



February 1, 2017

# Methogram

“The mission of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee is to glorify God, make disciples, and transform lives in Christ”

## The View From Downtown

Dear Friends,

Well, I am glad that the month of January is at an end. For me, January was a month to recover from the build-up and over commercialization of the Christmas holidays. Now, please don't get me wrong. I love Christmas and the hope and joy brought by the birth of our savior, Jesus. But, sadly we have put so much emphasis on spending and having to attend “the party” that we can lose perspective quickly.

Now what do we find as we enter the month but none other than Groundhog Day on February 2nd. For most of our nation outside of Texas, it is party to watch a groundhog come out of its den and he is usually not very happy to be receiving so much attention. The most famous groundhog would be Punxsutawney Phil of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. When Punxsutawney Phil is removed from his den, a crowd of up to 40,000 people will be gathered to cheer and celebrate whether

he sees his shadow or not. By the way, the legend is if he sees his shadow, winter weather will persist for six more weeks. If Phil comes out and the day is cloudy, then the spring season will arrive early.

I guess you can say that human beings like and love to gather together for celebrations and parties. Oh, by the way, the first miracles/indication of His divinity was when Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding celebration.

So, during February, I invite all of you to gather in celebrations where God is present, is praised, and where we share our laughter and tears. Our God takes delight when we gather together in worship.

See you in church,

*Pastor David*

### **Boy Scout Sunday to be held February 12th**

First UMC is honored to sponsor Boy Scout Troup 88 and Cub Scout Pack 88 and have them meet weekly at our church. Scouting began in America on February 8, 1910 and has helped millions of young men and their families. First UMC will celebrate the importance of scouting on Sunday, February 12th at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please come and hear and see why scouting is a blessing to many.

### **The Evangelism Ministry meets Monday Mornings at 11:00 a.m.**

We invite anyone with a heart for prayer to meet with us on Monday.

We also pray that everyone is making prayer for our church a daily commitment.

Also, since Nancy retired, our church prayer chain is not as active. We are wanting to restart and update the prayer chain. Those wishing to be a part of our prayer chain can contact Mickey Stanton at 373-4303 as soon as possible.



Goodness it's hard to believe that January is done. The new year is moving fast. We have had a few planning meetings and below you will find a calendar of events.

Our Sunday School attendance has improved some. However, there is always room for more. Please invite your friends to come to Sunday School. We would be thrilled to have a lot more children to share God's love with.

We are looking forward to our Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th. We are going to have some special guests. It's a surprise for now, but you will be hearing more about it as the time draws closer.

February 5      Confirmation Classes  
February 12     Children's prayer walk  
April 9            Easter Egg Hunt  
June 18-23      District Camp Lakeview

Confirmation Classes are for middle school kids. They will be learning about God and His church and their commitment to them.

On Sunday, February 12, the children's Sunday School classes will meet in the Dauphin room at 10:00 for some breakfast and then we will go for a prayer walk in Cravens parking lot.

We are beginning to plan Vacation Bible School. The dates are set for July 10-14. Please let me know if you are interested in helping.

~Mrs. Glenda



Hello Everyone!!! First off, I would like to congratulate the following youth for making either all state band or choir: Paula Boothman, Gracie Gilchrist, Nick Trainer, and Gage Tywater. Each student has worked extremely hard to accomplish their goals in the music department and I am very proud of them!!!!

I am excited to announce that our church is going to be hosting quite a few Silsbee high school sport and band teams this semester. Both the boys and girls soccer teams are coming to our church this Thursday, February 2nd from 6 to 8 pm. We are going to have spaghetti and salad prepared for the teams as well as desserts. We also have goodie bags to give out to each player. Thank you to all the parents who helped make this event possible. Events like these are great to get more school and community involvement, and I look forward to seeing how God uses these events for His glory.

Additionally, we are planning on having both Silsbee and Kountze bands come to our church in March. We have not nailed down a date just yet, but should have one by the next Methogram. I am currently connecting with both the boys and girls high school basketball teams as well as the boys baseball team to try and schedule events for those teams at our church. Hopefully I will know soon whether or not we will be having events for those teams too.

Furthermore, our church 5K race is just around the corner on Saturday, April 1st at 8:00 am. If you have not already signed up to participate in the race please go to our church's website and click on the race sign up link to register. Every dollar raised will go to help support the youth ministry at our church. Only a few people have signed up so far but hopefully as the race date gets closer more will sign up.

Lastly, our church is going to Lakeview summer camp in Palestine, Texas from June 18th to 23rd. If your child is interested in coming to summer camp this year please email me at [youth@silsbeeumc.com](mailto:youth@silsbeeumc.com) or Jennifer at [office@silsbeeumc.com](mailto:office@silsbeeumc.com). Youth ages 3rd grade through 12th grade are invited to attend. The cost of the camp is \$400 per child with our church covering half the cost for each student. This will be my first time at Lakeview this summer and I look forward to seeing what it is all about!!!

God Bless,  
Ben Schulz

# In Loving Memory

## LaVerne Ross

Allan and Dagma Murphy

Ed and Sonia Cain

Tom and Sheila Eveland

Marianne Deadmon

<u>Worship</u>		<u>Gifts</u>	
01/22	171	01/22	\$4,716.00
01/29	165	01/29	\$7,941.00
<u>Sunday School</u>			
01/22	86		
01/29	64		

## **Sermon Series on “The Beatitudes” to begin February 5**

Pastor David Green invites you to attend worship services at Frist UMC during the sermon series based on Matthew 5:1-12. The Beatitudes (also known as the Sermon on the Mount) is considered by many scholars to be the most important teachings on the moral and ethical behavior expected of Christian disciples.

I invite each of you to join me as we seek a clearer and better understanding of these scriptures. The following is a schedule for each Sunday:

February 5	Matthew 5:3
February 12	Matthew 5:4
February 19	Matthew 5:5
February 26	Matthew 5:6
March 5	Matthew 5:7
March 12	Matthew 5:8
March 19	Matthew 5:9
March 26	Matthew 5:10
April 2	Ben Schulz preaching
April 9	Matthew 5:11-12

## **2017 Confirmation Classes to Begin**

### **February 5**

In the United Methodist Church, confirmation is a time to study the Bible, the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and what it means to live daily as a Christian believer.

Confirmation is offered primarily for youth between the ages of 12-18, but exceptions can be made on age either younger or older. Our confirmation classes will use the Credo series to learn what a personal relationship with God means in our lives.

The first of 15 classes will meet in Cravens Hall on Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 p.m. The goal is to celebrate the confirmation of our youth on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th. To sign up, simply call Jennifer in the church office at 385-5568 or email Pastor David at pastor@silsbeeumc.com.

## **Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras Party on February 28**

The Young Adult Sunday School Class is excited to sponsor a celebration of Mardi Gras in the Dauphin Room of McDonough Hall on Tuesday, February 28 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Mardi Gras, which is also called Shrove or Fat Tuesday, is usually a time to celebrate with parades, colorful costumes, and eating of rich, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season. The celebration Mardi Gras started in Mobile, Alabama, but is celebrated as a holiday in the cities of Southern Louisiana. During the parades, costumes of purple, green, and gold are worn and beads, moon pies, and other plastic coins are tossed from the parade floats.

On February 28 at First UMC, all of you are invited to enjoy a meal of chicken and sausage gumbo with potato salad and hot dogs for those who don't eat gumbo. In addition, Cajun music will be played, decorations will be displayed, and a costume contest for children ages 5-10 will be held. Tickets for the supper are \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, or \$25 per family.

Everyone is encouraged to RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 25 so that we can plan appropriately.

Mark February 28th on your calendars and let's get together for fellowship, food, and fun.

*First UMC has received the following letters of thanks:*

*Dear Friends:*

*Your generous donation to the Church World Service Blankets+ program tells people in crisis, "You're not alone. Someone cares."*

*We are deeply grateful for your support.*

*On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you.*

*(You can see the certificate of appreciation on the bulletin board outside the church office.)*

**Dear First United Methodist Church of Silsbee:**

We at Family Services of Southeast Texas want to thank you for your generous donation of diapers, baby clothes and toiletries designated for the Family Services Women and Children's Shelter.

At Family Services, we are working to strengthen families and individuals in the community through counseling, parenting education and safe house protection programs. Our vision is a strong community founded on healthy, self-reliant families and individuals. Your support helps us to realize this vision!

Thank you again on behalf of the thousands of people Family Services helps every year and from all of us here at Family Services of Southeast Texas

Sincerely,

Angie Kannada

Community Relations Director

**First United Methodist Church**

670 North 5th Street

Silsbee Texas 77656

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

