



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

FIRST UMC – McCamey
 P.O. Box 964 (1601 S. Burlison)
 McCamey, Texas 79752
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

December 2011

INDEX

P. 1	Index	P. 8	Youth Ministries
P. 2	A Letter from Jesus	P. 9	Outreach Ministries
P. 3	Prayers – Presence – Gifts	P. 10	Witness Ministries
P. 4-7	Nurture Ministries	P. 11	Events in December
P. 4	Worship in December	P. 12	Thank You Notes
P. 6	UMW & UMM		

A Letter from Jesus About Christmas

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking my name out of this season. Maybe you've forgotten that history isn't really sure of the date of my birth. It was some of your ancestors who decided to celebrate my birthday on what was actually a time of a pagan festival. Of course, I do appreciate being remembered *anytime!* How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of their own. I don't care what you call the day: if you want to celebrate my birth, *just get along and love one another!* Now, having said that, let me go on. If it bothers you that the town where you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santa's and snowmen on your own front lawns and put up a small Nativity scene in their place. If all my followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town. Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a "holiday tree" instead of a Christmas tree. Don't forget: it was I who made *all* the trees. You can remember me any time you see *any* tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish! (You might remember I used that image once myself when I was explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks are. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15:1-8.)

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of my birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are lonely and afraid at this time of year. I know: they tell me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. It might be someone you know - or perhaps someone you don't know. Those folks just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing the President to complain about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family and the decisions he makes in the new year. Then follow up with other concerns you have as they come along.
4. Instead of (at least in addition to) giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need - spend time with them. Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you down there. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them. Tell them how much you depend on me and how you want them to learn to trust me, too.
5. Think of some persons who have hurt you in the past and really work at forgiving them - and, if possible and helpful, let them know you've forgiven them.
6. Did you know that some in your town are so lonely in this season that they feel hopeless? Since you may not know who they are, try giving *everyone* you meet a warm smile, a kind word: it could make the difference...
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailers in your town calls "the holiday," be patient with the people who work in their stores. (They deal with all kinds of customers all day long!) Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one.
8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary - especially one who brings my love and the good news of the Gospel to those who have never heard my name.
9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to your church or the Salvation Army or some other charity who will know how to get those gifts and food to those who need them the most. (Actually you could do this in any month of the year - even in *every* month of the year!)
10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in me, your loyalty to me, then live like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your words and deeds that you are one of mine. Don't forget; I am God and can take care of myself. Just love me and love one another and do what I've told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work - time is short! I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those you love... **And remember: I LOVE YOU!**

Jesus

"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

Joys: +Children in worship! +Cooler weather +Parsonage pecans +Birthdays and anniversaries +Visits from family +New jobs +Real flowers in worship +Good news from doctors +Children helping with the offering. +Great turnout at Badgers for Christ and Excel.

Concerns: +Need for rain +Those dealing with earthquakes +Families of Anne Gibson, Noel Locker, Josephine Lyles, and Homer Ragland, Jr.

Continued Prayers: +Our church +Our schools +Our country and our leaders +Our military and their families +The unemployed +The homeless +Victims of natural disasters +Abilene Christian U. bus crash victims +Penn St. abuse victims +Countries fighting for freedom.

Healing prayers: Miley Barrantey, Aaron Braden, Tommy Zale King Bullard, Dottie Brewer, Eddy Carpenter, Jeanene Christian, Sandy Coe, Cleo Darby, Jonnie Dempsey, Mary Faust, Terry Gill, Greg Haggard, Billie Harris, Jane Harrison, Josie Hicks, Maxine Hyden, Elmer Jones, Kash Kelso, DeWayne Lindsey, Aurora Lopez, Julie Lynch, Billie McKenzie, Lois Ann McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Maylee Mahone, Pat Miller, Jimmy Pearce, Donald Plants, Doug Prophet, Helen Remy, Doug Smith, Eva Smith, Melody Smith, Sue Sorrels, Diane Sykes, Alfred Lee Teal, Amy Templeton, Jean Vandigriff, Colton Ward, Henry White, Tammy Williford and all who are being treated at the Odessa Cancer Center.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Gini Christian and the congregation of the Paint Rock (TX) United Methodist Church.

PRESENCE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

Iraan: 17 McCamey: 43

Convalescent Center: 15

Average Weekly Faith Formation Attendance

Iraan: 10 McCamey: not available

GIFTS

Dear Friends:

As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank those who have contributed to the mission and ministries of the church, both locally and around the world. In the Spirit of the season, we invite you to join us as we increase our efforts to share the love of Christ to a world which is desperate to experience the "good news" of God's love and mercy and grace for each one of us.

The holiday season is the perfect time to show those around you how much you care. For those who are hard to buy for, consider making a donation to the church -- in honor of or in memory of someone special, as a gift this season. In return, your donation will be recognized and a Christmas card will be sent mentioning your gesture.

Making a donation is simple. Send it to the church (address on p. 1), along with the name of the person(s) for whom your donation is in honor/memory. Also, please provide the name and address of the person(s) whom you would like to receive a recognition card. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**First
United
Methodist
Church**

NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

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

Nurture Ministries

Worship in December

Sundays after Pentecost	December	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	4	Luke 1:67-79	<i>Song of Zechariah</i>
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	11	Luke 3:1-18	<i>Song of John the Baptist</i>
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	18	Luke 2:8-14	<i>Song of the Angels</i>
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	24	Luke 2:28-32.	<i>Song of Simeon</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i> (regular time)	25	John 1:1-14	<i>The gift that keeps on giving</i>

THE SONGS OF ADVENT:

During Advent, Pastor Charles is preaching a series of sermons which looks at the poetic words uttered around the birth of the Messiah.
Please invite someone to worship during Advent!

Fellowship!

The December breakfast potluck at **FUMC – Iraan** will be on the 25th, starting at 8:30 a.m.

McCamey UMC on the Town

“No muss – no fuss – no program!”

Our monthly gathering in November took place at Elena’s where UM’s gathered for some good food and great fellowship.

This month’s gathering will be on **Friday, December 16th** at Benoit’s (starting at 6:00 p.m.).



We will have regular worship times on Christmas morning – “come as you are!”

UMC Quiz (answers on page 10)

1. Charles Wesley’s birthday is in December. Do you know what day?
2. Who were the first two “superintendents” (bishops) of the Methodist Episcopal Church?
3. The 1784 “*Christmas Conference*” ordained how many of the sixty Methodist lay-preachers to the order of elder?

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Due to a scarcity of contributors, there will not be an Advent devotional this year. The submissions which were submitted will be a part of the daily blog entries during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.



Next UMW Meeting

December 12th at the home of
Peggy Garner in McCamey at
7:00 p.m.

December 18 is **International Migrants Day**.

The United Methodist Task Force on Immigration is sharing the attached resource as an invitation for reflection, worship and action around global migration during this Advent time. We invite you to lift up International Migrants Day in worship on Sunday, December 18, 2011, to utilize advent meditations, and to involve United Methodist congregations in local or national action for migrant rights, including a call to the US Administration to work for Senate ratification of the United Nations Migrant Rights Convention which affirms the human rights of all migrants. Thank you. Have a blessed Advent.

Please visit the UMW web site to read some additional [resources for the season of Advent and of Christmas](#).

Links you can use: +[San Angelo District UMW](#) +[SWTX Conference UMW](#)
+[South Central Jurisdiction UMW](#) +[The United Methodist Women](#)
+[SWTX Conference UMM](#) +[The United Methodist Men](#)

The United Methodist Men at FUMC – McCamey have moved their meeting day and time. The men are now meeting on the **FIRST MONDAY** of each month for supper and a study, beginning at **6:00 P.M.**

November's gathering included eight men who met in the fellowship hall to share the meal provided by Jim Witcher. Glen Smart provided the devotional. We'll resume our study from [Bad Boys of the Bible](#) (chapter 3, "Abraham") on December 5th.





“The Shelter of God’s Promises”

Friday, December 9, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m. ~ First Baptist Church (37 E. Harris)
San Angelo, Texas

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011 ~ 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Doors open at 8:00 a.m.)
San Angelo McNease Convention Center (500 Rio Concho Drive)

For more information, please visit [this link](#).

Discipleship is a life-long journey which begins with one disciple teaching the next about the love of God.

Our children’s class is off and running. Will you lift up this ministry in your prayers?

Contact Jennifer Aguilar or Connie Miles with any questions.

Be sure to check out the on-line Sunday school! Look on either the [Iraan](#) or [McCamey](#) websites for this great resource.



Outreach Ministries

A letter from Callie Jo Allen (member of First UMC – Iraan)

Dear Friends and family,

I would like to share some exciting news. During spring break, March 9th -18th, I will be traveling to Africa on a mission trip with thirty-five other students. We will be based in a village in western Kenya, working through Project Humanity's [Echoes of Humanity Medical Project](#).

Project Humanity is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to bringing medical care to a village where problems seem overwhelming and hopefully bring a meaningful change to their lives. Our mission is to treat as many villagers as possible with diseases such as HIV, malaria, pneumonia, and leprosy as well as those with malnutrition and diarrhea.

In order to go, we are asked to raise \$3,000. Some of this money will be used to provide medical supplies and care for the villagers. If you wish to contribute, you can either send the donation to me or go to the website below. Any financial help will be greatly appreciated, but if do not wish to contribute, I ask that you remember me in your prayers. I will be graduating in May 2012 and feel like this experience will help prepare me as I begin my nursing career. I am so excited that God has given me this opportunity and I ask again for your prayers.

Thanks for your support, Callie Jo Allen

www.projecthumanity.com (Please put my name on the line for donation intended for.)



2011 McCamey Angel Tree

Once again, the McCamey community is invited by the McCamey Ministerial Alliance to participate in the Angel Tree toy drive. New toys may be taken to the Security Bank in McCamey.

Sherry Phillips is coordinating the drive this year for the First UMC in McCamey.



There was a great turnout in November for Badgers for Christ!

We had 50 students, staff, and church volunteers take part in a lunch of pizza, chips and home-made chocolate chip cookies.

The Next Badgers for Christ will be on January 18th at Noon.

The EXCEL program (a youth ministry supported by the McCamey Ministerial Alliance) gathered at FUMC-McCamey on the 16th with 60 in attendance!

Thanks to Jennifer Aguilar and Donny Wiley for taking the lead at First UMC with this outreach effort.

Please note that EXCEL will not meet in December.



Community Food Pantry Needs

Please remember your neighbors who rely on the community food pantry (which is located at the First Baptist Church in McCamey, 820 S. Burluson) as you prepare for the holidays.

A complete list of what the pantry needs may be found on the FUMC – McCamey website at [this link](#).

The Scouts have returned to the First UMC in McCamey! Elizabeth Tarver-Hill leads the adults who have stepped forward to take the lead in getting this community activity up and running.

Cub Scout Troop #31 meets at the church on Tuesday evenings.



Witness Ministries



You are warmly invited to journey through the ten stages of “[Lost in Wonder](#),” an on-line labyrinth, devised by the British Methodist Church, but offered to all. A labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool that leads the traveler along a meditative path. Through images, words, music and actions it is hoped that you are able to consider your spiritual journey and be inspired and challenged.

UMC Quiz Answers

1. Charles Wesley, the eighteenth (of nineteen) children born to the Rev. Samuel & Susanna Wesley, was born on December 18, 1707 in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England.
2. Francis Asbury and Dr. John Coke
3. The conference ordained twelve preachers to orders, setting a precedent for the American church that ordinations were to be approved by the conference.

Calendar

First UMC – Iraan

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Church School @ 10:30 a.m.

Each Tuesday –

Ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m. @ the
First Baptist Church in Iraan or at
4 p.m. @ Iraan High School
Library

Each Thursday –

Coffee & donuts @ McCamey
Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

Other Events

Ad Board – Dec. 14 @ 6:00 p.m.

District Open House – Dec. 15,
4–6 p.m. @ the San Angelo District
office (1315 South Abe Street)

Christmas Eve Service @ McCamey
Convalescent Center, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service @ FUMC –
McCamey, 6:00 p.m.

Potluck Breakfast – December
25th, 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Day worship, 9:30 a.m.

First UMC – McCamey

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:30 a.m.
Church School @ 9:45 a.m.
Worship @ 11:00 a.m.
Convalescent Center @ 1:00 p.m.

Each Tuesday –

Cub Scouts @ TBA

Each Wednesday –

Choir @ 7:00 p.m.

Each Thursday –

Coffee & donuts @ McCamey
Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

Other Events

UMM – Dec. 5th @ 6:00 p.m.

UMW – Dec. 12th @ 7:00 p.m. at Peggy
Garner's home

Ministerial Alliance – Dec. 13th, 12:30
p.m. @ Benoit's

District Open House – Dec. 15, 4:00
p.m.–6:00 p.m. @ the San Angelo District
office (1315 South Abe Street)

UMC Night Out– Dec. 16th, 6:00 p.m. @
Benoit's

Ad Board – Dec. 18th @ 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service @ McCamey
Convalescent Center, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Day worship – 11:00 a.m.

Remember:
Everything you do is evangelism.

Thank You Notes

From Belinda Alkula

Memories of my time spent with “all of y’all” will be forever appreciated: The warm and loving welcome that you extended to both Charles and me, the time spent in worship of our God who is the author of all, the community events in which we participated/led... and so much more! We were strangers to you, and yet you welcomed us with open hearts, minds and doors! “Being Church” with you will be a memory I hold dear for the rest of my days. I have learned much from each of you. It is true that you never know what or who the Holy Spirit will bring to you. I believe that God brought us to west Texas to be with you; I thank God for my time spent with you. And I thank God for the opportunity He has given me to serve at the Army hospital at Fort Benning, Georgia. My prayers will continue for you! -- Your sister in Christ, Belinda

Iraan

- +Thanks to Deanna & James Jordan for providing the delicious treats for our fellowship time before the church conference on November 6th.
- +Thanks to Cathy Allen for reproducing the bulletins each week.
- +Thanks to Wanda Carpenter for her service as lay reader each week.
- +Thanks to Kirke McKenzie and James Jordan for serving as song leaders.
- +Thanks for the help in getting the church ready for Advent.

McCamey

- +Thanks to Jonah Adams, Gary Elliott and Bradyn Medina for serving as ushers.
- +Thanks to Jennifer Aguilar and Connie Miles for their role in leading the children’s Sunday school class.
- +Thanks to everyone who brought the wonderful food for our potluck meal following the church conference on November 6th.
- +Thanks to the person who gave Gini Christian a McCamey FUMC cookbook. (She loved it!)
- +Thanks to Dollie Lynch and Donny Wiley for their service as lectors.
- +Thanks to Elizabeth Tarver-Hill for bringing the Cub Scouts back to the FUMC-McCamey.
- +Thanks to everyone who helped at the December Badgers for Christ and Excel gatherings.
- +Thanks for the help in getting the church ready for Advent.