



THE MESSENGER

July 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.



Rev. Robert Perales' Ordination

Thirteen years ago, this month, God called me into ordained ministry in the United Methodist church. It has been thirteen years full of joys and frustrations, highs and lows, and more paperwork than I care to remember. The journey from my calling to ordination has been amazing, and I am happy to share a snapshot of it with you all.

It all began at the Methodist Encampment in Sacramento, NM. It was the summer between my junior and senior years of high school and while others were not surprised, I was beyond surprised when God called me into ordained ministry, and nervously began that process as a senior in high school. It started with my local church voting to support my calling into ordained ministry, and meeting with my local church pastor to begin the process with the District. After that process, which took several months, I had my first of many meetings with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM), who oversaw my process until I completed seminary. This process included pursuing my Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies at SMU, earning my Masters in Divinity from Perkins School of Theology, and maintaining active participation in a campus ministry and local church throughout my time in the university. In the midst of all this, I not only graduated, three times, but also had the privilege of working in two separate ministries with young people, moved four times, and married my beautiful bride, Tanya.

Shortly after beginning my time here at First UMC McAllen in January 2014, the DCOM voted to recommend me to the Rio Texas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM). After meeting with the BOOM in January 2015, I, along with ten other men and women, were recommended to be Provisional Elders in the UMC, and began the Resident in Ministry Program. This program had each of us regularly meeting together in San Antonio, writing papers, preaching, presenting projects, and leading in other worship capacities, as we grew our gifts for ministry together. The eleven of us journeyed together for two years, with our final interview held earlier this year at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville. Sadly, only seven of us moved beyond that stage, and were ordained as Elders in Full Connection of the Rio Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The level of support I received at my service of ordination, from friends, family, and colleagues who have been a part of this thirteen-year journey, was a beautiful and emotional climax to this amazing calling God has gifted me. There is no world where I could have done this alone, so tremendous thanks goes to all the women and men of faith that shaped my passions for ministry, friends and family who consistently supported my calling, and to my wife who journeyed with me and encouraged me every step of the way. Accepting my call into ordained ministry was one of the best decisions I ever made, and God has used it, in profound ways, to shape my life. Thanks be to God!!!

Pastor's Perspective - MOMENTS OF GRACE

I shared the following story a few weeks ago in a sermon. I've had a number of people request a written copy so here you go.

The Washington Post conducted an experiment: What would happen if a world class musician performed elegant classical music on a priceless instrument in the Metro station of a major American city?

The city was Washington D.C. The musician was Joshua Bell, who can earn upwards of \$50,000 for an evening's performance. The instrument was a 300 year-old Stradivarius valued at \$3.5 million. The music included the works of Bach and other masters.

The experiment was captured on hidden camera. So, what happened? How did people respond?

During Mr. Bell's 45 minute performance, 1097 people passed by. 27 dropped spare change



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

(continued on last page)

Children's Ministry Summer Opportunities for Children

Register TODAY for M & M (Missions and Music) Camp

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 lunch together, and learn a musical in the afternoons. The mission activities include hosting our friends from C.A.M.P. (Can Achieve Maximum Potential) University for a morning of fun at FUMC followed by lunch together. We will also sing for the residents at Bridges Assisted Living Center, and MORE! The musical, Church Camp 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 in order to attend M & M Camp. COME JOIN US! Sign-up on the Children's Ministry page at fumcmcallen.com.



MON – THURS
July 10th - July 13th
9:30AM – 3:00PM

(3rd - 9th graders by September 2017) \$20.00 includes lunch & t-shirt (Scholarships are available)
Mission projects in the morning * Music in the afternoon * Lunch in between
Register online at fumcmcallen.com or through the church office - Registration deadline - June 30th
Musical Presentation/Dinner on Thursday, July 13th



FUMC Day School

We kicked off our Summer Fun Days
"Under A Starry Night" with
Fireflies and S'mores on June 5th.
We will sail through summer and
Wave Goodbye on Aug. 3rd.

Our summer Program runs weekly Mon. - Thur. 9:30am - 1:30pm
We are having oodles of fun so please call 956-668-9009 for availability.
Spaces are limited!



With the Fall school year right around the corner the
Day School is excited to announce the addition of a
Full Day, 8am - 3pm program for our 3 & 4 year olds.

We will continue to offer our traditional Half Day program,
9:30am - 1:30pm for our 12 months - 4 year olds.



Here is a brief look at a day in the Life of an FUMC student.

Our younger children develop their gross motor skills thru song and dance, dress up and role play, while excelling in their fine motor development thru finger painting, coloring and creative arts n crafts. The children will be introduced to the alphabet, numbers, shapes, animals, colors, nursery rhymes and more. Their social and emotional growth will develop while learning boundaries, routine and sharing with others.

Our 3 & 4 year program offers the "Handwriting Without Tears" curriculum.
This program is all about letter identification, phonemic awareness, plus science and math skills.

With the continuation of our 4 year old program in preparation for kindergarten, our teachers will include sight words, upper and lower case letters and an introduction to reading.

These are just a few of the life skills your child will learn while at FUMC Day School.

Give us a call or come take a tour, we welcome everyone here
with warm hearts and open arms where:

"All Great Things Start Small!"



Youth Ministries Council

Rio Texas Annual Conference 2017

Our youth are not just active at our local church, they are also part of the El Valle District DCYM and are also now active in the Rio Texas Conference's new Youth Ministries Council. It was a privilege to witness our youth take part of the Worship Services and to be a part of the voting delegation. This is not a big task, but it does take time away from their crazy schedules. Our youth are so active with academics and extracurricular activities all year long, including the summer months. Hats off to them for their willingness to be heard and lead their peers at this level.



Mission Service Project

Rio Texas Annual Conference 2017

Mission trips are always mistaken as opportunities to go and repair or improve others in need, but they are so much more than that. Mission trips are about getting out of your comfort zone, knowing you are sweaty and smelly and it does not matter. What matters at the end of each day is not how many nails you hammered or how many walls you painted, but how many times you saw the hand of God at work. The first day is the most difficult for all because we are all on a "mission" to check off and complete our tasks for the day and then by day three you finally figure out that the tasks always get completed regardless how hard you work on them. What never gets completed is the "mission" to witness to others God's unconditional love and endless grace. The families thank us over and over with out realizing how thankful we are for being allowed to serve them instead.

Here are a couple of words from our very own youth reflecting on the week of MSP:

"This past week has been so much fun and I feel so blessed to have been a part of Mission Service Project. I am so proud of how much my faith has grown and how I am able to share it with my church fam." - Avia Guerra "I had an amazing week working with Mission Service Project and was blessed with the opportunity to reconstruct 2 houses for 2 amazing families! I also gained so much from these families that taught me not to worry about materialistic things when they were content with just having each other. The scripture we studied all week further expanded my understanding of how to be as content as the families we helped. (Matthew 6:25-34). - Quinn Sullivan

We are so thankful for all that made MSP a successful and amazing event for all the teams. Thank you to our loving church family for pouring countless prayers and baking delicious cookies for our lunches, our construction leaders, Tim Voss and Rene Esparza, for teaching us without frustration new construction skills, and also to our adult sponsors, Pastor Joe Tognetti, Beth Martinez, and Bill Martin for leading by example! We can't wait to do it again next year!!

July Communion Offering Teachers' Classroom Supply Boxes

As you may know, many students do not come to class in the first week with all supplies needed. Therefore, teachers must personally purchase some of the school supplies that these children are lacking. They must also purchase certain things that might assist them in their teaching with a very small budget each is given the first of the year.

The Communion Offering for the month of July will go toward filling these boxes of supplies. We will also be collecting very specific items for these boxes. These items will be supplemental and meant to fill in where there are gaps in supplies in the classrooms. We hope to be able to put together enough for each grade level at Jackson Elementary and Escandon Elementary Schools. These are the two schools we have developed a relationship with here in McAllen.

The list of specific items for our Teachers' Classroom Supply Boxes is below. Other items requested will be purchased with donated funds. Needed items are:

- 11x17 Heavy Duty Construction Paper
- Package of Assorted Colors
- Pencils (boxes of 24)
- Antibacterial Soap (30 oz pump bottles)
- Kleenex (boxes)
- Composition Books (wide ruled)
- Dividers (5 tab)
- Glue Sticks (smaller size)
- Colored Pencils (box of 12)
- Chalk (box of white)
- Expo Markers (box of 8 colored)

We hope you will prayerfully consider your support for this ministry of First UMC!

Created By God Class 2017

We were pleased to invite J'Nevelyn Lloyd to lead the Created By God human sexuality class for 4th and 5th graders this past May. This class teaches that all of us are **children of God, created by God, in the image of God**. It is our prayer that the class serves as a tool for families as children grow physically, emotionally and spiritually and that it influences the lines of communication between parents and their children in a positive way. The children and their parents created this special litany during the final session of the Created By God class this year:



Children to Parents:

We hear you and we love you, and we want you to know that...

We are more mature now.

We are grateful that you want to prepare us for life.

We are thankful you take care of us.

We will try to listen and respect you.

We want you to be honest with us, and we will be honest with you.

We will try to make good choices and decisions.

We learned more that we wanted to know this weekend.

We love God.

We want a phone.

Don't ever stop being our parents.

Parents to Children:

We hear you and we love you, and we want you to know that...

You can talk to us about anything.

We were children at one time, too.

Mistakes are okay, as long as you share them with us – We will find out!

We want to protect you.

We want to understand how you feel.

It doesn't matter what everyone else is doing.

Be a leader, not a follower.

We love you no matter what you do.

Ask questions and respect others.

It's going to be okay, because God is with you.



Camp Tellmemore Vacation Bible School at FUMC

Thank you to all of the adults and teens who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School such a special time for the children and for all. It was a fantastic week of sharing Jesus, making new friends, and having lots of FUN!



2017 Mission Service Project

171 youth and their sponsors from 9 churches in Texas, came to our community to serve from June 11-17. The teams served 12 families.

We were also able to partner with two Community Centers and Texas A&M Agri-life to build 6 raised vegetable gardens for homes in two communities!

We thank all of YOU who made this possible by volunteering to serve in some way! This endeavor could not be possible without servants such as YOU! Blessings

to all who made this week one of many blessings!



TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



Thank you Ray!

Thank you and happy retirement to Ray Chapman. He has served as FUMC'S Business Administrator since 2008. Ray was a hands-on person with nearly every aspect of the church building and grounds. Whether it was a problem with the air conditioning, the sound system, plumbing, copier concerns and even ants, Ray was the go-to person. He also oversaw the church custodial staff and with their help set-up and prepared for all church events. As part of the FUMC Staff, his dry wit and easy-going demeanor will be missed. Ray is looking forward to spending more time on the golf course and traveling with his wife Diana who too has recently retired. Thank you Ray for your tireless attention to detail and countless hours spent at the church being sure that everything ran smoothly. We hope that your retirement days are a hole-in-one!



Charlene Simmons
Financial/Business Administrator

Congratulations to Charlene Simmons who will now be the Business and Financial

Administrator at FUMC. Charlene has been the Financial Secretary at our church since 2012 and will be taking on additional responsibilities with the retirement of Ray Chapman. Charlene studied Computer Information Systems and General Business at UT Pan Am. She has been the General Store Manager of Stein Mart, Marshalls, Merry-go-Round Enterprises and Pacific Sun wear of California (PACSUN). She is married to Asencion Garcia Jr. and has a daughter, Michelle Nicole, 2 sons, Blake Aaron Simmons and Drake Garcia and two adorable grandchildren, Gabriel James and Emery Rose. Please come by the church office and congratulate Charlene as she begins her new position at our church.



Roland Pecina
Facilities Manager

Roland Pecina grew up in the valley. Although he has just become a member at FUMC McAllen, he has been a big part of a lot of the mission

work done with FUMC.

He has been serving as Construction Coordinator for Faith Communities for Disaster Recovery for seven years. He has also been a part of several mission trips to Pittsburg, PA.

"I am honored to be here at FUMC McAllen. I look forward in seeing where GOD leads us as a church. I pray that we will continue to be the light of the world."



Special Speaker

Tuesday, July 11 • 6 - 7 p.m.

This evening we will have a guest speaker, a woman who is a survivor of domestic violence, and has seen the power of God at work through her recovery and His love through those who ministered to her. All women are invited. We will meet in Social Room East, 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Childcare will be provided.

Next Summer Secret Service – Saturday, July 15th

The Women's Secret Service crew (see pictured below) had a great time of serving the Mission Service Project teams their Friday evening meal last week. Women, mark your calendars for the next Secret Service activity on Saturday, July 15th. Exact times and other details will be publicized soon, but do set aside that morning for an awesome opportunity to serve others in need.



CHURCH FAMILY

First United Methodist Church was pleased to welcome the following into church membership:

Martin & Barbara Engelbrecht

2905 LaPuerta Ave.
Edinburg, TX 78541
May 21, 2017



Roland Pecina

226 E. Bell
Pharr, TX 78577
June 4, 2017

Our Sympathy to...

Our sympathy is with **Vicki and Harvey Aikman** following the death of Vicki's mother, **Myrna Diekmann**, on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 in Algona, Iowa. Vicki's address is 5116 North Cynthia Street, McAllen 78504. Vicki's father, Robert Diekman, lives at 2605 East State Street Algona, Iowa 50511.

Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)

For most of us, summer break has entered into full gear. There are trips to be taken and many fun experiences to be enjoyed. Rest is necessary as it gives your body, soul, and spirit a time to recuperate and replenish themselves. I want to leave you with a few health tips to help you engage in safe and healthy vacationing.

- **Avoid Tanning, Be Sun Safe-** any increase in skin pigment (called "melanin") is a sign of damage and places you at a higher risk for skin cancer. Furthermore, eye problems can also develop as sunlight reflects off sand or water. You can counteract these negative effects by using sunscreen, wearing sunglasses, protective clothing that covers exposed skin as well as limiting the time your skin is exposed to the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Also, be aware that tanning beds can be more intense and harmful than the sun.
- **Check Medications Before You Go-** Remember to take enough medication to last your trip, keeping your medications with you in a secure, cool place and look for warnings for increased sensitivity to sunlight. Avoid skipping doses or sharing your medication.
- **Be Careful with Contact Lenses-** Make sure you have enough supplies to last the trip and remove them before swimming. Take your glasses with you in case your eyes become irritated.
- **Stay Hydrated and Eat Healthy-** It is easy to become dehydrated in the hot summer months and away on vacation if you have limited access to water or beverages. Often times, you don't feel the effect of dehydration until it becomes severe. Be prepared ahead of time and take enough water with you to your fun-filled destinations, if permitted, to prevent dehydration. Also, know that if you become sunburned, you are losing water without realizing it due to the sunburn. Furthermore, it's easy to splurge on eating when you're away from home, so be mindful of your food choices. If you're at a buffet, follow dietary guidelines and fill your plate with fruits and vegetables, whole grains and then add the protein source. Remember, everything in moderation.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fda.gov/> the FDA's Consumer Updates page. May your time of rest, vacationing, fun and family time be richly blessed!



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.



Calendar of Events

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

JULY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Youth Summer Nights	3 Tai Chi Exercise Class	4 Happy 4th of July Church Office Closed	5 Witness Band Rehearsal Truth, Food & Fun	6 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	7	8
9 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	10 Tai Chi Exercise Class	11 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Alzheimer's Support Group	12 Witness Band Rehearsal	13 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group M & M Camp Presentation/Dinner	14	15
M & M (MISSION AND MUSIC) CAMP						
YOUTH WEEK						
16 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	17 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen	18 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	19 Witness Band Rehearsal	20 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	21	22
SACRAMENTO, NM YOUTH SUMMER CAMP 2017						
23 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	24 Tai Chi Exercise Class	25 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	26 Prayer Shawl Ministry Witness Band Rehearsal Youth Summer Nights	27 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	28	29
30 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	31 Tai Chi Exercise Class		For calendar updates visit fumcmcallen.com			



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

into his open violin case, for a total of \$35. And seven of them stopped what they were doing to listen for at least one minute. The other 1070 people hurried past, oblivious, uninterested, unmoved.

How many times a day does something like this happen to you or me? How often do we miss the music? How many times do we encounter truth, beauty, and excellence, without giving it a second look? How many messages of hope do we ignore? How many demonstrations of grace do we disregard? How many divine appointments do we overlook? How often do we fail to see the hand of God at work? Only when we recognize God in a moment of truth and beauty are we moved to gratitude and praise.

Ezra wrote these words: "But now for a brief moment favor has been shown by the Lord our God, who has left us a remnant, and given us a stake in his holy place, in order that he may brighten our eyes and grant us a little sustenance in our slavery." (Ezra 9:8)

Let's make an effort to recognize -- and fully experience -- those brief moments of favor and grace God sends our way. There will be at least a few today. Will you see it and give thanks? See you in worship.

Ricky

P.S. The slab is poured and the steel frame is going up!

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 work continues on the new sanctuary at a rapid pace. In the early morning hours of June 10th, the first of four concrete pours began. After the final concrete is poured for the chancel area, we will see the steel structure begin to take shape. Not as noticeable, but still critical to the overall project, is the ongoing site work for the new building such as drainage and detention areas for water and relocation of electrical lines.

Various committees have also been hard at work during the past several weeks making decisions on a number of items. The new organ has been ordered and is being built. Tile, carpet and wood for the sanctuary have been selected in addition to the new seating (no more ministry of chairs!). Those who have given freely of their time and talents on these committees have asked for God's guidance and direction that the decisions made will be pleasing to all who come to worship in His house.

