

WEEKLY UPDATE

November 29, 2024

RHEA BULLOCK, PASTOR

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KAUFMAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Word From Our Pastor

I recently read this anecdote from a pastor in Kentucky:

It was nearing Christmas, and I received a phone call from a man who needed to talk to a counselor. I met him at my church office, where he told me his tale of woe. A decade earlier he had killed his wife in a fit of anger, was convicted of manslaughter, and spent several years in prison. He and his wife had a daughter who was in the custody of his in-laws. He had not seen her since the crime.

Now, as Christmas neared, his heart ached. Tears streaming down his face, he lamented, "I could pass her on the streets of this city and not even know who she was."

What I remember most about our counseling session, however, was what he said when he first walked into my office. Dramatically raising his arms, he said, "Now, preacher, let's just leave Jesus out of this, OK?"

As he sadly went his way that day, I thought to myself, *That's the whole problem. You've left Jesus out of everything.*

We can't control the world around us. Without fail, many people will continue to leave Jesus out of everything, to forget all but his name and the holiday that bears it. But let it not be so for us. In the retail world, this is the "holiday" season – a time for skyrocketing profits and major spending. For us, this is the "Advent" season. Advent simply means "coming." For these weeks throughout the month of December, we will celebrate Jesus' coming to us.

Let's not walk into this season, into our circumstances, or into our families and leave Jesus out of it. He came to show us a better way, a way to life and hope. He came to be near us, and to rescue us from despair, from corruption, and from ourselves. Jesus is coming. Let's let him in.

See you Sunday!

Rhea



Christmas Concert

Christmas-filled evening of virtuosic piano
performed by

Corey McCurry

Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m.

**First United Methodist Church
208 S. Houston St.
Kaufman, TX 75142**

A love offering will be received.

Corey is a degree-holding pianist from the University of Texas at Tyler whose degree focus was on performance. He will be playing a full-length concert of some of the most beautiful solo Christmas piano arrangements ever made, featuring arrangers such as Jarrod Radnich, Joseph Martin and Jacob Koller.

Also featured in the concert is handbell soloist Leona Adams, who will be playing "Jingle Bell Rock" and "In the Bleak Midwinter."

Come enjoy the night and set the tone for
the Christmas season.



A Song is Born

A Cantata for Christmas by Douglas Nolan

Sunday, December 15th

FUMC Kaufman @ 9:15 am

FUMC College Mound @ 11 am

Saturday, December 7, 2024

12 PM— 8 PM

12 PM – 8 PM: Christmas Market

6 PM: Lighted Christmas Parade

7 PM: Tree Lighting, Pictures with
Santa, Cookies

Christmas
ON THE
SQUARE
KAUFMAN, TX

www.kaufmantx.org

Our church is going to be in the Christmas Parade!!

Bryan Smith will be driving the Church Bus and
The Lear Family will be pulling our float.
The bus will hold 14 people, and the float about 12-15.
The theme this year is Winter Wonderland.

Come join us!

We will meet in the parking lot Thursday, December 5 at 3:00
to decorate our float.

We also need candy to throw from the float.

Bring to church on Sunday or by the church office.

Advent

at FUMC Kaufman



Hope

December 01

Luke 2:21-28

Reliable Witnesses: Simeon and Anna

Special Music by Corey McCurry

Love

December 08

Luke 2:8-20

Reliable Witnesses: Angels and Shepherds

Special Music by The Joyful Ringers

Joy

December 15

Luke 2:8-20

Cantata *A Song Is Born*

Presented by the choirs of FUMC Kaufman and UMC College Mound

Kaufman at 9:15 a.m. College Mound at 11:00 a.m.

Peace

December 22

Luke 2: 1-7

Reliable Witnesses: Mary and Joseph

Special Music by Trinity



We have an amazing staff at
First United Methodist Church-Kaufman!
During this time of year, we the congregation of First United Methodist Church, get the opportunity to show how much we really do appreciate them.

One of the ways that we do that is by making a monetary contribution that will be shared by all our staff this Christmas. If you would like to contribute to the staff gift, please place your contribution in an envelope marked Staff Appreciation. You may place it in the collection plate, give it to me, or drop it by the church office.

You may also give your gift online at
<https://onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth61253/give/gifts>,
in the drop-down box, choose Staff Appreciation.

We would appreciate receiving your gift by December 18th.

May you have a blessed Christmas!

Candy Countryman, Chairman Staff, Parish Relationship Committee

If you would like to order a poinsettia
In Honor or In Memory of a loved one,
please find an envelope in the West Room.
Complete and place in the offering plate.

You may also give your gift online at
<https://onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth61253/give/gifts>,
in the drop-down box, choose Flower Fund.
There is a line to note who you are buying your poinsettia for.



Cost is \$15.00. Orders are due by December 15.

If you have questions, contact Debbie Gilham or Pam Caffey



We are receiving donations of NEW socks, gloves,
and blankets for all sizes and ages.

These will be added to:

**Christmas for Kids Gift Bags*

**NOW Backpack Kids*

**Christmas Day Meals on Wheels Stockings*

Bring to church with you or drop off by the office during business hours.

We now have 135 children on our growing list. Below are some of the Christmas Wishes:



- ♥ Lego Sets: for boys and girls ages 4 & up
- ♥ Remote Control cars, trucks, flying things
- ♥ Hot Wheels
- ♥ Superhero stuff, mostly Spiderman
- ♥ Hello Kitty, Stitch, Paw Patrol, Bluey, Sonic the Hedgehog, Ninja Turtles, Squishmallows
- ♥ Barbies for ages 2-12
- ♥ Baby Alive and Baby dolls, accessories
- ♥ 12 bikes - if you would like specifics, let me know.
- ♥ Footballs, Soccer Balls, Basketballs
- ♥ Dinosaurs

- ♥ Learning toys for infants through elementary age
- ♥ One 7 year old boy wants a cowboy hat and boots
- ♥ One 11 year old girl wants a long purple pillow, her 13 year old sister would like some LED lights for her room.
- ♥ Toy kitchen sets
- ♥ One little girl is asking for a cash register
- ♥ Family Games
- ♥ Jewelry and Make up for 11 - 13 year old girls
- ♥ Art and Craft kits, markers, crayons, sketch pads, paint, slime,
- ♥ We have a 12 year old girl that likes Winnie the Pooh, and her 10 year old sister likes Hello Kitty.
- ♥ One 10 year old girl likes to crochet
- ♥ A 4 year old boy is asking for skates, and his 10 year old sister is asking for a karaoke machine.

Please let us know if you can help with any of these requests.

If you know of any company that can help us collect toys, let me know. I'd be happy to contact them and explain our ministry.

Return your unwrapped gift to church by December 15th. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, we have elves standing by to shop.

As you choose a gift, pray for that child and their family. Our hope is that God's love will shine through us to those families that are challenged to give gifts to their children this season.

On the day parents pick up gifts, we will also offer them the opportunity to chose other donated items for themselves or their family. We are collecting gently used winter clothes, coats, shoes, Christmas trees, and other decorations, along with wrapping paper, tape, ribbon, tags, and gift bags. Are your kids cleaning out their toy boxes? Donate gently used, clean toys; let them bless someone less fortunate.

*We need a few "behind the scenes" volunteers for this ministry.
If you would like to help, or have any questions, contact Pam Caffey 214.538.4727.*



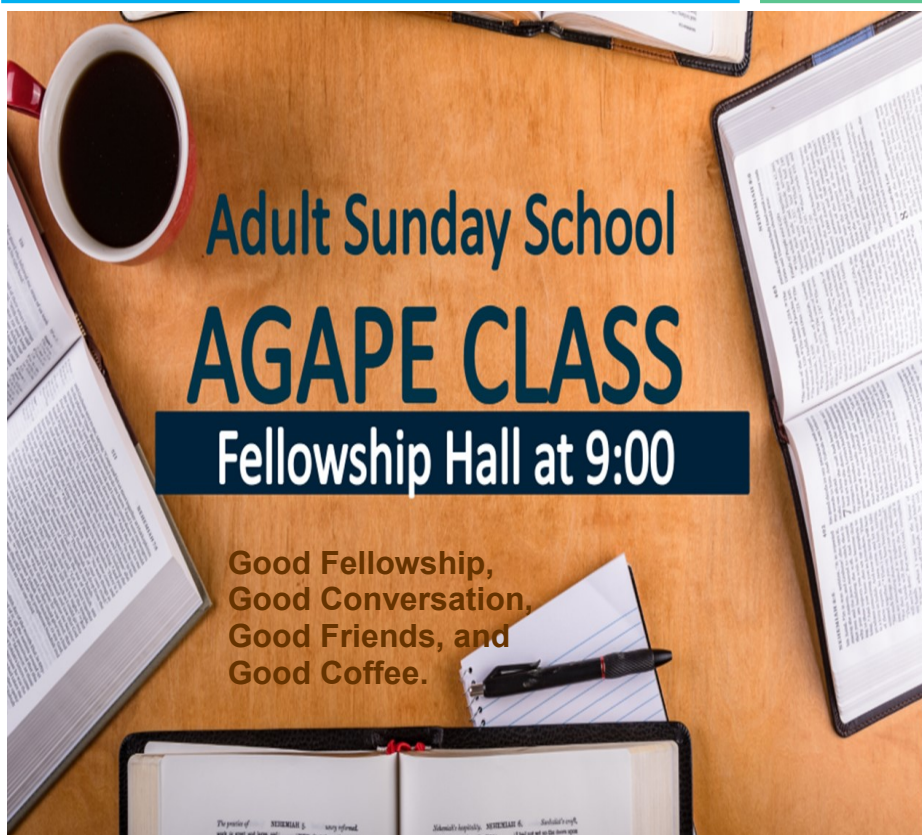
Mike and Shiloh are excited to lead our youth with biblical teaching, encouraging them to live into their growing faith, and mentor them as they seek to apply Christian values in their daily relationships.

Mike will bring the donuts!

Bring your children ages Pre-k through 5th grade to our weekly Sunday School Class in the Orange Room. With games, video, songs, activities, and bible lessons, Leslie, Robin, and Tana will help your kiddos learn what matters most is to Simply Love Jesus and each other.



1 John 4:7 'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.'



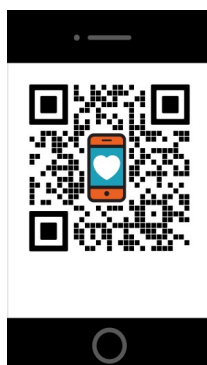
Options for e-giving:

<https://onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth61253/give/gifts>

You may scan the
QR code to the right with your phone
OR

Text "FUMC208HOUSTON" to 73256
to give using your mobile device.

We are grateful for your gift to
First United Methodist Church - Kaufman.



Kaufman FUMC Missions

- Kaufman Meals on Wheels
- First Fruits Sunday - The Center
- NOW (Nutrition On Weekends)
- Pastor Discretionary Fund
- ERT (Early Response Team)
- Ramp Building Team
- FUMC Greeting Card Ministry

If you would like more information about any of these local missions, contact Pam in the church office.

Birthday Blessings!

Andrew Johnson - December 2
Ken Caffey - December 4
Gabe Tijerina - December 4
Donovan Sisson - December 7
Mary Hurtado - December 8
Betty Bates - December 8
Stevie Hulme - December 12
Leslie Bullock - December 13
Charrise Martin - December 19
JoAnn LaQuey - December 20
Jerry Hitt - December 24
Mike Rogers - December 27
Terri Elzner - December 29



NOW Backpack at OP Norman Jr. High

At this time we have 18 students identified as in need for the service.

Below is the list of things that are in need:

Shampoo and Conditioner
peanut butter
tuna or chicken pouches
small juices

The Leadership class and Mrs. Maly thank you so much for the generosity of the church. It helps out tremendously!

Senior Connect - Kaufman Meals on Wheels

Partnering with Senior Connect, our church delivers a hot meal to our neighbors each Wednesday throughout the year.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Pam Caffey.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

First Fruits Sunday



This week is First Fruits Sunday. Bring non-perishable items to help restock the shelves at The Center.

Sunday, December 1

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, December 3

5:30 Kaufman Quilt Guild

Wednesday, December 4

10:00 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Rhea
5:00 p.m. Trinity Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Children's Choir Practice
5:45 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Rhea
6:00 p.m. The Joyful Ringers Practice
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

3:00 p.m. Decorate Float and Bus
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Friday, December 6

1:30 p.m. Home School Group



- * December 7 - Lighted Christmas Parade
- * December 8 - Christmas Concert with Corey McCurry
- * December 15 - Cantata with College Mound
- * December 21 - Christmas for Kids - Toy Pickup
- * December 25 - Christmas Day Meals on Wheels

