.net

Brochure: [click here to download](#)

March 25 - 28, 2010

Hispanic Three-day "Rios Espiritu"

Lakeview Methodist Conference Center,
Palestine, TX

Contact: Rev. Joe Cortinas

pastorjoe57@sbcglobal.net

UMC Quiz Answers

1. Lent begins on February 17th with Ash Wednesday.
2. The [World Methodist Council](#) is located at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.
3. The Rev. Samuel Wesley was the Vicar of Epworth Parish, Lincolnshire, England.



Discipleship is a word that puts some people off — Christians and non-Christians alike — but it shouldn't. Put simply, a disciple is one who follows.

If you are ready to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, you can learn more by [visiting this link](#).

Lenten Study

In our religiously diverse society, it is essential that Christians seek to understand the faiths of others, to know how these faiths are similar to and different from their own faith. During Lent, we'll be using [Christianity & World Religions](#) by the Rev. Adam Hamilton as the text for our study. Rev. Hamilton is the senior pastor of the [United Methodist Church of the Resurrection](#) in Leawood, Kansas.

The book examines four major world religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism, describing how they began, some of their essential teachings and ways in which they differ from and are similar to Christianity.

This study will take place each Tuesday in the parlor of the First UMC in McCamey at 6:00 pm

Fellowship Time!



Valentine's Day Potluck @ First UMC - McCamey!

You're invited to the **First UMC** in **McCamey** on Sunday, February 14th for a fabulous **Valentine's Day potluck!**

Come for worship at 11:00, and then stay for some of the best food and fellowship anywhere!

Bring a dish to share or bring a friend or just bring yourself, but come and experience love in action, First UMC-style!!!

Fellowship time in Iraan

There are two opportunities for fellowship in February at the First UMC in Iraan:

Each Sunday morning (9:00 – 9:25) come gather 'round the kitchen table for a time of fellowship, food, and more. This is a great way to introduce friends and neighbors to our community of faith.

Starting on February 28th, a new tradition will begin at FUMC – Iraan: **The monthly breakfast potluck.** Come to the church (8:30 – 9:25) and share in the bounty available to us in the form of food, fun, and friends!



Outreach

UMCOR Responds to the Earthquake in Haiti



The spotlight may have turned already to other issues, but the humanitarian crisis in Haiti continues. Please consider what you can do to reach out to our brothers and sisters in this devastated land. 100% of your gift to UMCOR will go directly to the relief and recovery effort.

Badgers for Christ



Wednesda
y
Feb. 17th
@ 12:15
pm

Every 30 Seconds...

For you or me, a mosquito bite is a nuisance at most. But for a mother or father in sub-Saharan Africa, a mosquito bite changes their world forever – it can take the life of their child. We have within our power not only the ability to prevent transmission of this disease, but the medicines to effectively treat it. Not a single child needs to lose their life to this disease.

Imagine No Malaria is our collective, comprehensive response to this pervasive disease. The United Methodist Church has embraced the life-saving power of a bed net by partnering in “Nothing But Nets.” A bed net can help to prevent malaria, but we know that more is now needed. Without continuing education, one in two families will not consistently use their bed net, or will use it improperly. Through **Imagine No Malaria**, we will train community health workers to provide that essential education to their own villages and neighbors. We will also strengthen health delivery systems by equipping clinics and hospitals with effective treatments that can eliminate malaria as a major source of death and suffering in Africa.

As United Methodists, we are committed to a common mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. **Imagine No Malaria** is an outstanding opportunity to do just that. Joining together, we can envision a world free of malaria and be an agent of change for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Africa.

\$10 will save a life. How many lives can Iraan & McCamey UMC's save by Easter Sunday? Please bring your loose change during Lent and place it in the designated baskets. 100% of your contribution will go toward saving the lives of children in Haiti and in Africa – just like our children here in Texas.

Friendship Center

The First UMC in McCamey supports the work of the Friendship Center (on the southeast corner of 6th Street & Johns Street in McCamey). In February, the Friendship Center will be open on the 16th & 23rd from 1-3 pm.



The Southwest Texas Conference has more than 120,000 members in 350 congregations across the southern third of Texas.

Our Vision: *Offering Christ to All.* **Our Mission:** *Radiating God's love, the Southwest Texas Conference empowers ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*

On the surface, you might think United Methodists are not that much alike. We come from every cultural background and socioeconomic level. We all share a faith in Jesus Christ, but the Church encourages us to think for ourselves, so we don't necessarily share the same opinions about every faith issue or social concern.

We aren't striving to be all the same, but we are striving to work together to make a significant difference in the world. The founder of the Methodist movement, the Rev. John Wesley (who began his ministry in England in 1738), said it almost 300 years ago and it's truer today than he could have imagined: *"The world is our parish."*

The United Methodist Committee on Relief responds to disasters in Hindu India and Islamic Turkey. Volunteers in Mission teams go to the most poverty-stricken parts of the globe. Bishops and regular church members live out lives of faith in war zones. United Methodists in the U.S. support brothers and sisters around the globe through the general funds of the church.

Although local churches are joined by an organizational network, it is not a traditional hierarchy. There is no one person who leads the denomination. Once every four years, members of the United Methodist Church get together for our General Conference to make important decisions governing our policy and practices. We aren't afraid to tackle the tough issues: racism, poverty, human rights, human sexuality, labor issues, the farm crisis, gender equality, environmental problems. Social advocacy and action have been part of our church since it began. We are no less committed today.

In the San Angelo District, it's all about diversity. We are the sum total of what we do, where we are, how we love, in how we share our faith. We are 38 churches way out in west Texas.

[\(From the SW Texas Conference website\)](#)



Look for both churches on Facebook groups. Look for **First United Methodist Church (McCamey, Texas)** or **First United Methodist Church (Iraan, Texas)**.

Church Blogs!

For the latest news, pictures and much more, please visit our church blogs today:
www.fumc-mccamey.blogspot.com or
www.fumc-iraan.blogspot.com

The Calendar for February

The Calendar for February

First UMC – Iraan

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Church School @ 10:30 a.m.

Each Monday –

Pastor Charles is in Iraan

Other events:

Ad Council – Feb. 10 @ 6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 17 – 6:00 pm @ FUMC-McCamey

Lenten Study - (Tuesday's, Feb. 16

– Mar. 23 @ FUMC - McCamey)

Sunday Breakfast Fellowship

February 28th @ 8:30 am



First UMC – McCamey

Each Sunday –

Fellowship, Learning & Worship

Each Wednesday

Choir @ 7:00 pm

Other events:

United Methodist Women

February 8 @ 7:00 p.m.

Badgers for Christ

February 17 @ 12:15 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 17 @ 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Study

(Tuesday's, Feb. 16 – Mar. 23)

Ad Council – Feb. 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

