



THE MESSENGER

June 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.



Fourth and Fifth Graders Support Heifer International Read to Feed Program

Our Fourth & Fifth Grade Sunday School class has been reading this year to support the Heifer International Read to Feed Program. Readers, left to right, are Samuel Summers, Roman Renfrow, Trip Shirah, and Lillian Welty.

The Read to Feed program encourages reading, while heightening students' awareness that their actions make a difference in the lives of others. As students read more books, they improve their reading abilities and more families receive gifts of livestock and training.

Roman Renfrow has been very busy reading this year, and personally earned \$50. He chose to purchase a flock of chicks and a flock of ducks, which will help families earn money by raising the animals and selling the eggs.

Help Us Raise Funds

Beginning June 4, Step-Up-Sunday, children in grades K-5 through 5 will be joined together for Summer Sunday School. Summer is a great time for children to read those "fun books" and also to keep reading skills sharp during the school vacation. The "Read to Feed" program works in this way: Children get sponsors for each book they read. At the end of the summer, the group pools its funds and donates them to Heifer International to help assist millions of families around the world feed their families and reach self-reliance. The children will choose which animals to purchase, based on the amount of funds raised.

Please visit our "Read to Feed" information table in the foyer before or after worship on June 4. We will be happy to answer any questions, sign you up as a sponsor, or accept any donations for this very worthwhile program. For more information about Heifer International and their mission, please visit the website <http://www.heifer.org>.

Thank you for supporting our children in this project, as they learn they are able to serve God by helping others in need.

Blessings,
Marlynn & Lee Ann

Pastor's Perspective

Annual conference is a gathering of all the pastors, active and retired, and representatives from all the churches in the conference. Annual conference is where we take care of the needed business of passing a budget and electing people to various leadership roles and committees in the conference. As an elder in the church, my membership resides in the annual conference not in any local church, so in a way this is the gathering of my church. Renewing relationships and worshipping together have always been the highlight of annual conference for me as it is for most attendees. I've been attending annual conference each June since 1988. I went to a handful before that year. This means I've been to a session of annual conference...a bunch!

I'm looking forward to this session of annual conference for a number of reasons. One, our bishop Robert Schnase will be presiding over his first annual conference as our bishop. He presided last year, but not as the bishop of the Rio Texas Annual Conference. Two, Rev. Adam Hamilton from Resurrection UMC will be with us for three different teaching sessions. Rev. Hamilton is the lead pastor at the largest church in the denomination and is a prolific author.

Third, and most importantly, our own Robert Perales will be ordained as an elder in the church. This marks the end of a process and journey that lasts at least eight years. Ordination



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

(continued on last page)

Children's Ministry

Summer Opportunities for Children



All children, 4 years old through 5th graders (by September 1, 2017) are invited to join us for a fun-filled week as we share the stories of Jesus and his love. We will circle the "campfire" and hear awesome Bible stories, eat camp snacks, sing, play games, create art, do science experiments...all the while drawing closer to God and each other. COME JOIN US! Register online at fumcmcallen.com or in the church office.



All children in 3rd grade through 9th grade (by September 1, 2017) are invited to join us as we gather to help others in the mornings, have a delicious lunch together, and learn a musical in the afternoons. The musical will be presented on Thursday, July 13th at 5:45 pm with dinner following. All M & M Campers must commit to participating in the musical on Thursday. Register online at fumcmcallen.com or in the church office.

Operation Kid Pack

- June Communion Offering -

Our church is involved in a partnership with Escandon Elementary School of McAllen. One of the pieces of this partnership is our sponsorship of "Operation Kid Pack." During the 2016-17 School Year we have provided 40 Kid Packs weekly for 30 weeks to feed children that are chronically hungry in our community! That is 1200 Kid Packs! PRAISE GOD!



This ministry focuses on addressing the problem of childhood hunger, right here in our own community. Operation Kid Pack is only for children who are chronically hungry. The program provides Kid Packs with food each Friday to children who might otherwise not have food over the weekend. This is a program sponsored by the Food Bank of the RGV.

The Escandon Elementary principal and counselor identify children, in need. These are children who display one or more behaviors exhibiting hunger. These behaviors may be physical appearance, school performance, home environment, and several other factors. The counselor distributes the Kid Packs on Friday to the child, to help them through the weekend.

The June Communion Offering will go to this ministry. The Children and Youth Programs of our church serve to both organize and carry out this program! Our children and youth have committed to participating in this weekly ministry for the 2017-18 School Year. The cost of this program is approximately \$7.00 per Kid Pack and 40 Packs will be assembled every other week.

This can be done ONLY through your generosity and passion to serve children in need. We hope that you will prayerfully consider your support of this important ministry and the efforts of our children and youth as they seek to serve the less fortunate children in our community!



Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

JACKSON ELEMENTARY

Our church family provided a Teacher's Appreciation Lunch to Jackson Elementary teachers on Friday, May 19th. Thanks to Sue Monopoli and her team who prepared a beautiful and delicious salad bar for the teachers! Thank you to all who baked cookies and brownies for their dessert! They were ALL very appreciative and said a BIG THANK YOU to all of us!

Jackson Elementary is very near to our church. We have formed a special relationship with them through Serve Our Schools and this opportunity! Hopefully we can do more with this school in the future!



It is my honor and privilege to serve and mentor the youth at The First United Methodist Church in McAllen. Thanks to our Holy Father and generous congregation, with their time and gifts, all of this is possible. On Sunday, April 30th, twenty one of our youth confirmed their faith in Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior. They all participated in Confirmation Classes along with their own mentor; twenty one adults from our church family were at their side through this journey. What a joy it was to have witnessed the love put in every time we came together, especially when each class was led by our very own caring pastors; Pastor Ricky Sanderford and Pastor Robert Aaron Perales.

We are so proud of our youth; always serving and giving back.

Choosing love & joy,
Veronica M. Dillon



Mission Service Project (MSP) will be Sunday through Saturday, June 11-17. It is an opportunity for Jr. and Sr. High youth to serve in God's mission in our area. MSP teams will be participating in home renovation, repairs, working with children, building raised gardens, and community building in other ways! It will be a week blessed with service in God's name, fellowship, and worship! **First UMC will host this mission week (8 churches, 170 participants)!** Below are some opportunities for **you to serve!** Let us hear from you!

Listed below are ways you can serve:

- ☐ Work with First UMC Team on worksite one or more days.
- ☐ Host a pool party for First UMC Team Wednesday, 6/14 evening.
- ☐ Host pizza dinner on Sunday, 6/11, evening (pizza donation and/or with your presence) for the group.
- ☐ Register groups as they arrive on Sunday, 6/11 afternoon.
- ☐ Bake cookies beforehand (lots needed for lunches!)
- ☐ Help serve First UMC hosted meal Friday, 6/16. This will be a last night celebration dinner.
- ☐ Help decorate for Friday, 6/16, celebration.
- ☐ Help preparing and serving breakfasts, one or more days, M-F, early a.m.
- ☐ Help set out fixings for lunches in a.m.'s, one or more days, M-F, early a.m.
- ☐ Help serve Community Dinner Tuesday, 6/13, evening at ARISE.
- ☐ Be a FUMC host for other churches who provide dinner at First UMC Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evening.
- ☐ Participate in snack delivery one or more days, M-F, afternoon
- ☐ Be a photographer and prepare daily slide-show for the group at evening meals.
- ☐ Pray for leaders and teams before and throughout MSP week.

We hope you will mark your calendars and pray about how you can serve in this ministry. To volunteer to serve e-mail Veronica Dillon, vdillon@mcfirst.com or Susan Hellums, shellums@mcfirst.com or call the church (686-3784).

Friends in Faith Reveal Party

Just wanted to thank all involved in the Friend in Faith Ministry! It was an awesome experience seeing so many meet and forming new relationships in Christ's name! If you didn't get to meet your youth, please do take the time now to write that note, finally signing your name on it. It really was a great experience for many of the youth & adults, and we will be looking for adults again in August to sign up for a new Faith Friend for the upcoming school year.

Again, thanks to all who were involved in the ministry, those who contributed to the event by your presence, gifts, time, and oh yes, the food & desserts!!

Until next time, God's blessings to you all!

~Diane Bleibdrey and the FIF team!





SUMMER BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

Tuesdays, May 23 and 30, June 6, 13, 20, & 27

Your story can change. Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Naomi, Daniel, Peter, and even an unnamed woman in the Bible are all testaments to the transformational power of God. Their stories were rewritten giving them new names and identities that were in line with God's call for their lives. And the same can happen to you. God wants you to rewrite your story so that you may become and do all that is planned for you—all for God's glory. All women are invited to gather for this special study. Books are available in the church office - \$10.00 each. Childcare is provided. Bring a snack to share (if you have the time!).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

All women are invited to join us for secret service opportunities this summer. We will publicize information about time and what to wear, but the service activity will be a secret until we take you get there! Come get out of your comfort zone and serve with us! We promise it will be a blessing! AND you will get a special Secret Service t-shirt.



A MORNING AT LA POSADA PROVIDENCIA

The women pictured here had a wonderful time at La Posada Providencia in San Benito last month! They were blessed to learn about the Center and all it does to share the love of God with others. The women also had the pleasure of helping with a few cleaning projects. Following their time at La Posada Providencia they enjoyed lunch together.



BUNCO BASH FUN

Great fun was had by all at the Bunco Bash. It was such a pleasure as girls of all ages joined together for fellowship and lots of laughter. Daylen, Lillian, and Mary (pictured here) were the big prize winners! We will surely have more intergenerational Bunco games in the future. Come join us!



El Valle District Celebration

Saturday, May 20th

Saturday, May 20th over 300 gathered at First UMC in Harlingen for our first Annual El Valle District Celebration. Several from First UMC were in attendance. District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez led the group as we worshipped with music and received a special address from Bishop Robert Schnase! A wonderful meal was served by our YOUTH and other youth from the District.



Senior Graduation Recognition

Our Graduating High School Students were recognized on Sunday, May 21st during the Traditional Worship Service, followed by a celebration luncheon in the Social Room hosted by the Youth Ministry Students and parents. We are so proud of our graduates and we pray they will find peace and joy from our Father as they venture in their new journey of college and adult'ing.



Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

I was recently blessed with the opportunity to attend the 2017 Keeping Our Communities Healthy Conference in Houston, Texas. The focus of the conference was about the role that good nutrition plays in health, development and healing and the importance of addressing food insecurity in patients through a collaborative effort between partners in the community such as doctors/clinics, the food bank, and other community agencies that address this issue and further provide resources. The US is plagued by high rates of food insecurity and obesity. The problem is that low-income families that struggle to make ends meet would rather buy more filling, calorie-dense foods than costly nutrient-rich foods and also tend to engage in cycles of food deprivation and overeating. This is then coupled with high levels of stress. As a result food insecurity brings about serious mental and physical health consequences such as depression, heart disease, diabetes and cancer which further drive up health care costs. I, however, strongly believe that change, though slow and gradual, is possible. The good news is that this awareness and education is spreading and being brought to our communities here in the Rio Grande Valley. Through coalitions and other collaborative efforts, we are also working to increase people's access to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as increase access to physical activity opportunities to create healthier communities.

I want to express my deep gratitude for all the Manna Food Pantry volunteers and our Health Ministry Chair, Tanya Perales for their support of the resources fair held on May 15th for the clients we serve there. Our clients were able to obtain necessary information from agencies in the community regarding the resources and benefits they can receive to obtain holistic health. I am grateful for this church and its various ministries and the resources, assistance, and support it provides to the community. Have a very blessed and safe summer!



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.



The Health Ministries Team is blessed for the Aldersgate Sunday School Class Canola Oil Donation. Thank you for having hearts that are ready to serve and actively being God's hands and feet in this ministry.



Calendar of Events

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

JUNE 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For calendar updates visit fumcmmcallen.com				1 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group Truth-Food-&-Fun	2	3
4 Step Up Sunday Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship McAllen MSP Team Construction 101 Meeting	5 Tai Chi Exercise Class	6 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Bible Study	7 Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	8 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group Truth-Food-&-Fun	9	10
11 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Mission Service Project 2017	12 Tai Chi Exercise Class Mission Service Project 2017	13 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group Mission Service Project 2017 Women's Bible Study	14 Mission Service Project 2017 Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	15 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Mission Service Project 2017 Young Adult Group	16 Mission Service Project 2017	17 Mission Service Project 2017
18 Father's Day Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	19 Vacation Bible School Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen	20 Morning Walkers Exercise Vacation Bible School Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Bible Study	21 Vacation Bible School Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group	22 Morning Walkers Exercise Vacation Bible School Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	23 Vacation Bible School	24
25 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	26 Tai Chi Exercise Class	27 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Bible Study	28 Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group	29 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	30	



THE MESSENGER

June 2017

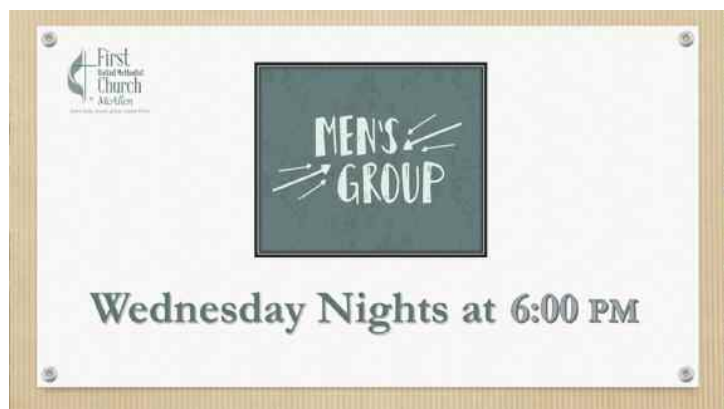
First United Methodist Church
4200 N. McColl Rd.
McAllen, TX 78504

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

in the UM church like baptism happens only once for a person. This is a high and holy time. The service of ordination is moving and you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit moving among all the people. The service of ordination begins with gathering music at 7pm on Friday, June 9 in Selena Auditorium at the American Bank Center (Corpus Christi Convention Center). You're invited to come and celebrate with Robert and others being ordained that evening. There is a reception following worship.

I look forward to seeing you in worship, around the community and maybe even in Corpus Christi.

Grace and peace,
Ricky



Prayer Warriors

"O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me" Psalm 30:2



- 2nd Tuesday of each month
- 10:30 a.m.
- Room 202



Building a Foundation

As you may have noticed by now, there is a lot of activity occurring where the new sanctuary is to be built. Construction workers are maneuvering their trucks in and out of large piles of dirt. They spread it

out, pack it down, wet it, and repeat. (Regrettably, due to the south Texas winds, plenty of the dirt ends up on our neighbor's property.) The importance of this process cannot be overstated. This is the foundation to the foundation of our new home for worship. This foundation needs to be solid so that it will last for generations to come.

While the early stages of construction have begun, there are several committees that continue to meet and make decisions about items ranging from the style and color of our new seating, to the location and acoustics of our new organ. Our church family is very blessed with talented, smart, creative and willing members. As we are extremely grateful to those who came before us to shape who we are as a church, it is our prayer that we shape the future generation in a way that is pleasing to God. The players on this stage will change over time, but the foundation built by Him will remain.

