

# WEEKLY UPDATE

December 20, 2024

RHEA BULLOCK, PASTOR

WWW.FUMC-KAUFMAN.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM-FUMC-KAUFMAN

OFFICE PHONE 972-932-2838

EMAIL: OFFICE@FUMC-KAUFMAN.ORG

KAUFMAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A Word From Our Pastor

Rev. Jorge Acevedo wrote in one of his Christmas devotions:

A few years ago, I was privileged to spend two days with renowned New Testament scholar N.T. Wright. I asked him, "What characterized the first followers of Jesus?" He quickly responded, "It was their passionate love for each other and their care for the poor and diseased." During Advent we light a candle to represent the love that Jesus brings. And it's not a stretch to say that more than anything else, the litmus test for fidelity in following Jesus is the high call to love people. Think about the witnesses of Scripture to this truth. In the Upper Room with his apprentices, Jesus told them straight:

*"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." - John 13:34-35 NLT.*

From foot washing as an example in John 13 to the "fruit that lasts" in John 15, the rubber meets the road for Jesus in our willingness to love people. The author of 1 John wrote in a similar vein decades later, with these challenging words: "This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another." (3:11 NLT)

There is something strikingly simple about the message of Christ, the message of his presence, his teaching, his death and resurrection. It's simple, it's plain and unadorned – as simple as a baby whose first bed was donkey feed. But it's still what we need to be told. The good news of Jesus still strikes a chord for us today because of how desperately we still need to hear it, to embrace it, to live in the love of God.

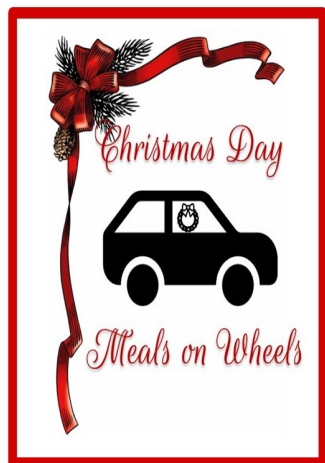
May we know deep in our souls, as we celebrate Christmas this upcoming week, that everything we see, everything we celebrate, everything that offers hope and meaning stands on the foundation of God's love for us, and is meant to draw out of us a response of love in kind.

See you Sunday, and Merry Christmas!

Rhea



Join us at First United Methodist Church-Kaufman this December 24th @ 6pm. Hear the Christmas story, meet new friends and celebrate the greatest gift that God gave us all that first Christmas night, the gift of love, the birth of Jesus. It's the most wonderful time of the year, and we'd love to share it with you.



Join us  
**December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
delivering  
*Love*  
to our neighbors!

To volunteer, contact Pam Caffey

Make your plans for your family to help with Christmas Day Meals on Wheels Wednesday morning.

A reminder for those bringing food, please have your cooked item at Fellowship Hall by 9:30 Christmas morning. You may bring your item with you when you come to the Christmas Eve service if you can not be at church Christmas morning.

If you are helping to assemble meals, we will begin at 9:45.

If you are delivering meals, please be at church by 10:30.

Contact Pam Caffey, 214-538-4727, for more information.

We have an amazing staff at First United Methodist Church-Kaufman! Our staff includes Pastor Rhea Bullock, Secretary: Pam Caffey, Music Director: Leona Adams, Pianist, and Organist: Corey McCurry, Child Care, Lori McCain, and volunteers, Trinity Leader: Dave Spaulding, AV Team: Marty Spaulding and Bryan Smith.

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.



You may 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 5:00 today, December 20.

May you have a blessed Christmas!

Candy Countryman, Chairman Staff,  
Parish Relationship Committee



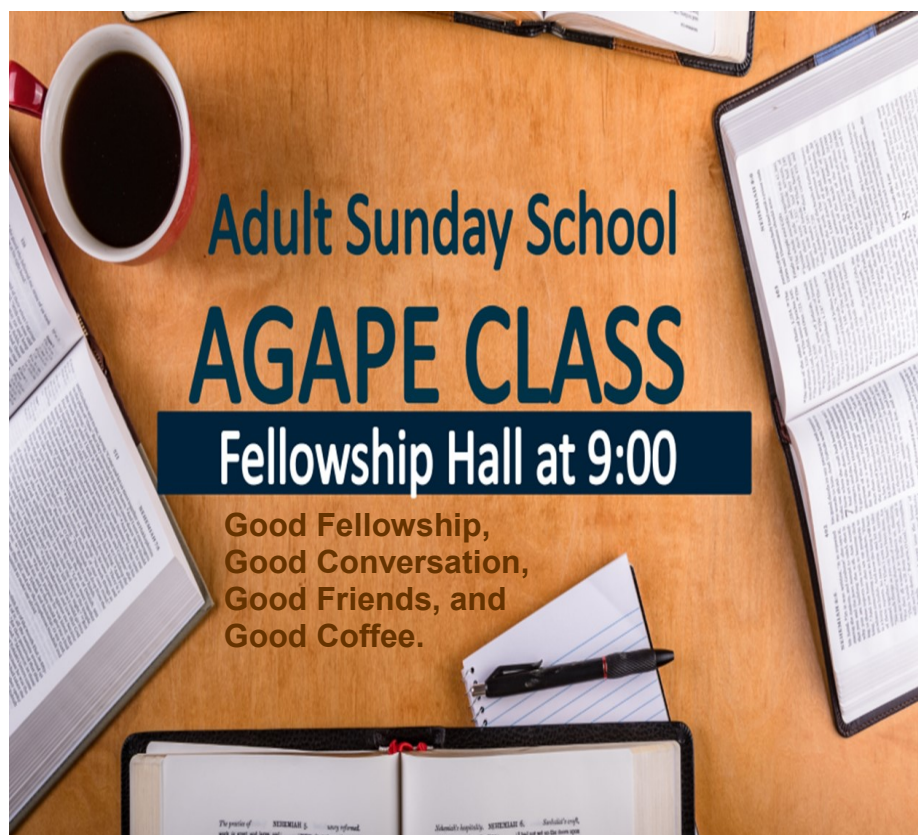
Mike and Shiloh are excited to lead our youth with biblical teaching, encouraging them to live into their growing faith, and mentor them as they seek to apply Christian values in their daily relationships.

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.'



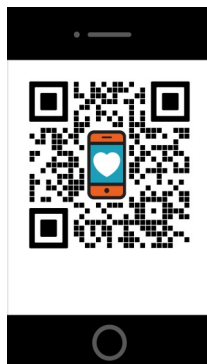
*Options for e-giving:*

<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

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Saturday, December 21

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Christmas for Kids Toy Pickup

#### Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

#### Tuesday, December 24

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

#### Wednesday, December 25

9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Meals on Wheels

The Church office will be closed

December 25 – January 2,

but do not hesitate

to contact Rhea or Pam

for Pastoral needs

or prayer requests.



#### 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.

