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**First United Methodist Church**  
419 West Walker  
Breckenridge, Texas 76424



# First United Methodist Church

419 West Walker, Breckenridge, TX 76424

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## January 2012 Newsletter

# Happy New Year!

### From the Pastor: Figs, Manure, and Repentance

*“And he answered him, “Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”” Luke 13:8*

*Self-examination. The beginning of the new year provides the followers of Christ with an opportunity to step back and do some fig tree, self-examination. This is necessary, though a bit scary and perhaps painful, because we have a natural tendency to stagnate and lose our zeal and passion.*

*Jesus clearly communicates a call for the nation of Israel and to the Israelites to do some self-examination by telling them a parable about a fruitless fig tree. Jesus shares the frustration of the owner of the fig tree due to three years of no fruit. Fruit is the main purpose for the existence of the fig tree. So, the continued lack of fruit puts the fig tree in jeopardy. Clearly, this is no time for business as usual. Change must occur. Something different, perhaps radical, must happen or the fruitless fig tree is kindling. Jesus is calling loud and clear, “Make a change, folks. You are stagnant. You are missing opportunities. You are missing growth and fruit.” Change is a synonym for repentance. The change of repentance is not a change for convenience, or for variety, or even for excitement. The change of repentance is a turning away from stagnation and apathy and harmful practices combined with a turning toward God’s forgiveness, spiritual discernment, and new practices that lead to spiritual growth and fruit. True repentance requires some action and a sincere plan for growth. It is the vine dresser or gardener that supplies the plan that includes a year of digging and fertilizing. It is the presence of the shovel, manure, and growth plan that saves the tree from death.*

*So, the question is, “Do you want to be fruitful? Do you want to grow? Will you be a good gardener? Do you have a shovel, manure, and growth plan for 2012?” Anyone can dabble with good intentions. Will you choose to pick up and carry the cross of self-examinations and repentance? By God’s grace, we may have another whole year. Praise the Lord.*

- Pastor Cal

## PRAYER CONCERNS

LINDA COLBERT

CODY OWEN

BETTY JEAN SALKINS

ANNETTE BOAZ

JOHN ED CONNER

HARWELL MCCONNELL

SHANNON MCINTIRE ROBERTS

J.C. SQUYRES

BECKIE TRIBBLE MIRELES – niece of Wayne & Guyla White

DAMON FRANKS – friend of Kathryn Hart

BARBARA HENDERSON – aunt of Kathryn Hart

RAY COCKRELL – father of Susan Pendleton

L.E. MCCLUSKEY

SUE TURNER – friend of Sharron Brown

MARTHA WESLEY – friend of Sharron Brown

JACK MITCHELL – brother of Sue Lodor

CHARLOTTE DOUGAN – mother of Deanna Owen

OLETA HERRING – mother of Marsha Gipson

SANDRA OVERMAN – mother of Jerry Overman

TERRY GIPSON – sister in law of Danny & Marsha Gipson

ROXI LEE – coworker of Sharon Pendleton

BARRY GOSWICK – daughter in law of Bobby & Elaine Goswick

KAREN MUSGRAVE – daughter of Ricky & Donna Strong

PEGGY BARRY – sister of Billie Harrison, broken hip

DAN MOOLMAN – friend of Rus & Nancy Carter

JERRY BEENE

BENNIE HUGHES – mother of Lisa Patterson

CHRISTINE BENNETT – sister of Monique Brown

KERRY NOBLE – cousin of Sharon Pendleton, bone lymphoma

JIM OLNEY – former Brownwood District Superintendent

### EXTENDED CARE:

MORIE EPPERSON - Villa Haven

SHIRLEY REGER

LENA MADENBURG – aunt of Roger Tonne - Villa Haven

EVELYN WHITE – mother of Wayne White - Cedar Crest

*Please call the church office if you know about a member being ill or having a death in the family. We would appreciate knowing when something happens in the daily lives of our congregation.*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SERVICEMEN & WOMEN IN HARM’S WAY:

ZACHARY KARL – Fort Hood - grandson of Bobby & Elaine Goswick

KYLE CLEAVENGER – Afghanistan - nephew of Tim & Beth Byerly

ARIC HOLLY – son of Sherry Strickland

BRANDI PENDLETON – daughter of Randy Pendleton

JACOB WISE – Afghanistan - grandson of Ruth Green & nephew of Guyla White

*If you are aware of any other church family and friends serving our country in harm’s way that we need to include in our prayers, please contact the church office with that information.*

# January 2012 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Communion</i> 8:30 am "Come as You Are" Worship 9:30 am Light Breakfast - <i>Mixed Nuts</i> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship Service	2 Church Office Closed <i>NO LEARNING TREE</i>	3	4 <i>NO LEARNING TREE</i> <i>NO BELL CHOIR</i> <i>NO YOUTH</i> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	5 6:45 am UMM Breakfast	6	7 10:00 am Un-Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary
8 8:30 am "Come as You Are" Worship 9:30 am Light Breakfast - <i>UMM</i> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship Service	9 9:00 am Learning Tree Resumes 12:00 WinGS Brown Bag Lunch Meeting	10 5:30 pm Ministry Council Mtg in Fellowship Hall	11 9:00 am Learning Tree 5:00 pm Bell Choir 6:00-7:30 pm Youth ( <i>Elem. &amp; Sr. High</i> ) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	12 5:30 pm Finance Mtg in Library 6:30 pm Admin. Board Meeting in Fellowship Hall	13	14
15 8:30 am "Come as You Are" Worship 9:30 am Light Breakfast - <i>Sr. High MYF</i> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship Service 7-8 pm Jr. High Youth Begins	16 9:00 am Learning Tree	17 7:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting in Library	18 9:00 am Learning Tree 5:00 pm Bell Choir 6:00-7:30 pm Youth ( <i>Elem. &amp; Sr. High</i> ) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	19 5:30 pm Trustee Meeting in Library	20	21 9am-12 pm Children's Chest Open
22 8:30 am "Come as You Are" Worship 9:30 am Light Breakfast - <i>Mixed Nuts</i> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship Service 6:30 pm Sanctity of Life Rally at National Theater ( <i>sponsored by Ministerial Alliance</i> ) 7-8 pm Jr. High Youth	23 9:00 am Learning Tree 12:00 WinGS Brown Bag Lunch Meeting	24	25 9:00 am Learning Tree 2:00 pm WinGS B-Day Party at Villa Haven 5:00 pm Bell Choir 6:00-7:30 pm Youth ( <i>Elem. &amp; Sr. High</i> ) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	26 2:00 pm WinGS B-Day Party at Cedar Crest	27	28
29 8:30 am "Come as You Are" Worship 9:30 am Light Breakfast - <i>Donuts</i> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship Service 7-8 pm Jr. High Youth	30 9:00 am Learning Tree	31				Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9 am - 4 pm

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1 - Brenda Gray	12 - Elyssa Glick	21 - Shelby Moser
2 - Damon Moser	14 - Chelsey McClymond	21 - Parker Perry
3 - James Wade	14 - Ray McCollum	23 - Sharon Toland
7 - Kason Burchett	15 - Wayne White	26 - Cal Hoffman
7 - Micah Clay	16 - Jay Walker	26 - Eric Venekamp
8 - Elizabeth Ortega	17 - Harley McCarthy	27 - Randy Boaz
9 - Margie Chastain	17 - Dick Rogers	27 - Shalyn Owen
9 - Jacob Glick	17 - Cheryl Williamson	29 - Ashley Owen
9 - Maegen Glick	18 - Barbara Power	29 - Ernie Underwood
10 - Tim Byerly	18 - Kaylee Roberts	30 - Clay Boaz
10 - Elmo Prater	20 - Shannon McNabb	30 - Elaine Evers
	21 - Bob Green	31 - Thomas Taylor

## CHILDREN'S CHEST

*The Children's Chest needs donations of new, unused toiletry items such as shampoo, soap, and toothpaste. Travel sizes that hotels give away are ideal!*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Tuesday, January 10th

- Ministry Council Meeting in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm

### Thursday, January 12th

- Finance Committee Meeting in Library at 5:30 pm
- Admin. Board Meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm

### Tuesday, January 17th

- Nominating Committee Meeting in Library at 7:00 pm

### Thursday, January 19th

- Trustee Meeting in Library at 5:30 pm

If you would like some large landscape rocks and boulders or a portable basketball goal, please call the church office or Pastor Cal.



## 2012 Teacher Schedule

1st Sunday: Laura Wilson  
2nd Sunday: Karen Duggan/Fallon Hope  
3rd Sunday: Sharon Rogers  
4th Sunday: Monica Burchett  
5th Sunday: April Lechner

Bottles and booties and bibs and more  
Let's shower Ava Michelle with gifts galore!  
Please come to a baby shower for

### *Brittany and Kevin Underwood*



On Sunday, January 15th  
1:30 to 3:00  
Laura Wilson's Home  
1390 Private Road 2231-3

Selections: Target