



FIRST NEWS

“Helping people grow to love Jesus and each other.”

Dear FUMC Heath Family,

As this year comes to an end, we wanted to count our blessings and say thank you for your ministry and fellowship at our church. Despite the construction (and we're thankful for everyone's flexibility here), we've had a lot happen in and through FUMC Heath this year.

Just to name some of the ministry events in 2017:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pancake Suppers | Potlucks | Holy Week Cantata | Ladies Dinner Nights |
| H.A.T.S. | Emmaus Walk Agape | Church Work Days | Blood Drive |
| Vacation Bible School | Kids Against Hunger | Community Movie Night | Blessing of the Backpacks |
| Fall Festival | Youth Summer Camp | Hurricane Relief Buckets | |
| Wednesday Morning Bible | | | |

And not to mention we've still got the Children's Christmas Musical and Christmas Cantata to go!

Our goal as the Body of Christ is helping people grow to love Jesus and each other. Through your prayers, gifts, and service we've been able to do just that. May God bless each of you during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and the Holy Spirit prepare our hearts as a church to share the love of Jesus in 2018.

Love and Peace,



P.S. This month we're nicknaming our sermon series "Go Tell It On The Mountain!" We'll be blessed by hearing different voices from our church preach and testify. First up, Lee Gilbert will be preaching on Dec. 3rd. Then our children will be our message bearers on Dec. 10th. Several different folks from our church will testify during our Christmas cantata on Dec. 17th. And then on Christmas Eve we get to hear from Laura Fisher on Sunday morning, and David White at the 5:00pm Candlelight Service.

December 24
5:00pm

Traditional
Candlelight
Service with
Communion



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



OUTREACH

H.A.T.S.

December 6

12:00pm

**Annual Christmas Luncheon
and Amy Parks Choir Program**



Heath Area Terrific Seniors is a group that meets the first Wednesday of each month for fun and fellowship.

Angel tree



The tree this year will be in the foyer since we will not be back in the sanctuary before Christmas. This tree will be decorated with Chrismons and "Angels." Please take an angel, purchase a gift for that angel and bring it back to the church. We will be storing all gifts in the library, so please leave your gifts there.

These angels are children of prisoners, as well as kids from Genesis Center. A gift in the \$25.00 range would be very appropriate.

DISCIPLESHIP

WALK TO EMMAUS

Men's Walk #271 March 1 - 4 Sabine Creek Ranch

Women's Walk 272 June 14 - 17 Camp Copass

Men's Walk #273 September 27 - 30 Lake Lavon

Women's Walk #274 November 1 - 4 Sabine Creek Ranch

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all." For information about Emmaus Walks please call Barbara Rohde at 713-595-2800 or robbarrohde@aol.com.



The mystery of our faith is also the hope of our lives: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.** We get that Jesus was born, crucified, and is risen... but we often lose sight that he's also enthroned in heaven, interceding for the world, and will one day return to make all things new again. This is the final stage of the new mission God began after humanity fell.

Advent means *the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event*. For Christians, it's when we celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ. But before we celebrate Jesus's silent-night first arrival in the manger, we prepare for his trumpet-blasting second coming in the clouds.

Advent gives us the opportunity to pause and take inventory... to start with the end in mind and see if our lives look like our beliefs and prayers... so that Jesus's Kingdom can come on Earth as it is in Heaven. This season, Pastor Omar will host a three - week Advent study on Wednesday mornings at 9am or Wednesday evenings at 6pm on **December 6th, 13th, and 20th**.

There are no books to buy! Instead there will be daily readings (or you can listen) online starting **December 4th** at seedbed.com/dailytext (we can print copies in advance for anyone who needs a print version).

Please let us know if you'll be joining us on Wednesday mornings or evenings (by emailing Pastor Omar at omar@fumcheath.org)

MUSIC MINISTRIES

A Noel Celebration
Sounds and Stories of Christmas

December 17
10:30am

Christmas Cantata
Chancel Choir & Orchestra

For more information about Music Ministries, please email Keum at worship@fumcheath.org.

The choir will be taking a short break after Christmas. Rehearsals will resume January 10, 2018.

**CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
SCHEDULE**
Each Wednesday
7:00—8:30pm Chancel Choir

ACOUSTIC CIRCLE
Schedule
Each Monday
4:00-5:00pm

IN CONCERT

Trusting Hymn, Ransomed, Made by Mercy

Saturday, December 2, 6:00pm at West Mesquite Baptist Church, 2808 W. Scyene Road, Mesquite, TX

Free Admission, Love offering will be received to benefit The Genesis Center

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Children's Christmas Musical *Little Drummers*

Come hear the children tell the story of Jesus' birth from a whole new perspective!

December 4– 7- Tech Week 4:30-5:30pm

December 8 - Dress Rehearsal 4-6pm (Pizza will be provided)

December 10—Performance 10:30am



**FUMC Heath Youth
Christmas Progressive Dinner**

Join us for an evening of fellowship, games,
and **LOTS OF GOOD FOOD!**

Date: Saturday, December 9th
Time: 4:15pm - 10:30pm

Please bring a white elephant gift (between \$5-\$10)

RSVP by DECEMBER 4TH

PLANET WISDOM™

STUDENT CONFERENCE

Irving, TX February 23-24

What is Planet Wisdom?

Planet Wisdom is a two-day, regional discipleship conference designed to challenge middle and high school students to dig deeper into the Bible and see their world from God's perspective.

Cost: \$54 (before Dec. 8th) PLUS hotel and 3 meals.
(Hotel cost would be ~\$25 per student)

Location: Irving Bible Church
2435 Kinwest Pkwy #100
Irving, TX 75063

We would leave immediately after school on Friday, Feb 23rd and arrive back Saturday evening.

If you're interested, please let me know ASAP!

We will also need a male sponsor to accompany us, so if you or anyone you know is available, please contact me!

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6—Catherine Lopez-Stoval
8—Hayden Maberry
10—Shiva Hammer
12—Eric Hammer
Ginger Baugh
13—Kellie Hohenshelt
Cathy Warmack
15—Margaret Davidson
16—JoAnn Lopez
29—Cheyenne Davis
Budd Pierce

17—Keum Hwang
20—Cindy Allen
24—Barbara White
26—Curt Jabben
29—Cheyenne Davis
Budd Pierce

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

7—Pete & Sherry Snider
9—Wayne & Missy Barber

*If we missed a Birthday or Anniversary, we are so SORRY!! Please email kerri@fumcheath.org to get it added to our list.



The Church Office will be

CLOSED

December 25 for the Christmas Holiday

PRAYERS IN THE PARLOR

Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month to pray for the needs of our congregation, community and the world. If these "Prayer Warriors" can pray for you or a loved one, please click [here](#) to submit your prayer request or call the church office.

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR PRAYERS IN THE PARLOR

As Brooksie has been hospitalized and is now in a rehab facility, she is no longer able to lead the Prayers in the Parlor group. Barbara Rohde has taken over this role. Everything with Prayers in the Parlor has stayed the same. Once a prayer request is given to the group, the prayer request is prayer over for 4 weeks. The prayer request remains private to those who are praying. And the person requesting the prayer will never be asked for an update. The update would be great to know and prayed over but that is only up to the requester. At any time that same person/situation can be added to the list of prayer requests again. 10 ladies are part of this team. You can either call or text Barbara at [713-594-2800](tel:713-594-2800) or send her an email at robbar-rohde@aol.com.

CHAIR CLEANING

On December 8, Doiggs Carpet Cleaning will be here to clean all the folding chairs in Fellowship Hall at \$8.00 a chair. If you would like to contribute to this fund, it would be greatly appreciated. Please write "Chairs" on your check and drop in the plate.

We would like to see our Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary look great for the Christmas Season.



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the Christmas Season, please call the office, or look in your bulletin on Sunday for an insert.
\$13.50 Per Plant

From the Church Board

Dear FUMC Heath Family,

Christmas time is upon us and hopefully this time of the year finds you well. If you would like to thank our Church Staff for the job and sacrifices they have made this year, please prayerfully consider making a contribution as a Christmas Bonus. We will accept your gifts through the end of the year, and donations can be left at the Church Office or given during the Sunday Worship Service by placing your gift in the offering plate with instructions to be used as a "Christmas Bonus".

God's Peace & Love to All.

Merry
Christmas

SPRING CONFIRMATION CLASS for 5th & 6th GRADE! SUNDAY'S THIS SPRING

Confirmation is an important marker in the spiritual journey of our children. It is the opportunity to "confirm" their faith, make their first public declaration of faith before their church family, and be received into full membership.

This spring Pastor Omar will take our Confirmation Class through [The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith](#), which has both a workbook and video component.

We'll meet Sunday afternoons (time TBD) along the following schedule:

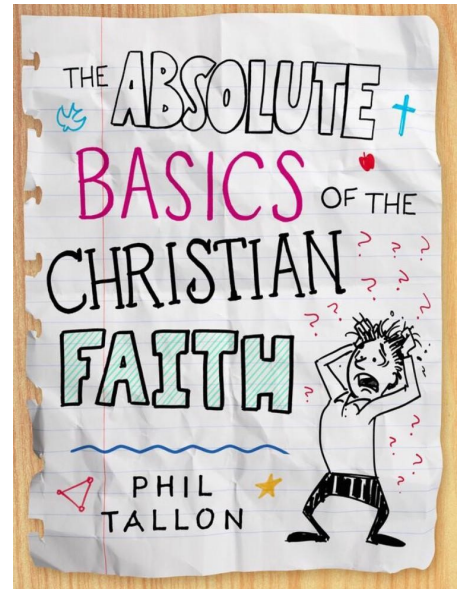
1st half : Jan. 7 - Feb. 25

Take March and first week of April off. Start back week after Easter

April 8 - May 27

Confirmation Sunday TBD

To sign up your child, or if you have any questions, please email Pastor Omar at omar@fumcheath.org



STEWARDSHIP

2018 Update

Pledged to date....\$209,040.00



TELLERS NEEDED FOR 2018!

If you would like to volunteer to be a teller a couple of Sundays a year in 2018, please contact kerri@fumcheath.org.

**TRAINING
PROVIDED**

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4-7—Kids Tech Week

December 6—HATS Gathering (Heath Area Terrific Seniors)

December 8—Kids Dress Rehearsal

December 8—Fellowship Hall Chair Cleaning

December 10—*Little Drummers* Children's Christmas Program

December 17—*A Noel Celebration* Cantata, Chancel Choir with Orchestra

December 24—Christmas Candlelight Service with Communion

December 25—Office Closed for Christmas

December 26—The Bridge

STAFF

CONNECT

Kerri Bergerhouse—Administration
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