



THE MESSENGER

November 2014

First United Methodist Church of McAllen

4200 N. McColl Road
McAllen, Texas 78504

956-686-3784
Fax 956-664-0204

www.FUMCMcAllen.com

Weekday Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:30 - 4:30
Friday 8:30 - 2:00

Worship at First Church

Service Information

8:30 Traditional Worship
9:00 Contemporary Worship
11:00 Traditional Worship

9:45 Sunday School

Nursery provided at all services.

Newsletter & Sunday Sermons

Our FUMC newsletter,
The Messenger, and our weekly
9 & 11 a.m. sermons, are
available on the website,
www.fumcmcallen.com.

You can read current or past
issues of the *Messenger* and
listen to the sermons. You can
also follow us on Facebook.

You may also use the website to
update your contact information.
You will find this link on the home
page. Your help in keeping our
records current and up-to-date is
very much appreciated.

Love God Share Jesus Grow Faith



2015 Ministry Budget Campaign Commitment Sunday, November 16

Pastor's Perspective LOVE GOD, SHARE JESUS, GROW FAITH



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

Love God...Share Jesus...Grow Faith. I've spend much time talking about these six words the last few weeks. A blessing of having a study leave was I attended worship at different churches. Experiencing these church families helped to crystalize in my heart and mind what we do as the First United Methodist Church family. I filtered my experience of other churches through the lens of what we do as church, how we do what we do and why we do what we do. Six words (three phrases) that distill what we as church strive and strain to do to the glory of God formed in my mind. Let me say a word about each phrase.

LOVE GOD. Pharisees asked Jesus which commandment was the greatest. Jesus said to love God with all your heart, soul and mind. Striving to love God in all we do is fulfilling what Jesus said was most important.

SHARE JESUS. Jesus added an additional commandment that he said was like the first, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:34-40) Loving your neighbor as yourself involves acts of mercy, loving-kindness and treating neighbors as you want to be treated. But, the most loving thing you can do for your neighbor is to share with them the gift of Jesus. That is the gift that has eternal rewards.

GROW FAITH. Our mission as United Methodists is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. While it is God who makes it possible for people to receive and have faith, we are expected to provide an environment that makes it possible for faith to grow, flourish and be fruitful. Faith becomes fruitful (disciples are created) when it leads people to claim Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

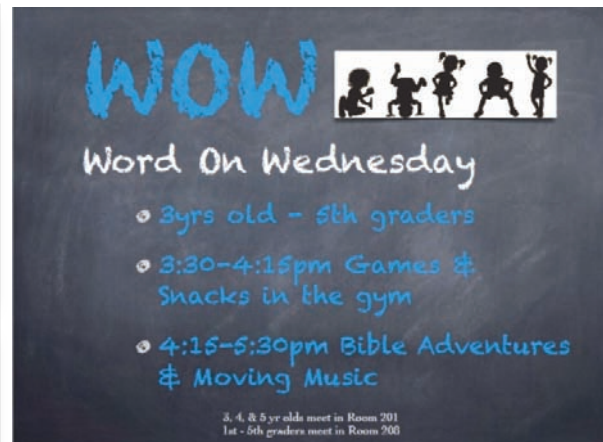
I hope you've been able to see the videos we are showing each week in worship that show how we are loving God, sharing Jesus and growing faith through the ministries of our church. There is a link

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Children's Ministries



Mission Possible Kids want to change the world! They have been quite busy doing their part... making prayer beads for children in the US looking for a better home and assembling chili mixes to raise funds for Imagine No Malaria. Thanks to YOU, the children raised over \$500 to help in the fight against malaria in Africa. The next MPK meeting happens on Friday, November 14th at 5:30 p.m. in the MPK headquarters, Room 201. All children (1st through 5th graders) are invited to come join us as agents for God's work in the world!



All you have to do is open your eyes to see God's love in His amazing creation around us! And the WOW kids have had a lot of fun

learning about His awesome world these past few weeks. A huge thank you to Irene Thompson who gave her time to teach the children about the delicate and fascinating hummingbird. The children's Faith Garden on the south side of the church property is flourishing...come check out their oregano and bell peppers! And the children enjoyed drawing their reflected images and discussing what it means to be made in and reflect God's image to others. All children (3 yrs. through 5th graders) are welcome to join us every Wednesday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.



A great big **THANK YOU** to our parents who donated candy for Trunk or Treat. We always enjoy seeing all the children in their costumes. **THANK YOU** to McFirst for providing a safe environment for the children of our community to Trick or Treat!!

We will be having Robert Soto from the South Texas Indian Dancers perform for the children on Thursday, November 13th at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and see his awesome dancing.



FUMC Day School will be closed Nov. 24th-28th for Thanksgiving break. We hope everyone has a safe and Thankful holiday!!!



Children's Christmas Program, Dinner, and Desserts

All children in 1st through 5th grades are invited to be a part of celebrating Jesus this year through the fun and meaningful musical "An Unplugged Christmas". Practices will happen on Sunday afternoons, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., beginning November 2. The program will be presented on Sunday December 14th, followed by a delicious dinner and Christmas desserts prepared by YOU! Dinner - \$3 for children NOT in the musical, \$5 for teens/adults, \$15 max per family.



“First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets

November Communion Offering & Opportunities to Serve

“First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets has been an annual tradition of our Church family for years! This year we will have several opportunities for service in the contributing, sorting, packing and distribution of our “First Fruits!” Your help is needed at one or more of these times! It is our hope to sort and pack 150+ boxes at the church on Sunday, November 16th at 1:30 p.m.!

Join us for one or more of these opportunities, as we give thanks and praise to God!

- (1) Give a special offering at Communion, November 2, to help in the purchase of perishable items for the baskets (boxes).
- (2) Donate SPECIFIC food items (see list of items needed).
- (3) Sunday, November 16th at 1:30 p.m. join us to sort and pack items into boxes.
- (4) Deliver one or two boxes to our neighbors in need identified in our surrounding community (as we have done in the past).
- (5) Be part of a group delivery, Sunday, November 16th 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. to an identified community agency for distribution.
- (6) Join us on Monday evening, November 17th, to distribute Thanksgiving Baskets and blessings to our Manna Food Pantry recipients from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Plan to join us in this ministry to offer the gift of our “First Fruits” to neighbors!

“...as it is written in the law: We bring the first fruits of our soil and the first fruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD...”
Nehemiah 10:35



“First Fruits” Thanksgiving Basket Collection

The next 4 weeks we will be collecting the following items for our “First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets. All food is collected to be distributed to needy families, elderly and disabled in McAllen and the surrounding area. We are asking for the following SPECIFIC items.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 2 lb bag – Rice (long grain) | 15 oz can –Vegetables (mixed) |
| 2 lb bag – Pinto Beans (dried) | 15 oz can – Pumpkin |
| 24 oz bottle – Vegetable or Canola Oil | 2 lb bag – Sugar |
| 15.4 oz can – Corn (whole kernel) | 2 lb bag – Flour |
| 14.5 oz can – Green Beans (cut) | 3 each / 5oz boxes – Fideo |
| 15.25 oz can – Fruit Salad (chunky) | |
| 2.2 oz (6 cubes) – Knorr (or Maggi's) Caldo Sabor Pollo y Tomato Bouillon Cubes
(chicken flavor and tomato bouillon cubes) | |



Perishable food items will be bought and included according to monetary donations. If you have specific non-perishable items to contribute, please contact Susan Hellums, at the church.

Thank you in advance for the gift of your “FIRST FRUITS”!





Advent/Christmas Opportunities at FUMC

Advent Bible Study

"Christmas is Not Your Birthday"
Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus

Written by Mike Slaughter Led by Robert Perales
Wednesdays at 12 Noon • Beginning November 19

(There will be a brief info session immediately following the regular class on November 12th.
 Reading assignments and books will be given out at that time.)

"Every year, we say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us. In five short, engaging chapters, Pastor Mike Slaughter inspires readers to approach Christmas differently, and be transformed in the process." (\$8.00 each).

Children's Sugar Plum Workshop

Saturday, December 6 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Children, 3 years old through 5th graders, are invited to the annual FUMC Sugar Plum Workshop. The children will spend time making gifts for family and friends. It is always a fun day and a way to remember that Christmas is about giving and celebrating God's most precious gift to us, Jesus Christ. The cost per child is \$10.00, which includes lunch. Scholarships are available.

Motet Choir Christmas Cantata

"Were You There on That Christmas Night"

by Lloyd Larson

Sunday, December 14 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program, Dinner, and Desserts

"An Unplugged Christmas"

by Susie Williams and Luke Gambill

A musical about the BIGGEST, BRIGHTEST Christmas Show ever!

**Sunday, December 14 in the Fellowship Center
 Program at 5:30 p.m. followed by Dinner and Desserts**

The FUMC children invite you to celebrate Christmas with them as they present "An Unplugged Christmas", a musical reminding us that Jesus is the true Light of Christmas. Following the musical we will share a delicious meal together, and then celebrate with desserts made by YOU! Please bring your favorite homemade holiday dessert to share. Dinner - \$3 for children, \$5 for teens/adults, \$15 max per family.

Youth Christmas Share

Friday, Dec. 19 – Saturday, Dec. 20 (Times – TBA)

A late night for Junior and Senior High students of Christmas spirit, shopping, and decking the halls!
 The December communion offering will go to the Youth Christmas Share Ministry.

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The start of something new is always challenging, but at the end of it I always find it rewarding. It is not about being successful most of the time, but about daring to improve or change. Don't get me wrong, I can be the queen of procrastination, but I am also, most of the time, ready for innovation. It is in my nature to find new challenges, ideas, and or places. It has been over a year that I was given the opportunity to be the Youth Director here at FUMC McAllen. So much has happened; from camps to events, including old and new traditions. But one of the new (and awesome) things happening in this ministry are INTERNS.

FUMC Youth Interns are Juniors or Seniors in High School or College students that facilitate with the youth activities. During the summer, the Youth Ministry was blessed with our first two interns; Ian Gully and Henry Burns. Interns are a vital part of the growth of this ministry; they lead in prayer, small groups, and in worship. The youth kids look up to them and enjoy their leadership and fun attitudes. Just like a proud mom, I could go on and on about how amazing they are, but I rather you hear directly from them. Below are two blurbs that show how much they have been impacted by our church ministries (Children's Ministry, Missions Ministry, Worship Ministry, and Hospitality Ministry) and how these ministries have helped them with their Spiritual Journey.



FUMC YOUTH
MINISTRY



I've been a part of youth since I was in 6th grade, and being in youth has helped make me who I am today. Being able to be an intern at FUMC has allowed me to grow further in my faith with god. Also some of the most rewarding parts of being an intern is being able to hang out with kids that remind me of a younger version of myself. Seeing them connect with God and seeing them smile is a reward all in its own. Knowing that I was able to be a part of their journey through their faith with God is so much more than I could have asked for. Some teens my age have their first job working at McDonald's or H.E.B. but working with the church has taught me how to lead kids and other teens better. There is nowhere else I would rather work.

Ian Gully (Picture credit: Sarah Summers, Youth Sunday during Time for Children)

Being in a band has been a goal of mine since I began exploring music. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to work with the youth worship band. The experience of working with a wonderful group of young men and women has been enlightening, not only musically, but also spiritually. I find particular value in music as a form of worship. I am very proud of all the members of the group, and hope that we continue to develop in our music and in our faith.

Henry Burns (Youth Worship Conference 2014, Corpus Christi, TX)



Our youth are active, fun, and caring. Keep praying for them as they continue to grow, physically and spiritually.

Choosing Love & Joy,
Veronica Dillon
Director of Youth Ministries



2014 "Serve Our Schools – S.O.S." - Words of Appreciation -

Thanks to ALL involved in the planning and serving for "Serve Our Schools – S.O.S." 2014! Over 350 came out from our church and community, Saturday a.m., September 20, for a wonderful morning of service at three of our local schools! We give all glory to God for this opportunity to serve in His name!

Advent/Christmas Opportunities (continued from page 4)

New Spirit Worship Service Christmas Musical

"Lost and Found"

A Christmas Contemporary Musical Presentation
by Witness Praise Band
Sunday, December 21 • 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Sunday, 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

*Childcare will be available during
the 5 and 7 p.m. services.

Christmas Day Luncheon

Thursday, December 25 • 12 Noon

Join the Manns and Stolleys for a Christmas Day luncheon in the Social Room. Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Call the church office, 686-3784, to let us know if you will be attending.

Church Family



Congratulations to...

Erie Genie Cavazos was baptized at First United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 12, 2014. She pictured with her father and mother, Alejandro and Genie and big sister Kayla. The Cavazos' address is 378 House Ave, Sandia, TX 78383.

New Members

First United Methodist Church was pleased to welcome Robert and Merrijo Bonds into church membership on Sunday, September 21, 2014. The Bonds address is 5419 N. 5th Street, McAllen, TX 78504.

BOYS NIGHT OUT 2014

Saturday, November 8, 5:30PM – 9:00PM

\$20 registration includes dinner and Hobby Pro RC entry fee

A time for our 6th – 12th grade boys to bond in scripture and have fun too!
Go to McFirst.com to register for this event.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

	Sept 2014	Sept 2013	Year-to-Date		Budget thru Sept
			2014	2013	
Receipts	\$76,654	\$76,185	\$718,854	\$763,200	\$927,270
Disbursements	\$107,335	\$85,547	\$817,537	\$781,666	



Calendar of Events

First United Methodist Church
4200 N. McColl Rd. • McAllen, TX
956-686-3784

NOVEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Remember to turn your clocks back on November 2						1
2 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Sun Night MYF	3 Tai Chi Exercise Class Back to the Bible with Dr. Bob Beth Moore Study	4 Morning Walkers Exercise Morning Movers Exercise Let Us Pray Disciple Fast Track Bible Study	5 Tai Chi Exercise Class Lectionary Bible Study Cards/Board Games WOW (Word On Wednesday) Wednesday Night MYF Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	6 Morning Walkers Exercise Morning Movers Exercise Disciple Fast Track MS Yoga Young Adult Bible Study	7	8 Boys Night Out
9 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Sun Night MYF	10 Tai Chi Exercise Class Back to the Bible with Dr. Bob Beth Moore Study	11 Morning Walkers Exercise Morning Movers Exercise Parkinson's Support Group Disciple Fast Track Bible Study	12 Tai Chi Exercise Class Lectionary Bible Study Cards/Board Games WOW (Word On Wednesday) Wednesday Night MYF Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	13 Morning Walkers Exercise Morning Movers Exercise Disciple Fast Track Day School Board MS Yoga Children's Ministry Planning Meeting Young Adult Bible Study	14 Mission Possible Kids	15
16 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Assemble Thanksgiving Baskets	17 Tai Chi Exercise Class FUMC Food Pantry Back to the Bible with Dr. Bob Beth Moore Study	18 Morning Walkers Exercise Morning Movers Exercise Alzheimer's Support Group Autism Support Group Disciple Fast Track Bible Study	19 Tai Chi Exercise Class Prayer Shawl Ministry Lectionary Bible Study Cards/Board Games WOW (Word On Wednesday) Wednesday Night MYF Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	20 Morning Walkers Exercise Morning Movers Exercise Disciple Fast Track MS Yoga Young Adult Bible Study	21	22 American Sewing Guild
23/30 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	24 Tai Chi Exercise Class Back to the Bible with Dr. Bob	25 Morning Walkers Exercise Morning Movers Exercise	26 Tai Chi Exercise Class Prayer Shawl Ministry Lectionary Bible Study Cards/Board Games WOW (Word On Wednesday) Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	27 Church Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Luncheon	28 Church Office Closed	29
For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com						



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Pastor's Perspective *(continued from page 1)*

on the church's website to view the videos. I encourage you to take time to watch the stories and hear people share their heart and how the ministries of our church have made an impact in their lives.

Our 2015 Ministry Budget campaign revolves around these six words with commitment Sunday November 16. Each family will receive more information in the mail over the next couple of weeks, but I want each of you to know that the offerings given to God through this church, your offerings to God are making a difference in the lives of people young and old. I encourage you to return your commitment card on November 16 and participate fully in our ministry to love God, share Jesus and grow faith. Your offerings are needed and they make a difference for God.



www.fumcmcallen.com has a brand new look. A few months ago, the staff made the decision to completely refresh the look, and capabilities, of our website.

Our hope is that with a better look and more up-to-date information, this website can better realize what it was intended to be – the digital home of the ministries of FUMC McAllen. All the staff has been hard work for the last couple of months to do our best to with this new endeavor and we hope everyone will take a chance to spend some time on it, and make better use of it going forward. As we continue to move forward, our ability to maintain an active online presence grows in importance, and this new website demonstrates our church's commitment to that future.



Let Us Pray...

When you don't know what to pray:
Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**Let Us Pray at noon, Tuesday, November 4,
in the Keystone Room.**

Don't worry; just be there whenever you can.
Bring a friend and lunch, if you want.

New Church Directories Coming Soon!

Sign up for a photo session in the Fellowship Center Foyer on Sundays
or online at FUMCmcallen.com



Photo session dates/times:

- Weekdays - 2:00-8:40 pm or Saturdays - 10:00 am - 4:40 pm
- Wednesday, October 29 through Saturday, November 1
- Tuesday, December 16 through Saturday, December 20
- Friday, January 2 and Saturday, January 3



With photo session you will receive free directory and free 8x10 photo.
No purchase obligation.

Sign Up for a Photo Session TODAY!

Be sure to make an appointment for your photo session as soon as possible! You can do this on Sundays in the Fellowship Center or anytime online through the church website, fumcmcallen.com. Sign up for a session in November and you will have a perfect opportunity to get your Christmas photo done.

**Remember to turn your clocks
back on November 2**