

First United Methodist Church
2600 East Main Street
Gatesville, TX 76528
(254) 865-2520

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Gatesville, TX
Permit No. 74
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First United Methodist Church of Gatesville

SPOTLIGHT January 2021

The mission of our church is to raise up disciples of Christ through love, service, and example.

FROM STEPHEN'S STUDY

As I write this article, protesters have stormed the capital and disrupted the certification of the votes of the Electoral College in the House and in the Senate. I sat in front of my television in stunned silence and watched in horror as people broke the law and interrupted the proceedings. I am deeply saddened by today's events in our nation's capital. My heart grieves over the brokenness of our nation. The truth is that this lawless act will change nothing in the end. Even with the protest the votes will eventually be certified, and President elect Joe Biden will be our next president. Like all the presidents before, I will give him the respect he is due. I will pray that God will grant our newly elected President and Vice President Harris wisdom and guidance as they lead our nation forward into the future.

I was disappointed that our current president waited so long to ask people to go home after he basically encouraged this kind of action to take place through his rhetoric in recent days. Today is a sad day for our nation. We are not a third world country. We are supposed to lead the way in showing people how the democratic process works. The United States of America is better than this. Folks, we are better than this. As Christians, we need to strive to be peacemakers, not disruptors, or criminals who break the law. We are not supposed to hate those who disagree with our political views. Jesus instructed us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

I realize that events of today are the culmination of years of frustration with the political system in our nation. Party line politics, constant investigations that yielded no results and turned out to be a waste of our tax dollars, a summer of lawlessness and occupations, riots, and destruction of personal property, calls for defunding police, all in the name of justice, and now this violent act. The citizens of our nation from both political parties are fed up with a government that gets so little accomplished. The rift in our nation runs deep. I understand. I am frustrated too, but violence is not the answer.

The actions of this political season in 2020 and today reveal how deeply divided our nation is. Brokenness abounds here and throughout our world. But there is one who can help heal our land. One who holds no political office and is not a member of either political party. God is the answer for our hurting nation and world. The events of today should cause every believer to fall on their knees and pray for the healing of our country and the world. As citizens of the United States, we need divine intervention to help restore civility and decorum. We must pray that God would help us find a way to live together in peace.

Our prayer needs to be the prayer to God found in the words of the great hymn, "For the Healing of the Nations." It is found on page 428 in The United Methodist Hymnal.

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of all the things the earth affords; to a life of love and action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace. Show us through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned; pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find. Amen and Amen!

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
See you Sunday, Stephen.

Children's Ministry

Sunday School

K-3

4-6

Jane Harvey

Jennifer Boyd

Bible Stories each week:

Jan. 03- The Magi; Matthew 2:1-12T

Jan. 10- Jesus' Baptism; Matthew 3: 13-17

Jan. 17- Calling the Disciples; Matthew 4: 18-22

Jan. 24- Showing Love; Matthew 5: 43-48

Jan. 31- God's Kingdom; Luke 13: 18-21



Wednesday Word

(K-6th Grade)

Jane Harvey & Linda Klontz

CBN: SUPERBOOK

Jan. 06- The Last supper

Jan. 13- The Miracles of Jesus

Jan. 20- The Ten Commandments

Jan. 27- The Road to Damascus



Children's Church

4y-3rd grade

Jane Harvey

Singing praises to God in the little Chapel

Get Wells

Ann Miller

Anne Ramminger, Ryan,
Ashton & Emmy Allison
Ronnie & Sharon Sullins
Ken & Velva Riddle

Rex Huse

Pat Henson

Sally Jund

Ronnie & Sharon Sullins

Jane Harvey

Ken & Velva Riddle
Ronnie & Sharon Sullins

Blake & Dorothy Lovelace

Ken & Velva Riddle
Ronnie & Sharon Sullins

Nellie Sheldon

Ken & Velva Riddle
Ronnie & Sharon Sullins

January BIRTHDAYS

2 Inez Arnold
5 Payne Sullins
6 Kristen Sullins
7 Joe Patterson
9 Monte Comer
9 Roger Miller
10 Wesley Wiegrefe
11 Mary Minshew
13 Carole Corgill
13 Phil Zeigler
20 Patsy Smart
21 Sharon Sullins
22 Bob Self
24 Hayden Curry
25 Emily Young
26 Rex Huse
28 Zula Ayers

PRAYER CONCERNS

Ollie Loggins
Connie Jones
John McClure
Shelly (Hughes)
Friederich
Helen Theaker

Kara Butler
Emily Veiga
Kyle Strmiska
Steve Berridge
Lacefield Family
Rex Huse
Ricky Bates
Ray Martin
Ricky Bates

Erin Coffey
Randy Thomas
Donna Marble
Ann Miller
Sally Jund
Lovelace Family
Jane Harvey
Brown Family



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, January 12, at 5:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room. The Call to Prayer and Self Denial program will be presented by Shirleen Chandler. Velva Riddle is the hostess. All women are invited.

“United Methodist Women, Thank you so much for the BIG bag of goodies you sent me. I feel so blessed to have such a caring church family. I truly appreciate you all. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Love, Marie Pruitt”

“I would like to thank you all for the prayers and cards during my hospital stay. I am so glad to be back to church. I missed you all! Jane Harvey”



The committee is requesting monetary donations for area mission projects. Please make your check payable to FUMC Harvest Festival. Please support our local mission projects. Call Velva (254-865-6056) for additional information.



January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 AA	2
3 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	4 6:30 AA	5 5:15-6:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30-6:30 Karate Class in FLC	6 5:30 Wednesday Word 6:00 Prayer and Bible Study	7 5:30-6:30 Karate Class in FLC	8 6:30 AA	9
10 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	11 6:30 AA	12 5:15-6:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 UMW	13 5:30 Wednesday Word 6:00 Prayer and Bible Study	14 5:30-6:30 Karate Class in FLC	15 6:30 AA	16
17 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	18 6:30 AA	19 5:15-6:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30-6:30 Karate Class in FLC	20 5:30 Wednesday Word 6:00 Prayer and Bible Study 6:15 Choir	21 5:30-6:30 Karate Class in FLC	22 6:30 AA	23
24 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	25 6:30 AA	26 5:15-6:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30-6:30 Karate Class in FLC	27 5:30 Wednesday Word 6:00 Prayer and Bible Study 6:15 Choir	28 5:30-6:30 Karate Class in FLC	29 6:30 AA	30
31 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship						
Jan. 10 Liturgist 8:30 R. Jones 10:30 Blankemeyer	Jan. 17 Liturgist 8:30 V. Riddle 10:30 R. Sweazea	Jan. 24 Liturgist 8:30 A. Daze 10:30 W. Wall	Jan. 31 Liturgist 8:30 L. Klontz 10:30 G. Sadler			

Choir will begin again on January 20th at 6 pm.



Christmas Offering
We give because He gave.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Eve love offering that is going to the Methodist Children's Home this year. With your generosity we were able to raise \$769 for this great cause. Thank you for all you continue to do!