

First United Methodist Church, McAllen

November 2019

The Messenger



THANKSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE

“First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets

Sunday, November 3rd the *Communion Offering* will go toward our Annual “*First Fruits*” Thanksgiving Baskets.

October 27th through November 17th we will have our *Annual “First Fruits” Thanksgiving Basket* collection. This is a tradition of our church. We hope to collect enough to fill at least 150 boxes with your “*first fruits*” for families in need. Instructions for the collection are available on flyers and collection bags located around the church or in this newsletter (see list).

Sunday, November 18th at 1:30 p.m. join us as we come together to sort, assemble, bless and deliver some of these “*First Fruits*” Thanksgiving Baskets!

Monday, November 19th at 4:30 p.m. the remainder of our “*First Fruits*” Baskets will be distributed to our Food Pantry families.

If you have any questions please call Susan Hellums at the church or e-mail at shellums@mcfirst.com.

“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



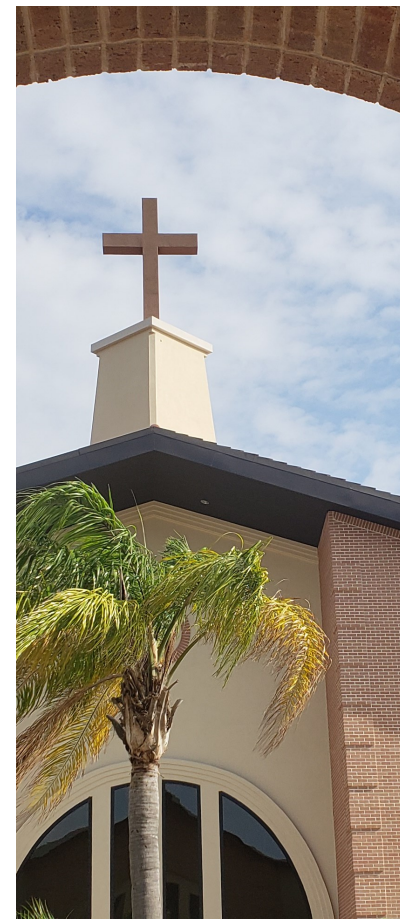
Pastor’s Perspective

*We talk about God’s wisdom, which has been hidden as a secret. God determined this wisdom in advance, before time began, for our glory.
1 Corinthians 2:7*

Is time alive? How time flies. Is time a commodity? We spend time. Is time something we misplace? Where has the time gone? I’ve lost all track of time. Is time something hard to grasp? Time is so fleeting. Does time grow tired? It’s such a busy time. Time of course is a human invention. We say “In God’s good time, then such and such will happen.” God operates in the eternal – there is no time in eternity.

Time is one way we order our lives. November is upon us. I heard someone say “I can’t believe there are only two months left in the year!” November means different things for different people: the heart of football season, deer season, prep time for Thanksgiving and even Christmas. For us here in the church it means All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving baskets and preparation work for charge conference, next year’s ministry budget and securing leaders for the new year.

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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

Join us on November 18th for a fun time together enjoying soup and sandwiches. Jody will guide us through the designing of a fall chalk sign to take home. The fee, \$25.00, must be prepaid by Nov. 8th in the office.



This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It was such a pleasure celebrating these families and their little ones at the Baby Banquet! Thank you to Sue Monopoli for a scrumptious meal!

Parents of one year olds through tenth graders, mark your calendars for ...



**Friday, December 6
6:00-10:00 pm**

**For 1 year olds through
10th graders**

**Register by Nov. 25 at
fumcmcallen.com**

\$15 per child

\$10 per child/3 or more



Mark Your Calendars...

A colorful poster for a children's Christmas musical. The title "AWAY IN A MANGO" is written in large, stylized, red and white letters. Below it, it says "Children's Christmas Musical" and "WED., DEC. 11th". The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. At the bottom, there are illustrations of wrapped gifts and stars. Text at the bottom of the poster includes: "Musical begins at 6PM, followed by Dinner", "\$8 for children, \$5 for teens/adults, \$15 max per family", "*Please bring a Christmas dessert to share.", "CREATED BY STEVE MOORE, ROB HOWARD, DAVID GUTHRIE", and "Reservation deadline is Monday, December 2nd, contact Lee Ann Clemons for more information".

Youth Speak

Friendsgiving is one of those events our Youth Ministry can't wait for! Traditionally, we build and stack the boxes to be used for the First Fruits Thanksgiving Baskets. It doesn't sound very difficult or challenging, but it is. Each box is covered with wax and can be a tad messy and as far as the stacking, it takes a future engineer to guide everyone else or they will tumble down as fast as a house of cards.

This tradition attracts old and new friends to the group; they invite their friends for a great meal with turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, gravy, and a variety of pies. Once everyone is sitting down the heartfelt thankfulness is what always blows me away, not the increased attendance, or their willingness to get dirty and build over one hundred cardboard boxes, or their joy and glee in celebrating the new and old friends presence—it is their gratitude.

Our youth are not only grateful for great food, they are grateful for this church that supports this ministry and gives them a safe place to be allowed to be young and free of judgement and expectation, they are grateful for the people that take time to pray for them, for those that give generously for their events and Bible studies, for amazing pastors that take notice and challenge them with truth, for their parents' guidance to attend and be faithful to their ministry, and to God for allowing them to be a part of something greater than their own lives. They might not post this on social media, or verbally communicate this to the masses at church, but I hear the whispers through their responses when asked for help, actions when challenged to lead, prayer concerns requested, and joys shared. And for that I am grateful; I get to witness these beautiful souls grow.

“... always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” -Ephesians 5:20



5th Annual Friendsgiving Dinner



**WEDNESDAY
NOV. 13th
6-8:00 pm
Social Room West**

Important Dates

All Saints

Worship Service

Sunday, November 3rd

Annual Youth

Friendsgiving Dinner

Wednesday, November 13th

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

First Fruits

Thanksgiving Baskets

Assembly

Sunday, November 17th

1:00 p.m. in the gym

Manna Food Pantry

Monday, November 18th

10:45 a.m. Food Set Up

4:00 p.m. Food Distribution

FUMC Church Family

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Thursday, November 28th

12:00 noon

Download the church App
for the latest updates
or check our detailed calendar
online at
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



Pastor's Perspective, cont'd.

I encourage you to carve out time in your life to focus on God and your own relationship with God. Please think and pray about how God may be encouraging you to take another step on your faith journey. We are constantly being shaped by God in order to experience the abundant life God desires for us in our time. We experience this better when we are intentional about our spiritual practices. I also hope you will think and pray about the people who God might be calling you to introduce to this church family. There are people in our circles who might respond to your invitation to connect with First UMC.

I am looking forward to seeing how God works in our congregation in the time ahead. We have much work to do together, but nothing is beyond our reach when we are partnering with God. Let's get excited about what God may be doing in our time. May that excitement fill us with energy and joy.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ricky

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 or phone/text - (956) 607-7150.

FIRST UMC Disaster Response HOUSE BUILD

Thank you to all who helped with the Disaster Response house build. We thank all who offered prayers, baked cookies, delivered snacks and lunches, contributed financially and who served at the work-site. This was not just a house, this is a new *home* for Florentino and Rosa Martinez, whose home was made un-livable by the flooding of June 2018. They will now have a new home, safe and secure and free of black mold and leaks throughout!

THANK YOU ALL for your compassion and generosity!

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