

First United Methodist Church, McAllen

The Messenger

September 2018



Our September Communion Offering will go to our 8th Annual “Serve Our Schools” (S.O.S.) event. First UMC will partner with El Divino Redentor and St Mark UMC’s of McAllen to sponsor S.O.S. in our community! This event will be held Saturday, September 29th at Rayburn and Alvarez Elementary. First UMC will host the event at Rayburn, this year. The offering will help pay for the event and supplies at the schools where we go to serve!

S.O.S is another opportunity for us to “go out” and serve in our community and invite others to join us! To be the church OUTSIDE our walls! This will be a day to help the McAllen ISD schools get off to a good start in the new school year. Volunteers can help in many ways. Every little bit of time and energy makes a difference!

We will have Registration Forms at the entrances of the church and on-line. Let us know if you can join us. Encourage others to sign-up and join us!

Please prayerfully consider both your gift to the Communion Offering and your gift of service on the “Serve Our School” Day, September 29. This is an important community event impacting our church, schools and community!

Pastor’s Perspective

Our sanctuary checklist is being whittled down. Our partitions to close off the two overflow sections at the rear of the sanctuary have finally been installed. In addition, communion rail kneeling cushions are in place and hand rails have been added to the side steps leading onto the chancel area. More guttering on the outside of the building has also been added to help direct water coming off the expansive roof away from the building. The staff especially appreciates the added gutters over the office doors so they don’t have to go through a water fall to enter the office area!

Gutters may not seem very glamorous, but the function gutters serve are indispensable. Gutters are channels designed to direct and move water away from a building. This strikes me that our function as followers of Jesus is similar.

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Worship Information

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

Youth Speak

Together may we give our YOUTH the roots to grow and the wings to fly.

One of my favorite people in the Bible is David, aka King David, aka the youngest son of Jesse of Bethlehem, or aka David a shepherd boy. Just ask one of the youth and they will tell you, I am always bringing him up in our Bible studies or devotionals. There are many reasons to talk and teach about David, but the one thing that I admire about him is his heart. David knew who God was to him: his refuge, his hope, his confidence, and his strength; the evidence is in his “prayers/praises” also known as PSALMS. (In fact, he wrote over seventy of them, “This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.” - Psalm 72:20) David knew how weak and broken he was without God and so he learned to rely only on God, whether it was defeating a lion, a giant, or armies of enemies.

One of my prayers for new school year, that our youth will have a heart for God and that He will become their refuge, hope, confidence, and strength; may they trust His will and timing as new chapters are developed in their lives.

“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his



Important Dates

Organ Concert

by Dan Miller
Sunday, September 23rd
3:00PM in the Sanctuary

Serve Our Schools

Saturday, September 29th
8AM—12PM
Rayburn Elementary

Open House for Adult

Sunday School Classes

Sunday, September 30th 9:45-
10:45AM

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 14th
5:00-6:00PM

Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 31st 5:00
-7:00PM

Please see our detailed calendar
online at www.fumcmcallen.com



Children’s Ministry— Word On Wednesday and Third Grader Bible Presentation

WOW resumes on Wednesday, September 5th. All 3 year olds through 5th graders are invited to afternoons of learning about the stories of the Bible and God's love through Jesus every Wednesday. We gather on the playground from 3:30 - 4:00 pm, then enjoy the Bible lesson activities upstairs in Room 201 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. The Children's Choir, for Kinder through 8th graders, meets in Room 207 from 5:00-5:30 pm.

New Bibles will be presented to all third graders on Sunday, September 9. It is a joy to present third graders with new Bibles each year! Parents of 3rd graders, let Lee Ann Clemons know which service your family will attend on September 9, so that we will be all ready to share this special gift of God's Holy Word with your children.

First United Methodist Church, McAllen

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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

We too are channels through which God’s grace and love flow. The flow needs to go not only to others in the church, but more importantly the flow of God’s love and grace needs to be directed away from the body of Christ, away from God’s house into the community where people live, work and play.

Many times, ministry is not glamorous, but it’s indispensable. Our role as a conduit of God’s love and grace is mostly overlooked because it is humble, quiet work. Often its work done one-on-one or in small groups and it’s difficult to see the impact God is making through us in the life of someone else on a daily basis.

Thank you for all you do for God, our community and this church family. Remember the words of Galatians 6:9, “Let’s not get tired of doing good, because in time we’ll have a harvest if we don’t give up.”

Grace and peace,

Ricky



WOMEN'S SEED GROUP

Tuesdays @ 12pm

Koinonia Room

For more info on Women's Seed Groups, please call Tanya Perales at (956) 605-8186

CO-ED SEED GROUP

Tuesdays @ 6pm

Koinonia Room

For more info on Co-Ed Seed Groups, please call Gary Montgomery at (956) 682-8950

Adult Fall Bible Studies and Small Groups

BASIC: Foundational Practices for Growing Disciples of Jesus

Wednesdays, September 5 - October 24
6:00-7:15 pm Sanctuary Overflow Room East

Christianity and World Religions by Adam Hamilton

Thursdays, Beginning September 6
10:30 am Koinonia Room
Purchase the book at the first class - \$12.00

Young Adult Group

Thursdays, Beginning September 6 7:00 pm
At the home of Tanya and Robert Perales, 401 W. Vine, McAllen

Woven Women Bible Study

Twelve Women of the Bible: Life Changing Stories for Women Today
Mondays, September 10, 17, 24, and October 1
6:00-7:00 pm Sanctuary Overflow Room East

Tuesday Noon Women’s Group

Beginning September 11 12:00 noon Room 202

Men’s Bible Study

Tuesdays, Beginning September 18
6:00-8:00 pm Sanctuary Overflow Room East

Organ Concert

World renowned organist Dan Miller will present an organ concert in our sanctuary on our new Rodgers organ on Sunday, September 23rd at 3 PM. In addition, he will present an organ workshop on Saturday, September 22nd at 10AM and will be playing for the 11:00 service on Sunday, September 23rd. All events are free of charge. Dan was here a couple of years ago and presented an outstanding program in our worship center on a borrowed instrument from Valley Keyboard. He now serves as the Artist and Tonal Professional for Rodgers Instruments, the manufacturer of our new organ. In addition he is as adjunct Professor of Organ at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon and serves as organist for St. Matthews Lutheran Church, and guest organist for Bethel Congregational Church in Beaverton, Oregon.



As we travel the journey of healing after the death of our son, Nathan, we have been so blessed by our church family through calls, cards, and memorials made in his honor. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness, and we ask you to keep his compassionate spirit alive by doing random acts of kindness showing God’s love to others while remembering Nathan.

God bless you all,
The Olivarez Family