

First United Methodist Church, McAllen  
**The Messenger**

January 2019



**January Communion Offering**  
**UMCOR/CWS Blankets & Tools of Hope**

Your offering during Communion on Sunday, January 6th will help the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and its partner Church World Service (CWS) provide blankets and relief supply kits, assembled in the United States, to places in the United States and its territories where they are most needed.

To address international needs, UMCOR works with local United Methodist churches and their partners to respond to relief in severe situations and disasters. Often, as part of a comprehensive response strategy, UMCOR coaches our partners to purchase local materials that are appropriate to the context. This is consistent with best practices and accountability standards.

The Rio Grande Valley and the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church has been the recipient of literally thousands of blankets, health kits, and clean-up (flood) buckets over the years! These are distributed to those in need by our churches and partnering ministries in time of need.

*Thank you in advance your for prayerful consideration of a gift to this ministry !*

**Pastor's Perspective**

Welcome to the year of our Lord 2019.

I've always thought that to be a strange phrase, "the year of our Lord". Was 2018 not the Lord's year? What about 2000? 1959? 1776? Year 1? Were not all these years and all those in between the Lord's years too?

Are you one who makes New Year's resolutions? The only resolution I've had a chance at living up to has been when I've resolved not to make any more new year's resolutions. Saves on the guilt. For those who do make these maddening resolutions, I have an idea for your 2019 resolution. Why not resolve to recognize that the year 2019 does belong to God?

.....cont. on back

When we recognize that the year and all the months, weeks, days



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**Worship Information**

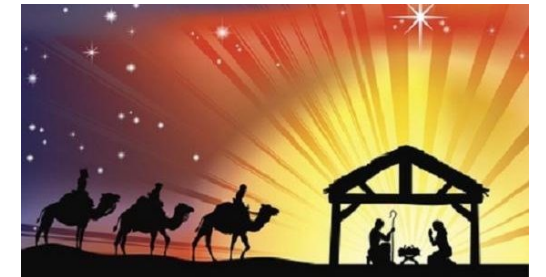
- 8:30 am—Traditional Worship
- 10:45 am—Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 am—Traditional Worship



Our friends from the Regional School for the Deaf

**Children's Ministry— WOW—Word On Wednesday— Resumes on January 9 with an Epiphany Party!**

All children, 3 years old through 5th graders, are invited to join us as we celebrate Epiphany and the New Year complete with glitter and slime and much fun! We will gather on the playground for playtime from 3:30 to 4:00, then head upstairs for our Epiphany lesson and party. Bring a friend and come celebrate Jesus with us!



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



**February Bible Study**

**TWELVE Women OF THE BIBLE**

**Life-Changing Stories for Women**

**Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27**

**Wednesdays 6:00-7:15 pm**

**Koinonia Room**

**Purchase books in the church office (\$8.00)**



**Bible Journaling Workshop**

**Monday Evenings 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

**Sanctuary Overflow Room East [January 7, 14, 21, & 28]**

Learn more at the Bible Journaling Informational Meeting on Monday, December 3rd, at 5:30 p.m.



All are invited to gather every Monday evening in January to connect to God's Word through different Bible journaling techniques. One technique will be the focus each Monday. No prior knowledge or artistic talent is required! Bring your Bible and any art supplies you would like to use. There will be plenty of supplies available to share. Bring a friend!

## Youth Speak

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! The new year brings new beginnings and new opportunities. The Youth Ministry is looking for faithful volunteers to help during Confirmation Classes and at camps. If you are interested in knowing more about this fabulous opportunity, please contact Veronica Dillon and meet with her to discuss the many ways you can help this ministry thrive and flourish.

The youth are very excited about attending MIDWINTER on February 15th—this may seem to be a while away, but without the commitment of adult sponsors, we are limited to the amount of youth that get to attend this weekend retreat! At MIDWINTER the kids get to experience a full weekend of worship, Bible lessons, fun activities, and of course camp food. This is exactly what the Youth Ministry is all about: experiencing camp, Bible studies with peers and to be constantly reminded to seek JESUS. When the Youth get older and are searching for truth, love, and peace, they'll remember to look for Jesus—our only truth, love, and peace.

*I will put the third part into the fire. I will refine them like one refines silver; I will test them like one tests gold. They will call on my name, and I will respond to them. I will say, "They are my people." And they will say, "The Lord is our God." Zechariah 13:9*

### Important Dates

#### Confirmation Classes

##### Meeting

Wednesday, January 9th  
5:30-6:30PM

#### El Valle District Youth Bash

Saturday, January 26th  
Sanctuary

#### Safe Gatherings 'Con

#### Confianza' Child Safety

##### Training

Saturday, February 2nd  
10:00AM—12:00PM

#### Youth MIDWINTER Camp

Friday—Sunday  
February 15-17th  
Camp Zephyr

#### Cornerstone Texas Ramp

##### Project 2019

Friday—Saturday  
February 22nd & 23rd

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

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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](http://www.fumcmcallen.com)

## Pastor's Perspective, cont'd

When we recognize that the year and all the months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds that go with that year are God's then we'll move closer to realizing the gift from God that life truly is. When this truth dawns upon us it has the power to move us to a closer relationship with the Holy Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all. Viewing life as a gift empowers us to not take life for granted, but rather allows gratitude to flow outward in all of our actions and encounters. Life becomes an experience of abundance.

My prayer for you is that 2019 will be a year of God's gift to you and yours.

See in worship and around the community.

Ricky



**February 15-17th**  
**at Camp Zephyr**

**\$110 before JAN. 1st**

**\$130 after JAN. 1st**

**FINAL REGISTRATION**

**DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1st**

All YOUTH in grades 6th-12th



**"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**

