Connect with People • Connect with Purpose • Connect with God

First United Methodist Church of Hurst

Following Jesus.
Changing the World, One Life at a Time.
Having grown up in the church, I wish I could say giving comes naturally to me, but it doesn’t. I know many Bible verses about money and possessions, giving and contentment. I have sat through many sermon series and giving campaigns. But, it has taken me quite some time to understand why my financial gifts matter to God and learn why I should be consistent in my giving.

First, I had to learn that God doesn’t need my money. This lesson was a little counterintuitive to me. My father is a pastor, and I have heard many conversations about apportionments and giving that covered the full spectrum of emotion. I heard lamenting and frustration as well as praise and thanksgiving. It sure sounded like God needed my money for ministry.

Then I realized God does not need my money to love others. God works in the lives of people regardless of whether or not we give. God’s love is not contingent on my decision to contribute financially. However, giving provides an opportunity for me and you to participate in what God is doing in people’s lives. If we choose not to give, we miss that opportunity. We miss that blessing.

I must confess, I am a control freak. I like to have a plan and be the one making decisions, especially when it comes to my finances. What God desires for me, however, is to follow him. Following Jesus means sacrificing my need to be in control and learning obedience. Regular giving to the church has become a spiritual discipline for me. It requires me to acknowledge his Lordship, to recognize his provision, and to trust him.

Stewardship is a gradual and continual process of learning, but God is faithful. There have been months when the “budget math” doesn’t make sense, but as we continue to give, things work out (kind of like the fishes and loaves). The ability to give online holds me accountable for consistent giving. Additionally, I’m learning contentment and generosity. My needs are few, and the abundance I have is best shared with others.

Following Jesus means setting my agenda aside and stepping into the fullness of life that He desires for me. By following Jesus, lives are changed, including my own.
BY THE NUMBERS

422 The average number of adults attending a Sunday School class each week.

13 Caring Friends serving 53 home-centered individuals in our community.

220 The number of adults registered for Fall GPS classes.

350 Over 350 patients given quality medical care on recent medical missions journey to Guabal, Panama.

120 The number of meals prepared and delivered this year by the Soup Sisters Ministry to members facing illness, disability or the death of a loved one.

3,114 The number of hours FUMC Members volunteered at Mission Central during June, July and August, 2014.

22 The number of children participating in this year’s Back-to-School Kindergarten Blessing for a successful school year.

10,152 The number of meals our children raised money for and packaged at $0.25 a piece. ($1.50 per packaged bag)
Changing the World

Global Service

“The time that I spent in Japan was tough. I was challenged mentally, physically, and spiritually as I met people from all different backgrounds and cultures.”

—Matt Grubbish

07. What Lies Ahead in 2015

14. Panama Mission
   Read stories from mission participants as they relate their personal experiences and how following Jesus and sharing Christ's love in mission is changing the world, one life at a time.

16. FUMC Hurst, Changing the World
   “They are truly the rock in my family’s life.”
   —Beck Martin

17. Baptisms

18. New Members

20. Events Calendar

22. Opportunities to Serve

23. Pastor’s Message

24. Just Say No to Plate Anxiety
“It is important for us to listen to what God has planned for us and to follow through with his plans.” —Amanda McCranor

“When Ariel arrived her arms were stick-thin, her belly swollen. At 13 months, she weighed only 16 pounds. Did God send us to Panama to save this little girl? Without immediate medical treatment she likely would have not survived.” —Dr. Chuck Cook

“This opportunity has shown me that by using our hands, our feet, our mouths and the gifts given to us by God to shine our light on others and spread God’s word, we can change the world” —Tiffany Love
When new members join our church, we renew our vows to uphold the church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

At this time of year, we prayerfully consider our financial commitments and remember why it is that we give:

- **We give** to First United Methodist because we belong to this church.
- **We give** so that our church’s ministries will continue to be a place of promise for our children, students, adults and those in our community.
- **We give** to First United Methodist because we believe our gifts make a difference in the lives of others.
- **We give** because we believe in God’s intentional will to change our lives and the world.

In this issue of Connect, you will find a 2015 Giving Commitment Card. You can make your 2015 commitment in one of the following ways:

- Complete the enclosed commitment card and mail it to the church in the provided envelope.
- Complete a commitment card located in the pew pocket and drop it into the offering plate on Sunday.
- Online, go to www.fumchurst.org and click Give Online and Make Your 2015 Giving Commitment.

Giving electronically is easy and helpful to the church. On the back of your commitment card, you are given an opportunity to sign up for recurring monthly gifts via credit card or bank draft. **New this year**, payments can be processed on the 1st and/or 17th of each month. You may make one monthly payment on either date or split your monthly amount into two payments. You can also sign up for recurring gifts online at www.fumchurst.org. Many members find these methods of giving to be very convenient. If you have questions, please contact Business Manager Lori Friend, lfriend@fumchurst.org or 817.282.7384, x12.

**Will you think and pray about your 2015 commitment to First United Methodist Church?**

**FOLLOWING JESUS.**

Changing the world one life at a time.

Please join us in worship the next few weeks as we look at how following Jesus continues to change our world, one life at a time.

- **October 5:** A Commitment to Jesus
  Matthew 16:21-26
- **October 12:** A Commitment to the World
  John 3:16-17
- **October 19:** A Commitment to Witness
  Acts 1:6-8
- **October 26:** A Commitment to Give
  Acts 2:43-47
On a local organizational basis we are part of the Central Texas Conference (CTC) which includes churches from Temple to North Fort Worth and Brownwood to Red Oak (just south of Dallas). Each year the CTC conducts an Annual Conference in which delegates from these churches meet to conduct business and hear reports on the ministry of the CTC and its churches. What follows is a report from this year’s Annual Conference which was held at First Methodist Mansfield.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:
• The CTC contributed 1 million dollars to West, Texas in the aftermath of the explosion.
• The CTC contributed a total of 1 million dollars to Granbury in the aftermath of the tornado.
• The CTC is offering 3 $1,000 scholarships for internships related to college campus ministries.
• Glen Lake Camp is offering a cancer retreat.
• Camp registrations for Glen Lake have increased for the first time in 8 years.
• Glen Lake is partnering with Texas Health Resources to offer a pre-diabetic camp for children.
• The CTC committed $300,000 to the Lydia Patterson Institute for the express purpose of adding a middle school to the campus.
• FUMC Hurst hosted two students from the Lydia Patterson Institute as interns this summer.
• The CTC giving to advance ministries of the UMC totaled $248,261.61.
• FUMC Hurst was designated a 5 star church for its mission work (the highest award possible).
• FUMC Hurst also received the Covenant Award (one of 3 churches) because of our support for David and Cynthia Ceballos, missionaries in Panama.

As members of FUMC Hurst it is our faithful giving that supports, in a hopeful and loving way, the endeavors listed above and allows us to impact the lives of individuals whom we do not know.

What Lies Ahead in 2015?
• Recruit, train, and implement a team of Lay Chaplains. This will allow us to broaden the scope of FUMC Hurst’s visitation ministries beyond hospitals, reaching into homes, rehabilitation facilities and nursing homes. To be coordinated with clergy.
• Research, create and plan a new worship service, adding a third venue for people to experience God.
• Develop and implement a 3-5 year plan for deferred maintenance on aging infrastructure.
• Continue to develop and expand our ministries with Spanish speaking people.

2015 Budget: $2,975,000
Hello, my name is Matt Grubish and this summer I served as a Global Justice Volunteer (GJV) through the United Methodist Church in Nasushiobara, Japan at the Asian Rural Institute (ARI). I have been a part of the FUMC Hurst community my entire life. I was baptized, went through confirmation, and was very involved in both the Sunday school and youth programs at the church. Furthermore, I continued my church habits in Michigan where I am a junior at the University of Michigan studying nuclear engineering. I am involved with Ann Arbor FUMC and the Wesley Foundation which is a young adult ministry group for college students and young professionals. In college, I am also involved in Navy ROTC and plan on becoming a nuclear submarine officer in the United States Navy after completing college. After going on six mission trips through the youth program at FUMC Hurst, I felt the desire to continue my mission trip experience in college. The GJV program caters to young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 who are interested in global justice issues around the world and are interested in serving for eight weeks abroad in a modified "eight week mission trip".

While seven weeks were spent at ARI, I spent my first week in Manila, Philippines with 16 other GJV’s who would be serving in both the Philippines and Japan. In the Philippines we learned a lot about human trafficking and migration issues which was the theme for this year’s GJV program in Asia. After learning all about the migration problems in Asia, I flew to Japan where I spent the next seven weeks at ARI. ARI is a rural farm where rural leaders from around the world are taught organic farming techniques over the course of nine months. Many of these rural leaders come from developing countries in Africa and Asia but once in a while the “participants” come from South/ Central America. Along with the participants, there is a network of staff members and volunteers (me!) who help run the community at ARI.

I would love to say that my seven week mission experience at ARI was the best time of my life, however I can’t do that. The time that I spent in Japan was tough. I was challenged mentally,
physically, and spiritually as I met people from all different backgrounds and cultures. Life at ARI is very structured and busy. Everyone gets up every day around 6:30 and there is usually something happening all day until 6:30 at night. My job was to do farm work while the participants were usually in the classroom studying. Farm work consisted of weeding, cutting grass, and more weeding. This was the physically demanding part of my experience because ARI uses almost no machines. The main reason behind this is that many of the developing countries do not have access to these machines and the community wants to make the work at ARI as similar as possible to the home communities of the participants. Since there are hardly any machines, everything is done by hand, in the 95 degree heat, with no AC. I truly have a new respect for farmers in today’s society.

While the physical challenges were difficult, and while I did get many different types of bug bites (another story for another day), I think the most difficult parts of my adventure were the mental and spiritual challenges that I encountered throughout my time at ARI. Many people at ARI were against the use of nuclear energy due to the bombs dropped during WWII and the Fukushima incident that happened in 2011. Not only were people against nuclear energy, many people disliked the presence of the US military in Japan and other countries around the world. And last but not least, while ARI is a Christian based organization, only about half of its’ members were strong Christians and Japan is only about 3% Christian. It was very difficult for me to have discussions with people who thought negatively about the things that I will most likely be devoting the majority of my future towards. It was also shocking to talk to some Japanese who had never heard of God or Jesus in their entire lives. I was blessed to have the opportunity to truly introduce some people to the idea of Christianity and while I may have not had the opportunity to answer all of their questions, I can at least have the hope that I sparked an idea in their head that will hopefully grow in the future. I’m glad that I was able to be challenged in many ways that I am not in the United States as I believe that challenges only make a person stronger in the end.

Whether it was listening to a priest from Uganda talk about carrying human heads during the war in his country, whether it was observing a man from Liberia’s face light up at the sight of fireworks but express a concern at the sound because it sounded like the bombs during the war he fought many years ago, whether it was a middle aged Japanese man asking me what it meant to pray and love Jesus Christ, I will always remember these experiences and never forget that today’s world is filled with injustice and problems. Despite this, with the help of God and with loving hearts, I believe that we can come together and make the world a better place.

—Matt Grubish

READ MORE AT:
http://gjvgrubish.blogspot.com

If you would like to know more about Matt’s experiences while serving as a Global Justice Volunteer, you can contact him at tmgtx@umich.edu

One of the small, wonderful church communities that Matt was a part of during his time in Asia.
Changing the World, One Family at a Time

Through Support and Connections

“It is important for us to listen to what God has planned for us and to follow through with those plans.”

We went searching to find a church that we could join as a couple. In our search we were looking for a place that we could both feel comfortable and a place that would be good to raise children in some day. Finding FUMC of Hurst came from a list we created after doing a Google search of different churches in the area. After visiting FUMC of Hurst we actually never ended up visiting any other churches. There was something that felt inviting about our church that we kept wanting to explore. Mike McKee’s individual phone call to each of us was very welcoming. For such a large church we were not expecting such a personal connection and we were very impressed that the church staff found it important to get to know us. We came to the church as a newly engaged couple and continued to come as visitors for the next couple of years. It was after we were married and then expecting our first child that we really started to consider officially joining the church. Expecting our first child was the most exciting time in our lives. Shortly after celebrating our first wedding anniversary, at 14 weeks pregnant we lost our first child, Angel Baby. This was a difficult time for us and we were grateful for our friends and family, but it was also good to have people like Donna McKee and Mike McKee that we could go to with a prayer request for the church. Yet again, Mike McKee contacted us with a very individual phone call to check in with each of us and extend his support and moments of prayer. Two months later we were pregnant again and while nervous, we were very
excited. It was wonderful to share our news with people at the church and have them share in the excitement with us. Donna McKee would often check in with us to see how we were doing. We were six months pregnant with our second child when we lost our sweet baby boy, Eathan on June 2nd of 2011. In this moment of distress it was important that our church family know what was happening and so Donna McKee was one of the first to be contacted. She came to be with us at the hospital to provide support and prayers. We were also comforted when she baptized Eathan. Mike McKee called us as well and it was comforting to hear his voice and words of encouragement and support. He let us know that they were here for us any way we needed them. At this point we were still not official members of the church; however, we received so much love and support we felt like we had already become a part of the church family. Donna McKee helped us with a memorial service in the small chapel of the church. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the short lives of Angel Baby and Eathan Ebert McCranor. For this reason the beautiful and small chapel of the church will always be a special place for us. We were truly touched by all of the support we received from different members of the church staff. The support we received impacted many and led to my parents, David and Susan Ebert, joining the church that summer before we even got the chance to do so ourselves. Later that summer, while listening to a sermon that included something about taking the next step, we were moved and felt like it was time to go to the front of the sanctuary during the final hymn and officially join the church. We were already where we belonged and it was nice to finally make it official. The church has provided us with a support system and a comforting place that we are beginning to call our church home with our church family.

On June 11, 2012 we welcomed our daughter Molly Leigh McCranor into the world. It was on August 19, 2012 that she was baptized in front of her First United Methodist Church of Hurst family, by Bishop Mike McKee. We look forward to all of the different opportunities through the children’s and youth ministries that Molly will have at FUMC of Hurst.

It is important for us to listen to what God has planned for us, and to follow through with those plans. With the help of church staff and members we have created the newer Sunday school class for young couples. This has been one way for us to be more connected and have an opportunity to give back to the church. Throughout the last year and a half our appropriately named Sunday school class, Journey, has guided us further in our spiritual journey. We are grateful for the strong impact that our class and the church as had on our lives.

First United Methodist Church of Hurst is a place where we are enhancing our relationship with Christ, through the many opportunities of service, learning, and fellowship. With our church we hope to spread Christ’s love and support to visitors of the church, and the community just like others did for us when we were just “visitors.”

—Amanda McCranor
Changing the world,
One Life at a Time

When Ariel arrived her arms were stick-thin, her belly swollen. At 13 months, she weighed only 16 pounds.

When Ariel arrived she was very sick. Visibly worried, her mother had traveled close to four hours on foot through the mountainous jungle of the Comarca arriving to our clinic site in Guabal, Panama. Her arms and legs were stick-thin and her belly was swollen, signs of protein malnutrition. Breastfeeding ended for her at 6 months old. Now at 13 months old she weighed only 16 pounds. Her skin was hot and dry. Infected sores covered her skin. Worst of all, as I examined her she lay listless on the table. Her high fever was due to a bladder infection. Diarrhea worsened her dehydration. When her diaper was removed we found a large parasitic worm. The members of our medical team worried that this unfortunate child may not survive the night without help. She did not have the energy to fight so many infections.

We began by giving her Pediasure supplement to provide fluids and protein. She drank it down greedily.

Her mother received antibiotics for the infection and several bottles of Pediasure to provide fluids and protein rich nutrition. Her mother agreed to stay with friends in the village and bring her back the next day.

Ariel looked slightly better the next day. One day later, on the final clinic day she arrived dressed in a colorful traditional dress to match her mother. She was less dehydrated and had the energy to fuss during the exam. I have never been happier to hear an infant cry. Her mother took home additional antibiotics, medication to treat the parasites and a sack full of Pediasure. Now Ariel had a chance to grow and develop normally.

Did God send us to Panama to save this little girl? Without immediate medical treatment she likely would have not survived. FUMC medical missions bring God’s love—changing the world, one person at a time.

—Dr. Chuck Cook
Sharing Christ's Love

to change the world

Today was an amazing day! I met a little girl wearing a yellow dress who was sick with a stomach pain and a dry scalp. She followed me everywhere and sat in my lap while I gave vitals to her parents. Even though I couldn't speak Spanish, when I looked into this little girl's eyes we connected and shared a love of Christ. Looking at this little girl reminded me of my own daughter, Kaitlynn. I was reminded how I must teach her to be humble and enjoy all Christ has provided that we take for granted everyday. With joy, I saw Christ in how the children sat on the ground while waiting to see the doctors.

My amazing roommate Debby Hoover and Pastor Clint Jones played Duck, Duck Goose and other games with the children. They shared in laughter and fun while building relationships with those we served. Clint started to sing Jesus loves Me in Spanish, he sang and then asked the kids to follow. On his first attempt the children were quiet and didn’t know what to do. He sang it again and again asked them to sing. This time all the children sang, loudly at that. I saw the joy of parents and glowing faces. By sharing Christ's love with one another, we were one just as Christ wanted us to be. I noticed parents smiling as they sang along too. At this moment, I saw Christ. I saw barriers of language break down and everyone became one. For a few brief moments, Christ's love for everyone shining on us. We were the hands, feet and mouth of God as we should be everyday.

This experience has changed me as a person, as a Christian and as a mother. This opportunity has shown me that by using our hands, our feet, our mouths and the gifts given to us by God to shine our light on others and spread God's word, we can change the world. "Following Jesus. Changing the world, one life at a time."

—Tiffany Love
While in Panama, I had so many special moments, but this little girl came back with me. No, not in my suitcase, but in my heart. She came to the clinic with her mother. I was in charge of entertaining the children so I observed many things. Most of the children were so easily amused with simple things like crayons, bubbles, balls, songs, and games. This little girl never joined the group. I brought her colors and a small book; she sat quietly. I was unable to communicate with her by words. As my Spanish teacher would tell you, I didn’t study enough. I had a different language, one that can only be felt in the heart. When I looked in her eyes, there was a sadness. Why? Was it because of the scar on her face? Or was her eye hurting? Was she hungry? What happened to her? I tried to be her for a moment and feel what she was feeling. Heart to heart. I wanted to reach out and hug her but I didn’t know how. Cindy Ceballos had received dresses from “Dress a Girl Around the World”. After her clinic visit, we brought her into the pharmacy and picked out the perfect dress. We hugged her and told her how beautiful and very loved she was. At that moment, not only was her heart smiling but so was she. My eyes teared up for feeling so blessed in this moment and truly knowing what compassion felt like. Are we changing the world one child at a time or are they changing us?

—Debbie Hoover

Her world was changed on day three of our Clinic. It was crazy busy; we saw over 100 patients. I paused to take in this vignette: Dee Hutchinson was washing the feet of a little girl. She goes barefoot all the time, and had painful sores which could barely be seen under the dirt. Dr. Smith needed a better look. Our little girl never cried, but sat patiently. She must have known Dee was trying to help her. There is something about foot washing that is so significant, so real time faith in action. In Panama, we do for the least of these. Amen.

—Ann Thompson

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I felt a call to go on my first mission trip, a medical mission trip with FUMC Hurst. Having no medical background, I couldn’t imagine what I might contribute. I quickly found my niche, supporting the medical team and putting patients at ease as they waited to see a doctor. The experience was overwhelming and unforgettable. I observed God’s love at work through our team and all of the Panamanians we encountered. I learned that no matter what we think we have to give, we are assured “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

—Nancy Box

FOLLOWING JESUS.
Changing the world one life at a time through mission.
A wise lady once wrote, “I have never been especially impressed by the heroics of people convinced they are about to change the world. I am more awed by those who struggle to make one small difference.” This made sense to me because it speaks to personal connection on an individual basis that in turn builds into a group effort of strength and courage. This is what I witnessed in Panama. Each one of us was supported by the others and we were able to put forth our very best—all of us. As a result, we were engulfed in change, both in the lives we touched and in the lives that touched us.

In the wonderment of service to others, I find the effects of change within me. My problems seem smaller and the gratitude I have for the life that God provides me is in the forefront of all I do. These are just a few ancillary benefits reaped in the wake of such an amazing mission. Thank you, Nita Turpin and Rev. Clint Jones for executing a flawless trip. Were it not for you both, our pyramid of strength would have been lessened.

On a final note, I began this commitment for many reasons, one of which was the search for a spiritual home rich with like-minded men and women. Although my wife and her family have been members of First United Methodist Church for many years, I was apprehensive with my approach. After our mission trip to Panama, the lives we touched and the friendships created in our efforts, I cannot even remember my reasons for being aloof. In a seamless stream of enriching events that ever reminds me that God has a plan—I have found that spiritual home. In short, I am proud to call myself a member of the First United Methodist Church of Hurst. My cup runneth over...

—Dr. Damian Griswold, DC

Weary and tired, infirmed and fragile, all collide to dismantle.
Cry for help, desire to serve, puts two on course both deserve.
Perspectives askew, cultures counter, but bound together differences are no matter.
Lifting spirits on both sides, giving hope and love abides.
Walking away down separate paths hoping love and goodness will always last.
—Dr. James Smith, D.O., Oakdale UMC, Stephenville, Texas

FUMC Hurst has opened our Panama mission trips to other UMC churches. This allows our congregations to mutually benefit from each other. We benefit from the work of excellent team members like Dr. James Smith and his daughter, Sarah. Smaller churches benefit from having members active in mission when they are not large enough to launch a missions journey team on their own.
I have had opportunities to move closer to my employment, which is over an hour away from my family’s home, but my wife, Heather, and I have chosen to stay close to the church so our family can be at FUMC Hurst.

I joined FUMC Hurst in 1987, my senior year in High School. Then in 1995 I married Heather here and years later both our children were baptized and confirmed here. I also have said good-bye and celebrated the lives of friends and family here as well. These happy and sad moments in my spiritual life would not have been possible if it was not for the church and our church family. They are truly the rock in my family’s life.

As I have progressed in my faith walk I have found myself drawn closer to helping with the Youth Group. My children say, it is because I am a teenager trapped in an adult body.

I attended my first Youth Mission Trip (my first mission trip ever) in 2008. Wow, I was way out of my comfort zone. Many folks outside of the church said “Why do you want to waste one week of vacation to hang out with teenagers”. I tell them, “Why not...don’t knock it till you try it.” Here in 2014, six Youth Mission Trips later, including an international trip to Panama, I find myself closer to God than ever. The good I have seen the youth do for others is amazing. On Youth Mission Trip every night at worship, we asked the question. “Where did you see God today?”

I see God in my family as we have grown up at FUMC Hurst. As a family we strive to learn from our past and encourage ourselves to lead by example and raise our children to be disciples of Christ.

—Beck Martin
Celebrating Your Baptism

Adam Ewing & Mele Hufanga with Addison

Dylan and Bethany Hoey with Lux

Holly and Rob Dittrich with John Christopher

Giselle Bupela and Jean Pierre Cileu with Zacharie Tshileu

Lauren and Kevin Beville with Bentley

Ryan and Mallory Towe with Oliver

Carol and Dustin Medlin with Lucy, Kayla and Travis

Jordan and Will Trammell with Evynn & Grier

Marquis and Brooke Sorrells with Garrett & Addison

Ray and Jennifer Boyett with Jaeden & Bay
Welcome to our New Members

Alexia Lockhart  Carol Medlin  Damian Griswold  Jeanne LaGrone
Mimi Kern  Mimi Nimocks  Nathalie Kambeya Bavuluka  Olivia Thompson
Rod Harkins  Sally Frye  Sharon Cox  Victoria Venezie
Stacey and Ken Kirkham  Dave Nielsen and Jennifer Fortson  Dick and Jan Bullock

Not pictured: Olivia Choi, Jana Crain, Charla Mitchell
NEW MEMBERS

May 11 - August 20, 2014

Harvie and Mary Jamison
Jerry and Kristina Dugan
Judy and Jack King

Bruce and Diane Hutto
Chris and Julie Sheffler with Emma
Gorden and Pamela Snodgrass with Theodore

Micah and Dara O’Bannon with Victoria
Brandon and Kimberly Sheppard with Haley and Hannah
EVENT’S CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar/Online Registration:  www.fumchurst.org/calendar

WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings
All services of worship are of a traditional style with familiar hymns and meaningful liturgy. Sunday morning worship takes place in the Sanctuary at 8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m.

Saturday Evenings: Genesis
Being united with people in a community of faith, where we try to figure things out is the heart of church and Christianity. This is Genesis, real and down to earth. Genesis takes place in the Fellowship Hall Saturdays at 6 p.m.

CAREGIVING: SPACE FOR GRACE
October 1 • 7 p.m., 1103
Monthly support for caregivers.

NEW MEMBER LUNCH
October 5 • 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall

CHILDREN’S LEADERSHIP TEAM (GRADES 4-5)
October 5 • 4 p.m., Covenant Courtyard

YOUTH LED WORSHIP
October 5 • 6 p.m., Anderson Center

BEYOND THE BROKEN HEART GRIEF SEMINAR
October 6-11 November 11 • 6:30 p.m., W105
Seminar offers support and addresses common issues that surface after the loss of a loved one.

UMW GENERAL MEETING
October 7 • 9:30 a.m., W105/106

FORGIVE FOR GOOD DISCUSSION GROUP
October 7 • 7 p.m., W120

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
October 10 • 8 a.m.-noon, Church Parking Lot

YOUTH FALL RETREAT
October 10 & 11
For students grades 7-12 and their parents.

CONFIRMATION FALL RETREAT
October 11 & 12 • Glen Lake Camp

MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
October 13 • 6:30 p.m., W122

ENCORE LUNCHEON ADULTS 60+
October 15 • Fellowship Hall
Games, Crafts & Fellowship 10 a.m.
Lunch served at noon

ALL CHURCH GARAGE SALE
Benefiting the missions of FUMC Hurst
October 18 • 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Church Parking Lot

LUNCHEON WITH DAVID & CINDY CEBALLOS
October 19 • noon, Fellowship Hall

COMMITMENT SUNDAY
October 26 • All services

TRUNK OR TREAT
October 26 • 5-6:30 p.m., Church Parking Lot
**EVENT'S CALENDAR**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Weekend, October 5**
World Communion Sunday
Ken Medema
Singer, Composer & Pianist
& The Music Ministry

Sunday Morning: Ken Medema offers music during all worship services.

Sunday Evening Concert
with the Music Ministry
6:30 p.m. • Sanctuary, FUMC Hurst
Child care is available
Blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with his heart and mind, singing stories from his audience. An accomplished composer, vocalist and pianist, Ken custom designs every musical moment through improvisation.

**SAVE THE DATE**

“Dare to Dream” Young Adult Study
Led by Rev. Philip Rhodes
6-week study • Beginning October 23
Thursdays • 7 p.m., W103

For 2000 years, every generation of Christians has had the task of shaping the church, it’s mission, it’s focus. Some generations have relied only on the past and some have rejected the past. The ones who have changed everything have both honored the past and blazed new trails in doctrine, thought and purpose.

The question facing you is...what will your generation do? What will you be remembered for? “Dare to Dream” is the beginning. It starts with you. God hasn’t just called anyone and God hasn’t just called everyone else. God has called you. Will you “Dare to Dream?”

**SAVE THE DATE**

Oasis Women’s Retreat
November 14-16 • Stillwater Lodge, Glen Rose
Café Chocolat, where women delight in God’s grace. In depth Bible study, unforgettable worship and fun activities. Registration has begun at www.fumchurst.org/register.

**Recurring Events**

**MISSION**

Mobile Food Pantry
Second Friday of each month, 8 a.m. to noon.
Volunteers needed: email Catherine Hollis at missioncentralvolunteers@gmail.com.

Joyful Creations Prayer Shawl Ministry:
9:30–11:30 a.m. Thursday, W120
New members welcome.

**YOUTH**

Youth Groups (Gr. 7–12)
Sunday, 6–8 p.m.; Dinner, $3

Sr. High Worship (Gr. 9–12)
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

**MUSIC**

Adult Choirs
Chancel Choir: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Chapel Choir: 6 p.m. Sunday

Youth Choir: Grades (6–12):
Celebration Singers (5 p.m. Sundays)

Children’s Choirs (K–5):
5 p.m. Sunday

**RECOVERY MINISTRIES**

A.A. & AL–ANON
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Recovery House.

A.A. & AL–ANON
Sundays, 6:30 p.m., Recovery House.

**CARING & SUPPORT**

Grief Support Group
Second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in W122. Contact Rev. Donna McKee at dmckee@fumchurst.org.

Living with Cancer Support Group
Fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in W120. Contact Rev. Donna McKee at dmckee@fumchurst.org or Robert Wordinger at robert.wordinger@yahoo.com.

Caring Christian Mothers
First Friday of every month, 9:30 a.m., Parlor. Email ccmhurst@gmail.com.
Opportunities to Serve

It is through mission outreach that we exemplify the spirit of Christian love to those in our own local community and around the world. Through such giving, God changes not only the lives of others, but our lives as well.

Mobile Food Pantry
Volunteer to serve our neighbors in need, helping distribute food. Volunteers are needed on the second Friday of each month, 8 a.m.-noon. Please contact Catherine Hollis at 817-595-0011 or missioncentralvolunteers@gmail.com.

Caring Friends
Caring Friends is a visitation ministry for members who can no longer attend due to health or mobility issues. The Caring Friend visits their home centered friend regularly and keeps in touch through calls and greeting cards. If you would like to volunteer, or if you know of a church member who is in need of a Caring Friend, contact Cathy Cartmill, 817.282.7384, x22.

Joyful Creations Prayer Shawl Ministry
Joyful Creations Prayer Shawl Ministry meets each Thursday, 9:30–11:30 a.m., to knit shawls for those who have experienced a loss or have a medical condition. If you know someone in need of a shawl (they do not have to be a member of FUMC Hurst), or if you would like to join this ministry, contact Cindy Ware, 817.284.9720.

Trunk or Treat
We will welcome hundreds of children from our church and community. How can you help? Donate candy, or volunteer to host a trunk. Contact Rev. Holly Dittrich hdittrich@fumchurst.org for more information.

Thanksgiving Bag Mission
We’re hoping to fill over 1,200 bags for neighbors in need. Volunteers are needed to shop for items and/or deliver bags to local families. For more information, contact Rev. Clint Jones at cjones@fumchurst.org.

Memorial and Honorarriums
Memorial and honorarriums are a wonderful way to remember and honor friends and loved ones. For a listing of current memorials and honorarriums visit www.fumchurst.org/gifts. To make a gift online: wwwfumchurst.org/online-giving.
Following Jesus.
Changing the World. One life at a Time.

This is the theme of our 2014 Giving Campaign. We are a people who are defined by one thing: We are followers of Jesus. We are a people who have one task: To change the world. We are a people who do this relationally: One life at a time.

I had the opportunity to visit with this year’s confirmation class as they begin their journey. They are wide-eyed and full of energy much like every confirmation class I visit with. The name of their curriculum struck a chord with me; Credo. Simply put, a credo (or creed) is a statement of belief that guides one’s life. It begins with the words, “I believe.....” Every year, we engage in a giving campaign aimed at the next year’s mission and ministry. What we believe goes much deeper than words. What we believe is revealed in our actions. Our giving speaks a word about what we believe. We give when we believe that God is at work in the life of the church. We give when we believe that God’s will for our community and world is being fulfilled through the church. We give when we see evidence of our dollars truly making a difference in the lives of people. The giving campaign simply asks us to reflect on what we believe about these things and then invites us to respond with a commitment for the coming year. Our confirmation students will be asked this year, what do you believe? They will respond in the spring during a service of worship. We’re being asked that question now. What will your response be?

In this issue of Connect, you have the budget information for 2015, a pledge card, and stories that begin to reveal the way lives are being changed. The 2015 budget includes increases in several areas that we are committed to.

- a commitment to our ongoing ministry with African Immigrants
- a commitment to an emerging ministry with Spanish speaking people
- a continued commitment to excellence in worship, music, staff and ministries. This includes financial increases for both ministry areas and staff
- a commitment to much needed money for deferred maintenance on our aging infrastructure
- an increase in our connectional mission giving

Admittedly, we are dreaming big; consider the innovative ways we continue to be in mission and ministry. I recently met a group of nursing students from Texas Christian University. They were here on our church campus to teach some of our French speaking congregation medical English and help them with computer skills as it pertains to health care. It’s one of the partnerships we have developed between the church and TCU to help our congregants learn to navigate life here in the USA. It’s a partnership that also helps educate nursing students to the very real issues that they will be facing in their chosen profession.

As you think about your church, the ministries we have with all ages, the ways we serve our community, the innovation and creativity that is blossoming, and our mission, I hope and pray that it leads you to both a statement about what you believe and a commitment to what you believe.

Commitment Sunday is October 26. Please join us as we commit to following Jesus, to change the world one life at a time.
Plate Anxiety...

...that feeling that wells up inside you when the offering plate is passed around each Saturday night or Sunday morning and you don't have anything to put in the plate. It causes an elevated level of anxiety because who knows what an usher or someone sitting next to you is thinking as the plate passes and you don't put anything in it. The effects of Plate Anxiety are easily spotted during an offertory moment: bowed head, a sudden scrambling for change at the bottom of your purse, a look of horror as you discover that your kid took the last dollar bill out of your wallet, absence of eye contact with anyone around you, just to name a few.

People who give regularly through electronic methods are not immune from Plate Anxiety. It matters not that they give regularly, have set up automatic payments to the church, and never miss giving even when they’re out of town. That offertory moment comes in every service and the anxiety rises over and over again.

Don’t be a victim of Plate Anxiety! Remember, your giving is between you and God and no one else. Remember, our ushers are trained to pass the plate, not judge what goes in the plate and most of all, if you give through electronic methods: thank you, thank you, thank you.

Your regular and automated giving makes it so much easier for the church to plan because we know that your regular offering is going to be there every single month even when you can’t be. In fact, we encourage more and more of you to give this way precisely because it is so helpful to the church. But, alas, there exists the problem of Plate Anxiety.

So let’s do something about it! Together, we can eradicate Plate Anxiety by reminding ourselves and each other that giving is done in a variety of ways that don’t always make it into the offering plate. Together, we can stand up to Plate Anxiety and say a prayer as the plate passes trusting God to use the gifts we give in other ways. Together, we can lift our heads, stop frantically searching for coins, look people in the eye with confidence and pass that plate to the person next to us with a smile.

So give online and just say no to Plate Anxiety!