



# THE MESSENGER

April 2017

## First United Methodist Church of McAllen

4200 N. McColl Road  
McAllen, Texas 78504

956-686-3784  
Fax 956-664-0204

[www.FUMCMcAllen.com](http://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](http://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.

## Please Join Us

### Holy Week/Easter Opportunities at FUMC

#### Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Services

April 9 - 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

#### Maundy Thursday Worship Service

A Living Dramatization of the Last Supper

By Dr. Ernest K. Emurian

Thursday, April 13 • 7:00 p.m. • In the Fellowship Center

#### Good Friday Worship Service

April 14, 12:15 pm • In the Fellowship Center

#### Easter Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, April 16 • 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Complete details can be found on the insert which is suitable  
for posting on your bulletin board or refrigerator for your easy reference.

## Pastor's Perspective

I pray that the ground breaking for our sanctuary space has recently occurred. That's the plan. I remember a ground breaking that happened when I was just a boy about six. The occasion was Kempner Methodist church doing a major remodel on the sanctuary, almost starting from the ground up. We have in my family a grainy 8mm film of the ground breaking after church one Sunday. It is an early memory that sticks with me. I hope the memory of our ground breaking will be a lasting memory for you.

Our district superintendent Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez shared with us words of wisdom a few weeks ago at our charge conference where the vote was taken to proceed with construction. He reminded us that much energy and effort from many people have gone into this endeavor to this point, but the real work begins when the building is complete and ready to use as a wonderful tool to make disciples and grow the Kingdom all to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To ready ourselves for this work, we as a church have much to do before we ever step into our sanctuary. We have decisions to contemplate about several important aspects of our ministry.

- What will our Sunday morning hospitality ministry consist of and what will it look like?
- What will a pathway of discipleship look like that will help people move from being a first time guest to a committed follower of Jesus Christ?
- How will we invite the community to be part of ministry and fellowship of our church?

These are only three aspects of our life together in ministry that we need to contemplate and create a fruitful system. There are many more. This is an exciting time for our church with much work to accomplish. I look forward to the challenge over the next year.

I encourage everyone to share thoughts and/or ideas you may have about how we can prepare for the work of ministry ahead. Your commitment to this project, financial and otherwise is much appreciated. I thank God for each of you.

Grace and peace,  
Ricky



Senior Pastor,  
Ricky Sanderford

# Children's Ministry



## Children's Choir

The Children's Choir meets every Wednesday afternoon, and all Kinder through 5th graders are welcome! The Children's Choir will sing during the 11:00 am worship service on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Be sure to mark your calendars for M & M (Missions and Music) Camp this summer for 3rd through 8th graders. It will happen July 10-13. Details will follow.

## CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION

All children in 5th grade and younger are invited to a celebration of Easter on Wed., April 12th from 4 – 5:30 pm. There will be no regular WOW schedule that day. Come and enjoy an Easter art activity, egg hunt, and cookie decorating. Children 4 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Remember to bring your Easter basket for the hunt!



## Special Needs Support Group

THURS., April 13<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.  
Room 202

\*Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month.  
\*\*Childcare will be available



## SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP

All parents and loved ones of children with special needs are invited to a time of support and encouragement every second Thursday in Room 202. The next gathering will be on April 13 at 6:00 pm. Childcare is provided.

## CREATED BY GOD

Friday, May 19 • 5:45-9 p.m.

&

Saturday, May 20 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

\*Parents are required to participate on Friday, 5:45-7:15 p.m. and Saturday, 3-4 p.m.



Created By God is a study of human sexuality with a Christian foundation. It offers parents and their children opportunities to learn, grow, and celebrate the fact that we have each been wonderfully created by God and are called to responsible living as sexual beings. The fee for the event is \$40.00, covering the cost of both student and parent books, meals and snacks, supplies, and leadership. There are only 7 spaces left. Contact Lee Ann Clemons for more information.

## SAVE THE DATES!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER FUN AT FUMC



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- June 19-23<sup>rd</sup>
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon
- 4 year olds through 5<sup>th</sup> graders by Sept. 1, 2017

### M & M CAMP [Missions & Music]

- July 10-13<sup>th</sup>
- 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- 3 graders through 8<sup>th</sup> graders by Sept. 1, 2017





## CORNERSTONE 2017

*– To God be the Glory –*

On Friday & Saturday, March 3rd & 4th those serving met for breakfast, prayer and to launch our ramp building for **CORNERSTONE MINISTRY 2017!** Friday

was a success with a large ramp being built in Edinburg and modules for 4 others built at our church. On Saturday, because of the threat of storms, standing water, and soggy ground we opted to postpone our building until the following week. On Saturday, March 10th we rallied and completed 3 ramps. Because of the condition of the yard of one home the other will be built at a later date.

Cornerstone Ministry has evolved over the past 26 years into one that serves primarily physically challenged individuals and their families with wheelchair ramps. Last year, we successfully partnered with Texas Ramp Project (TRP). We are excited to announce that Cornerstone Ministry at First UMC is now an official TRP site. We will be responsible for seeing that at least 8 ramps in our area are built per year. TRP will assist us with some funding for the ramps and we will be responsible for the rest. Several Cornerstone leaders are now trained in building TRP model ramps.

Thanks to all who made Cornerstone 2017 a huge success! This ministry can only be possible through the gifts of donations and faithful servants willing to give of their time to make life a bit easier for those that are mobility challenged!

***The first Sunday in April, Cornerstone will be the Communion Offering.  
Please help to support this ministry!***







## Greetings from Winter Park, Colorado

(Friday, March 17, 2017)

I am sharing from the seat of a charter bus as we return home from an amazing Spring Break Week with 16 families; including 20 adults, 25 youth, and 6 children - a total of 51. We are currently about 1,001 miles away, traveling snugly and watching movies to help the time go by. As I sit here and reflect on our adventures from the past week, my ears pop from the change in altitude; elevation at Winter Park was 12,060. For some of us there were many "first times" ex-periencing some fun and exciting things like: snow, skiing, tubing, snow shoe hiking, dog sled-ding, and snow cat riding. All of those activities were great, but the best part about this trip was the opportunity to share every night our awe of the beautiful mountain landscapes from the vivid colors of soft cotton candy hues, to bright electric blues, to grey serene tones, to fire blazing with mesmerizing colors. Every direction you would look there was a landscape screaming God's beauty. Our group soon grew close and we all helped each other when needed; on the slopes and at other times too. I want to say that this trip took our breath away and we can't wait to experience another trip like this, not necessarily going back to the same spot, but definitely experiencing the love we experienced. Until next time - V. Dillon, Youth Ministries Director



## Midwinter 2017

(Saturday, February 11, 2017)

"Every year, our youth group goes to Camp Zephyr during the winter season for a jam-packed weekend of nonstop fun, new friends, amazing worship, and intimacy with God. Midwinter 2017 was no different. I had an amazing experience, as did the rest of the youth, and I learned a lot about God's unrelenting love for His creation. This year's theme was about being 'Set Free' (John 8:36). My main takeaway from the sermons was that God forgives & loves me no matter what, that He is waiting for me to return to Him with open arms, despite my never-ending sins. I am set free from these sins, by our Savior Jesus Christ and set free to share this valuable message I learned. Our God is a loving Father, and I hope that everyone in our church family knows His love is a reflection of His grace so that we can fulfill our duty as His followers: to bring glory to God and share His gospel with others. Midwinter 2017 was such an amazing retreat; it was not only fun, but valuable and worthwhile. I can't wait until Midwinter 2018." - Avery Martin, 11th grade at IDEA Quest

"The weather every year for Midwinter is always so wonderful. I loved being able to listen to different worship bands, including our very own Room 205, every day. I felt very happy and full of Christ throughout the camp. A lot of the youth were nervous to participate in worship, but FUMC McAllen showed these youth that no one was there to judge, but only to bond with God. In all, the weekend went by fast, but I will always remember how fun the mornings and afternoons of worship were." - Quinn Sullivan, 10th grade at McAllen Memorial HS.

"Midwinter was a wonderful weekend full of fun activities and having different worship bands play every night was my favorite part. Getting to meet new people from different churches that all share the same love for Jesus was amazing." - Sydney Song, McAllen Memorial HS.





## FRIENDS IN FAITH MINISTRY

We want to thank all the Friends in Faith that have been praying for our youth and encouraging them through cards and notes. The kids and some parents too, have expressed what a blessing each card has been when read; they seem to appear with perfect timing. Also, please don't forget to save the date for our reveal party happening early May. If you would like to help plan or help with refreshments, please contact Diane Bleibdrey at (956) 874-9417 or di.bleibs@yahoo.com



## Confirmation Retreat 2017

(Saturday, February 25, 2017)

This year we have 21 youth and 21 adult mentors participating in Confirmation Classes. Part of the Confirmation Class journey is to attend our annual Confirmations Retreat at the Scoggins' Ranch, Los Novillos. Each year there is great weather, wonderful food, and amazing worship along with beautiful and unexplainable joy. We leave recharged after feeling the presence of God. We are so blessed with such amazing youth, loving mentors, and giving members.

- V. Dillon, Youth Ministries Director

## Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

*"Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."* Matthew 18:5 (NKJV)

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."* Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)

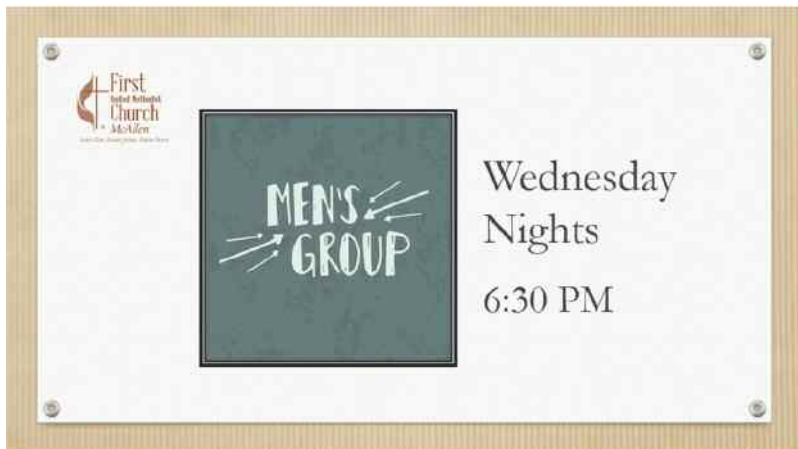
April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We know, though, that preventing and addressing abuse needs to occur each and every day. Having worked as a Behavioral Health nurse, I am acutely aware of the devastating and destructive effects that physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse has in a child's life. It is up to the community agencies, schools, and churches to protect and strengthen families, since they have a great influence on family life. Children thrive on attention, affection and having their needs adequately met from and by their parents. They depend on parents to nurture them, guide, instruct, and support them on a daily basis and throughout their lifespan. Children need parents to be part of their lives and aware of their friends and activities even when parents are not very welcomed around their teenage years. Your awareness, knowledge and involvement in the care of children within your family, church, and community can help prevent or stop current abuse. Reporting child abuse and neglect is mandated by law not just for professionals but any person that witnesses it occur or suspects a child is being affected by abuse and neglect. Speak up and be an advocate. You can make a report to the Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400 or online or to a law enforcement agency. For more information on this subject, go to [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov) and [www.dfps.state.tx.us/](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/)

You can advocate for children and further help to nurture communities through education, speaking to neighbors, and/or becoming a volunteer at any institution, center, or agency that serves families. If you are unable to physically participate in this manner, you can carry this need in your heart and pray for children and families in the Rio Grande Valley struggling through these issues. Pray for the foster care system in Texas that is currently overwhelmed and for the Lord to bring to fruition a vision and desire for a residential treatment center to be in place for children as they wait for placement into safe homes in the Rio Grande Valley. Pray for justice for these little ones. Pray for their healing, protection and their deliverance. Blue Sunday, which is always the last Sunday in April, is a nationally recognized day of prayer when churches can take time in their services to pray for victims of child abuse; however I encourage you to lift up this prayer request to the Lord each and every day without ceasing. Finally, remember to always thank the Lord for your family, little ones and the life and love that you all share.

*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](http://www.mhm.org).*







All men are invited to the Men's Group gatherings on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in Room 202. The men join for Bible study, fellowship and service. All men are welcome! In February this group of guys showed their support for the youth, confirmands, and mentors by organizing and serving their Wednesday evening meal. Thank you, men, for a delicious meal and for your excellent service!



## Prayer Warriors

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



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month
- 10:30 a.m.
- Room 202

Please join the Prayer Warriors@ FUMC McAllen @10:30 a.m., in Room #202, on the second Tuesday of each month.

Prayer Warriors meets for Intercessory Prayer for our church ministries and missions, our pastors, schools and children, our military, our leaders, and those on our church prayer list. God, through prayer, opens eyes, changes hearts, heals wounds, and grants wisdom.

Bring your prayer requests and burdens and let's pray together for God's grace and mercy.

## CHURCH FAMILY

*First United Methodist Church  
was pleased to welcome the following  
into church membership:*



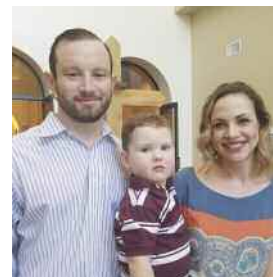
Ramon & Debra Ramirez  
2310 Arthur Ave  
Edinburg, TX 78542



Marco & Dennis Garza  
& family  
3811 Burr Dr  
Edinburg, TX 78542



Daisy Delay  
PO Box 2741  
McAllen, TX 78502



Alyssa Fowler  
2603 Norma Dr  
Mission, TX 78574

## Our Sympathy to...

**Danny Boultinghouse and family**  
following the death of his wife, **Nancy**,  
on Sunday, March 5.

A memorial service was held on Friday, March 10th  
in the Fellowship Center at FUMC.  
Danny's address is 2208 Westway, McAllen, TX 78501.

The **family of Darlene Goodchild**,  
following the death of her husband, **Jim**,  
on Thursday, March 9th.

Darlene's address is:  
501 W. Owassa Rd, #35, Pharr, TX 78577.



The women of the church are excited to have another opportunity to let the church family college kids know that they are thinking about them and praying for them. All women are invited to the Social Room on **Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00 pm** to help assemble care packages filled with encouraging words, goodies and TLC to help as the kids prepare for final exams. We will meet in the Social Room immediately following the Lenten study.



On Tuesday, May 9th, 5:30 – 7:30 pm all women are invited to a fun night of BUNCO on Tuesday, May 9th! Bring your daughter, mother, sister, granddaughter or friend as we celebrate family and friendship together. Bring a snack to share if you are able and have the time!

### Help Prepare/Serve Meal for Confirmands, Mentors, and Youth

On April 19th we have an opportunity to offer support and encouragement to our youth, confirmands, and their mentors by preparing and serving their Wednesday evening meal. We will be serving spaghetti. The meal will be served at 5:30 pm on April 19th. Come join us and get to know the awesome youth in our church family! Contact Peggy or Lee Ann to let them know you would like to help.



### A Saturday of Service and Fellowship for Women

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 29th!** On that day, women are invited to join for a morning of serving others at La Posada Providencia, a ministry in San Benito which provides a safe, nurturing environment to people who have come to the United States seeking safety, protection, and a better life. All shelter residents are in the process of seeking legal refuge in this country. La Posada has welcomed people from more than 70 different countries. We will leave FUMC at 8:15 am, caravan to La Posada Providencia, spend the morning helping and then go for lunch together before heading back to McAllen.

### A Living Dramatization of the Last Supper

Prepare for the events of Easter with Dr. Ernest K. Emurian's *A Living Dramatization of the Last Supper*. In this presentation, men of the church present the fears and doubts of each disciple as it is revealed that one of them will betray their Lord.

These personal and moving narratives help audiences understand the disciples' emotional struggle during their last meal with Jesus before his crucifixion.

The Maundy Thursday worship presentation of The Last Supper is at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 13, in the worship center. Select music will be featured during the presentation, with communion to follow.





## Shrove Pancake Supper Thank you!

Thank you to all who participated in first annual Shrove Pancake Supper! It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and feasting before Ash Wednesday, and the love offering collected for the Better than a Backpack Care Kits for College Kids ministry is over \$600.00! Thank you to all who contributed and joined in this fun event. Many words of encouragement were written that evening for us to send with the packages. The kids will love hearing from their church family!



## Easter Lilies



- It is time to order Easter Lilies which will adorn the altar during *Easter Sunday worship services on April 16<sup>th</sup>*
- The plants are given *"In Honor"* or *"In Memory"* of loved ones.
- Please place your order between April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>
- The plants are \$15 each this year in effort to support the Youth Ministry with their activities.



### BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, April 9 • 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room #8  
Let's help save lives together.

Bring your ID

**Find the hero in you! Give blood.**

## Flower Ministry

Providing flowers to adorn the altar during our worship services is a way to honor and remember your loved ones and add beauty to our services. The arrangements are then made them into smaller arrangements and given to people needing comfort and encouragement, if the purchaser chooses.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry by delivering flowers to persons in the hospital or visits to homes please contact Tanya Perales at [tanyaraperales@gmail.com](mailto:tanyaraperales@gmail.com).

**Thank you in  
advance for being  
a part of th  
Flower Ministry.**





# Holy Week/Easter Opportunities at FUMC



## Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Services

**April 9 - 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

On Palm/Passion Sunday we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. The Bible reveals that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with their garments. Immediately following this great time of celebration in the ministry of Jesus, he begins his journey to the cross.

All will receive palms before the worship services this Sunday, and before the 11:00 a.m. service all children are invited to meet outside at the entrance to the Fellowship Center foyer to receive palms and then process in together. Parents and teens are welcome to join in!

The Motet Choir will present special music, "The Final Hours: A Suite for Holy Week" with guest instrumentalists. The Children's Choir will also sing during the 11:00 worship service.

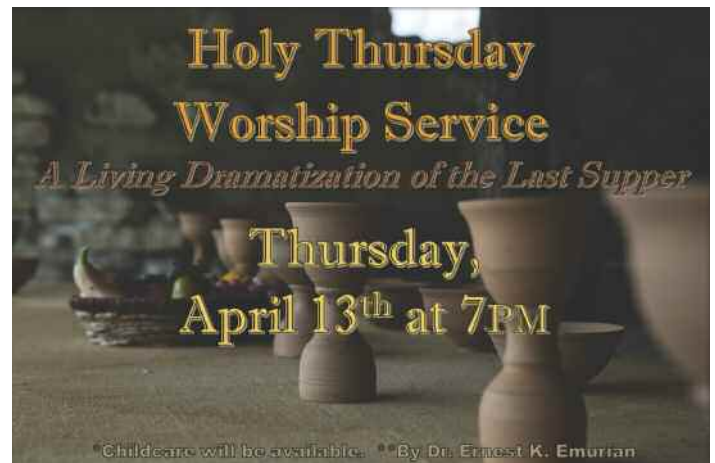
## Maundy Thursday Worship Service

**A Living Dramatization of the Last Supper**

By Dr. Ernest K. Emurian

**Thursday, April 13 • 7:00 p.m. • In the Fellowship Center**

Holy Thursday, also called Maundy Thursday, is the day we commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and the beginning of our sacrament, the Lord's Supper. The word Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus.



## Good Friday Worship Service

**April 14, 12:15 pm • In the Fellowship Center**

Good Friday is the day on which we commemorate the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

## Easter Sunday Worship Services

**Sunday, April 16 • 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Join us in celebration of the Risen Christ!**

Easter Sunday is the beginning of the Easter Season, also known as Eastertide. It begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. During this joyous time the church focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, along with all of God's creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

Easter lilies will adorn the Fellowship Center and family photos will be taken at no charge in the Prayer Garden between services. The Motet Choir will present a special arrangement by Lloyd Larson, "Come, People of the Risen Lord!"





# Calendar of Events

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

# APRIL 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For calendar updates, visit <a href="http://fumcmcallen.com">fumcmcallen.com</a>						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Sunday Night Light Seekers	<b>3</b> Tai Chi Exercise Class Bible Study Fellowship	<b>4</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Lenten Bible Study Better than a Backpack Care Kits for College Kids	<b>5</b> Breakfast & Devotionals w/Middle School Students Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Wednesday Night Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> One Youth Gathering 2017
<b>9</b> Early Traditional Service Palm Sunday Services New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Blood Drive	<b>10</b> Tai Chi Exercise Class BASIC Bible Study Fellowship	<b>11</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's Lenten Bible Study Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group	<b>12</b> Brown Bag Bible Study Children's Easter Celebration Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Maundy Thursday Worship Service Special Needs Ministry Young Adult Group	<b>14</b> Good Friday Service	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Easter Worship Services Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	<b>17</b> OFFICE CLOSED Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen	<b>18</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	<b>19</b> Breakfast & Devotionals w/Middle School Students Brown Bag Bible Study WOW Wednesday Night Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Sunday Night Light Seekers	<b>24</b> Tai Chi Exercise Class BASIC Bible Study Fellowship	<b>25</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	<b>26</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Women's Service Saturday
<b>30</b> Confirmation Sunday Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service						