A Summer of MISSIONS
Summer is here
and the opportunities await...

I am amazed at our church’s growth over the past eighteen months and I think it’s worth both sharing and celebrating. We have expanded our ministries and mission in some significant ways.

We have moved from having one adopt-a-school relationship to currently impacting three campuses through adopt-a-school partnerships with HEB-ISD.

Last year we sent seventeen people to Panama on an adult mission trip. This year, over sixty youth and adults will go to Panama to work in ministry with children, to do construction and to serve medical and dental needs. We have expanded from one mission trip to Panama to four in the span of just a few months.

Two years ago we had four or five small adult small groups meeting. Currently, eighteen adult small groups meet on an ongoing basis and more are forming.

Many of you have shared your stories of resurrection (these can be viewed on our church website, www.fumchurst.org). I am amazed at the many different ways we witness to the power of God’s redemptive work within our lives, the ways that God is resurrecting us over and over again. How it is that God brings new life to us and the fact that we are beginning to share this with each other is another point of growth. We are growing in our ability to tell each other the ways in which “we have seen the Lord!”

There is a spirit in our church that is leading to all of this growth. Sometimes it can be counted and reported as numbers. Many times it has to be measured differently. The things we do as a church that matter the most can’t be counted and reported as a number. How do we count the impact that our missions and ministry have on a life? How do we count the spiritual growth one experiences in a ‘Go-2-Group’? Simply put, it’s not easy. The one thing we can do is tell the story of how God is continually changing us and growing us.

The next few pages focus on missions and ministry. There’s a lot going on and it will be up to all of us to keep telling the story of the many ways God is growing us. Let’s keep telling the resurrection story. I believe that while we can’t “count” what God is doing in our lives, we can begin to measure it by our willingness to share what God is doing in our lives. So summer is here and the opportunities await. May God richly bless you in all of the many ways you worship, serve, and walk with God.....and may we all continue to grow together.

As always, I am blessed to be your pastor.
BY THE NUMBERS

3 The number of schools now being served by our Adopt-A-School ministry.

64 The number of handbells used by our Revelation Ringers handbell choir.

101 The number of golfers registered for this year’s Canafax Golf Scramble.

Sixth grade students were confirmed on May 18.

The number of handbells used by our Revelation Ringers handbell choir.

The number of golfers registered for this year’s Canafax Golf Scramble.

The number of adults who volunteer in our children’s Sunday School program each Sunday (2-yr olds thru 6th-grade).

The number of shawls provided by the Joyful Creations Prayer Shawl Ministry to the graduating seniors at the Methodist Children’s Home in Waco.

The amount of money donated to support the Hurst Jr. High ninth grade field trip to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

30

50

34

1,400
something completely Different

“I had never been so up-close and personal with a family so different from me. I had never seen, in such stark contrast, the disparity between my life and the life of a person who lives in poverty.” —Matt Ybañez
Youth Summer Missions

It’s when things get really different that we have to open our eyes and really pay attention. So where might we encounter God this summer?

A Summer Opportunity to Serve

“I can’t wait to see the wonderful plan God has for me on this journey.” —Carla Manzi

A Passion for Teaching

“The kids make me laugh, they challenge my knowledge and, yes, sometimes my patience, and they often change my perspective by sharing theirs.” —Jackie Harper
I remember when my friend Stuart introduced me to Monty Python back in junior high school. Every episode before the opening credits, John Cleese would deliver that now famous line, “And now for something completely different.” It was then followed by perhaps the least likely thing anyone could have imagined. My first mission trip was like that. I went to the Mission Service Project in Mission, TX. It was a week of the hardest physical labor that I could remember doing, but the trip was life changing.

I had never been so up-close and personal with a family so different from me. I had never seen, in such stark contrast, the disparity between my life and the life of a person who lives in poverty. I was compelled to pour every last ounce of myself into making sure that they had a livable home before I left. The family that lived in this particular home had built it themselves—one room with a dirt floor, cinderblock walls, and an unfinished roof. When we got there in June, the house functioned a lot less like a house and much more like a brick oven. Our job was to finish the roof, install ventilation, and add some insulation to the walls and ceiling. It was hot, hard labor. I was so invested that my youth director had to sit me down in the shade for a couple of hours because I hadn’t been drinking enough water (a rookie mistake). It was my first real experience with someone living in poverty, and in that experience, I believe that God moved me to show compassion for these people that I’d only just met. And so ends the story of how God transformed my life on a mission trip….

Ok, you’re right, that’s bologna. In all honesty, that first mission trip was only a foot in the door for me. I’ve lost count of all the ways that God has transformed and continues transforming me through all of the twenty mission trips I’ve been on since that first one in 2001. Yeah, I was moved to compassion, but as a teenager, it was really rooted in the comparisons that I drew between their lives and mine. I had stuff. They didn’t. Their lives would be better if they had more stuff like me. “Who can live like this?” “Why don’t they just…” (you can fill in the blank). “Man, if it wasn’t for us (me), they would still have terrible lives.” That’s probably enough examples…you get the picture. When I look back on that past version of me, I’m thankful that God can still work in and through me despite my own naivete and ego.
It wasn’t until a few years later when God said again, “And now for something completely different…” It’s one thing to help a family jump the last few hurdles to getting their own home, but when I found out that I’d be going to Abilene as a college intern with the youth from FUMC Georgetown, not to do construction work, but to serve the homeless, I was somewhat ‘lukewarm’ about the whole idea. I’d never spent more than five minutes with a homeless person in my entire life. I didn’t know what to expect, but I approached it with the same kind of indignance that one might have in describing all of the reasons why you should never give money to a homeless person. Yeah, let that tape run in your head for a second...

Within the first five minutes of sitting at a table with a homeless man (his name was Rusty) and listening to him talk about the story of his life, it was instantly clear that most of the assumptions that I’d made about the homeless were incorrect and the excuses that I’d made to keep from helping were only excuses. I was transformed once again. It led to a sort of weekly ritual while I was in seminary of inviting people to come with me to lunch when they asked me for some help. It broke the barriers of judgment and elitism which saved me the trouble of trying to determine whether someone was really deserving of my help. Instead, I got to share a meal with someone and learn about their life and their story. I put names to faces and discovered some relationships that lasted longer than just one meal.

Years later, as I have led other trips, I am constantly surprised and inspired by what our youth are capable of accomplishing... (and even teaching) on mission trips. Their energy is electric. Their hearts are big, and they never do anything less than pour every ounce of themselves into serving others. For example, Danny Jones is the director of the Joe Rush Center for Urban Mission in Birmingham, Alabama. Our youth served with the Joe Rush Center last summer. It was such a great experience for us that we wanted to go back again this year. When I called Danny to let him know we’d like to return he shared that our youth team had set the gold-standard for youth teams serving with the Joe Rush Center in Birmingham. They were blown away by the dedication and focus that our students had for their work. They were encouraged and inspired by the stories that our youth wanted to share about the families they had served and spent time with that week. It was high praise from a guy who sees a lot of youth mission teams (and who is very excited that we are coming back to Birmingham this summer). To put it simply, our youth are awesome.

Over the years, God has spoken to me on mission trips. I’ve learned that while my purpose is to seek to bring about God’s vision of justice for all people, what always ends up happening is that the people I meet show me something different, something I never expected, something that will ultimately shape me just as much if not more than what I’ve come to offer. In that respect, I no longer see mission trips as ministry “to” people, but ministry “with” people. We’re all in this thing together, and when we do it right, God shows up and does things that are completely different than what we’re used to.

—Matt Ybañez
YOUTH MISSIONS

Panama • Senior High • June 14-22
This is a brand new trip. For the twenty-one youth and eleven adults on this trip, it will be something completely different, not only because just a handful have ever been to Panama before, but also because this trip has no work project. This trip is about building relationships with children and youth in the community where the Ceballos’ currently serve; and, it is our hope that the friendships we make while we’re in Panama this June will last and continue beyond our week in Panama. Perhaps when we come back we’ll have a sister youth group that we will be able to maintain a relationship with for years to come. Our goal, however, is to help David and Cindy Ceballos’ church to better connect with the community where they are currently serving in ministry.

Birmingham • Senior High • July 19-26
Our time in Birmingham last summer was time well-spent. Our high school students accomplished so much in partnership with the Joe Rush Center and with Highlands United Methodist Church and the need there is still great. Our youth look forward to connecting with new families and catching up with the ones they met last year as we continue to build lasting and meaningful relationships with people in another part of the country.

San Antonio • Junior High • July 20-26
Our 7th and 8th graders went to San Antonio last summer. They had great opportunities to serve in so many different ways. Some of them will get to do again. We’ll get to go back and work with Church Under the Bridge and spend some time in ministry with the homeless in San Antonio. New this year, we will work with Mission Road Developmental Center in San Antonio. This United Methodist organization is a live-in facility for youth and children with special needs. It is a loving and nurturing environment where students can grow and learn life-skills that foster independence. Our youth will have a chance to spend a lot of time building relationships and helping to serve these students in many different ways.
So what’s up with mission trips this summer?

A mission trip is something completely different from the 'everyday,' and rightfully so. We are so set in our routines that we spend 90% of our time in the same places, seeing the same things, and talking to the same people. It’s when things get really different that we have to open our eyes and really pay attention. It’s when things get really different that the extraordinary breaks into our lives and perhaps when we are most open to hearing what it is that God has been whispering all this time. So where might we encounter God this summer?

How can you help?

This summer's mission trips will create amazing opportunities for our students to connect with others and with God, but getting there isn't always easy. Our youth depend on the support of the congregation to make these trips possible. Just like last year, one of the ways you can help our youth be in mission this summer is to show your support with a prayer bracelet. When you make a $25 gift to youth missions, you will receive this year’s prayer bracelet with our summer mission trip theme, “And now for something completely different.” Additional bracelets can be purchased for $5. Every bracelet will have the name of a student attached to it. We invite you to pray for that student by name during this summer’s mission trips. Thanks to your support, we can guarantee that our youth will never miss a mission trip because they can’t afford it. Look for the prayer bracelets in the Fellowship Hall starting Sunday mornings in June.

When We Get Back

Upon returning, our youth will host a worship celebration for the congregation in the sanctuary on Sunday, July 27 at 7 p.m. They will share stories from their trips and it will be a great opportunity for us to celebrate all of the ways that God will be at work with, in, through, and for our youth this summer. Please make plans to join us that Sunday evening. It will be awesome.
I love my job! Teaching elementary children has been one of the greatest joys of my life. Children really are a gift from God and every day for me in my classroom is an adventure.

I have the privilege of teaching in a school where 90% of our students live at or below the poverty line. Many of my students struggle to have their basic needs met. The stories they share about their home lives are heart breaking in ways I cannot imagine. I feel fortunate to be their teacher where I am able to show them kindness, respect, responsibility, and most importantly, love. Many times I have thought about moving to an “easier school” but, I know God has me right where He wants and needs me to be. I know that every day I am making a difference in the lives of my students and I try to let God’s light shine through me.

Since I am a teacher, I have the benefit of having summers off. This summer I am able to use that time to travel and serve as a short term missionary. I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with David and Cindy Ceballos, our covenant missionaries in Panama. Working with them will give me the opportunity not just to serve and assist the Ceballos in their ministry, but also to spend time in the local school. I am overjoyed at the opportunity to serve in this way. I feel very blessed to have the love and support of not just my friends and family, but also you my church family. What a wonderful opportunity that your support will provide to me and Summer Baggett as we serve in whatever way God calls us in Panama.

I have been going on mission trips since I was in high school. They have changed my life in so many wonderful ways. I have vacationed with, volunteered with, attended weddings and graduations of former team members. I have maintained many long-lasting relationships from sharing in these missionary experiences. I hope you pray for and follow Summer and me, as we journey to Panama this summer. I can’t wait to see the wonderful plan God has for me on this journey.

—Carla Manzi

Follow Carla Manzi and Summer Baggett this summer on their journey to Panama.

Answering the Call to Serve

A hallmark of Methodism is that the denomination has historically responded to the need for a quality education for students that face tremendous challenges obtaining a quality education. Lydia Patterson, a Methodist laywoman, had a vision to educate young boys in el barrio where there was no school to attend. In 1913, she began to set up schools in the homes of some Mexican Methodists. Her spirit and vision is still alive today. Over 100 years later, the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso Texas, educates over 400 young men and women, a majority of whom are from Ciudad Juárez, in a challenging academic environment while being nurtured in Christian values.

Last fall Rev. Clint Jones and Kirk Pittard, missions’ committee chairperson, visited Lydia Patterson Institute. They were both impressed with the campus, classroom technology, the behavior and the high level of academic achievement of the students attending the school. During their time there, they had the chance to meet students who had previously been on ministry internships. Clint says, “I was quite impressed at how impactful the experience of these summer internships was for students. This experience had helped each student we met to make a decision about where God is calling them in their vocation. One young lady’s involvement with the church’s finance committee had helped her discern that she wanted to pursue international business. A young man, who had led congregational music on internship, spoke passionately about discerning a call to become a music minister. Another young man spent two summers working with a church’s children’s ministry was now considering his call to ordained ministry.”

This summer, First United Methodist Church of Hurst will have the unique ministry opportunity to impact the lives of two young women from Lydia Patterson Institute in a very special way. By deciding to work with the two young women that we will receive, we will be able to teach them what it is to work in a vital large membership church while, at the same time, we hear about their lives, culture, and dreams. We ask for your prayers for these young women and hope you will reach out to them in Radical Welcome as they join in the life of this community of faith over the summer. As a premiere teaching congregation, may our prayer be that we learn from these young ladies while they discern where God is calling them in their vocation.

Joselynee Macias Escalera, 14 yrs. old
Joselynee is a ninth grade student from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The youngest of five siblings, she is a member of her high school chapter of United Methodist Women. Her expectation for summer internship is to “learn from the experience, to work for God and to serve.” Joselynee feels called to summer internship to “have a stronger relationship with God, help in church, learn from others and worship God.”

Raquel Velasco Marinelaíena, 16 yrs. old
Raquel is from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The youngest of three siblings, she serves at chapel services at Trinity First United Methodist Church, with the children’s ministry and with the summer Bible School. She has also worked with the youth group at El Divino Salvador Methodist Church. Her expectation for summer internship is “for it to be one of the best summers of my life.” Raquel feels called to summer internship “to serve God and to have an experience and I want to be involved all my life at church.”
A Passion for Teaching

“I count hanging out with our elementary kids and learning along with them in Covenant Courtyard as one of my life’s blessings. Anyone who knows me knows I love to cook and I especially love cooking with kids. When I learned eight years ago (I think) that our Testament Travels rotational Sunday school included a cooking unit, it seemed like a call pointed directly at me, and I haven’t looked back since.

The kids make me laugh, they challenge my knowledge and, yes, sometimes my patience, and they often change my perspective by sharing theirs. As adults, we tend to overcomplicate what the biblical narrative is telling us. Discussing the life application of scripture with children naturally leads us to the poetically uncomplicated messages that capture the essence of God’s plan for us.

Being a Testament Travels workshop leader allows me to use my culinary passion and skill to share God’s story with the “fearfully and wonderfully made” children of this church. I love that we can tie an everyday activity like cooking to our lessons. We learn practical skills and gain some understanding of the science in cooking. But the food we make also gives us another vehicle to deliver the message, layering something tangible and tactile onto the story we’re telling. We are creating an experience that helps clarify the message and make it memorable – and it’s fun – AND we get to eat our projects… and they are good!

There are children in our church who think of prayer when they see a pretzel, who know how a marshmallow baked in pastry is a reminder of the resurrection, and who love fish as a result of recreating Jesus’ breakfast on the beach with his disciples. It warms my heart to hear from parents or kids that they prepared one of our recipes at home to share with their family because that meal comes with a wonderful story.

This isn’t just happening in the “cooking room.” These encounters carry through all of the Testament Travels classrooms – with music, drama, computer lessons, crafts and movies, too. The curriculum is provided and can be the full lesson, or it can be a starting point from which to build. Shepherds who are with a class from week to week provide continuity for the kids and partner with the workshop leaders in making Sunday School a meaningful and memorable part of each child’s faith journey.

There are significant lifelong connections happening in Testament Travels and it is humbling, rewarding and spiritually energizing to be a part of it.

—Jackie Harper

“Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them”

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Pre-K Sunday School
Connecting With The Classics

I’m about to speak directly to your inner-child. Are you ready? Stickers. Story time. Water cups. Crayons. Gold fish. We have gold fish! And a teacher who occasionally dresses up as Bible characters.

Did your heart just skip a beat? (maybe just a little?) Here’s the scoop about teaching Pre-K Sunday School.

It’s terrifying - like really-really scary at first.

Last summer, Rev. Holly Dittrich asked if we could make a year long teaching commitment. Whoa! Now that’s terrifying. I’m cool with Children’s Chapel sign-up sheets - once every so often. But not a full year. No way.

Maybe we might call it an “only doing our fair share mentality”? I’m busy. So busy in fact, that recently I ran my car out of gas. How could I possibly make a year-long commitment?

So, I didn’t commit. I wondered if I could negotiate a six month contract. Guess what? Holly said six months, no problem. That was easy.

Maybe there’s a catch?

Yup, there’s a catch. I enjoyed it so much, I signed an extension for the Spring too.

What happened?

Remember the terrifying part? Well, it gets better, much better, and in a hurry too. So much better, that I’d recommend it.

Why? You’re not alone. I help teach with four friends, Tamara Jewell, Kelly Constantine, Nicole Miller, and Shelley Wilhelmson. Several folks take turns and rotate each month. If one of us is out of town, or sick, or just not able to make it, no problem. We’re cool that way.

You’ll learn new perspectives. Our room has a play crib and baby dolls. How convenient for the manger story! During our human nativity, everyone took turns holding baby Jesus. I’ve never thought about that. If an Angel told me to show up and I made the trip, I’d want to hold that baby, too.

We talk about God’s love. God’s love is BIG! How big? It’s really big. Let’s hold our arms out. Super-big! Are you with me on this? Stretch those arms out!

You’ll share sweet, honest, and authentic prayers. Ok everyone, let’s go around the circle and what would you like to pray for? Mom and dad, brother and sisters, unicorns, butterflies, flowers, someone’s in the hospital, or my dog just died.

You’ll learn the routine. There’s a workbook with everything you need. There are tons of activity options. Choose what works.

Maybe that terrifying Sunday school deal affects kids too? Consistency makes things way less scary. Your teachers know your name. Kids and teachers look forward to it - how cool! Our year long commitment makes sense.

Totally worth it!

—Brian Dunlap

Sunday school, Children’s Chapel and Wee Worship are vital elements of this congregation’s ministry with children.

If you feel called to serve in this area and are available during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45) or during the 11 o’clock worship service, please contact Beth Stuyck at bstuyck@fumchurst.org or 817-282-7384, ext 20.

Whether you can commit to one Sunday a quarter or a four-to-six-week block of time or to the entire school year, we have a spot for you.
Vacation Bible School
A Summer Mission for Children

When my husband and I moved to Texas from Oklahoma nine years ago, we had no friends or family in the area. We also did not have a church home. Two years and four kids later we decided that finding a community of faith needed to become a priority. Our triplets were attending the Day School and we were invited by another parent to visit their Sunday School class. We started attending regularly and joined the church in 2010.

Even though we were coming every Sunday, I felt like I could be more involved. Enter, Vacation Bible School! The first year I volunteered to decorate and help in Arts and Crafts. I met people I would not have met through just attending on Sundays. I developed deeper relationships with wonderful people while decorating the halls of our church. On the first day of VBS, I saw children’s eyes light up as they entered the building. I heard kids shouting Bible verses and praise phrases while walking down the halls. My own children were excited every morning to see what story they would hear and what craft they would get to make. Every year following, I volunteered to do a little more. When I was asked to be an assistant director last year, I could not have been more honored. What a powerful platform to teach children about our Lord, children in our own community who may have never heard Bible stories.

Last summer we had over 350 children attend VBS. It was a big year, but the most surprising statistics to me were over HALF of the children were not members of FUMC Hurst and over 100 children were invited by friends! Those are kids who may not get to hear about God’s wonderful works every week in a home church. Some of those children had never been in a sanctuary. Can you imagine never knowing all of the powerful things that God can do? Not only did the kids learn Bible stories and fun music, but our Mission Project raised $1,568.75 and we were able to buy 157 mosquito nets to protect families in Africa from malaria.

All of this is made possible by volunteers. Our volunteers gave their time, talents and resources to make Vacation Bible School memorable and powerful for our children and the children in our community. Volunteers are necessary and greatly appreciated. You don’t have to be musically talented or artistically gifted; you just need to be willing to serve so that His story can become their story!

—Lindsay Barron
Why Do I Volunteer for VBS?

For me, it’s a delightfully invigorating stopover on my personal faith journey, an opportunity for me to recall VBS of my own childhood during the 1950s and early 1960s. With eagerness and even innocent curiosity, we looked forward to VBS, one of the highlights of our small-town summer. The Bible studies, the new songs, the crafts, the butter cookies and Kool-Aid, the ladies who lovingly and selflessly devoted hours to planning and presenting meaningful experiences for us—what a legacy to pass on to our children! Continuity—we who remember want to keep alive these vivid memories etched in our hearts. We who were young participants have now evolved into leaders. Inspired by those who came before, we follow joyfully the examples they’ve provided for us.

Times have changed, VBS teaching strategies have changed, but our eternal God remains constant. Through VBS, children can discover a myriad of expressions of God’s love as they participate in creative learning activities that equip them to be informed and exuberant young disciples.

As a storyteller, my task is to connect children to the stories of our faith that are as strongly significant now as they were when they originated. We storytellers strive to impress on our children that even though they’re young, they can still dynamically share their faith, making God’s story their story.

VBS is a vibrant tradition that endures as an outreach to little ones just embarking on their faith journeys, to whom Jesus says, “Come to me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

—Joe Motley

I began volunteering for VBS so that my preschool aged children could attend. I thought it was important that at a young age they start learning about God’s love for us. They enjoyed it so much that I continued to volunteer each year. What I was surprised to find out is that I learned just as much if not more than they did. It is truly a blessing that our church is able to offer this ministry to the children of our church and community. I have learned that each child has their own story to tell and it is our privilege to be a part of it and leave a bit of influence in their heart. I am humbled by how much I learn each year about God’s grace and eternal love by sharing a week with these children. I am continually amazed by how so many children can come together from different backgrounds and praise God together as one. I know that the children must be gaining a lot from this experience too because our numbers have been growing the last several years. It is a great feeling to be part of something so meaningful in so many lives.

—Lisa Floyd
Several years ago our church began a wonderful summer program for our children in the church and in the community. It is the Music and Arts Camp. Children can come and explore all types of music through singing, playing instruments, listening to people talk about and demonstrate their love of music. They can explore art, cooking, recreational activities, photography and many other activities. They participate in a musical program and have the opportunity to perform a musical for their family and friends to show what they have learned.

Volunteers are always needed for events such as this. As a member of the Chancel Choir we were asked if we could spend one week helping out in any way we could with music camp. Being a former elementary teacher it sounded like a lot of fun and something I felt comfortable doing. That was several years ago and I had such a good time I make sure I keep that week in July open so I can volunteer again. The week is full of exciting and fun activities. I am usually a shepherd with the younger campers. It is wonderful to get to know some of our young children and spend time with them, as they learn about music, art, drama and so many other things.

I always have a wonderful time working with the children and watching them learn so much in less than a week. My first graders last year loved learning to yodel from a real western singer and listening to a young man and his dad explain how to play a guitar.

They listened to high school students talk about instruments they play in the high school band and heard a young man from our church who is an opera singer. They experimented with different types of art and got to play simple instruments in a group. Watching their faces and expressions as they attempted all of these experiences made volunteering worthwhile.

You do not have to have music experience to volunteer for Music and Arts Camp. You just have to have a love of children and watching them learn and you will have a wonderful time. I learn as much as they do!!

—I love Music and Arts camp!
All of the activities are so awesome it’s hard to pick my favorite. But if I had to pick one, it would probably be the musical. This is my last musical and I bet it will be the best yet!

—Zoe Phillips, student

My three favorite things in life are God, family, and music. Music and arts camp is a place where I get to teach kids about music, talk about God, and create a church family. These kids come from all different places, with all different levels of music, but by the end of the week they come together as a family of Christian musicians and perform a concert for His glory! That’s why I teach at Music and Arts Camp...what could be better than watching kids experience the magic of music?

—Angie Rosenblatt, teacher

Creative fun for children entering 1st grade-6th grade.
Cost: $35
Sunday, July 13: 2-5 p.m.
Monday-Thursday, July 14-17: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Optional Fun Day, (additional cost)
Friday, July 18: 9 a.m.-12 noon
Register online at http://www.fumchurst.org/mac2014
Three years ago, after my first son was born, I left my teaching position to become a stay-at-home-mom (SAHM). While I loved my new “job,” there were aspects of my new life that I hadn’t anticipated, namely how isolated and lonely I would feel now that I was no longer part of a community. At the time, most of my friends still had full-time jobs, and either had older kids, or no kids. It was hard finding other SAHMs like myself who could relate to what I was going through. I tried meeting other moms through different activities, storytime at the library and meetup groups, but it was hard getting to know anyone when the person you connected with one week wasn’t there the next. I considered joining a church but there were a lot of things about the denomination I was raised in that didn’t feel right to me, and I didn’t know where to start when it came to looking for something different.

Around this time, a friend posted a link to the FUMC Hurst Easter Egg hunt on her Facebook page. While we never made it to the hunt, I did make it to the church website, and I spent a lot of time clicking through the pages over and over again, reading the mission statement, looking at the various groups and mission projects, checking out the class descriptions. There was one group that really caught my eye, Caring Christian Mothers, “a dynamic group of moms and young kids building friendships, providing support, learning, and playing together.” I still wasn’t entirely sure what being a Methodist was all about, but the group sounded exactly like what I wanted and needed so, a little nervously, I went to my first meeting. That was almost a year ago.

During that time, I have gotten to know the women in the group, who I now consider my friends, and see how they care for and support each other and me. I love that I have immediate access to a wise and caring group of moms who know exactly what I am going through and can offer advice and encouragement when I need it most. I love that I have felt completely and totally accepted by the group from day one, and that I’ve never felt like I had to pretend to be someone else, or that I would be judged for having different viewpoints. I love the speakers we have every month. I learn so much at EVERY single General Meeting, and the topics and speakers are always fun, interesting, and relevant. I love relaxing with my friends and laughing together during a Mom’s Movie Morning, or at the monthly Mom’s Night Out. I love our WOW days when we can all just get together, talk, and catch up on all those little tasks that can be so hard to get to on a daily basis or just take some time to do nothing at all. And mostly, I love that through these amazing women, I have gotten to see, with zero pressure to join, what it really means to be a Methodist – to be caring and compassionate, to be “real,” to be welcoming and encouraging, and to live your faith through your actions and not just your words. A few weeks ago I took the next step in my own journey of faith, and have begun attending services myself, and have also joined one of the Lenten studies. I love FUMC Hurst, and I love Caring Christian Mothers!”

—Brandy McClure
The ‘Spirit of the Usher’ is visible in someone who unselfishly gives their time and heart in service to God and is willing to be of ultimate service to God and do what God calls him/her to do. The Usher is a friendly, encouraging face of Christ - greeting and assisting people coming into worship. They are welcoming, embracing the presence of Christ, and encouraging people with a warm handshake, pat on the back, and a sincere smile while looking them in the eye. Wyatt “Buzz” Burkhalter lived with the true Spirit of the Usher.

Buzz lived and embraced being a servant of God. He exemplified the humility of the Servant’s heart and the spirit of Christ. He was involved in many organized volunteer endeavors, but was also always listening for God’s call of how to help others day to day. He always answered that call.

One Friday afternoon when Buzz was volunteering at Mission Central, a young man came in with a couple. The young man didn’t want any groceries, but had just come along for the ride. It was a cold day, but he was wearing only a t-shirt and jeans. When Buzz filled the grocery order for the couple and carried it to their car, he began chatting with the young man in the t-shirt. After a while, Buzz went over to his own car, took his jacket from inside, and handed it to the young man. That simple, generous act exemplifies who Buzz was. Giving selflessly; having no expectations in return. Giving. Loving.

“Everyone tries to define this thing called Character. It’s not hard. Character is doing what’s right when nobody is looking.”

John Wesley stated it this way:

“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.”

With the Spirit of the Usher Service Recognition award, we hope to encourage and recognize others who exemplify the Spirit of the Usher, and by doing so are following in Buzz’s footsteps. Young adults aged 18-22 are invited to submit applications.

For more information on how to apply, contact Rev. Matt Ybañez in the church office or email mybanez@fumchurst.org.
Only A Half Hour, Once a Month

"I want everyone who enters our church to know they are welcome here."

Every fourth Sunday of the month at 8:15 am, I can be found greeting near the Fellowship Hall. After five years of greeting, I could probably set my watch by who is coming through the door. I started serving as a greeter because someone mentioned there was a need. I continue greeting because I want everyone who enters our church to know they are welcome here.

I am here to be a friendly face for those visiting for the first time, to open the door for the members with their arms full bringing food for Mission Central or supplies for Vacation Bible School. It is a chance for me to connect with many members of our church who I otherwise would never have gotten to know. Each month I am reminded how all of us together are the body of Christ.

Serving in the Welcoming Ministry requires so little of me, but provides me with so much. I receive words of encouragement and affirmation. I am reminded of God’s grace and goodness, as seen on the faces of many. Even as I stand outside waiting for you to come up the sidewalk, the weather reminds me of the glory of God’s creation. There is something about taking time to slow down and connect with others that brings things back into perspective. It is only a half hour once a month, but serving as a greeter has connected me to FUMC Hurst in mighty ways.

—Abbie Arrellano

A Feeling of Unity and Community

It’s hard for us to imagine what they left behind, but we can imagine a new life for them in their adopted country with a new faith family.

When I think back to the Taste of Africa luncheon in February, my first memory is a sense of excitement that many members of FUMC Hurst experienced prior to the event. As we sold more and more tickets, it became apparent that the anticipation was growing. We all wanted to know about our friends from Africa, and one way to experience a tiny bit of their culture was through tasting their food.

The ladies had cooked through the night to prepare a feast for us. The line for food was very long; yet, everyone waited patiently knowing it would be worth it because the enticing smells began to reach those still standing in line. While we could have pre-filled the plates, it was more important for each member to exchange a few words with the ladies as they went through the line asking about each dish. They made connections.

One other thing comes to mind as well. The second commandment from the 12th chapter of Mark, verse 31 that tells us to “Love your neighbor as yourself”, which is the best way to explain the feeling of unity and community when we sat around the tables getting to know our new friends better by what we had tasted and learned.

It’s hard for us to imagine what they left behind, but we can imagine a new life for them in their adopted country with a new faith family. If only we can help them feel they belong here, we will have made a giant step in loving our neighbors and coming closer together through our common denominator ----- the love of Jesus Christ.

—Sandra Hill
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.

CONNECT Summer 2014

EVENT’S CALENDAR

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

CTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE
June 8-11 • Mansfield

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING & ORDINATION
June 10 • 7 p.m., FUMC Mansfield
777 N. Walnut Creek Drive, Mansfield
Rev. Philip Rhodes will be ordained as Elder in the UMC.

PANAMA MISSION TRIP (YOUTH)
June 14-June 22

FATHER’S DAY
June 15 • No evening activities.

REV. PHILIP RHODES RECEPTION
June 15 • Following worship
Hosted by the SPR Committee. Stop by and congratulate Philip on his ordination as Elder in the UMC.

NOT QUITE A NERD COMPUTER CLASSES
June 16, July 21 & August 18 • 6:30 p.m., C109.
Do you find yourself blogged down or in a twitter? Not sure whether to download or upload? Link in or log out? Search or surf? These are the classes for you! Class size is limited; register online. Childcare unavailable for these classes.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 23-27 • 9 a.m. - Noon
June 26 • 6:30 p.m., Family Night, Fellowship Hall

YOUTH CHOIR TOUR
June 27-July 2

INDEPENDENCE DAY
July 4 • Building Closed

MUSIC & ARTS CAMP
July 13 • 2-5 p.m.
July 14-17 • 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
July 17 • 7 p.m., Musical Performance, Sanctuary

PANAMA MISSION TRIP (ADULT/CONSTRUCTION)
July 5-13

SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP • BIRMINGHAM
July 19-26

JUNIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP • SAN ANTONIO
July 20-26
**EVENT'S CALENDAR**

### 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
Summer Choir: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, beginning in July (sing at the 11 a.m. service)

All other groups for children, you and handbells resume in the fall.

#### RECOVERY MINISTRIES

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

**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.

**Caring Christian Mothers**
First Friday of every month, 9:30 a.m., Parlor.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Wednesday Nights in June & July at 6:30 p.m.**

- **June 4 • W103/104**
  Documentary Viewing - Beyond Right and Wrong

- **June 11 • W103**
  Discussion about Beyond Right and Wrong

- **June 18 • W103**
  Discussion about the book *Imaginary Jesus* by Matt Mikalatos

- **June 25 • W103**
  Discussion about the movie Cesar Chavez

- **July 9 • W103**
  Discussion about the movie Noah

- **July 16 • Fellowship Hall**
  Movie viewing –Is Heaven for Real?

- **July 23**
  Movie viewings
  Adults—Saving Mr. Banks • W103
  Children—Mary Poppins • Testament Travels

- **July 30 • W103**
  Jesus Loves U2

More information available at www.fumchurst.org/side-trips

Register online for childcare.
No registration for evening events needed.

### SAVE THE DATE

**July Focus On**

**Put Your Money Where Your Ministry is!**
All adult Sunday School classes are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall during the month of July to gain an understanding about our Connectional Missional Giving (apportionments) and hear stories about who benefits from them.

Class schedule and information available at www.fumchurst.org. Register by contacting Rev. Donna McKee at dmckee@fumchurst.org.
Welcome to our **Newest Members**

Not pictured: Kimberly and Brandon Sheppard with Hannah and Haley

![Mike and Suk Hee Boesch](image1)
![Luxenne Kifunga](image2)
![Shirley Schmuck](image3)
![Jeff and Ann Swain](image4)

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**Celebrating Your Baptism**

- Miles, son of Bryan and Shannon Elder
- Elizabeth, daughter of Demond and Mariam Dixon
- Kate, daughter of Chris and Brittany Raschke
- Jasper, son of Troy and Rhonda Graves with big brother, Austin
- Allie Kate, daughter of Dustin and Alexis Graves with big sister, Grace
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.

Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School
June 23-27, volunteers are needed in all areas; contact Lindsay Barron, barron_lindsay@yahoo.com or 817-308-8787.

Music and Arts Camp
July 13-18, Volunteers are needed in all areas; contact Sarah Valentino at svalentino@fumchurst.org.

Children's Sunday School
Opportunities exist for teachers and shepherds to lead children's Sunday School classes. Curriculum for all ages/classes is provided. If you would like more information, please contact Beth Stuyck at bstuyck@fumchurst.org.

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.

Mission Central First Food
The first weekend of each month, FUMC Hurst collects items for Mission Central's pantry, which serves about 400 families in need each month. The requested item will be posted at www.fumchurst.org, in the Sunday bulletin and the weekly email news.

The Village Garden
FUMC Hurst is home to the Village Garden, in which Hurst Harvesters grow produce for clients of Mission Central. The garden started in May 2011 and produces hundreds of pounds of vegetables for local families! If you’d like to help local hungry families, please contact Vicky Otterman, vickyott@swbell.net or 817-296-3525.

Memorial and Honorariums

Memorial and honorariums are a wonderful way to remember and honor friends and loved ones.

For a listing of current memorials and honorariums visit www.fumchurst.org/gifts.

To make a gift online: wwwfumchurst.org/online-giving.
¡Ministerio Nuevo! / New Ministry!

Gran Apertura: 8 de junio de 2014/ Launch Date: June 8, 2014

Compañeros en Cristo/Companions in Christ

Ministerio Hispano de First United Methodist Church of Hurst/
First United Methodist Church’s Ministry with Hispanic Persons

Horario: /Schedule:

9:45 A.M.- Grupo de Estudio Bíblico/Group Bible Study
11:00 AM- Servicio de Adoración [en inglés]/Service of Worship [in English]
12:15 PM- Almuerzo (Comida) y Estudio del Sermon/Lunch and Sermon Study

¡Todos son invitados! / All are invited to come!

Rev/Rvdo Clint Jones, Pastor Bilingüe
Pastor de Misiones y Evangelismo/Minister of Missions and Evangelism
cjones@fumchurst.org