



UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3405 Taft Blvd.
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

****RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED****



DECEMBER 2016

University United Methodist Church

3405 Taft Blvd. Wichita Falls, TX 76308

(940)767-8511 (Phone) (940)767-6535 (FAX)

Office Hrs.: Mon, Tues:9:00-3:00, Weds. 9:00-12:00,Thurs, Fri 9:00-3:00

Rev. Tom Medley (friartom42@msn.com)

Pastor

Joshua W. White (music @uumcwf.org)

Music Director

Rachel Kapelski

Pianist

Lynn Lawson (office@uumcwf.org)

Secretary

Nancy Pearce

Nursery Director

Alyvia Nichols

Nursery worker

Jean Perkins

Nursery worker

Karlee Nichols

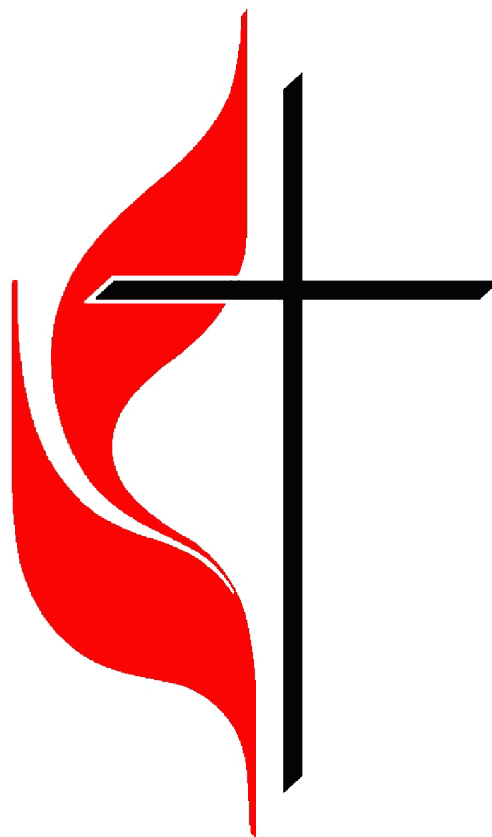
Nursery worker

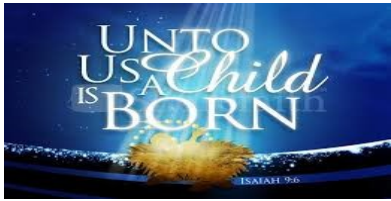
Johnny Lucy (accounting@uumcwf.org)

Business manager

Ivan Venzor

Custodian





DECEMBER 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Men's Bible Study WFAS Christmas Party	2 *Deborah Garrison* 6:00 Angel Wings Christmas Party	3 *Gary Southard* 1:00-4:00 Festival of Nativities
4 2nd Sunday of Advent: PEACE 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Children's Choir 10:50 Worship Celebration: Choir Cantata 1-4 Festival of Nativities	5 5-7 Legal Aid	6 9:30 A Simple Cross 12:00 Cancer Connection 5:30 Women's Bible Study	7 *Ann Groves, Judy Wiseman* Pearl Harbor Day 6:00 Cornerstone Café: Pumpkin Patch Bazaar revisited 6:40 Hand Bell s Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00 Men's Bible Study	9	10 *Allison Smyers, Kevin Nichols*
11 Advent: JOY 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Children's Choir 10:50 Worship Celebration 3:30—Christmas Advent Fair	12	13 *Dorman Yancey* 9:30 A Simple Cross 12:00 Cancer Connection	14 6:00 Cornerstone Café 6:40 Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 Men's Bible Study	16	17
18 *Bob Merder* 4th Sunday of Advent: LOVE 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Children's Choir 10:50 Worship Celebration	19	20 9:30 A Simple Cross 12:00 Cancer Connection 5:30 Women's Bible Study	21 6:00 Cornerstone Café 6:40 Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	22 *Linda Simpson* 7:00 Men's Bible Study	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5-6 Come n Go Communion 6:00 Candlelight Service
25 **Happy Birthday JESUS** Christmas Day 9:30 Sunday School? 9:30 Children's Choir 10:50 Worship Celebration	26 Office closed	27 *Larry Lambert, Bob Ransom* 9:30 A Simple Cross	28 *Gene Davis* 6:00 Cornerstone Café 6:40 Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	29 7:00 Men's Bible Study	30 *Debbie Wolf* Office closed	31 New Year's Eve

A Moment with Christ – Communion Dec 24

It is the time that we spend with Christ that allows others to see how much we love Him. You and your family are invited to join us Christmas Eve for a private moment of meditation and Communion, Christmas Eve from 5 to 6:00 p.m.

Come Home for Christmas

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service



6:00 PM - Christmas Eve

After fellowship, we will share finger foods and enjoy sharing memories. Please bring your own Favorite finger foods to share this festive evening.

**Yes, we will be Open for Christmas!
Worship Celebration- 10:50 a.m.**

Lest We Forget. . .

Prayer for Fair Weather

His voice was unmistakable. And his request was urgent.

By George R. Metcalf, Afton, Minnesota

The atmosphere was tense in our Third Army headquarters in France that December morning 50 years ago. I was a chaplain in General George S. Patton's army, and I knew that the entire Allied military situation in Europe was critical. At a time when we felt victory in our grasp, Hitler had launched a surprise attack of 25 armored divisions through the Ardennes in Belgium. During what was to become known as the Battle of the Bulge, thousands of Nazi troops and tanks advanced relentlessly through our lines, creating havoc and confusion.

Making matters worse was the weather. For days snow had been falling and a heavy fog blanketed the area, effectively shielding the Nazi advance from Allied air attack. Patton, in an astounding military feat, had wheeled his entire army to strike the southern shoulder of the enemy bulge, which was nearing 50 miles wide and 60 miles deep. However, without air support, he and the rest of Allied resistance were crippled.

On December 22, at 0800 hours, the phone on my desk rang.

"Chaplain!" It was the unmistakable high-pitched voice of General Patton. "Do you have any prayers for fair weather? Our men are having a rough time without air cover in the Ardennes, and the ceiling is too low for flying."

Contrary to some misleading accounts, Patton did not demand with curses a prayer that would "do the job." Though an iron-tough military genius who had earned the love and respect of his men, the tall, broad-shouldered general was a deeply spiritual man who took his faith seriously. Even during the height of battle, he rarely missed the Sunday service that I conducted as his personal chaplain; I often flew to the front in an L-4, a small reconnaissance two-seater that was nicknamed "the Grasshopper." Patton said that something I told him about courage was the best description he'd heard: "Courage is fear that has said its prayers."

I assured the general we would find a suitable prayer. That meant on the double. I took his request to Father James O'Neill, head chaplain of the Third Army, who suggested we each come up with something and compare notes. The Roman Catholic priest found a Prayer for Victory from his missal and I found an Anglican Petition for Fair Weather from my American Book of Common Prayer, the 1928 edition.

"Combine the two," O'Neill directed, "and let's see what you come up with."

I sat down and worked from several different collects in my prayer book. The phrasing had to be right, for I knew the general was a well-read man who often composed poetry.

I took the result to Chaplain O'Neill, who read it, then took up a pen and added a final sentence about crushing the "oppression and wickedness" of ruthless forces.

Father O'Neill hurried the draft to General Patton and quickly returned. "The general not only likes it," he said, "but will send it out with a Christmas greeting to everyone in the Third Army."

Did the prayer help?

All I know is that on December 23, soldiers, blinking in the bright sunlight, looked up into a clear blue sky laced with the white contrails of our planes successfully pushing back the Nazi advance.

In using up his last reserves, Hitler made Germany vulnerable to renewed Allied attacks, which brought us victory and the end of the war 19 weeks later.

Every Christmas I think about that turning point in history. And I remember the prayer that rose from the hearts of thousands of exhausted men and women as they looked up into a clear sky:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech thee, of thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon thee that armed with thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish thy justice among men and nations. Amen.