

# WEEKLY UPDATE

January 17, 2025

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KAUFMAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A Word From Our Pastor

In my reading this week, I came across this anecdote:

Jack Martens is a middle school band teacher in San Francisco. For thirty-three years he has braved the challenges of less-than-ideal teaching conditions to live out his faith. Over 50 percent of Martens' students are from broken homes, on welfare, or from families where English is not the first language. And funding for the arts has all but disappeared in Jack's school district.

Still the fifty-six-year-old, bearded band teacher shepherds his students through the trials of life. "I love these kids," he says. "And they love me. In me they can see my love for Jesus Christ."

Although Martens keeps a Bible and other Christian symbols on his desk, it is his interaction with the kids that is his primary witness. He eats lunch with his kids to help them talk through their problems. He stays after school to help them with difficult fingerings on their instruments. Through the mechanics of music he is able to show his students they are capable of something beautiful.

Preachers very often speak of our own calling to preach as if it is the pinnacle of Christian service. Even though most will still say, "God calls everyone, no matter the profession!" many people walk away with the sense that every calling except vocational ministry is incomplete at best.

One of the goals of my personal ministry is to refute that notion in the minds of people. There is nothing incomplete or missing in the story I just told you. Like so many teachers I know, Jack shows his students their worth in profound ways, in ways that can help the gospel message take root. Every task God sets before us is holy. Every calling from God is whole and real. It may not even be tied to a job, but God calls every one of us with purpose and vision. Let us embrace God's call in our lives!

See you Sunday!  
Rhea





From UMC Discipleship Ministries:

*While there is much to be said for building knowledge of the basic stories of our faith (in Sunday School), such knowledge should not serve as the sole criterion for small-group settings in our congregations. The Scriptures proclaim that human beings are fundamentally created for relationship with God and one another. The Hebrew Scriptures describe these relationships in terms of covenant — God calls us to be God's people; as we respond, God promises to be our God.*

Benefits of Small Group Study (Sunday School) include:

Keeping in touch with God: Consistently work to develop relationship with God.

Keeping in touch with God's people: Keeping in touch with group members means knowing about personality types, learning styles, spiritual formation preferences, age-level characteristics, and other aspects of human growth and development. Group experiences then can be shaped to match the interests and needs of the group members.

Keeping in touch with our experiences: Our experience shapes our perceptions about God and about belonging to the church. Our beliefs, values, and attitudes, in turn, influence the way we interpret our experience. Sunday school classes are conducive to helping people reflect on their experience in light of Scripture and church teachings.

Keeping in touch with the world, The church is an extension of the ministry of Jesus Christ. In the name of Christ, we offer words of hope, encouragement, challenge, and direction. The church exists to serve the world, not itself. Groups come up with ideas and find ways to participate in the ongoing mission and ministry of the congregation.

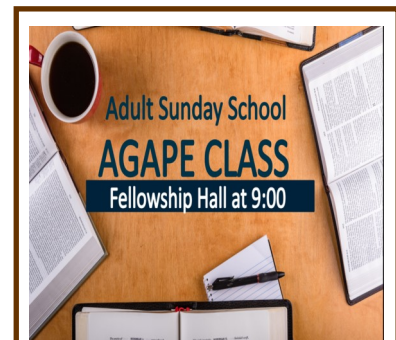
- \* Children's Sunday School - Room 5 (Orange Room)
- \* Youth Sunday School - Youth Room (Sanctuary Upstairs)
- \* Agape Class - Fellowship Hall
- \* New Adult Class begins January 26 in the Adult Center.

Bring your children ages Pre-k through 5th grade to our weekly Sunday School Class in the Orange Room. With games, video, songs, activities, and bible lessons, Leslie, Robin, and Tana will help your kiddos learn what matters most is to Simply Love Jesus and each other.



1 John 4:7 'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.'

Mr. Mike is excited to lead our youth with biblical teaching, encouraging them to live into their growing faith, and mentor them as they seek to apply Christian values in their daily relationships. Mike will bring the donuts!



Good Fellowship,  
Good Conversation,  
Good Friends, and  
Good Coffee.





## Methodist Women Meeting

Methodist Women Meetings are the  
third Tuesday of each month.

Join us on January 21  
in Fellowship Hall.

**Mary Group at 2:30**  
**Rachel Group at 6:30**



## Run Home

From 3-Minute Devotions (Daily Devotional), published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.

*But now, God's Message, the God who made you in the first place, Jacob, the One who got you started, Israel: "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)*

Remember when you were a child and you ran outside to play? When it came time for dinner, your mom called you in. She called you by name. And you stopped whatever you were doing and ran. You ran home! Because at home, your parents (the ones whose love created you) protected you and provided for you. They fed, clothed, and nourished you. They answered all your questions. They gave you directions.

Now you're all grown up. And there is still one who protects you, provides for you, and nourishes you. It's God, the One who got you started. He calls your name, You are His! He longs for you to run home to him!

***Listen! Be still. Quite your thoughts. Do you hear Him? He's calling your name!***

Drop whatever you're doing and run! Run into His arms. Allow Him to fill you with His Spirit and His peace. Allow Him to love you with an everlasting love. Allow Him to feed you on His Word. Allow Him to hold you tight. He will never let you fall, never let you go. You need not be afraid! In His arms...You Are Home!

*Dear Lord, I hear You calling my name! Here I am Lord! Here I am!  
I'm Home! In Jesus name, Amen.*

Love and Blessings to you all,  
Karen



### Birthday Blessings!

Andrew Johnson - December 2

Ken Caffey - December 4

Gabe Tijerina - December 4

Donovan Sisson - December 7

Mary Hurtado - December 8

Betty Bates - December 8

Stevie Hulme - December 12

Leslie Bullock - December 13

Charrise Martin - December 19

JoAnn LaQuey - December 20

Jerry Hitt - December 24

Mike Rogers - December 27

Terri Elzner - December 29

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Sunday, January 19

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

#### Monday, January 20

Office closed in observance of MLK Day

#### Tuesday, January 21

10:00 a.m. Friendship Sewing Group

2:30 p.m. Mary Group Meeting

6:30 p.m. Rachel Group Meeting

#### Wednesday, January 22

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

5:45 p.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, January 23

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

#### Saturday, January 25

8:00 a.m. Methodist Men Breakfast



#### NOW Backpack at OP Norman Jr. High

At this time we have 18 students identified as in need for the service.

Below is the list of things that are in need:

Shampoo and Conditioner  
peanut butter  
tuna or chicken pouches  
small juices

The Leadership class and Mrs. Maly thank you so much for the generosity of the church. It helps out tremendously!

#### Senior Connect - Kaufman Meals on Wheels

Partnering with Senior Connect, our church delivers a hot meal to our neighbors each Wednesday throughout the year.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Pam Caffey.



BE COMPLETELY  
HUMBLE AND  
GENTLE;  
BE PATIENT,  
BEARING WITH  
ONE ANOTHER  
IN LOVE.

*Ephesians 4:2, NIV*