



February 2012 Newsletter

First UMC Forney

Month at-a-Glance

- Sun., Feb. 5
6:00pm Trustees
- Sun., Feb. 12 SCOUT SUNDAY
12:15pm United Methodist Women
- Wed., Feb. 15
6:30pm Family Fun Night Talent Show
- Sun., Feb. 19
12:00pm Chili Cook-off
- Wed., Feb. 22
6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
- Sun., Feb. 26 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Wednesday Night Dinners

- Feb. 1 Youth—Pizza
- Feb. 8 Wing and a Prayer— Tacos
- Feb. 15 Cub Scouts—Chili
- Feb. 22 Volunteers—Fried Chicken
- Feb. 29 Youth—Pizza

Recently, one of my best pastor friends told me this story from a plane ride he had taken a few months before. He was privileged to be upgraded to first class, a rare treat. So, sitting way up front, he followed the operational patter of the flight attendants. Just after the gate agent had closed the plane's door, the senior flight attendant announced, "Forward galley and cabin doors prepared and cross-checked." Just afterward, another flight attendant echoed over the plane's intercom, "Tail galley door prepared and cross-checked." My good friend chuckled to himself, made the sign of the cross over his head and chest, and declared, "Passenger prepared and cross-checked!"

Well, the flight attendant doing the seatbelt and oxygen mask routine began laughing while the passenger to my friend's right crossed himself and repeated the words. Suddenly, passengers to his left and behind repeated the motions and words. Indeed, the words "Passenger prepared and cross-checked" echoed down both sides of the plane, accompanied by laughter. My friend grinned and winked at the flight attendant near him and her smile became as wide as her face.

Passenger. Prepared. Cross-checked. *That's us!* We're passing through this life, preparing for it and the next, by checking ourselves with the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. I pray we all check into God's love and grace.

* Abridged and edited from my good friend's article in the *North Texas Conference Reporter* of Jan. 6. He is the Rev. Dr. Greg Neal, pastor of Northgate UMC in Irving.

From My Heart,





The North Texas Conference
of the United Methodist Church

Serving & Surfing the Conference

With a brand new online method for securing lay service in our conference, we are all invited to go to the website, NTCUMC.org (i.e., for the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.) On the right hand side of the home page click the link, *2012 Nominations Forms*; then download the 1) booklet to peruse the various roles and the 2) profile sheet to fill out your information and interests. You must submit your profile sheet by mid-February. Full instructions are on the form.

As businesses are going more online, so is our denomination—and churches in general for that matter. They're working hard at creating numerous reasons to attract us to visit and utilize the website. Why not bookmark it for easy use. It could be stored next to ours, FirstMethodistForney.org, on your computer or device. Happy surfing!



Looking Just Ahead (save these dates)

- Sat., Mar. 10 Lose an hour of sleep and set clocks forward for Daylight Savings Time
- Wed., Mar. 21 Family Fun Night of Service at Wednesday Night Fellowship, working to improve our campus
- Sat., Mar., 24 All Church Work Day in the buildings and out on the grounds
- Fri., Mar.,30 - Ladies Annual Christian Escape
Sun., Apr., 1 (LACE) Retreat
- Sun., 04/01 Palm/Passion Sunday
United Methodist Women meet one week early
- Sun., 04/08 Resurrection [Easter] Sunday!!!



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM.

A Truly New Beginning

by Rebecca Trotter

A new year has begun and I'm sure most of us have resolved to take better care of ourselves. Yet there is the consistent list of "to dos" for others, including our church family. In no time we are burned out again, and when we suffer from burn out our relationships suffer, including our relationship with the Lord. So, I challenge our church as a whole to care for yourselves, increase your spiritual health and rejuvenate your passion for a Christ-lead life. Commit to attending a *Walk to Emmaus*.

The Walk to Emmaus is a weekend of spiritual renewal intended to strengthen our church by developing Christian disciples. The program considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages His disciples to act as servants to all. You will spend three days wrapped in prayer, meditation and worship. During and afterward, you will be continually cared for by the Emmaus community and our Emmaus family: Jeff & Cindi Garrett, Amy Madrid, Sharon Juroska, Jimmy & Danny Weaver, Deborah Healey, Dave Moore, Gerry Chambers and Rebecca Trotter. Yes, you have commitments, children, spouses, work; sorry, but your responsibilities will still be here when you get back. So contact one of our Emmaus family members to discuss your attendance.

Additionally, a new accountability group is being formed for our Emmaus family members. If you have been on the Walk and would like to join a small group, please contact Rebecca Trotter at 214-537-7367 or notify the church office.

Talent Show Night!!

Do you have a talent (or an *UN*-talent)???

Your child??

Your family??

Your Sunday School class?

We would love for you to come share it with our church family! Sign up with Ms. Amy by Feb. 8, and let her know what your talent is!!!

Cub Scouts are serving Chili for dinner at 6:00pm!





RELAY FOR LIFE 2012

It is time to join our Relay For Life 2012 team. The event is May 18-19 and will again be at Jackrabbit Stadium. You can join the team by going to the website, relayforlife.org/forneytx. The site guides you through the easy steps. Or you can let Amy Madrid or Linda Bryant know you want to join and they will get you registered. Be thinking about fundraisers and share them at an up-coming meeting. Please join us in the fight to defeat cancer. If you are a Survivor or Caregiver, or if you know someone who is, please join our team. There are special activities for you.

Kickoff for Relay 2102 event on January 30 at the Country Smokehouse located on 1641 and Classic Lane. Everyone is invited to attend to meet other teams and get information about this year's Relay.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy or Linda.

Sunday Morning Worship

We're currently in the midst of a brief series springing from the minor prophet, Amos. Called, *Justice | Just Us*, it's a call to get our hearts—and lives!—in line with the Lord's. Included during these weeks will be a very special Scout Sunday, Feb. 12, in particular celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouts. Then we'll conclude on Feb. 19 with a tip of the hat to President's Day the day before that national holiday. Join us every week as we seek to learn from the mistakes of our ancient past and do better.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. After a light supper, we will offer a brief service in the sanctuary at 6:30pm to put the crosses on our foreheads, marking us as forgiven disciples who are still yet human sinners—mortal and imperfect shells, eternal and forgiven souls.

Then on the following Sunday, Feb. 26, we'll fully open the season of Lent with a set of messages paralleling the wilderness experiences of Moses and Jesus in, *Wandering & Wondering*. Take the journey with us as we go inward to prepare for a better life with the risen Christ.



***faithbuilding* Update**

Thank you so much for sharing with us in our *faithbuilding* capital campaign for the Student Building! We've pledged an amazing \$461,220. Remember, the first \$400,000 goes to forthright debt service while the remaining \$61,220 and any new pledges that come in will go to help us begin to complete the second floor. At the very first business meeting of the New Year, the Trustees meeting of 01/15, they discussed getting the ball now rolling. How much will HVAC cost to install? What about plumbing and electrical? What can we do ourselves? What is the order of finish out? Where can we secure good, solid answers?



**UMW
News**

We hope you have enjoyed the break from the busy holiday season and that you are looking forward to our first meeting of 2012 on Feb. 12th, in the Family Life Center, following Traditional worship.

Our hostesses this month are the UMW officers. Be prepared to have a little fun and some good food. We will have a business meeting that will include the proposed budget for 2012.

We invite all women that are interested in serving God, in growing in her walk with the Lord, and in great fellowship to attend our 2012 meetings.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

AMY@FIRSTMETHODISTFORNEY.ORG

972.552.3015



MP KIDS

Feb. 12
Time: TBA

Missions:

1. Deliver Valentine baskets to the shut-ins
2. Get bags ready for food drive in March

PDO AND PRESCHOOL NEWS:

Registration for fall, 2012, opens for children of church members and children already in the program on Monday, March 5.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

FEB. 15

6:00pm Chili supper served by Cub Scouts

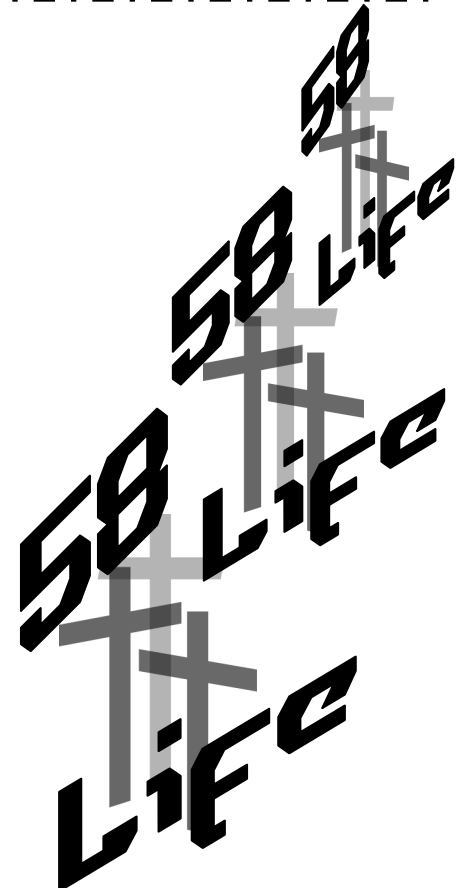
6:30pm Talent (or *un*-talent) Show

(see page 2 for more details)



February Activities

- Sun., Feb. 5 Superbowl Viewing Party at Cameron Russell's house. Meet at Cameron's at 5:00pm for a devotional and the big game. Bring a snack to share during the game. Plan to have your ride pick you up during half-time, it's just Madonna performing.
- Sun., Feb. 12 58Life, 5:00-6:30pm
- Sun., Feb. 19 Chili Cook-off after Traditional worship. (More information to follow.)
NO 58Life this Sunday evening
- Feb. 26 STARS game! Dave Moore and Rebecca Trotter have invited us to attend the game with them as their guests. We will leave right after Traditional worship for the 2:00pm game. Let Chris know if you plan to attend as soon as possible for we only have 16 free tickets.





RELEVANT
AUTHENTIC

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Chili Cook-Off



Mark your calendars and bring your friends to the **Annual Chili Cook-off and Pie Contest!**

Sunday, Feb 19th, 12:00-2:30pm

This year's theme is: "*Movies*".

Enter the competition for

- the most money raised
- the best pie
- best costumes
- best chili

As a fund raiser for our youth in 58Life, we look forward to lots of involvement and carefree nonsense.

For more information, contact Mary Baker at bossybaker@aol.com or 214-908-8456.

Missional Communion Offering

We're jumping into an awesome annual opportunity, *IMPACT My Community*. Founded a few years back by Fellowship and Community Life Baptist churches, it's an extraordinarily organized effort that culminates in one concentrated weekend when Christians from Forney churches go out to be the hands and feet of Christ by performing work projects for the less fortunate and needy. The IMPACT weekend is always the first full one in May - this year, May 5&6 - and projects range from simply raking leaves to gutting/refurbishing part of a house.

As a partner church in the effort, we commit funds and manpower. All money goes to enable projects. Should there be any left over, it stays in the IMPACT fund to enable future projects. This will be an incredible opportunity to bring some practical justice ministry to some around us without hope or advocacy. We'll give our money during communion on Feb.5. We'll give ourselves in service on May 5&6.