

February 5, 2016

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 it has happened!!! At Gobbler's Knob, Pennsylvania, on February 2nd, Puxsutawney Phil, the groundhog of all groundhogs, made his yearly appearance in public. And on this occasion, as has been the tradition, his actions were closely watched to determine whether the weather was to stay the same or change. On this day, Puxsutawney Phil's reaction was interpreted to say winter was over and spring was just around the corner. Here in Silsbee, another event is about to begin which will signal a change in our lives as Christian believers. The season of Lent, a period of 40 days, is celebrated and honored to prepare our hearts and lives by self-denial, prayer, repentance of sins, and a time to sacrifice for those less fortunate than we are. Lent is usually not a popular time in our Christian lives and calendars because it draws us away from ourselves and the attractions of the world. One of the most telling scriptures that I find about Jesus is found in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 9, verse 51. In the New Living Translation of the Holy Bible it says:

" As the time drew near for his return to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem".

The word that draws my attention to this scripture is resolutely. To be resolute is determined, of strong will, and firm and unyielding. This reminds me of my High School's slogan that described our academic and athletic ef-

forts. The slogan, even if for some possibly corny, is "We Can, We Will". Now for those of us who lived it, it was not just a slogan, but a determination to resolutely do our best with the strong belief that we could do anything and succeed. And, even though 35 years has passed since my high school days, this mantra, this spirit has really never left me.

Our church, First UMC Silsbee, has suffered some rough times lately. And, quite possibly, me may have to endure more. However, if we do not lose sight of what the goal is, what truly matters in our Christian journey, then we can continue to go forward to meet whatever will/destiny that God has in store for us. I, therefore, invite all of you to join me in drawing closer to God and His Will during the upcoming Lenten season. In our Bible, it says if we will draw closer to God that He will draw closer to us. As changes happen, may we seek God's direction, wisdom, and power to speak and do the things that are necessary to become the individuals and church that He wants us to be!

Believing in God's Care,

Pastor David

Beloved friends,

For the past sixteen plus years I have been blessed to serve as Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Silsbee, TX. What a wonderful experience it has been! What a loving congregation you are! I have served with Senior Pastors who have taught and mentored me and respected me. I have shared your joys and sorrows. After much prayer, I am convicted that it is time for me to stand down as Associate Pastor, as of May 1, 2016. I know that God doesn't have a retirement plan and I won't stop serving Him and His Church as long as I live. Thank you for your love, your prayers, your acceptance of me as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and use you to the glory of His kingdom.

I love you all,
Rev. Nancy Ratchford



We will have an ALERRT program training class held at the church on February 25, 2016. The civilian response provides strategies, guidance, and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

This program will be presented by Sheriff Ed Cain.

Thurs, February 25, 2016
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
McDonough Hall

Seating is limited so please call the church office at 385-5568 or email at office@silsbeeumc.com to RSVP before February 19, 2016.

This program could save your life!

Lenten Offering Boxes Available on Sunday, **February 14.**

First UMC Silsbee invites everyone to participate in this special offering for Lent 2016. The boxes will be handed out at worship and during Sunday School times. Lent is usually a time to give up or sacrifice something to bring you closer to God in word and action. The offering will be donated to the people of Marvin UMC in Whitewright, Texas, which is located in Fannin County in the North Texas Conference. Marvin UMC, a wooden structure built in 1924, burning to the ground on Saturday, January 30th. The only thing that survived was the concrete steps of the church.

Let's join together to show our fellow United Methodists that we support them with our prayers and offerings.





Wow, the youth had a great time at Hot Hearts! We had four youth attend, as well as three adults. We also were able to spend a little time fellowshiping and eating with Coldspring UMC. Overall, the week-

end was fun and the kids came away with their lives changed in a good way.

We have started a new study on Sunday nights as we look at all the books of John. Last Sunday we studied 1 John and one of the things we learned is love is what God has for us. We had 6 youth, one of which was a first time guest.

We also had an amazing dinner prepared by Amy Hill. In addition to our study, we had some joys and concerns that were heavy on the youth's hearts that we prayed for. It was an awesome youth group meeting.

Sunday, Feb. 7th, we will be having a Nerf war. The youth will meet in McDonough Hall at 5:30 p.m. and be finished at 7:00 p.m.. We will have a meal and a brief lesson, then start the Nerf war fun. We will have the first part of the Super Bowl on the big screen.

Midwinter Camp is February 19-21. This is a conference-wide retreat and will be at Lakeview. This retreat is for youth in 6th-12th grade. We have a few youth going and I would like for everyone to pray for them as they are on this trip. Pray for their safety, that they may have fun, and most of all, grow closer to God.

We have planned a work day on April 30th to put the finishing touches on the Methodist Center. We hope to have adults and youth to help finish the final touches on the youth center, and then pray over the building. This building, The House of Converge, is not only a youth facility but an outreach facility. The hope is to make it a place for teens to come and relax and get tutoring after school. Please keep this building and the ministry it holds in your prayers.

Also on April 30th, we will have a crawfish boil in the front lawn. We will soon have tickets for sale in the office, and will have more in-

formation in the next newsletter. The money raised for this will be for youth scholarships for our summer camps. If you would like to help with this event, please see me.

On June 12-17 our church will be hosting UMARMY. I love it when the church can host these events. It shows the youth that no matter where they go, they are loved. We will be looking for people to volunteer their homes to be available so that four to six youth can take showers in the afternoon after their work days. If you would like to be a host home, please let Jennifer know in the main office. We will also be providing dinners but those details will come at a later date.

Below are dates for trips and other important dates. Please note that as of right now, I only have dates for the majority all the trips and no other details. As I get information I will pass that on.

Important Dates:

February 19-21 Midwinter Retreat

April 30th – Work Day at Church

April 30th Crawfish Boil

June 6-10 Choir Camp

June 12-17 UMARMY at Silsbee

June 26-July 2 UM ARMY

July 4-8 District Camp

James Borello
Director
Converge
Student Ministries



In Loving Memory

Lester Tucker

Marianne Deadmon

Winfred Birdwell

Willa Dean Hill

Marianne Deadmon

Joyce McClung

Robbie Reeves

Larry and Karen Williams

Worship

01/24 157

01/31 160

Sunday School

01/24 86

01/31 96

Gifts

01/24 \$3,807.70

01/31 \$7,412.00

Methogram Schedule

Feb 17 publication

Please submit any articles and info by noon, Tues. Feb. 16.

March 2 publication

Please submit any articles and info by noon, Tues. March 1

The church office received the following letter from the Methodist Children's Home

Dear Friends:

Your generous gift through the Texas Conference to Methodist Children's Home (MCH) was processed today— thank you! The support from First UMC Silsbee enables us to provide those we serve a nurturing, Christian community and the greatest gift of all, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

We appreciate the important investment you are making in this ministry. Thank you for joining us in accomplishing our important mission and helping us set a strong foundation for a special year ahead. We appreciate you and are thankful for your willingness to touch the lives of those we serve.

Since MCH does not receive church apportionments, we depend on the voluntary gifts from friends like you. Your generosity makes a difference! The contributions you make to this organization are a tremendous blessing and enable us to meet the ever-increasing needs of those God has entrusted to us. Thank you for enabling us to improve the lives of the young people we serve.

Sincerely,

Lyle Mason

Director of Benefactor Relations

Ash Wednesday Service to begin season of Lent of February 10th

Next to Advent and Christmas, the season of Lent is very important and meaningful for our faith as Christian believers.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring". The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Palm/Passion Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

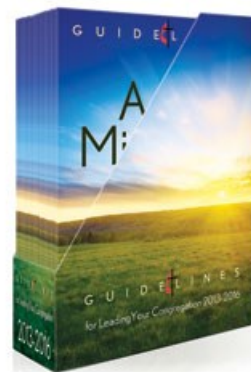
To begin our time of Lent, everyone is invited to gather in our sanctuary on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. At this service, we will celebrate Holy Communion and each person will be offered the imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads. The ashes will serve to remind us of our mortality and the need to confess our sins before God



A small gold-colored ring with a braided design was found in the Sanctuary sound booth area on Sunday, January 31. If this ring belongs to you, you can pick it up in the church office.

40 day season of Lent Bible Study to begin on February 16.

For 7 consecutive Tuesdays, beginning February 16, we as a church have the opportunity to study Adam Hamilton's The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus. Pastor Nancy will lead the morning study at 10:00 a.m. in Cravens Hall and Pastor David will lead the evening study at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor, located in the back area of the sanctuary. The study will consist of a 40-day student daily devotion-al book, which will cost \$7. Along with the daily readings, each Tuesday session will watch a DVD segment filmed in Israel, and will have a discussion and question time. The focus of the study is the actions of Jesus from His Baptism to the Cross and beyond. Study books will be handed out at the Ash Wednesday Service on February 10, and will also be available in the church office.



Committee Guidelines Available Now in Church Office.

Pastor David has made available the following guidelines to help our various ministries at First UMC. If your ministry area happen to be Christian Education, Evangelism, Finance, Missions, or Trustees, then these booklets may help you. The copies are free and can be picked up in the church office.



Please join us on Sunday, March 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

for a live Telecast of the Harvest America event!

This FREE family event will be held at:

First United Methodist Church

670 N 5th Street

Silsbee, TX 77656

Harvest America is a live nationwide FREE event, broadcast from AT&T Stadium in Texas, and streamed to thousands of host locations across the country—including churches, theaters, and living rooms. Featuring music from Chris Tomlin, Leerae, Switchfoot, and MercyMe, and a clear gospel message by Greg Laurie, the goal of Harvest America is to impact a nation desperately in need of hope.

A light meal will be offered.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this great event!

Seating is limited, so please RSVP to office@silsbeemc.com

or 385-5568 before February 26!

First United Methodist Church

670 North 5th Street

Silsbee Texas 77656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

