



A Word From the Pastor

This time of year reminds me why I like small towns. The local pumpkin patch and door to door trick-or-treating where everyone knows the kids. Then there is the farmer's market and the downtown Christmas parade. There is just something special about a small town. My childhood was spent in Sour Lake and Sealy when both were 2A schools. Even my college days were in Georgetown before Austin grew northward when the most exciting thing was Pflugerville getting a multiple screen movie theater. Since then, I have lived in Yorktown, Somerset, Devine, Sabinal, Industry, and Columbus. I did spend a short period in Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio but those were times in the wilderness. My true love is spending autumn in a small town.

I like small towns but there is another side to the story. People get bored easily and find other people's business a source of entertainment. If the news is not exciting enough, they add drama and untruths to make the story more interesting. Broken people do broken things and petty people like petty gossip. It is part of living in a small town. When I was a teenager, one such gossip drove me to nearly committing suicide. This is not uncommon. Football players who have a bad game and become the topic of gossip end up taking their life. While the stories are not publicized, it happens much too frequently. You learn to have fairly thick skin in a small town and avoid becoming too noisy. Often "good" Christians stick their nose into other people's business and call it Christian concern. There is nothing Christian about gossip which ancient rabbis called a form of leprosy leading to exile from the community



Upcoming Events

****November 2nd****

Time Changes

****November 3rd****

UMW Meeting @ 5PM

**** November 9th ****

Church Charge Conference

****November 20th****

Ladies Night Out

****November 22nd****

More the Merrier

****November 24th - 28th****

MDS & SISD Closed

for

Thanksgiving

****November 23rd****

Move in for Christmas Decorations

****November 24th****

Decorate for Christmas @ 5PM

****November 26th-28th****

Church Office Closed



Continued on Page 2...

A Word From the Pastor Continued

In order to become more transparent, honor people's time, and deal with the reality of a small membership church, we will be voting on November 9th at 10:45 to move to a one board model. The administrative board has already approved the model but the larger church requires a Church Conference to approve. The one board will be a total of 15 people made up of six people from finance and the ad. board as well as nine people who will serve on both the Trustees and SPRC. Every year three people will be rotated off allowing for different people from the congregation to participate. All of the meeting, except when SPRC is dealing with confidential issues, are open to everyone. The one board will meet monthly keeping everyone informed of what is actually happening rather than the rumors people enjoy spreading. This first nomination of members is based on church attendance of over 50%. An effort was also made to avoid two people from the same family unless the roles they perform in the church are needed on the board. This move will hopefully not only address previous issues in the church but make the church more open to ministry possibilities and growth in the future.

Despite some of the issues of living in a small town, the benefits far out way the problems. When people at the store know your name and children on the street run up to give you a hug, these are priceless moments that larger cities do not have. Jesus came from a small town and most of his ministry was spent in rural areas. As long as we remember to guard our tongues and love our neighbors as ourselves, small towns will continue to be the place where Jesus is most easily found. I hope you enjoy the cooler weather and all the activities in town. There are so many reasons to give thanks in a small town. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

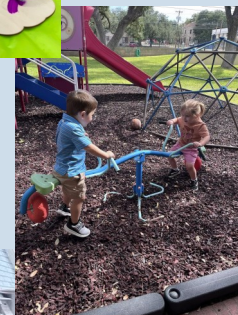
Luke 6:37

METHODIST DAY

SCHOOL



"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."



OCTOBER HAS BEEN A FUN FILLED MONTH WITH LOTS OF ACTIVITIES. WE STARTED OFF THE MONTH WITH FIRE SAFETY. THE SONORA FIRE DEPARTMENT CAME OUT AND TAUGHT US ALL ABOUT HOW TO BE SAFE IN OUR HOMES AND EVEN LET SOME OF US TRY ON THE FIREMAN UNIFORM. THEY FINISHED OFF WITH A FUN DEMONSTRATION OF THE BIG RED FIRE TRUCK.

WE THEN HAD OUR PUMPKIN PATCH FUN WITH ALL KINDS AND COLORS OF PUMPKINS. WE PLAYED, TOOK PICTURES AND STROLLED AROUND ALL THE PRETTY PUMPKINS.

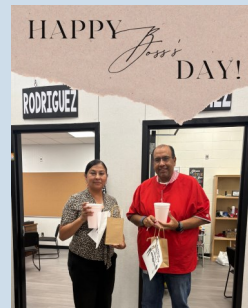
NEXT WE DRESSED IN RED FOR RED RIBBON WEEK. WE CLOSED OUT THE MONTH WITH OUR FALL FESTIVAL AND HALLOWEEN PARTIES. MDS LOVES THE FALL AND ALL THE COLORS AND FESTIVITIES IT PROVIDES US.





Pumpkin Patch 2025

Elementary Principal - Heather
Cearley
Secondary Principals
Christina Rodriguez &
Alex Sanchez



SHS
Lady
Bronco
Volleyball



SHS Cross Country



SHS Bronco XC State Bound



SHS Bronco Football



SMS Cross Country



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Larry Chalk 11/3
Madelyn Fisher 11/6
Jimmy Holman 11/17
Emory Jones 11/24

Laura Chalk 11/3
Silas Araujo 11/12
Jessie Kerkow 11/19

Ben Pool 11/4
Erica Berry 11/13
Summer Hall 11/22

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER!

| SUN | MON | TUES | WEDS | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | Angel Tree Look for Sign up November 16th | Christmas Move In November 23rd | Decorate For Christmas November 24th 5PM | | | ¹ <i>Bronco XC @ State in Round Rock</i> |
| ² Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 Time Changes | ³ MDS UMW Meeting @ 5PM | ⁴ | ⁵ MDS Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm Team Jesus @ Epis- copal Church 5:30- 6:30 | ⁶ SMS Colt Football @ Colorado City | ⁷ SISD - 3 PM SHS Bronco Football @ Sono- ra | ⁸ |
| ⁹ Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 Called Church Conference After the Service | ¹⁰ MDS | ¹¹ <i>Veterans Day</i> | ¹² Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm MDS Team Jesus @ Epis- copal Church 5:30- 6:30 FFA @ Robert Lee | ¹³ SMS Bball @ Sonora | ¹⁴ SISD - 3 PM Dismissal | ¹⁵ |
| ¹⁶ Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 | ¹⁷ MDS SMS Bball @ Sterling City | ¹⁸ | ¹⁹ MDS Thanksgiving Team Jesus @ Epis- copal Church 5:30- 6:30 Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm | ²⁰ SHS Lady Broncos Bball @ Ozona Tour- ney Ladies Night Out | ²¹ SISD - 3PM Dis- missal SHS Lady Broncos Bball @ Ozona Tour- ney SHS Bronco Bball @ Sonora | ²² SHS Lady Broncos Bball @ Ozona Tour- ney More the Merrier @ Civic Center FFA @ Ira |
| ^{23/30} Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 | ²⁴ MDS Break SISD Break SHS Lady Broncos Bball @ San Angelo SHS Bronco Bball @ Ingram | ²⁵ MDS Break SISD Break | ²⁶ MDS Break SISD Break Church Office Closed | ²⁷ Thanksgiving Day MDS Break SISD Break Church Office Closed | ²⁸ MDS Break SISD Break Church Office Closed | ²⁹ |

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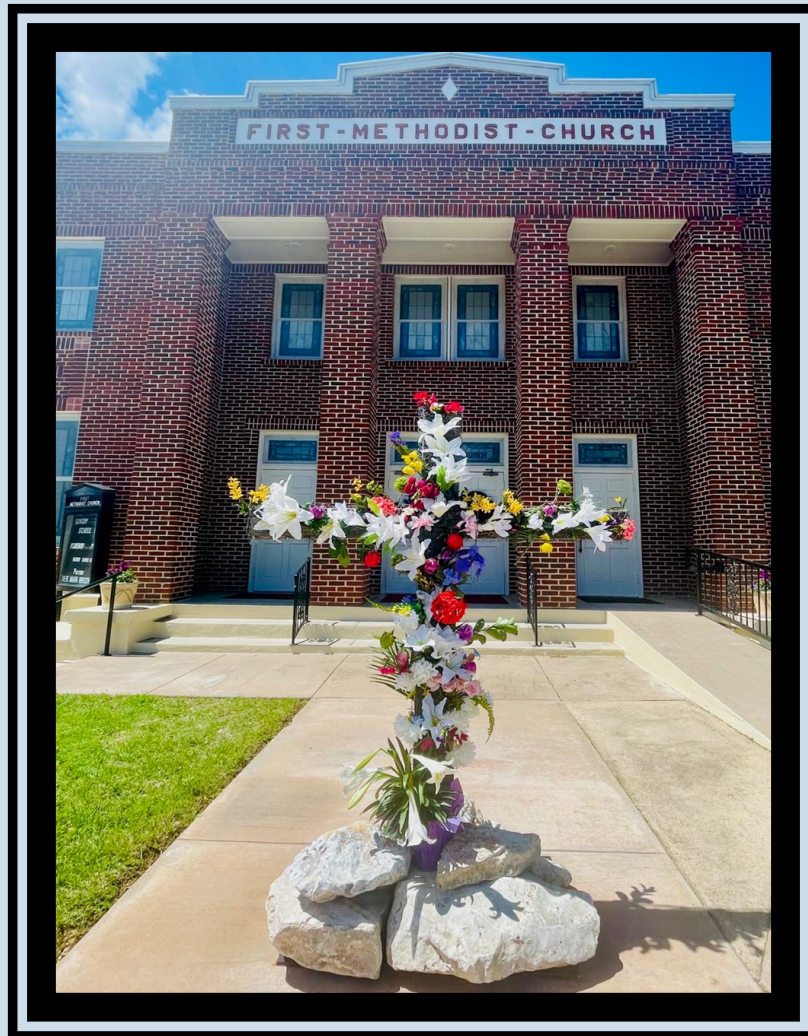
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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

REV. MARK BRECHIN— PASTOR
DONNA HILL— ADMIN COUNCIL CHAIR
PATTI BARKER— MDS DIRECTOR
DARRELL BARKER— CUSTODIAN
KENDRA VYVLECKA—

FINANCE SECRETARY AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR