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First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



Everyday Disciples

The e-newsletter of the United Methodists in Iraan & McCamey

JUNE 2012

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From the Pastor

Dear Church Family,

How do I begin to say thank you for all of the kindness that you have shown to Belinda and me over the last 2 ½ years? You are such an amazing group of people, and we have come to know you as our family. You have blessed us, encouraged us, supported us, prayed with us, cried with us and laughed with us.

We have grown together. It has been our privilege to serve you in ministry and to serve with you. It is never easy to move away from family, even under the best of circumstances. Just a few months ago, we had no idea that we would be leaving this summer; and yet, now we are.

The one constant in life is change. The great thing is that in the midst of "life" is our awesome God, going before us, directing our steps. You, our church family, have impacted our lives. You have claimed a part of our hearts. We will always care about what happens here and look with anticipation at what lies ahead for the members of this church. Although we are sad to leave, we truly believe that the best days for all of us are just ahead.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 says this: "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed."
(The Message)

This passage has become very precious to us as we have walked in faith laying down everything before God. The Lord has ALWAYS been faithful!!! We want to leave that passage with you. God has a plan for you and for this church. It's a GREAT plan. It is going to fulfill many prophetic words that have been spoken in this place. Stay desperate for GOD, and keep your eyes filled with anticipation, knowing that the LORD always does what is promised.

So, this really isn't goodbye. When you are in the family of God, there are no goodbyes, just "See you soon." Whether in this life, or in eternity, we will see you soon.

Every blessing, Pastor Charles & Belinda Alkula

"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: +The rain we had! +Visits from family and friends. +Birthdays (including Jayton Coe, Peggy Garner, Sheila Hammitt, Casey Little, Terry Little, and Donna Wiley. +A successful Relay for Life event in McCamey. +The baptism of Ashor Brown. +Happy anniversary: Gary & Luann Elliott (39) and Burton & Jo Lanehart (70). +Kaleigh Wiley graduated from Texas Tech. +Class of 2012 from McCamey & Iraan High Schools. +Faculty & staff who retired at the end of the school year. +Derek Wiley is due back from Afghanistan in early June.

Concerns: +We can always use more rain. +The families of Mary Gatlin (Peggy Garner's aunt), [Vicki \(Bates\) Ratliff](#) (from Rankin) and the Rev. Robert Rogers (FUMC-Iraan, 1993-97). +Those who are absent from our worship each week. +Those that have lost their lives in the service of our country.

Healing prayers:

Everette Altdoerfer, Melissa Altdoerfer, Nadine Andrews, Linda Boice, Elena Bradford, Aaron Braden, Dottie Brewer, Tommy Bullard, John Carson, Sean Chavez, Jeanene Christian, Rick Coe, Sandy Coe, Billy Craig, Jonnie Dempsey, Denise Dulaney, Ardell Elliott, Bob Faulkner, Mary Faust, Samantha Fitzgerald, Jennifer Fredericks, Louisa Garcia, Terri Gill, Greg Haggard, Steven Hansen, Billie Lou Harris, Shaylee Henning, Billie Harris, Jane Harrison, Elizabeth Hill, Sara Hill, Maxine Hyden, Elmer Jones, Kash Kelso, Renea Kennedy, Roy Kephart, Burton Lanehart, DeWayne Lindsey, Aurora Lopez, Julie Lynch, Dottie Mann, Lois Ann McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Maylee Mahone, Dottie Mann, Pat Miller, Gloria Odom, Kathy Pearce, Jimmy Peeples, Freda Pippin, Jack Perry, Helen Remy, Edith Reynolds, Mary Rodriguez, Dusty Rhoades, Doug Smith, Emma Smith, Eva Smith, Melody Smith, Sue Sorrels, Jean Vandigriff, Jessica Vandigriff, Tom Vandigriff, Colton Ward, Barbara Weaver, Thanda White, Arnold Wise, Simone Woodall, and Elma Wolfe.

PRESENCE

**Average Weekly
Worship Attendance**
Iraan: 16 McCamey: 28

**Average Weekly Faith
Formation Attendance**
Iraan: 10 McCamey: N/A

GIFTS

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of six church-wide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Each church is encouraged to celebrate the Special Sundays. As of March 31, 2012, the most recent financial data available, the **Peace with Justice Sunday** offering had received \$8,088.

In **2011**, \$250,707 was remitted, in **2010**, \$229,558 was remitted, **2009**, \$283,378 was remitted and in **2008**, \$290,469 was remitted.

Peace with Justice Sunday enables The United Methodist Church to witness to God's hope for a faithful, loving world. The offering awards grants to organizations who advocate for peace and equality.

Our local church's extravagant generosity to the [Peace with Justice Sunday offering](#) gives The United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for peace and justice at home and around the world. Be the difference in your congregation. Thank you!

Continued Prayers: +Our church. +Our schools. +Our country and our leaders. +Our military (Ryan Wiley, Derek Wiley, Steven Hansen, Kameron Hansen) and their families. +The unemployed. +The homeless. +Victims of domestic abuse. +Victims of natural disasters. +Countries fighting for freedom. +Unspoken prayers.

Please be in prayer for the **Rev. Ken Houston, Jr. and Lynn Houston** as they prepare for their work among the people called United Methodist in Iraan and McCamey.



**First
United
Methodist
Church**

NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

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

Worship in June

| Worship Theme | June | SCRIPTURE LESSON | SERMON |
|---|-------------|---|---|
| TRINITY SUNDAY <i>Peace with Justice Sunday</i> | 3 | Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17 | <i>The divine imperative</i> |
| Second Sunday after Pentecost | 10 | 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 | <i>Eternal in the heavens</i> |
| Third Sunday after Pentecost <i>Father's Day</i> | 17 | Mark 4:26-34 | <i>You are the seed</i> |
| Fourth Sunday after Pentecost | 24 | TBA | <i>James Jordan – Iraan Donny Wiley – McCamey</i> |

A Prayer for Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given to us Your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of Your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in Your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (*Book of Divine Worship (and the Book of Common Prayer)*)

Dr. Charles & Belinda Alkula will be departing our communities in June, bound for San Antonio where Pastor Charles has accepted a one-year residency with the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the Audie Murphy VA Medical Center.

On June 10th there will be a reception at First UMC – McCamey following the worship service.

On June 17th, First UMC – Iraan will have its monthly breakfast potluck on the Alkula's last Sunday in west Texas.

Faith Formation:

Iraan: We're working through the epistles and will continue this month in Philippians and then move into Colossians.

McCamey: The topic will be announced when a class leader is identified.

Mount Wesley Learning Event:

The next continuing education Bible Study is scheduled August 7-9 at Mt. Wesley. This event is open to Clergy and Laity. The deadline for registration is July 13. The study this year is the **Gospel of Matthew** which will be led by Dr. Ben Witherington, III. Email the SWTX Conference registrar to register: registrar@umcswtx.org



FUMC – Iraan Fellowship

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays at *Godfather Pizza* or on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at the *Iraan Senior Center* for lunch (also at 11:30 a.m.).

Each Sunday, we gather for fellowship at 9:00 a.m. The next **Sunday breakfast potluck** will be on the 17th, starting at 8:30 a.m.

McCamey FUMC on the Town “No muss – no fuss – no program!”

Last month, we had ten in attendance at Benoit's. Debbie White won the ‘chocolate-themed’ door prize. This month's gathering will be on Friday, June 15th at Elena's (starting at 6:00 p.m.).



We seem to have hit another hiccup in keeping the United Methodist Men going in our parish. We've not had meetings the past two months for various reasons.

Please be in prayer, asking for discernment as to whether we should continue the effort to make this a vibrant ministry, or whether our efforts would be better used in other venues.

Remember: Everything you do is evangelism!

**Worship Time at FUMC-Iraan:
Effective July 1st, the time for
worship will change to 9:00 a.m.**

UMC Quiz (answers on page 8)

1. What are the dates (this month) of The Southwest Texas Annual Conference?
2. Who was elected president of the Council of Bishops last month in Tampa?
3. Four of the top UMC congregations (in weekly attendance) are from which state?



**South Central Jurisdiction
UMW Quadrennial Meeting**

June 22-24
McMurry University – Abilene

[Link to Online Registration](#)

Have questions? Contact
jaccifreno@cox.net

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**West Gulf Region School
of Christian Mission**

June 25-27
McMurry University - Abilene

The annual Mother-Daughter potluck supper was the focus of the May gathering of the UMW at the church in McCamey. In honor of Mother's Day, everyone shared a special memory of their mother.

Next meeting: June 11th – Cytha Peters will be offering a musical program; you won't want to miss this gathering!



**Here is Pat Schneider's recipe for her famous brownies
(Served at the lunch for the Iraan High School senior class in May):**

Brownies

1 1/2 cup flour - 2 cups sugar - 5 tbsp cocoa - 1 cup shortening - 4 eggs
2 tsp vanilla - 1 tsp salt - 2 tbsp Karo syrup

Combine all ingredients and beat for 3 minutes. Pour into a greased and floured 9x13 baking pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Icing

2 tbsp cocoa - 3 tbsp milk - 1/2 stick butter – 1/2 box powdered sugar - 1 tsp vanilla

Bring cocoa, milk and butter to a boil. Remove from heat and add powdered sugar and vanilla. Spread over brownies

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



We had a great time in May at the annual lunch for the graduating class from Iraan High School! Seventeen students, accompanied by six faculty/staff, enjoyed a delicious meal of burgers, chips, tea, and brownie/ice cream deserts.

Pastor Charles read from *“Oh, the places you will go”* to the delight of one and all.

Thanks for everyone’s help!

The annual ice cream social for the graduating Class of McCamey High School took place on May 16th. We had fourteen students on hand for ice cream and cookies.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this year’s event.

With summer right around the corner it is important to remember to support the **community food pantry** before you head out of town on vacation or other travel.

The basket at Lowes market (in McCamey) is a great place to leave your donations. You may also leave them at the First Baptist Church in McCamey.



The communion rail offering at the First UMC in McCamey this month will go in support of [Peace with Justice Sunday](#).

Hurricane Season Starts June 1st, Are You Ready? By Mike Blackwell (SWTX Website)



It is a matter of when, not if. Hurricane season begins in June and ends at the close of November, a schedule as predictable as the sun moving east to west.

And as recent hurricane-related disasters have proven, Texans need to be as prepared as possible. Accordingly, Disaster Response Coordinator Gene Hileman is imploring people to donate the valuable flood clean-up buckets. Recent flooding in Texas has dropped the inventory of the buckets, according to Hileman, and replacement buckets are badly needed in anticipation of the hurricane season.

The five-gallon buckets should be filled with cleaning supplies, and are normally distributed to families to help them clean in a flood's aftermath. Individuals and churches are being asked to assemble the flood buckets, which have historically been invaluable to flood survivors. In 2008, over 1,000 flood buckets were assembled at the United Methodist Annual Conference and distributed after hurricanes Dolly and Ike. "We've inventoried our buckets in anticipation of hurricane season," Hileman says. "We need to really push on our efforts as soon as possible."

The five-gallon bucket with a re-sealable lid should include scouring pads, sponges, a scrub brush, cleaning towels (reusable wipes), liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle), one household cleaner (12-16 oz. bottle), disinfectant dish soap (16-28 oz. bottle), five dust masks, two pair of latex gloves, one pair of work gloves, a 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags, 33-45 gallon (remove roll from box before placing in bucket), one insect repellent spray in a 6-14 oz. can (if aerosol, cans must have protective caps), and one air freshener in 8 or 9 oz. can (if aerosol, cans must have protective caps).

Hileman says it is important to make sure all buckets include new items, and should not include anything that is not on the official list of items. Donators are also encouraged to not include personal notes, money or any other additional materials.

Additionally, if a requested item is not available, donators are asked to provide the next available smaller size, and if something is not available, put masking tape on the outside of the bucket saying, "This bucket contains no _____." Shipping requirements require that all cleaning agents be liquid in plastic bottles; no powders are allowed.

Donators can take their buckets to the warehouse located in Kerrville, or can bring the items to June's United Methodist Annual Conference in Corpus Christi. Visit the web site at www.umcswtx.org for more details on deliveries of the buckets. "These buckets should also be given with a minimum of \$3 per bucket to cover delivery expenses," Hileman says. "Every homeowner who experiences a flood needs a bucket. These provide a very important service to the survivors of these disasters."

In addition to the bucket donations, information on that session can be found at www.umcswtx.org.

If you have further questions about the buckets or training, contact Hileman at ahileman@umcswtx.org.

WITNESS MINISTRIES

McCamey Ministerial Alliance (MMA) News

The baccalaureate service was very well received. Each senior was presented with “The Message” New Testament and a \$500 scholarship was presented to Nicolette Aguilar.

Participants included: Jake Avila – El Buen Pastor; Pastor David Snodgrass, Kathryn Snodgrass and Silvia Striegler – First Assembly of God Church; Jay McWilliams – First Baptist Church; Dr. Charles Alkula and Cytha Peters – First United Methodist Church; Deacon Felix Segura – Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The June MMA meeting will take place on the 19th at noon at Benoit’s.

Evangelism

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.
[Deut. 11:18-21 NRSV]

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.

UMC Quiz Answers:

1. The Southwest Texas Conference will be meeting in Corpus Christi, June 7-10.
2. Bishop Rosemarie Wenner of Germany will be the next president of the Council of Bishops, marking the first time a woman from outside the United States will lead the denomination.
3. Texas has four of the ten largest UMC congregations in the US:

The top ten by weekly (average) worship attendance:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Church of the Resurrection | Kansas City, KS | 7,430 |
| Windsor Village | Houston, TX | 5,813 |
| Granger Community | South Bend, IN | 5,241 |
| Ginghamsburg | Dayton, OH | 4,883 |
| Frazer Memorial | Montgomery, AL | 4,392 |
| The Woodlands | Houston, TX | 4,081 |
| White’s Chapel | Dallas, TX | 4,040 |
| Highland Park | Dallas, TX | 4,000 |
| Asbury | Tulsa, OK | 3,349 |
| Mt. Bethel | Atlanta, GA | 3,100 |

CALENDAR

First UMC – Iraan

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Church School @ 10:30 a.m.
Convalescent Center @ 2:00 p.m.

Each Tuesday –

Pizza Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. @
Godfather's Pizza

Each Thursday –

Coffee & donuts @ McCamey
Convalescent Center, 9:45 a.m.

Other Events

Trinity Sunday – June 3rd

SWTX Annual Conference –
June 7-10 @Corpus Christi

UMW – June 11th @ 7:00 p.m. at
First UMC – McCamey

Ad Board – June 13th @ 6:00 p.m.

Father's Day – June 17th

Potluck Breakfast – June 17th @
8:30 a.m.

First UMC – McCamey

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Other Events

Trinity Sunday – June 3rd

SWTX Annual Conference –
June 7-10 @Corpus Christi

Reception for Dr. Charles &
Belinda Alkula – June 10th following
the worship service

UMW – June 11th @ 7:00 p.m.

UMC Night-Out – June 15th @
6:00 p.m. @ Elena's

Father's Day – June 17th

Ad Board – June 17th @ 6:00 p.m.

Ministerial Alliance – June 19th @
Noon (Benoit's)

Choir practice – June 27th @ 7:00
p.m. (*Note*: this is the only choir
practice in June).

THANK YOU NOTES

Iraan

+Thanks to all the wonderful cooks who share their delicious creations each month on our fourth **Sunday breakfast potluck**.

+Thanks to **Allan Turpin** for taking such good care of our church grounds.

+Thanks to everyone who shares in **the Tuesday fellowship** at Godfather's Pizza.

+Thanks to **Cathy Allen** for preparing the bulletins each week.

+Thanks to **Belinda Alkula, Kirke McKenzie** and **James Jordan** for leading the singing each Sunday.

+Thanks to **Wanda Carpenter** for being our lay reader.

+Thanks to **James Jordan** and **Wanda Carpenter** for being our Sunday school teachers.

+Thanks to everyone who supported the lunch for the Iraan H.S. Class of 2012:

Cathy Allen, Belinda & Pastor Charles Alkula, Blake Andrews, Ed & Wanda Carpenter, Chris Franks, Deanna & James Jordan, Wanda Morrow, Marie Richardson, Pat Schneider, and Ronnie Ward.

+Thanks to **Trace** and **Taveyn** for being our ushers when they are in town.

+Thank you so much for having the seniors for a luncheon. It was a lot of fun! The food was amazing! I love my cross; it's hanging in my car! - **Kaleigh Tank**

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McCamey

+Thanks to **Gary Elliott, Cadyn Miles** and **Bradyn Molina** for being our ushers.

+Thanks to **Gloria Odom** for taking care of the communion table decorations.

+Thanks for **Coy Coe** for serving as greeter.

+Thanks to **Mary Witcher** for the fellowship hall decorations.

+Thanks to **Debbie White** for taking on the task of nursery worker.

+Thanks to **Cytha Peters** for playing the piano at the Baccalaureate service.

+Thanks to **Joan Darby** for coordinating the hymn music on cd when Cytha is away.

+Thanks to **Gary Elliott** for fixing the leaky faucet in the parsonage backyard.

+Thanks to everyone who takes a turn **counting the offering** each week.

+Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **ice cream social** event: **Jennifer Aguilar, Rueben Aguilar, Pastor Charles, Louise Carll, Bobbie Lester, Billie Mitchell, Jean Myrick, Cytha Peters, and Debbie White.**

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Thanks to each and every one of you for the kindness shown my family during the recent illness and death of our beloved husband and father Jack Phillips. All our family was ever so grateful for the love you shared with us. The meal(s) were wonderful. It seemed as though the news of his passing was barely out when people from our church, as well as our community, began to arrive at our door. What a blessing all this was to us.

Sherry Phillips and family