



THE MESSENGER

April 2018

Holy Week/Easter Opportunities at FUMC

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
10:45 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 & 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.



Palm/Passion Sunday Consecration Service

ONE Service at 10:30 a.m.
followed by Lunch in the Fellowship Center

All will receive palms as they enter to worship this Sunday. Before the service all children are invited to meet outside at the entrance to the Sanctuary to receive palms and then process in together. Parents and teens are welcome to join in! Bishop Schnase will be preaching and we will celebrate Holy Communion. The Motet Choir will present special music and the Children's Choir will sing. Following the service we will all join in a delicious celebration luncheon catered by Macaroni Grill in the Fellowship Center. Love offerings will be accepted to help cover the cost of the meal.

Holy Thursday Worship Service

A Living Dramatization of the Last Supper
by Dr. Ernest K. Emurian

Thursday, March 29 • 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Join us for this powerful presentation as we commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and the beginning of our sacrament, the Lord's Supper. This is the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus.



(continued on page 6)

Pastor's Perspective

April 1 is Easter. I believe God has a sense of humor and is smiling that the day we celebrate Easter in 2018 is also a day that has been labeled "April Fools". The crucifixion of Jesus may be the greatest April Fools stunt ever. The apostle Paul said "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved" (1 Cor 1:18).

This Easter also marks the second weekend of opening the sanctuary. The schedule of Easter Sunday is two identical worship services. One at 9am and the other at 11am. The musical talent and excellence of the Motet Choir and Witness will combine to offer the inspirational Easter cantata, "Amazing Love How Can It Be". I know God will be glorified and we will be blessed.

On April 8, we begin our new Sunday morning worship schedule:

8:30 – Early Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45 – Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Center
11:00 – Late Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

One of the goals of having another worship space is the ability to move the contemporary worship later in the morning. Later in the morning is a more attractive time for the younger generation and parents with children. We pray and expect our numbers in worship attendance to increase so that more people will encounter the transforming love of Jesus Christ so that FUMC is more fruitful in its mission of making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

I ask for a spirit of cooperation and experimentation as all three of our worship services go through a period of transition. If this worship schedule is not meeting our goals, then we are open to a different worship schedule, but we will always get what we have always got if we do the same thing we have always done. Over the next few weeks, we will evaluate our worship life and make necessary adjustments as we move forward to a new normal schedule. Thank you for your open spirit.

Grace and peace,
Ricky



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

Children's Ministry



WOW – Word On Wednesday

March was a month of learning about the parables Jesus taught, stories of God's kingdom and love...



Thank you to these children who spent a morning of their spring break digging and weeding and getting the Kid's Garden ready for planting as we learn about the parable of the sower and plant seeds for a bountiful harvest of okra and zinnias this summer. Note the soil nourishing earthworms we discovered!



Easter Sunday, April 1st

All children are invited to egg hunts following the worship services on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

There will be egg stuffing happening on Thursday, March 29th at 10:00 am. Come help!

Easter Egg Hunt



Parent Informational Meeting Sunday, April 8th

CREATED BY GOD/WONDERFULLY MADE
HUMAN SEXUALITY CLASS FOR 4TH, 5TH, & 6TH GRADERS

12:00 NOON IN KOINONIA ROOM

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED IN ROOM 107



Created By God/Wonderfully Made Info Meeting for Parents

Parents with 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are invited to bring their questions and apprehensions and come learn more about the Created By God -Wonderfully Made human sexuality class for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders being offered in May.

The meeting will be in the Koinonia Room immediately following the late worship service on April 8th. Childcare will be provided for the kids in Room 107 and a light lunch will be offered for all, as well. Contact Lee Ann Clemons for more information.



Vacation Bible School Planning Has Begun!

All who enjoy children and are interested in helping during VBS this summer (June 18-22) are invited to come together to learn about the exciting Rolling River Rampage VBS curriculum we will use this summer. Come join us to begin planning this fun week for all on April 10th, 10:00 am and 5:30 pm

Save the Dates for Summer Opportunities for Kids...

Vacation Bible School – June 18-22
Missions and Music Camp – July 23-27

SUMMER



EVENTS CAMPS EVENTS



The summers have been life changing for our Youth Ministry! But it takes time, money, and a lot of volunteers to have a safe and successful time.

Last summer we had a tremendously large group of youth participate at all of our events and I thank God for always providing what we need. If you have or have not yet been a part of any of these events/camps, I

ask that you consider helping out this summer. We need your help, wisdom, and care. Please call me at **(956) 221-1690** if you are able to be a part of another life changing summer.

• Mission Service Project

- SUN.-SAT., 6/10-16, \$250
- Incoming 9th through outgoing 12th

• Youth Week

- SUN.-THURS., 7/8-12
- Incoming 7th through outgoing 12th

• RTC Youth Assembly Camp

- SUN.-SAT., 7/15-21, \$455
- Incoming 9th through outgoing 12th

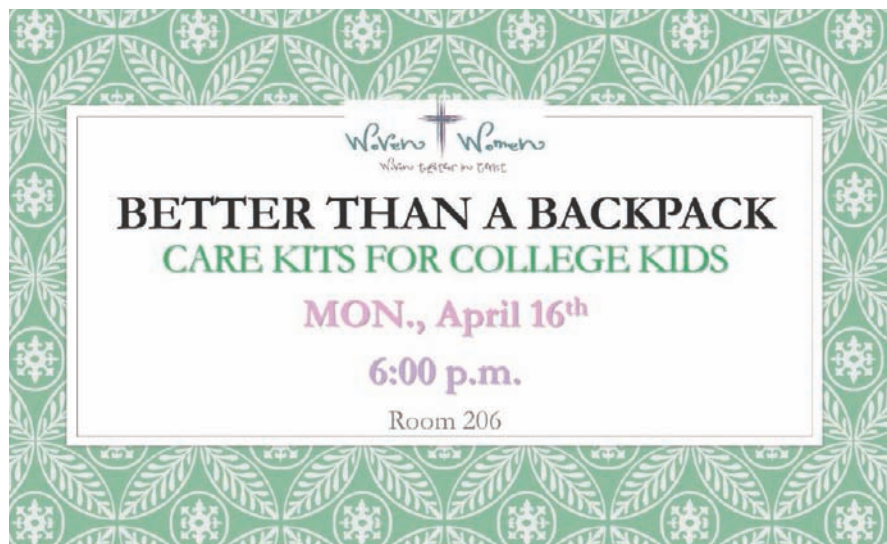
• Praise&Craze

- MON.-THURS., TBD, \$75
- Incoming 6th through outgoing 12th



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Barbara Englebrecht for leading an enlightening, inspiring Lenten study on prayer. Plans are in the works for a study to follow and will be publicized as soon as details are finalized. Come join with other women as we grow closer to Christ together!



All women are invited to gather on Monday, April 16th at 6:00 pm in Room 206 to assemble care packages for more than 35 college-aged students. It is a joy to get together to reach out to young adults with God's love in the way of encouraging words and special homemade treats. Come join us!



Ready to get away for some fun and spiritual renewal?!

A Women of Joy Conference trip to San Antonio is happening on October 5-7. There still may be room for YOU! Contact Peggy Trom or Lee Ann Clemons ASAP for more information.

There are so many opportunities at FUMC to share Jesus with others, and all are welcome to join in!!! The blessings flow as we reach out in God's love to others.....



Baking cookies for Kairos prison ministry....LOTS of cookies!



Yummy donuts for all of the hardworking people building the new sanctuary.



Preparing meals for Emily's Meals, the ministry which feeds more than 40 homeless people every day. FUMC McAllen has committed to preparing and delivering these meals every other Thursday. Come see!



Confirmation Class



This past January, eleven of our eighth grade youth started their Confirmation journey. Each year, along with each of them is an adult church member that is willing to serve as a Mentor and be part of their journey. We are more than halfway through the journey, which included the Confirmation Retreat. The kids had the privilege of experiencing a whole day out in the beautiful and peaceful nature of the Novillos Ranch. There, they forget about school and their crazy schedules and instead enjoyed lessons, games, crafts, lunch, worship, and Holy Communion.

This is the fourth year we are hosted by the Scoggins Family at their ranch. We are so grateful for their generosity and the overwhelming hospitality they always include at these retreats. This year Tina and her beautiful smile were surely missed, but her presence was truly there.

Please join us on Sunday, April 29th, at the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service to witness this year's youth, confirm their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.



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 every day. According to the Department of Family and Protective Services, there were more than 3,000 confirmed child abuse victims in 2015 in the entire Rio Grande Valley. 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 and 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.

Holy Week/Easter Opportunities at FUMC

(continued from page 1)



Good Friday Worship Service

March 30, 12:15 pm
in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, April 1 In the Sanctuary

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Join us in celebration of the Risen Christ!

Easter lilies will adorn the Sanctuary and family photos will be taken at no charge in the Prayer Garden between services.

The Motet Choir and Witness Praise Band will present an Easter Cantata, "Amazing Love How Can It Be".

All children are invited to an Easter egg hunt on the church lawn following each of the worship services





Calendar of Events

First United Methodist Church

4200 N. McColl Rd. • McAllen, TX • 956-686-3784

APRIL 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Easter Worship Service Early Easter Service Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Easter Service	2 Tai Chi Exercise Class	3 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's SEED Group Tuesday Noon Women's Group Co-ED SEED Group	4 Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes 2018 Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	5 Breakfast & Devotionals Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Young Adult Group	6	7
8 Early Traditional Service Holy Grounds Fellowship New Spirit Worship Late Traditional Service Parent Information Meeting - Created By God/Wonderfully Made Light Seekers	9 Tai Chi Exercise Class	10 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Vacation Bible School Morning Planning Meeting Women's SEED Group Tuesday Noon Women's Group Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group Vacation Bible School Afternoon Meeting Co-ED SEED Group	11 Breakfast & Devotionals Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes 2018 Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	12 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Special Needs Support Group Young Adult Group	13	14 Inside Out Church 2018
15 Early Traditional Service Holy Grounds Fellowship New Spirit Worship Late Traditional Service	16 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen Better than a Backpack Care Kits for College Kids	17 Morning Walkers Exercise Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's SEED Group Tuesday Noon Women's Group Co-ED SEED Group	18 Tai Chi Exercise Class WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes 2018 Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	19 Breakfast & Devotionals Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Young Adult Group	20	21 One Youth Gathering 2018
22 Early Traditional Service Holy Grounds Fellowship New Spirit Worship Late Traditional Service	23 Tai Chi Exercise Class	24 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's SEED Group Circle of Friends Tuesday Noon Women's Group Co-ED SEED Group	25 Breakfast & Devotionals Tai Chi Exercise Class Prayer Shawl Ministry Brown Bag Bible Study WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	26 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Young Adult Group	27	28
29 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Confirmation Sunday	30 Tai Chi Exercise Class	For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com .				



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4200 N. McColl Rd.
McAllen, TX 78504



OUR CHURCH IS AN INSIDE-OUT CHURCH, *serving in God's name... out in our community!*



This year, **SATURDAY, April 14th, at 7:45 a.m.** (see schedule below), we will gather **inside** our Church building at 4200 North McColl for a brief time to register, receive your special t-shirt, get a breakfast taco, coffee, snacks, water and instructions. Then will we have a time of prayer and sending forth in the Fellowship Center. *You will then be sent **out** to serve God in our community until 12:00 noon!*

During our time of service, there will be something for everyone! There will several opportunities outside the church and a few planned at the church, for those who cannot go out. At most opportunities you can serve as a family.

PLEASE RSVP! *It is very important to know who will be serving on our "Inside-Out" morning!* A sign-up of the opportunities is contained within this newspaper, around the church or on our website! Some places have a set number of volunteers they can accept. **We ask that you give us a first and second choice of where you would like to serve. We will have special t-shirts available for those who serve!**

Please mark your calendar and join us **Saturday, April 14th**, for a wonderful morning of witness and fellowship! Then, come join us on **Sunday, April 15th** for Worship, as we celebrate as an **"inside-out" church, "serving in God's name!"** If you have any questions, call Susan Hellums at the Church Office, 686-3784, or e-mail at shellums@mcfirst.com. Opportunities to SIGN UP are also on the website!

Weekend Schedule

SATURDAY, April 14th – "SERVICE DAY"

7:45 – 8:15 a.m. Meet at First UMC for Music, Prayer & Sending Forth, coffee, breakfast tacos and snacks, pick up t-shirt and supplies
8:00 – 8:15 a.m. Prayer & Sending Forth,
8:30 a.m. – 12 noon Time of service

SUNDAY, April 15th – "WORSHIP, WITNESS & CELEBRATION"

Regular worship times for "Worship, Witness & Celebration"

The **May Communion Offering** will go to support **"Inside-Out" WEEKEND** at First UMC!

"Dear children, don't just talk about love. Put your love into action. Then it will truly be love." 1 John 3:18 (NIRV)