

## ***READY OR NOT; CHRISTMAS!***

I was filling up my car with gas recently, and in our mile-a-minute culture – spending a few minutes filling up your tank feels like forever. But in those few minutes I started thinking about everything I needed to do to get ready for Christmas. And I had a mild stress attack. Ok, it wasn't so mild.

And it wasn't just ready for presents or parties – it was the whole season. My heart kind of sank as I thought to myself, 'What if I don't have a meaningful Christmas?' What if me being 'not ready' means the season will just pass – and there won't be anything incredible or meaningful about it? And then it hit me; I'm the pastor. Good grief Charlie Brown.

But in that moment, I had a news flash. That first Christmas with Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds and everyone – they weren't 'ready' either. God didn't wait for them to get their act together or wait until they were staring at the sky at just the right moment or singing Silent Night with a candle in their hand or watching the kids on Christmas morning. No, God simply entered their lives, exactly the way they were whether they were ready or not.

You see, the temptation is sometimes to believe we can create this 'Emmanuel – God with us' moment by what we do during the Season. The mistake we often make is to somehow believe it's all on our shoulders.

**We think that the story of Emmanuel, God with us, is somehow dependent on us... but it's not.**

The story is about God taking the first step, God saying ready or not, here I come!

The Emmanuel moments happen driving kids to school, in the little victories at work, in the laughter before bed time, in the peaceful soul, in love, in friendship... it's about God right there in the midst of our daily life...with us on the journey whispering words of comfort and support in our ear.

It's not about being good enough, being sinless, being ready, or being anything other than who we are right now.

Because the gift of Emmanuel is available to each and every one of us right now, ready or not.

To God alone be the Glory

*Ron*



## L.I.F.F.T. *Ladies In Faith & Fellowship Together*

The ladies met on October 8<sup>th</sup> for a meeting and election of officers. The officers are:

President – Jeanine Calliham

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Margie Frazier

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Rose Mary Burk

Secretary – Mildred Weldon

We are thankful for and blessed by the U.M.W., U.M.M. and L.I.F.F.T. ladies and the successful Thanksgiving gathering on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

The next L.I.F.F.T. meeting & Christmas luncheon will be on December 10, at the home of Billie Wagner (1209 Moss Lane) . If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert. Meeting at 11:00am and meal to follow. All ladies of the church are welcome.

## Thankful & Blessed



**Youth Worship**  
**Sunday, December 15**  
**10:30am**



## United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women will gather Monday, December 16, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in Faith Hall for a potluck meal. A short meeting will be held followed by a merry little gift exchange (15.00 or less). All women of the church are invited to join in the fun. Call Emily Cheatham ( 275-4371) for more information.

## Stained Glass Windows

Have you ever taken notice of the stained glass windows in the Church Narthex, Prayer Chapel and in the rear of Faith Hall? These special and quite beautiful stained glass windows came from Brother's Chapel UMC. And you ask, how did our church come by them? When the flood of '98 came, Brother's Chapel was damaged beyond repair. Under the leadership of Pastor Tad Tadlock the two churches were joined together. Not only did Cuero FUMC get some fine people, we got the windows before the church was demolished. The windows are over 100 years old and of beautiful workmanship. It is humbling to think of these windows came from devoted believers of modest means!



Contributed article and photos by: Tom Cheatham



## Parsonage Open House

**Sunday, December 15**

**4:00pm – 6:00pm**

Pastor Ron & Darlene Welborn invites the congregation to a special Christmas Open House at the parsonage. No RSVP required – just walk on in for light refreshments and fellowship. Casual attire.



## The Season of Advent



## Christmas in the Park Live Nativity

Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7:00 – 8:30

Friday, Dec. 20 at 7:00 – 9:15

Saturday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 – 9:15

Sunday, Dec. 22 at 7:00 – 8:30 *Cuero FUMC*



Each year during Cuero's Christmas in the Park light display in the City Park, FUMC hosts a Live Nativity. People from FUMC and other area churches stand in shifts as Mary, Joseph, the angel, the Wise Men, and Shepherds. This is a tradition spanning well over 50 years and is the highlight of Christmas for many. If you are interested in either helping with or participating in this year's Live Nativity, please contact Jackie Drehr at 361-275-9531.

## Evangelism/Operation Christmas Child Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



## Church Office News

I will be on vacation

December 25 – January 5.

The office will have a few volunteers during this time.



## December Worship Volunteer Schedule

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Children's Sermon	Communion Servers
12-1-19	Mildred Weldon	Mildred & Stayton Weldon	Pastor Ron	Pastor Ron Margie Frazier Tom & Emily Cheatham
12-8-19	Bob Wood	Tom & Emily Cheatham	Sarah Ritchea	
12-15-19	Emily Cheatham	Randy & Rose Mary Burk	Wes Dukes	
12-22-19	Evelyn Boedeker	Bobby & Charla Jones	Colette Barth	
12-24-19	Tom Cheatham	Evelyn Boedeker Jeanine Calliham	Pastor Ron	
12-29-19	Mildred Weldon	Dorothy Brown Sue Halbert	Sarah Ritchea	





## Birthdays

Jeanine Calliham	1 <sup>st</sup>
Sonya Wolf	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Doug Wilson	4 <sup>th</sup>
Wayne Wolf	6 <sup>th</sup>
Lee Etta Jenkins	10 <sup>th</sup>
Darlene Welborn	15 <sup>th</sup>
Angeline Campbell	18 <sup>th</sup>
Dianne Westmoreland	18 <sup>th</sup>
Marianne Martin	21 <sup>st</sup>
Douglas Simpson	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Sheldon Wolf	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Larry Wolf	24 <sup>th</sup>
Shirley Simpson	29 <sup>th</sup>



## Anniversaries

Clifton & Lisa Langton	19 <sup>th</sup>
Wes & Sandy Dukes	20 <sup>th</sup>
Ray & Linda Sager	22 <sup>nd</sup>

C.A.M.A.L. House  
Collection for  
December:  
**Canned Meat**



## CRANBERRY PECAN CHEESE BALL

### Prep Time

1 hour 10 minutes

### Servings

10

This Cranberry Pecan Cheese Ball is the easiest crowd-pleasing appetizer to share with your family and friends this holiday season.

### Ingredients

- \*8 ounces cream cheese softened
- \*2 cups sharp white cheddar cheese shredded
- \*1/3 cup dried cranberries finely chopped
- \*1/3 cup green onions chopped
- \*1/2 cup pecans finely chopped
- \*Crackers for serving

### Instructions

1. Mix cream cheese and cheddar cheese together. Fold in the cranberries and green onions. Drop cheese mixture onto plastic wrap and fold up. Roll into a ball and place in fridge for at least an hour.

2. Just before serving, roll in the pecans. Serve with crackers.

Recipe by: Melanie Dueck  
[www.therecipecritic.com](http://www.therecipecritic.com)



First United Methodist Church  
211 N. Clinton Street  
Cuero, TX 77954