

July 2019

First United Methodist Church, McAllen

The Messenger



July Communion Offering

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING for UMCOR

Be There, Be Hope

Recently, our Conference and beyond has experienced many disasters. We have been blessed by the presence of UMCOR and its Consultants during the Early Response and in the Long-Term Recovery following the disasters. They have been present to share their expertise with us when they are needed on-site, by phone and e-mail. We are truly blessed with the presence of UMCOR as part of our United Methodist connectional system!

This OFFERING IS ESSENTIAL TO UMCOR - Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps UMCOR keep its promise that 100 percent of every gift you make to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project-not on home office costs.

LIFE-CHANGING MINISTRY-A RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE - We join United Methodists worldwide by making a special offering through One Great Hour of Sharing to support humanitarian aid through UMCOR. UMCOR's specialized ministries-responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees-all assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest. We can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, the UMC, encouraged by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain.

Pastor's Perspective

July 2019

Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. -Mark 1:35

Jesus is consistently portrayed in the gospels as having a balance of engagement with God's mission and time set apart to communion with God. This balance promotes spiritual health and a growing relationship with God. We would do well to follow Jesus' example. In 2002, our church outlined a policy with the approval of the Staff Parish Relations Committee to help promote that balance for the clergy and other paid staff.

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Worship Information

- 8:30 am—Traditional Worship
- 10:45 am—Contemporary (Praise Band) Worship
- 11:00 am—Traditional Worship

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Thank you...

to Linn Collins for leading the Woven Women June study. After a couple of weeks off, the study will resume on July 8, 15, and 22. Additional books have arrived. Purchase yours in the church office (\$6.00).

Childcare is provided in the new nursery in the north building.

Woven Women Planning Meeting

Monday, July 22 4:00 pm in Overflow Room East



Thank you to all of the adults and teens who helped make Vacation Bible School such a wonderful, fun experience for the children! We sang, danced, ate delicious snacks, learned awesome Bible lessons, made cool things, played super games, and enjoyed being with our friends, old and new. God Is Good and We are Thankful!!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

All children in 3rd through 9th grade (by Sept. 1, 2019) are invited to join us for M & M Camp this July. They will spend mornings reaching out to needy people in our community and afternoons learning a musical written by Alissa Shirah. They will present that musical to family and friends on Friday evening.

The pre-teen years are filled with changes, changes to bodies, minds and emotions. These changes can be difficult to discuss with parents or anyone else as preteens try to navigate their way through this awkward time. The Wonderfully Made class provides kids in the 5th and 6th grades the opportunity to ask questions about

growing up and get faith-based answers. The curriculum covers physical development and spiritual connection while helping pre-teens establish a foundation for their life in Christ. There is involvement by their parents or significant adult, having a positive effect on their ability to communicate in the future about difficult issues and situations.

Youth Speak

Nine youth (three boys and six girls) experienced another amazing week of service at Mission Service Project. We made new friends and went to new places by traveling to the city of Hargill every morning, to show love to three families and by playing afterwards with the other two teams from Stockdale and Mission. We saw needs with new eyes; everyday we took time to discern on scripture and talk about how justice happens one good deed at a time. It was great to allow everyone in the groups to take turns and share their God sightings, because if we use our grace goggles, you can see God in everything and anywhere. *“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to that nations.”* Isaiah 41:1

Of course none of this could have happened without the weeks of planning by the MSP Committee, the volunteers that took time off work to lead the youth in the construction projects and chaperone them overnight, or the cooks that were cooking breakfast by 5:45AM, the many cookie bakers, photo takers, or supply drivers that didn’t just drop off materials but took the time to encourage the youth by showing them construction tricks... etc. the list goes on and on. MSP impacts not just the families that the teams serve, it impacts all that are involved in this beautiful week of intense giving. May we remember to do this every day.



Important Dates

Youth Hospitality Sunday

Sunday, June 30

Happy 4th of July

Thursday –Friday
Church Office Closed

Youth Week

MON-THURS., July 8-11
6-8PM

Sacramento Youth Assembly

2019

SUN.-SAT., July 14-20th

Emily’s Meals Pic Nic

FRI., July 19th

M & M Camp

MON-FRI
July 29-Aug. 2

Download the church App for the latest updates
or check our detailed calendar online at www.fumcmcallen.com

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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.

After a period of busy engagement of a building campaign and two capital fund drives I feel the need to focus on my own communion with God in a more deliberate way. As our SPRC chair, Wayne Johnson has shared in this newsletter I will be taking eight weeks away beginning August 5. This will afford me time to focus on spiritual direction for my life and my own relationship with God.

I thank God and you for this opportunity to retune, renew, and retool. I will be attending other churches similar in size to ours to experience how others worship together. Rev. Robert Perales will be handling the pastoral duties while I'm away so I ask everyone to support him by your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Grace and peace,
Ricky

Staff Parish Relations Approves Sabbatical

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) met recently and unanimously approved a sabbatical leave for our Senior Pastor, Ricky Sanderford. This will be a great opportunity for Ricky to refresh and devote additional time for personal study and prayer while working with a Christian mentor. Ricky will have the opportunity to visit and participate in worship at other churches where he can learn from other congregations. He will begin his sabbatical on Monday, August 5th and return on Sunday October 6th. We appreciate Robert's extra efforts to help accommodate Ricky's absence. Let's support Ricky's sabbatical by staying active in our ministries during his time away.

Wayne Johnson

Chairperson- Staff Parish Relations Committee

