



**FIRST UMC – Iraan**  
 P.O. Box 816 (401 S. Harte St.)  
 Iraan, Texas 79744  
[iraanumc@gmail.com](mailto:iraanumc@gmail.com)  
 (432) 639-2333

**FIRST UMC – McCamey**  
 P.O. Box 964 (1601 S. Burleson)  
 McCamey, Texas 79752  
[mccameyumc@gmail.com](mailto:mccameyumc@gmail.com)  
 (432) 652-8824

**Pastor's Phone #**  
 Cell # (432) 208-8201  
 Parsonage # (432) 652-3476

First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



## Everyday Disciples

*The newsletter of the United  
 Methodists in Iraan & McCamey*

**April 2011**

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# FROM THE PASTOR

*Easter egg hunts. Getting a picture taken with the Easter bunny. Getting ready for chocolate candy. Buying new spring clothes.* Chances are these are the responses most children (and more than a few adults!) would give if asked how they were preparing for Easter. We are reminded, however, that Easter is coming, and that it is really about the sacrifice Jesus made for each one of us. His resurrection breaks the power of death.

During our worship services we have journeyed through the Psalms, exploring the ways this ancient prayer and hymn book of the church can still speak to us today in west Texas. We are always on a journey, we Christians: A journey of faith and reflection; a journey of hope and of life; a journey of sacrifice and service.

Lent is a time when we Christians are called to examine our lives and to pray for the forgiveness of our sins. Some have chosen during this time to “give up something for Lent,” as a sign of their unity with Christ who sacrificed for us. Others took on something, perhaps attending the Lenten study in McCamey, perhaps an added time of scripture reading each day.

However we began the Lenten season, we have now arrived at the front porch of April, ready for Easter to come! Yet, there are several more weeks of Lent still to come, several more opportunities to “get it right this year.” Just as we pray for God's help, as we participate in Lenten disciplines, we are asked, as the disciples were asked, to remain awake a little while longer.

We must not run helter-skelter through April, rushing to get to Easter morning. so we can then get ready for the next “big thing” on our calendar. Early Christians savored the approach of the Easter celebration because it marked the gift of new life, of new relationships, of hope. Like those Christians of a by-gone era, we too can savor the richness of God in the faces of our brothers and sisters in the faith.

In both of our congregations, we have come a long way since I arrived here in January of 2010. As people of “The Way,” we will continue our Lenten journey until it becomes our Easter dawn and the next chapter in our common life with Christ.

**Every blessing, *Pastor Charles***

"As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your "prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?" *The United Methodist Book of Worship, p. 93*

## PRAYERS

### **Recent Prayer Concerns:**

Jerry Andrews family, Kim Radford Avirett, family of Ramona Brooks, Tommy Bullard, Beth Card, Louise Carll's sister - Jane, Ed Carpenter, Sandy Coe, Bob Day, Jonnie Dempsey, Verla Flading, Greg Haggard, Giselle Holland, Elmer Jones, Kade Kothman, Burton Mann, Shane McKenzie, Wanda Morrow, Kathy Pearce, Steve Rodriguez, Geraldo Salazar, Leigh Scallorn, Philip Shankle, Diana Sykes, Alfred Lee Teal, Erlene Thomas, Teresa Valenzuela, Gerri Waddell, Bradley Ward, Lelah Watson and Henry White. The people of Japan. Our need for rain.

### **Recent Prayer Joys:**

Verla Flading and Beth Card are doing better. Grace Moody's family in Japan is okay. Eric Hill coached Cyndi Lujan to the Girl's State 1-A power-lifting title. Bluebonnets at the Mann's home in Iraan. Belinda's new job. Phillip's family pew in McCamey. Birthday and anniversary celebrations. Derek Wiley completed Army basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

**Please pray** for those living on S. Farr Street and W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Iraan and for those living on Sterms Drive and E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in McCamey.

**Please lift** up the ministries of the Rev. Steve Fieldcamp and the congregations of the First UMC in Junction and the London UMC in London (Texas).

## PRESENCE

### **Average Weekly Worship Attendance**

Iraan: 15 McCamey: 36  
Convalescent Center: 22

### **Average Weekly Faith Formation Attendance**

Iraan: 9 McCamey: 10

## GIFTS:

This month's communion rail offering at First UMC – McCamey will be in support of [Native American Ministries](#). This is one of the six designated offerings of the United Methodist Church.

At the First UMC – Iraan, an offering will be taken in support of the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#). This offering supports the work of the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). No apportionments support UMCOR, so this offering is very important.

## UMC Quick Quiz

1. When is Maundy Thursday?
2. What does "Maundy" mean?
3. What is Charles Wesley's best-known Easter hymn?



NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

**The Ministries of the  
United Methodist Churches  
in Iraan and McCamey**

# Nurture

	<b>April</b>	<b>SCRIPTURE LESSON</b>	<b>SERMON</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>3</b>	Psalm 23	<i>Goodness &amp; mercy</i>
<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>10</b>	Psalm 130	<i>How low can you go?</i>
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	<i>The Lord's doing</i>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>21</b>	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	<i>"In remembrance of me..."</i>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>22</b>	John 18:1 – 19:42	<i>"Two Faces in the Shadows"</i>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	Acts 10:34-43	<i>What now?</i>

**Maundy  
Thursday**

April 21, 7:00  
p.m. at the  
First UMC –  
McCamey

**Good Friday Prayer Vigil**

April 22, Noon – 3:00 p.m.  
at the First UMC – Iraan

**Good Friday Worship  
Service**, April 22 at 7:00

p.m. at the First UMC –  
McCamey.

**Easter Sunrise** – April 24

**Iraan:** 7:00 a.m. at the cross  
on the hill. Breakfast follows at  
the First UMC at 8:30 a.m.

**McCamey:** 7:00 a.m. @  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church.  
Breakfast follows at the  
First Baptist Church.



## The United Methodist Women (UMW)

group met March 21st in the church parlor. Theodora Matthews, with Belinda Alkula's assistance, presented a very informative program about various women pioneers in world Methodism and in American history. (March was [Women's History Month](#)).

Belinda Alkula provided the refreshments of angel food cake, fresh blueberries and strawberries, "Cool Whip," various veggies with ranch dips and McAlister's Iced Tea.



Mark your calendars now for:

**The School of Christian Missions – 2011**

July 14-17 at  
Mt. Wesley – Kerrville, TX

**UMW Annual Conference Meeting**

October 7-8 at  
First UMC – Corpus Christi

**NOTE:** The next meeting will take place on **April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**



The UMM met for their March breakfast with five men in attendance. Thanks to Glen Smart for baking tasty cinnamon rolls and serving some bacon & sausage for us to share.

The next breakfast will be on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 a.m. May's breakfast will be on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### BAD BOYS OF THE BIBLE

EXPLORING MEN OF QUESTIONABLE VIRTUE



BARBARA J. ESSEX

In April, our study will continue with a look at Adam.



### McCamey UMC's on the Town

We had a lively group on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Benoit's in McCamey, as 15 UM's gathered for supper. When this group gets together, there is no shortage of stories! Come next month and share yours!!!



**Next month: April 15<sup>th</sup> at Crazy John's in McCamey.**

*"No muss – no fuss – no program!"*



# Iraan Fellowship

**At FUMC – Iraan, we do fellowship right!**

The April fellowship breakfast potluck will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 a.m.



*Be present at our table, Lord;  
Be here and everywhere adored;  
Thy creatures bless, and grant  
that we  
May feast in paradise with Thee.*

### ***The United Methodist Social Creed (¶166, 2008 Book of Discipline)***

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of racial, ethnic, and religious minorities.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

## **The 2011 Lenten Study**

Our Lenten study continues this month at the First UMC in McCamey. We will be looking at these topics:

April 3 - The Social Principles: We really mean it

April 10 - The UM Hymnal & the Book of Worship: "Joyful, joyful"

April 17 - *"Making disciples for the transformation of the world"* (at 4:00 p.m.)

If you would like borrow any of the resources Pastor Charles has used in this study (or any other resource he has), please contact the pastor, and get busy growing in faith!





# Outreach

"In response to the earthquake on March 10, 2011, that struck Japan, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will be working with local communities to rebuild. UMCOR is now better able to help when earthquakes and tsunamis or other disasters hit the area. UMCOR works in shelter and infrastructure reconstruction, water and sanitation, income generation, health and nutrition, education and community development."



**Pacific Emergency: Advance #3021317**

Providing emergency relief and long-term recovery support for disaster-affected communities. 100% of your contribution goes directly for relief.

The March 23<sup>rd</sup> gathering of **Badgers for Christ** was attended by **35** students, staff, and FUMC members. Pastor Kathryn Snodgrass (co-pastor of McCamey's First Assembly of God Church) gave the message.



The final **Badgers for Christ** of the school year will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>.



# Food Pantry Needs

**The pantry is looking for these items:**

Cereal	Juice – any kind
Cheese	Meat (FBC has a freezer)
Chili	Oatmeal
Chips or crackers	Pancake mix & syrup
Corn bread mix	Powdered milk
Evaporated milk	Soup
Frozen foods (FBC has a freezer)	Sugar
Jell-o	Tomato sauce/paste

*“Then the King will tell those on his right hand,  
... Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the  
kingdom prepared for you from the foundation  
of the world; for I was hungry, and you gave  
me food to eat...”*

- Matthew 25:31-46

The UMM is supporting the community food pantry located at the First Baptist Church (FBC), 320 S. Burluson Ave. in McCamey.

Non-perishable donations can be brought to the church and placed in the large basket at the entrance between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

Frozen items or other perishable items should be taken directly to the FBC in McCamey.



## McCamey Convalescent Center Ministry

We have begun using the large-print UMC hymnals during the Sunday worship services at the MCC. It is such a blessing! Many of the hymnals were dedicated in honor of the residents. This gesture was really appreciated by each worshipper!

## UMC Quiz Answers (from p. 3)

1. The Thursday before Easter, observed in commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus. Also called *Holy Thursday*.
2. From Middle English maunde, ceremony of washing the feet of the poor on this day, from Latin novum (new) mandatum (commandment). From Jesus' words to the Apostles after washing their feet as recorded in John 13:34.
3. “*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*” (#302 in our hymnal) is Charles Wesley’s best-known Easter hymn. Originally with eleven stanzas, it remains a favorite Easter hymn today.

# Witness

## Share the news!

Past editions of “*Everyday Disciples*,” the e-newsletter of the United Methodists in Iraan and McCamey, are available on the church websites.

Simply visit either of the websites shown below, move your cursor over “Witness” and then click on the e-newsletter tab.

## Websites

Please visit both of our websites:  
[www.firstumciraan.weebly.com](http://www.firstumciraan.weebly.com) or  
[www.firstumcmccamey.weebly.com](http://www.firstumcmccamey.weebly.com) .  
See what we’re all about!

The blogs of FUMC - Iraan &  
FUMC - McCamey:

[www.fumc-mccamey.blogspot.com](http://www.fumc-mccamey.blogspot.com) or  
[www.fumc-iraan.blogspot.com](http://www.fumc-iraan.blogspot.com)



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*From the SWTX Conference website*

### **EVANGELISM**

**Personal Faith Sharing** is remembering your life story and the specific ways your relationship with God has made a difference in your lifestyle, decision making and relating to others.

**Family Faith Sharing** can be both forming and transforming as a family engages God intentionally in the everydayness of life.

**Congregational faith sharing:** Our congregations are unique in that they are the only groupings of people that exist not for members only, but also for those who are not members, namely, the un-churched or disconnected.

We are a community of Christians called to proclaim the gospel and to welcome people into the body of Christ, to lead them to a commitment to God through Jesus Christ and to send them into the world as agents of Jesus Christ.

**Remember: Everything you do is evangelism.**



# Calendar

## **First UMC – Iraan**

### **Each Sunday –**

Fellowship Time @ 9:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Church School @ 10:30 a.m.

### **Other events:**

**Ad Board** – Apr. 13, 6:00 p.m.

**Potluck Breakfast** –

April 17, 8:30 a.m.

**Pastor Charles in Iraan**

April 6, 13, 22, 27

## **First UMC – McCamey**

### **Each Sunday –**

Fellowship Time @ 9:30 a.m.

Church School @ 10:00 a.m.

Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Convalescent Center @ 1:00 p.m.

### **Each Wednesday –**

Choir, 7:00 p.m.

### **Each Thursday – Coffee @**

Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

### **Other events:**

**UMM** – Apr. 2 @ 7:30 a.m.

**Hill Baby Shower** – Apr. 2 @  
11:00 a.m.

**UMW** – Apr. 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

### **Ministerial Alliance –**

Apr. 12, Noon @ Benoit's

**UMC Night Out** @ Crazy John's Pizza,

Apr. 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Trustees**, Apr. 17, @ 5:00 p.m.

**Potluck**, Apr. 17 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Ad Board**, Apr. 17 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Badgers for Christ** – Apr. 20 @ Noon

### **LENTEN STUDY** –

April 3 & 10 at 5:00 p.m.

April 17 at 4:00 p.m.

## **San Angelo District & SWTX Conference Dates**

The San Angelo District Conference will take place on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 1:00 p.m., at [St. Luke UMC](#) in San Angelo.

The SW TX Annual Conference will take place in Corpus Christi, June 8 – 11.

This year's theme is  
"Creating a Culture of  
Growth."

[Click here](#) for more annual conference information.

# Thank You Notes

## IRAAN

Thanks to **Ad Board members** for their leadership, concern and action.

Thanks to church members who appear at the **fellowship time** before church with smiling faces and special treats.

Thanks to **Cathy Allen** for publishing our weekly bulletins.

Thanks to **James Jordan** for his service as church treasurer and as Sunday school teacher.

Thanks to **Wanda Carpenter** for her service as church lay leader.

Thanks to **Dr. Edwin Franks** for his service as a trustee

Thanks to **Ronnie Ward** for his unique humor that gives folks around him a positive lift.

Thanks to **God** for His leading us through this time of Lent, a time of reflection and spiritual renewal.

## MCCAMEY

Thanks, **Jim & Mary Witcher**, for installing the church's safety lighting, the new exit sign in the sanctuary, the new fire extinguishers throughout the church, two handicapped parking signs in the parking lot.... and for orchestrating the stretching of the carpet where needed throughout the sanctuary.

Thanks, church members, for attending the monthly "**United Methodists on the Town**" fellowship dinners each month.

Thanks to **Pastor Charles** for the special Ash Wednesday Service he conducted and the Lenten Study he is leading.

Thanks to **God** for His leading us through this time of Lent, a time of reflection and spiritual renewal.

Thanks to **Bobbie Lester** for her service as Sunday school teacher.

Thanks to **the UMW members** for all they do to support mission and ministry throughout the world.

Thanks, **the UMM & Glen Smart**, for delivering our church's contributions to the community food bank at the First Baptist Church.

Thanks, **Glen Smart**, for cooking up a delicious breakfast at the March UMM breakfast meeting.

Thanks, **Pastor Charles**, for the Bible study you are leading based on the book "**Bad Boys of the Bible**."

Thanks, **Mary Witcher**, for the lovely curtains you made for use in the janitorial closet (by the kitchen).

Thanks, **Gary Elliott**, for our new motion detector light on the south side of the church.

## McCamey thank you notes (continued)

Thanks to all those involved in the **church's musical ministry** -- for your weekly offerings of music and song, which adds so much to the worship experience.

Thanks, **Marian Brown, Bill Lester, Billie Mitchell, Mary Witcher, Belinda Alkula and Pastor Charles** -- for all your hard work in cleaning the church.

Thanks to the **church leaders** for their leadership, concern and action, especially those serving on the Ad Board, Trustees Committee and Finance committee.

Thanks, **Mary Witcher** and **Billie Mitchell**, for organizing impromptu potluck meals before Sunday evening church meetings.

Thanks to **the church members** who appear at the fellowship time before church with smiling faces and special treats.

Thanks to all who support the **"Badgers for Christ"** monthly lunch-time devotional gatherings for our local high school students. In March, **Andy Andrews, Gloria Odom, Bill Lester, Mary Witcher, and Pastor Charles** were on hand.

Thanks, **Cytha Peters, Belinda Alkula, Bill & Bobbie Lester**, for your continued support of Sunday worship services at the convalescent center in McCamey.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the **church cleanup and landscaping projects**. It is a good thing to do what we can to improve things at God's house!

Thanks, **Roy & Alice Kephart**, for ensuring our electrical outlets have safety plugs in them when not in use **and** for orchestrating the pruning of our

## Church History Help Needed

The websites for both congregations will include a history page as part of our lead-up to the centennial celebrations in 2027. If you have any information that you think would be useful, please send it to [the pastor](#).

Visit [this link](#) for the history of the FUMC - McCamey (through the building of the present church building) or [this link](#) for the list of pastors at FUMC - McCamey to see what this project looks like.