Have you made your 2019 Giving Commitment? During worship in October, we focused on stewardship by understanding the giving of our time, talents and financial resources through the lens of Living Gratitude. Our lives as disciples of Jesus the Christ are lived in gratitude because of the great gift God has given us in Jesus. Stewardship is best understood as a discipleship issue and not a fundraising issue. On October 28, 2018, we had our commitment weekend, and many of us made our giving commitments to the church for 2019.

As of November 12, 2018, we have received commitments of $2,351,470. If you haven’t already, would you consider making your commitment today?

You may turn in your 2019 commitment card at any time by placing it in the offering plate, by mail, or make your commitment online at www.fumchurst.org/livinggratitude.

Thank you for your faithfulness to God through the ministry of FUMC Hurst.

Advent Opportunities to Serve

As we enter into the Advent season with great joy and anticipation, we invite you to join us in welcoming guests from the nearby community and our church family who will be participating in the Advent Festival of Carols or Christmas Eve services.

To effectively organize these events, we are asking volunteers to respond, designating which service (or services) you prefer. You may sign up online or send an email to Sandra Hill, Director of Hospitality, at shill@fumchurst.org.

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to each event for instructions.

We recognize that those who serve are the heartbeat of this congregation, and without you, ministry with the community would not be possible. We thank you for all you do at First United Methodist Church of Hurst, and wish you and your family a blessed and joyful holiday season!

Church-wide Christmas Dinner

Come celebrate Christmas with your church family!

We will be having an church-wide Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Church will provide the meat for the dinner. Please bring your favorite holiday side dish or dessert to share. After dinner the children will perform their Christmas Pageant.

For planning purposes, please register online with the number of those attending. Children will be available to assist in the serving of food.

Church Closed

The church will close December 24-26 for Christmas, January 1 for New Year’s Day and January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday.

FUMC Hurst’s Children’s Choir presents

Twas the Year Before Christmas

Written & arranged by Ruth Elaine Shriver & Scott Shannon

Sunday, December 2 • 6:30 p.m.
following the church-wide dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us as we “turn back the clock” to a time before the first Christmas. Journey through time as ancient holy men prophesy the coming of a Savior to God’s faithful people. Listen! God’s promise of a Messiah is about to be fulfilled!

The Festival of Carols

It is a time for us to reflect upon the gift of Jesus Christ and to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a time to come together that ALL, in whatever way possible, may experience Emmanuel in their hearts and lives.

How do you hope to experience God’s grace in the new year? How about intentionally taking time to pause in worship, touch the water, and remember how God has been active in our lives (even when we are unaware) and continues to call us to live into God’s kingdom here on earth. We often get the question, “Why can’t I get baptized again?” As United Methodists, we believe that baptism is a sacrament that is only done once, as it is a public initiation into the community of God and a means of experiencing God’s grace. Therefore, if a person joins a United Methodist church from another denomination, we honor his/her baptism. No matter what we do, or where we go (physically or spiritually), nothing can take God’s act of baptism away from us. Yet, there are times in our lives when we can forget what our baptism means and we need to recover the opportunity to be reminded or to recount our lives to its meaning. During all worship services the weekend of January 12-13, all are invited to come forward, touch the water and pause to remember what being baptized means for our lives individually and as a community of faith.

If there is someone who has not yet been baptized, and is looking for a church home, we invite you to consider professing your faith in Jesus Christ and being baptized that day. And if you have not been baptized and are not sure if you are ready yet, you are invited to come, touch the water, and be assured God loves you. If you would like to speak with a pastor prior to the service, feel free to call the church office. We look forward to seeing you in worship!

The Celebrant

Isaac Foreman in Concert

Our organist, Isaac Foreman, will be playing in concert on Christmas Eve at 9:15 p.m.

His program will be taken from works by Bach, Dusqin, Liszt, Tchaikovsky and Brahms.

Come early before the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service to celebrate with this gifted young musician this beautiful music.
Connecting with People at Trunk or Treat

Thank you to everyone who supported the Trunk or Treat Committee for their wonderful leadership. Thank you also to everyone who served at Trunk or Treat by cooking/serve hot dogs, running the games/crafts, refilling candy, setting up trunk, etc. Thank you for your continued connecting with people in the community through this exciting event. Our favorite touch this year was the addition of the Neighboring Group who personally greeted each Trunk or Treat visitor as they arrived. What a wonderful evening!

Children’s Discipleship News

For more information about any Children’s Discipleship events, contact Jennifer Acker at jacker@fumchurst.org or 817.282.7384, x35. To connect with preschoool Sunday school, Mission Possible Kids and special events, contact Rhean Wren at rwren@fumchurst.org or 817.282.7384, x19. If you would like to serve in Children’s Ministry, please contact Abbie Arellano at aarellano@fumchurst.org or 817.282.7384, x20 and let her know your interests. She will help you connect to the appropriate role within the Children’s Ministry.

Sunday Evening Children’s Discipleship Opportunities

Next Meeting: January 13, 5:7 p.m., W103-104

These groups will NOT meet in December. We are excited to resume our meetings on January 13th. Register online and bring $3 cash for dinner. For questions, please contact Jennifer Acker.

Kindergarten Worship Service

The Kindergarten students have been participating in a special Sunday school unit and learned about the importance of worship in the United Methodist Church. As an extension of the Kindergarten Worship Unit, the class will lead their families in a Kinder Worship Service at 9:45am on Sunday, January 27th in the Perle Chapel. We are excited for you and your children to watch our Kindergartners participate, as these are all meaningful experiences and opportunities to share the discipleship journey of your child. Please contact Rhean with questions and please let your child’s Kindergarten Sunday School teacher know if your child will be participating that day.

Can We Chalk Your Door to Celebrate Epiphany?

Epiphany is Sunday, January 6th and marks the end of the Christmas season or Christmas time. In the Western churches, Epiphany Day has marked the appearance of the three wise men. In the earliest Christian traditions, maintained by the Eastern churches, Epiphany was a period that celebrated the incarnation and baptism of Christ. The children will be preparing the church for Epiphany by participating in a custom known as “chalking the doors” during Sunday School on Sunday, December 30th. “Chalking the Doors” consists of marking buildings, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols and asking God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God’s presence and blessing into our homes. If you would like the children to come to your Sunday School classroom on December 30th to “Chalk the Door” and offer a blessing to your classroom, please email Abbie Arellano. The children will be blessed as many classes as possible that day. If you are Ministry Safe trained and would like to offer blessings with the children that day, please let Abbie know. This was such a sacred experience the last two years and we are really looking forward to it again this year.

For more information about FUMC Hurst Youth, contact Kara Jaronmek or Elisa Anne at youth@fumchurst.org.

Sunday School

Youth gather before 9:45 am in Anderson Center and then dismiss to grade level classes. Grades 7-12 meet in Anderson and Rite 12 (grade 12) meets in the Serenity House. Classes end at 10:45 am.

Sunday Night Youth

All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to attend Youth Group on Sunday evenings from 5-7 PM. We meet together for a snack supper (served at 5 PM), worship as a whole group and then divide between Jr. High and Sr. High for teaching and small groups.

All youth are also welcome to attend our other Sunday night activities:

- Prayer Band Practice: 2-4 pm, Anderson Center
- Youth Church Classroom: 6-8 pm, Choir Room

Looking Ahead:

- December 2: No Youth (Children’s Pageant)
- December 9: No Youth (Festival of Carol)
- December 15: Shopping Spree
- December 16: Christmas Party
- December 23: No Youth
- January 6: Church Prayer Night
- January 18-20: Purpose Weekend Retreat

A Word from the Youth Directors:

November was packed full of great stuff! The theme was “Walking In...” with each week encompassing a specific focus. Along with this, we have started to introduce different prayer practices into our lives every other week. Time has been set aside to try a variety of different types of prayer during these weeks and we cannot wait to see how it impacts our students’ lives and our own! If you’re a student who isn’t involved with FUMC Hurst’s Youth, we’d love to invite you out and welcome you into the program! Hope to see you soon!

Shopping Spree, Saturday, December 15

Before we know it, it will be Christmas time and with that comes our annual Christmas Shopping Spree! Every year we partner with local elementary schools to help provide Christmas presents for families in need. Our youth will go with kids from local schools to shop for gifts and then help wrap them. Donations of supplies, such as Christmas hugs and tissue paper (please, no wrapping paper!), may be placed in Anderson Center and monetary gifts may be brought to the office or placed in the Sunday morning offering with the memo “Shopping Spree.”

Purpose Weekends are a winter retreat for 7th-12th grade students, hosted by Arboles UMC. It is held at Pine Cove Stores in Tyler, TX. We will have the chance to get to know other youth from the area as we join together in small groups, intentional worship times, and a whole lot of fun!

Early Registration (before December 2): $150
Registration closes December 16. Please email Kara or Elisa (youth@fumchurst.org) for information about scholarships!
Local Missions

Homeless Count
Thursday, January 24th from 7 p.m.-12 a.m., the Tarrant Area Homeless Coalition performs an annual census of families and individuals who are living unsheltered in Tarrant County. This count determines the amount of funding made available for services to the homeless each year. Last year, about 30 members of FUMC Hurst showed up to help count Northeast Tarrant County. Had our church members not shown up, there would have only been 10 volunteers to match more than 15 cities in Northeast Tarrant County. We want to make sure that this year, our communities get counted thoroughly. We’ll like to see at least 30 volunteers from FUMC Hurst participate in the 2019 count to make sure there is enough coverage for every city. Contact Rev. Matt Ybalee for more information.

Poverty Encounter

FUMC Hurst will partner with CarePortal to offer a Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) to the church and to the community. COPE will prepare us to engage missionally in our communities by helping us to better understand the decisions, challenges and consequences families in poverty face every day. Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 9 a.m. Cost is $5. Register online.

Garage Sale Raises Almost $6000
Thank you to the FUMC Hurst congregation for donations that made the 2018 FUMC All-Church Garage Sale a huge success in many ways. A BIG “Thank you,” also, to the 65+ volunteers who helped manage intake, pricing, and the Annual Garage Sale for missions! Church members serving at the Garage Sale had fun getting to know each other, enjoying lots of laughter and camaraderie. Volunteers also had the opportunity to share their faith with shoppers by inviting them to visit FUMC Hurst. Some shoppers shared that they will visit us!

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Our annual Church-wide talent show is set for 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 10. Be thinking now about how you would like to participate. If you have a “hidden talent” or even one not so hidden, please consider being a part of this special evening of fun, desserts, and always a few surprises. All proceeds from our ticket sales and voting go toward the giving of the communion sacraments was touching and especially meaningful to me. And thank you again for participating in the medical/ dental/Vision mission trip to Guatemala in September. You were an invaluable and awesome addition to the team! We

Global Hands of Healing
Thank you so much for the generous donation that was generated from the communion collection on October 7th. We are grateful.

Additionally, your idea to invite parishioners who have been involved with Global Hands of Healing to participate in the giving of the communion sacraments was touching and especially meaningful to me. And thank you again for participating in the medical/dental/Vision mission trip to Guatemala in September. You were an invaluable and awesome addition to the team! We

Care For Your Hungry Neighbors This Holiday Season
One in six people and one in four children, in your community struggle with food insecurity. They struggle with hunger every day, but during the holidays, that hunger becomes even more emotionally difficult, as the hungry are bombarded with images of abundance.

You can help make sure your neighbor’s have a place at the table by supporting Mission Central’s food initiatives. Here are a few ways your family could choose to help this holiday season:

• Create a reverse Advent calendar. Instead of opening a treat each day during the Advent season, make a contribution to your hungry neighbors. This could be a canned good, a toilettry, or even coins that will add up throughout the month. You can bring canned goods/ toiletry to the church in the “red bags” or take your donations to Mission Central.

• Volunteers at the Mobile Food Pantry on Friday, December 14. This is a great opportunity to okay your neighbors’ hands so they make sure they know they are cared for.

• Shop for Christmas gifts or decorations at the Coat of Many Colors or Mission Central Thrift Store. Every dollar spent will help support the work of Mission Central.

For more information about Mission Central’s Village Pantry or Mobile Food Pantry, please visit www.missioncentraltx.org or call 817-395-0011. The staff are always happy to offer a tour and share how you can help eliminate hunger in our community.

Have you heard the news? Mission Central is sponsoring a new Thrift Store and Career Center in early 2019. Stay up-to-date by following us on Facebook or Twitter.

Sacrificed Wellness
Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.

—3 John 1:2

United Methodist Women Invite You!
Come join us December 6, for a special Christmas Celebration! Room: W205
- 9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
- 10 a.m. Program: The Children of Day School will be singing Christmas Carols.

After the program, Rev. Holly Dittrich will install Officers for 2019.

Planned Giving FUMC Hurst Foundation

The Foundation is a perpetual fund, dedicated to the overall mission of the church.

It includes: maintenance, expansion, beautification of the church as well as the missions and ministries of the church, as recommended by the Foundation.

For more information visit www.fumchurst.org/foundation or contact Rev. Philip Rhodes, phrhodes@fumchurst.org.

Don’t miss out on the Historic, Fantastic

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Be on the look out for sign-up cards in the Fellowship Hall following January 6. Ticket sales will begin January 20.

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