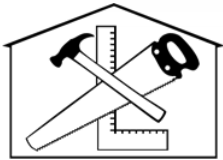


# The Messenger



## 2019 First UMC DISASTER RESPONSE HOUSE BUILD

The 2018 and 2019 springs brought much flooding to the RGV. Many families were severely affected! United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responded by granting the El Valle District of the UMC funds for long term recovery!

Our church family has committed to building a house for a family in need! Much of the preliminary work will be done. We will help complete it!

**WORK DATES** are scheduled for three weeks.

Please let us know if you are available.

Friday &/or Saturday, 10/11 &/or 10/12

Friday &/or Saturday, 10/18 &/or 10/19

Friday &/or Saturday, 10/25 &/or 10/26

We need all kinds of volunteers, planners, organizers, builders, snack deliverers, cooks and bakers! AND most of all PRAYERS!

**For information, please contact Susan Hellums,  
(956)686-3784 or [shellums@mcfirst.com](mailto:shellums@mcfirst.com)**

*"For every house is built by someone  
but GOD is the builder of everything" Hebrews 3:4*

### *Pastor's Perspective: Fostering a Spirit of Adoption*

*Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. — Matthew 18:5 (CEB)*

As I am writing this, Tanya and I are coming up on celebrating our one-hundredth day as parents. When we started imagining our journey as foster parents, neither of us imagined how much the many people in our lives would love on these children. This is something we have especially seen through many of you all in the church. When we first announced we had our kiddos, dozens of people in the church began flooding us with various gifts to help us get situated as an instant family. Since then, many more have taken time to embrace these children as much, if not more, than any other child that enters our doors.

One question Tanya and I have both received on several occasions is whether or not we are planning to adopt them. While I am sure we will both have to say this again, please know our two kiddos, at this time, are not legally available for adoption as their biological parents still maintain their parental rights. *...continued on back*



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### Worship Information

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

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Baby Banquet

We love to celebrate babies with young families!

All families with children born between October 8, 2017 and October 12, 2019 are invited to join us for lunch.

**Sunday, October 13**

**12:00 noon**

**in the Social Room**

Please call the church office, 956-686-3784, to make reservations.

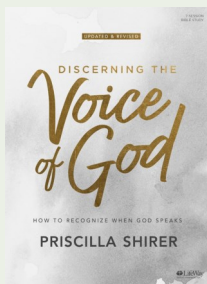
## Third Graders Honored as they Received New Bibles



*Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*

# FALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

**Women's Fall Bible Study**  
Six Weeks  
Beginning October 7  
6:00-7:30 pm  
Overflow Room West



Hear from some of the most well known Christians in history about how God speaks to them, and discover for yourself how you can discern the voice of God. Join us as we discover the treasure of recognizing how God keeps in touch with his beloved people.

**RUMMAGE SALE**  
Benefits the church ministries

BRING RUMMAGE ITEMS:  
TO CYM ON TUES-FRI FROM 9AM-4PM

VOLUNTEER TO ORGANIZE:  
AT CYM ON THURS & FRI FROM 9AM-4PM

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS

**SATURDAY, OCT. 5TH 8AM-2PM**

It is a great time to repurpose those items in your home that you no longer use or need! Bring them to sell at the FUMC Rummage sale to benefit the ministries of the church. Items will be received in the gym Tuesday, October 1 through Friday, October 4 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Invite your friends and neighbors and come join us with your pets at the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 6th, 5:00-6:00 pm.

**Blessing of the Animals**  
SUN., OCT. 6th from 5-6PM  
at the Church Lawn  
All pets and families are invited!



**THURS. OCT. 31**  
5:00-7:00 p.m.

- ★ Free Games & Candy
- ★ Friendly Family Fun
- ★ Fun Food – cash only

Trunk or Treat, the evening of fun for the whole community on Halloween evening is right around the corner. Sign up in the foyer to be a part of this special outreach to our neighbors!

# Youth Speak

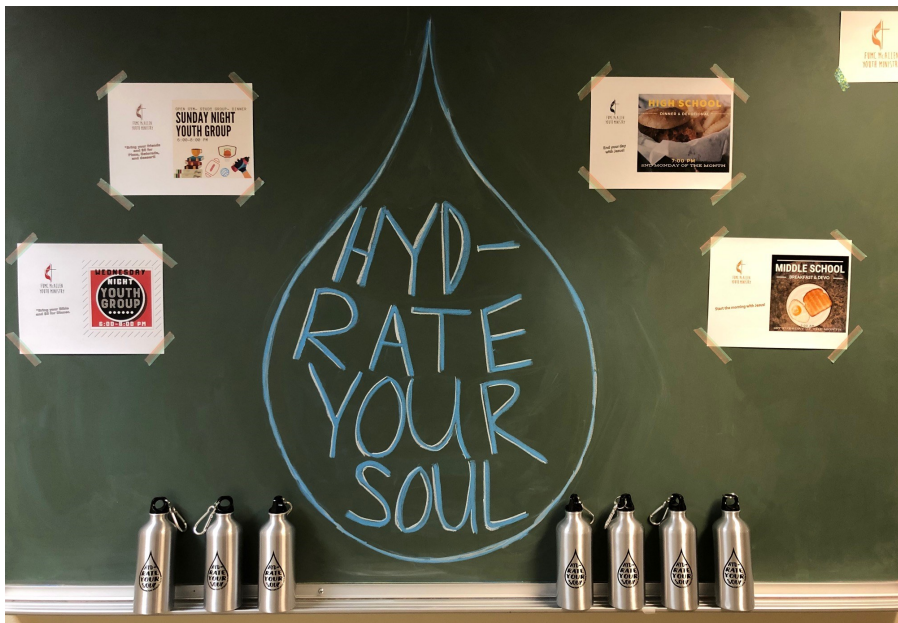
Have you ever been dehydrated? SAME, and it's not very pleasant. It's frustrating when we get dehydrated, especially when we have no excuse to be in such a predicament. We have access to so many water sources so why do we allow ourselves to get to this point? We easily neglect our body of a very important need, and that neglect often carries over into our spiritual life. We never intentionally deprive ourselves of the living water, but life gets busy and overwhelming. But because life gets crazy, we need to make an effort to stay close to the source so we can stay hydrated and be refreshed, both physically and spiritually.

The youth stay hydrated as much as possible by staying active in the Youth Ministry all year round, not just in the summer at camp. They look forward to Wednesday and Sunday nights where they break bread, fellowship, learn His Truth, and pray together.

Our Youth Ministry Council decided to opt out on another YM t-shirt and instead invest in these cool water bottles that remind us not to neglect our body and soul all while keeping our physical and spiritual bodies hydrated. Our youth are very smart and fashion forward; you can't wear the same t-shirt everyday, but you can definitely have your favorite water bottle with you every day and everywhere you go.

These water bottles are for sale and are only \$10 if you would like to be reminded as well!

*“All who are thirsty should come to me! All who believe in me should drink! As the scriptures said concerning me, Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.” -John 7:38*



*“He refreshes my soul.” -Psalm 23:3*

## Important Dates

### Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 5th  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Gym

### Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6th  
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Front West Lawn

### Disaster Response

#### House Build

FRI., Oct. 11 or SAT., Oct. 12  
FRI., Oct. 18 or SAT., Oct. 19  
FRI., Oct. 25 or SAT., Oct. 26

### Baby Banquet

Sunday, October 13th  
12:05 p.m.  
Social Room

### Manna Food Pantry

Monday, October 21st  
10:45 a.m. Food Set Up  
4:00 p.m. Food Distribution

### Trunk or Treat

THURS., October 31st  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Download the church App for the latest updates  
or check our detailed calendar online at [www.fumcmcallen.com](http://www.fumcmcallen.com)

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**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](http://www.fumcmcallen.com)



*Pastor's Perspective, cont'd.*

And, truth be told, when Tanya first started the process of becoming licensed foster parents, we did not even entertain the notion of adopting – our hope was to be parents to children for a season while their birth parents took some time to get their life in better order. That all changed when we received our kiddos and absolutely fell in love.

In our effort to foster, we have inadvertently fostered a spirit of adoption in our hearts. Not only that, but I believe this spirit of adoption has been birthed in the hearts of the many people that have claimed our kids as our own here at First UMC McAllen. So, now, the long answer for the question of adoption is, should they become available for adoption, we would happily make our family their forever family.

I suppose this is my long winded attempt at saying thank you to a church that I continue to be proud to pastor – a church who has accepted these children, strangers in our midst, not only as children of God but as children of this church. Thank you.

*To the Glory of God,  
Pastor Robert*

## First UMC - TRUCK MINISTRY

We are often able to fulfill the needs of others by virtue of what we have been blessed with ourselves. The life and ministry of this church is no different in this respect. There are at times many opportunities where a truck is needed, such as hauling items for the respite center, Food Bank or Care Portal. If you have the blessing of owning a truck and want to assist in these opportunities and more, we are starting a truck ministry that will afford you another chance to bless others. To sign up or if you have questions contact:

Ken Wilson at: [wilsonkennethr@yahoo.com](mailto:wilsonkennethr@yahoo.com) or phone/text - (956) 607-7150.

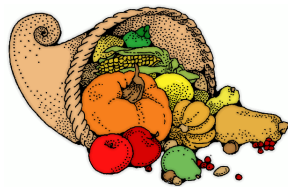


### *“First Fruits” Thanksgiving Collection*

During the month of November we will be collecting the following items for our *“First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets*. We will distribute all food collected to less fortunate families, in the McAllen and the surrounding area. More information will be available at a later date.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Collection Bags will go out on Sunday, October 27th  
and sorting, assembly and delivery will be Sunday, November 17th.**



*“We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the first fruits of our crops and of every fruit tree.” Nehemiah 10:35*