



THE MESSENGER

May 2016

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.



Sign Up For Women's Retreat Set For May 14

Women of all ages are invited to sign up for a day of spiritual renewal, inspiration, and fun! This one-day retreat will be at Hilltop Gardens in Lyford on Saturday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Scriptural focus will be on women from the Bible -- Ruth and Naomi, Mary and Elizabeth, and Mary and Martha. Susan Hellums, Margie McKenna, and Lizan Fowler will lead this time together, delving into what we can learn from these biblical women about encouraging one another, waiting and trusting God, and being spiritually minded with a servant's heart.

Through fun activities, we will get to know each other, illustrate our connectedness, and share stories of women who have encouraged us on our life/faith journey. We'll have time to reflect on ways in which we can follow Christ by reaching out to women who need encouragement, a listening ear, a friend, and support on their walk with God. We'll also have time to visit with old friends, make new friends, and enjoy the beautiful gardens. Glenda Jeffus and Teresa Peralez will lead music throughout the day and Cherie Stiers, Marilyn Moffitt, and their cooking crew are preparing a delicious lunch and snacks. The retreat ends with Holy Communion led by Diane Bleibdrey.

Hilltop Gardens is located at 100 Lee Lane in Lyford, 6.5 miles north of La Villa on FM 491. We will meet at 9 a.m. and be carpooling from the church. Please let us know if you will be driving straight from home.

Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and goodies.

You can register on-line at www.fumcmcallen.com or in the church office. Scholarships are available. The fee may be paid in the church office or at the Hilltop Gardens on the day of the retreat.

"Woven" is the retreat's theme taken from this lovely passage in Colossians 2:2-3 from the Message: *"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we've been shown the mystery!"*

Pastor's Perspective

May is a transitional time of year. This is the main month for graduations from high school and college. That event marks a transition in the life of individuals and families. Young people are given new labels: graduate, freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, employed. For some, the empty nest knocks on the door. In our mobile society the end of May marks the greatest migration of families moving to new cities for jobs and careers.

We see this transition in our church. Attendance in worship drops after Easter. This is especially noticeable as our Winter Texans depart for northern homes. We



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

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Children's Ministry

Carnations for Mother's Day



On Sundays, April 24th and May 1st, the FUMC Children will be in the foyer selling carnations to celebrate moms. The flowers will be in arrangements in the Fellowship Center on Mother's Day, May 8th. You may buy in honor (red) or in memory (white) of someone. The children will send a postcard to the person of your choice and, you may take your flower(s) after the late service on Mother's Day. The carnations are \$5 each.

Proceeds will go directly to the FUMC Children's Ministry mission projects.



Children's Choir

All Kindergarteners through 5th graders are welcome to come sing out for God every Wednesday afternoon from 5:00 -5:30 pm in

Room 211. The children are working on a special song they will sing on Mother's Day, May 8th, during the 11:00 am worship service and are already learning the Vacation Bible School songs. Music is good for the soul and a wonderful way to learn God's word. Encourage your children to join us for choir!

Let's Go Fishing!
Vacation Bible School
June 27th - July 1st
9AM - 12 Noon

For children 4yrs old through 5th grade by Sept. 1, 2016

** Register online at www.fumcmcallen.com or through the church office.

Vacation Bible School....a time to learn about God through Bible storytelling, singing fun songs, playing awesome games, creating arts and crafts, science experimenting, reaching out to those in need, making new friends, and having a blast with old friends!

Register your children (4 year olds through 5th graders by September 1, 2016) for this exciting summer week TODAY online at fumcmcallen.com or through the church office.

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

It takes an entire church family to guide children in their walk with Jesus, and there are many opportunities for teens and adults to do just that during Vacation Bible School, from welcoming and greeting for a couple of hours during the week to serving snacks, leading games or crafts, and MORE! Sign-up in the Fellowship Center foyer or contact Lee Ann Clemons, laclemons@mcfirst.com to offer your help during VBS.

WOW
3 Year Olds through 5th Graders

Snacks & Games
3:30-4:10PM
Gym

Bible Lesson Activities
4:15-5:00PM
Room 201 - 3, 4, & 5 year olds
Room 208 - 1st - 5th grade

Choir for Kids
5:00-5:30PM
Room 211 - 1st - 8th grade

Word On Wednesday
3:30-5:00PM

The WOW kids have been busy loving God this spring.... assembling Operation Kid Packs for 40 children every other week, and sharing the GOOD NEWS as they learn about God's servant Paul. All children, 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us every Wednesday afternoon for Bible story activities and games. Mark your calendars for May 18th, our End-of-the-Year WOW Ice Cream celebration!





Music & Missions Camp

Mon. - Thurs., July 18th - July 21st [9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.]
(3rd - 8th graders by September 2016)

\$20.00 (includes lunch & t-shirt) Scholarships are available

*Music in the morning * Mission projects in the afternoon * Lunch in between*

Register online at fumcmcallen.com or through the church office - Registration deadline - July 15.

Musical Presentation/Dinner on Thursday, July 21



All children in 3rd through 8th grades by September 2016 are invited to four days of growing closer to God as they come together to learn a special musical during the mornings, feast on a delicious meal, then spend the afternoon going into the community to share Jesus with others. Register online at fumcmcallen.com or through the church office.



Confirmation Class 2016

8th Grade Students Learning to Put God on Their GPS



Kids on a Mission on Inside Out Sunday

Inside Out Sunday was a busy day for these children! They assembled RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) bags to give to people in need, hygiene bags for the Salvation Army, made cards for the teachers at Escandon Elementary School and planted okra seeds in their garden for a summer harvest for our Food Pantry recipients. They even had time to play on the playground! We thank God for the blessings that children bring to our church family and to others in our community.



A BIG THANK YOU goes to Ron Imhoof, Dan Dearth, Gary Montgomery, Gary Clemons, and Ken Duke for spending a Saturday morning assembling two new raised beds for the Children's Garden. The children are thrilled to see their garden grow and appreciate so much the support and help they receive from their church family!

INSIDE OUT

What a blessing to serve in God's name! Thank you for all who came out for Inside-Out Sunday, on April 10th! Also, thanks to all those who we served with: Teach for America, Sacred Heart Immigrant Respite Center, Care Corps Casseroles, Water for the Thirsty at the Bus Station, United Way, Food Bank of the RGV, Personal Energy Transportation (P.E.T.), Salvation Army, Comfort House, Veteran's War Memorial and Kids on a Mission! **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**





May Communion Offering

The Communion Offering for May will go to support Mission Service Project (MSP) 2016. First UMC has been blessed to host MSP for many years! The dates of MSP are June 12-18, 2016. This is an opportunity for youth to serve in God's mission in our local area. In the past its focus has been housing repair ministry, while sharing the love of God with our neighbor. This year we will be expanding our focus and both Jr. and Sr. High School youth will come together for this week to serve, learn, worship, and fellowship together. Teams will be coming from our area as well as many others.

We hope you will prayerfully consider your gift for this ministry and mark your calendar for this event! We will need LOTS of volunteers to serve in one of many different ways! In the coming weeks, there will be bulletin inserts in worship and notices at the Church Office for you to commit to some area of service, if you are able. Please contact Veronica Dillon or Susan Hellums at the church (686-3784) if you have any questions.

CHURCH FAMILY

Thank You

An atheist has been described as one who stands gazing in awe and wonder at a beautiful sunset, and doesn't know who to thank.

Susie and I have been so blessed by the overwhelming care, love and support of this congregation, it is difficult for us to know where to begin to give thanks.

At the time of the death of my father, you have surrounded us with kind words, sympathetic gestures, cards, notes, food and even financial support, during our time of bereavement. Especially at Easter time, it is a church family such as ours that proves over and over again, that Christ is alive and at work in our world.

We are so glad to be a part of this wonderful congregation. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Ken and Susie Harrison



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, McALLEN

Praise God for the outstanding results of our Harvesting the Fruit campaign!

Our pledges and gifts are approximately \$3,150,000.00!

Thank you, FUMC, for all of your support!

Sacramento, NM SUMMER CAMP

New Creation 2.0 2 Corinthians 5:16-17



July 17th-23rd

Leaving SUN @5PM & Arriving SAT @7AM

Students grades 9th-12th

\$440 per student

\$50 Deposit & Registration Forms Due by WED, May 4th

**GRADUATE
RECOGNITION
SUNDAY**

May 22nd

During the 11AM
Traditional
Worship Service

**Class of
2016**

*All graduates are invited to a luncheon after the service.



The FUMC Food Pantry is in need of your help!

If you would like to lend a hand to help in the pick-up, the set-up and or the distribution of the food pantry food, please call Carol Death at (956) 686-0103 or email her at cdeath1@hotmail.com.

Our food pantry is the third Monday of each month from 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

We especially need someone with a truck who can pick up the food order that morning at the RGV Food Bank in Pharr and deliver to the church. There will be some lifting involved. Help us spread the word!



Calendar of Events

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

MAY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 District Conference Donna Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	2 Tai Chi Exercise Class Men's BSF	3 Morning Walkers Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Little Blessings Women's Retreat Meeting	4 Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study Cards/Board Games WOW (Word On Wednesday) Youth Ministries on Wednesday Nights Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	5 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class MS Yoga Young Adult Bible Study Christianity's Family Tree	6	7
8 Happy Mother's Day Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	9 Tai Chi Exercise Class Men's BSF	10 Morning Walkers Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Day School Board Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group Little Blessings	11 Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study Cards/Board Games WOW (Word On Wednesday) Youth Ministries on Wednesday Nights Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	12 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class MS Yoga Young Adult Bible Study Christianity's Family Tree	13	14 Madi's Circle of Hope Women's Retreat 2016
15 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Youth Ministries on Sunday Night	16 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at FUMC McAllen Men's BSF	17 Morning Walkers Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Little Blessings Autism Support Group	18 Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Bible Study Cards/Board Games WOW End of Year Celebration Youth Ministries on Wednesday Nights Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	19 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class MS Yoga Young Adult Bible Study Christianity's Family Tree	20	21
22 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Graduate Recognition	23 Tai Chi Exercise Class	24 Morning Walkers Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon VBS Planning Meeting	25 Tai Chi Exercise Class Prayer Shawl Ministry Brown Bag Bible Study Cards/Board Games Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	26 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class MS Yoga Young Adult Bible Study Christianity's Family Tree	27	28
29 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Youth Hospitality Team	30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Tai Chi Exercise Class	31 Morning Walkers Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Ministry Meeting	For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com			

Pastor's Perspective (continued from page 1)

move into the summer months where schedules are more flexible. It's time for vacations, summer camps, the beach and the like. Here at FUMC it's also time for Mission Service Project, VBS, music and mission camps for children to name a few.

I use to think that summer months were slower, but have come to realize some of the most important ministry with our children and youth occur during the summer. It's then we have a chance to spend more than a hurried hour or two with them. Relationships are built that last and grow throughout the year.

What God is doing through us here at FUMC happens year round. God blesses lives through the ministry of this church twelve months a year! Our lives are in a constant state of transition, but God's love for you in Jesus Christ is the constant, unchanging foundation upon which to build your life. Recognize God wherever you may find yourself. See Christ in the face of those around you and give thanks. Live for God 365 days a year. I look forward to worshipping with you.

Grace and peace,
Ricky




Summer Registration
will begin on
Monday, April 4th at 9:30am.
Be sure to reserve your spot
before it's gone!

Summer Fun Days 2016
@ FUMC Day School • 956-668-9009
Monday-Thursday • June 6th - August 4th
(Closed July 4th-8th)
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
18months - Entering 2nd Grade
Call and see what the FUN is all about!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets every 4th Wednesday
of each month at 10:00 a.m.





Let Us Pray...

When you don't know what to pray: Romans 8:26-27
Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

1:15 p.m. • Tuesday, May 10 • Keystone Room

Don't worry; just be there whenever you can.
Bring a friend and lunch, if you want.



2016 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

There are still dates available on our altar flower calendar for 2016. Please help us fill these dates.

The calendar is in the Church office.
Just call and check out the availability.

The flowers are given in memory or in honor of loved ones. Not only do the flowers add beauty to our services but also, those that are left are made into smaller arrangements and given to people during visits.