



THE MESSENGER

February 2017

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 - Noon

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.

**Any changes in your life?
Married? Moved? Or Moving?**
Please let us know so
we can make changes on our
mail out data base.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2017 MISSIONAL BUDGET

GOD'S ABUNDANT GRACE
ENABLES ABUNDANT GIVING
TO ACCOMPLISH GOD'S ABUNDANT WORK

*And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything, you may share
abundantly in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:8*

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I hope this finds you doing well. As I consider the opportunities that lie ahead of us in 2017, I am overcome with excitement. What a wonderful time to be a member of First United Methodist Church. Our church is growing in ministry, members, missions, and service to our growing community. Additionally, I am encouraged by the enthusiasm our congregation showed in response to our Harvesting The Fruit capital campaign last year. Members pledged to contribute over \$3,000,000 to build a new sanctuary. Truly a generous response to fulfill God's plan for us on McColl.

While we work towards a potential future, we cannot take our eyes off our responsibilities today. We have approved our 2017 operating budget and need every member to prayerfully consider contributing to our ministry budget campaign. I am writing to encourage you to open your hearts and pray for God's guidance. I hope that you will consider giving to your capacity in the name of God and recognize that He honors your faith.

As you consider this, think about what God has done for all of us through His love and grace. It is written in John 3:16, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.'

God has been very generous to us at First United Methodist Church. He has blessed us abundantly. As His faithful servants, we are LOVING GOD, SHARING JESUS, and GROWING FAITH.

May God's blessings be upon you,

Nicky Runnels
Administrative Board Chairman

Pastor's Perspective

Christ-centered
Fruitfulness
Excellence
Accountability
Collaboration



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

These are the five expectations our bishop, Robert Schnase has lifted up for people, pastors and churches of the Rio Texas Annual Conference. These expectations are what define our life and ministry together. As we move ever closer to turning the long-held vision of a sanctuary into a reality, we need to keep in mind these expectations. A new building means having more room for new people. A new building means another tool in our box with which to do fruitful ministry.

(continued on last page)

Children's Ministry



Children's Choir

The Children's Choir is busy preparing to sing during the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, February 5th and on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Mark your calendars! All children in kinder through 5th grade are invited to join in singing for God every Wednesday, 5:00-5:30 pm in Room 211.

WOW (Word On Wednesday) for Kids

WOW afternoons at FUMC are buzzing with joy and fun as the children grow in faith and friendship, learning God's promises that come alive in Jesus. On the first Wednesday of every month the children's lesson revolves around reaching out and helping others in need. On Feb. 1st, we will assemble chili mixes to raise funds for Imagine No Malaria, a UMC program that works to educate about and eradicate malaria in Africa. This is a fun annual project for the FUMC Children that encourages them to help others in the world. The chili mix sale (\$5 per mix) will take place on Sunday, February 12th before and after worship services.

It is delicious chili and a wonderful cause!

All children, 3 years old through 5th grade, are invited to WOW every Wednesday afternoon, 3:30-5:30 pm.



Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:45 am. Lee Ann Clemons leads the Kinder through 2nd graders in Godly Play in Rm 201. Godly Play is a Montessori based style of teaching the Biblical stories through hands-on materials and play. Marilyn Olivarez teaches the 4th and 5th graders lessons about God and His love through cool Science projects. Come join us!!

All parents of 4th and 5th graders are encouraged to come to the FUMC Social Room immediately following the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, February 19th to learn about Created By God, a human sexuality course for 4th and 5th graders. This is an informational meeting for parents only. Childcare will be provided. Lunch for parents and children will be provided. Kindly let Lee Ann Clemons know if you will be attending, (212-4575 or laclemons@mcfirst.com).



Mark Your Calendars!



VBS 2017

June 19-23

9:00 am-12:00 noon

for 3 year olds through 5th graders
(by Sept. 1, 2017)



M & M Camp (Missions and Music)
July 10-13

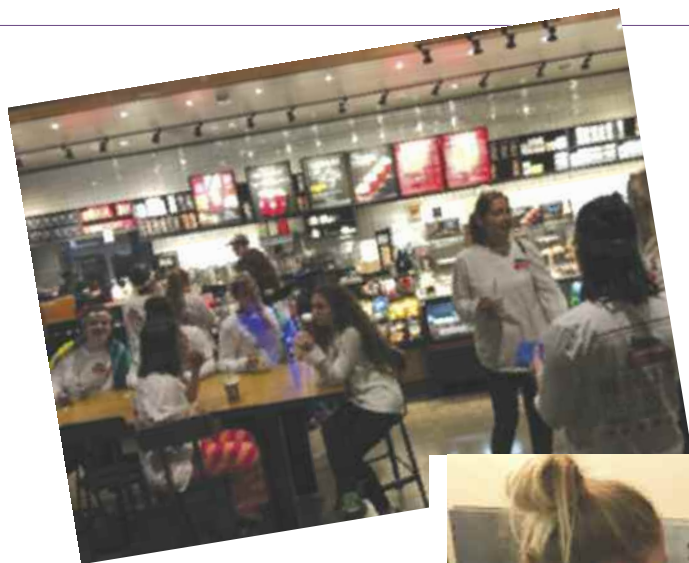
9:30 am - 3:00 pm

for 3rd through 8th graders
(by Sept. 1, 2017)



Youth Sponsors

If you look closely you will see the Sponsors that make the Youth Ministry thrive and happen!! Without drivers, chaperones, cooks, small group leaders, lemonade makers, and picture takers none of the fun, deep talks, serving or craziness would happen. Without their help we would not be growing in numbers or in spirit. I would like to take the time to recognize a few of them (even though they rather I don't). I want to thank Art Cortez and Rob Ramon for taking the time to lead Small Groups during our Wednesday Night Bible Studies; they have not just listened and guided our youth, they have also inspired them. Our Youth Worship Band, Room 205, would not be where they are at today without the mentoring of Meldi Pro Martinez. Our Christmas Share Part 1 & 2 annual events would not have been possible without the help of Peggy Trom, Wayne Johnson, Page Moore, Allegra Lamison, Leigh Ann Godinez, Elizabeth Seal, Steve Dillon, and Barb Kelly. I also want to thank our fearless and giving Camp Nurse, Susan Turlapati. Then there is Susan Hellums, our early riser, always on standby to make sure we have enough room to carpool the kids from Chick-Fil-A to school for the Breakfast & Devotionals. And then there is our favorite cook, Don Sharp – thank you for the countless and delicious meals. I am forever grateful for your generosity with our youth; your time and patience are priceless. There are so many more events, camps and activities coming up and it is not too late for you to become a Youth Sponsor too!!



Bible Study Fellowship

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus". Philippians 4:19NIV

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) is an international (some 40 countries), interdenominational, in depth Bible Study providing men, women and children of all ages an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the Bible and grow in each participant a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The vision of BSF is to magnify God and mature His people.

The Valley has had the privilege of a BSF Men's class for about 25 years. We meet in a "host church" which opens its doors to us and allows us to utilize its facilities to conduct the BSF class. We met in Weslaco the first 7 years of existence in the Valley and the last 18 years have been here in McAllen. We were meeting in a church which met our needs accordingly. The fall of 2015 brought the introduction for first time in the 55 year existence of BSF the study of Revelation. Up till Revelation, the eight annual studies are Matthew, John, Romans, and the Acts of the Apostles (Paul's writings). Also we have Old Testament studies of Genesis, Life of Moses, Israel and the Minor Prophets, and Isaiah. Revelation stirred quite a bit of interest due to the nature of Revelation itself. Comfortably nested in the existing church, we suspected Revelation would bring an additional number of men and students the current facility would not have sufficient capacity to hold everyone. After much prayer searching for an invitation, FUMC came forward and offered your church facility to house such a wonderful study. WOW, were we blessed to come to such a beautiful facility that has met our needs 100%. But, but, more beautiful than the facility itself is the warmth and generosity your church family has embraced BSF and has contributed greatly to the growing need of our class and proving once more "where God guides, God provides". And provide He did!!! I cannot even begin to express my heartfelt thank you to all of you involved in making this happen as well as the entire membership who has embraced us.

I want you to know your Sanctuary and your classrooms are filled with the teaching of God's inerrant Word where men and students' lives are being changed as God works in the hearts of each life. His Word never returns void. I cannot begin to express the feeling of being overwhelmed with God's presence as 160-175 men and students begin Monday nights singing some of the greatest hymns ever written. We may not sound like the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir to the outside, but we know we do to God's ears. These Hymns are then followed by about 90 minutes of in depth Bible Study of the great Redemption God provided to each one of us through His Son Jesus Christ. What a grand evening each and every Monday is. Praise God!!!

I know if FUMC would not have opened its doors to BSF two years ago, God would have found us someplace to meet. What I want to say is thank you for answering the call and the great need we had, answering the call God placed on your hearts to participate in this wonderful ministry God has provided through BSF. I cannot help but express once again how you have gone far and beyond any of our expectations and so graciously accommodate every need we have.

To God be the Glory!!!

Jack C Ewing, Teaching Leader, Bible Study Fellowship International



CORNERSTONE/Texas Ramp Project MINISTRY

Friday a.m. & Saturday a.m. • March 3 & 4, 2017

CORNERSTONE MINISTRY is a ministry that has evolved over the past 23 years into one that serves primarily physically disabled individuals and their families with wheelchair ramps and other assistance.

Once again, we will be partnering with the Texas Ramp (TRP) Project. We are excited about our partnership and the possibilities this brings to our ministry, church and surrounding communities. Last year, we successfully used this ***"new" model for building the ramps. It made it possible to build a ramp in about 4 hours! TWP will give us matching funds for the supplies for the ramps we build.***

PLEASE mark your calendar to join us the morning of Friday, March 3 and/or the morning of Saturday, March 4! We hope you can join us.

There will be an Orientation and Planning Meeting to discuss the "new model" and what we will be doing. The date of this will be announced at a later time.

What we can do DEPENDS ON YOU! We are Christians committed to serving GOD, in service to others.

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."

Ephesians 2:19-22

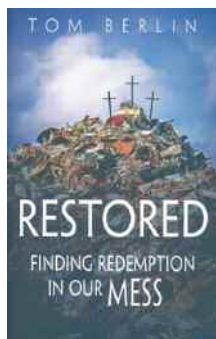




All (women, men, children, teens!) are invited to a Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday, February 28th, 5 - 7:00 p.m. in the Social Room

The Woven Women Ministry invites you to a Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday, February 28th in the Social Room. Come on over between 5 and 7:00 pm to enjoy delicious pancakes with an assortment of toppings prepared and served by the Woven Women. A love offering will be collected with the proceeds going towards the women's Better than a Backpack Care Kits for College Kids.

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Fat Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday, is the day before Ash Wednesday which begins the season of Lent. So what does "Shrove" mean? And why are some Christians eating pancakes on that day? Shrove is the past tense of the word shrive, which means to gain absolution of sins by confession and repentance. Pancakes were traditionally eaten on the day before Ash Wednesday because they were a way to use up the rich ingredients of eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting, cleansing season of the 40 days of Lent. Many churches set aside Shrove Tuesday as a time to fellowship and feast on all-you-can-eat pancakes.



Mark Your Calendars!
Women's Lenten Bible Study
Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess

March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4 at 6 pm

Books (\$10 each) are available NOW
 in the church office.

Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

Time is flying by already, isn't it? Time truly is precious thing here on earth. I want to continue encouraging you to continue working toward a healthy lifestyle. Maybe one of you new year's resolutions is just that by now you may be wondering if it will be at all possible. I encourage you to work through small steps to achieve a healthier lifestyle.

In honor of American Heart Month, here are the American Health Association's "Life's Simple 7" to improve your health:

1. Eat a healthy diet that includes 4 ½ cups of fruits and vegetables a day, at least 3 servings of fiber-rich whole grains a day, at least two 3.5 ounce servings of fish a week (preferably oily fish), limiting sugar-sweetened drinks and eating less than 1500 mg of sodium a day.
2. Maintain a healthy body weight.
3. Take charge of your cholesterol knowing what the optimal levels are for good heart health.
4. Manage blood pressure.
5. Keep blood sugar at healthy levels.
6. Engage in regular physical activity, at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity weekly which will help strengthen your heart muscle, improve blood circulation, reduce feelings of stress, and help control body weight.
7. Don't smoke.

For more information, visit www.heart.org.

Remind yourself of this truth:

"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

Grace, Peace and blessings to you!



Perla Rivera, RN, is a Wesley Nurse with Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. Methodist Healthcare Ministries' Wesley Nurse program is a faith-based, holistic health and wellness program committed to serving the least served through education, health promotion and collaboration with individual and community in achieving improved wellness through self-empowerment. Learn more at www.mhm.org.



All men are invited to the Men's Group gatherings on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. The men join for Bible study, fellowship and service. All men are welcome!

Special Needs Support Group

THURS., FEB. 9th
6:00 p.m.
Room 202

*Childcare will be available



Parents and loved ones of children with special needs are invited to gather for support and encouragement.

Witness Praise Band Performs

On Friday, January 20th our praise band, Witness, played in front of a congregation of various United Methodist churches at First UMC Brownsville. They were invited to lead worship for First UMC Brownsville's Back to Basics weekend retreat, following their invitation to lead worship for the installation of our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, last fall. The dedication and God-given giftedness of every member of Witness continues to be recognized and is a demonstration of the excellence of worship they are able to provide, not only to our own congregation, but to the wider Church universal. We give God thanks for their leadership in worship and join them in excitement over a well-received opportunity. Great job, Witness!!!



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!

March 3 & 4 Cornerstone/Texas Ramp Project – First UMC Annual Ramp building ministry, partnering with Texas Ramp Project, assisting people in need in our surrounding communities. Serve one or both mornings!

March 25 & 26 Inside-Out WEEKEND (more information about this opportunity to serve COMING SOON!)

CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sympathy to...

Fred and Virginia Mann

following the death of **Fred's father**

Fred Sr., on Monday, January 9th.

A graveside service was held on January 27th in San Benito.

Fred & Virginia's address is:

4609 North 5th St., McAllen, TX 78504.

Dotty & Tony Brunnemann,

following the death of **their son-in-law**

Steve Cassada, January 8th, in Oxford, MS.

The Brunnemann's address is:

415 Westgate, #8, Weslaco, TX 78596.

Thank You

On behalf of your clergy a big thank you for your generous Christmas gift.

Robert and I are so blessed to serve this wonderful congregation.

The faithfulness and commitment of so many in our church is an inspiration to us.

Thank you and God bless.



**Registration for
2017-2018
School Year**



Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is just around the corner. We will begin with our currently enrolled students and siblings on Monday, Feb. 6th @ 8:00am – Thursday, Feb. 9th.

On Friday, Feb. 10th we will open registration to church members and previous parents. And on Tuesday, Feb. 14th we will open the remainder of spots to the public. Just a reminder, registration and building/activity fee are due at time of enrollment in order to secure your child's spot on the fall roster.

Now offering full-day classes for 3 & 4 year olds.



Calendar of Events

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

FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Breakfast & Devotionals w/Middle School Students Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Wednesday Night Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	2 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	3	4
5 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	6 Tai Chi Exercise Class	7 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group	8 Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Wednesday Night Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	9 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Special Needs Support Group Young Adult Group	10 MIDWINTER 2017	11 MIDWINTER 2017
12 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship MPK Chili Sale Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service MIDWINTER 2017	13 Tai Chi Exercise Class Bible Study Fellowship	14 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group	15 Breakfast & Devotionals w/Middle School Students Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Wednesday Night Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	16 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	17	18
19 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Created By God Parent Meeting Sunday Night Light Seekers	20 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen Bible Study Fellowship	21 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	22 Prayer Shawl Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Study Motet Choir Rehearsal	23 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	24	25 Confirmation Retreat
26 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	27 Tai Chi Exercise Class Bible Study Fellowship	28 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com			

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

The challenge before us is not only to build (and pay for it!). There are several questions before us we need to address this year.

- What is the best way to utilize our physical plant to increase the fruitfulness of our ministry?
- What is it we need to do differently in order to do worship with excellence?
- What do we need to do in order to develop a more robust welcoming/hospitality ministry?
- What are the processes we need to develop to help people move from guest to active participant in the life and ministry of the church?

I know there are other questions, but addressing the above questions will be critical as we move into a future that includes new worship space. Answering these questions will help us expand the scope of the church's ministry in our community and surrounding area. Our church leadership will grapple with these questions this year. As always, I welcome your input and thoughts. Let's not allow this opportunity to do ministry in a more excellent and fruitful way slip through our fingers. I ask each of you to pray for this church. Pray that God will continue to lead us as we work to grow God's kingdom.

Grace and peace,
Ricky

Flower Ministry

Providing flowers to adorn the altar during our worship services is a way to honor and remember your loved ones and add beauty to our services. The arrangements are then made into smaller arrangements and given to people needing comfort and encouragement, if the purchaser chooses.

Several dates are still available on the Flower calendar. It is a simple process. You choose the date and call the florist. The prices range from \$75.00 to \$125.00 and you make your check out to the church. The florist will deliver the flowers and you tell us who you would like to honor or remember.

We will put this in the bulletin and on the worship screens.

Please call the church office, 686-3784, if you have any questions.

**Thank you in advance for
being a part of the
Flower Ministry.**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 4th Wednesday of every month from 10 to 11 a.m. in room #209. The meetings are informal and a time of fellowship. Don't worry if you don't knit or crochet, come and learn. The shawls are given to persons who are ill, have suffered a loss, or are in the midst of crisis. Contact Mary Heimel at 607-0151 or call the church office if you are interested in being part of this wonderful ministry.



We are looking for anyone interested in working with Audio-visual, screens and or sound on Sunday mornings.

If interested, contact Ray Chapman at rchapman@mcfirst.com or call the church office at 956-686-3784.