



December 2023

FIRST THOUGHTS

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

BAY CITY, TX

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<https://www.facebook.com/fmcbaycitytx>



A Word With Pastor Chris



FMC STAFF

Rev. Christopher McNeill	Pastor
Brandi Dorsett	Administrative Secretary
Susan Parish	Praise Team Leader
Gena Herrera	Chancel Choir Director
Rebecca Sansing	Praise Ringers Director
Mike Bryn	Pianist/Organist
Lynsey Curtner	Director of Family Ministries
Cecially Breazeale	Sunshine & Rainbows Director
Mandi Ressman	Youth Ministry Assistant/ UM Army Coordinator

Contact FMC at any time, 24 hours a day, to let the church office know of hospitalizations, births, deaths, illnesses, or other concerns.

Heaven Help Us

Luke 2:10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

It dawned on me today--- As I was (mis)typing notes on my calendar for December, I realized how busy it was going to be. I have to admit, it felt a little scary.

Then I came across a story about Captain Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist prison.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man shook his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did - if your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform - a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell bottom trousers. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the Kitty Hawk. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you,' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

This December, who's packing your parachute? Someone is. Long ago, a baby was born and wrapped safely in cloths, kind of like a parachute. Now, that same Savior wants to wrap you in the cloths of His love, grace, peace, salvation, and power. Let Him be the One who packs your parachute this Advent and Christmas. After all, you never know when you're going to need it.

Wishing you and yours a Hopeful Advent and a Merry Christmas! -Pastor Chris



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January Newsletter Deadline : December 26th



Electronic Giving



Scan this code or go to fumcbaycity.com to give

Giving Made Easy
 Donate to Our Church With Your Phone!

Support ministries anytime and anywhere from the palm of your hand. Here are the simple steps to begin giving:

- Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app
- Search for our Church
- Select your fund & amount
- Enter payment method
- Choose to cover processing fees
- Complete your donation

We thank you for your support!



Thanks from the Altar Guild

We would like to thank all the helpers who put up the Christmas tree, the youth who helped carry the tubs and the congregation for helping hang the greenery. We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Greeter and Ushers Needed



Date	Worship	Offering
11/5	88	9172.00
11/12	105	4205.00
11/19	88	1564.00
11/26	75	5976.00



If you would like to place a Christmas poinsettia in the sanctuary in honor of or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate, mail it, or bring the form by the church office. The price is \$17 each. Deadline for ordering is Tuesday December 12th. Proceeds from the sale of poinsettias will go the Altar Guild.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

In **MEMORY** of: _____

In **HONOR** of: _____

Given by: _____

Total enclosed:

Check # _____

Cash _____

Total # of poinsettias ordered _____

2023 Contribution Statements

Please have all contributions turned into the office or in the offering plate no later than December 31st in order to have them count towards 2023 contributions.

Thank you!

Welcome & Worship Center!

Welcoming new members and visitors with information and guidance for our church's programs and activities here at FMC is very important to us.

If you would like to volunteer to man our new welcome center, please add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the Narthex.

ADULT MINISTRIES

We believe that true Christian community is about more than attending a Sunday gathering. We love worshipping together, but it is important to us that you are known outside of just Sundays.

We believe sustained life-change happens best in small groups.

We have groups for every age and stage of life. We want you to have a relational home with a group of people who follow Jesus together, whether that is through a class, a small group, or a Bible study.

Programming

- FRIENDSHIP CLASS: Sundays 9AM (in the Parlor)
- GOOD NEWS CLASS: Sundays 9AM
- FAMILY OF FAITH: Tuesdays 5:30PM-6:30PM
- PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY: Tuesdays 10AM (seasonal)

MISSIONS

We will mobilize people and resources both in our city and aboard to glorify God, share the gospel, and help those in need.

There is so much that God has put on our hearts to pursue, and we believe we have been given everything we need to accomplish all of it.

Ongoing Opportunities

- FOOD VOUCHER MINISTRY
Every 3rd Thursday 8:30AM-10AM
- HARVEST HOUSE FOOD PANTRY
- PRISON MINISTRY

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY
10:00 AM
FAMILY WORSHIP
IN THE
SANCTUARY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING SUNDAY?

MUSIC

The Music Ministry of First Methodist Church is mission-minded, striving to take the gospel of Jesus into our community and the world. Worship is our response of love to the God who first loved us. If you or your children love to use your talents to make a joyful noise to the Lord, consider joining one our choirs.

Weekly Programming

PRAISE TEAM : Mondays 6:15PM and Sundays 9AM
(Singers, Band, Tech Team)

CHANCEL CHOIR : Mondays 7PM
(childcare available if requested one week in advance)

PRAISE RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR : August - May
Wednesdays 5:30PM



Children and Youth ministries focuses on laying a Biblical foundation , planting seeds of faith, and digging deep into God's word. We believe that faith formation happens both in the church and in the home, and want to come alongside parents to equip and empower them to be leaders in their child's spiritual journey!

Children and Youth Ministries

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Sundays 10AM
(except 1st Sundays) 4yr old's through 5th graders welcomed

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CLASSES: Every 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sunday @5PM. Ages 6th-12th Grade @ 5-6:30PM. We will meet in Wesley Hall for dinner, but pick up will be from the Youth Bldg.





Stop by the Museum's Festival of Trees and
VOTE for the one decorated by our FMC Youth!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH & YOUTH



the Youth Room is getting a makeover!

We have created an
Amazon Wish List of items
we would like to add to our space!



Check your email for
the link!
THANK YOU!

Church Nursery

IS OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
FOR NEWBORNS - 3 YR OLDS

Manda Kessman - Nursery Coordinator



IT'S ALWAYS A PARTY IN
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

AGES 4 - 5TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US ON THE
2ND, 3RD, 4TH, & 5TH SUNDAYS EACH MONTH
IN WESLEY HALL @ 10AM

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO STAY WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN THE SANCTUARY ON 1ST SUNDAYS TO
CELEBRATE COMMUNION TOGETHER

CHILDREN'S CHURCH & YOUTH CONT.



Youth News

ALL 6TH - 12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME!
YOUTH WILL RESUME ON JAN 14 - AFTER THE HOLIDAY BREAK

DEC. 3	FMC ADVENT FESTIVAL/ NO YOUTH
DEC. 10	THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS MINUTE TO WIN IT
DEC. 17	FLANNEL & FRIENDS - YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY @ CURTNER'S HOUSE

JOIN US 5PM - 6:30PM
FOR DINNER, GAMES, BIBLE STUDY, &
FELLOWSHIP!

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT

Children's Church

DEC. 3 - HOPE / PAGEANT PRACTICE
DEC. 10 - PEACE / PAGEANT PRACTICE
DEC. 17 - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DURING WORSHIP
DEC. 24 - LOVE AND HOT COCOA

NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH ON DEC. 31 - HAPPY NEW YEAR



LAYERS OF LOVE

Jackets, hoodies, sweaters, sweatshirts,
socks, shoes in all sizes needed!

Donations due by Dec 3rd!

Help the Youth & Children's Church kids meet their goal of donating 50 items to this cause!

Donations may be given to Lynsey, or placed in the baskets in the narthex or church office.

Our Savior's Birth

A Christmas Pageant

Presented by
FMC Children's Church
& Youth

Mark your calendar!
12/17/23
In the Sanctuary
During Worship



NOVEMBER 2023

SCOUT



CUB PACK 4545

The pack had a great time with the Family Campout at Lake Texana the weekend of October 27th - 29th with the Spooktacular Trail put on by the staff of Brackenridge Park and Campground.

Some members attended the Native American Weekend at Camp Karankawa near West Columbia. The pack assisted Troop 45 with putting out Luminaries at Relay for Life Friday night Nov 17. The pack will be participating in the Lighted Christmas Parade.

TROOP 45

The Troop had a great time at Goose Island State Park near Rockport the weekend of November 3 - 5. The troop put out the Luminaries and performed the flag ceremony for Relay for Life on Friday the 17th. The troop will be doing the Luminaries for the Lighted Christmas Parade December 1st and right after the parade will be going for a weekend campout.

TROOP 145

The Troop held a three-night campout the weekend of November 17-20 and will hold another one in mid-December.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Be Safe



Pack 4545 Halloween Campout Lake Texana 2023



Pack 4545 November 2023 Pack Meeting





NOVEMBER 2023

SCOUT



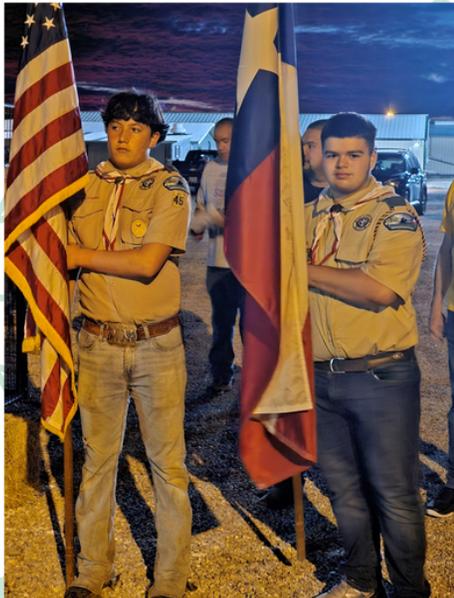
Troop 45 Goose Island State Park November 2023



Troop 145 Campout November 2023



Troop 45 Relay for Life November 2023



MEETING the FOOD NEEDS of OUR COMMUNITY

Christ gave us a short list specifying who and how we can serve as His hands and feet. One of His clear-cut instructions was to reach out and feed the hungry!

[Reference Matthew 25: 34-36]

But after a Thanksgiving weekend of tummy-bloating over-indulgence, it is hard for many of us to face the fact that a goodly number of our neighbors routinely face food insecurity. For the congregation to help where it can in overcoming this troubling situation, FMC is in the middle of a Christmas Food Drive. And, it needs YOUR compassionate support.

You can show your Christian love by bringing non-perishable food items to the church narthex on December 3rd and/or 10th. Or, you can drop them off in the church office from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Monday through Thursday) no later than December 12th.

The groceries collected will then be delivered to the community food pantry – Harvest House – on the very next day (12-13). It should be noted that FMC is a fully vested partner in this long standing charitable enterprise. As such, we have pledged to faithfully supply both groceries or purchasing funds and volunteers from our church on a regular basis.

The later demands only a personal contribution of a few hours each month. We also urgently need volunteers each third Thursday morning to assist with FMC's HEB voucher distribution initiative.

So, if you have a heartfelt desire to serve those in need at either of these vital settings, call or text Rebecca Sansing at (512) 215-1440. You could also contact Brandi, our church secretary, at (979) 245-4627 and she will pass along your wish to serve..

Volunteers wanted.

**Sign-ups for the Prayer Room is at
the Welcome Center.**

Contact George Durett for more information.

**PRAYER
ROOM**



SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS

Our Sunshine and Rainbows Christmas program is coming up on Thursday, December 7 at 6 PM in the church sanctuary. We are excited to watch our little people perform their songs for their families as well as participate in the retelling of the Christmas story.

We are on the lookout for old Christmas cards that you may have laying around the house from years past. We would love for our students to decorate them for our family and friends in our local nursing homes.

We are thankful for the support from FMC as you house and undergird our program year after year.

We hope and pray you have a happy holiday season.



advent CALENDAR

<p>Perform a random act of kindness</p>  <p>1</p>	<p><i>two</i></p> <p>Donate food to a local food bank</p>	<p>Have a coloring contest</p>  <p>3</p>	<p><i>four</i></p> <p>Buy socks for a homeless shelter</p>  <p>4</p>	<p>5 Watch a favorite holiday movie</p>
<p>Make or buy a new Christmas ornament</p>  <p>6</p>	<p>Let someone go in front of you in line</p> <p><i>seven</i></p>	<p>8 Clean out and donate outgrown toys</p>	<p>Build a snowman out of cotton balls</p>  <p>9</p>	<p>Take cupcakes to your local fire department</p>  <p>10</p>
<p>Decorate a gingerbread house</p>  <p><i>eleven</i></p>	<p>Help wrap a Christmas present</p>  <p>12</p>	<p><i>thirteen</i></p> <p>Leave a happy note for someone to find</p>  <p>13</p>	<p>Have a game night in your PJs</p> <p>14</p>	<p>15 Make paper snowflakes</p> 
<p>Drink hot cocoa</p>  <p>16</p>	<p>17 Make Christmas cards</p>	<p> 18 Bake Christmas cookies</p>	<p> 19 Sing Christmas carols</p>	<p>20 Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree</p> 
<p>Read your favorite Christmas story</p> <p>21</p>	<p> 22 Take a car tour of your local light displays</p>	<p>Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors</p>  <p>23</p>	<p><i>twenty-four</i></p> <p>Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service</p>	<p>Read the Nativity story</p>  <p>25</p>

MERRY
Christmas

A CHRISTMAS POEM

C

is for candles warm and bright

H

is for happiness both day and night

R

is for reindeer with red nose aglow

I

is for icicles and cold winds that blow

S

is for supper turkey and brie

T

is for tinsel that wraps round the tree

M

is for Mary with baby awake

A

is for animals and the sounds they make

S

is for Santa what a wonderful sight

DECEMBER

Birthday Date

Harriet Townsend	1
Patti Craft	2
Marian Eaton	2
Shea Krauskopf	4
Mary Frances Hatchett	7
Carrie Foltyn	8
Victoria Carr	9
Kitty Chase	10
Amy Ging	11
Martha Cone	12
Garrett Janise	18
Ethan Massey	19
Dennis Gann	20
Pat Durett	24
Denise Grisham	26
Mike McGehearty	29
Linda Krauskopf	30
Kevin McGehearty	30
Philip Stone	31

Anniversary Date

Jim & Diana Frankson	20
Glenn & Amy Ging	22
Mike & Cerie Muecke	23
Craig & Julie Estlinbaum	28
Hubert & Donna Johnson	29

★ Love ★
Peace
★ Joy ★



WANT TO BE INCLUDED...?
IF WE DON'T HAVE YOUR BIRTH DATE OR ANNIVERSARY ON FILE, WE'D LOVE TO INCLUDE YOU IN OUR CELEBRATORY WISHES!
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 245-4627 OR EMAIL:FUMCBC@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Please Pray For:

Louise Teutsch
Mary Ellen Reynolds
Simon Desoto
Judy Pennington
George Adams
Billy Bender
Audry Griggs
Sandra Klenke

Luis Camacho
Ukraine & Russia
Louise Russell
Russell Lidberg, Jr.
Mike Greiner
Maurice Archer
Linda Krauskopf

~Please provide updates for Prayer Concerns when you are aware of them~



'TIS THE SEASON

					FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
					9am-12pm Glory Guild Meeting Youth Building	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion 9am Masterlife 10am Worship in person & Live stream worship Holiday Coat Drive Ends Advent Festival 2-4pm	6:15pm Praise Team 7pm Choir		5:30 pm Bells 7:30pm Troop 45	6AM Reunion Meeting 6pm-S&R Christmas Program 7pm Troop 145	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am Worship in person & Live stream worship Chancel Choir Cantata 11am- Usher/Greeter Training Holiday Food Drive Ends 5pm FMC Youth Group	6:15pm Praise Team 7pm Choir	Poinsettia Deadline	6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Wesley Hall 5:30 pm Bells 7:30pm Troop 45	6AM Reunion Meeting 6:30pm Pack Meeting 7pm Troop 145	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am Worship in person & Live stream worship Children's Christmas Program 5pm FMC Youth Group	6:15pm Praise Team 7pm Choir		5:30 pm Bells 7:30pm Troop 45	8:30am-10am Food Pantry 6AM Reunion Meeting 7pm Troop 145	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10AM Worship & 6pm Candlelight service in person & Live stream worship	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS		5:30 pm Bells 7:30pm Troop 45	6AM Reunion Meeting 7pm Troop 145	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
31	1st					
10am Worship in The Chapel in person & Live stream worship	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<h1>Happy New Year</h1>				

2024

grow in grace

CHANGE SERVICES REQUESTED

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
2300 Avenue H
Bay City, TX 77414