



Year in Review

A look back at 2017 at First United Methodist Church



A word from the Pastor



It has been an exciting year at First United Methodist Church. We have had many wonderful and great ministries like STORM, Vacation Bible School, Bible Studies, Senior Adult Trips, and more. We have also helped with Hurricane Harvey relief, Lufkin Middle School, and Anderson Elementary.

In addition, we have had a busy past few months. In October, we hosted Boo Bash with over 500 people in attendance. In November, we had 65 volunteers serve over 400 meals for Thanksgiving. And in December, we had over 4,500 people attend An Evening in Old Bethlehem as well as a fabulous Children's Advent Worship Service and a beautiful Cantata this season. We have served our community well and I am proud of all the people who worked tirelessly to make these events happen.

I am also very proud to be part of this wonderful church! Our focus for much of the year has been Immeasurably More. We have added a Traditional Worship Service at 10:45 AM to attract new people and we have been updating our facilities.

"God can do anything, you know-far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

*Glory to God in the church!
Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!
Glory down all the generations!
Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!"*
Ephesians 3:21 The Message (MSG)

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jerome

Children's Ministry

Sarah Scott - Director of Children's Ministry

What a year 2017 has been for our FUMC Kids Nursery, Preschool and Children's Ministries! For the spring, we kicked off the year with Bible Olympics. Around 30 of our children, Kindergarten to 5th grade, participated in a 6-week study that included learning the books of the Bible and other important markers to our faith through movement, song, and games. We ended the Olympics with a closing ceremony where the children presented what they learned to their parents and received medals...medals made of chocolate, of course. Our Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner fundraiser provided support for many of our students to attend Lakeview District Camp in June. With 552 slices of bacon, 52 pounds of pancake mix, 31 sets of children and youth hands, and many wonderful adult helpers, we were able to raise over \$2,700 dollars! Our Kid's Night Out events continue to draw families from outside our FUMC community, as well as many of our My Growing Place and My Growing Place 2.0 families. Summer was an exciting time too! During our Gadgets and Gizmos Vacation Bible School, we had over 140 children, ages infant to 5th grades, and 75 youth and adult volunteers. My Growing Place joined us this year, as well as our Nursery and Preschool Ministry. Throughout the week, we collected 1,517 bottles of shampoo and bars of soap for the Back to School Bonanza Health Kits. At the end of June, 15 of our children attended Lakeview District Camp for a week of spiritual growth, deeper friendships, fun, and little sleep. Camp Create brought Zumba and science to the experience, as the children

performed a musical about Creation! This year, Kindergarten to 5th grades participated in Mighty Mondays. Each week, 25-30 children joined us for fun as we skated, went to the movies, played games, and explored with science. Our



Nursery and Preschool Ministry shared a water day with 28 of our little ones and their families. The Nursery and Preschool area is growing with new families and lots of adorable faces. The summer flew by but was filled with growth, learning more of God's love, and building friendships with one another! This fall our Children's Wing has received a face lift! The Children's Wing has child-friendly furniture, new paint and cabinets, and a Children's Chapel with beautiful murals. The updates have created a fresh look that helps the children feel welcomed and

oved! Throughout the semester, our kids have hit the streets of surrounding neighborhoods. We have been intentional in reaching and inviting those around us. After praying for the neighborhood streets around us, a group of our children walked those same streets inviting families to our Boo Bash



and praying for them. We continued to pull those families in through caroling and an invitation to our Happy Birthday Jesus Party in December. Seeing our children get excited about those families around us, and praying for them too, is an overwhelming blessing that we must continue to have. Our entire FUMC family came together for Boo Bash. From Children's Council, to various Sunday school classes, to a fantastic hospitality team and the staff, everyone made Boo Bash a SUCCESS! We were able to touch

many families who are reaching out for a church home! God is good. We also wrapped up the last Nursery and Preschool event of 2017, Fall Play Day, as the children painted pumpkins and the parents fellowshiped together. As we finished the semester with Children's Advent Worship, we prepared for the birth of Jesus through our children leading us. What a beautiful picture of the love of God! The fruits of this year are a testament to God's goodness and our wonderful volunteers that love the children of First United Methodist Church!



Student Ministry

Lisa Gill - Director of Student Ministry

2017 has been an exciting year for our students! We kicked off the year with STORM weekend in January. We had 75 students and over 50 adults participate in this annual event, and plans are underway for an incredible weekend in 2018. We also had 14 of our 7th-12th graders participate in the conference's mid-winter retreat at Forest Glen Christian Camp. The 2016-2017 Confirmation class traveled to Houston as part of their confirmation journey to attend a Shabbat service at Temple Sinai and were given the opportunity to spend time asking questions and learning about Jewish traditions with Rabbi Annie. The trip to Houston also included a guided tour of the Holocaust museum. The class was celebrated in worship on April 23 as we confirmed all 13 confirmands and welcomed them as full members of FUMC. In May, our congregation also had the privilege of celebrating with the graduating class of 2017 and we awarded over \$6000 in scholarships to our seniors. As always, summer was busy for our students! We said hello to summer with a party at Hijinx trampoline park and in early June, we sent 13 middle school students and 7 adults to serve in Tomball as part of Big House, a mission trip designed just for middle schoolers. Our students also enjoyed a week at Lakeview, our conference summer camp, where they spent time in worship and small groups learning about what it means to be transformed into who

God is calling them to be. In July, a group of 20 students and 20 adults participated in UM ARMY. This year's camp was located in Beaumont, and our teams helped build wheelchair ramps, painted houses, and various other home projects throughout the community. Our Student Ministry closed out the summer with Youth Week. Youth Week is full of super-awesome summer fun activities for the students, and this year's activities included a Christmas in July party to welcome our new 6th graders and ended with an all-night lock-in at Hijinx. Our students also helped our Children's Ministry with Vacation Bible School and Camp Create this summer. The fall semester started with the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey, and our students assisted in collecting items and assembling flood buckets. A few of our students and volunteers served two weekends in the Cypress area, and a group of 17 youth and adults spent a weekend serving in the Wharton area. All of these amazing events and activities, including our weekly Wednesday night youth group, Sunday School, and Bible studies, are all made possible through the wonderful support of our entire church family at FUMC. Thank you for all that you do to make sure our students have the opportunity to encounter Christ and live out the gospel in all sorts of ways throughout the year.

Worship Arts

Dr. Ernest Boamah - Director of Worship Arts

The Worship Arts ministry continues to offer many opportunities for involvement across all age groups. Three new members from Angelina College have joined our Chancel Choir. We are hoping to recruit more from area colleges and high schools. Paula West, our interim pianist, has been a real blessing to us as we continue to search for an organist. Handbells, chimes, and steels drums are learning more repertoire and techniques and continue to

participate in our worship services. Our summer exploration camp, Camp Create, this past Summer was quite a success. With arts and science incorporated, we finished an amazing week of camp with a musical, "*In His Image*." The concert series continues to bring in various artists. This year we hosted the Aurora Trio from Houston and we had an organ recital on Sunday, November 12 with Dr. Juyeon J. Lee. The School of Fine Arts Ministry, which provides lessons in piano, organ,

guitar, and voice is going strong. Acolytes and Crucifers completed their six weeks of training and began serving in November. The Worship Arts Ministry continues to strive to glorify God through excellent music making in worship and extend our reach into the community through concerts and concert series. We want to be a ministry that experiences God through melodies and harmonies of beautiful and meaningful music.



Christian Education

Carolee Brink - Director of Christian Education

All three of our areas - Adult, Women and Senior Adults - had a very busy 2017. We had two church wide worship series which included small groups studying the same books. During Lent, we studied *The God We Can Know* and this Fall, we studied *The Good and Beautiful Community*. We began a new ministry called Fellowship Thursday in the summer. Quarterly, we had families host a dinner at their home for church members in their neighborhood. This is an opportunity to fellowship and get to know other church members. In 2017, we had two dinners with 60 -100 people at each. We look forward to our next one in February. Our Women's Ministry continues to have numerous ongoing bible studies. On April 1, we held our second annual Women's Tea. There were over 100 in attendance and all proceeds went to our Local Education Mission Fund. In July, we started a new ministry outreach called "Let's Do Lunch." Every Thursday in July we had a women's luncheon with a devotional from a local female pastor. With an average attendance of 70 women each week, ladies from many different churches and many denominations

came to enjoy lunch and share a devotion with us. It was such a success that we decided to continue it once a month. We are now having "Let's Do Lunch" on the second Thursday of the month with the same format. In October, we held our 10th annual Women's Weekend Retreat and our speaker was our own Tammy Sees. Prime Timers is still going strong. We have monthly activities which range from lunch and bingo to day trips. An Evening in Old Bethlehem had another tremendous year. This year, Bethlehem celebrated it's 32nd year providing the true meaning of Christmas to the community. Lufkin Daily News held a poll to see what the community's favorite holiday event was. Bethlehem beat out Rudolph the Pumping Unit with over 60% people answering that Bethlehem was their favorite holiday event; a very humbling moment for us. We are looking forward to a very busy 2018!





Bats in the Belfry

This was a very interesting year for Henderson Chapel. The spring brought us the surprise of a colony of bats living in the Chapel. An even bigger surprise was to find out that we could not remove them until after their mating season was over in August. We unfortunately had to close Henderson Chapel until the bats could be removed. While staying with us, the bats caused quite a bit of damage to the building, but provided us a reason to do a much needed update in the Chapel and Allen Parlor. The bats were evicted in August and work began to replace walls, new carpet and flooring, new pew coverings, and fresh paint. The Chapel was open just in time for our Christmas Eve services, where we held a beautiful candlelight service and our come and go communion. The Allen Parlor is scheduled to be open in January.



Henderson Chapel, built in 1981, was home to a colony of over 100 bats in 2017.

Missions



Sager Brown

This year was the 11th annual mission trip to UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana. UMCOR is a leader in service for the UMC to those who are hungry, displaced, sick or in poverty, because of natural or human made disasters. UMCOR serves in 81 countries of the world. This year, a group of 10 went during an extraordinarily special time. This year's trip was right after Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas Coast and Houston area. This group of special ladies spent all week putting

together hundreds of flood buckets to be sent to those affected by Harvey. The 2018 trip is planned for September.



Haiti

In July, members from FUMC, Marvin UMC, and Keller UMC traveled to Haiti to distribute water filters in the village of Mellier. Most of Haiti's water sources are contaminated, leaving the majority of Haitians with little or no access to clean water in any form. Families are regularly battling illness and even death because of contaminated water. This team was able to pass out over 200 filters to families in Mellier

and surrounding villages, providing much needed clean water to these beautiful people.



Cook and Serve

Cook and Serve Ministry provide meals in the Lufkin community on the second and third Saturday of every month. Meals are served at Herty Primary on the second Saturday of each month while meals are served on Second Street on the third Saturday. Volunteers spend time cooking meals, setting up, serving, and cleaning up afterwards. This ministry is unique in several ways. Before meals are served, all present gather to have a devotional. Volunteers also

have the opportunity of developing friendships with those they serve and share the message of God's love. This year, over 1,200 meals were served at both these locations.



Local Education

Throughout the year, we offer support to both of our adopted schools - Anderson Elementary and Lufkin Middle School through the following ways: prayers, teacher volunteers, Back to School Bonanza, Back to School Breakfast, cookies and sweet treats, holiday goodies, Christmas gifts, meals during the school year, birthday cards, and more! On the first day of school, we roll out the "red carpet" to give a big welcome to faculty, staff, and students.

ALL SAINTS'



SUE COURTNEY

CLEO V. JACKSON

ED BOOTH

BONNIE KILLAM

CATHY CARR

THEODORA DUNCAN

HONORA JACOBS

STEPHANIE LOVELL

ED SHEELER

BARBARA COCKRELL

VIRGINIA RICHEY

BETTY ECKER

MORGAN FLOURNOY

CLIFTON HOLCOMB

EARLON WILLIAMS

CARL & PAULETTE KING

BOBBYE LOU BARTLETT

RICHARD REDDY

CHARLES JETER

ELBERT (BUDDY) BUSH JR.

STAN BENCKENSTEIN

CLINTON SAULSBURY

IMMEASURABLY *More* EPHESIANS 3:20-21 Capital Campaign

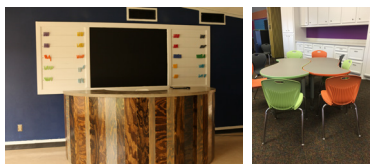
Last year, the Trustees began looking at the campus to identify areas in need of update and repair to be a more inviting (and safe) church in the community. Below, is a list of projects that the Trustees identified as urgent:

- Youth and Children's Areas
- Henderson Chapel and Allen Parlor
- Fellowship Hall
- HVAC Units in CLC
- Ramps and Awnings
- Digital Sign at Two-Point

This list was then given to the Finance Committee to find the necessary funds to complete these projects. To be able to fund these projects, the Finance Committee and the Church Council approved an Immeasurably More Capital Campaign.

To date we have raised \$400,000 of the \$500,000 goal we set out to raise and we are 80 percent complete with the projects. Youth and Children's areas have been updated. Henderson Chapel was completed just in time for Christmas Eve services and the Fellowship Hall was completed the first week of January. In addition, the HVAC units have started the process of being replaced and ramps have been added outside the Sanctuary and Adult Wing. Allen Parlor is currently being finished up and will reopen in January. The remaining two items on the list, the digital sign and adding awnings around campus, will be finished as soon as the funds become available.

Children's Wing



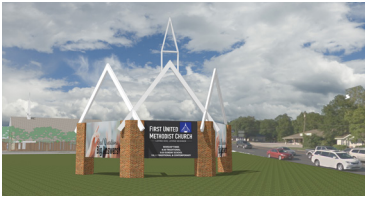
- Children's Chapel
- Updated check-in process
- Child-friendly furniture
- New welcome center
- Fresh paint

Henderson Chapel



- Bat removal and clean up
- New flooring in Chapel & Parlor
- New covering for pews
- Update/renovate Parlor kitchen

Digital Sign



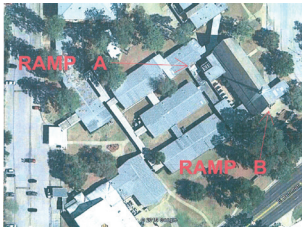
- Constructed at Two-Point
- Will feature two screens and a static sign - each screen will face Denman Ave. and Chestnut St.
- Provides more visible landmark signage
- Will be able to interact with the community and advertise more of our events

Fellowship Hall

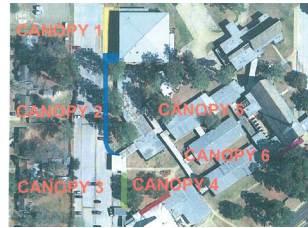


- New flooring
- Paint - trim and doors
- Replace cracked ceiling above the stage
- Remove pegboard panels from wall and replace with sheetrock
- New round tables

Ramps and Awnings



- Ramp A will allow access from the Sanctuary and Chapel area to the Second Mile Fellowship and Men's Classroom.
- Ramp B will allow access out of the Sanctuary through the front doors.



- Canopy 1-5 will connect existing canopies to allow dry passage from all buildings on campus.
- Canopy 6 will not be done. In its place will be a canopy connecting canopy 2 to the Children's Wing.

Youth and Worship Center



Youth-Friendly Classrooms



The Hangout

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



12

Baptisms



NEW
MEMBERS



363

Average Worship
ATTENDANCE

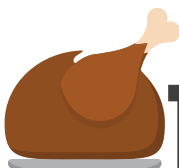
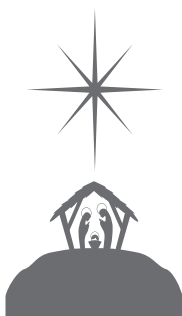
209 avg.
Video Views
per week on



FACEBOOK

4,500

attended
**An Evening in
OLD BETHLEHEM**



450

THANKSGIVING
MEALS SERVED

500

attended

**BOO
BASH**



100%

**APPORTIONMENTS
PAID**

Be the DIFFERENCE



**WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

Sunday Mornings

January 7 - February 4

www.lufkinfirst.com/WCMAD

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
— LOVING GOD. LOVING NEIGHBOR —





Where Are You?

A Comparative Analysis of 2017 Donors

Supporter Classes	Average Weekly Support per household
Top 10 Supporters	\$677.31 (\$35,220.12 per year)
Top 25 Supporters	\$440.75 (\$22,919.19 per year)
Top 50 Supporters	\$302.58 (\$15,735.16 per year)
Top 100 Supporters	\$197.57 (\$10,273.64 per year)
Top 200 Supporters	\$116.96 (\$ 6,081.92 per year)

Locate your approximate annual household income on the left column on the back of this page. The next columns reveal the amount per week you could consider giving or increasing to attain our church-wide goal to grow our impact. Enter that amount on the line below the chart.

Now, enter the amount you presently giving weekly. If what you are presently giving is the same or more than that level, will you consider increasing your present gift to the next level? Enter what that would be for you.

Before you complete your Commitment Card, please pray about your gift and ask guidance for your decision about which amount to give. Make the decision that will make you feel you are giving to your fullest capability.

When you have calculated your gift and prayed about it, fill out your Commitment Card and return it to the church.

Your giving goal is now set! Welcome to the growing number of us who are increasing our personal giving!

2018 GIVING CALCULATOR

IF MY ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME IS:	STARTING LEVEL A weekly increase of \$.50 is	STANDARD LEVEL A weekly increase of \$1.00 is	FAITH LEVEL A weekly increase of \$1.50 is
\$300,000	\$150.00	\$300	\$450.00
\$250,000	\$125.00	\$250	\$375.00
\$200,000	\$100.00	\$200	\$300.00
\$150,000	\$75.00	\$150	\$225.00
\$125,000	\$62.50	\$125	\$187.50
\$100,000	\$50.00	\$100	\$150.00
\$95,000	\$47.50	\$95	\$142.50
\$90,000	\$45.00	\$90	\$135.00
\$85,000	\$42.50	\$85	\$127.50
\$80,000	\$40.00	\$80	\$120.00
\$75,000	\$37.50	\$75	\$112.50
\$70,000	\$35.00	\$70	\$105.00
\$65,000	\$32.50	\$65	\$97.50
\$60,000	\$30.00	\$60	\$90.00
\$55,000	\$27.50	\$55	\$82.50
\$50,000	\$25.00	\$50	\$75.00
\$45,000	\$22.50	\$45	\$67.50
\$40,000	\$20.00	\$40	\$60.00
\$35,000	\$17.50	\$35	\$52.50
\$30,000	\$15.00	\$30	\$45.00
\$25,000	\$12.50	\$25	\$37.50
\$20,000	\$10.00	\$20	\$30.00
\$15,000	\$7.50	\$15	\$22.50

From this chart, my weekly gift at the _____ level would be \$ _____.

I am presently giving \$ _____ weekly.

If this amount of my present gift is the same or more than the amount suggested from the chart, I will try to increase to the next level called _____.

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