

First United Methodist Church, McAllen

# The Messenger

February 2019



## “Rejoicing in the Harvest” *Celebration Sunday* Sunday, February 3rd

**8:30 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

**9:30 a.m. Pancakes & Waffles Breakfast  
in the Fellowship Center**

**10:45 a.m. Joint Celebration Worship  
Service in the Sanctuary**



### Pastor’s Perspective

“Debt campaigns are a heavy lift.” Those are the words of Terry Goolsby, Senior Vice-President of Horizons Stewardship and our capital campaign consultant. He’s right. Our last campaign, Harvesting the Fruit, focused on raising funds to build a sanctuary. That is exciting and energy producing. By raising enough resources the church had the opportunity to complete a long held vision for the church and substantially complete our church’s campus.

Terry keeps reminding us that virtually no church is able to raise all the funds required to build a major project like a sanctuary at one time, but we did very well and he calls us “The Poster Child of Success” for Horizons Stewardship. We built the sanctuary, along with music, nursery and office space. Thank God and thank you!

The church took advantage of the opportunity, but now the opportunity has turned into a responsibility. A responsibility always seems to be heavier than an opportunity. We have the responsibility of being a good steward of God’s resources by paying off the remaining debt on our building project through our Rejoicing in the Harvest debt elimination campaign.

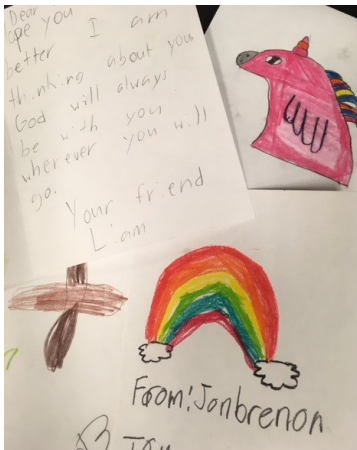
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### Worship Information

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



The WOW children loving others with beautiful drawings and words of encouragement.

## Children's Ministry— Children's Choir is BACK!

The Children's Choir, directed by Alissa and Bo Shirah, is back in full swing following the Christmas break. All children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join them in singing out for God every Wednesday afternoon, 4:30 -5:00 pm, in Room 207. They are so excited to begin preparing a special song to sing for the congregation on April 14, Palm Sunday!



*Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other.*  
*John 13:34b*



**Shrove Tuesday**  
**Pancake Supper**  
**March 5**  
**5:00-7:00 pm**  
**In the Social Room**  
**All you can eat**  
**pancakes with delicious**  
**toppings!**  
**Benefits the Woven**  
**Women Ministy**



### **February Women's Bible Study**



**Wednesdays, February 6, 13, 20, and 27**  
**6:00-7:15 pm in the Koinonia Room**

This four-week session will focus on Abigail, Gomer, Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene, and the spiritual lessons learned from their experiences. Gather with us as we dig into their lives and find insight to help us deal with situations we face daily. Bring a friend! Books (\$8.00) are in the church office.

## Youth Speak

Spring cleaning: one of the most dreaded times of the year. Cleaning stuff is no fun, but it is so refreshing; a shower after a long and sweaty work day at MSP, clean sheets after a long trip, the clean car smell after a long family road trip. We avoid the task, yet we enjoy the outcome.

How can the YOU participate in spring cleaning with the Youth Ministry? There's a giant sand box out in the church lawn, also known as our sand volleyball court. It needs cleaning, but most of all some TLC so it can be ready to enjoy in the summer. The sand court was affected by some of the new sanctuary construction and rainy weather days. It will take a lot of elbow grease to clean, edge, and refill it. Please let us know if you would like to help in the process of cleaning or the maintenance of the sand volleyball court.

God worked and cleansed my heart this past November and December; it was not an enjoyable experience. Yet, here I am enjoying the fresh aroma of forgiveness and the skip in my step to the lifted burden.

"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." John 15:3-4

*"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." John 15:3-4*



## Important Dates

### Safe Gatherings *Con Confianza*

#### Child Safety Training

Saturday, February 2nd

10:00AM—12:00PM

### Rejoicing in the Harvest

#### Celebration

Sunday, February 3rd

8:30AM Worship Service

9:30AM Pancakes & Waffles Breakfast

10:45AM Joint Celebration Worship Service

### Youth MIDWINTER Camp

Friday—Sunday

February 15-17th

### Cornerstone Texas Ramp

#### Project 2019

Friday—Saturday

February 22nd & 23rd

### Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, March 2nd

5:30-6:30PM

### Shrove Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 5th

5:00—7:00PM in Social Room

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, March 6th

6:05PM

In the Sanctuary

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

We will save almost \$1,000,000.00 in interest by paying the debt over the next three years compared to a fifteen year payout! That's exciting when I think of what we can do with that interest savings.

I hope to see everyone at our Celebration Sunday, February 3. We will have two worship services at 8:30 and 10:45 and in between, a celebration breakfast at 9:30 in the Fellowship Center. Yum! The following Sunday, February 10 is Rejoicing in the Harvest commitment Sunday. What I'm asking of everyone is to simply pray "What is God wanting to do through me?" Whatever that is, fill out your commitment card and bring it to worship on February 10.

This congregation has met each and every responsibility for 110 years. I have every confidence that together we will continue in that tradition. Thank you for your generosity and faithful commitment to God and the life-transforming ministries of our church.

Grace and peace,  
Ricky



### **CORNERSTONE/Texas Ramp Project MINISTRY**

Friday & Saturday  
February 22 & 23, 2019



**CORNERSTONE MINISTRY** is a ministry that has evolved over the past 25 years into one that serves primarily physically disabled individuals and their families with wheelchair ramps and other assistance. We partner with the *Texas Ramp Project* (TRP) in this ministry. We have successfully used this **model for building the ramps for a couple of years. It makes it possible to build a ramp in about half a day! TRP provides us with matching funds for the supplies for the ramps we build.**

**MARK your calendar to join us February 22nd and/or Saturday, February 23rd We hope you can join us. Let us know what day(s) you can join us! You can e-mail Susan Hellums at [shellums@mcfirst.com](mailto:shellums@mcfirst.com), call the church office or sign-up online at [www.FUMCMcAllen.com](http://www.FUMCMcAllen.com).**

**There will be an Orientation and Planning Meeting to discuss the "Texas Ramp Project" 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*