



April 27, 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,

On April 26, I received a letter from our Bishop, Rev. Janice Riggle Huie, in the mail. Now, I don't know about you, but when I receive a letter from the CEO of the Texas Annual Conference, it tends to make me nervous. The reason for my feelings are that I have not received many letters from the Bishop in the past, even though the previous letters have been positive. Well, the letter that I received was to congratulate me on the upcoming 25th anniversary of my being ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church. The letter also said that my years of service would be recognized at the meeting of the annual conference in Houston on May 31.

Wow! 25 years! I have often thought that if I could stop aging, 25 would be a good place. At 25, I would still be relatively young, but would hopefully have attained some knowledge and experience. But, as we all know, the aging process cannot be stopped. I also thought of the following: Google was only 7 years old, George H. W. Bush was President, 9/11 was 10 years away, the Kardashians had not made their climb to fame yet, and my Dad was 71 years old and still a

force to be dealt with. I could go on and on, but I think you get the idea.

But on a serious note, getting the letter made me think of the future. What am I going to do with the future and final 12 years of my ordained ministry. And, as your current pastor, what is to become of First UMC Silsbee in the future? One thing I know friends is that change cannot be stopped, but only possibly shaped in the best of circumstances.

In closing, I guess what the letter has made me do is something called reflection. By reflecting, we celebrate and mourn the past, live as fully as possible in the present, and hope, pray, and plan for our futures that are yet to be. A Bible verse which I like, especially when reflecting, is Hebrews 13:8, which says: “Jesus Christ is I the same yesterday, today, and forever!” (Common English Version) So, my friends, let us live the best we can knowing that in our past, our present, and our future that Jesus is with us in the journey.

Live well!

Pastor David

Youth Director Search Heats Up

After two months of praying and searching, the Youth Director Search Committee is pleased to announce that two candidates will be visiting us here at First UMC. First up on the weekend of April 29-May 1 is Ben Schulz of College Station, TX.. Ben is a graduate of Texas A&M with a master's degree in Christian Counseling from Houston Baptist University. Ben has a passion for telling others about Jesus and has been a believer since 1996. Secondly, on the weekend of May 13-15, Tanner Hannah will visit us from Bridgeport, TX. Tanner grew up in church and his mother served as their church's youth minister. He graduated from Dallas Baptist University with a degree in Christian Studies.

Both of these young men will attend our worship services, Sunday School, and a time with our youth and parents. Please pray for them, that their time with us will be beneficial for all.

**Final Faithweaver Friends ends
Spring Session on May 11**



The children's ministry of Faithweaver Friends will wrap up their spring session on May 11 in the Dauphin Room of McDonough Hall. This ministry, which is geared for children from 4 years old to 5th grade, is a weekly opportunity for food, fellowship, and fun with singing, games, crafts, and a Bible lesson. As your pastor, I would personally like to thank all of our volunteers under the direction of Glenda Delano for their love, devotion, gifts, and service given to enhance the lives of our community children.

Service Opportunities in Worship

With the retirement of Pastor Nancy Ratchford on May 1st, this opens up several possible opportunities for lay leadership in our worship services. These opportunities would be leading in the Call to Worship, reading of the statements of faith, saying the offertory prayer, children's sermon, and helping with the serving of Holy Communion. If anyone would be interested in helping, simply call Pastor David and he will schedule your time for helping in worship.

May-June Upper Rooms Available

It's that time again to pick up your new Upper Room daily devotional guides. These booklets, available in regular and large print, will be distributed in our worship services on May 1 and will also be available in our church office. Please try out these devotional readings which will daily be a spiritual benefit for you and your family

In Loving Memory

Adelle Sevars

Dan and Sharon Herron

Roger Ratliff

Patricia Donalson



In
Honor
Of

Nancy Ratchford

Patricia Donalson

Kristi Sellers

Marianne Deadmon

Methogram Schedule

May 11 publication

Please submit any articles and info by noon, Tues. May 10

May 25 publication

Please submit any articles and info by noon, Tues. May 24

<u>Worship</u>		<u>Gifts</u>	
04/17	170	04/17	\$4,272.01
04/24	167	04/24	\$5,887.30
<u>Sunday School</u>			
04/17	57		
04/24	109		

First UMC to Honor National Day of Prayer on May 5

The 65th annual National Day of Prayer will be celebrated in our church sanctuary from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5. The purpose of this day is for all of the great religions in the USA to unite in prayer and that it may one day bring renewed respect for God to all peoples of the world. It is also a time set aside to ask for the Lord's healing for our nation. The Theme for 2016 is "Wake Up America" and the theme verse is Isaiah 58:1a which is "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet." All are invited to come and pray.



Primetimers will be on a summer schedule beginning May 1st. The next meeting will be on May 24, 2016. Everyone is invited for fellowship and Bible Study.

Primetimers Games will meet on the regular schedule on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 pm

Attention!

Attention: Friends of Janie Hough! Janie will be 100 on May 10th. We are asking that you send a birthday card with any remembrances for her. You can leave your cards at the church office or with me before May 9th. Thank you,

Sherry Woodard

Mother's Day to be celebrated at First UMC on May 8 with Special Offering

One of the best ministries that are conducted by the United Methodist Church are our Methodist Retirement Communities. This ministry provides many services for our senior adults who live in wonderful facilities in Texarkana, Lufkin, Huntsville, Bryan, La Porte, and League City. These facilities provide care for active adults, those needing help with feeding, dressing, bathing, medication assistance, rehab, and for those with Alzheimer's Disease who need around the clock nursing care.

Our church will receive an offering on Sunday, May 8, for well over 300 men and women on HUD subsidies and many others who have outlived some or all of their resources. The amount needed each year equals at least \$1 million. Our gifts are needed because MRC's are not an apportionment funded agency.

So, on May 8 in worship, please give what you can to honor all of the mothers and grandmothers in your lives. In addition, each woman in worship will receive a carnation as a token of our love.

Thank you

My dear friends,

Words cannot express my gratitude and love for all of you. Thank you for the wonderful retirement celebration in my honor. The food was delicious!! I want to thank all who had a part in organizing and serving the dinner. Your cards, gifts, flowers, and loving, gracious testimonials thrilled my heart. I have been so blessed to serve God at First United Methodist. Thank you for your love and support.

*Grace and Peace to all of you,
Pastor Nancy Ratchford*

Thank You

Our thanks go out to each of our church friends for all your prayers, cards, and phone calls after Cecil's fall and during his recovery. The Lord has been with us all the way.

*Bless each of you,
Cecil and Marjorie Cassity*



School Mentoring Program

The Missions Committee is very excited to announce that we have been invited by Principal Sune Stephens to help fill a real need for volunteers at Silsbee Middle School. Some of the volunteer opportunities include the following:

1. Help for the receptionist who has children and parents coming to her desk constantly.
2. Helping the administrative staff during lunch, to be with the children and visit with them.
3. Help in special needs classrooms, working one on one with teachers and students.
4. Help in most of the classrooms, especially if available on a particular day or time.

If we can start volunteering this semester, this program will expand even more the next school year. This is an exciting opportunity that we as a church and as caring members of the community should not pass up! If you can volunteer an hour a week or an hour a month, if not more, please help us with this awesome program for our children and our schools.

The first step is to fill out the volunteer form which is available at the church office and at the back of the sanctuary. Once this form is filled out, turn it into the church office and expect a call advising you when you can visit the school administration building to pick up your volunteer badge.

Rick Fetterolf or Elizabeth Auer will be most happy to answer your questions concerning this fantastic Missions opportunity.

First United Methodist Church
670 North 5th Street
Silsbee Texas 77656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

