

The Messenger



JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY

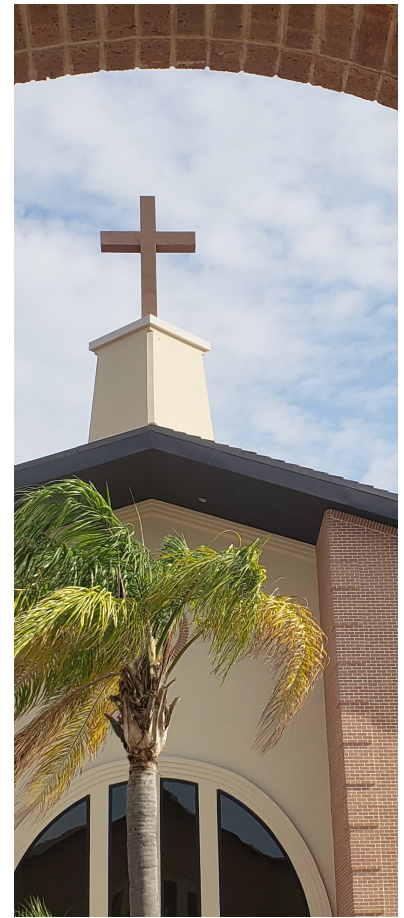


Pastor's Perspective

Welcome to 2020! I pray our vision matches the new year. We need to see clearly that God is working in the world, in this church family and in all our lives. We need clarity to understand the will of God moving into a new decade. I pray for our keen eyesight most especially the eyes of our heart that we may be aware of the needs around us and know that God equips us to do great things in the service of the Almighty.

To remember is one thing we Christians are expected to do throughout the year. That is in part what happens in Holy Communion – we remember what God has done in Jesus Christ. But, we are also called to remember the other sacrament in the church – baptism. A special day in the church at the beginning of each year is the *Baptism of the Lord* Sunday. This year that day is Sunday, January 12. We will celebrate Jesus' baptism and participate by remembering our baptism.

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Worship Information

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

First Place for Health

First Place for Health Orientation

Thursday, January 9
6 - 7pm SR East

First Place for Health believes in the power of Christ to ignite radical, transformative change in our lives. All are invited to join Deb Stark on January 9th to learn more about it.

Coming in January!



FIRSTplace
FOR HEALTH

First Place for Health is an international *bible-based* weight management and balanced wellness living program – focused on the whole person: physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual.

Seek ye first his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you.
- Matthew 6:33

For additional information, contact
Deb Stark at dlstark1220@sbcglobal.net.
The program will begin in January 2020.



...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

WOW (Word On Wednesday) for Children

Resumes January 8
3:30-5:30 pm
For 3 yrs.-5th grade
by Sept. 1, 2019
Bible story lessons,
music, snacks, play-
time, and FUN!
Music/choir happens
from 4:30-5:00. We
are excited to begin
a new Cherub Choir
for Preschoolers and
Kindergarteners this
semester. Come see!



Winter Winner Chicken Plate Dinner Fundraiser \$8.00



SAT., JAN. 18th
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Cash or check payable to FUMC-McAllen

Chicken leg quarter, Cole Slaw, Corn on the Cob, Roll, and Cookie

*Join Robert Bonds and his crew for a delicious chicken barbe-
que take out only dinner on Saturday, January 18th. Tickets
are on sale following all worship services. Grab a few tickets
from Robert to sale to help raise funds for the FUMC McAllen
general budget. The dinner includes a quarter chicken,
cole slaw, corn on the cob, a roll and cookie.*

Youth Speak

Meals and feasts are a common theme throughout the Bible. In the Old Testament, God designed annual festivals and feasts for His people to remember His faithfulness, and in the New Testament we see countless times where Jesus arranged or invited himself to meals. Sharing a meal with others brings people closer together. ~

We like to follow that same example during our Confirmation Classes by breaking bread together before each class. Confirmation Classes are starting up very soon; our first class begins on Wednesday, February 5th, and we not only feed our Confirmands, their Mentors, our Pastors, and I—we also feed the youth that attend Wednesday Night Youth Group! Wednesday nights become a weekly feast where we share meals, fellowship and share all the beautiful things God has done for us.

Please prayerfully consider hosting dinner as a Sunday School Class, a Ministry of the church, or as a family for our 2020 Confirmation Class on one of the upcoming Wednesday nights. The church provides all paper ware, tea, and lemonade; all you need to provide and host is a warm meal and dessert.

Thank you for your support and please contact Veronica Dillon at (956) 221-1690 or vdillon@mcfirst.com to see which dates are available to host.



Important Dates

W. O. W. and WNYG

Resume on
Wednesday, January 8th

Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 12th

Winter Winner Chicken Plate Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday, January 18th
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Youth Midwinter Camp

January 24-26th

Confirmation Parents &

Mentors Meeting

Wednesday, January 29th
5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

The Magic Valley

Men of Accord

February 9th

Cornerstone Texas

Ramp Project

February 28th-29th

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

~ Except from the Bible App
Advent Devotional

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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:

Pastor's Perspective, cont'd.

Baptism is our entry rite into the church and an acknowledgement that we are God's. Through baptism, God marks us as a holy child of the Creator. As we allow God's love to shine through us our "watermark" is revealed for the world to see. I hope God's watermark on you is clearly seen by those around you in 2020.

In response to our place in God's heart and Kingdom, we will have the opportunity to make a recommitment to God through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. I look forward to celebrating this special day with you on January 12 at each of the morning services.

An exciting adventurous year of mission and ministry lies ahead. More than we could ever imagine because together we do more.

Grace and peace, Ricky



January Communion Offering UMCOR / CWS Blanket Program

Over past years our church family has taken a special collection for United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) / Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Program. A blanket can mean a lot to us! We wrap newborn babies in small soft blankets, we toss a pretty quilt on our bed for color and decoration, we buy soft fluffy throws to put across our shoulders when we feel a

chill, and often we snuggle under the covers when we go to sleep at night. Blankets are given to people that have been displaced from their homes by a tornado or flood. Blankets are even used for floors in homes that have none and for walls to block the cold wind from blowing through cracks in the walls of a home or even as a tent. Sometimes they are used by a person who has no coat or one who is homeless.

Blankets are shipped both internationally and domestically in the relief work of UMCOR. Over the years, thousands of blankets have been shipped to our border area for distribution with ministries here in the Rio Grande Valley.

On January 5, 2019, our Communion Offering will go to the UMCOR/CWS Blanket Program. Only \$5.00 will buy a blanket. Please prayerfully consider your gift to this ministry and "blanket the world with love."

