



THE MESSENGER

March 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.



OUR CHURCH IS AN INSIDE-OUT CHURCH,

serving in God's name - out in our surrounding community!

The March 5, Communion Offering will go to support
"Inside-Out" WEEKEND at First United Methodist Church!

This year, on **SATURDAY, March 25th, at 8:00 a.m.** we will gather **inside** our Church building at 4200 North McColl for a brief time of worship and praise, then be sent out to serve God in our community until about 12:00 noon!

During our time of service, there will be something for everyone! There will several opportunities outside the church and a few planned at the church, for those who cannot go out or who come to church without knowing about our special day's activities. Most opportunities can be served as a family, depending on the place. There will be ways to serve planned for younger children at the church and a nursery will be provided.

Weekend Schedule will be:

SATURDAY, March 25th – "SERVICE DAY"

• **8 - 8:30 a.m.** Meet at First UMC for Music, Prayer & Sending Forth, pick up t-shirt and supplies

• **8:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon** Time of service

SUNDAY, March 26th – "WORSHIP, WITNESS & CELEBRATION"

A sign-up for the service opportunities will be available soon! It is very important to know who will be serving on our "Inside-Out" morning! Some places have a minimum and some a maximum number of volunteers they can accept. We ask that you give us a first and second choice of where you would like to serve. We will have special t-shirts available for those who serve!

Please mark your calendar and join us Saturday, March 25th, for a wonderful morning of witness and Sunday, March 26th for a worship service, as we celebrate as an "inside-out" church," serving in God's name! If you have any questions call Susan Hellums at the Church Office, 686-3784, or e-mail at shellums@mcfirst.com. Opportunities to SIGN UP will be coming soon!

"Dear children, don't just talk about love. Put your love into action. Then it will truly be love."
1 John 3:18 (NIRV)

Pastor's Perspective

Spring is here! Excuse me, I mean Lent is here. The word Lent is derived from the Angle-Saxon word lencten which means spring. Indeed when the Lenten season is over in 40 days, not including Sundays, spring will have arrived.

I have already noticed people out in their yards preparing for spring – cleaning up from winter, getting planting beds ready for flowers and vegetables. Spring is a renewal of life for nature and we participate in that renewal. The season of Lent is a time of preparation. By prayer, fasting, self-denial, giving something up or taking something on, we prepare to celebrate Easter. The church will begin the Great Three Days, from sunset Thursday to sunset Easter Sunday where we will journey to the cross to proclaim the passion of Jesus and on to the empty tomb to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the new life that is available for all people in his name.

What are you doing during Lent in preparation to celebrate Easter? As you prepare your house and yard for spring, I encourage you to prepare your life and heart for Easter.

I look forward to the Lenten journey together. See you in worship.

Grace and peace,
Ricky



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

Children's Ministry

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir so beautifully praised God through their singing during the the 11:00 am worship service on Feb. 5th. It was a blessing to all! Thank you to Alissa and Bo Shirah for their excellent leadership. The Children's Choir will also sing during the 11:00 am worship service on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Be sure to mark your calendars for M & M (Missions and Music) Camp this summer for 3rd through 8th graders. It will happen July 10-13. Details will follow.



OPERATION KID PACK

Every other week the children assemble packs of food for 40 children in need to have during the weekend. We want to thank Wes, Jack, and Lillian Welty and their mother Katie for picking up the food from the Food Bank and helping organize it to be ready for the WOW kids to assemble the Operation Kid Packs! Blessings for all!



IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Last month the children prepared 100 chili mixes to sell to benefit Imagine No Malaria, the United Methodist Church effort to fight malaria in Africa. Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause and

the FUMC McAllen children with your purchases and donations! We hope you enjoyed the yummy chili!



SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP

All parents and loved ones of children with special needs are invited to a time of support and encouragement every second Thursday at 6:30 pm in Room 202. Childcare is available. The next gathering will be on Thursday, March 9th.



CREATED BY GOD

The dates for the Created By God Class have changed due to the families' busy schedules on the previous weekend. The new dates are Friday, May 19 and

Saturday, May 20. All 4th and 5th graders are encouraged to sign-up for this special class. Parents, there are only 25 available spaces, and it is filling up quickly. Spaces will be reserved on a first come – first served basis. Contact Lee Ann Clemons for more information.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER FUN AT FUMC

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- June 18-23rd
- 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon
- 4 year olds through 5th graders
by Sept. 1, 2017

M & M CAMP [Missions & Music]

- July 10-13th
- 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- 3 graders through 6th graders
by Sept. 1, 2017



Spring 2017

Set your calendars on track! It is so easy if you have a smart phone and you go to our website: FUMCMCALLE.COM Just click on the event you are interested in, then click on **DOWNLOAD EVENT, and then it adds the event with a reminder to your phone calendar.**



Fri., March 3rd — Meet Us at the Movies

Sat., April 8th — One Youth Gathering

Sun., May 7th — Friends in Faith Reveal Party

SUMMER 2017

Listed below are just a few of our major summer events we don't want anyone to miss out on. Online registrations for these events open March 1st - remember, some of these events are limited to chaperone to student ratios.

Sun.-Fri., June 11th-17th—Mission Service Project

Sat.-Sat., July 16th –21st—Sacramento, NM Summer Camp

Tues.-Fri., Aug. 15th-18th—Praise & Craze Camp

On Tuesday January 31st, our church held a Charge Conference to vote on the final plans to construct a new sanctuary with choir space, nursery facilities and administrative offices. Our District Superintendent was present to lead the meeting and break the bread for communion. It was another historic event in the important journey of relocation that our church began many years ago. The results of the vote were clear. It is now time to move forward with the construction process! During the next few weeks, important discussions will take place with the Texas Methodist Foundation to secure interim construction financing. The general contractor will begin efforts to obtain all necessary permits from the City and County. The architects will put the finishing touches on the detailed plans and drawings. If it is in God's will, we will be moving dirt very soon. And as our DS reminded all who were in attendance at the meeting, "Christ's work through FUMC McAllen will not end with the completion of this new sanctuary, rather, that is when His work will really begin!"


Thomas Davidson



Lenten Opportunities at FUMC

As the Lenten season approaches we invite you to mark your calendars and plan to be a part of the opportunities available at FUMC to draw closer to Christ through study, worship, and fellowship.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days of the Lenten season. During the 40 days of Lent, Christians reflect on Christ's life and death and the significance of that for all humanity. Lent is a time for repentance, prayer, fasting, and meditation. It is a time for re-evaluation, re-dedication, and discipline. The Lenten season culminates with Holy Week, which includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday observances, followed by the Easter celebration. Following are the various opportunities for you to experience the Lenten season in spiritually significant ways at FUMC McAllen.



Lenten Bible Study



- The **Women's Ministry** meets on **TUESDAYS at 6PM**
- March 7, 14, 21, 28, & April 4
- Bring a snack to share.
- The **Brown Bag** meets on **WEDNESDAYS at 12 Noon**
- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5
- Bring your lunch.

Childcare is available - Books - \$10 each in the church office

Using scripture, stories, and personal affirmation, pastor and author Tome Berlin takes us on a journey from our own brokenness to redemption and restoration through Jesus.

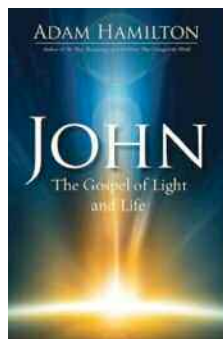


ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



- Wednesday
- March 1st
- 6PM
- Fellowship Center

Including the Imposition of Ashes



The Friendship Sunday School Class invites all to join them on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am to the Lenten study, John: The Gospel of Light and Life.

The Gospel of John is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." Join the Friendship Class in Social Room East for this six-week study beginning March 5.

Mark your calendars for the following Holy Week Opportunities...

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Services

April 9 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Thursday Worship Service A Living Dramatization of the Last Supper

By Dr. Ernest K. Emurian

Thursday, April 13 7:00 p.m.

In the Fellowship Center

Good Friday Worship Service

April 14, 12:15 pm

In the Fellowship Center

Easter Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, April 16

8:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.



BASIC: Foundational Practices for Growing Disciples

March 20 – May 8

Over the last two years, over a dozen people at First UMC have had the opportunity to be a part of one of our newest studies, BASIC, written by our Associate Pastor, Robert Perales. Since then, it has been taught at several other UMC congregations across our District and Conference. We are pleased to be offering it at our church again, with Pastor Robert leading the teaching. BASIC seeks to help Christians not only understand, but learn to actively engage in the Christian practices God has used for thousands of years to speak new life into His people. If you are interested in deepening your devotional life in prayer, worship, scripture, and more, this is the study for you.

Books are available in the office at no charge. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Robert at rperales@mcfirst.com.



All women are invited to the Women's Lenten Study

RESTORED: FINDING REDEMPTION IN OUR MESS

By Tom Berlin

Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4

6:00 pm in the Social Room

We are in for a treat as five different women will be leading these lessons. Thank you to those who are teaching! We look forward to this time to draw closer to Christ and each other this Lenten season. Please bring a snack to share. Childcare will be available. Books (\$10 each) are available for purchase in the church office.

Join us to spread love and care to the college kids one last time before final exams for the spring semester. We'll gather immediately following the Lenten Study, to write notes and assemble goodies to help them through the stressful time of finals.



Help Prepare/Serve Meal for Confirmands, Mentors, and Youth

On April 19th we have an opportunity to offer support and encouragement to our youth, confirmands, and their mentors by preparing and serving their Wednesday evening meal. We will be serving spaghetti. The meal will be served at 5:30 pm on April 19th. Come join us and get to know the awesome youth in our church family! Contact Peggy or Lee Ann to let them know you would like to help.

SAVE THE DATES!

- **Saturday, April 29th** - for a special service and fellowship opportunity - details will follow
- And get ready for ***The Summer Secret Service*** coming SOON!!



Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

March is colorectal cancer awareness month. Learning some basic facts is important. Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the United States and the second leading cause of death from cancer. Colorectal cancer affects people in all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people age 50 and older. Several lifestyle-related factors have been linked to colorectal cancer. These include being overweight or obese, physical inactivity, certain types of diets that are high in red meats and processed meats, or cooking meats at very high temperatures such as frying, broiling, or grilling which creates chemicals that might raise your cancer risk, smoking and heavy alcohol use. There are some risk factors you cannot change which include being older, a personal history of colorectal polyps, colorectal cancer, or inflammatory bowel disease, and a family history of colorectal cancer or adenomatous polyps.

The good news? If everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, 6 out of 10 deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to encourage people to get screened. Some screening tests may include the guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT), colonoscopy and/or a flexible sigmoidoscopy. When detected at an early stage before it has spread, the 5-year relative survival rate is about 90%. But only about 4 out of 10 colorectal cancers are found at this early stage. When cancer has spread outside the colon or rectum, survival rates are lower. Part of the prevention includes leading an active lifestyle as exercise may help reduce the risk of colorectal cancer. For more information, visit www.cancer.org, and www.healthfinder.gov.

I declare many blessings in every area of your life. Have a happy and restful spring break and a very blessed Easter!



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.



CORNERSTONE/Texas Ramp Project MINISTRY

Friday a.m. & Saturday a.m. • March 3 & 4, 2017

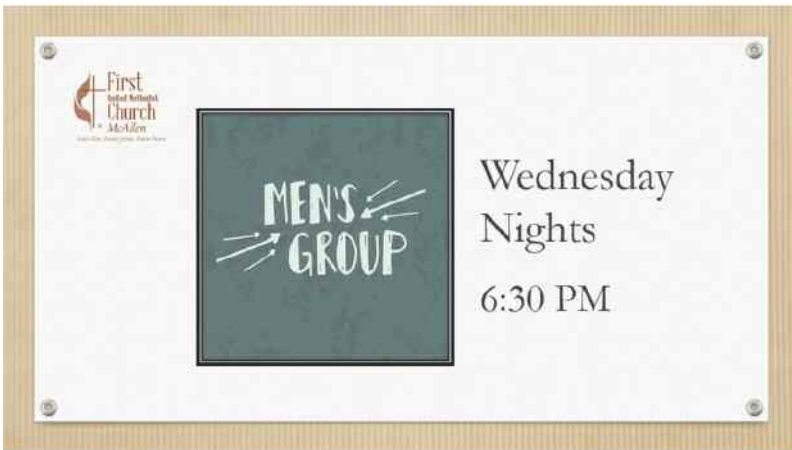
Friday & Saturday, March 3rd & 4th mark dates of **First UMC CORNERSTONE MINISTRY 2017**. This ministry has evolved over the past 26 years into one that serves primarily physically challenged individuals and their families with wheelchair ramps. Last year, we successfully partnered with Texas Ramp Project (TRP). We are excited to announce leaders of the Cornerstone Ministry have agreed that First UMC will be officially considered a TRP site. We will be responsible for seeing that at least 8 ramps in our area are built per year. During Cornerstone weekend we are hoping to build 6. TRP will assist us with some funding for the ramps. We have several Cornerstone leaders trained in building TRP model ramps.

One aspect that is different in the TRP model of building the ramps, is the length of time it will take to build it. It takes approximately 4 hours to build each ramp. So we will be working in the earlier part of the day with the goal of being completed by lunchtime or shortly after.

PLEASE mark your calendar to join us the morning of Friday, March 3 and/or the morning of Saturday, March 4! We hope you can join us. There will be an Orientation and Planning Meeting on Tuesday, February 28th to discuss the "new model" and what we will be doing. On Tuesday, February 28th. BROCHURES with more information and forms to SIGN-UP are around the church for you to pick up! Questions: contact Susan Hellums at the church or e-mail at shellums@mcfirst.com.

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 built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."
Ephesians 2:19-22



All men are invited to the Men's Group gatherings on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. The men join for Bible study, fellowship and service. All men are welcome!

Prayer Warriors

Please join the Prayer Warriors@ FUMC McAllen @10:30 a.m., in Room #202, on the second Tuesday of each month.

Prayer Warriors meets for Intercessory Prayer for our church ministries and missions, our pastors, schools and children, our military, our leaders, and those on our church prayer list. God, through prayer, opens eyes, changes hearts, heals wounds, and grants wisdom.

Bring your prayer requests and burdens and let's pray together for God's grace and mercy.

CHURCH FAMILY

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

LeRoy & Mildred Ripplingler
1721 Lemon Street
Edinburg, TX 78539



Our Sympathy to...

Marylee & Steve Alaniz

following the death of Marylee's father
Hugh White Calvert on January 19th.

A graveside service was held on January 2
at the Veteran's Cemetery in McAllen.

Steve and Marylee's address is
6309 North 1st Lane, McAllen, TX 78504.



Calendar of Events

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

MARCH 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Breakfast & Devotionals w/Middle School Students Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Ash Wednesday Service Motet Choir Rehearsal	2 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	3 Cornerstone Project Meet Us at The Movies	4 Cornerstone Project
5 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Sunday Night Light Seekers	6 Tai Chi Exercise Class Bible Study Fellowship	7 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Lenten Bible Study	8 Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Wednesday Night Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	9 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Special Needs Support Group Young Adult Group	10	11
12 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	13 Tai Chi Exercise Class Bible Study Fellowship	14 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group Women's Lenten Bible Study	15 Brown Bag Bible Study Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	16 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	17	18
19 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	20 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen Bible Study Fellowship BASIC	21 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Lenten Bible Study	22 Breakfast & Devotionals w/Middle School Students Prayer Shawl Ministry Brown Bag Bible Study WOW Wednesday Night Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	23 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	24	25 INSIDE OUT
26 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship INSIDE OUT Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	27 Tai Chi Exercise Class Bible Study Fellowship	28 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	29 Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Wednesday Night Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	30 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	31	For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com



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March 2017

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

Introducing

shelbynext | giving

Beginning March 1st, our newest online giving platform, ShelbyNext Giving, will become available. With ShelbyNext Giving, we are able to make online giving more accessible to everyone, expand our online giving options to smart devices via the Shelby Next Giving app, and offer text-to-give options, all while providing the same level of security that you find while making any online transaction. With ShelbyNext Giving, you will be able to set up automatic giving, give while you're away from home, and decide which ministry you would like to donate towards. You can sign up today by downloading the Shelby Next Giving app or going to the church website's giving page for a direct link to their website.

If you would like more information on how to sign up for ShelbyNext Giving, or would like more information about it, please join us for a short Q&A session on March 19th, following the 11am worship service. You can also find detailed instruction on the website, or call the office for more information.

Flower Ministry

Providing flowers to adorn the altar during our worship services is a way to honor and remember your loved ones and add beauty to our services. The arrangements are then made into smaller arrangements and given to people needing comfort and encouragement, if the purchaser chooses.

Several dates are still available on the Flower calendar. It is a simple process. You choose the date and call the florist. The prices range from \$75.00 to \$125.00 and you make your check out to the church. The florist will deliver the flowers and you tell us who you would like to honor or remember.

We will put this in the bulletin and on the worship screens.

Please call the church office, 686-3784 if you have any questions.



**Thank you in advance for being
a part of the Flower Ministry.**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 4th Wednesday of every month from 10 to 11 a.m. in room #209. The meetings are informal and a time of fellowship. Don't worry if you don't knit or crochet, come and learn. The shawls are given to persons who are ill, have suffered a loss, or are in the midst of crisis. Contact Mary Heimel at 607-0151 or call the church office if you are interested in being part of this wonderful ministry.



We are looking for anyone interested in working with Audio-visual, screens and or sound on Sunday mornings.

If interested, contact Ray Chapman at rchapman@mcfirst.com or call the church office at 956-686-3784. Training will be provided.