

The Chit dress Messenger



Issue 96
JANUARY 2016



The Journey Ahead

Over the past few weeks, I have had a word that continues to pop up in conversations, in studies, in books I am reading...

RECLAIM

Reclaim, this word has come up in conversations, in studies, in books I am reading... Reclaim, it has been in the shadows, on the outside edge of what is being focused on. It has not been on the outskirts demanding attention; Reclaim has been patiently waiting to be acknowledge, patiently waiting to be brought in to focus, patiently waiting to be given attention.

In the busy-ness of our lives there can be a lot of things we allow to fall from its proper place. We don't mean to take relationships for granted... We never intended to go this long without praying or attending worship... We had every intention of making that change in our lives... But, in all of our good intentions, in the immediacy of the moment, in all of the time we just seem to check out, we allow other relationships, other commitments, other things to crowd out many of the very things we long for and many of the things we want in our lives.

We tend to make New Year's Resolutions. Many people make them, few actually see them through to completion.

This year, I want us to begin our year a little different. On January 3rd, during worship I invite you to participate in a Covenant Renewal Service. My hope is that this will be a time for us to renew, recommit, and **reclaim** our faith and live faithfully into a new year. As we live into this new year, may we see how God is opening opportunities to reclaim our faith, our relationships, our time...our lives.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Lou

THE UPPER ROOM

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Do you read The Upper Room Daily Devotional?

Did you know that The Upper Room offers additional ways to receive their Daily Devotional:

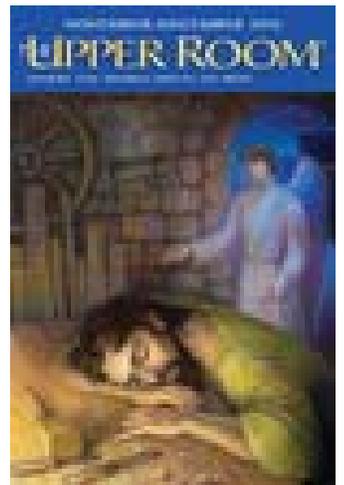
*Download the app from the Apple or Android store
(requires a paid subscription)

*You can receive a digital copy on your iPad, iPhone, Android tablet,
Android phone, computer, Kindle Fire
(requires a paid subscription)

*Sign up to receive the Daily Devotional to your email Inbox
<http://devotional.upperroom.org/emaildevotional>

*Read the current days Devotional or search the
Archives for previous devotionals at
<http://devotional.upperroom.org/>

*You can also follow “The Upper Room Daily
Devotional Guide” on Facebook



Living into our Membership Vows by our: Prayers

Mary Ann Hickman	Pearl Jones	Thame Chapman
Quinlynn Johnson	Laura Emmord	Ryan Miller
Nancy White	Ron Sims	Catherine Hill
Seth Elliot	Debbie Wyatt	Pam Foster
Clark Rogers	Blake Edmondson	Jenny Lou Taylor
Charlotte Halford	Janis Lawrence	Becky Wilson
Bruce Parr	Jon and Jessica Mobbs	Willie Mae Helm
Ruth Hibbs	Georgia (Owen) Watson	Tootsie Bryant
Josh Gray	Debi Banach	LC Costley
Mary Richardson	Jeff Banach	Cambri Willis
Gaye Longbine	Stephen Polston	Bella Luna
Jimmy Barlow	Phoebe Engle	Coy Webb
Tonya Taylor	Marilyn Walker Schafer	Julie Longley
Myrtie Vecera	Danny Soto	Jean McNeely
Charlotte Fields	Sondra Hatcher	Steve Morton
Maydelle Jackson	Kelly Love	George Trent
Jane Ragsdale Judd	Marelene Wellman	Peggy McClain
Lynn McBride	Jack Carter	The Family of John Forbis
Landry Dollahite	Doris Harlan	
Eddie Lewellen	Hughell Holt	
Joan Monson	Sherri Hackler	
Emmalee Melton	Laura Henley Smith	
Terry Keener	Jeffrey Longley	

Prayers for the Missionaries & Ministries we support:

Timothy International, Rick & Janie Burkhalter—Kenya, Uganda,
Sudan, Israel

Scott and Lorna Burford, Wycliffe Bible Translators- Philippines

The Reeves, The Mission Society—Peru

Wesley Putnam Ministries—General Evangelist of the Northwest
Texas Conference , ministers to Children and leads Revivals

Names will appear on the Prayer Concerns List for 60 days. After that time, names will be removed unless a request is made to keep them on the prayer list. We appreciate your help in keeping this list current.

Joy and Concerns may be sent to prayer@childressumc.org
or by calling the Church Office and leaving a message on the Prayer Line.

www.childressumc.org

January 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1	2
3 Potluck Hosted by Hallelujah SS Class SPRC Meeting 6:00	4 Support Group 6:00 pm.	5	6 Coffee Time @ CHC 9:30 a.m.	7 Staff Dinner 6:30 p.m.	8	9	
10 All Committees Meeting 6:00	11	12	13	14 Adult Fellowship Noon	15	16	
17	18	19	20 Coffee Time @ CHC 9:30 a.m.	21	22	23	
24/30 4th Sunday Singing 4:00 p.m.	25/31	25	26	27	28	29	

Upcoming Events

February 1st	6:00 PM Grief Support Group	Fellowship Hall
February 3rd	9:30 AM Coffee Time	Childress Healthcare Center
February 7th	UMW Sunday UMW providing the Fellowship Meal following Morning Worship	Fellowship Hall
February 10th	7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
February 11th	Noon Adult Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
February 17th	9:30 AM Coffee Time	Childress Healthcare Center
February 28th	4:00 PM 4th Sunday Singing	Childress Healthcare Center

Weekly Scheduled Events

Sundays:	9:15 AM	<u>Early Communion</u>	Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	<u>Sunday School</u>	
	10:40 AM	<u>Morning Worship</u>	Sanctuary
	5:00 PM	<u>Evening Worship</u>	Fellowship Hall
Tuesdays:	5:00 PM	<u>Prayer Group</u>	Parlor
Wednesdays:	1:00—4:00 PM	<u>Joyful Quilters</u>	Activity House
	5:00—6:30 PM	<u>Disciple Kids</u>	Fellowship Hall
	5:00—7:00 PM	<u>Jr High Youth</u>	Activity House
	6:00—8:00 PM	<u>High School Youth</u>	Activity House
	6:30—7:30 PM	<u>Choir</u>	Choir Room

Church Attendance

	Sunday School	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
December 6th	141	196	17
December 13th	82	167	17
December 20th	78	106	16
December 27th	Cancelled due to weather	Cancelled due to weather	No Evening Worship
Year To Date Average	92	138	15

Agape Feast Thank You Letters

To Whom It May Concern,

All across the world in every correctional facility whether it be TYC, TDC, or jails worldwide, there is a saying, "Break bread like Jesus said." To us of criminal minds that means to "share". Now in all my years I would never of thought that a church would provide Thanksgiving lunch to a bunch of "irrational" people. And that has humbled my heart to a degree. To know generosity is still a part of some people. Truly that is a foreign concept to a person such as myself. Except now thanks to your church's kindness and will to give unto others that has shown me that people do still actually share. So from me and the rest of E-Pod thank you from the bottoms of our hearts. Holidays are very hard time in jails and whether it be family or a simple act of kindness, the smallest acts are monumental to us. So thank you and know I'll keep you all in my prayers through the holidays. If only I could shake your hands and give each of you hugs I really would. So happy holidays from E-Pod and know the appreciation y'all have from our dorm. Thank you really from our hearts and safe and happy holidays from E-Pod.

The ladies of Childress County Jail would like to thank you very much to know that y'all are nice enough and to care enough to take the time out of your lives to give us a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you and God Bless from the ladies of F-Pod.

From the women in G-Pod in Childress County Jail, we are so thankful for our Thanksgiving Day feast from the Methodist congregation. Without it, it wouldn't have been possible. Thank you so much and Happy Holidays. God Bless you all.

Agape Feast Thank You Letters continued

This is a Huge Thank You for your thoughts and your love. Thank you for you Blessings.

The meal was delicious.

Thank You & God Bless

Thank y'all very much for the food & your time & God Bless your families.

The meal was gratefully appreciated. Thank you for taking time from yourselves and your families to feed us.

Thank you all.

D-Pod

Thank you for making us feel as if we were a part of your family with the wonderful plates.

Thank you for also bringing the holiday to us and making this place feel a little like home.

Thank you all! God Bless you all!

Thank you all for remembering us outlaws on this day of giving thanks. Means a lot to know you still care about us even though we might not be leading a righteous life. Thank y'all & God Bless all of you.

Thank you all very much for blessing us with a Thanksgiving meal. It was very good.

On the behalf of E-Tank, we want to thank you for God putting kindness in you all to provide this wonderful Thanksgiving meal. I/We know many blessings will come every one of your ways, and I/we thank Jesus Christ for dying for our sins, the Holy Ghost, The Word, and the Father God. No matter what may come our way, the impossible can become possible. Through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which strengthens you and I if only we keep our Faith. You all have a Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless.

Living into our Membership Vows by our: **Gifts**

Year Ending as of December 29, 2015	
Total General Fund Tithes and Offerings Year to Date:	\$309,670.20
Total Expenses Year to Date:***	\$357,292.19
Budget Year to Date:	\$381,403.00
Building Fund Year to Date:	\$39,840.00
Directed Giving Year to Date:	\$33,396.97

***The Total Expenses Year To Date are above the giving to the General Fund Year to Date. This is due to several updates/upgrades within the Church (Thermostats, Computer Network Cable run, riding lawn mower, roof, gutters, etc) that will be recouped over the rest of the year to put the budget back on track. The expenses were paid by money that was rolled over from last year (but does not show up on the Year to Date Giving information...)

December Memorials

Clem Timmons by Kenneth & Yvonne Ellis

Geneva Maddox by Kenneth & Yvonne Ellis

Nancy Gonzales by Kenneth & Yvonne Ellis

Betty Whitten by Kenneth & Yvonne Ellis

Dorothy Haile by Kenneth & Yvonne Ellis

Mareece Grimes by Kenneth & Yvonne Ellis

Steve Halford by Kenneth and Yvonne Ellis

Shorty McNeely by Kenneth and Yvonne Ellis

Geneva Maddox by David and Susan Grimes

Steve Howard by David and Susan Grimes

Clem Timmons by Tom and Lila Hoobler

Phillip Musgrove by Tom and Lila Hoobler

Betty Whitten by Tom and Lila Hoobler

Geneva Maddox by Tom and Lila Hoobler

Dorothy Haile by Tom and Lila Hoobler

Geneva Maddox by Oren and Brenda Roach

Dude Lawrence by Janis Lawrence

Geneva Maddox by Edwin and JoAnn Meyer

Dorothy Haile by Edwin and JoAnn Meyer

Billy Cartwright by Kenneth and Yvonne Ellis

John Forbis by Kenneth and Yvonne Ellis

Living into our Membership Vows by our: **Service**



The food pantry is needing twisty ties off bread, etc. , egg cartons, and plastic bags. If you have any of these items, please bring to FUMC and place in the white receptacles below the UMW table in the hallway.

December's Communion Offering for Methodist Children's Home raised **\$320.**

The **Communion Offering** for **January** will go to the **Meals on Wheels.**



Thank you to our Church Family!
Your giving is always greatly appreciated!

All Committee Members who serve on:

Church Council

Staff Parish Relations

Finance

Trustees



We will gather together on **January 10th at 6:00 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Together we will begin to plan mission and ministry opportunities for the upcoming year.

A dinner will be served.



Adult Fellowship
Thursday, January 14th
Noon
FUMC Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker: **TBA**

Come join us for our monthly Adult Fellowship luncheon!

Everyone is invited whether you bring a dish or not.

Assisted Living Residents

Cottage Village

Rosalee Halford

Dean Decker

Elaine Sims

Dorothy Rucker

Johnnie Burrows

Childress Healthcare

Inez Dorman

Howard Grimes

Don Payton

Jenny Lou Taylor

Memphis Convalescent Center

Martha Sessions

Heritage Oaks, Lubbock

Serving In Our Military

Scott Self

Grady Parr

Brett Clark- Gary Clark's brother

Mark Seal- Dick & Geraldine Mitchell's grandson

Justin O'Brian- Leon Chambless' grandson

Charlie Schafer-Nelda Rogers' great nephew

Christopher Smith- nephew of Joe & Margie
Robinson

Brandon Etheredge- grandson of Tom and Virginia
Etheredge

Heath Eikman- grandson of Sandy Grillet

Tyler Masterson-grandson of Conrad and Ellen

Masterson

Tentative

2016 Pot Luck Schedule

January	Hallelujah Class
February	United Methodist Women
March	Upper Room Class
April	Church Camp Fundraiser
May	Forgiven & Hughes Classes
June	Seekers & Fellowship Classes
July	Hallelujah Class
August	Pathfinder's Class
September	Upper Room Class
October	Forgiven & Hughes Classes
November	Seekers & Fellowship Classes
December	Hallelujah Class

Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service January 3rd



John Wesley introduced the annual covenant renewal service for use by the Methodist societies in 1755. Every year, on or near January 1, the Methodists gathered to renew their covenant with God. The service is adapted from a Puritan ritual. It is a powerful time of self-examination and confession that culminates in renewal of commitment to discipleship.

United Methodists may practice covenant renewal by using the contemporary adaptation of Wesley's Covenant Renewal service found in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. Or congregations may choose to use the simpler "Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant" beginning at page 50 of *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

These services are a powerful means of grace that give members an opportunity to recommit themselves to living and practicing the baptismal covenant with God. They remind us of our commitment to be witnesses to Jesus Christ in the world by the way we live and love every day.

Here is a hymn Charles Wesley wrote expressly for the Covenant Service. It is #606 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*:

Come, let us use the grace divine, and all, with one accord, in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord.

Give up ourselves, through Jesu's power, his name to glorify; and promise in this sacred hour for God to live and die.

The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind! We will no more our God forsake, or cast his words behind.

We never will throw off his fear who hears our solemn vow; and if thou art well-pleased to hear, come down, and meet us now!

Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive! Present with the celestial host, the peaceful answer give!

To each the covenant-blood apply which takes our sins away; and register our names on high, and keep us to that day!

Will you join us in Worship as we renew our covenant with God in the new year?



Adapted from <http://wesleyanleadership.com/2012/12/31/covenant-renewal/>

Celebrating Baptism January 17th

Join us January 17th during Morning Worship as we celebrate with 3 children and one of our youth who will be baptized.

Below you will find a brief understanding of Baptism in the Wesleyan Faith Tradition adapted from <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/baptism>.

- Through baptism, we receive a new identity. We no longer allow others to tell us who we are. Christ now claims us and instructs us. A Christian is one who has “put on Christ.” Baptism celebrates becoming that new person. That is why the church’s ritual begins with putting off the old, renouncing sin and the evil powers of the world, and pledging our loyalty to Christ.
- We also believe that in baptism God initiates a covenant with us, announced with the words, “The Holy Spirit works within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.” This is followed by the sign-act of laying hands on the head, or the signing of the cross on the forehead with oil.
- From the beginning, baptism has been the door through which one enters the church. It was inconceivable to many that one could respond to God’s grace by reciting the renunciations, affirming one’s faith in Christ and loyalty to the Kingdom, without joining the fellowship of those who are committed to mature in that faith. As the “Body of Christ” in the world, baptism commissions us to use our gifts to strengthen the church and to transform the world.
- From the earliest times, children and infants were baptized and included in the church. Baptism is a means of grace, that signifies God’s initiative in the process of salvation. John Wesley preached “prevenient grace,” the grace that works in our lives before we are aware of it, bringing us to faith. The baptism of children and their inclusion in the church before they can respond with their own confirmation of faith is a vivid and compelling witness to prevenient grace.
- Because baptism is a sacrament of God’s grace and a covenant that God has initiated, it should not be repeated. However, God’s continuing and patient forgiveness, God’s prevenient grace, will prompt us to renew the commitment first made at our baptism. At such a time, instead of rebaptism, The United Methodist Church offers the ritual for the reaffirmation of baptismal vows, which implies that, while God remains faithful to God’s half of the covenant, we are not always faithful to our promises.



Address Service Requested

First United Methodist Church
201 Avenue D, NE
Childress, TX 79201
940-937-2511
www.childressumc.org

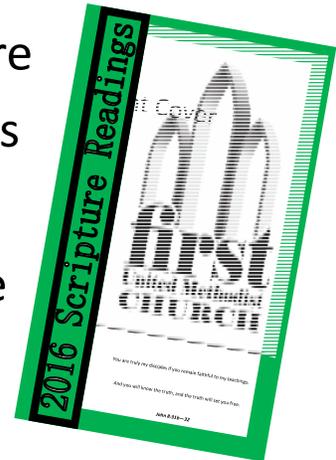
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Childress, TX
Permit No. 97



We are needing to update our list of Prayer Concerns. In order to do this, we are needing your help in letting us know if there are any friends or family members that need to be kept on the list or can be removed. We will downsize the list as needed. Please call the church office at 940-937-2511 and talk to Carolyn.

Thank you!

The 2016 Scripture Reading Booklet is available now in the Narthex of the Sanctuary or in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall.



Pick yours up today!