



THE MESSENGER

November 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.



Thanksgiving Opportunities to Serve

"First Fruits" Thanksgiving Baskets

Sunday, November 6th the Communion Offering will go toward our Annual "First Fruits" Thanksgiving Baskets.

October 30 through November 20th we will hold our Annual "First Fruits" Thanksgiving Basket collection. This is a tradition of our church family. We hope to collect enough to fill at least 130 boxes with our "first fruits" for families in need. Instructions for the collection are available on collection bags or in this newsletter.

Sunday, November 20th at 1:30 p.m. join us as we come together to sort, assemble, bless and deliver some of these "First Fruits" Thanksgiving Baskets!

Monday, November 21st at 4:30 p.m. the remainder of our "First Fruits" Baskets will be distributed to our Food Pantry families.

"We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the first fruits of our crops and of every fruit tree." Nehemiah 10:35

Another Thanksgiving Opportunity of Service in Our Community

November 16 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Thanksgiving Lunch will be delivered and served at AVANCE, Inc. (Headstart) children and parents. Don Sharp and team will be cooking a wonderful turkey meal for us to deliver and serve. AVANCE has been a community partner in many of our community ministries!

If you would like to serve in any of these opportunities, please call Susan Hellums at the church or e-mail at shellums@mcfirst.com.

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Pastor's Perspective

I recently read a blog by a United Methodist pastor, author and leadership coach, Rebekah Simon-Peter (I like the name!). In her blog she wrote about words we should jettison from our church vocabulary. Two words we should quit using in the church are **just** and **simply**. As a pastor I'm guilty of sprinkling these two words into conversations. This committee just meets a few times a year. I'm just asking you to give what you can. To become a member you simply come forward at the end of the service. To be a Christian simply give your heart to Jesus. I could go on but you get the point. We are afraid of frightening people off, of people choosing not to participate or people saying no.

The problem is that words like just and simply are low expectation words. The reality is people want to be part of something that is worthwhile of their time. People want to make a difference with their efforts. Churches that are growing in discipleship and numbers are higher expectation churches. Discipleship growth and making disciples takes energy, effort and hard



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

(continued on last page)

Children's Ministry



Children's Sabbath was a blessing for all! Thank you to the children for their awesome participation in the worship service... designing the bulletin covers, leading in prayer, and praising God with their voices in singing! To God be the Glory!



Children's Choir

Thank you to Alissa and Bo Shirah for your excellent leadership of the Children's Choir. With over 30 children attending choir practices each Wednesday it has been a busy, exciting time for them and the children as they praise God through music. On November 16 the choir will spread good cheer to the residents at Bridges Assisted Living Center, and on December 14 will present a special Christmas program. All children in Kinder through 5th grade are invited to join the Children's Choir which meets every Wednesday afternoon from 5:00-5:45 pm. *Note the change in the ending time...we are extending the choir practices to 5:45 pm for the rest of the semester.



WOW - Word On Wednesday

Every Wednesday 30+ children, 3 years old through 5th graders, come together for WOW – Word On Wednesday – to learn about God through singing, playing games, bible stories, and MORE! We have had so much fun this fall learning about the Old Testament lessons of Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Moses and God's promises shown in their stories. Thank you to the WOW team of ladies, Deena Davidson, Janice Johnson, Nancy Patridge, and Barbara Wilkins, who come together every week with Lee Ann to plan, prepare, and help guide the children through the wonderful stories of faith! Thank you, also, to Minnie Sandoval and Maria Maltos for their dedication and love for the children!



MPKids

Every first Wednesday of the month, the WOW kids come together for a top secret mission for others. On November 2, we will make some special surprises for children in need. Please bring the following to WOW on Wednesday, Nov. 2: new children's and small adult sized socks, empty toilette paper rolls, and left-over candy from Halloween. We are looking forward to sharing God's Love with others through this fun mission project.

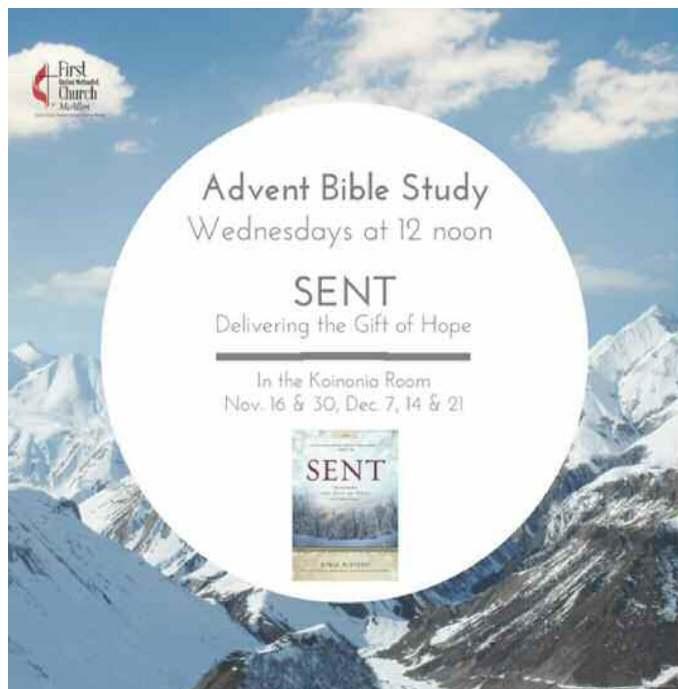


Invite your family, friends, and neighbors, and join us for the Annual Trunk-or-Treat Fall Celebration on the church grounds on Halloween evening, Monday, October 31!



What Happens At Youth Ministry – Goes On Instagram!

Just ask one of our youth and they will tell you: "it's picture time!" No matter what the occasion (Bible Study, Book Club, Breakfast & Devotional, Sunday School Class, S.O.S., or exterior house painting) they all show up! They don't just show up - they are ready to worship, learn, give, serve, and smile!! We are so blessed to have such an amazing group of youth at First United Methodist Church McAllen.



*"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them . . .
(John 17:18)*

God sent Christ into the world as our Savior. That's what Christmas is all about. In turn, Christ sends us into the world. But do we really understand how, where, and why we are sent?

This five-week, Advent study challenges us through story, art, and Bible study to discover what it means to be Christ's hands, feet, head, and heart."

All are invited to join Robert Perales as he lead the Wednesday noon Advent Study on **November 16 & 30** and **December 7 & 14** in the Koinonia Room.



The Women's Ministry of FUMC McAllen has a new name, Woven Women. This name grew out of the spring retreat that we held last year. The retreat lessons, prayers and activities centered around the following bible verse...

"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!"

Colossians 2:2-3 from The Message

The prayer for McFirst Women is to create a community of women, woven together by God's love, who through fellowship, activities, scripture, prayer and service, draw closer to each other and closer to Christ.

Much has already happened and much is in the works. We encourage you to join us at any and ALL activities that are planned for Woven Women, and always your friends are invited!

Opportunities for Service

- Susan Hellums is organizing churches to shop for needed items for the Humanitarian Respite Center (the Welcoming Center) at Sacred Heart and is hoping to find 5 or 6 people from our church to help in this way. The shoppers will shop once a month at Sams and/or Dollar Tree, deliver the items to the center, and will be reimbursed for their purchases. Susan will notify them of what is needed. Please contact her at shellums@mcfirst.com to let her know you are wanting to help.
- On November 16, our church has the blessing of serving a Thanksgiving Luncheon to the children and their mothers at AVANCE Headstart Program. If you are interested in being a part of the serving team, let us know. The team leaves the church at 10 a.m. and returns by 2 p.m.

Coming Soon.....

Advent Bible Study- All women are invited to join us in a 4-week Advent study, The Wonder of Christmas, centering on the Christmas story and the stories of real people today to find inspiration and ideas for reflecting the light of Jesus at Christmas time and throughout the year. The study will take place on four Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm beginning November 22nd. Bring your friends and enjoy time together as we celebrate the coming of the new-born King! Purchase the book (\$10.00) in the church office. Bring a snack to share. Childcare will be provided.

Better than a Backpack Care Kits for College Kids

We will gather again on November 29th at 7:00 pm to assemble packages of goodies to give to the college aged children in our church family right before their final exams. We will be sending them a delicious snack to give them energy and comfort! Let us know if you would like to prepare a recipe or two or come join in the fun of assembling the care packages. We are also including a booklet designed by Margie McKenna of our favorite encouraging bible verses to share with the college kids. Send your favorite to margie_mckenna@sbcglobal.net, and she will be sure to include it.

Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." 3 John 2

Throughout the state of Texas, many people do not have access to adequate healthcare services and the primary reason is that they are uninsured. In Hidalgo County alone, statistics reveal that 38% of the population under the age of 65 is uninsured. There are many social determinants of health, but I want to make you aware of an initiative and further encourage you to action in some way that includes even a simple prayer for Texans that struggle to obtain good health, healing and wholeness.

Health Justice Sabbath is an opportunity for congregations and other faith groups throughout Texas to lift up the faith community's core concerns for the health of all God's children on November 18-20, 2016. Through prayer and worship, educational and service events, and opportunities for advocacy, Health Justice Sabbath is an opportunity for people of faith to work for health care for all Texans. It is an initiative of the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy/Texas Impact. Texas Impact was founded on the central religious conviction that religious communities are called to minister to the whole person—to respond with compassion to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all people. The Texas religious leaders who established Texas Impact in 1973 believed that such a ministry cannot be performed adequately without a concern for basic social problems at the state government level. For more information, visit www.texasimpact.org and www.abovepoliticstx.org

Furthermore, it is important to spread the word regarding open enrollment for 2017 health coverage through HealthCare.gov that starts on November 1, 2016 and runs through January 31, 2017. If you – or someone you care about – needs health insurance, it's time to visit HealthCare.gov to sign up for a 2017 health insurance plan. Plans offered at HealthCare.gov cover things like doctor visits, hospital stays, preventive care, and prescription drugs. Eight out of ten people who enroll in health coverage through HealthCare.gov qualify for financial help to make their monthly premiums more affordable. Learn about options available in our community by visiting HealthCare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596.

May you and your loved ones find many things to be grateful for during your Thanksgiving holiday.



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.

First UMC goes to serve others, in GOD'S name!

October has been a month of service in our community with S.O.S. -- **SERVE OUR SCHOOLS 2016** and the **First UMC HOUSE BUILD** partnering with Buckner.

Thank you for all who supported these opportunities with their prayers, gifts and service!



First UMC HOUSE BUILD



CHURCH FAMILY

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

Howard Glover
412 N. 8th, McAllen, TX 78501



Lowell Arbuckle & Robin Menefee
1017 South 1st Street, McAllen, TX 78501



Matthew & Laura Stout with Omar & Sarah
1717 German Ave., Edinburg, TX 78541



Our Sympathy to...

The family of **John Cramer**
following his death on September 26, 2016.
Services were held on Friday the 30th at the
Buck Ashcraft Funeral Home in Harlingen.
His son Dale can be reached at P.O. Box 6860, McAllen, TX 78503

The family of **Michelle Gully**
following the death of **Michelle's mother, Ester Cortez** on
Saturday, October 15th. Services were held on October 19th at FUMC.
Michelle & Jason's address is 1706 Redbud, McAllen, TX 78504.

The family of **Gaynell Guynn**
following her death on October 11, 2016.
A Memorial service will be held at FUMC
on Friday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m.
in the Social Room with a reception to follow.

*Dear Church Family,
Just a short note to thank all of you for your
many kind, encouraging and loving notes,
cards, texts, prayers and thoughts on
behalf of our Ken Harrison.
As his recovery progresses,
we continue to covet your prayers!*

*With much love and gratitude,
The Harrison Family*



"First Fruits" Thanksgiving Collection

The next 3 weeks we will be collecting the following items for our "First Fruits" Thanksgiving Baskets. We will distribute all food collected to less fortunate families, in the McAllen and the surrounding area.

*We ask for the following **SPECIFIC** items.*

- **Rice** (long grain) -- 2 lb bag
- **Pinto Beans** (dried) -- 2 lb bag
- **Mixed Vegetables** -- 15 oz can
- **Fruit Salad** (chunky) -- 15.25 oz can
- **Corn** (whole kernel) -- 15.4 oz can
- **Peanut Butter** -- 1 Small plastic jar
- **Green Beans** (cut) -- 14.5 oz can
- **Sweet Potatoes** (in light syrup) -- 29 oz can
- **Vegetable/Canola Oil** -- 24 oz bottle
- **Sugar** -- 2 lb bag
- **Flour** (all purpose) -- 2 lb bag
- **Fideo** (Vermicelli) -- 3 each / 5 oz boxes
- **Knorr (or Maggi's) Sabor Pollo y Tomate Bouillon Cubes** (chicken & tomato flavored bouillon) - 2.2 oz (6 cubes)

Perishable food items and more, will be bought and included according to monetary donations. If you have specific non-perishable items to contribute, please contact Susan Hellums, at the church.



The Building and Design committee is pleased to report that we continue to make progress toward our goal of building the new Sanctuary! The architects are in the middle of preparing all of the plans and specifications. In the very near future, we anticipate them arriving to the point where they can give us a new and accurate budget for the project. In the meantime, we have formed sub-committees to answer the many questions posed to us by the architects and engineers. These committees include: Audio/Visual, Lighting, Materials/Colors, Nursery/Toddler areas, Office/administration area, Choir/Music space, and Landscaping. If you feel called to help serve on any of these committees, please let Thomas Davidson or any of the church staff know. In addition, we ask for your continued support through prayers and also through pledges. If it is in His plan, we will be breaking ground in early 2017!



Calendar of Events

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

NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SAVE THE DATE <i>Silent Night in the Park</i> December 20 at 5:45 p.m. in Bill Schupp Park		1 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	2 Breakfast & Devotionals Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Men's Group Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	3 Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bible Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	7 Tai Chi Exercise Class	8 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group	9 Breakfast & Devotionals Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Men's Group Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	10 Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bible Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	11	12
13 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service DCYM Meeting Light Seekers	14 Tai Chi Exercise Class	15 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	16 Breakfast & Devotionals Brown Bag Bible Study AVANCE Thanksgiving Lunch WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Men's Group Witness Band	17 Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bible Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	18	19
20 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service "First Fruits" Thanksgiv- ing Baskets Assembly & Delivery	21 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen	22 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Advent Study	23 Prayer Shawl Ministry Brown Bag Bible Study Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	24 Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bible Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	25	26
27 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	28 Tai Chi Exercise Class	29 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Advent Study	30 Breakfast & Devotionals Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Men's Group Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	<div> Remember to set your clocks back one hour Sunday morning, November 6  </div> <div> For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com </div>		



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Pastor's Perspective *(continued from page 1)*

work. It is not simple. It takes more than just showing up on Sunday morning or simply attending a new members class. God's mission of making disciples takes prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness from all people in the church.

Rebekah Simon-Peter suggests words that should be in our church vocabulary. Words like **expect**. Expect to encounter God and the Holy Spirit here. We expect you to grow in your faith. **Vision**. We strive to make God's vision for our church a reality.) **Try**. Give it a try and see if it bears fruit. I invite you to try (fill in the blank) (a Bible study, Sunday school class, singing in the choir, serving on a hospitality team, etc.

What words can you think of that should be heard on a regular basis around our church? What words do you hear or say yourself that needs to be cut from our church vocabulary? Think about it and let me know. See you in worship and around the community.

Grace and peace,
Ricky



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 4th Wednesday of every month from 10:00 am– 11:00 am in room #209. (during November & December the third Wednesday)

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.



Come Together and Let Us Pray

"O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me" Psalm 30:2



- **2nd Tuesday**
of each month
- **10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.**
- **Room 202**

Let Us Pray

Join us every second Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. in room #202, to listen for what God has in mind for us.

Let us lift those on our church family list, our church staff and ministries, and all other concerns of our hearts.

Many depend on our supplications, and our time together in God's presence is precious.

Bring a friend, come later, leave as necessary, bring lunch... all as you need.

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.