

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 is almost time to close out 2016. But, I say but, before we do, we must encounter the savior of our world, Jesus the Christ. Christmas reminds us that in our busyness, stress, frustrations, and disappointments, these things of earth are overcome and lessened because of the love of God found in His son who is born for us.

However, there is a danger we face and that danger is to forget, to not celebrate and rejoice in the fact that God loves us and is willing to become one like us. The following is a worldly version of a classic poem:

'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed.
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter.
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "it's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound.
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

May you all have a Merry Christmas and New Year!

Pastor David

Church Office to be Closed Last Week of 2016

First UMC's church office will be closed from December 26-30. The office will re-open for normal business hours on Monday, January 2, 2017.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party on December 18

From 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on December 18, all Sunday School children are invited to have breakfast, make crafts, and hear stories during our Happy Birthday Jesus party, which will be held in the Dauphin Room of McDonough Hall



I want to thank everyone that brought baby gifts for our baby shower for Jesus. The administrator at the Beaumont Women and Children's shelter was very grateful. She said that the women would be so happy to get these things. The children had a great time at the shower and I hope that it brought meaning to your Christmas.

This Sunday, December 18th we will be celebrating Jesus' birthday during Sunday School. We will have breakfast and birthday cake and a story and craft. Come out and celebrate with us!

During the week of the 19th-23rd of Dec., we will have the Live Nativity scene in the front yard of the church. If your Sunday School class, family or group of friends would like to participate please contact me at 291-9480. So far we have a group scheduled for the 19th and the 22nd. We still have nights available. We have costumes for everyone and plenty of pins to make sure they fit.

~Mrs. Glenda

2017 Church Ministry Planning Session on Saturday, January 14

All church committee members are asked to attend an informative and fulfilling ministry planning event in the Dauphin Room on Sat, January 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Jan Floro, a church consultant of Grow Church Now, will lead us as we look at where and how we will do ministry in 2017. Jan, from Spring, Texas, brings a dynamic and personal perspective to helping churches of all sizes reach their potential. She has consulted with 50 plus churches in the Texas Annual Conference. As always, food and snacks will be enjoyed by all. Please plan to attend this very important event on January 14.



I would like to commend Nick Trainer and Gage Tywater on their great cantata performance on Sunday, December 11th. We have quite a group of talented youth at our church!!!

The youth are looking forward to our annual Christmas Party at the Miller's Barn. I want to thank the Millers for their hospitality in letting us use their great barn area. As well, the youth have purchased the socks that we are going to pass out this Sunday, December 18th at the Silsbee Convalescent Home. We look forward to bringing some holiday fun to the residents of the convalescent home.

The youth will also be participating in the Live Nativity scene for our church on Thursday, December 22nd. Hopefully the weather will hold up well for the event!!! Please don't forget on the weekend of January 20th, Hot Hearts Student Conference is going to take place at the Ford Center in Beaumont. All denominations are invited to come to this great event. There will be a professional Christian band playing at the Conference as well as many great speakers who will present a variety of topics that face teens.

Additionally, the Youth Group 5K Run/Walk is taking shape for Saturday, April 1st, 2017. We already have three sponsors for the race!!! If your company would be interested in sponsoring our 5K race please email me at youth@silsbeeumc.com and I can get you the sponsorship form. Also, if you would like to run in the race please email me and I can get you the race sign up sheet.

Finally, I would like to send my condolences to the Gilchrist family. My prayers and support go out to them in their loss and time of grief.

God Bless,
Ben Schulz

2017 Church Officers Still Needed

The church members who serve on the various ministry committees at First UMC are critical for the church's effectiveness. The following committee positions are still available for service:

1. Lay Delegate to Annual Conference
2. Finance Committee Chairperson, as well as 2 positions on Finance Committee Class of 2019
3. Memorial Committee Chairperson, as well as 3 positions on Memorial Committee Class of 2019
4. 2 positions on Staff Parish Relations Committee Class of 2019
5. 2017 and 2018 At Large Church Council positions.

If you are willing and able to serve on any of these committees, please contact Pastor David at 409-385-5568 or by email at pastor@silsbeeumc.com.



At both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services on December 18th, everyone is invited to participate in a Christmas offering for the foster care children of Hardin County. The Hardin County Child Protective Services Board provides care all year long for children without families. Hardin County has a record number of children currently in foster care. Let's do what we can for these children at Christmastime.

<u>Worship</u>	
12/04	144
12/11	112
<u>Sunday School</u>	
12/04	81
12/11	76
<u>Gifts</u>	
12/04	\$10,138.52
12/11	\$13,142.50



Christmas Season at First UMC

December 18

- Christmas offering for Hardin County Child Protective Services in both services.

December 24

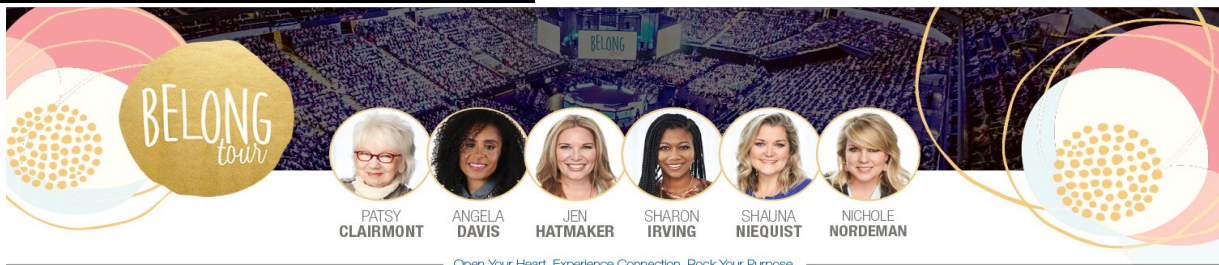
- Christmas Eve services of Communion, Candles, and Carols.
- 5:00 p.m. service, Ben Schulz preaching
- 7:00 p.m. service, Pastor David Green preaching

December 25

- One Worship service at 11:00 a.m. in McDonough Hall
- Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

January 1, 2017

- One Worship service at 11:00 a.m. in Sanctuary
- Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.



Beginning on January 8, 2017, we would like to invite all interested women to join us during the Sunday School hour to meet and watch the Belong Tour Telecast. What can you expect from this Telecast? We will gather to hear remarkable communicators Jen Hatmaker, Shauna Niequist, Nichole Nordeman, Sharon Irving, Angela Davis, and Patsy Clairmont hone in on how to live a fun, faith-filled, purposeful life. If this sounds like something that would interest you, please contact the church office by phone or email (409-385-5568 or office@silabeeumc.com) and let us know that you will be joining us on Sunday mornings for the Belong Telecast! We want to be sure we have chairs for everyone interested. We will meet in Cravens Hall Room No. 206.



We will be having a live Nativity scene on the front church lawn December 19-23. Gather five or

more friends and family members and come be a part of this wonderful mission. You can sign up in the church office or call Glenda Delano at 291-9480. The scene starts each night at 5:30 p.m. and goes until 7:30 p.m.. Come to the parlor in the church sanctuary a little early to get your costume. We have a wide variety of costumes, so come and join us. We even supply safety pins, so the costumes will fit everyone!

Christmas Day Schedule

On Christmas Day, December 25, everyone is invited to gather in the Dauphin Room at 11:00 a.m. for a time of worship. Prior to worship, Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m.

New Year's Day at First UMC

To begin 2017, all are invited to gather in worship in our sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. Prior to worship, Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m.

2017 Church Officer Recognition and Installation on January 8, 2017

First UMC will begin our new year by recognizing and installing all church officers/ ministry servants at both worship services on January 8. Please pray for our friends and thank God for their service and dedication.

First United Methodist Church

670 North 5th Street

Silsbee Texas 77656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

