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First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



Everyday Disciples

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

May 2011

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FROM THE PASTOR

As I type this in the days following Easter Sunday, the wind is howling outside with the fire danger increasing daily. Just moments ago, fire trucks raced out of McCamey on their way to another fire near Iraan.

Though there are too many concerns pulling us in too many directions, May brings with it many blessings in our churches and in our communities. We are so blessed in west Texas to have such a diverse mission field to labor in, where do we begin?

In addition to our regular activities, members from both congregations will be active this month in many ways:

Both churches are offering events for high school seniors: A lunch in Iraan and an ice cream social and a Baccalaureate service in McCamey.

The National Day of Prayer, May 5th, is a wonderful opportunity to be in prayer in an intentional, public manner. In McCamey, the Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a prayer event at the County Park (behind the pool) at Noon.

Members from our community will be taking part in The Relay for Life (in Crane) on May 6th. This offers a chance to support those who have survived cancer as well as those who are battling this disease in person as well as those in the lab.

Mother's Day (May 8) affords each of us the opportunity to share the love of God with our own mothers and those women who have shared love with us. Why not share the day with someone whose own children are not with her on that day? Offer to bring someone to worship and share the love of God with them. In McCamey, a potluck lunch will be shared – you don't have to be a mother to share it with us!

I pray that you will be blessed and will be a blessing this month!

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

Joys: Beautiful Easter sunrise services sponsored by the Iraan Ministerial Alliance & McCamey Ministerial Alliance; Worship helpers - Aiden and Logan Gustafson and Ashley Ricks; Tony Aguilar's promotion and change to "regular"-hour shift; 90th birthday celebration of Curtis Winfield; "The Myrick Family Pew!" "Hello" from Marilyn and Jerry Whitaker from snowy Colorado; Medical people & fire fighters who stand ready to help us.

Concerns: Rain is needed; families of fire fighters who have died battling the wildfires; healing mercies for Wanda Morrow, Rick Coe, Larry Miles; Sara Hill's parents who have a house full of extended family members (and their critters) staying with them for a couple of weeks (due to evacuation from fires)

Please pray for those living and working on Bivins Street and McDaniel Street in Iraan and for those living on Willow Street and Walnut Street in McCamey.

Please lift up the ministries of the Rev. Tim Fahrenthold and the congregations of the [First UMC in Mason \(Texas\)](#).

PRESENCE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance
Iraan: 21 McCamey: 35
Convalescent Center: 23

Average Weekly Faith
Formation Attendance
Iraan: 10 McCamey: 11

GIFTS:

Your gifts on [Native American Ministries Sunday](#) (May 8) fund ministries help pave the way for those who aspire to serve Christ's church by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Because of your generosity, seminarians prepare to serve, congregations are strengthened and communities are transformed.

The communion rail offering at First UMC – McCamey will go this month in support of [Nothing but Nets](#).

UMC Quick Quiz

1. When is Heritage Sunday?
2. Old Otterbein UMC was founded in 1771 in what city?
3. John Wesley first preached in the open air at whose invitation and insistence?



**First
United
Methodist
Church**

NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

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

Nurture

	May	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON
Second Sunday of Easter	1	TBA	Message by the Gideon's
Third Sunday of Easter	8	Luke 24:13-35	<i>Walking the Walk</i>
Fourth Sunday of Easter	15	Acts 2:42-47	<i>It sounds so quaint</i>
Fifth Sunday of Easter	22	Acts 7:55-60	<i>Our heritage, Our promise</i>
Sixth Sunday of Easter	29	Acts 17:22-31	<i>What say ye?</i>

Mother's Day – May 8th

Join us at First UMC – McCamey for a Mother's Day potluck! Meat dishes and drinks will be provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring a mother (yours or someone else's!) to thank the mothers in our midst.

The Gideon's

On May 1st, the Gideon's (out of Odessa/Midland) will be bringing the message during worship in both congregations. Please come and hear the Word shared by these good people who share it with the world in so many ways and places.

The United Methodist Women (UMW)



The UMW met in April with five members present. Louise Carll led the program portion of the meeting with a consideration of our relationship with Mother Earth as the topic.

Jean Myrick served as the hostess, serving a delicious apple pie and ice cream to the appreciative group.



Mark your Calendars now for these events:

The 2011 School of Christian Missions –
July 14-17 at
Mt. Wesley – Kerrville

UMW Annual Conference Meeting
October 7-8 at
First UMC –
Corpus Christi

NOTE: *The next meeting will take place on May 9th at 7:00 p.m.*

Your Carbon Footprint (from the [UMW website](#)): Have you measured yours yet? If not, try the online tools from the Nature Conservancy or [carbonfootprint.com](#). If you have already done this for yourself, **give a family, friend, or church member a gift** of helping them measure their carbon footprint. Share what you did and what happened as a result!



The April gathering of the UMM had a great turn-out with nine men enjoying the meal of bacon, deer sausage, and pancakes provided by Donny Wiley and Jay McWilliams.

Pastor Charles led the group discussion of part one of Adam from “Bad Boys of the Bible.

On May 7th, our study will continue our look at Adam.



McCamey UMC's on the Town

We had a fun time on April 15th at Crazy John's Pizza in McCamey as nine UM's gathered for supper.



Next month: May 20th at Elena's.

“No muss – no fuss – no program!”

IRAAN FELLOWSHIP



The May fellowship breakfast potluck will be on the 22nd @ 8:30 a.m.

HERITAGE SUNDAY 2011

In 2004, the General Conference, upon recommendation of the General Commission on Archives and History, changed the date of Heritage Sunday from that nearest April 23 to May 24 or the Sunday preceding; hence, [Heritage Sunday in 2011](#) is May 22. April 23 reminded the church of the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church on April 23, 1968. But May 24 reminded the church of John Wesley's "heart-warming experience" at a religious society meeting on Aldersgate Street in 1738.

This seemed to capture a rich legacy of renewal, revival, conversion, and the beginnings of a movement that included the Otterbein, Albright, and Boehm legacy as well. Organizational merger seemed less important to the General Commission than the power of faith in the lives of persons leading to the transformation of individuals and of the world.

On May 22nd, we will remember our heritage and the charge we have as heirs of that legacy during our morning worship.

The following will be recognized during the May 22 worship service at First UMC – McCamey:

Sixty years: Nadine Andrew (66), Billie Reaves (65)

Fifty years: Louise Carll (59), Maurine Jacobsen (59), Billy Rives (58), Cleon Hanks (56), Sherry Phillips (52), W. H. "Twoie" Darby (51)

Forty years: Betty McClure (45), Jack Garner (43), Peggy Garner (43), Theodora Matthews (45), Joan Coe (41), Coy Coe (41), Jean Myrick (40), Lou Ann Watson (40)

Thirty years: Eugene Covill (38), Gloria Odom (36), Glen Smart (36), Pam Smart (36), Jim Witcher (34), Mary Witcher (34)

Twenty years: Andy Andrews (29), Ruthie Andrews (29), Bill Lester (28), Bobbie Lester (28), Cytha Peters (28), Alice Kephart (27), Roy Kephart (27), Jack Phillips (21)

Ten years: Gary Elliott (19), Velinda Bolen (11)

In order to recognize members of the **First UMC – Iraan** during the May 22nd Heritage Sunday worship service, names and years as a member in Iraan are needed by the Pastor by May 8th.

Outreach



Simply put, malaria kills. Nets can save lives. Here are some harsh realities about malaria:

Fact: Malaria is preventable, but causes more than 200 million illnesses each year and kills nearly 1 million of those who become infected.

Fact: Ninety percent of deaths caused by malaria occur in Africa, where the disease is a leading killer of children.

Fact: Every 45 seconds a child in Africa dies from malaria.

So, as engaged global citizens, what can we do to help? In the poorest parts of the world, window screens are lacking, anti-malarial drugs are expensive, and so far an effective malaria vaccine does not exist. Insecticide-treated bed nets in these areas are arguably the most cost-effective way to prevent malaria transmission. Bed nets use a simple but effective prevention approach: eliminate contact with mosquitoes, eliminate malaria.

Visit Nothingbutnets.net today and see how you can help save a life, one net at a time.

The final gathering of **Badgers for Christ** for the 2010-2011 school year was attended by **35** students, staff, and FUMC members.

Our send-off for the McCamey H.S. seniors will take place on May 18th at 6:00 p.m. with our annual Ice Cream Social. Come and share the fun!



Food Pantry Needs

The pantry is looking for these items:

Cereal	Juice – any kind
Cheese	Meat (FBC has 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 need continues to exist for the food pantry and your support is essential in helping our neighbors have the basics of life.

The Rankin Community Food Pantry reports that increasing numbers of McCamey residents have been coming to Rankin for help.

Please give from your abundance so others may simply live.

Iraan Senior’s Lunch!

The annual lunch provided by the First UMC in Iraan will take place at Noon on May 4th.

Pastor Charles will be reading Dr. Seuss’ book, *“Oh, the Places You Will Go”* to the students. Come and share in this First UMC tradition!



UMC Quiz Answers (from p. 3)

1. [Heritage Sunday](#) falls on May 22 this year.
2. [Old Otterbein UMC](#) is the oldest church in continuous use in Baltimore, Maryland.
3. The Rev. George Whitfield invited 36-year old John Wesley to Bristol in 1739 to sustain the work he (Whitfield) had begun in reaching out to the working class people of Bristol via field preaching.

Witness

To become (and remain) a member of a local United Methodist Church, an individual promises to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church through their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

The purpose in listing these names is not to “purge” the rolls, but to ask that each member be intentional about helping their fellow disciples to rejoin the active fellowship.

If you know of someone who lives in our two communities, please reach out to them in love and help them to fulfill the vows they made when they joined the church.

If you know of someone who lives away from our two communities, please help them to find a community of faith where they live.

Our purpose is not to make church members, but to “*make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*”

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

First UMC in Iraan has 60 members on the membership roll as of the end of April. 41 of the 60 live in Iraan and Sheffield. Our average worship attendance for January – April has been sixteen.

The following nine names are due to be read at the Church Conference next fall and these persons will be removed from the roll:

Tricia Bowers – Sydney Clark –
Trey Clark – DeNisa Gentry –
Amber Hale – Alexander Mote –
Duncan Mote – Janice Parker –
Bobbie Smith.

An additional nine (not counting one college student) live away from Iraan and need to be encouraged to be active in the communities where they live.

First UMC in McCamey has 98 members on its membership roll, 44 of whom live in McCamey. Our average worship attendance (not counting the Convalescent Center) for January – April has been thirty-seven.

The following 34 names are due to be read at the Church Conference next fall and these persons will be removed from the roll: Jennifer Bell – Velta Bosman – Maggie Byrd – Kirk Byrd – Tashsa Cornelius – Cameron Craig – Paul Evans – Betty Fillman – Bill Fillman – Larry Fillman – Terri Fillman – William Gulihur – Anna Halmars – John Johns – Mrs. R. W. McKinney – Charles Mabry – Steve Madden – Alan Peters – Eliz. Ann Ravulet – Joyce Reeves – Billy Reeves – Donna Schell – Chris Schell – Fred Schell – Scott Schell – Craig Shumate – Sandra Shumate – Kisha Shade – Peggy Sharp – Melisa Tucker – Betsy Valentine – Pauline Windham.

An additional eleven live away from McCamey (not counting nine service members, college students or care facility residents) and need to be encouraged to become active disciples in the communities where they live.

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:

Iraan H.S. Senior's lunch,

May 4 @ Noon

National Day of Prayer –

May 5 @ First Baptist Church,
7:00 p.m.

Ad Board – May 18, 6:00 p.m.

Potluck Breakfast –

May 22, 8:30 a.m.

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:

National Day of Prayer – May 5 @

Noon, Upton County Park

Mother's Day Lunch – May 8 @ Noon

UMW – May 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ministerial Alliance –

May 18, Noon @ Benoit's

UMC Night Out @ Elena's

May 20 @ 6:00 p.m.

Trustees, May 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

Potluck, May 15 @ 5:30 p.m.

Ad Board, May 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social for McCamey H.S.

seniors, May 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

UM's on the Town, May 20 @ 6:00

p.m.

Piano Recital, May 22, 3:30 p.m.

Baccalaureate service, May 22 @

8:00 p.m.

Graduation Prayer

I have knowledge, so will You show me now, how to use it wisely and find a way somehow to make the world I live in a little better place, and make life with its problems a little bit easier to face. Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days, and show me how to serve Thee in effective ways. So my education, my knowledge and my skill may find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Thy will. Amen.

Thank You Notes

IRAAN

- +Thanks to Aiden and Logan Gustafson for their volunteering to be ushers during our worship services.
- +Thanks to Kirke McKenzie for bringing donuts for our fellowship time on April 3rd.
- +Thanks for the fantastic assortment of food which was shared during our monthly breakfast potluck.
- +Thanks to Deanna Jordan for leading the **CHILDREN'S** Sunday School!
- +Thanks to Wanda Carpenter for serving as our reader each Sunday.
- +Thanks to Kirke McKenzie for serving as our song leader each week.

MCCAMEY

- +Thanks to Louise Carll for the lovely orchid, it . – Pastor Charles & Belinda
- +Thanks to Ashley Ricks for her service during worship each week.
- +Thanks to Gloria Odom for her table decorations during Holy Week!
- +Thanks to Mary Witcher for decorating the fellowship hall in such happy, spring colors!
- +Thanks to Bobbie Lester for picking up the carnations to use on Easter morning.
- +Thanks to Debbie White for clearing out the broken chairs and other items in the church during the city-wide clean-up.
- +Thanks to the congregation for the wonderful bookshelves in the pastor's study, it sure is nice to be unpacked! – Pastor Charles
- +Thanks to Bill Lester, Billie Mitchell, Jean Myrick, and Gloria Odom for their help with the April Badgers for Christ lunch.
- +Thanks to Belinda Alkula, Alice & Roy Kephart, Bill & Bobbie Lester, Cytha Peters, Mike Sherrod, for your participation in the Sunday afternoon worship at the Convalescent Center.
- + Belinda, I just wanted to touch bases with you and thank you for the use of the church. Tell your husband we so appreciated it!! It's a wonderful atmosphere over there!! Keep up the special work! – Jeanette Paige

*Thanks to everyone who shared lilies on
Easter Sunday at First UMC - McCamey:*

Given by:	In memory or in honor of:
Louise Carll and Patricia Carll-Young	In memory of C. C. Carll and Lou Ann Carll
Maurine Jacobsen	In memory of Harvey Jacobsen
Maurine Jacobsen	In honor of Lottie Bradshaw
Russell Wheat	In memory of Rev. & Mrs. F. M. Wheat
Lou Ann Watson	In memory of Henry Watson
The Myrick Family	In memory of David Myrick
Gloria Odom	In memory of Eddie J. Odom
Gloria Odom	In memory of Gomer & Louise Rogers
Cytha Peters	In memory of John & Gladys Elliott
Doug & Billie Mitchell	In memory of Louie S. Parham
Dr. Charles & Belinda Alkula	To the glory of God
Dr. Charles & Belinda Alkula	In honor of the dear ones at the McCamey Convalescent Center
Dr. Charles & Belinda Alkula	In honor of our of our church families and in honor of the Alkula & Hammitt families
Bobbie & Bill Lester	In memory of Justin Ryan Lester and in honor of Nic & Amy Gray
Joan & Coy Coe	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Wagnon In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ricks
Silvia & Ashley Ricks	In memory of Robert Ricks
Terry & Jana Little	In honor of Jean Myrick

