

Connections Worship Experience

Connect with friends during a free meal;
Connect with God in a high-energy worship service;
Connect with others like you in a small group.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

6:00 pm - FREE supper
6:45 pm - Worship
7:30 pm - Small Groups

Church Office Closed

The church offices will be closed from December 24th through January 1st.

CHURCH STAFF LISTING



Senior Pastor
Rev. Jim Curran
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Associate Pastor
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Church Office Hours
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Grace Place
Learning Center
Hours: 6:30 AM - 6 PM
210.658.0846
graceplaceschertz.com

The Schertz
United Methodist Church

CONNECTOR



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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM
Traditional Service

10:15 AM
Sunday School &
Small Groups

11:15 AM
Praise Service

Communion is
served on the first
Sunday of the month

1:30 - 3:30 PM
Youth Group
(7th - 12th Grades)

6:00 PM
Connections Dinner
& Worship

Thoughts From Pastor Jim

Christmas is that special time when most people try to put forth their best. People are usually kinder, more generous and friendlier. This started because God gave the best gift ever, the very Son of God who takes away the sins of the world. Our prayer each year is that this is the year when people open their hearts and accept this great gift from God so that every day will be a day full of our best.



Christmas Sermon Series

Not a Silent Night

The series this season will be "Not a Silent Night". The series is based on the book of the same name by Adam Hamilton. The sermons will support the Advent Study the church is going through. The series begins with Mary being an older woman, then each week we will look through Mary's life as she gets younger until on Christmas Eve she is probably about 14 years old.



Longest Night Worship

Our "Longest Night" worship will be held Friday, December 21st at 6:30pm. This worship is designed to be a comfort to those who suffered the loss of a loved one. We acknowledge that not everyone is joyous during this time of the year. The Holidays can be difficult when someone is still grieving, so we come together, worship God, give thanks for the birth of the baby Jesus and give support to the grieving.

Christmas Eve Worship



Worship Times will be 3:30pm, 5:30pm and 7:30pm. The Offering taken during these worship services will be a special offering. 90% of the offering will go to causes outside the church. This will be split between Guadalupe County Family Violence Center, Lydia Patterson Institute, and RACAP. Only 10% of this offering will be used to support SUMC ministries.

Altar Rail Offering for December

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Newsletter Deadline 15th of each month
news@schertzumc.com

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RACAP

The RACAP Food of the Month for December is Breakfast Cereal, both hot and cold.



Staff Love Offering



A Love Offering will be collected for our 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. Collection dates will be on December 2nd and 10th. We appreciate any contribution you may offer. Thank You!

Christmas Eve Help Needed

Volunteers are needed at the Coffee Bar before and after each service on Christmas Eve (3:30, 5:30, & 7:30 pm). Duties will include making coffee and replenishing refreshments. A sign-up sheet is located at the Coffee Bar.

Share Your Christmas Cookie Favorites

Why not bake an extra dozen or two of your favorite holiday cookies to share at the Coffee Bar on Christmas Eve? Your donations may be left in the kitchen on Sunday, December 23rd.

United Methodist Women

Annual Christmas Party and Officer Installations. December 5th, 6:30pm, Room 106. Menu: Baked ham with all the sides (pot luck). An offering will be taken this special evening for Uganda's RCMI school.

Invitation to a Miracle

The Chancel Choir and friends will present the annual Christmas cantata on **December 23rd at 9:00am and 11:15am services.** Invite a friend to witness the miracle of Christmas in this musical offering by Joseph Martin, "Invitation to a Miracle".



Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells by Allison Park

Peace and goodwill don't come easily to us...at least according to precocious first grader, Junie B. Jones. Sassy Junie B. and Tattletale May have a turbulent rivalry in first-grade Room One. Teacher Mr. Scary has his hands full trying to teach them how to be kind to one another, while their colorful classmates add to the classroom shenanigans. When Junie B. pulls her nemesis May's name for Secret Santa, she is tempted to spend her Secret Santa money to buy a gift for herself instead! Will she learn the Christmas lesson that giving is better than receiving? Join SUMC Drama Team for the 4th Annual Christmas Play, Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells. There will be two hilarious performances on December 22nd at 2pm and 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. You won't want to miss it!



Frank Layman	12/01	Auburn Ortiz	12/07	Jamie Overocker	12/19	Evelyn Wooten	12/23
Darlene Runkle	12/01	Ashley Hudson	12/10	Alice Sutherlun	12/19	Kyla Nettles	12/24
Steve Burch	12/02	Kade Nettles	12/10	Stephanie Hudson	12/20	Samantha Spreeman	12/25
Eric Eickel	12/03	Jennifer Fuller	12/11	Alexandra Murray	12/20	Tony Abbott	12/26
Alison Gutierrez	12/03	McKenna Mussi	12/11	Sydney Murray	12/20	Lilly Volante	12/28
Christina Marbach	12/03	Carol Flick	12/13	Alicia Alonso	12/21	Mary Armstrong	12/29
Dorothy Condrey	12/04	Mark Patience	12/13	Charles Bolin	12/21	Carl Moudy	12/30
Euna Harrell	12/04	Rylee Spreeman	12/13	Cameron Dilworth	12/21	Kylie Vlk	12/30
Cliff Tullos	12/04	Travis Seewald	12/15	Chris McDonald	12/21		



- 21st 6:30pm - Longest Night Service**
- 22nd 2:00pm - Play
5:00pm - Play**
- 23rd 9:00am - Cantata
10:00am - Jesus Birthday Party
11:15am - Cantata**
- 24th 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30 pm
Christmas Eve Services**

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:00am in room 111. This class will take a Christmas **break**, but will resume on January 10th.

Small Group Starts

Small Groups are the life-blood of Christianity. Small groups form the core of Methodist traditions. However, we have gotten away from this foundational practice. Therefore, you will be hearing more about new small groups. We are encouraging groups to meet in homes, coffee shops, restaurants or wherever best fits your group. There are several excellent studies that are video based so they are "plug and play", while others have workbooks OR you choose the topics. The only qualifications are that the group is God centered and friendly. If you are interested in facilitating or participating in a small group let Pastor Jim or Pastor Mike know.



Calling all Parents, No Matter Your Child's Age

A new Sunday School class just for you will begin at 10:15 am on **January 13th, 2019**. The first study will be "**Intentional Parenting**, 10 Ways to be an Exceptional Parent in a Quick Fix World" by Doug and Cathy Fields. More information coming soon.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will begin on Wednesdays beginning January 16th, 6:30-7:30pm. All 6th - 10th graders who have not already been confirmed are invited to join us as we explore how God is working in our lives and how we can live out our faith. This class will be led by Pastor Jim, Pastor Mike and Jodi Gutierrez. Please email jgutierrez@schertzumc.com to register to begin on January 16th, 6:30pm.

MISSION 
News

Thank You for Serving in Our Local Community

With blessings from the Missions team, Community Connections is tasked with all things in local mission and evangelism. Fourth quarter completed events include:

- Celebrated Veterans Day @ the Prayer Garden
- Supported Cibolo Fire Station #2 with cookies
- Placed the "Bring a book - Take a book" station and supplied it
- Invited so so many to Christmas services via mailings

Thank You all for supporting this leadership team. Looking forward to a New Year in mission for our communities.

How is Christmas Celebrated in Other Places?

Here are a few interesting ways Christmas is celebrated that you may find interesting.



In France on Christmas eve, Children put their polished shoes out in front of the chimney and hope that 'Père Noël' (Father Christmas) fills the shoes with sweets.

In Italy, 'Babbo Natale', that's how Father Christmas is called in Italian, hands out presents to children on Christmas Day. Still in many families, gifts are exchanged only on January 6 the day of Epiphany.

In Iceland, children put their shoes on the windowsill so the 'Juletide Lads', the Santa Claus, fills the shoes with little goodies.

In the Philippines there is a special tradition of having a Christmas lantern, which is called 'paról'; the lantern is star-shaped, remembering the star of Bethlehem, and mainly made out of bamboo and paper.



Children in New Zealand leave out carrots for Santa's reindeer and Santa might be left a beer and some pineapple chunks!



In Haiti on Christmas Eve, children place their newly cleaned shoes, filled with straw under the tree on the porch. They hope that Santa (called 'Tonton Nwèl') will remove the straw and put presents in and around the shoes!



In Lebanon, the crib is more popular than a Christmas Tree. It's traditional for the scene to be based around a cave rather than a stable. It's often decorated with sprouted seeds such as chickpeas, broad-beans, lentils, oats and wheat that have been grown on damp cotton wool in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The crib scene then becomes a focus for the prayer of people in the house.



Why December 25th?









To us, Christmas and December are inseparable. But for the first three centuries of Christianity, Christmas wasn't in December—or on the calendar anywhere. If observed at all, the celebration of Christ's birth was usually lumped in with Epiphany (January 6), one of the church's earliest established feasts. Some church leaders even opposed the idea of a birth celebration. Origen (c.185-c.254) preached that it would be wrong to honor Christ in the same way Pharaoh and Herod were honored. Birthdays were for pagan gods. Not all of Origen's contemporaries agreed that Christ's birthday shouldn't be celebrated, and some began to speculate on the date (actual records were apparently long lost). Clement of Alexandria (c.150-c.215) favored May 20 but noted that others had argued for April 18, April 19, and May 28. Hippolytus (c.170-c.236) championed January 2. November 17, November 20, and March 25 all had backers as well. A Latin treatise written around 243 pegged March 21, because that was believed to be the date on which God created the sun. Polycarp (c.69-c.155) had followed the same line of reasoning to conclude that Christ's birth and baptism most likely occurred on Wednesday, because the sun was created on the fourth day. The eventual choice of December 25, made perhaps as early as 273, reflects a convergence of Origen's concern about pagan gods and the church's identification of God's son with the celestial sun. Also, December 25 was close to the winter solstice which was celebrated by the pagans. So the later missionaries started converting it to celebrating Jesus' birth.



Sunday Morning Schedule
 9:00 AM - Traditional Service
 10:15 AM - Sunday School
 11:15 AM - Praise Service

December

Sunday Afternoon Schedule
 1:30 PM - Youth Group (7th -12th Grades)
 6:00 PM - Connections Dinner
 6:45 PM - Connections Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7am - Men's Bible Study
2 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	3 6pm - Connections Praise Band 7:30pm - AA Group	4 6:30pm - Play Practice 6:30pm - Sonrise Emmaus 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders 	5 6:30pm - UMW 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon 	6 9am - Ladies Bible Study 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 6:30pm - Advent Study 7pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group	7 10am - Round Tuits 12pm - Ladies Lunch Bunch 7pm - AA Meeting	8 7am - Men's Bible Study 7pm - UMM Christmas Party
9 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - AA Groups 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	10 6:30pm - Connections Praise Band 6:30pm - Community Connections 7:30pm - AA Group	11 9:30am - MOPS 6:30pm - Play Practice 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	12 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	13 9am - Ladies Bible Study 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 6:30pm - Advent Study 7:00pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group	14 10am - Round Tuits 7pm - AA Meeting	15 7am - Men's Bible Study 
16 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	17 6:30pm - Connections Praise Band 6pm - Ladies Bunco 7:30pm - AA Group	18 6:30pm - Play Practice 7pm - AA Group 7:30pm - Faith Builders	19 7pm - Praise Band 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon	20 9am - Ladies Bible Study 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 6:30pm - Advent Study 7pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group	21 10am - Round Tuits 6:30pm - Longest Night Service 7pm - AA Meeting	22 7am - Men's Bible Study 2pm - Play 5pm - Play
23 Festive Christmas Sweater 9am & 11:15am - Cantata 10am - Jesus BD Party 23rd & 30th 2pm - Reunion Group 6pm & 7pm - AA Group 6:30pm - Men's Purity Group 7:30pm - Recovery Groups	24 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Services 7:30pm - AA Group 31st 10am - Children's NYE celebration 7:30pm - AA Group 8pm - Youth Lock In	25  7pm - AA Group	26 6:30pm - GPLC Board Meeting 7pm - Praise Band 7pm - Support Group 7pm - UMM 7:30pm - Full Circle Narcotics Anon 	27 9am - Ladies Bible Study 6pm - Pass It ON AFG & Aliteen 7pm - Chancel Choir 7:30pm - AA Group	28 10am - Round Tuits 7pm - AA Meeting	29 7am - Men's Bible Study 