

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH,
LAKE JACKSON,
TEXAS



**First Church strives
to be like Jesus!**

- Praising God!
- Teaching God's Word!
- Loving one another!
- Strengthening families!
- Sharing the Good News!

Phone: 297-3046

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Visit us Online @:

www.ljfumc.org OR

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First UMC -
Lake Jackson

The Messenger

Volume 41, Issue 18

September 22, 2011



Parents!

We have a new bible study for you to be a part of starting Sunday, October 9 - Sunday, November 20! (just 6 weeks, excluding Oct 30)
3:30 - 5:00 pm.

"PARENTING BEYOND YOUR CAPACITY"

It'll be an awesome way to GROW as parents, CONNECT with other parents, LEARN about your role and more! Look for registration forms by email & at the church office & Sunday school classes!!

*Childcare is provided for up to 7th grade—more info soon!

Times of Discovery



**Pastor
Charles Geller**

**Find Pastor
Geller and
First Church on
Facebook!**

When I first accepted Christ into my life over 40 years ago, I spent a great deal of time trying to defend Him. I found that in trying to do this, I was trying to make perfection better. I was trying to make Him hip, more acceptable, and I would even soften His message so that 'contemporary people' would find Him more attractive. As I pen this, I now find that ludicrous. How do you make perfection better? I understand fully that in this age of 'political correctness' that I am not supposed to proclaim Jesus as God. As I grew in the faith, I learned that my calling was not to defend Him, but rather to proclaim Him! I believe the internal and external evidence is very clear about who He said that He was. Even a 'mega brain' like C.S. Lewis caught the pure unmixed clarion message of Jesus' proclamation.

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

I am a Christian not a 'Jesus-ian'! You might ask, what is the world is a 'Jesus-ian'? Jesus was His earthly name and Christ (CHRISTian) was His divine name! I confess, I invented the word 'Jesus-ian'. I was sitting with a friend of mine over 40 years ago and he said to me that he did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. He said that he believed that Jesus taught good things and that he could follow His teachings, but he could not accept Jesus as God's divine Son! Spilling out of my mouth came the words, 'then you are a Jesus-ian', not a Christian! Like you, my friend said, "A what? What in the world is that?" I explained to him the simple message above. If you are a Christian, than by clear definition you accept His divine proclamation (Christ as Messiah, Son of God, etc.).

If you follow His teachings, but not His being divine, then you are a 'Jesus-ian'!

I have been called to proclaim His divinity. Like Lewis, I have made the decision to fall down and worship Him. I love Him with all of my heart. I want to be a radical disciple for Jesus. He is my life! He is the very oxygen that I breathe! I will proclaim Him as Lord and Savior of the universe until I take my very last breath. Then I will spend eternity worshiping and praising Him!

Peace!

Pastor Geller

"Jesus is not just one way; a better way; a pleasant way on a good day. He is the way! Jesus is not just one truth, a higher truth, or a more personal truth. He is the truth. Jesus is not just another life, a nicer life, a more abundant life, He is the life of God Himself". *The Jesus Manifesto*

A Revival of the AGAPE Visitation Ministry Team

With the retirement of Pastor Stell, First UMC will become a single pastor church, led by Pastor Geller. Due to his increased workload and responsibilities, it will become even more important to have lay participation in our church ministries. Visitation with our members who are hospitalized is a very central element of the work of First UMC. A visit, a Scripture, a spoken word, or prayer helps bring comfort and hope to those who are recovering from an illness or injury. The church needs lay persons who are willing to be a part of this important ministry. Pastor Geller will offer guidance for those of you who may be called to minister in this way.

Please contact the church office at 979-297-3046 and let them know of your interest in serving as a member of the Agape Visitation Ministry Team.

Sincerely,
Sharron Shockley, SPRC Chair



In Our Prayers...

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

Frances Bitter & Family
Erin Moffitt

Chris Carter
Brad & Jenny McCoy

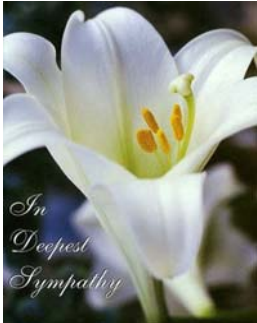
Gladys & Gordon Miller
Kay Alcott

Ryan Vollemaere
Connie Courtney

Bill & Joyce McCutchen
Clell Sechrest

Carolyn & Robby Eddleman
Joan Dietz-Bates

Sympathies and Memorials



MEMORIALS

In memory of Kennard Miller from:
Jack & Ellen Hays, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wanieck, Jim & Roberta Hemphill, Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Wade

In memory of Margaret Pennington from:
Esthermae Rooke

In memory of Crystal O'Connor from:
Her grandchildren in memory her of on Grandparents Day
Lowry, Linda Cook, Charles Davis, Oscar & Joan Hollis

The First Church Prayer Shawl Ministry

is looking for people who might be interested in making lap robes for our local veterans. We would like to have 30 blankets (35 x 40ish) red, white and blue, (any combinations) by November 8th. Knit, or crochet is perfect. For more information call Mary Helen Israel at 979-297-6968. Please join us in this effort.

A Note From The Methodist Men

The 61st Annual Methodist Men's Bar B Q was another success. We continued to work with the FUMC Family Life team in making this years event a family oriented "eat and play at the park" Bar B Q. We served over 950 plates and raised \$3750 for the following organizations and charities:

- Society of St Stephens \$300
- Habitat for Humanity \$300
- Carpenter's Hands \$800
- School for Little People \$800
- FUMC Ministry coordinating Team \$1550

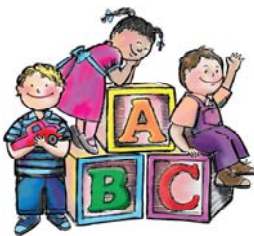
We want to thank the church community for participation in ticket sales and donations. And special thanks go out to all the volunteers whose dedication and tireless effort make this an annual success.

The Methodist Men of First United Methodist Church
Lake Jackson

MENTORING PROGRAM WITH RASCO MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL CONTINUE THIS FALL

First United Methodist Church will continue its partnership with Rasco Middle School this fall. FUMC is dedicated to sending mentors to Rasco to share in the lives of their wonderful students. All it takes to contribute to the life of a young person is time. Young people spell love, 't-i-m-e'!

If you are interested in being part of this outreach, please contact Pastor Geller at 979-297-3046 or cggeller@aol.com.



COME CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY UPDATED PRESCHOOL & NURSERY ROOMS!

Thank you to all the volunteers that worked hard to make these rooms wonderful for our babies, toddlers & young families and for our preschool families!

Joy Ministry - Care for Children with Special Needs



Joy Ministry Volunteer Opportunities!

Find out God's love will lead you to JOY!

Volunteers are needed, if you can help call Sharon Zimmerman

979-285-9484 or Kimberly Bowers 979-236-9427.



Please update your college students address with the Church Office:

We want our college students to know we are thinking of them throughout the school year. If you have a college student, please let the office know your student's current college address. E-mail addresses would be great too! You may drop a note in the offering plate, e-mail membersecretary@swbell.net, or give us a call at 297-3046.



Children's Ministries

Knowledge

Discovering something new so you can be better at whatever you do.



K-3 kids meet in Our Drama Room at 10 am for Activities & Bible Story!

Sundays @ 10 am

Grades 4-5 meet at 10 am for their own bible story & hang-out time!

Put it on your calendars!

**Sunday, October 30
Family Pumpkin Carving
3:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Sunday afternoons, Oct 9 - Nov 20
3:30-5:00 pm**

**Parenting Beyond Your Capacity
Bible Study**

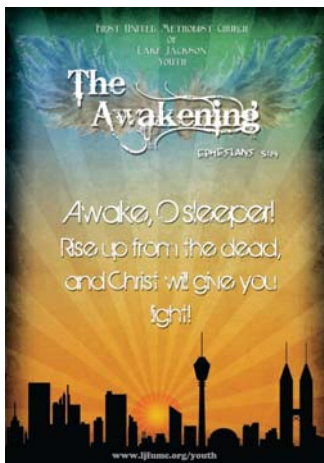
Childcare Provided

Kids K-6 will be a part of the "Noel Singers" for Christmas time!!

PARENTS - Get Connected!

Be sure to check out our email newsletter to see what your children are learning & look for a way to CONNECT with them!

September Youth Activities



The Awakening: Sunday Nights from 5pm - 7pm

We would like to formally invite YOU to take part in our all new and improved night of JESUS, FUN, and GENERAL AWESOMENESS

We've got **Games, Group Fun, \$2 Dinners, Separate programs for Jr. & Sr. High All the Friends you can handle, AWESOME LIVE MUSIC, and most importantly - lots of Jesus**

in our new study space Room 37 - The Runway!
Join us as we take flight with our first series: "God View"

AWAKEN.YOUR.HEART

WEDNESDAY NIGHT HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

**Come study what the Bible says about real teen issues
Wednesday Nights from 6 to 7:30 in Room 37**

THE FIFTH QUARTER!

Friday, September 23rd
End of BUCS Football Game 'til midnight
Snacks, Drinks and Games
Junior High and High School Youth



Join The Awakening FUMC Youth on Facebook!



Girl's Night Out

Girls Night Out is gathering for dinner at Mother Teresa's, 9/23. If you wish to attend, please call, Mary Helen Israel at 297-6968 or email mh-israel@sbcglobal.net.

Don't forget... Visit **El Chico** on Sunday and/or Wednesday and present any Sunday bulletin and receive 10% off your meal. **El Chico** then donates 10% of these sales back to our church!



Calling All Kids!

Hey kids... we've got something just for you!

Join us each Sunday during the 9am service for Children's Church! When you hear "Follow the way of the Cross" head out for a fun time of fellowship and learning just for kids.



Trustees Activity Update:

- Painting and carpeting are now complete in Wesley Hall. We now have something to be proud of in this widely used room in the church.
- Volunteers Jim Gauntt, Tom Crawford, Bruce Newman, Bob Patton and Trustee Jim Snyder have been spending time cleaning the air conditioning coils, replacing filters and working on filter housings. Thanks for the work guys, I know this will increase the efficiency of the air conditioners!
- Painting of a SLP & Elementary wing rooms were recently completed by Trustee Kelly Johnson and SLP teachers.
- Painting of the exterior wall of the elementary wing that replaced the windows is scheduled to be completed in September by one of our Scouts, Jayce Hemphill. Thanks Jayce!
- A water leak in the Youth Center had been dripping down into a breaker box below for a while and finally shorted out. Volunteer Butch Munnerlyn and Trustee Keith Zimmerman repaired the leak and had to change out the whole breaker box. Thanks to Butch, this probably saved the church several hundred dollars.



We are grateful to all who served First's Foods and Fellowship during the month of August:

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Nancy & Billy Gray | Mason Gray |
| Kassie Frost | Sally Barr |
| Tommy Deckard | Kayce Bond |
| Samantha & Rita Holt | |
| Rosemary Holt | |



Lost & Found

Please Check with the church office if you are missing anything! There are several pairs of sunglasses, some prescription along with many other items!

First Church Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
 2:00 pm - Olan Mills Photos
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
 6:00 pm - Sr. High Bible Study [YC]
 6:30 pm - Faith Lessons on the Promised Land Part 2 [AR]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [CR]

Thursday, September 22, 2011

9:00 am - Beth Moore Bible Study [AR]
 2:00 pm - Olan Mills Photos
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
 6:30 pm - Gulf Coast Adventure
 Weekend Task Force Training [AR]

Friday, September 23, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
 Breakfast [WH]
 2:00 pm - Olan Mills Photos
 6:30 pm— Girl's Night Out @ Mother Teresa's
 10:00 pm - Youth 5th Quarter [YC]

Sunday, September 25, 2011

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First's Foods [WH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary
 Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional
 Worship [Sanctuary]
 5:00 pm - Lessons for Youth [Rm. 37]
 5:00 pm - Submerge God View
 Lessons [BDR]
 5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [YC]

Monday, September 26, 2011

7:00 pm - Troop 325 Mtg. [WH]

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

9:00 am - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
 9:30 am—Bridge Group [AR & Kitchen]
 9:30 am - Taking the Word to the World
 Bible Study [WP] **New location!**

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
 10:00 am - Friendship Club (AR)
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
 6:00 pm - Sr. High Bible Study [YC]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [CR]

Thursday, September 29, 2011

9:00 am - Beth Moore Bible Study [AR]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
 7:00 pm - Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, September 30, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
 Breakfast [AR]

Sunday, October 2, 2011

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First's Foods [WH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]
 3:30 pm - Parenting Beyond Your Capacity [WH & AR]
 5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [YC]
 6:30 pm - The Carpenter's Hands [Rm 14]

Monday, October 3, 2011

4:00 pm - Society of St. Stephen Meeting [WP]
 6:30 pm - Stephen's Ministry Mtg. [Lib]
 7:00 pm - Cub Scout Committee Mtg. [Rm. 14]
 7:00 pm - Troop 325 Mtg. [WH]

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

9:00 am - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
 9:30 am - Taking the Word to the World
 Bible Study [WP]
 6:30 pm - Church Unique Team Meeting [WP]

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
 7:00 am - Methodist Men's Breakfast [WH]
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
 6:00 pm - Sr. High Bible Study [YC]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [CR]

Thursday, October 6, 2011

9:00 am - Beth Moore Bible Study [AR]
 11:00 am - Clergy Covenant Group [WP]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
 7:00 pm - Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, October 7, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
 Breakfast [WH]

Sunday, October 9, 2011

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First's Foods [WH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary
 Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional
 Worship [Sanctuary]
 3:30 pm - Parenting Beyond Your Capacity [WH & AR]
 5:00 pm - Confirmation Meeting for 6th Grade Parents [Chapel]
 5:00 pm - Submerge God View
 Lessons [BDR]
 5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [YC]



First Church Attendance

| Dates | September 4 | September 11 |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sunday Services | 218 | 300 |
| Sunday School | 143 | 179 |

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Experience the Journey!

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404 Azalea
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

Periodicals
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Lake Jackson, TX 77566

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Noel Singers

Kids grades Kindergarten - 6th grade!
We have a special treat for you!!

You are invited to be a part of our special music group for
Christmas time! Do you like to sing? Do you like to read?

On December 11th, the "Noel Singers" will be singing some Christmas
songs they will be learning this Fall!

Rehearsals will be during our Parenting Beyond Capacity Bible Study
starting October 9! 3:30 pm!

The first week will be a pizza party along with a practice
with Ms Laura Mays!

AND if you come to EVERY rehearsal, then on our final rehearsal,
there will be an AWESOME, FUN activity for you!!!

Parents - contact Mindy Standlee for more info!
297-3046 ext 108!

**You do not have to attend the bible study for your children to be a
part of this fun group!



Join First UMC - Lake Jackson
on Facebook and get connected!