



A Word From the Pastor

Nothing is constant in life except change. Seasons and periods in our lives are constantly beginning and ending. Some of these moments of transition we turn into rituals like New Year's Eve and graduations. Other moments surprise us like the death of a loved one or a natural disaster. Either way, change is part of life whether we expect it or not. Some change, like the birth of a child or a wedding, while expected can still bring a host of surprises. As we begin a new year, there will be changes that we expect and surprises that will bring both joy and sadness. This is the nature of life. It is good, therefore, to know that whatever change may come that God is with us. As we ride the roller coaster of life's changes, we can rest assured that God's love never changes. Sometimes it is good to be reminded of this, especially when we face big changes in our life.

The year 2020 was a big year of change for everyone, especially my family. With the sudden death of my wife and then the Covid shutdown, the change would have been too much to bear if not for the presence of God's love and strength. With dreams of a relaxing retirement with my wife gone, there was only one goal that propelled me forward. My wife had always wanted both of her children to graduate from a good college. Through God's amazing providence, both of my daughters were able to go to Trinity University in San Antonio on scholarships. This May, the youngest graduates from college and the dying wish of my wife will finally be fulfilled. Graduation means a big change in both my daughters lives as well as my own. We both will enter the unknown future with one at the beginning of their life and the other knowing that the sunset of life is not that far away. The uncertainty of change can lead us to fear unless we rest in the assurance of God's love for as John says, "perfect love casts out fear".

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Upcoming Events

****January 5th****

UMW Meeting

****January 5th - 6th****

SISD Teacher Workdays

****January 7th****

SISD Begins

MDS Begins

Ephesians 4:22-24

To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.



A Word From the Pastor Continue

The saying goes, “As one door closes another opens”. During moments of change, we walk by faith trusting that God has a plan even if we are unaware of the details. There may be glimmers of the plan before the moment of change but we are often too busy to notice them. Even when we do notice them, we choose to ignore them and pretend that somehow if we ignore them long enough that change will not happen. We have as much luck ignoring change as a person in Texas has of ignoring the heat during summer. Change is coming but God is there to make the transition easier if we learn to follow the Holy Spirit rather than doggedly pursuing our own plans.

And so another year is upon us with both opportunities and challenges. Some may experience significant change in their lives and others may have a rather calm and peaceful year. It is during the calm that I become the most anxious. If I listen real hard, I can almost hear the “tick, tick, tick” like a roller coaster climbing to the top before the big plunge. I have learned that God gives us the calm to heal our wounds and build our strength because change is coming. Whether we embrace the change or hide from the change is all a matter of faith. If God is in control and God is with us then what do we need fear. May you enter the new year with the blessed assurance that God is with you no matter what changes you may face. Have a blessed New Year.

*Blessings,
Pastor Mark*



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Mark Holman</i>	<i>1/9</i>	<i>Trey Wardlaw</i>	<i>1/15</i>	<i>Erin Smart</i>	<i>1/20</i>
<i>Joetta Friess</i>	<i>1/24</i>	<i>Brandon Araujo</i>	<i>1/29</i>	<i>Jason Geske</i>	<i>1/30</i>
		<i>Jen Jones</i>	<i>1/31</i>		

METHODIST DAY SCHOOL EVENTS

December has been a very busy month for The Methodist Day School. We started the month with the annual Downtown Christmas Parade. We had a full trailer with a lot of children and parents. Next we went to the Sonora Bank for our Christmas Caroling. It was very well attended by parents and family and the children sang great. On December 10th we had our Children's Christmas Program, "Twas the Night". It was AWESOME. The kids played out the Nativity as only kids can. They sang so beautifully and it was a very special time with family and friends. On December 15th the very jolly Santa stopped by to visit and have breakfast with the kids and family. It was so much fun!

Thank you to all who support our Methodist Day School. We are truly blessed with so many wonderful children and their families. We wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas. See everyone in the New Year.

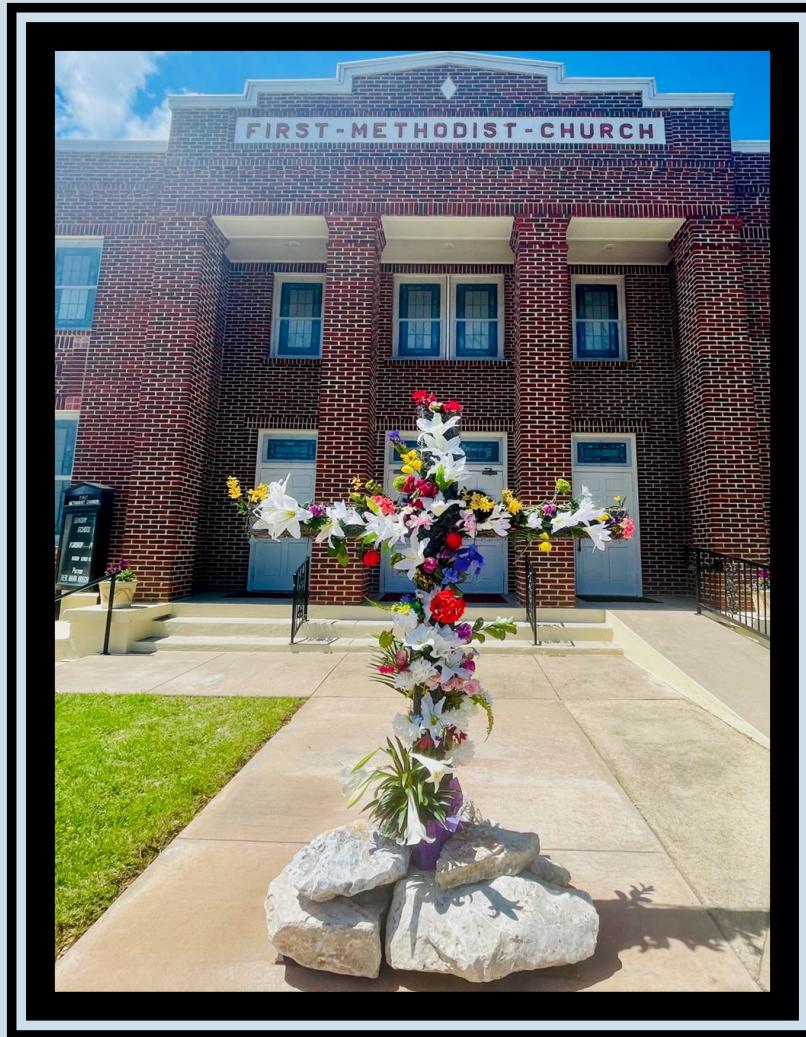


UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY!

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3
4 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11	5 No <i>SISD/MDS</i> <i>Teacher Work Day</i>	6 <i>Teacher Work Day</i> <i>SHS Bball @ Ozo- na</i>	7 <i>MDS Begins</i> <i>SISD - Begins</i> Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm 6:30	8 <i>SMS Bball @ Christoval</i>	9 <i>SISD - 3 PM</i> <i>SHS Bball @ Sono- ra vs. Sterling City</i>	10
11 <i>One Board Meeting @ 9:45</i> Worship @ 11	12 <i>MDS</i> 4H - FFA Goats @ Grandstand	13 4H - FFA Market Barrows @ Grandstand <i>SHS Bball @ Big Lake</i>	14 Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm MDS 4H - FFA Sheep @ Grandstand & Market Barrows	15 4H - FFA Sheep @ Grandstand	16 <i>SHS Bball @ Sono- ra vs. Christoval</i>	17 <i>SMS Bball @ Sonora Tournament</i>
18 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11	19 <i>MDS</i>	20 FFA Ag Mech @ San Angelo	21 MDS Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm FFA Ag Mech @ San Angelo	22 <i>SMS Bball @ Forsan</i>	23 <i>SHS Bball @ Sono- ra vs. Eldorado</i>	24
25 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11	26 <i>MDS</i> <i>SMS Bball @ Sonora vs. Ster- ling City</i>	27 <i>SHS Bball @ Forsan</i>	28 MDS Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm	29	30 <i>SHS Bball @ Sono- ra vs. Ozona</i>	31

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PO Box 675
SONORA, TX 76950
PHONE: (325) 387-2466
WWW.SONORAFUMC.COM



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHILDREN'S NURSERY	9:30 AM
OPEN DOOR SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:45AM
WORSHIP SERVICE	11:00 AM

*WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST AT 11:00 A.M.

SUNDAYS ON KHOS 92.1 AND KYXX 94.3*

FUMC SONORA STAFF

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DONNA HILL— ADMIN COUNCIL CHAIR

PATTI BARKER— MDS DIRECTOR

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