

# The Messenger



## THANKSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### “First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets



“We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the first fruits of our crops and of every fruit tree.” Nehemiah 10:35

**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** the **Communion Offering** will go toward our Annual “First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets.

**October 28<sup>th</sup> through November 18<sup>th</sup>** we will have our **Annual “First Fruits” Thanksgiving Basket** collection. This is a tradition of our church family. We hope to collect enough to fill at least 155 boxes with your “first fruits” for families in need. Collection bags and instructions are located around the church and in this newsletter (see list).

**Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** join us as we come together to sort, assemble, bless and deliver some of these “First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets!

**Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.:** distribution of the remainder of our “First Fruits” Baskets to our Food Pantry families.

*If you have any questions please call Susan Hellums at the church or e-mail at [shellums@mcfirst.com](mailto:shellums@mcfirst.com).*

## Pastor’s Perspective

### Our journey continues...

It has been a journey overflowing with God’s blessings and grace and gifts; a journey that has given us a church home where God’s light and love shines brightly through its people; a journey of service and stewardship and of honoring and remembering the past by insuring and inspiring the future.

It is at First United Methodist where we constantly strive to Love God, Share Jesus and Grow Faith. This faith community helps feed the hungry, put shoes on children, and works for adequate shelter for the poor and vulnerable. Here we offer opportunities for youth and children to grow in their faith and discipleship.

### Our journey continues...

To God be the glory! It is in our beautiful sanctuary where we celebrate new life through baptism and affirm our faith in confirmation, where we gather to pray and hear the Good News and are fed at God’s table, where couples come to declare their love in marriage, and where we say good bye to loved ones and friends as they move on to God’s eternal embrace. ....cont. on back



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## Worship Information

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



## Children’s Ministry— We are excited to introduce a new WOW/Children's Choir schedule....

- 3:30-4:00 pm Gather for **Play**
- 4:00-4:30 pm - **Bible lesson** in Rm. 209
- 4:30-5:00 pm - **Children's Choir** for Kinder through 5th graders in Rm. 207
- 4:30-5:00 pm - **Preschool Bible Lesson Music/Art** in Rm. 201
- 5:00-5:30 pm - **Digging Deeper into the Bible Lesson** for Kinder through 5th graders in Rm. 208

Mark your calendars for the following special opportunities for your children to be a part of The Children's Choir.

**November 14** - The WOW kids will spread good cheer and sing for our friends at Bridges Assisted Living Center.

**December 19** - Children's Christmas Program, Dinner, and Desserts in the Fellowship Center (Practices have begun...come join us!!)

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



## BIBLE JOURNALING

### CLASS Info Meeting

**Monday, December 3**

**5:30-6:00pm**

Learn more about the class happening in January.

## TAMALE MAKE & TAKE

**Saturday, December 8**

**9:00am—12 noon**

Learn how to make tamales from our very own Sylvia Gomez. Register by November 29th. (\$15.00)



**Deco Mesh Wreath-Making Workshop**

**Monday, November 5th**  
**6:00-9:00 p.m.**

In the New Sanctuary Hallway  
\$25.00 fee includes supplies and dinner.  
Register by Monday, October 29th in the church office.

Invite your friends, and come and craft with us! Kay Sanderford will teach us how to make a deco mesh wreath just in time for the holidays! The fee is \$25 and included 2 rolls of deco mesh, the wreath base, zip ties and dinner.

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.

**WOMEN'S ADVENT STUDY**

**THE GIFT OF THE NUTCRACKER**  
MATT RAWLE

- **Mondays**
- **6:00-7:15 p.m.**
- Sanctuary Overflow Room East
- Books \$10
- Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>



# Youth Speak

So Jesus spoke again, “ ... I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.” John 10:10

What a generous God we serve, always blessing us beyond our needs. We have so much abundance in our lives, that even hard to choose! So my prayer for all our th, is for them not to get too busy to care (be aware), not to forget why they love (because first), and not to loose their direction (always facing North and allow Him to light their path). May our youth always choose wisely and remember that:

- 1. God is big
- 2. God is good
- 3. God is in control
- 4. God is for them
- 5. God loves them



Fun fact about the YM: they build the boxes and help sort food donations for the First Fruits Thanksgiving Baskets. Praise God for blessing them with parents that teach them to serve and give abundantly.



## Important Dates

### New Members Class

Sundays at 9:30AM  
November 4th, 11th, & 18th  
Sanctuary Overflow Room

### Thanksgiving Baskets

Sunday, November 18th  
1:30PM  
Fellowship Center

### Thanksgiving Luncheon

Thursday, November 22nd  
12:00 noon  
Social Room

### Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 23rd  
The church office  
will be closed

### Women’s Advent Study

Mondays at 6:00PM  
Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, & 17th  
Sanctuary Overflow Room

Please see our detailed calendar  
online at [www.fumcmcallen.com](http://www.fumcmcallen.com)

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You can read current and past issues of our newsletter, The Messenger, and listen to our sermons online at our website: [www.fumcmcallen.com](http://www.fumcmcallen.com)



## Pastor’s Perspective, cont’d

The generosity, faithfulness, dedication and devotion of FUMC’s members have made it possible to worship in a sanctuary enjoying the glorious sounds of an organ, and to appreciate the beauty of a central stained glass window reminding us the story of our salvation in Jesus. Add to that new and inviting nursery space and music rehearsal space and we have a center for worship that is elegant in its simplicity and in its function.

Since we began taking the necessary steps toward the construction of a sanctuary over three years ago 75 families totaling almost 200 people have become members plus many more who are active participants in the life and ministry of our church.

### Our journey continues...

In 2002, part of a vision was realized when FUMC relocated to its present site and worship began in the Fellowship Center (Phase One of a Master Site Plan.) The complete vision for our new church site included a sanctuary. After years of prayer and tireless service and sacrifice by so many, we held worship in the sanctuary on March 25 of this year. But, to stand still is not God’s call upon his people and if we don’t move forward we will have failed to honor the legacy of those who sacrificed before us.



## “First Fruits” Thanksgiving Collection

During the month of November we will be collecting the following items for our “First Fruits” Thanksgiving Baskets. We will distribute all food collected to less fortunate families in the McAllen and the surrounding area.

We ask for the following <i>SPECIFIC</i> items:			
___ 2 lb bag	<b>Rice</b> (long grain)	___ 14.5 oz can	<b>Green Beans</b> (cut)
___ 2 lb bag	<b>Pinto Beans</b> (dried)	___ 29 oz can	<b>Sweet Potatoes</b> (light syrup)
___ 15 oz can	<b>Mixed Vegetables</b>	___ 24 oz bottle	<b>Vegetable/Canola Oil</b>
___ 15.25 oz can	<b>Fruit Salad</b> (chunky)	___ 2 lb bag	<b>Sugar</b>
___ 15.4 oz can	<b>Corn</b> (whole kernel)	___ 2 lb bag	<b>Flour</b> (all purpose)
___ 1 small <i>plastic jar</i>	<b>Peanut Butter</b>		
___ 5 oz boxes	<b>Fideo</b> (Vermicelli) -- we hope to give 3 per family		
___ 3.1 oz (8 cubes)	<b>Knorr (or Maggi’s) Caldo Sabor Pollo y Tomate Bouillon Cubes</b> (chicken & tomato flavored bouillon)		

Perishable food items and more, will be bought and included according to monetary donations.  
*If you have questions or specific non-perishable items to contribute, please contact Susan Hellums, [shellums@mcfirst.com](mailto:shellums@mcfirst.com) or call the church office!*

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