

November 17, 2011



Methogram

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

The Methogram is a publication of:
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Dan's Divinities

The only reason there was a first Thanksgiving was because of several miracles. On December 26, 1620, the Pilgrims made camp at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. They chose that spot because there was fresh water there, and a little clearing where there was an abandoned Indian village. The Pilgrims were woefully unprepared for survival in the wilderness. Of the 102 that landed, 51 of them died that first winter due to exposure, disease, and hunger.

Then the miracle happened. In March of 1621, an Indian named Samoset walked into their camp and began to shout in broken English, “Welcome! Welcome!” He had learned a little bit of English from some English Traders. The Pilgrims had thought the Indians were hostile, but here was one extending hospitality. Samoset left, and then returned with another Native American named Squanto.

Squanto noticed that the Pilgrims were hungry and skinny, so he asked them in near perfect English why they did not eat fish. They replied that they did not have any hooks or nets. So Squanto showed them how to make nets, catch fish, and harvest seafood. The Pilgrims tried to hunt, but could not get close enough to any of the game to shoot them, so he taught them how to stalk the game and wait in a blind. They did not know how to farm, so he showed them a new crop

native to America, corn. Under Squanto's guidance, they planted and fertilized corn, beans, pumpkins, squash, and okra. In short, Squanto taught them all the skills they needed to survive and provide for themselves, which resulted in the first Thanksgiving.

The life saving intervention by this native American was a miracle, facilitated by the even greater miracle of Squanto's personal history.

Many years earlier, Squanto had met some of the English traders, who lived with the Indians for a while, long enough that he began to communicate with them. In return for their hospitality, the traders offered to take Squanto to England so he could see how the white man lived, even as they had seen how the native Americans lived. Squanto accepted, and was taken by ship to England, where he became a celebrity. In England, he learned how to speak English almost perfectly, and was educated in some of the finest schools in the country. The only problem was that he could not find a ride back to America.

Finally, after ten years, he made contact with two English ship captains, John Smith and Thomas Hunt, who had voyages planned to the New World. Smith took him aboard his

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Worship

We will celebrate Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Christian Year, in the 9:00 and 11:00 am services on November 20. Our scripture readings will be Ezekiel 43:11-16, Ephesians 1:15-46, and Matthew 25:31-26.

Our Thanksgiving service will be a Community Thanksgiving Service at 6:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The Rev. Daryl Gilbert of Simon's Memorial Church of God in Christ will be our preacher. Immediately following the service there will be a cookies and punch reception in McDonough Hall. Dagma Murphy is organizing the reception. Thanks, Dagma!

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vessel, and dropped him off in what is now Maine. However, on his overland trek back to Massachusetts, Squanto was captured along with other Native Americans by some of Thomas Hunt's men, and taken back across the Atlantic and sold into slavery in Spain. It is unknown to history how he escaped slavery in Spain, but he did so, and somehow managed to make his way back to England. There, a trader by the name of Mr. Durmer took him in, and eventually took him back to America. Squanto arrived back in The New World in June of 1620, six months before the Pilgrims arrived. He hiked back again to where his tribe had been staying and there was no one there. The settlement had obviously been abandoned for some time. He did not know where they were. He went to a neighboring tribe, which was the Wampanoage Tribe whose Chief's name was Massasoit, from whose name we draw the name Massachusetts. They told him that he was lucky that he was had not been there, because the entire tribe had been killed by a plague, perhaps of small pox. If Squanto had not had the misfortune of being sold as a slave, he would have died of the plague, and the Pilgrims would have died as well!

Oh, and one more miracle, the exact spot where the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth, was the spot where Squanto's tribe had been. What would be the odds of that? Answer: 100% if you believe in providence. Coming to the Pilgrim's camp was a homecoming for Squanto.

Both Squanto and the Pilgrims went through great suffering, but God used all their hardships to help bring about a new civilization where people could worship Him in freedom. This Thanksgiving, give thanks for all of your blessings and all your hardships, knowing that God's blessings are upon you.

Pastor Dan



The Miracle of Christmas

Dr. Darby's sermon series for the Advent through Christmas Day is *The Miracle of Christmas*. The series will be:

- * November 27 – *The Virgin Mary*
- * December 4 – *Joseph the Carpenter*
- * December 11 – The Christmas Cantata: *A Thrill of Hope* performed at the 11:00 a.m. service. We will also have the 9:00 a.m. service as normal.
- * December 18 – *Mary's Visit to Elizabeth*
- * December 24 (Saturday) – *The Miracle at Bethlehem*, 5:00 and 7:00 pm, Candlelight Communion Services
- * December 25 (Sunday, Christmas Day) – *Worship at the Manger*. We will have a unified worship service at 11:00 a.m. There will be no 9:00 a.m. service or Sunday School.

In Loving Memory

Carolyn Donalson

David and Karen Cobble
Larry and Pat Cooper
Bob and Ann Nell Herbst

Hon. Britt Plunk

Michael and Christine Holt Graves

George Wright

Robert Grote

Cesar Dominguez

Allan and Dagma Murphy
David and Karen Cobble
Robert Grote
Judy and Ron Erdman
Tom and Beverly Price
Cecil Cain
Bob and Ann Nell Herbst
The Jack D. Jordan Family
Joyce McClung

Wilma Ludwig

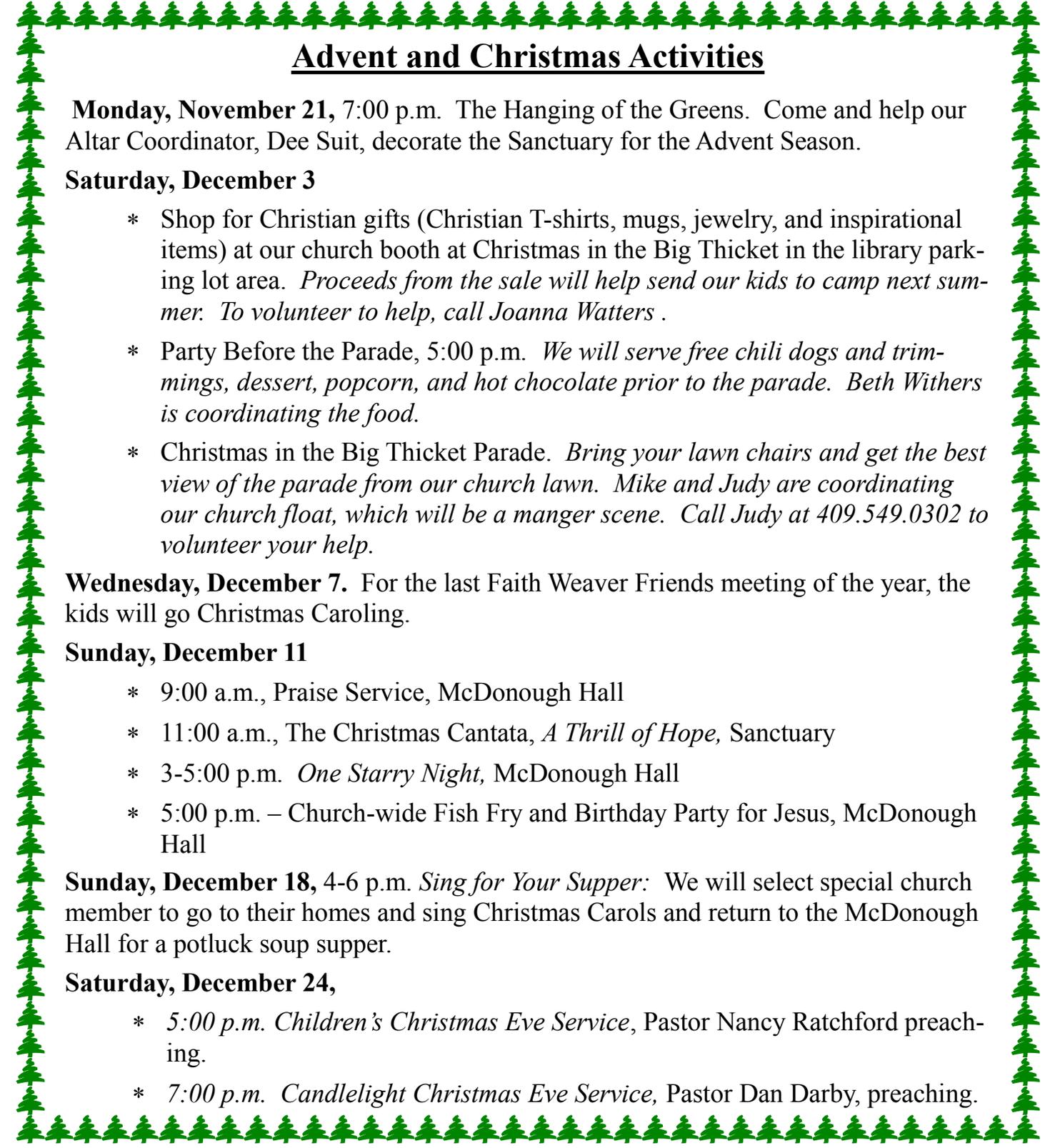
Bob and Ann Nell Herbst
Lawson and Sue Kloesel
Lee Caldwell
Bruce and Beth Withers
Jack and Peggy Edwards
The Victory Class @ FUMC
Barbara Thompson
Ron and Judy Erdman
Marianne Deadmon
Tommy Roberts
Joyce McClung

B.W. Ross

Ed and Sonia Cain
Bob and Ann Nell Herbst
Bruce and Beth Withers
Joyce McClung

Rev. Eugene Jonté

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Parker
Allan and Dagma Murphy
James and Tonya Hawkins
Oscar Morrison
Pat and Lynn Hardy
Mary and Wayne Francis
David and Karen Cobble
Erin Sheffield
Lee and Jessica Wise
Patrick and Elizabeth Richardson
Dr. and Mrs. Wade Parker
Bill Barclay
Michael and Christine Holt Graves
David and Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield
Jason and LeAnn Johnson
Robert Grote
Jack and Peggy Edwards
Judy and Ron Erdman
Tom and Sheila Eveland
Juanita Stover and Judge Earl Stover III
Sabrina Birdwell Diehl
Leslie Birdwell Pursley
Tom and Beverly Price
Cecil Cain
Lee Caldwell
Dennis and Phyllis Biggs
Dean and Willa Dean Hill
Ed and Sonia Cain
Jerry and Irene Redkey
Mrs. And Mrs. Cecil Cassity
Bob and Ann Nell Herbst
Gary and Sharon Wornick
The Jack D. Jordan Family
Gus and Johni Ruth Dunbar
Jacqueline Read
Joyce McClung



Advent and Christmas Activities

Monday, November 21, 7:00 p.m. The Hanging of the Greens. Come and help our Altar Coordinator, Dee Suit, decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent Season.

Saturday, December 3

- * Shop for Christian gifts (Christian T-shirts, mugs, jewelry, and inspirational items) at our church booth at Christmas in the Big Thicket in the library parking lot area. *Proceeds from the sale will help send our kids to camp next summer. To volunteer to help, call Joanna Watters .*
- * Party Before the Parade, 5:00 p.m. *We will serve free chili dogs and trimmings, dessert, popcorn, and hot chocolate prior to the parade. Beth Withers is coordinating the food.*
- * Christmas in the Big Thicket Parade. *Bring your lawn chairs and get the best view of the parade from our church lawn. Mike and Judy are coordinating our church float, which will be a manger scene. Call Judy at 409.549.0302 to volunteer your help.*

Wednesday, December 7. For the last Faith Weaver Friends meeting of the year, the kids will go Christmas Caroling.

Sunday, December 11

- * 9:00 a.m., Praise Service, McDonough Hall
- * 11:00 a.m., The Christmas Cantata, *A Thrill of Hope*, Sanctuary
- * 3-5:00 p.m. *One Starry Night*, McDonough Hall
- * 5:00 p.m. – Church-wide Fish Fry and Birthday Party for Jesus, McDonough Hall

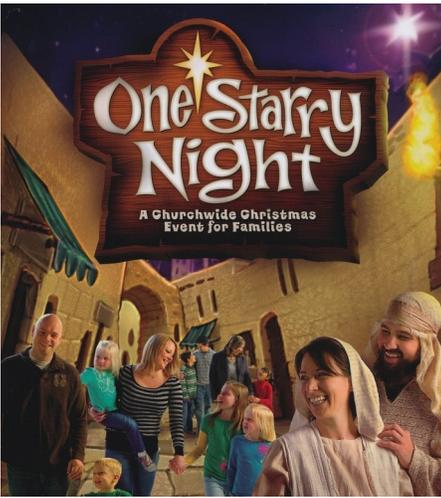
Sunday, December 18, 4-6 p.m. *Sing for Your Supper:* We will select special church member to go to their homes and sing Christmas Carols and return to the McDonough Hall for a potluck soup supper.

Saturday, December 24,

- * 5:00 p.m. *Children's Christmas Eve Service*, Pastor Nancy Ratchford preaching.
- * 7:00 p.m. *Candlelight Christmas Eve Service*, Pastor Dan Darby, preaching.

I have just finish reading *Sunshine Magazine* from the Methodist Children's Home, and placed in the rack outside the church office. If you would like to read it, pick it up and take it home. It has numerous great stories not just about the home, but also testimonies from some of the 1400 youth whose lives are being changed by the work of this great place.

I have also placed there *Frontline*, which is a great publication about grief, if anyone would like to take it home.



Sunday, December 11, 3-5 pm **One Starry Night** - a family Christmas event. Join us for an afternoon of travelling back in time to Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth. Visit *the Marketplace, the Inn*

and *the Stable* and talk to Mary and Joseph. Study the stars with *the Wisemen* and don't forget to stop by *the Census Taker*. Travel to all the stations to enjoy the crafts, food, and to remember the true reason for the Christmas season. You and your kids will **NOT** want to miss this special event. Please call the office to register or pick up a form at the FaithWeaver sign-in. A church wide fish fry and a birthday party for Jesus will follow at 5 pm.

Gifts	Presence
<p><u>October 30, 2011</u> \$4,004.45</p>	<p><u>Worship</u> 10/30 139 11/06 122 11/13 133</p>
<p><u>November 6, 2011</u> \$9,591.00</p>	<p><u>Sunday School</u> 10/30 86 11/06 71 11/13 80</p>
<p><u>November 13, 2011</u> \$5,520.50</p>	

St. Jude's Ranch for Children has helped neglected and abused children for many years. They live on the ranch, and there are many success stories of college graduations and thriving careers. For more than 30 years, the ranch has recycled used greeting cards into new cards. With the holidays ahead of us, the Ranch is looking for all types of greeting-card fronts that have no writing on the back of them. Cards for every holiday are welcome, and angels and teddy bears are especially in demand. The children cut down the card fronts and make them into new greeting cards, which then are sold online and in the ranch gift shops. The kids are paid 15 cents per card that they make, and the money goes into their personal accounts. You can help by only sending them greeting card fronts. The fronts must be able to be trimmed to fit the ranch's 5x7" backs, and cards are accepted through February 28. If you would like to donate some of your used card fronts, please bring them by the church office, and Dagma Murphy will send them in all at once. Please cut (don't tear) the fronts from the cards, and please remember that they can have no writing on the back.

McDonough Hall Renovation



The Church Council has voted to renovate McDonough Hall. Lots of our doors have places where the veneer is peeled off. The only thing to do is to replace the doors. Also, our door hardware has given us 47 years of good service; It is time to replace it!

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

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