



THE MESSENGER

August 2016

Back to School CELEBRATION!

Sunday, August 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Fish Fry & Assembly of Teachers' Classroom Supply Boxes

As we know, many students do not come to class in the first week with all supplies needed. Therefore, many teachers must personally purchase some of the school supplies that these children are lacking. They must also purchase certain things that might assist them in their teaching with a very small budget each is given the first of the year.

We are collecting very specific items for these boxes or funds to help purchase them. If you would rather give a financial donation for purchase, please feel free to do so. It is our goal to do one box for each grade level in at least two elementary schools. These items will be supplemental and meant to fill in where there are gaps in supplies in the classrooms.

On August 14th, EVERYONE is invited to join us for a BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION! We will have a fish fry, and assemble and bless the boxes! Chuck and Julie Crowsey are already fishing for the fish and rounding up the fish frying crew. Tina Scoggins and her cook team will prepare delicious sides. We will have a special treat for the dessert! The FUMC McAllen Women are excited to begin a ministry of caring for our college students by sending care packages to them at the beginning of the year and right before finals in the winter. To help pay for the care packages they are having a dessert auction at the Back to School Celebration. Anyone (men, women, teens, or children) wanting to be a part of the dessert auction is welcome! Bring two of the same dessert, one to serve and one to be auctioned off. All funds raised will help pay for the College Crazies Care Packages.

The list of specific items for our Teachers' Classroom Supply Boxes is below. Other items requested will be purchased with donated funds. Needed items are:

- 11x17 Heavy Duty Construction Paper (Package of Assorted Colors)
- Pencils (boxes of 24)
- Antibacterial Soap (30 oz pump bottles)
- Kleenex (boxes)
- Composition Books (wide ruled)
- Dividers (5 tab)
- Glue Sticks (smaller size)
- Colored Pencils (box of 24)

First United Methodist Church of McAllen

4200 N. McColl Road
McAllen, Texas 78504

956-686-3784
Fax 956-664-0204

www.FUMCMcAllen.com

Weekday Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:30 - 4:30
Friday 8:30 - Noon

Worship at First Church

Service Information

8:30 Traditional Worship
9:00 Contemporary Worship
11:00 Traditional Worship
9:45 Sunday School

Nursery provided at all services.

Newsletter & Sunday Sermons

Our FUMC newsletter, The Messenger, and our weekly 9 & 11 a.m. sermons, are available on the website, www.fumcmcallen.com.

You can read current or past issues of the *Messenger* and listen to the sermons. You can also follow us on Facebook.

You may also use the website to update your contact information. You will find this link on the home page. Your help in keeping our records current and up-to-date is very much appreciated.

Any changes in your life? Married? Moved? Or Moving?

Please let us know so we can make changes on our mail out data base.

Pastor's Perspective

I hope your summer has been a blessing to you and your family. Summer time for many families is less structured. There is time to get away if only for a little while. People cope with the south Texas heat by seeking refuge at the beach or traveling to higher elevations where the temperatures don't break triple digits. Summer is when families with school-age children move and we always say good-bye to some families and hello to others who find their way to the Rio Grande Valley and FUMC.

In the midst of these changes, there is good news. God is with us wherever we go. God leads, guides and sometimes pushes us into an exciting future, one of great blessing. Looking to the future I'm excited about what God will do here in our church, district and conference. We have new leadership coming to our conference. I'm happy to share with you that Bishop Robert Schnase has been assigned to the Rio Texas Annual Conference beginning September 1. I know you join me in welcoming Bishop Schnase home!

Also, Rev. Dr. Ruben Saenz Jr. from the Rio Texas Annual Conference was elected to the office of bishop by the South Central Jurisdiction last month. Bishop Saenz was appointed as



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

(continued on last page)

Children's Ministry



M & M (Missions and Music) Camp

We are thankful for another special week of M & M Camp this year. We had a wonderful week of singing, dancing, making new friends, and learning the blessings of helping others. Thank you to Bo and Alissa Shirah, Stephen Dillon, Donna Gibson and her cooking Crew, all of the wonderful parents who accompanied and drove us, and all who encourage children in any way to love God through serving.

"Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Mark 1:17

Vacation Bible School was busy and fruitful and a BLAST!

A great BIG THANK YOU goes to the many teens and adults who helped register, greet, guide, sing, teach the children, and MORE! It was a joy serving with you and sharing Jesus with the children! And thank you to Pastor Robert who got slimed as the reward for the children raising more than \$520.00 for classroom supplies for two elementary schools! Good job, kids! God's blessings abounded!!!!



"IN HIS STEPS"

Shoe Bank of McAllen

- August Communion Offering -



One of my fondest memories of the beginning of school is going with my mom to shop for school supplies and a pair of new shoes! I also remember doing the same with my own children! Yet, many families cannot provide this for their children.

In August of 1993, this church began a ministry called "In His Steps" Shoe Bank of McAllen. It is now beginning its 23rd year. This program is designed to provide children in need and enrolled in the McAllen Independent School District, with a pair of properly fitting shoes appropriate for school. This program has been very successful over the years providing shoes to between 400-700 children in McAllen each school year.

The children for whom this program benefit must: (1) be from a low income/poverty level family, (2) be currently enrolled in an MISD school (any grade), and (3) have not received a pair of shoes within the last year from the "In His Steps" Shoe Bank of McAllen.

If a child is in need of a pair of shoes and meets the above criteria, a written referral is made by the school counselor or nurse. The referral is taken to a Hope Family Health Clinic in McAllen, who issues a Voucher. The Voucher is then taken to one of the two Shoe Carnivals in McAllen where it is honored for up to \$25.00 for a new pair of shoes of the child's choice. No other purchases may be made with the Voucher. Shoe Carnival then bills First UMC for the amount of the shoes purchased. FUMC pays the bill from funds available.

Over the years, we have received assistance with funding from different sources. Each year, we have received assistance from the McAllen Community Development Block Grant program. We have once again, received notification, our church has been approved for another \$8,000 grant for the 2016-17 school year. Our church raises the remainder of funds so that 100% of funds donated go to purchasing the shoes!

Because of your generosity, last school year we were able to assist over 375 children in need with a pair of new school shoes. A team from our church makes the appropriate copies and does reports to take care of this grant!

It has always been the hope of our church family that providing a child in need with a pair of properly fitting shoes for school would benefit the child, the child's family and our community by encouraging his/her continued and uninterrupted education, which may otherwise be hindered by going without.

Our September Communion Offering will go directly to purchasing a pair of shoes for a child in need, here in McAllen. We hope you join us for our Service and Communion and that you will prayerfully consider how you might help with our ministry to provide shoes for children in need.



"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving an example, that you should follow in His steps." 1 Peter 2:21

Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

Spiritual Intervention

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth."

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

Faith and spirituality are an integral part of the ministry of a Faith Community Nurse. Our work involves an intentional focus on spiritual health and the care of the spirit. We cannot focus only on physical and emotional health and neglect spiritual health because they are all connected. With the atrocities that our nation and world are facing, people are in need of hope and healing at a deeper level. I believe that prayer is a powerful and effective intervention. When words or actions are seemingly not enough, it is prayer that truly changes hearts and circumstances. When you don't know how or what to pray, you can use the Word of God and His promises to pray and declare.

There are decisions that are being made in our cities, states, nation, and world that are affecting all people physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. We need to pray for God's wisdom and discernment for those in authority. The decisions they make now are affecting us, our younger generations and will affect the generations to come. I encourage you to pray that our nation's unity will be restored, that people will choose to live a life of love and peace according to God's truth, that hearts will not become hardened by hatred and pain, and that broken hearts and lives be mended. Lastly, I encourage you to pray for other nations and the decisions their authorities make. Often times, their decisions lead our nation to respond as it deems necessary. Even when devastating events continue to occur, the Word of God encourages us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "never stop praying (NLT)." Remember who we pray to-the Almighty God-the Maker of heaven and earth. I pray continual health, protection, and blessings upon your lives.



Perla Rivera, RN, is a Wesley Nurse with Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. Methodist Healthcare Ministries' Wesley Nurse program is a faith-based, holistic health and wellness program committed to serving the least served through education, health promotion and collaboration with individual and community in achieving improved wellness through self-empowerment. Learn more at www.mhm.org.



FUMC YOUTH
MINISTRY

The Youth Ministry has been staying busy during the summer and it is described with two simple phrases:

#It'sWhatWeDo!!! #WeAreServants



Youth Hospitality Team
May 29, 2016



Volunteer



Youth Week
July 10 - 14, 2016
Scavenger Hunt, Church Olympics,
Ninja Warriors, Capture the Flag,
and Praise Bash



Decorating for
Sarah Summers de
volunteered and led



MSP T-Shirts
Sorting & Folding
June 8, 2016



Mission Service Project Team
June 12-17, 2016



Block Sledding
June 19, 2016



Sunday School
July 26, 2016



Preparing Manna Food Panty
June 20, 2016



Volunteering at VBS
June 26 - July 1, 2016



Decorating for VBS June 20, 2016
decorated for over 4 hrs. and then →
a group of children during VBS.



Running Sound & Slide Show at VBS
June 27 - July 1, 2016



Dressing Up for VBS
June 26 - July 1, 2016
Wesliegh Wooldridge
dressed as JESUS



Designing Camp Banner
July 12, 2016



Movie Afternoon
June 30, 2016



Women's Ministry



All women are invited to join us for an evening of Bunco fun and games on Tuesday, August 9th in the Social Room at 6:30 pm. Light snacks will be provided and childcare will be available.



Dessert Auction for College Crazies Care Packages

Want to show young adults that you care? Enter your favorite homemade dessert in the Dessert Auction to

be held during the Back-to-School Celebration on Sunday, August 14th. All are invited to bring two of the same dessert, one to be served and one to be auctioned off. And come ready to bid on some scrumptious desserts. All funds raised will help pay for the College Crazies Care Packages that the FUMC Women plan to send to college students in our church family.

CHURCH FAMILY

Baptism



Rian Thomas-DeBerry was baptized at First United Methodist Church on Sunday, July 17, 2016. Pictured are Rian's parents, Michael and Irmgard; and big sister, Gretel.

The DeBerry's address is:
1313 Heron, McAllen, TX 78504.

Our Sympathy to...

The family of **Marianne Hartness** following her death on Saturday, July 16, 2016. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, September 17 at FUMC. Time to be announced. The family's address is 6200 N. 16th, McAllen, TX 78504.

The family of **Debbie Riley** following her death on Saturday, July 16, 2016. Services were held at the Pawnee UMC in Pawnee, TX on Wednesday, July 20. The family's address is 1507 Quamasia, McAllen, TX 78504.

The family of **John Galik** following his death on July 21, 2016. Services were held on Saturday July 23 at FUMC. Susan's address is 408 Rio Grande Drive, Mission TX 78572

The family of **Anita & Tommy Yee** following the death of Anita's sister, **Judy Wong**, on July 22, 2016. Services were held on Saturday, July 30 at FUMC. The Yee's address is 3209 Scenic Way, McAllen, TX 78503.

Robyn Ellis

Teacher at Escandon Elementary School

My name is Robyn Ellis and I am a teacher at Escandon Elementary School in McAllen. We have had partnerships with FUMC the past couple of years and it has truly been a blessing. FUMC has provided backpacks of food for our students who don't quite have enough to eat. These backpacks sustain the kiddos each weekend when food isn't readily available allowing them to come back to school, fed and ready to learn. We also had the privilege of bringing our older Deaf students to "sign" Christmas Carols to the children at your FUMC Day School. Our kids loved getting to share their songs with the little kids and see the smiles on their little faces. It was also amazing for the kids to see the adults that cared about them; it impressed me that the pastor was able to pray with and for our kids, loved it! FUMC is showing Christ's love to kids that might not get exposure to Him without them. For the past two years we have also been given the benefit of Serve Our School (SOS) helping to make our school beautiful, safer, and more functional. We have a garden outside that was made for us by FUMC and it has grown vegetables and huge flowers. The kids truly love being able to grow their own plants and vegetables and they get to see, first hand, the life cycle of a plant, this supports our science TEKS. We also were able to partnership with FUMC in collecting canned food for their Food Pantry. The kids loved bringing canned goods in to help stock the pantry.

We were able to collect two truckloads of cans. FUMC is helping us to teach our kids how important it is to help other people around them and to be aware of needs outside their own little worlds. I am truly grateful for all that we have been able to do together!



Calendar of Events

First United Methodist Church
4200 N. McColl Rd. • McAllen, TX • 956-686-3784

AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Tai Chi Exercise Class	2 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	3 Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study Summer Digest Witness Band Rehearsal	4 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class	5	6
7 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	8 Tai Chi Exercise Class Praise & Craze 2016 Day Camp	9 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Praise & Craze 2016 Day Camp Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group Women's Bunco Night	10 Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study Praise & Craze 2016 Day Camp Witness Band Rehearsal	11 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Praise & Craze 2016 Day Camp	12	13
14 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service 2nd Annual Back To School Celebration	15 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen	16 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Youth Ministry Meeting	17 Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study Witness Band Rehearsal	18 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class	19 Youth Lock-in	20 Youth Lock-in
21 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	22 Tai Chi Exercise Class	23 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	24 Tai Chi Exercise Class Prayer Shawl Ministry Brown Bag Bible Study Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	25 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class	26	27
28 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	29 Tai Chi Exercise Class	30 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon WOW	31 Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal			

For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com



THE MESSENGER

August 2016

First United Methodist Church
4200 N. McColl Rd.
McAllen, TX 78504

Pastor's Perspective *(continued from page 1)*

bishop in the Great Plains Annual Conference (Kansas and Nebraska). Our El Valle district superintendent, Rev. Laura Merrill has been appointed to be the new Executive Director of the Missional Vitality Center located at the conference office in San Antonio. She follows Bishop Saenz in that role. The new district superintendent for the El Valle District has not been appointed as of this date.

Please join me in praying for these new leaders in the church among us. That with God's blessing and wisdom they may guide us to be fruitful in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

See you in worship and around town.
Peace, Ricky

Harvesting the Fruit Update

The journey continues! With the desire to continue to keep everyone informed about where we are on the journey, each month we plan to provide an update on the process of our Harvesting the Fruit campaign toward building a sanctuary.

Currently our architects are reaching out to prospective general contractors to gauge their interest in our sanctuary project. Members of the building design committee will interview prospective construction companies to select a general contractor that will begin work with our architects to complete the construction drawings. When those drawings are 60% complete, the general contractor will then give a guaranteed maximum price for the project. We anticipate having the general contractor selected in the next few weeks and four to five months to get the construction drawing to the 60% completion state.

Also, we will be working on forming several sub-committees for input into specific areas of our sanctuary. We'll have small groups to work on nursery space, audio/visual, music/choir space, furniture/equipment, landscape, interior finishes/colors and others groups as needed. If you have expertise or a desire to work with one of these small groups let chair Thomas Davidson, one of the pastors or the church office know. This will be an exciting and busy next few months! Thank you for your continued support.



Come Together and Let Us Pray

"O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me" Psalm 30:2

- 2nd Tuesday
of each month
- 10:30 a.m. or
6:15 p.m.
- Keystone Room



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets every 4th Wednesday
of each month at 10:00 a.m.



Save the Dates!

WOW (Word On Wednesday)
Resumes August 31 • 3:30 – 5:30 pm



Day School
Starts August 22