

This monthly newsletter is a publication by Schertz United Methodist Church in Schertz, TX. Its purpose is to inform congregation members of news and event within the church community. All SUMC members are welcome to contribute items for publication subject to minimal editing and space limitations. Contributions may be sent to news@schertzumc.com



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 Issue 11
November 2017

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM
Family Praise
Worship Service

10:15 - 11:00 AM
Sunday School &
Small Group Time

11:15 AM
Traditional Family
Worship Service

1:00 - 3:00 PM
Pre Youth Group
(5th & 6th Grades)

1:00 - 3:00 PM
Youth Group
(7th - 12th Grades)

Communion is
served on the first
Sunday of the month
at both services

For information
about Schertz United
Methodist Church
please call the office
at 210.658.3202 or
visit our website at
schertzumc.com

Newsletter Deadline
December 17th

Thoughts From Pastor Jim



Just one more month until Advent starts on the first Sunday of December. I know that many of you have already started your Christmas shopping and preparations. Others of you do not begin to think about it until after Thanksgiving. I am challenging everyone to make this Christmas different.

Every year you will see, read or hear opinions that Christmas has become too commercial. People say that Christmas has become all about the presents we give. To be honest, people were saying the same things when I was a boy, but no one seems to do anything about it. This bothered Rev. Michael Slaughter, pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio. Rev. Slaughter decided to lead his congregation into this change. In 2004 he told his congregation that he wanted them to have a slim Christmas that year. He went on to challenge them with "whatever amount you spend on your friends and family, I challenge you to spend that same amount on people in need." This was a challenge to reject the self-centered, consumer holiday that Christmas has become and move into a time where Christians can make a difference in the world. Christians can make many people's lives much better without spending any more money than they would normally. On October 22, I preached a message titled "Christmas is Not Your Birthday". On that Sunday we saw a video that showed that if the United States would take the money they spend just on presents at Christmas, they could eliminate hunger in the world. That would be a powerful witness to the world that Christians do care about others.



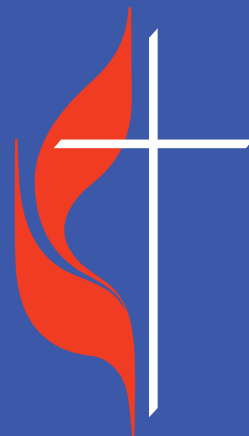
I challenge each person in the ministry to look at what they plan on spending at Christmas and consider spending 1/2 that amount on their friends and family so that they can spend the other 1/2 on those in need. This ministry will help support this through:

- 1. The **Heifer International** which supplies animals which can help support those in grinding poverty.
- 2. Support of **RACAP (Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program)** which is focused on the needs of people in this area.
- 3. **The Lydia Patterson Institute**, a ministry located in El Paso that provides Christian education for those on both sides of the border. This ministry enables youth who have little opportunity and to get the education they need to change their family's lives. Over 95% of graduates attend college or universities.
- 4. **Children's Hunger Fund**, an organization dedicated to eliminating hungry children in the world.

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CHURCH STAFF LISTING



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Grace Place
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gplc@schertzumc.com

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 3:30 PM
P: 210.658.3202 F: 210.658.1280
schertzumc.com
email: secretary@schertzumc.com

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Here is how to help this Ministry: Heifer International. We will begin collecting change that can purchase an animal on Oct. 22. You may want to consider buying an animal as a gift to friend or as a family.



RACAP and Lydia Patterson Institute. Special gifts will be appreciated. The collection taken at the Candlelight Worship services on Christmas Eve will be divided between RACAP and Lydia Patterson up to a total of \$10,000.

Children's Hunger Fund. Any money over \$10,000 collected at the Candlelight worship services will go to the Children's Hunger Fund.

We can make this a Merry Christmas for ourselves and many others through this effort. Please help us make a difference this Christmas. What would God rather us do with our money than help God's people?

November Sermons

Nov. 5 & 19 - Focused on Revelations

Nov. 12 - Veterans Day focus on Sacrifice

Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving When Times are Difficult

Altar rail offering for November is RACAP**The Crisis Committee**

The Crisis Committee is a ministry where church members sacrificially providing their time and resources for a grieving family of our church community. We provide an after funeral reception to calm and love the family on this day. What a wonderful mission goal! Without all our angel volunteers who assist, cook, provide, serve, and clean up, we could never accomplish this.

The Crisis Committee would like to bless and give thanks for the special angels of this church who supported us for the recent calls-to-action for our crisis committee needs. We are so grateful that the Schertz church body continues to provide this compassionate need for the families. Throughout 2017 volunteers in service to our committee have brought much relief and comfort. So we wish to shout out a very big THANK YOU! If you would like to become part of this ministry, please talk to Carol Flick or Lucy McCann. Lord please provide us with a successful 2018 as we pray for all our love ones.

Connections at Schertz

Good News, we did receive a grant from the Rio Texas Conference to support this effort. Connections at Schertz began September 17. This is a collection of activities on Sunday evenings. We begin with a meal served at 6:00 each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. We follow with a worship experience at 6:45 also in the Fellowship Hall. Small groups follow at 7:30. We offer groups such as: Grief Support, PTSD Family Support, Returning Warrior Support, Marriage Enrichment and AA. Other groups are coming. This has already been a powerful experience that is making a difference. Try it out and see if it touches your life.

Veteran's Day

Veterans Day with SUMC will be an awesome Celebration. Please join us in the Prayer Garden for free veteran honors, prayers and free donuts and coffee.

November 10, 2017 9am – 11:00am. Bring a flag,

Bring your hopes.

Bring your prayers.

Bring a neighbor and bring a veteran.

**Grace Place Playground Update**

The playground is essentially finished and looks great! When we started this project, we had hoped to raise the needed \$72,000 without borrowing. Part of this was the hope that we could receive some grant money to help us. However, we received word that we definitely are not getting one grant and am losing hope of getting the other. Therefore we still need about \$13,000 to complete the project. I will be making an appeal over the next weeks to complete this project as well as get enough to replace some of the riding toys and purchase needed advertising for Grace Place.

On Friday, November 17, the Grace Place children and their families will enjoy a "traditional" Thanksgiving Feast of chicken nuggets, macaroni & cheese, and cookies. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and clean up from about 9:30 a.m.-12:30p.m. The first group will be served at 11:00 a.m., and the second at 11:50 a.m. You may contact Barbara Ricks at 210-326-6565 for more information.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE**

Sunday, November 12, 2017 KNOTS CRAFT GROUP CHRISTMAS SALE: decorations, wreaths, trees and presents. Remember the microwave bowl holder? Great for you and great for presents. Also some Thanksgiving decorations. Times-- Before, between and after the morning church services. Come see what we have. FMI: Vi Dries 210-658-1730

**Driver Safety Course**

Have you been looking for a Drivers Safety Course? Monday, November 20, 2017, at Schertz UMC, 12PM to 4:30 PM. Contact your insurance agent regarding a discount. All ages welcome, you don't have to be a member of AARP. \$15 for AARP members. \$25 for non-members. To register call Allie 210-658-6065

SUMC Library

Do you know we have a library full of Christian books? We have novels, group books, spiritual focus books, and a reference area too. Come by and check out a book while growing in Christ. The library is located in room 201. We also have a puzzle exchange corner. Just take one and bring one.....for all you jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts. If a library ministry is something you can contribute to please contact Lucy McCann for more information.

Diamond Club

All seniors, 50 years and over, are invited to join the Diamond Club for the monthly POT LUCK LUNCH, Monday, November 27, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We have a great lunch and program.

You meet seniors from all services, and make new friends. If it is your first visit, no need to bring a dish.

This will be our last meeting until January, 2018. FMI: Vi Dries 210-658-1730

**Staff Love Offering**

Looking ahead: A Love Offering will be collected for the Schertz UMC staff during offering time on the first two Sundays in December. This is a wonderful way to show our appreciation for the hard work our staff provides all year. Collection dates will be on December 3 and 10. We certainly appreciate any contribution you may offer. Thanks

RACAP

RACAP would like to thank the congregation for its generous donation of 44 jars of peanut butter and 32 jars of jelly, and many other items, during the month of September!



Holiday Meal Basket Program 2017

Once again, RACAP, the Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program, is conducting its annual Holiday Meal Basket Program. This program provides a meal basket with everything a family needs for a small holiday meal, including the turkey, for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. The program is seeking financial donations to cover the cost of the turkeys and donations of the following items to help fill the baskets. There may still be an opportunity for a group, Sunday School class, or even your family to sign up to provide gifts for children for Christmas and/or the meal basket for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. Please submit a sponsor application (available in the Narthex) by no later than November 2, 2017 (extended deadline) for this opportunity to bless a family for the holidays. For details, call RACAP 210-658-1613. Sponsor Applications can be faxed to 210-658-3336 or emailed to racap@att.net. Jessie Fisher, RACAP Program Director.

Please help RACAP fill their Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets with:

Chicken broth	Flour	Granulated Sugar (4 lb. bag)	Brown Sugar (1 lb.)
Evaporated Milk	Yams	Canned Pumpkin	Stuffing Mix
Fruit Cocktail	Corn	Cranberry Sauce	Green Beans

Donated funds will be used to purchase turkeys and perishable items for the baskets.

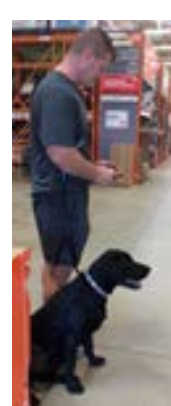
If you are sponsoring a family, the basket should also include eggs, margarine/butter, pie shells, celery, onions, potatoes, rolls/bread and the turkey.

Operation Battle Buddies

Operation Battle Buddies, a Ministry of SUMC, offers well bred Labrador retriever puppies to our military heroes injured by military duties and dealing with the effects of PTSD. Service dog training begins immediately after puppies go home with their forever family. Training is provided by In Dog We Trust and is held at each warrior's home with puppy - the trainers abide by the American Disabilities Act. Puppies and training are at no cost to our military heroes.

Please join us **Sunday Nov 12** to pray with and for our American heroes and their OBB puppy. We are preparing to make the transition to go to their new homes!

Will you join OBB and financially support the Service Dog Training? It is a very small way we can say thank you to these guys for their sacrifices. If you have any questions about OBB or want information call Kathy239-887-0109 or visit OperationBattleBuddies Facebook page and watch us grow!!!



Christmas Around the World

How do Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ? On November 26th the Children's Ministry Dept is hosting a Christmas Around the World event. We are looking for folks to host a booth from a country they are familiar with. Each booth will have an activity that is representative of that country, a food that is enjoyed in that country, and any items you may have that are from there. This is a great opportunity for children and families to experience the birth of Jesus through the eyes of many cultures. Email Jodi to sign up to get involved. jgutierrez@schertzumc.com.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world. Every one of these shoebox gifts is an opportunity for the Gospel. In the hands of local churches, it is a powerful tool for evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication. Many shoebox recipients also enroll in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program. The Greatest Journey, where they learn to follow Christ and share Him with others. You can be a part of this worldwide effort to grow the Kingdom of God even in places where the Gospel has never been heard.

It's easy and fun!

- 1) Get a standard size shoebox or pick one up from Schertz UMC.
- 2) Select a "Wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal.
- 3) Fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.
- 4) Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.
- 5) Include a \$9 donation to cover shipping and other project costs.
- 6) Drop your shoebox here at Schertz UMC No later than November 12th.



Volunteer with OCC

This year, Schertz UMC is serving as the community drop off location for Operation Christmas Child boxes. We will be accepting boxes from other churches and community members everyday between November 6th – 13th. If you are interested in helping with this project, I welcome you with grateful open arms. Contact me, Jodi, to get involved, jgutierrez@schertzumc.com.

Revelation 22:2

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 2012 was the beginning of our Tree of Life. My how we have blossomed. Now five years later we are still growing our tree. With a donation of a \$10.00 leaf you are helping to pay down our church commitment on this building. Thanksgiving is a time of remembering and thanking God for our family past and present, past saints and especially for our Lord Jesus. Let us heal ourselves, our families, and our nation.

Envelopes to participate in this honoring, blessing, or remembering of loved ones are available on the information desk in the lobby. Place in the offering plates after filling out the enclosed form. Leaves are for sale only through November.

November Birthdays

Chase Snook	11/01	Brianna Martin	11/05	Todd Rector	11/10	Ellen Coley	11/20
Mason Snook	11/01	Gustin Ortiz	11/07	Allie Kuhlmann	11/12	Daryl Mathison	11/20
Barbra Blackman	11/02	Sandy McLeod	11/08	Toni Grosshaupt	11/13	Carmen Alonso	11/21
Winston Parsons	11/02	Barbara Ricks	11/08	Laura Bull	11/14	Carolyn Williams	11/23
Hans Grosshaupt	11/03	Jacob Beck	11/09	Margaret Jones	11/17	Jamie Alonso	11/24
Nathan Royer	11/04	Bert Lynch	11/09	Shirley Landrum	11/17	Zach Royer	11/24
Eilene Wollslager	11/04	Marc Runkle	11/09	Rick Mussi	11/17	Donna Layman	11/25
Frances Escueta	11/05	Martha Henning	11/10	Carol Randecker	11/18	Melina Neal	11/28
						Jo Ullmann	11/30



Regular Sunday Schedule
 9:00 AM - Contemporary Service
 10:15 AM - Sunday School
 11:15 AM - Traditional Service

NOVEMBER

Regular Sunday Afternoon Schedule
 1 PM - Pre Youth Group (5th & 6th Grades)
 1 PM - Youth Group (7th - 12th Grades)
 6 PM - The Connection Dinner
 6:45 PM - The Connection Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am - KNOTS 6pm - Drama Team 6:30pm - UMW 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	2 9am - Ladies Bible Study 10am - Thurs. Morning Bible Study 11am - Mesquite Magnolias 6pm - Worship Team 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group	3 10am - Round Tuits 12pm - Ladies Lunch Bunch	4 7am - Men's Bible Study 12am - Drama Team 2-9pm - Full Circle 3-9pm - UMM Pancake Supper
5 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	6 6pm - Connection Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Group 7:30pm - AA Group	7 7-9pm - Elections 10am - Coffee Break Bible Study 6:30pm - Sunrise Emmaus 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	8 10am - KNOTS 6pm - Drama Team 6:30pm - SPRC 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	9 9am - Ladies Bible Study 9am - The Purple Hats 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7pm - Chancel Choir 7pm - Lung Disease Support 7:30pm - AA Group	10 9:30am - Counseling 10am - Round Tuits	11 7am - 8am Men's Bible Study 2pm - Kraftie Ladies Set Up
12 Veterans Day Wear your uniform 8am - Craft Sale 9-12:30 - Operation Battle Buddies 12pm - Prayer Vigil 2pm - Kids Power Hour 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - Support Groups	13 6pm - Connections Praise Band 6:30pm - Community Connections 7:30pm - Full Circle Group 7:30pm - Paths to Recovery AA Group	14 9:30am - MOPS 10am - Coffee Break Bible Study 6:30pm - Finance Team 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	15 10am - Wuest Circle 6pm - Drama Team 6:30pm - Church Council 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	16 9am - Ladies Bible Study 10am - Thurs. Morning Bible Study 11am - Mesquite Magnolias 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group	17 10am - Round Tuits	18 7am - Men's Bible Study 8-5 - Day of Visioning
19 9-1 - UMW Bake Sale 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	20 12pm - Defensive Driving Course 6pm - Connections Praise Band 6:30pm - Ladies Bunco 7:30pm - Full Circle Group 7:30pm - Paths to Recovery AA Group	21 10am - Coffee Break Bible Study 5-9pm - Emmaus 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	22 6pm - UMM 6pm - Drama Team 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	23 THANKSGIVING 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7:30pm - AA Group	24 10am - Round Tuits	25 7am - Men's Bible Study
26 10am - Christmas Around the World 3pm - Praise Band 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups 7:30pm - AA Groups 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	27 12pm - Diamond Club 6pm - Connections Praise Band 6:30pm - Mission Team 6:30pm - GPLC Board Meeting 7:30pm - Full Circle Group 7:30pm - Paths to Recovery AA Group	28 9:30am - MOPS 10am - Coffee Break Bible Study 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	29 10am - KNOTS 6pm - Drama Team 6:30pm - GPLC Board Meeting 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	30 9am - Ladies Bible Study 10am - Thurs. Morning Bible Study 11am - Mesquite Magnolias 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group		