

First United Methodist Church, McAllen

May 2019

# The Messenger



MAY Communion Offering

## FIRST UMC Feeding Ministries

**Matthew 25:35 - “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,”**

**May’s Communion Offering will go to the feeding ministries of First UMC.** Providing physical and spiritual needs is what these ministries seek to do! Many come to our church for supplemental food, a meal, or to hear the Word. We seek to provide, not only these things, but to show our faith by our actions!

- An average of 50 families are given supplemental food from Food Pantry on the third Monday of every month.
- Emily’s Meals prepares and delivers lunch to 40 homeless people three days a month. This ministry is a partnership with others in our community. Also, once or twice a year, we host a picnic for our homeless friends.
- Emergency food is given to those in need who come to the Church office.
- During Teacher Appreciation Month we show our faith by providing breakfast to the teachers and staff at a partner school, Escandon Elementary.
- Our church family also has a special feeding ministry sometime during the year.

If you are interested in serving in one of these ministries you may call or e-mail Susan Hellums at (956-648-8509) or [shellums@mcfirst.com](mailto:shellums@mcfirst.com).

## *Pastor’s Perspective* May 2019

I’m reflecting back 12 years ago. Makayla Grace Johnson was born at 2 a.m. on April 17 twelve years ago. Makayla is granddaughter number one, grandchild number two. She looked much like her mother, Stefani, when she was she was a baby. Emotions washed over me as I held six pounds, fourteen ounces of life. It was a holy moment. As I looked into her eyes, I was reminded that the first recorded words God spoke to the human creation in Genesis were to be fruitful and multiply. With seven grandkids, the Sanderfords are doing their part! I was reminded that God is a God of life, and God’s intention is for all of creation to enjoy life in the fullness of God’s presence and Spirit.

Listening to the sighs of Makayla’s breathing reminded me of the privilege and awesome responsibility of raising children. The church plays a vital role in raising children who know God and live in close relationship with God. Ministry with children, youth and adults all carries the basic goal of developing relationships – with God and others.

.....cont. on back



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## Worship Information

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

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



All women are invited to gather for four Mondays, April 29—May 20, as Vicky Guerra leads the final four sessions of the *Twelve Women of the Bible* study, beginning with Lesson 9 on Mary of Bethany. Books may be purchased in the church office (\$8.00).

**Monday Evenings**  
**6:00-7:15 p.m.**  
 4 weeks beginning April 29, May 6, 13, & 20  
 Sanctuary Overflow Room East

**Women's Bible Study**  
 LYSA TERKEURST and ELISA MORGAN, JEANNE STEVENS, AMENA BROWN, NAOMI ZACHARIAS, JONALYN FINCHER

First United Methodist Church McAllen  
 Love God. Serve Jesus. Change Lives.

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

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Special Needs Ministry Training**  
**THURSDAY – MAY 2nd**  
 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
 in the Social Room  
 Light dinner will be included ~ Childcare will be available

**Thursday, May 2**  
**6:00-9:00 pm**  
**in the Social Room**

Join us in this training for the challenges and joys of doing ministry with children who have special needs or disabilities. This training is open to all who love God and care about children. A light dinner will be served. Come join us!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**ROAR!**  
 Life is Wild - God is good  
 June 24-28th  
 9:00AM to 12:00 noon  
 For children 4 yrs old thru 5th grade by September 1, 2019  
 Register online at [fumcmcallen.com](http://fumcmcallen.com) or through the church office

Missions and Music Camp is an exciting fun time for children in 3rd through 9th grade (by Sept. 1, 2019). They will spend mornings helping others in the community and afternoons learning a musical to present to family and friends on Friday evening. The fee is \$25 which includes lunches and a camp t-shirt.

All children, 4 years old through 5th grade, (by Sept. 1, 2019) are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School, June 24-28, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. We will learn that God is Good all the time and have roaring great fun as we do!

**Missions & Music Camp**  
 July 29th – Aug. 2nd 9:30AM – 3:00PM  
**MONDAY – FRIDAY**  
 \$25.00 includes lunch & t-shirt  
 (3rd - 9th graders by September 2019 - scholarships are available)  
 Missions in the morning \* Music in the afternoon \* Lunch in between  
 Register online at [fumcmcallen.com](http://fumcmcallen.com) or through the church office - Registration deadline - July 19th  
 Musical Presentation & refreshments on Friday, August 2nd

Register TODAY for VBS and M & M Camp at [fumcmcallen.com](http://fumcmcallen.com) or on our app, First United Methodist Church McAllen.

## Youth Speak

Are you set with plans for the summer? The Youth Ministry is. Every year they are the same: Mission Service Project in June, then we drive for 20 hours to New Mexico for Summer Camp in July, followed by something crazy like a lock-in, day camp, or mystery trip in August. This will be our fifth summer doing these same activities, yet every summer is very different.

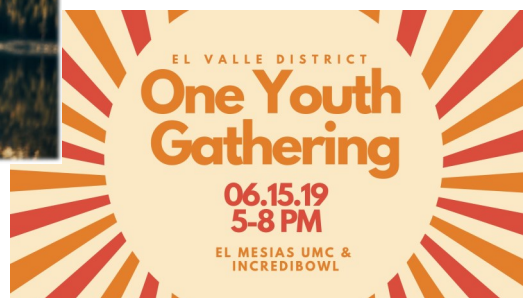
Each group that attends these events brings something different to the experience, and God always sends us a bit of the unexpected, such as crazy weather to go along with it.

No matter how much we prepare and plan, there are always those God moments, where we see His hand at work in our lives. He is so generous and caring about each detail in our lives, including summer activities. That's the God we serve and worship, a loving and incredible God who has perfect plans for each one of us. We just have to relax, sit back, and be amazed by Him.

Every year can be a tad stressful trying to get enough volunteers and chaperones to make things happen. We tend to ask ourselves, "will our regular favorite volunteers sign up again?" Our hearts sink when they are not available, but we learn that God has already planned something new, something special. That's our God, a provider, one that is always a step ahead of us.

So, are you set with plans for the summer? I smile because we think we are, and then God comes along and changes our plans to make them better; fuller than expected. Maybe you are not a planner but prefer to see what comes along. Either way, as long as we are God-aware and see Him calling us to new ways to grow, then the summer should be a new experience, one to be treasured.

Please remember to pray for the Youth Ministry during the summer, as we gather to do mission work, travel up to the mountain to worship, and even when we play silly games. Pray that we have enough awesome volunteers to help make all of this happen. Pray that the youth will feel His presence, hear His truth, and know for a fact how loved and precious each one is. Because that is what the summer is all about, enjoying getting closer to God during our 'time off'.



## Important Dates

### Friends In Faith

#### Reveal Party

Sunday, May 5

12:05 p.m.

Social Room

### Mother's Day

Sunday, May 12

### Graduating Seniors

#### Recognition

Sunday, May 19

11:00 a.m. ~ Sanctuary

### Madi's Circle of Hope

Saturday, May 25

7:30 a.m.

### Rio Texas

### Annual Conference

June 5—8

### Mission Service Project

June 9—15

### Vacation Bible School

June 24—28

### Youth Hospitality Sunday

Sunday, June 30

Check 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.*

Every time a child is baptized and/or confirmed, the church commits its time, energy and effort to raising that child in the Christian faith. It is a partnership between parents and the church. The saying is true; it takes a community to raise a child.

Watching Makayla sleep, I prayed for those who have lost children. We tell ourselves that children are supposed to bury their parents, but we know that does not always happen. Accidents, war and illness visit families and they are left with loss, grief, questions of why, and thoughts of what might have been. God has given us life as a precious gift. This gift should not be taken for granted, as each life carries within it the breath of God.

I thank God for all my grandkids and for all children and pray God would grant me the wisdom to serve as a granddad and as a pastor to all the children. Mission Service Project, VBS, and Mission and Music Camp are only some of the activities for our children and youth this summer. Let's all work together to make them a great blessing for our young people.

Grace and peace,  
Ricky

## ***Pearls of Wellness Wisdom***

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

***“Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.” Matthew 18:5 (NKJV)***

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We know, though, that preventing and addressing abuse needs to occur every day. The Department of Family and Protective Services received 12,697 reports of abuse and neglect in Hidalgo and Starr Counties in 2017 alone. Nationwide, more than 3 million confirmed cases of child abuse occur annually. Having worked as a Behavioral Health nurse, I am acutely aware of the devastating and destructive effects that physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse have in a child's life. The community's agencies, schools, and churches must protect and strengthen families. Children thrive on attention, affection, and having their needs adequately met from and by their parents. They depend on parents to nurture them, guide, instruct, and support them daily and throughout their lifespan. Children need parents to be part of their lives and aware of their friends and activities even when parents are not very welcomed around their teenage years. Your awareness, knowledge, and involvement in the care of children within your family, church, and community can help prevent or stop abuse. Reporting child abuse and neglect is mandated by law, not just for professionals but for any person who witnesses it or suspects a child is being abused or neglected. Speak up and be an advocate. You can make a report to the Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400, or online, or to a law enforcement agency.

You can advocate for children and further help to nurture communities through education, speaking to neighbors, and/or becoming a volunteer at any institution, center, or agency that serves families. If you are unable to physically participate, you can carry this need in your heart and pray for children and families in the Rio Grande Valley struggling through these issues. Pray for the foster care system in Texas that is currently overwhelmed and for more resources to become available. Pray that abused children will be rescued. Pray for their rescuers and for justice for these little ones. Pray for their healing, protection, and deliverance. Pray they are placed with caring people. Blue Sunday, always the last Sunday in April, is a nationally recognized day of prayer when churches can take time in their services to pray for victims of child abuse; however, I encourage you to lift up this prayer request to the Lord each and every day without ceasing. Finally, remember to always thank the Lord for your family, for little ones, and for the life and love that you all share.