



THE MESSENGER

March 2018

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 & 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.

PALM SUNDAY

New Sanctuary Consecration

March 25th

One Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion

Lunch immediately following service

The Consecration of our new Sanctuary will be on Palm Sunday March 25th, ONE Worship Service at 10:30 am

All are invited to join us for a delicious luncheon in the Fellowship Center immediately following the consecration service.

Make reservations online at fumcmcallen.com or fill out a reservation form found on the usher's tables. A love offering will be collected to help cover the cost of the luncheon.

The deadline to make reservations is Sunday, March 18th.

Pastor's Perspective

This month our long sought after vision becomes a reality. A milestone for our church is upon us. Over 20 years ago the dream of moving FUMC to a new site that had more room for expanding the ministry of the church began. That vision included a sanctuary to foster and support worship with excellence. Bishop Robert Schnase will be here on Sunday, March 25 to lead us in worship, Holy Communion and the consecration of our sanctuary building.



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

God has blessed us on this journey and it's only through God's generosity poured into this church through faithful stewardship by so many that the vision became reality. To God be the glory and praise!

This is an opportunity to give attention to our hospitality and discipleship development ministries. We need more people to bolster our hospitality ministry. The same need is there for our A/V ministry. Currently there are sign-up sheets around the church to be part of these vital ministries. Complete training comes with both! Watch for more news about our discipleship development pathway soon.

I hope to see you March 25. We will worship all-together at one worship service at 10:30. Lunch will follow. March 18 is the cut-off for making a reservation for lunch. You may make your reservation on our website, using a sign-up sheet on tables around the church or calling the church office. See you in worship and around the community.

Grace and peace,
Ricky



Children's Ministry WOW – Word On Wednesday

For 3 yrs old through 5th graders by September 1, 2017
Every Wednesday afternoon, 3:30-5:30 pm

February was filled with fun! The children had a blast making decorations for the Women's Pancake Supper (thanks kids!!). They also loved getting messy with purple tissue paper and glue as they made offering jars to collect coins during Lent. In preparation for the awesome mystery of Easter they will focus on ways to grow closer to God, to follow Jesus better. One way is by thinking more about others. The children will collect coins during the 40 days of Lent, then at Easter their family will help them find a special project or ministry in the community or the church to give the offering to. Our prayer is that through this project the children and whole family will open their eyes to God's giving, unending love for them through His gift of Jesus Christ.



Children's Choir

Singing in the NEW Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, March 25th!

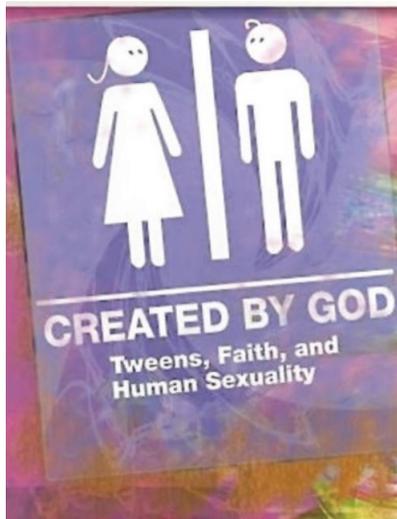
We will have one service that day with special music, including the Children's Choir. All children are invited to take part in this exciting opportunity to praise God with singing in the NEW SANCTUARY on Palm Sunday, March 25th! Join us for choir practices every Wednesday, 5:00-5:30 pm, in Room 211.



Easter Sunday, April 1st

We are excited that this year the Children's Ministry is hosting egg hunts for the children following the worship services on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

Help is needed: donated plastic eggs, empty one dozen egg cartons, filling plastic eggs, hiding eggs and supervising the children during the egg hunt. Contact Lee Ann Clemons to offer your help, 686-3784.



Families with 4th, 5th, and 6th graders...SAVE the DATE!!!

**Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th
Created By God Human Sexuality Class**

Register online at fumcmcallen.com

Created by God offers both parents and their children opportunities to learn, grow, and celebrate the fact that we have each been wonderfully created by God and are called to responsible living. In addition, participation in Created by God helps families better communicate about sexuality and other life issues now and in the future. Space is limited to 25 children for the class, so sign-up ASAP. Also be aware that this event is open to all who are interested in a church-based study of sexuality— friends, neighbors, other family members, or persons from the community at large. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Lee Ann Clemons, 686-3784.



2018 Spring Break Event TASTE and SEE

'RELAX!' and 'CHILL OUT!' can be taken the wrong way. Has anyone ever told you to do either during a stressful or chaotic time? Did it help or make things worse? At first I thought our youth were a tad over dramatic about school and extracurricular activities, and then my own kids got caught up with their own school responsibilities and I quickly learned how challenging it is for our kids to take a break. There are never ending deadlines, homework assignments, and mandatory meetings; I honestly think some of these kids are busier than I am as a mom, full time employee, wife, and the home CEO. So how can we help them to relax and chill? We need to stop treating them like little adults and create a safe and fun environment where they can enjoy their youth. They need to be allowed to pause, and find a place where they can see/feel the presence of Jesus.

Here at FUMC McAllen, our youth gather as much as possible to talk, eat, pray, learn about God, study the Bible, sing, dance, shout, and pause. That's what 'youth nights' are all about, a time to relax and chill with peers, with silly and crazy games, and learning their purpose and who they belong to. Because before we know it, they will be graduating and going off to college to learn how to be an 'adult' on their own. So for now, we welcome Spring Break with open arms to relax and enjoy!

"Taste and see that the Lord is good." – Psalm 34:8

2018
SPRING BREAK
STAYCATION
 RELAX & ENJOY
 MARCH 12 | 10AM
\$25

CORNERSTONE/Texas Ramp Project 2018 - To God by the Glory -

Friday & Saturday, February 16 & 17 those serving for Cornerstone/Texas Ramp Project gathered for breakfast, prayer and to launch our ramp building for 2018! We were able to complete 4 ramps for our neighbors in need! This year we were blessed to have 3 adult teams and 1 youth team!

We thank our partner Texas Ramp Project (TRP) for the funding for most of our supplies! Thanks to all who make this ministry a blessing to so many! This ministry can only be possible through the gifts of prayers, donations and faithful servants willing to give of their time to make life a bit easier for those that are mobility challenged!

The first Sunday in March, Cornerstone/Texas Ramp Project will be the Communion Offering. This collection will go to help continue our partnership with Texas Ramp Project!



Women | Women

Women together in Christ

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who planned, decorated, flipped and served pancakes and sausage, greeted, kept the topping table in order, cleaned up, AND THANK YOU to all who gathered to feast and fellowship with us at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The Women's Ministry has such fun hosting this dinner! They are pleased to say that a love offering of almost \$700.00 was given that evening. After deducting the expenses for the dinner, about \$475.00 will go to the Better than a Backpack Care Kits for College Kids. We cannot wait to put the care packages together this coming April to mail to over 30 college age young adults from our church family. Blessings!



Mark your calendars for the Women's Lenten Study

led by Barbara Engelbrecht and based on the book..

"Paths to Prayer:

Finding Your Own Way to the Presence of God"

by United Methodist minister, Patricia D. Brown

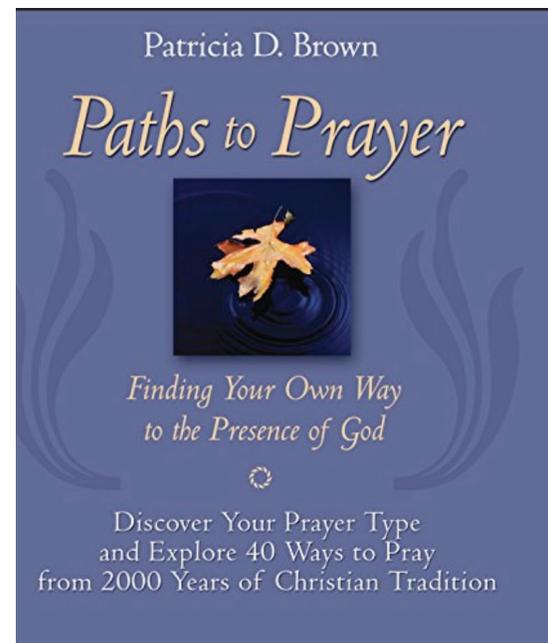
Thursdays, February 22, March 1, 8, and 15

6:00 pm in the Social Room

"Paths to Prayer" offers a whole-person approach to prayer that takes into account each person's individuality and doesn't assume we all relate to God in the same way.

This valuable guide contains a wealth of timeless spiritual prayer practices that Christians have used over the past 2000 years from cultures around the world.

Join us as we draw closer to Christ through our prayer life this Lenten season. The books are \$18.00 and can be purchased in the church office.



Holy Week/Easter Opportunities at FUMC

Palm/Passion Sunday Consecration Service

ONE Service at 10:30 a.m. followed by Lunch in the Fellowship Center

On Palm/Passion Sunday we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. The Bible reveals that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with their garments.

Immediately following this great time of celebration in the ministry of Jesus, he begins his journey to the cross.

All will receive palms as they enter to worship this Sunday. Before the service all children are invited to meet outside at the entrance to the Sanctuary to receive palms and then process in together. Parents and teens are welcome to join in!

The Motet Choir will present special music and the Children's Choir will sing.

Holy Thursday Worship Service A Living Dramatization of the Last Supper

By Dr. Ernest K. Emurian

Thursday, March 29 7:00 p.m. In the Sanctuary

Holy Thursday, also called Maundy Thursday, is the day we commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and the beginning of our sacrament, the Lord's Supper. The word Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus.



Good Friday Worship Service

March 30 12:15 pm In the Sanctuary

Good Friday is the day on which we commemorate the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Easter Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, April 1 In the Sanctuary

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Join us in celebration of the Risen Christ!



Special Music Collaboration

April 1st

9 & 11 a.m. Worship Services

No Communion

Easter Sunday is the beginning of the Easter Season, also known as Eastertide. It begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. During this joyous time the church focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, along with all of God's creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

Easter lilies will adorn the Fellowship Center and family photos will be taken at no charge in the Prayer Garden between services. The Motet Choir and Witness Praise Band will present an Easter Cantata, "Amazing Love How Can It Be".

All children are invited to join in an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn following the worship services.

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. Prevention measures encouraged by the American Cancer Society to help reduce the risk of colorectal cancer include: staying at a healthy weight and avoiding weight gain around the midsection, leading an active lifestyle-increasing the intensity and amount of your physical activity, limiting red and processed meats, eating more vegetables and fruits and fiber especially from whole grains, avoiding excess alcohol, and quitting smoking. A lot of research is still underway to improve the lives of people, minimize risk, and preventative measures. For more information visit, www.cancer.org, and www.healthfinder.gov.

May the Lord continue to provide you with wholeness and wellness in every aspect 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.

An Invitation to First UMC!

Mr. Carlos Mora, Principal of Escandon Elementary School of McAllen, has invited us to partner with them in building a raised vegetable garden at their school! Escandon has been one of our partnering schools in the McAllen ISD over the years.

Escandon Elementary has received a grant from Lowe's for supplies for the garden, Texas A&M Agri-life for on-site assistance, curriculum and more supplies and from the City of McAllen Composting Facility for soil for the vegetable beds. They would like OUR assistance to build the garden!

The goal of the garden is to teach the children not only about growing fruits, vegetables and plants, but also about healthy eating habits! The garden will also be used for science lessons. The curriculum will assist with the standard teaching requirements for the state of Texas (TEKS).

We will gather after school on Friday, March 2nd and on Saturday morning, March 3rd to build the garden. For more information and/or if you would like to assist, please e-mail or call Susan Hellums, shellums@mcfirst.com or call 956-648-8509



CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sympathy to ...

The family of **Marty Hamilton** following his death on Friday, February 2nd. A memorial service was held on Friday, February 9th at FUMC. Elizabeth and Joe, daughter and son, can be reached at 701 Water Lily, McAllen, TX 78504.

Jimmie Moyer and family following the death of her husband **Bob** on February 4th. A memorial service was held on Thursday, February 8th at FUMC. Jimmie's address is 700 Bluebird Ave, McAllen, TX 78504.

The family of **Tina Scoggins** following her death on Sunday, February 4th. A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 10th at FUMC. Jacks' address is 125 E. Whitewing, McAllen, TX 78501

The family of **Martha Myatt** following her death on Sunday, February 9th. A graveside service was held on Saturday, February 18th at Valley Memorial Gardens. Her husband Charles address is 1220 Martin, McAllen, TX 78504.



Calendar of Events

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4200 N. McColl Rd. • McAllen, TX • 956-686-3784

MARCH 2018

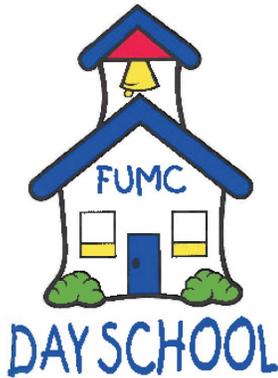
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SAVE THE DATES April 14 - Inside Out April 21 - One Youth Gathering For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com .				1 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Women's Lenten Study Young Adult Group	2	3 Confirmation Class 2018 Retreat
4 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Hospitality Team Training	5 Tai Chi Exercise Class	6 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's SEED Group Tuesday Noon Women's Group Co-ED SEED Group Hospitality Team Training	7 Tai Chi Exercise Class WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Brown Bag Lenten Study Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes 2018 Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	8 Breakfast & Devotionals Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Women's Lenten Study Special Needs Support Group Young Adult Group	9	10
11 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	12 Tai Chi Exercise Class	13 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Prayer Warriors Women's SEED Group Tuesday Noon Women's Group Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group Co-ED SEED Group	14 Breakfast & Devotionals Tai Chi Exercise Class Brown Bag Lenten Study Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	15 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Women's Lenten Study Young Adult Group	16	17
18 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	19 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen	20 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's SEED Group Circle of Friends Tuesday Noon Women's Group Co-ED SEED Group	21 Tai Chi Exercise Class WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Brown Bag Lenten Study Truth Seekers Confirmation Classes 2018 Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	22 Breakfast & Devotionals Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Young Adult Group	23	24
25 Holy Grounds Fellowship Palm Sunday Worship and Consecration Service Light Seekers	26 Tai Chi Exercise Class	27 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's SEED Group Tuesday Noon Women's Group Co-ED SEED Group	28 Breakfast & Devotionals Tai Chi Exercise Class Prayer Shawl Ministry WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Confirmation Classes 2018 Brown Bag Lenten Study Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	29 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Holy Thursday Worship Service Young Adult Group	30 Good Friday Worship Service	31



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FUMC Day School Fall Registration Continues 2018-2019

Registration for the
2018-2019 Fall school year is underway.
If you have any questions,
please feel free to call 956-668-9009
or just stop by the Day School office.

Rio Texas Conference represented in Wespath's Young Leaders Advisory Board

CHICAGO—Robert Perales, from the Rio Texas conference, will be working in 2018 to help shape the way Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) serves The United Methodist Church by participating in Wespath's inaugural Young Leaders Advisory Board (Y-LAB).

Wespath is the general agency of the UMC responsible for administering benefits and investing retirement plan assets.

Wespath created Y-LAB in 2017 to engage and better serve young adults dedicated to the Church. Members are partnering with Wespath to identify gaps in connecting with young clergy and lay employees, generate ideas that help improve Wespath's products and services, and help shape how Wespath shares information.

In November, the group traveled to Pensacola, Florida to attend Wespath's revitup! For a Lifetime in Ministry, an event for young clergy, where they provided insights about how Wespath can enhance its educational outreach. The group also met at Wespath's headquarters in Glenview, Ill in September, where they interacted with Wespath employees and senior leadership, including General Secretary, Barbara Boigegrain.

Their hard work will continue into 2018!

"The discussion among the Y-LAB members has been lively and energetic, and their feedback has already proven valuable," said Ms. Boigegrain. "We appreciate their willingness to help us better serve the Church, and look forward to hearing more from this engaging group of young UMC leaders!"

The 15 Y-LAB members are all aged 35 or younger, and represent both laity and clergy across the U.S. Y-LAB members were selected by Directors of Connectional Ministries in their UMC jurisdictions who viewed these individuals as young leaders within the Connection.

Wespath has created a similar Conference Advisory Board consisting of Conference Benefits Officers and Treasurers across the UMC in order to better engage with, and connect to, the annual conferences and participants it serves.

Y-LAB Member	Annual Conference
Tyler Amundson	Yellowstone
Jordan Ault	Missouri
Anna Guillozet	West Ohio
Erin Hicks	Mississippi
Thomas Lott	Virginia
Gabrielle Martone	Greater New Jersey
Kyle McManus	Dakotas
Katie Pearce	Arkansas

Y-LAB Member	Annual Conference
Robert Perales	Rio Texas
Matthew Price	Western Pennsylvania
Nico Romeijn-Stout	Pacific Northwest/Alaska
Kayla Spears	Baltimore-Washington
Tyler Sit	Minnesota
Thom Wilkerson	Desert Southwest
Elizabeth Zimmerman	Tennessee