

**The United Methodist Church of Frankston**  
**P. O. Box 355**  
**Frankston, TX 75763-0035**

If you would like to change the way you receive the newsletter, please call Jennie at the church office, 903.876.2235, or email the office at [umcfrankston@umcfrankston.org](mailto:umcfrankston@umcfrankston.org). 12/2020



## **The United Methodist Messenger**

**"Making New Disciples Of Christ For The Transformation Of The World"**

Rev. Matt Thomas, Pastor

Matthew 28:16-20

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

If you are like me, Advent can't get here soon enough. Amid the past several months, I don't know anyone who couldn't use a glimmer of hope, a jolt of joy, an abundance of peace, and an overdose of love. Calling 2020 an awkward year is an understatement. The season of advent prepares us for the coming of the Lord. It is the journey to the incarnation. Adorning our worship spaces with greenery, singing carols and reading scriptures, lighting advent wreath candles, and giving out Thanksgiving and Christmas meals help contribute to our better natures. In short, humans need the hope which Christ alone gives. Christians need to be reminded that all is not lost even in the midst of pandemic. Our faith doesn't make concession for hopelessness. As the old hymn suggests, "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow."

I suspect you need this sacred journey to the birth of Christ. While we journey, It might be good to practice paying attention to the many ways God is showing up in the most unlikely places , people, and times. It is actually an exciting time to be alive and a member of the body of Christ. So many opportunities to love, inject hope, encourage others, invite altruism, and connect in meaningful ways awaits us.

I have had so many people across the circuit invite us to Thanksgiving meals. Thank you so much. Several weeks ago, a friend of mine invited our families to gather for thanksgiving. Both our immediate families had canceled Thanksgiving, so we decided it would fun to get together. A new opportunity to connect in an extremely unusual year fell at our feet. God is always showing up. Be on the lookout during this Advent of the divine encounters God is revealing himself.

Merry Christmas,  
Matt

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Dec 2 3 pm - Nurture Team meets, Family Life Center
- Dec 2 6 pm - Bible Study, Family Life Center
- Dec 6 9:45 am - Sunday School, online and FLC
- Dec 6 11 am - *Communion Worship* service, FLC
- Dec 6 5 pm - Youth meet, Family Life Center
- Dec 9 6 pm - Deadline to have Giving Tree gifts at Family Life Center
- Dec 9 6 pm - Bible Study, Family Life Ctr
- Dec 11 10 am - 1 pm - **BLOOD DRIVE**, FLC
- Dec 13 9:45 am - Sunday School, online and FLC
- Dec 13 11 am - **Music & The Word Worship service, Family Life Center**
- Dec 13 5 pm - Youth meet, Family Life Center
- Dec 14 9 am - Stocking Rainbow House, FLC
- Dec 15 9 am - Rainbow House food & gift distribution, Family Life Center
- Dec 16 6 pm - Bible Study, Family Life Center
- Dec 20 9:45 am - Sunday School, online and FLC
- Dec 20 11 am - *Worship* service, Family Life Center
- Dec 20 **No Youth tonight**
- Dec 23 **No Bible Study tonight**
- Dec 24 **Church offices and Family Life Center are closed for Christmas**
- Dec 24 6 pm - **Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Worship Service, FLC**
- Dec 25 **Church offices and Family Life Center are closed for Christmas**
- Dec 27 9:45 am - Sunday School, online and FLC
- Dec 27 11 am - *Worship* service, Family Life Center
- Dec 27 **No Youth tonight**
- Dec 30 **No Bible Study tonight**



## RAINBOW HOUSE NEWS

The morning of Tuesday, November 17 was very busy as the volunteers of Rainbow House distributed boxes of food to some 104 families. These families represented 386 people, 99 over the age of 55, 158 aged 18 through 54, and 129 children 17 and younger.

Once again, the distribution was done by drive-thru in compliance with the recommendations from the East Texas Food Bank and Feeding America program.

Although we did have fresh produce available, nor Thanksgiving turkeys, the clients were appreciative and in good spirits. The overall hope is that sometime soon we will be opening the doors and having the distribution inside along with providing other services.

In December, we will be giving out the gift cards for the children whose parents have requested help. The funding for the gift cards comes from cash donations made specifically for that purpose through the Giving Tree which is located in the Family Life Center. A big "thank you" to all who have and will contribute to that cause. Even if we can't provide the usual toys, these children will have a better Christmas because of your generosity.

Thank you, also for your continued support in time, effort, prayers, food and money for Rainbow House. You help provide a light in the lives of many people.



## POINSETTIAS

Beautiful red poinsettias will once again grace our worship area on Dec. 13 and Dec. 20

If you would like to purchase one or more as a memorial or to honor someone, please call Jennie at the church office (903) 876-2235 to do so. The price per plant is \$10.00. The poinsettia will be ready for you to take it home after the service on Dec. 20. Please reserve your plants by Dec. 7



## Blood Drive

**Friday, December 11**

**10 am – 1 pm**

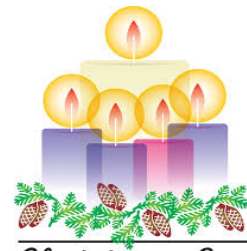
**Family Life Center**

**FACE COVERING YOUR NOSE  
AND MOUTH REQUIRED**

**Social Distancing Observed**

***For your convenience, please make an  
appointment at [CarterBloodCare.org](http://CarterBloodCare.org)***

**Donations will also be accepted  
without an appointment.**



Christmas Eve

Plan to celebrate the birth of Christ at the Candlelight & Communion Worship service at 6 pm on December 24.



Merry Christmas!

The Christmas season is here. I hope and pray that each of us feels the Holy Spirit at work in us as we prepare to celebrate and remember how our Savior humbled himself to be born in the flesh. It is an amazing time of year. I pray that we find renewed hope and joy in this time of celebrating God's great love and plan for us.

Youth group will meet on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> before breaking for Christmas. We will do a dinner and gift exchange on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We will return to normal Sunday evening youth meeting on January 10, 2021. I will be reaching out to the parents of our youth to look into the possibility of doing a New Year's Eve event for the youth. I will put more information out concerning this after speaking with the parents.

May God bless each of us during this joyous season,

Greg Martin

(903) 707-6889





Family of Jeffery Carter; Family of Patrick McGuffey; Family of Cole Montrose; Family of Gene Ethredge; Brigid & Tony Asher, friends of Diane Whitehurst, both with Covid and other health concerns; Tandy Baer, relative of Bob and Cherie Griffice, on life support with Covid; Roseanna

Bristow, Mark Lookabaugh's cousin, hospitalized with seizures, undergoing testing; Bruce Caraway, brother-in-law of Cyndi Sabulsky & Carl House; in Neuro ICU & undergoing testing; Sammy Duncan, Bob Maupin's brother-in-law, ill with Covid; Bill McCune, ongoing health concerns; Linda Moore, ongoing health problems; McMahon Family, relatives of a co-worker of Cris House, all 4 ill, infant has Covid; Raven Barrett, brain tumor; Frank Harrison, The Center on Grande, for rehab Dorothy Martin, Mary Milham's mother, pancreatic cancer; Colt Burris & his family, continued improvement; Jeff & Morgan Woods, their son, Gus, & unborn baby, Birdie, with Krause-Kivlin Syndrome; Sharon Milham, sister of Eddie Milham, undergoing chemo; Those persons directly affected by Covid 19 and their families; Healthcare Workers and First Responders; those persons who are ill with life-changing diseases and their families and caregivers; military personnel and their families; missionaries, nursing home residents; those shut in due to ill health; those persons in need, but unnamed. Our nation, for peace and spiritual healing, and those persons affected by the current violence across our country, and World Leaders to strive for understanding and peace between nations. Our school staff and students and our fellow church members, neighbors, and families for safety and health.

If you have additions or updates to the prayer list, please call the church office at 903.876.2235 or email [umcfrankston@umcfrankston.org](mailto:umcfrankston@umcfrankston.org).

### Acolytes in December



Dec. 6 John Riley Jimenez  
Dec. 13 Briley Jimenez  
Dec. 20 Max McGuffey  
Dec. 27 Jared Cook

### Sharing the Advent Light and Message

Nov. 29 Mark & Ann Tatum  
Dec. 6 Jamie & Elizabeth Lade  
Dec. 13 Jerry & Jenny Beard  
Dec. 20 The McGuffey Family  
Dec. 24 Mike & Sharon Spinhirne &/Or  
Cyndi & Chis Sabulsky



## Pray For Our Military



Alfredo Balderas PSC  
94 Box 1701  
APO AE 09824

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2 K. W. Locke  
3 Susanne Alsobrook  
7 Bob Maupin  
8 Briley Jumenez  
9 Al Alvizo  
10 Kaylynn Frink,  
Adrian Minter  
14 Katie Hadash  
20 Lyle Duncan, Frank Duncan  
23 Dan Wicker 26 Les Langdon  
30 Diane Whitehurst 31 John Bizzell

Call (903) 876-2235 if we missed your birthday.

The United Methodist Women wish to thank everyone who purchased "Harvest Dinner Dressing" during our recent sale. We hope you all enjoyed it. The money raised will go toward various mission projects.

Jesus is the  
**REASON**  
for the  
Season