



First United Methodist Church of Brazoria
 PO Box 9
 Brazoria, Texas 77422-0009

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit Number
25

Affix Address Label Here



**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, AT 12 PM!**

Any articles received after the deadline will not be included in the newsletter.
 Please submit early!

Weekly Announcements

If you have announcements to be included in the bulletin or pastor's announcements, please make sure to submit them by Wednesday at noon of that week to guarantee inclusion for Sunday morning. You can either email to fumcylady@brazoriainet.com, call the office at (979) 798-2220 or drop a copy off during office hours (Monday -Thursday 8AM to 1 PM)

PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

- AT HOME**.....*Debbie Rasco, Dorothy & Roger Kees*
Assisted Living/Nursing Facility
- Ann De Steiguer*.....*The Legacy, Bay City, TX*
Dan Hutson.....*Mount Joseph Senior Village, Concordia, KS*
Claude McClendon.....*Sweeny House, Sweeny, TX*
Kittie Stanger.....*Country Village Care, Angleton, TX*
Lou Hughes.....*Country Village Care, Angleton, TX*

If you would like to send a card or letter to any of our homebound members, please call the office (979-798-2220) or email fmclady@brazoriainet.com

NOVEMBER, 2016

Pastor's Message

As of the fourth Thursday of this month, the "holidays" will officially be upon us. Mind you, certain stores' background music has been carols, *ad nauseum*, since August. The time of Thanksgiving through Christmas is really about coming together as families and then as THE family of the Church ("the Body of Christ") to recall and celebrate the matchless gift of the Messiah, God's Anointed One. Well, that's how it *should be*, anyhow. This is a religious season and we shouldn't let it be wholly co-opted by the secular/business world so as to devalue God's glorious gift and the grace that enabled it.

As Americans, we rightly recall the Pilgrims of Plymouth at every Thanksgiving. How they overcame unimaginable hardship by untamable faith and cooperation one with another to survive and then thrive in the New World. We remember and admire both their endurance and their thankfulness ... too often, unfortunately, by overeating and watching football.

It's easy to overlook the word "faith" in our recollections of the first Thanksgiving. Nevertheless, theirs was ultimately a *pilgrimage of faith* (not exploration) and the first Thanksgiving was a religious act. That vital point is too easily lost amid first downs and second helpings. Before the Pilgrims left Leyden (Holland) for their journey, their pastor, John Robinson, preached a sermon containing these stirring words:

"We covenant with God and with one another to receive whatsoever light and truth shall be made known to us from His written Word, for we are confident that the Lord has more truth and light yet to break forth out of His holy Word."

"Covenant," "truth," "light," and "holy Word," are nouns too infrequently associated with our holidays today. Remember they were called "pilgrims" for a reason. They were following Christ's call to discipleship and were escaping governmental persecution for their faith. They came to North America in order to practice their faith and to witness the Gospel in community, as a family of faith. In the Epistle reading for the Sunday that immediately follows Thanksgiving (Romans 13:11-14) St. Paul wrote, "*For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light...*"

Those 102 Puritan pilgrims, facing thousands of miles of unforgiving ocean (aboard an aging, slow, and difficult to handle small ship) and a hostile wilderness of uncertainty on its far shore must have worn the armor of God, the armor of the True Light, to have prevailed. This was an example of the providence of God promised in His Word, and holy covenant that the Pilgrims gave thanks for. How about us?

This Thanksgiving, amid the trimmings and pumpkin pie, parades, football and family fellowship, I challenge each of you to take a moment and give some thought to God's continued covenant with each of us. How God lovingly gave of Himself in the form of Christ the Son to save us from hostile obstacles and uncertain shores. How God offers the same armor and providence to each of us. How "salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers." Now there's something to be really thankful for!

See you Sunday!
 Pastor Don



A.J. Brown is 1 Year Old!

On October 9, Wendee and Andrew Brown hosted a spaghetti luncheon for the entire congregation after the 10:30 Worship Service to celebrate A.J.'s first birthday. There was food and fun and lots of cake for (and on) the birthday boy. Happy Birthday A.J.!



Birthdays

- November 1 – Easton Phillips
- November 2 – Joy Allman
- November 5 – Aime Schneider
- November 6 – Mike Stokes
- November 7 – Bobby Phillips, II
- November 8 – John Philips
- November 10 – Dolores Macks
- November 14 – Gil Rasco
- November 16 – Jo Beth Perkins
Bruce Reed
- November 17 – Logan Bailey
Shirley Fitzgerald
- November 19 – Kaleigh Fitzgerald
- November 22 – Charles Reed
- November 25 – Chad Anderson
Taylor Pursley
- November 28 – Scoie Green
- November 29 – Kylie Nichols
Haley Danford
- November 30 – Dorothy Kees



Anniversaries

- November 7 – Karl & Aime Schneider
- November 11 – Mike & Lee Anne Stokes
- November 16 – Jacque Shirley Spearow
- November 17 – Jessica & Dustin Wied
- November 22 – John & Gail Greenberg
- November 24 – Gordon & Beverly Parsons



Poinsettias



It's that time of year again! Time to order your poinsettias to grace our chancel this Christmas season. Plants are \$10.00 each. When ordering by check, remember to put "poinsettias" on the memo line and please include your telephone number! You may order as many as you wish but supplies are limited so please order early!

Reverend Don Brown, Senior Pastor pastordb@brazoriainet.com
 Parsonage: 979.798.2450 • Pastor's Cell: 979.324.6343
 Admin Assistant: Dorothy E Richter fumclady@brazoriainet.com
 Office Phone: 979.798.2220 Fax: 979.798.2226



Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 16, 2016, Pastor Don held a service for the first "Blessing of the Animals" here at FUMC Brazoria. A number of people attended with their furry loved ones and all were given a blessing. It was a great event! Hope to see more next year!



Chancel Flowers

To donate flowers for our altar, please be sure to print the entire name of the donor and the occasion on the sign-up page in the narthex. If no occasion is cited, flowers will be "given to the glory of God".

Grocery Receipts

Keep those grocery receipts! Did you know that your grocery receipts from Stewart's Grocery can help support our church? Bring your Stewart's grocery receipts and put them in the box in the narthex. Then Stewart's will send us a check for 1% of your total grocery bill (minus tax)!



Church Discount Program

Take a copy of this Newsletter or a weekly Bulletin to El Chico on Wednesdays or Sundays to receive 10% off your entire purchase!

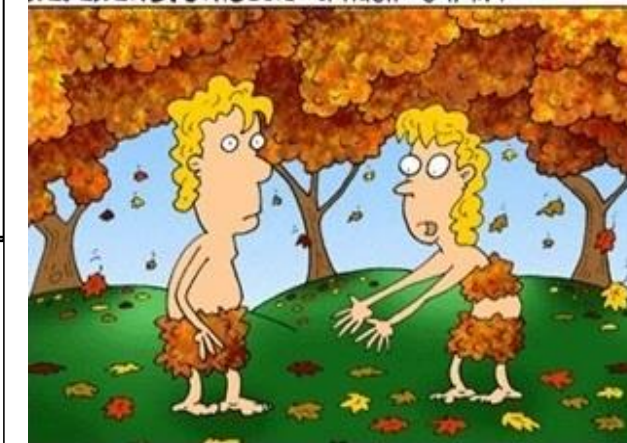


Habitat for Humanity

For several weeks you may have noticed a construction project adjacent to our property. Habitat for Humanity is building a home on a lot just across the street and we at FUMC Brazoria are letting them use our land for their crew tent and parking. The project is sponsored by Dow and will be offered to a family who otherwise might not be able to afford a home.



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4, INC.



Will you please pick up all your clothes?