

# WEEKLY UPDATE

February 7, 2025

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KAUFMAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A Word From Our Pastor

*We would like to introduce you to our current Leadership Board for FUMC Kaufman! We are working together for the continued growth and success of our church, and are looking forward to walking together with all our church family into the future!*



### Debbie Gilham – Board Chair

I have been a member of First United Methodist Church - Kaufman for approximately 26 years. I have held previous positions as Worship Chair, Trustee Chair and been on the SPR and Finance Committees. I have accepted the position of Leadership Board Chair for 2025 as I love this church with all my heart and the people in it.



### Betty Bates

I've been a member of FUMC Kaufman for 17 years. I have served on SPRC, Trustees, & president of Methodist women.



### Carol Cooper

Before leaving the workforce in 2023, my 40+ year professional career was spent in music management and telecommunications project management. I believe

God led me to Kaufman FUMC several years ago and to this church family.



### Bobby Aga

I have been a member here for 30 years and have served as Trustee Chair, UMM President, SPR Chair, Conference ERT Trainer, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Conference and teacher of the Agape

Class (with nearly 50 years teaching various age groups). I retired as Director of Southeast YMCA in Dallas and from 40 years in the insurance industry. I have a deep appreciation for church history and maintaining our historic facilities while remaining relevant in today's world.



### Randy Johnson

Hi! I'm Randy Johnson, husband to Marci (who was baptized and confirmed into this Church). Our oldest son is Andrew, who is married to Paige, and Jake is our youngest. Both were Baptized at FUMC

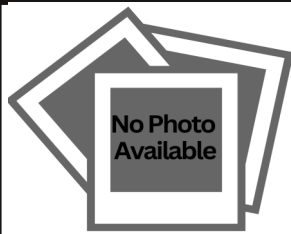
Kaufman. I'm a CPA with 30+ years of experience and currently work for National Carriers.

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**Dave Spaulding**

I was born and raised in a small town in Illinois and attended Western Illinois University on a music scholarship. My father was transferred to Baton Rouge Louisiana my freshman year and I moved to Baton Rouge my sophomore year and attended LSU. I graduated with a BS in Literature in 1975. I have 3 children from my first marriage. I met and married Marty in 1992 and she and her son came to live with us in Baton Rouge. I have worked in the appliance industry most of my life from retail to wholesale to factory. When I got employed by Viking Range Corporation, we moved to Dallas. We built our home in Kaufman Texas and have been here ever since. We joined FUMC in 2013 and have been here ever since. I am active in choir, Trinity praise team, and have served on various committees throughout the years.



**Robert Yowell**

My name is Robert Yowell. My wife Tana and I have lived in Combine about 28 years and have attended Kaufman UMC for about 7 years. we have 3 grown Children all living out of state and 5 grand children. I retired from the Dallas Police Department after 33 years of service. I am a Master Bee keeper, Master Gardener and Breed Beef Master cattle. I also am Chairman of the Appraisal Review Board at the Kaufman County Appraisal District.



**Teresa Pottorff**

I'm honored to serve on the newly formed FUMC Kaufman Board. Professionally, I work as a senior HR leader with a focus on talent and organizational development and executive coaching. I'm excited to be able to bring my 25+ years of experience with strategic planning and people-centered leadership to support our church's mission. I've been part of FUMC Kaufman since the mid 2000's and from 2016-2019 served as the Staff Parish Relations (SPR) Chair. I love this church because of its strong sense of community and resiliency.

Outside of work, I enjoy RV camping, working out, riding motorcycles and spending quality time with my husband and family and friends. My faith journey is rooted in the belief in growing through service and connection, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to our church's growth and impact.



**Thomas Goodman**

I've been happily married to my beautiful wife for 10 years. Our two young daughters keep us on our toes, and we cherish every moment with them. We live in Scurry and have been members of FUMC since last year. I've been working in the ecommerce space for close to 15 years now. I'm a huge hockey fan – Go Stars! In my free time I like to start home improvement projects that seem to always need “just a couple more days...”. I also love bad dad jokes and unfortunately like to share them (be ready for some eye rolling!)

Recently, our family expanded with the addition of an adorable Alaskan Husky puppy named MoJo, joining our two resident cats. Needless to say, fur abounds in our lively household.



# Sunday School

Where Bible Study and Fellowship Meet

All Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday

On January 26th, we began a new adult Sunday school class! It was a great time of sincere discussion, and we are looking forward to growing and learning together. We meet in the Adult Center at 9:00.

Please come join one of our wonderful Sunday school classes if you're not already involved! It is a time to better know and connect with the people we worship with, and learn more deeply about Christ and our faith.

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



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 with bring the donuts!

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.'

## God-shaped hole

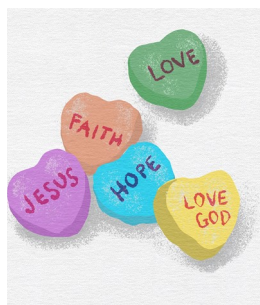


Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

## Love One Another



The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as "Dr. Love" for writing about the topic, said, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine's Day is as good a reminder as any.

## A Singular Focus

When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get "worried and distracted by many things," we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love.



St. Francis is credited with the following quote: "God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, 'Beloved, what may I give?' 'Just love,' God said. 'Just love.'"

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, "For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love." Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly — by choosing love.

## Birthday Blessings!

**Pam Rogers - February 1**

**Tony Hurtado - February 5**

**Pat Brown - February 7**

**Joyce Braziel - February 8**

**Kay Castleberry - February 8**

**Olivia Goodman - February 15**

**Phil Harding - February 16**

**Toddie Lee Wynne - February 20**

**Joyce Shave - February 23**

**Leona Adams - February 29**



### 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.



## **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

### **Sunday, February 9**

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:00 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

### **Tuesday, February 10**

12:00 p.m. Kaufman Sewing Guild

6:00 p.m. Kaufman Bee Club

### **Wednesday, February 11**

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

5:00 p.m. Trinity

5:30 p.m. Children's Choir

5:45 p.m. Bible Study

6:00 p.m. The Joyful Ringers Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, February 12**

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

### **Upcoming: Sunday, February 16**

Rachel Group: Soup for the Soul

## Time

Time is  
too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice.  
But for those who love,  
time is eternity.

—Henry Van Dyke