

The Messenger



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 28 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 will be many fun and meaningful opportunities from which to choose! We are currently confirming places of service in our community. Stay tuned and check the Church App, go to our website www.fumcmcallen.com. We will have a flyer at the

church entrances for information and description of choices. **These will be available soon!** When choices are available you will be able to sign up in several ways. Please remember there are space limitations at some of the sites where we will be serving!

Sunday, March 29, the following morning, we will GATHER and CELEBRATE our day of service during our WORSHIP SERVICE, giving all glory to GOD!

Be sure to enjoy the slide show of last year's Inside Out Day on our church website, now, www.fumcmcallen.com.

Pastor's Perspective

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership (LCCL) is a think-tank and research organization connected with Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. Their ministry provides resources to support local churches in their own ministry and leadership development. Last year after extensive research the staff at LCCL identified nine current trends that are impacting the local church in this climate of culture change and the place of the church in our culture. I share them with you here and as you read them ask yourself these questions:

- Is this trend impacting FUMC McAllen?
- If so, how?
- What might that mean for our church and ministry going forward?

Here they are:

1. **Changes in church attendance patterns** including decreasing worship attendance across the theological spectrum and less frequent worship attendance among "regular attendees"
2. **Changing lifestyles**, particularly delayed marriage among younger adults
3. **Growing income inequality** and the disturbing tendency for lower-income families to be dechurched
4. **Demographic shifts and increasing cultural diversity** that jeopardize the future of congregations unable to adapt to changes in their communities

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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 Lenten Study—*LISTEN TO HIM*

Mondays, March 2, 9, 23, and 30

6:00-7:15 pm Overflow Room West

It happened on perhaps the best day of his life so far—the day before the day Jesus would make the journey to the worst day of his life. Jesus and three of his disciples gathered on a high mountain where Jesus was transfigured right before their eyes. The voice of God spoke three thunderously piercing words into the minds and hearts of those disciples. They were as follows: LISTEN TO HIM. These forty days of Lent provide forty steps to lean in and listen deeply to Jesus. Listening to Jesus—it's our highest calling to the lowest place where we discover our lives transformed and our worst days breaking forth into our best life. Join us on this journey to the cross.



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

Proverbs 22:6



***June 8-12th
 9am-12 noon***

***For children 4 years
 of age through
 5th grade by
 September 1, 2020***

***Register children at
fumcmcallen.com
 or on our app.***

A fun-filled Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School is in the works! Get on Board and join us to help provide an exciting, memorable week for children as they discover through life's ups and downs that Jesus' power pulls us through. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, engage in fun snack-eating experiences, take part in one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them to trust Jesus, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings.

***We need YOU to help make this a successful week for all.
 Contact Lee Ann Clemons, to offer your help.***

YOUTH SPEAK

Is life on fast and furious pace or are we throwing out the door quality in exchange for cheap and quick? I recently read the article below and it spoke loud and clear to me and now would like to share it with you too.

It was written by the Director of Youth & Young Adults from another UMC Conference, one of the largest in Texas.

A Parable of Texas Youth Academy

“A certain conference was preparing a great event and invited many young guests. At the time to apply for the event, the conference sent an email to tell those who had been nominated, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just been named an officer of the school’s drill team, and I must attend officer camp. Please excuse me.’

“Another said, ‘I have been to Lakeview five years in a row, and I still want to go one more time. Please excuse me.’

“Still another said, ‘I just started dating someone, so I can’t come.’

“The emails came back and reported this to the conference. Then the conference became frustrated and sent out some more invitations, ‘Go out quickly into the churches and towns of the conference and bring in those whom God is calling; those ready to grow in their discipleship, seek authentic community, and explore their faith.’

“Those investing in the young said that we’ve got some great students this year, but there is still room for more, plus some incredible staff.’

“Then the conference told those who are working to transform the lay and clergy leadership, ‘Go out to the worshiping communities and youth groups and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.”

As you can see through this email, and our other Center for Congregational Excellence communications, there are an abundant amount of incredible opportunities where we are making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ. For all its benefits, mass communications are not the most effective means of sharing invitations to deeper discipleship. Similar to the parable from Luke's gospel, until there is a personal relationships and personal invitation to an extraordinary event, folks do not show up.

Unfortunately, this is not just happening at a particular area, it is an epidemic sweeping the nation. We are bombarded by so many opportunities and masses of outlets of communication that are competing for our attention. Sometimes, we miss a great event due to lack of relational stability. What does this mean? How can we change it? It only takes a yes. Yes, I will be intentional in carving time for what really matters; the banquet that serves the bread of life.

Important Dates

Daylight Saving

Time Begins

March 8

Spring Break

March 15-22

Inside-Out Weekend

March 28-29

Palm Sunday

April 5

Holy Thursday

Living Dramatization

of the Last Supper

April 9

Good Friday Service

April 10

Easter Sunday

April 12

One Youth Gathering

April 18

Download the church App
for the latest updates
or 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.

5. **Changes in how people connect with congregations** including the eroding paradigm of membership and the importance of entry points other than Sunday worship
6. **The imperative of reaching beyond church walls** in an era when fewer and fewer people are culturally predisposed to finding their way to church on their own
7. **New more organic approaches to faith formation** less dependent on traditional preaching and teaching
8. **Creative approaches to church financing** to enhance economic sustainability in an era when tithes and offerings may no longer be enough
9. **Changes in the religious workforce** such as an increase in part-time and bivocational clergy and more laity in significant ministry roles as paid staff or volunteers

It's healthy to reflect on these and other trends that impact the church of today. I invite conversation around these trends and what they might mean for our ministry together. Keep praying for the church and for our leadership that together we might "...figure out what God's will is – what is good and pleasing and mature." (Ro 12:2)

See you in worship and around the community.
Peace, Pastor Ricky

InsideOut 2019

Serving OUT in our Community!

