

# The Messenger



## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES

Journey with us this Advent season toward Christmas, a time of joyous waiting as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ, the new born King, Prince of Peace!

### Advent Bible Study for Adults The Gift of the Nutcracker

Three Weeks Beginning December 4  
Tuesdays at 10:45 am in the Koinonia Room

For Women Four Weeks Beginning Nov. 26  
Mondays at 6:00 pm in the East Overflow Room

### Motet Choir Christmas Cantata Bethlehem's Child

By Vistor C. Johnson and Lloyd Larson  
Sunday, December 16 11:00 a.m.

### Children's Christmas Musical

Wednesday, Dec. 19 in the Fellowship Center  
Program begins at 6:00 pm with dinner following.  
Please bring a Christmas dessert to share.

A reading of the Christmas story,  
music, candles, hot chocolate and cookies  
Thursday, December 20 5:45 pm  
Bill Schupp Park, 1300 Zinnia Ave., McAllen

### Witness Christmas Special

Saturday, December 22  
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

### Christmas Eve Worship Services

Monday, December 24  
5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Worship Service  
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service  
with Holy Communion  
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service  
with Holy Communion



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## Worship Information

8:30 am—Traditional Worship
10:45 am—Contemporary Worship
11:00 am—Traditional Worship

## Pastor's Perspective

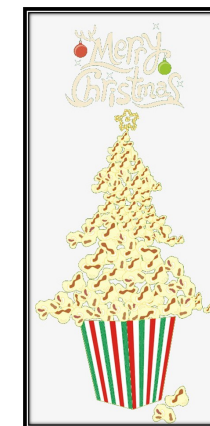
December. Advent. Waiting. They seem to go together. But it's not a "sit on your hands", idle type of waiting. This is a hyper active time of year for many. After all, there are only "X" number of shopping days left until Christmas.

The pace of life at the church is brisk too. The quickness of this pace is magnified this year by two important happenings. The first focus is the debt elimination capital campaign. While the current "Harvesting the Fruit" campaign is in its last four months, we are beginning the work on the next capital campaign to pay off the remaining debt on our sanctuary. You'll be receiving a brochure in the mail soon laying out the vision for this campaign.

I was asked "Why another campaign?" Two responses:

1. A follow-up campaign was always the plan because we knew we're going to be left with a debt and we do not want to service a long term debt out of our ministry budget.
2. By having a debt elimination campaign over the next three years, we will save over \$1,000,000 in interest payments. Think of the lives we could touch with the gospel and the ministries supported with that kind of financial backing. ....cont. on back

## Children's Ministry— Fun Friday Children's Christmas Celebration (Parents NOT included!)



### CHILDREN'S FUN FRIDAY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

• Pizza, Movie and FUN!

• **FRI., DEC. 7TH**

• **6:30-10:00 p.m.**

- For 3 year olds through 5th graders by Sept. 1, 2018
- Make reservations at [fummcmcallen.com](http://fummcmcallen.com) by Nov. 26th
- \$15 per child, \$10 per child for 3 or more children



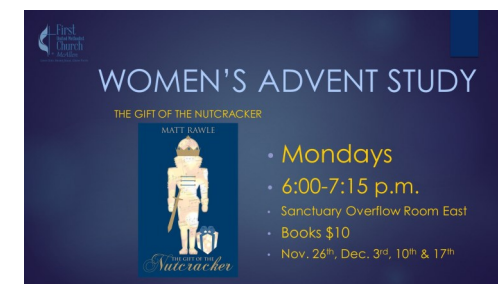
WOW Kids singing for their friends at Bridges Assisted Living

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



**Bible Journaling  
Information Meeting  
Monday, December 3  
5:30-6:00pm  
Overflow Room East**

**Bible Journaling Class  
Mondays, January 7, 14,  
21, & 28  
6:00—7:30 pm  
Overflow Room East**



The Nutcracker was first performed in 1892, quickly becoming a holiday tradition, one that continues for many families to this day.

In The Gift of The Nutcracker, Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way—through the lens of faith. In this

four-week Advent series, Rawle uses the iconic tale to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child and of the kingdom Christ came to build.

Preparing tamales together is a Christmas family tradition for many in the south Texas area. Our very own Sylvia Gomez will teach all who are interested how to prepare and assemble tamales. We will gather in the church kitchen at 9:00 am on Dec. 8th, prepare the tamales and take a few home to share!



**Tamale Make and Take  
led by Sylvia Gomez**

**SAT., DEC. 8th**

**9:00 a.m. – 12 noon**

\$15 per person - Church Kitchen

All are invited!

Sign-up in the church office by Thurs., Nov. 29th



# Youth Speak

“For in Him we live and move and have our being.”  
Acts 17:28

I think you can very easily describe the Youth Ministry with three words: Jesus, pizza, and fun! Yet, there is so much more to this ministry, including tears; tears of joy, sadness, anxiety, anger, exhaustion, hope, laughter, pressure, and more. Unfortunately, high school is still a jungle with many different tribes, yet inside of them they all have the same wants and needs: acceptance and love. Leading a youth group is not for wimps, it can be heartbreaking and yet so rewarding! These kids are so smart, beautiful, complicated, giving, and passionate. May we all have the courage to roll-up our sleeves and desire to lead, mentor, learn, serve, worship, and play along with them as they continue to grow under our loving care.  
**#WeAreNotJustFunAndGames**



## Important Dates

### Children’s Fun Friday

### Christmas Celebration

Friday, December 7th  
6:30-10:00PM

### Motet Choir

### Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 16th  
11:00 AM  
Sanctuary

### Children’s Ministry

### Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 19  
6:00PM

### Silent Night at the Park

Thursday, December 20th  
5:45 PM  
Bill Schupp Park

### Christmas Eve

### Worship Services

Monday, December 24th  
5:00 PM Family Candlelight  
7:00PM and 11:00PM  
Candlelight with  
Holy Communion

Please see 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 Mes-  
senger, and listen to our sermons  
online at our website:  
[www.fumcmcallen.com](http://www.fumcmcallen.com)

## Pastor’s Perspective, cont’d

The second important focus at this time is our annual ministry budget. Normally we would give attention to this in January, but with the debt-elimination campaign we are focusing on the 2019 ministry budget in December. It is vital that our capital campaign not have a negative impact on our annual ministry budget.

Two years ago we began a journey and challenge to raise our giving to the ministry budget by 5% each year for three years. That is what we felt was needed to absorb the cost of a sanctuary. Praise God and thanks to your faithful giving, we have met that 5% increase goal for the past two years. I think 2019 will be no different. I’m looking forward to finishing 2018 strong and above budget. Growing another 5% in 2019 will enable us to move into the future on sound financial footing. Thanks be to God!

Next week, you will receive in the mail a copy of our 2019 Ministry Budget and a 2019 estimate of giving card. I ask you to pray how God is calling you to respond to all God has done for you. Fill out your card and bring it with you to church on December 2. We will have an opportunity to turn our cards in on this the first Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of the new church year. We will return our cards during Holy Communion.

Thank you for your attention to these two important focuses. I look forward to celebrating the coming of God’s gift of love to the world as we move through this Advent season preparing to celebrate Christmas. May God continue to bless you.

Grace and peace, Ricky

## **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES** *continued*

**Regional School for the Deaf  
Elementary Children’s Choir Program**  
Friday, December 14  
9:45 am in the Social Room

**Christmas Day Luncheon**  
Tuesday, December 25, 12:00 noon Social Room  
Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Make reservations through the church office, 686-3784.

## **December Communion Offering** **Annual Youth Christmas Share Event**

Your offering during Communion on Sunday, December 2nd, will help make Christmas brighter for a few special families that the Youth Ministry will be serving during their annual Christmas Share event. If there is anything that our church can brag about, it is that we are a connectional group! And that includes the youth. This year they are willing to take time out of their exam studying schedule and put others’ needs first. This event is happening on December 14th, and as usual, they will be shopping in the middle of the night and wrapping gifts until 3:00 in the morning. But things are going to be a little different this year. As requested by the youth, we are going to serve families that the youth have already connected with over the years to help make this a little bit more special for them and the families.

During the hot days of June, our youth have been working in the homes of the MSP families; five days straight from 8AM until 4PM. During those days the youth have bonded with the families even when there is a language barrier and they can not forget them. For Christmas Share we will be shopping and delivering at each home to 7 families, a total 12 adults, and 20 kids to shop for; toys, shoes, groceries, clothes, and maybe even a home item on Sunday, December 16th, after the worship services.

*If you have questions or home items to contribute,  
please contact Veronica Dillon, [vdillon@mcfirst.com](mailto:vdillon@mcfirst.com) or call the church office!*  
**Thank you in advance for your gift of love in this season of sharing!**