

**Lytle United Methodist Church**  
**P.O. Box 608**  
**Lytle, Texas 78052-0608**  
**(830) 772-3345**  
**Lytleumc.org**  
**Facebook.com/lytleumc**

***Highway Trash Pickup***  
***Saturday, January 23, 7:30 to 9:30 AM***

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**JANUARY 2021**

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My new Upper Room flipped open to the very middle, and I read the title: *The Three Sillies*. I was hooked, so I dove in. *The Three Sillies* turns out to be an old children’s book about three silly people who let their fears get the better of them. The author of the Upper Room article, Andrew Breeden, then compares this to the people of Israel on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. Moses sent twelve spies into Canaan, and ten of the big sillies came back filled with fear. “There are too many people... The towns are too well fortified... they look like giants.” But two came back with simple words of power, “No worries mate... God’s in control.”

I love the cartoon above because you don’t know who is saying the words. Perhaps it was Christopher Robin speaking to the silly ol’ Pooh Bear. Pooh Bear worried about everything. The Bible tells us that the mature are to give strength to the weak. Or perhaps the words were spoken by Pooh Bear. The Bible also tells us that we are to look to the example of the faith of children. Maybe Christopher Robin is being overwhelmed by the weight of the world and needs little Pooh Bear to ground him. Or perhaps that are saying the words to each other. The Bible tells us that we need each other—that in Christian community we find the strength we need in times of trial.

It was no coincidence that my Upper Room flipped open to that particular spot on Tuesday, because on Wednesday it seemed like the wheels were falling off of our country. As we enter this new year there are going to be a lot of trying times. After all, we live in a fallen world. How are we going to respond? Our first impulse, because we are humans, is to be “big sillies”—to let our “what ifs?” and fears overwhelm us. At those times, let us look to one another, and look up, and hear once again our Father’s Word of Power: “No worries mate... I’m in control.”

Grace and Peace,  
**Scott**

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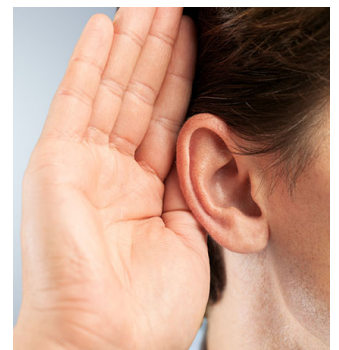
**Church Listening and Planning Retreat**

**Saturday, January 16,**

**8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the church**

Everyone is invited to come together on Saturday morning, January 16, as we listen to God, and to one another, and dream and plan for the coming year. We have a lot of nutty people in this church—but God speaks best through nutty people. Join the dreaming, join the planning, join the listening.

Lunch will be provided by the church afterwards.



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**How Do We Be the Church in the Midst of Covid?**

Speaking of nutty ideas – you want us to go Christmas caroling to strangers, during the busiest time of the year? Our church “Caroling and Connecting” event on December 13 was a true blessing. We had a great turnout, everyone was home at the houses we visited, and there were a lot of tears. Who knows what the long term effects will be, but in the



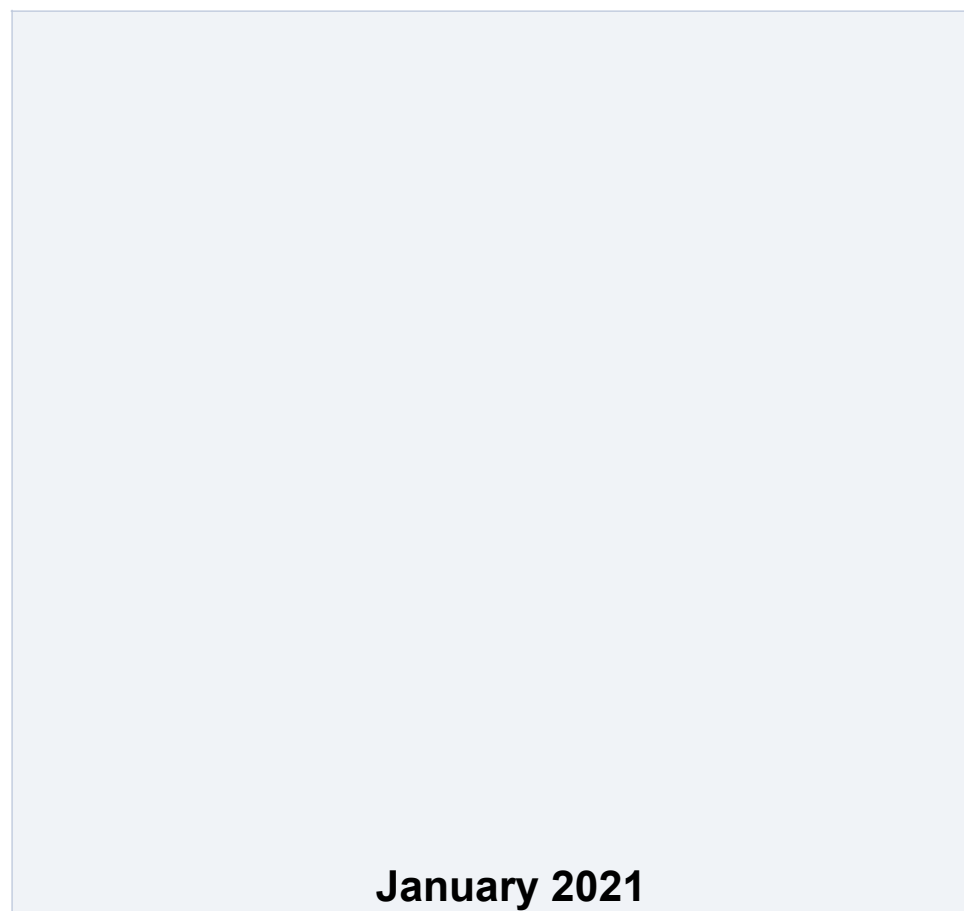
moment we knew we were doing God's will. Thank you to everyone who participated, to Connie Norton for putting together gift and information packages, and to our great youth group.

## Church Schedule

- January 3 - Epiphany Sunday.
- January 4, Monday - Food Pantry, 6 to 7 PM.
- January 8, Friday - Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering at Medina Valley UMC.  
Starts at 6:30 PM.
- January 10 - Baptism of the Lord Sunday.
- January 12, Tuesday - Trustees meeting at 7 PM.
- January 16, Saturday - Council on Ministries Planning Retreat.
- January 17 - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.
- January 18, Monday - Food Pantry, 6 to 7 PM.
- January 19, Tuesday - Administrative Council and Finance meeting.
- January 23, Saturday - Adopt a Highway Pick-Up Day. Meet at the church at 7:30 AM.

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## Youth News



January 17: Field trip to the Castroville Regional Park for hiking, cookout and fun. Meet at the church at 2 PM, return by 6 PM.

Our usual February Spiritual Retreat at HEB Foundation Camp Will not take place this year as they are still closed because of Covid

Get ready for a spring Yard sale fundraiser!

### January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 U.M.Y.F. At the Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 U.M.Y.F. At the Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm	11	12	13	14	15	16 Council on Ministries retreat

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### January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17 U.M.Y.F Castroville Park Field Trip 2 - 6pm	18	19	20	21	22	23 Trash Pickup 7:30am
24 U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4 pm – 6:00 pm						



## Children's Sunday School Program

Our children's Sunday school program is "VBS Style" where the children rotate through three stations in groups that are age inclusive (Kinder through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) just like in our summer VBS program. The first station is opening music, games and movie clips which introduces the Bible story and Bible truth for the day. Then the children move to the Bible Station where they "dig-in" to the story and the Bible truth. Finally, they move to the third station for crafts and other activities to drive the truth home. Bring your children so they can take part in the fun and grow in their faith.

**Thank you to all our Sunday school teachers for their dedication.**

**We have classes for children, youth and adults, 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM.**

**Guy's Group**

The guy's group meets regularly on Monday nights from 7 to 9 PM at the church for a time of fellowship, mentoring, and study. God calls us to support and encourage one another and everyone is welcome. Dinner is provided.

**Methodist Women**

The UMW will not be meeting in January due to Covid.

**Thank You!!**

Thank you to all those who served with such grace as church leaders in 2020.

**Free Biblical Counseling**

Linda Martin has completed the first phase in certification as a Biblical counselor, and is offering free counseling for women. She can be contacted by phone or by email at lindamartin9262@sbcglobal.net.

**New Ways to Give**

1. Online: Go to the church website, [www.lytleumc.com](http://www.lytleumc.com), and go to the "donate" page.
2. By text from a mobile device: Text GIVE or TITHE to 830-224-2780

**Free Church Wifi**

Network: lytleumc  
password: holyspirit987  
(all lower case)

**Finally... Light!**

God works in wonderful ways. We have been struggling with our live worship broadcast. The system we installed along with our new sound system was designed to record services, not stream them online, and just wasn't working. We tried using a phone and facebook, which worked for awhile, but then didn't. Then Joseph Morrow called his old pastor in Fredericksburg and discovered he now has a business helping churches go online, and he is helping us—for free! We are now using the camera installed with our sound system, some new inexpensive equipment, and things are finally working. Thank you Joseph and Amanda, and thank you God..

**Welcome to Amanda Morrow, Our Social Media Manager**

In November the church decided to begin paying Amanda Morrow to be our church social media manager. She has been doing it for a year as a volunteer, but the church leadership decided we really really need her, and she could really use a little money. A match made in heaven. Welcome Amanda!

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**Adopt a Highway Pick-Up Day, Saturday, January 23 at 7:30 AM**

As the new year starts our church will be doing our once a quarter trash pick-up along highway 463, starting from the Lytle water tower and heading out beyond Lake Shore Estates. We will meet at the church at 7:30 AM for breakfast taco provided by the church. We will then head out to clean up as a service to our community. We will be done by 9:30 AM.

**Emmaus Gathering, January 8, at Medina Valley UMC in Castroville**

The Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering for January will take place at Medina Valley UMC in Castroville on Friday, January 8. Fellowship and fun start at 6:30 PM.

Our spring men's walk will be April 29-May 2, and the applications for being a "pilgrim" on these walks, or any walk, are located in the church entranceway, or online at swtxkoinonia.org. Talk to the pastor or someone else who has already gone and get your application submitted. The fall women's walk, sponsored by our community, will be led by our own Tawana Jackson and will take place in October. Submit a team application now! If you would like more information about Emmaus, a very special Christian retreat, call the church office, pick-up a brochure in the church entranceway, or see the Emmaus bulletin board.

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**Food Pantry Ministry**

Our food pantry continues to help over 100 families twice a month. In January the food pantry days are January 4 and 18. Our workers have been terrific, but we can always use more. Just come at 5:45 PM to help prepare for the 6 to 7 PM rush. Thank you for supporting the Methodist Food Pantry.



We would also like to thank the Community National Bank and Woodsman Life Chapter 406 for their nice monetary gifts and for caring about the hungry in the Lytle Area.

## “Thank You”

- Thank you to Suzi Sollock for helping refurbish our sanctuary Christmas decorations. This year the advent wreath looked spectacular with its new greenery, and the wall wreaths had wonderful new bows. The United Methodist Women had blessed us with the old bows, but over the years storage had been hard on them and it was time they were replaced. Thank you to Suzi for taking the initiative.
- Thank you to our squirrely team... I mean squirrel team, that helped rid our fellowship hall of an unwanted guest. Thank you Glenn Norton and Kellie Meyer.
- Thank you. to Amanda Morrow and Suzie Sollock for their facebook video recruiting people to help buy Christmas gifts as part of our angel tree program. If you look at



**Thank for helping us**

the list of those who helped you will see a lot of new names, and many unfamiliar names, thanks to Suzi and Amanda’s wonderful work.

- We want to thank you for your generous gift to the House of Mercy Orphanage located in Piedra Negra, Mexico. Your gifts in 2020 are helping to reach Mexican children with the power of God’s love. Your donations are going towards providing food, clothing, and education for the orphaned and foster children in our care....

Thank you, from Hector Flore - Director

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## Prayer Concerns

- **Family and Friends of our beloved Kitty Alexander**—Kitty died on November 28
- **Family and friends of Bob Burns**—Bob died on December 9
- **Our country and our leaders**
- **Andrew Alderete**—had kidney transplant, in ICU with pneumonia
- **Elaine Kroeger, sister-in-law of Betty Kroeger**—still in hospital
- **Nicole LaFond**—son with broken arm requiring surgery, mother with major stroke
- **Joe and Rachel Lavimoniere** (Michelle Keith’s cousin)—Joe on life support
- **Daniel** (friend of the Morrows)—pneumonia and on a feeding tube.
- **Sharon Berry**—stomach cancer
- **Angela Hageman** (friend of Martins’)—ill for 3 months, still no diagnosis
- **Nan Boyd’s mother**—recurrence of cancer, doing better
- **John Yorke**—broken vertebra in neck, in a collar
- **Kylee Barrera** (Margaret Wilson’s niece)— leukemia and bladder cancer
- **Robert Mumme**—diagnosed with stage IV non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- **Lisa Wells**—cancer
- **Eddie Simons** (Ian’s grandfather)—recurrence and spread of brain tumor
- **David Lynn’s brother**—cancer      • **Michele Brown**—cancer
- **Rosemarie Smith**—metastasis of cancer, doing well on treatment
- **Our shut-ins**      • **Wanda Yoast**
- **Irma Kelley** – stage IV breast cancer
- **Linda Bahlmann**—health      • **Mark Pringle** (Bethel Kay’s son)—doing well in rehab after stroke
- **Rose Lynn**      • **Felix Escalante**—health      • **Nancy Burns**—health
- **For United Methodist Church, General Conference and delegates for 2020**—postponed to 2021
- **Our military and their families and our president and government**
- **Our missionaries around the world**      • **For persecuted Christians around the world**
- **For victims of human trafficking and for an end to human trafficking**



### **Our Church Family Military**

- **Brandon Johnson**—Marines      • **Isaac Johnson**—Air Force      • **Kristen Pruett**—Air Force
- **Ian Simons**—Air Force      • **Brandon Hunt**—Army Reserves      • **Brooke Johnson**—Navy
- **Kyle Pringle**—Army      • **Ross Moffitt** (Chris and Fred Brauchle’s grandson)—Air Force
- **William Reichel**—Army, in Germany      • **Forrest Keith**—Kevin Keith’s son, Navy
- **Josh Orbinati**—Michele Brown’s nephew, Coast Guard      • **Craig Wolf**—Air Force
- **Jonathan Heiman**—Navy      • **Jon and Brianna Hartwig**—Army, Jill Daggs’ daughter and son-in-law
- **Joyce Biggs** (George Bahlmann’s great-niece)

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## Put Together Some “Love Packages” of Christian Material Today

Linda Bahlmann is collecting old Christian material to help Christians in the third world. This includes Bibles, reference materials, books, daily devotionals, Sunday school materials, CDs and DVDs. Gather your old stuff together and call her (830-709-5848 or 210-837-0650) and she will pick up the material, package it, and ship it to “Love Packages,” for them to in turn sort it and ship it overseas.

# Christmas Updates and Thanks!

## Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to all those involved in our Hanging of the Greens service (especially Irma Bayne and the choir). The “Hanging of the Greens” was wonderful, as was the reception afterwards.

## Children’s Christmas Bags

Thank you to those who put together our traditional children’s Christmas bags, with a Christmas ornament from the church, small toys and candy. We just couldn’t hold our traditional Christmas party and covered-dish, but next Christmas is coming!

## The Angel Tree/Project Hope

The Angel Tree/Project Hope is bringing the light of Jesus Christ to more lives. 95 children (27 families) were helped this year by our church—that’s almost 300 presents! The church would like to thank all those who took part in this important Christmas ministry of our church, including those listed below:

The Stewarts    The Escalantes    The Boyds    The Kirk Jacksons    The Wells Family  
Gutierrez Family    Gloria Johnson    The Morrows    The Nortons    Carol McDonald    Kaycee Priest  
The Dagg    The Bob Wagners    Chris Brauchle    The Wanjuras    The Martins    The Broaches  
The Keiths    Rachel Bennet    Marty Bennett    The Sollocks    The Kyle Jacksons    Terry Miles  
The Dominguez Family    The Morenos    The Pruetts    Marylyn Sollock    Deborah Campos  
Laura Brown    Alice Fuller    Monica    Edward Black    Sally Pennington    The Villarreal    The Metzgers  
The Meyers    Kellie Meyer    Linda Bahlmann    Donna Kruger    and everyone else

Thanks also go to those who worked as hosts for our Angel Tree Gift Pick up and delivery on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, especially Billy and Linda Stewart and Suzi Sollock.

## Dec. 20th Christmas Offering for Local Missions

A big thank you to all those who gave. You will help a lot of people during the year.

## Music Team Sunday, December 27th

Thank you to Joseph Morrow and the music team for the beautiful music on December 27. And a big thank you to Joseph for filling in for the pastor in the pulpit. While Scott wasn’t able to visit his mom and the rest of his family in Kansas City, he enjoyed the break. Hope everyone had a great Christmas.

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## 2021 Church Leaders

**Administrative Board:** Kyle Jackson (Head of Administrative Board), Glenn Norton (Assistant Head of Administrative Board), Brad Boyd (Head of Finance), Connie Norton (Council on Ministries leader), Michelle Keith (Lay Leader), Michelle Keith (Lay Delegate to Annual Conference), Kevin Keith (Alternate Lay Delegate), Suzi Sollock (Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer), Terry Miles (Financial Secretary), Tawana Jackson (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson),  
At Large Members: Council on Ministry members.

**Council on Ministries:** Connie Norton (Head of Council on Ministries), Michelle Keith (Lay leader), Diana Jackson, Linda Bahlmann, Tiffany Moreno, Kevin Keith, Tawanna Jackson, Becky Escalante, Eric Carlson, Linda Martin and Chris Brauchle. Amanda Morrow, Maribel Gomez, Irma Bayne, Joseph Morrow & Scott Martin (Staff members).

**Board of Trustees:** Bobby Sollock, Dustin Noll, Kyle Jackson, Debbie Pruet, Nan Boyd, Orlando Gutierrez, Glenn Norton, Brent Meyer and Ricardo Castillo.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee:** Tawana Jackson (Chairperson), Jim Alexander, Marty Bennett, Betty Kroeger, Jim Rhodes, Carol McDonald, Deb Herman, Terry Miles and Jim Dominguez.

**Nominations:** Amanda Morrow, Connie Norton, Debbie Pruet, Diana Jackson, Karla Dominguez, Bethel Kay Bateman, Connie Scott and Linda Bahlmann.

**Other Leaders:** Communion Stewards (Kirk and Tawana Jackson), Funeral Family Care (United Methodist Women), Usher Coordinator (Kirk Jackson), Lay Worship Leader Coordinator (Michelle Keith).



## Christmas Poinsettias

From Linda Bahlmann  
in memory of Lee Craig

From Linda Bahlmann  
in memory of  
George Bahlmann

From Linda Bahlmann in memory of Iva Craig

From Marty Bennett in memory of Bill Bennett

From Marty Bennett in honor of their family

From Betty Kroeger  
in memory of Ernie Kroeger

From Betty Kroeger  
in honor of Cathy and Billy Brister

From Scott and Linda Martin in memory of  
Ann Jones and Les Martin

From Scott and Linda Martin in honor of  
Vera Martin and John and Rachel Martin

From Betty McGinnis  
in memory of Clifton Schmitt

From Betty McGinnis  
in memory of John McGinnis  
and in honor of their family

From Brent and Ginger Meyer in memory of Will  
and Carolyn Rogers (Ginger's parents)

From Brent and Ginger Meyer  
in honor of their children

From Terry Miles in memory of Joshua Miles

From Billy and Linda Stewart  
in memory of J.D. and Frenchy Grant

From Billy and Linda Stewart  
in honor of their children, grandchildren  
and great grandchildren

From Ann VanWinkle  
in memory of  
Howard VanWinkle

From Ann VanWinkle  
in honor of Don VanWinkle, Linda Becker, and all  
of  
Ann's grandchildren

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### Our Church's Purpose

To reach out to our community and beyond to share the Good News of Jesus Christ  
in word and deed, and to welcome people into this body of Christ  
where we might all be filled with God's strength and vision.