

First United Methodist Church, McAllen

April 2019

The Messenger



LOVE GOD. SHARE JESUS. GROW FAITH.



Saturday, April 6th, we will turn our church INSIDE-OUT! We will meet in the Fellowship Center at 7:45 a.m. and then go out for our morning of service from 8:30—12:00 noon!

There are many fun opportunities from which to choose! Check Church App, go to our website www.fumcmcallen.com, or pick up a flyer at one

of the church entrances for information and description of choices. You can sign up online or turn in your signup sheet! Please remember there are space limitations at some of the sites. The following morning, Sunday, April 7th we will CELEBRATE our day of service during WORSHIP to our God!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and SIGN UP TODAY

Pastor's Perspective

April 2019

Inside/Out Weekend is coming up on April 6-7. This is a wonderful way to be the church out in the world. God's nature is often described as *love*. Another word that could be used to describe God's nature is *sent*. God is one who sent Jesus Christ into the world.

Jesus sent his disciples two by two into the surrounding cities to carry out the mission of God. Our call from God is to "Go, and make disciples of all nations... (Mt 28:19).

Gone are the days when you can expect people just to show up at the door of your church because you happen to have a good location or nice building. We are invited to participate in God's mission out in the community where people work, play and live. In other words, we cannot wait for people to come to church, we have to take the church to them. God sends us out into the world.

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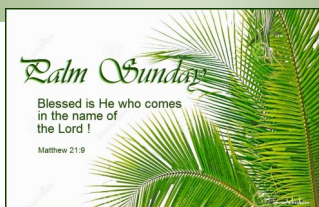


Inside This Issue

Inside/Out	1
Pastor's Perspective	1
Holy Week Services	2
Easter Celebration	2
Youth Speak	3
Pearls of Wisdom	4
Pastor's Perspective Cont'd	4

Worship Information

8:30 am—Traditional Worship
10:45 am—Contemporary Worship
11:00 am—Traditional Worship

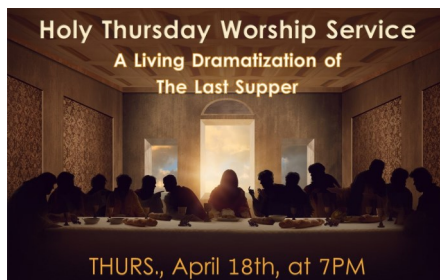


Sunday, April 14

8:30, 10:45, and 11:00 am

All will receive palms as they enter to worship this Sunday. Before the 11:00 service all children are invited to meet outside at the entrance to the Sanctuary to receive palms and then process in together. The Motet Choir will present special music and the Children's Choir will sing.

Join us for Holy Week Services



Good Friday is the day on which we commemorate the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. It is a day that proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is good because God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ.

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).



***"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"***

Join us in celebration of the Risen Christ!



All children are invited to join us following the 10:45 and 11:00 am worship services to hunt eggs on the church lawn. Bring your Easter basket!



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.

Youth Speak

"Don't act out of selfish ambition or be conceited. Instead, humbly think of others as being better than yourselves." Philippians 2:3 Every time I read this scripture it helps me remember to be more like Jesus! I know right, how can the Son of God be the perfect picture of a humble servant?!?! This scripture not only does it describe a humble servant, it also reminds us of what is the most important thing we can do during our time in this world; love God and love our neighbor. That energy and focus to love God and our neighbor is never wasted, it is the most fulfilling and gratifying thing we can do for ourselves. We forget about our wants and needs when we are humble and serve others. And when we do forget ourselves, God does not forget us. Instead, He becomes our daily provider and sustainer. And that is the perfect balance in life, to give all you have to God and others, never tipping the scale.

This scripture also came to mind on our last Sunday Night Youth Group Gathering. Sunday nights are usually all fun and games, but that was not the case this time. I asked for the youth to come out at 4:30PM when it was sunny and bright to do some grunt work outside on our sand volleyball court. This poor court had been ignored during the last 12 months during the worst rain fall in the past five years and during all the dirt from construction of the new building. Who would want to come out during their Spring Break and pull weeds, shovel trash, and rake hard sand? Our youth proved me wrong and showed up ready to work! It was a beautiful sight that made my heart proud. I very proud of their humble and giving spirits; they gave with no expectation of a community service requirement or badge to earn.

What a beautiful, loving, and outrageous God we serve! Worthy of our full attention, especially at Easter. We rejoice in His power and in His promises! May we never forget the hope and grace He has poured on us and may we always be eager to humbly serve Him and others.

#LessOfMeMoreOfHim



Support the Youth Ministry

It is time to order Easter Lilies, which will adorn the altars during Easter Sunday Worship Services on April 21st - the plants are given in honor or in memory of loved ones.

\$12 each



Important Dates

Inside Out

Saturday, April 6

7:45 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, April 13

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 18

7:00 p.m.

A Living Dramatization of the Last Supper

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 19

12:15 p.m.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 21

Confirmation Sunday

April 28

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Friends In Faith

Reveal Party

Sunday, May 5

12:05 p.m.

Social Room

Graduating Seniors

Recognition

Sunday, May 19

11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Check our detailed calendar online at www.fumcmcallen.com

First United Methodist
Church, McAllen

4200 N. McColl Rd.
McAllen, TX. 78504

Phone: (956) 686-3784
E-mail: newsletter@mcfirst.com

Online Information:

You can read current and past
issues of our newsletter, The
Messenger, and listen to our
sermons online at our website:
www.fumcmcallen.com

Pastor's Perspective, cont'd

Inside/Out is a way of practicing taking the church to the community. As the church, we carry God's love in Jesus Christ in us to share that love in acts of mercy and service. As we serve together in the community, we are living out God's sending nature.

More information about where we are serving and how to sign up is found in this newsletter, online or at the Guest Services counter in the church foyer. I encourage everyone to sign-up early for Inside/Out on April 6. Together we become the sent people of God.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ricky

Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Department of Family and Protective Services received 12,697 reports of abuse and neglect in Hidalgo and Starr Counties in 2017. There are over 3 million confirmed cases of child abuse in our nation annually. 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 daily 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, www.bluesunday.org, and www.dfps.state.tx.us. Remember to always thank the Lord for your family, little ones and the life and love that you all share.

“Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.”
Matthew 18:5