



# THE MESSENGER

October 2016

## First United Methodist Church of McAllen

4200 N. McColl Road  
McAllen, Texas 78504

956-686-3784  
Fax 956-664-0204

[www.FUMCMcAllen.com](http://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](http://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.

## Being Church Outside of Our Walls

FUMC McAllen is an inside-out church, a church that goes beyond the walls to Love God, Share Jesus, and Grow Faith. All are invited to participate in these upcoming opportunities to join in God's mission to serve others in our community.

**Serve Our Schools, S.O.S.** will be Saturday, October 1st, 8 a.m. - 12 noon! At 8:00 a.m. you will sign-in at the school, join in a celebration breakfast, receive your assignment, wrist band, and an S.O.S. t-shirt. First UMC is the host for volunteers at Jackson Elementary, 501 Harvey. S.O.S. is another opportunity for us to "go out" and serve in our community and invite others to join us! Sign up online at [www.fumcmcallen.com](http://www.fumcmcallen.com) or e-mail Susan Hellums, [shellums@mcfirst.com](mailto:shellums@mcfirst.com). Call Susan Hellums (956) 648-8509 for questions.



Saturday  
Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>  
8AM - 12PM

Another opportunity for us to "go out" and serve in our community and invite others to join us!



## House Build

We are partnering with Buckner in the RGV to complete a NEW home for the Ruiz Family in Penitas, North of Mission. Plan to join us one or both days!

FRI. & SAT.  
OCT. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

For more information about this opportunity, contact Susan Hellums - Border Area Mission Coordinator



**First UMC House Build** is an opportunity to partner with Buckner of the RGV in the completion of a NEW family home for the RUIZ FAMILY in Peñitas, north of Mission/Alton! Join us on Friday and/or Saturday, October 14 and 15th. This is an opportunity to learn about Buckner of the RGV, as we serve with this family! You can serve one or both days, but we need to have you sign up in advance. SPACE IS LIMITED! Children 12 years and older are invited to participate if accompanied by an adult. Sign up by e-mailing Susan Hellums, [shellums@mcfirst.com](mailto:shellums@mcfirst.com) or filling out registration form found on the usher's tables.

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## Pastor's Perspective

*People plan their path, but the Lord secures their steps. -Proverbs 16:9*

I am continually surprised and amazed at what God is up to. I see the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst. On Sunday September 11 the Koinonia Room was set up as an information/sign up center for fall Bible studies and other spiritual development and mission opportunities. Scores of folks went through to educate themselves on how we strive to love God, share Jesus and grow faith here at FUMC. Many signed up to participate in the ministry life of our church.

A new ministry I want to highlight is a men's ministry beginning this month. Last month fourteen men came together to share and vision about this ministry. This ministry will focus on discipleship development through study, service, fellowship and fun. This group will meet on Wednesday's at 6:30 for one hour. A fellowship/planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday,



Senior Pastor,  
Ricky Sanderford

(continued on last page)

# Children's Ministry

It has been a blessing-filled, busy beginning of the school year for the FUMC Children's Ministry. Children are Loving God as they gather for Sunday School and Wednesday afternoon activities. They are Sharing Jesus as they care for others and for God's creation, and they are Growing in Faith as they learn about His word and promises. We invite all families to take advantage of the opportunities that are offered at FUMC McAllen to help children grow closer to God and each other.

## Sunday School

Sunday School happens every Sunday morning at 9:45 am for children in Kinder through 5th grade. Lee Ann Clemons leads the Kinder through 3rd graders in Godly Play in Rm 201, and Marilyn Olivarez teaches the 4th and 5th graders lessons about God and His love through cool Science projects in Rm 208. The third graders, led by Patty Summers, gather for several weeks in Room 210 to learn all about their new bibles. Come join us!!



## WOW – Word On Wednesday

Every Wednesday 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! This fall they are

on a journey, "Oh the Places You Will Go...With God's Promises!" Join them every Wednesday from 3:30-5:30 pm.

## Mission Possible Kids

Every first Wednesday of each month is Mission Possible Kids Day at WOW. The lessons are devoted to a hands-on project of helping and reaching out to others. In September the children showed their love for God's creatures by collecting dog biscuits and making 70 toys out of their old t-shirts for the animals at the Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center. They had a fun Saturday afternoon delivering them to the animals and touring and learning all about PAWS.



## Third Grader Bible Presentation

It was a joy for the FUMC family to get to present third graders with new bibles on September 11th! It is our prayer that the children open and read and recognize the bible as THE light for their journey.

## Mark your calendars... Children's Sabbath, October 9th

On Children's Sabbath we celebrate children as active participants in the life of the church. The Children's Choir will sing during the 11:00 worship service, the WOW kids are designing the worship bulletin covers, and they are looking forward to sharing a litany prayer they wrote celebrating God's awesome creation.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



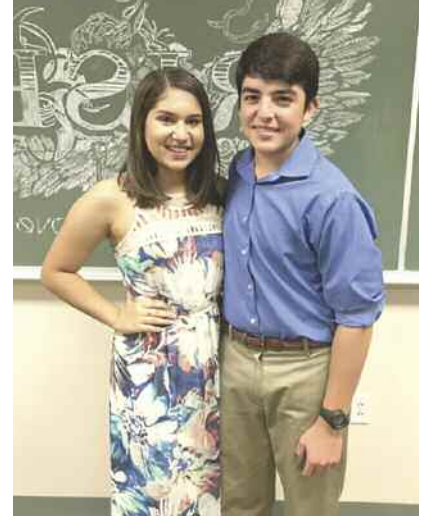
Sunday, September 18, 2016 marked the beginning of the El Valle District's DCYM (District Council on Youth Ministries). This first meeting was hosted here at our very own FUMC McAllen's youth room. Nine of the forty plus churches in the district were present, along with our new District Superintendent. Rev Robert Lopez lead us in prayer and offered words of encouragement for the upcoming youth activities.

Our youth have been challenged, the vision/mission has been casted and they are ready to lead the way!

Sydney Ramon and Christian Garza have stepped up and are representing the youth of FUMC McAllen.

*"Today's DCYM meeting was really eye opening to how many church's we have in our district. As a youth, I now feel more involved in the decisions that will eventually impact all of the youth ministries and it's exciting to be apart of. I'm glad we were able to discuss our mission and our vision for the future of the DCYM, which is bringing people closer to God and become a more unified district."*

-Sydney Ramon (Sophomore at Memorial High School - actively involved in their Student Council, Show Choir, Musical, and Debate Team; as well as part of the Youth Ministry's Youth Council - President and vocalist for Room 205 Youth Worship Band)



*"We are trying to communicate to all the churches in the El Valle District, so we can gain more youth and grow as a district, and as a youth group."*

-Christian Garza (Sophomore at Memorial High School - actively involved in their Orchestra, Tennis and Cross Country Team; as well as part of the Youth Ministry's Youth Council - Youth Sunday School Leader )



## First UMC shares God's love!

A special thanks to all who generously gave school and teacher supplies and funds to purchase them this school year. Not only did we fill 14 Teacher Supply boxes for two schools, we were able to purchase items for 75 backpacks!

Thank you to our YOUTH for assembling the backpacks! The additional purchase of school supplies and backpacks was made possible by a "matching" grant from funds collected and donated by the greater area United Methodist Houston churches for border backpacks and school supplies! These were given to children in need through one of our community partners!



## Building and Design Committee Update

The Building and Design Committee is pleased to report that the general contractor for our new Sanctuary has been chosen. With the assistance of our architects (John Gates and Danny Boultinghouse), we reached out to 10 different potential general contractors. We researched all of the responses received and then narrowed our search down to 3 excellent candidates. Those three were invited to an interview process that took place at the church. All three gave very impressive presentations. In fact, we felt comfortable that any one of them could do a great job for our church. After the interviews, the committee members and several representatives from the church staff met to discuss the presentations and decide on the GC. Even though all 3 candidates were solid, those present were unanimous in deciding to move forward with D. Wilson Construction.

Please continue to pray for this process. In the next few weeks the architects will be very busy preparing the detailed plans and specifications for the project. Based on some information we receive from them, we will start to form some sub-committees to make more detailed decisions. If you would like to be a part of one of those committees or if you have some input that you would like to share, please reach out to Thomas Davidson (Chairman of the Building and Design Committee) or any of the church staff. Our goal is to be breaking ground toward the beginning of next year at which time we will certainly Harvest the Fruit!



## New Special Needs Ministry



**Helping  
Hands**  
Informational  
Meeting  
October 4th  
6:00PM  
Koinonia Room



All are invited to an informational meeting introducing a new program, Helping Hands. Helping Hands will be a group of people who will serve God by helping His children. DO come to this informational meeting on Tuesday, October 4th, at 6 p.m. to learn more about it.



## October Communion Offering First UMC "Manna" Food Pantry

*"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;" Matthew 25:35*

First UMC has been serving supplemental food to families from our "Manna" Food Pantry since 2010. Each month 48-80 families come for supplemental food, depending on the time of the year.

First UMC is an agency of the Food Bank of the RGV (FBRGV), which means we follow their program guidelines, requirements and reports. The main objective of the FBRGV is to provide emergency food assistance in the four counties of Hidalgo, Starr, Cameron and Willacy Counties. Through member agencies, the FBRGV is able to help families in need of food throughout the Valley. The Food Bank of the RGV does not distribute food directly, but rather through its member agencies. Currently, there are over 200 agencies in the four counties. Agencies consist of (1) Food Pantries, (2) On-site feeding Centers, (3) Soup Kitchens and shelters

Our "Manna" Food Pantry is held every 3rd Monday of the month, in the evening, here at First UMC. Volunteers are also needed to assist in food pickup, setup and then again for distribution. You do not have to serve every time the Pantry opens, but if you are willing to, at certain times, we would love to have you!

Please prayerfully consider your contribution to the Communion Offering for the "Manna" Food Pantry of our church. If you would like to serve, or come and see how the Food Pantry works, please e-mail:

Carol Dearth [cdearth1@hotmail.com](mailto:cdearth1@hotmail.com)  
or Susan Hellums; [shellums@mcfirst.com](mailto:shellums@mcfirst.com)

## New FUMC McAllen Men's Group

The new Men's Group at FUMC McAllen is up and growing! All men are invited to join them for an informal meeting on Wednesday, September 28th at 6:30 pm for devotion, socializing, and brainstorming.

Then, on Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30 p.m., join them as David Marroquin leads in a study of Amy Morin's *13 Things Mentally Strong People Don't Do*.



## Opportunities for Women at FUMC McAllen

The prayer for First UMC Women is to create a community of women, 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....

### BUNCO Game Night

Join us on Thursday, October 13th for a fun evening of Bunco, delicious snack and lots of laughter! We gather in the Social Room 6:30-8:30 pm. Childcare is available.

### Women's Book Club

The next Book Club gather is planned for Tuesday, October 18th at 6 p.m. in Social Room East. The book to be discussed is *The Sender*. "Based on actual letters sent to Indianapolis Colts head coach Chuck Pagano during his cancer treatment, *The Sender* blends creative storytelling and inspiration to communicate a powerful message of endurance and strength. As you journey along with Charlie, you will uncover profound lessons that challenge you (just as they did Coach Pagano) to live a life serving and loving others no matter what trials you endure." The books are available in the church office for \$12 each.

**A Facebook page has been created to help us connect about Book club news before our monthly gatherings.** Everyone interested in being included in that group page, please send Peggy Trom at [trompeggy@aol.com](mailto:trompeggy@aol.com).

### Better than a Backpack Care Kits for College Kids

In September the FUMC Women gathered to assemble care packages for almost 30 college aged children from our church family. It is a joy to let them know that we care about them and are praying for them. We will gather again on November 29th at 7:00 p.m. to assemble packages of goodies to give to the kids right before their final exams.



**SAVE THE DATES.....APRIL 21 - 23, 2017....FOR THE WOMEN'S SPRING MYSTERY TRIP! DETAILS (but NOT the destination!) WILL BE PUBLICIZED SOON!**

## Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

*"I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in Him. Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit."*  
Romans 15:13 (NCV)

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month. Breast cancer is the second most common kind of cancer in women. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point. The good news is that many women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early. A mammogram – the screening test for breast cancer – can help find breast cancer early when it's easier to treat. Self-examination of the breasts is also strongly recommended. The truth is that breast cancer does not only affect women but men as well. The American Cancer Society estimates for breast cancer in men in the United States for 2016 are:

- About 2,600 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed
- About 440 men will die from breast cancer

Breast cancer is about 100 times less common among men than among women. For men, the lifetime risk of getting breast cancer is about 1 in 1,000. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have a family history and experience any signs and symptoms of breast cancer. Let's continue to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. Make a difference! Spread the word about mammograms and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved. For more information, go to [healthfinder.gov](http://healthfinder.gov) and [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

I also encourage you to continue to pray for healing, strength, and peace for those who are currently fighting breast cancer, survivors, and their families. We place our faith and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ for His good, perfect and pleasing will in their healing and wholeness.



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](http://www.mhm.org).

## Installation Service Honoring Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, El Valle District Superintendent



Pictured above: Bishop Robert Schnase,  
Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez and Rev. Dr. Ricky Sanderford  
Pictured top right: Witness Praise Band  
Pictured bottom right: Reception following service.



### Being Church Outside of Our Walls *(continued from page 1)*

**Trunk or Treat** is an opportunity to reach out, get to know our neighbors and provide a fun, safe place for families this Halloween! The time is NOW to get ready...people are purchasing candy and preparing their trunks for the trunk-or-treaters. Games are being organized and hay gathered for the hayrides. Fun is in the air for all ages and we want YOU to join us! Everyone can be involved in making this a great outreach event for the community. Offer your help by providing a trunk for handing out candy to the children, setting up, sponsoring or leading a game for the children. Stop by the Fellowship Center foyer and sign-up to serve during Trunk or Treat.



## CHURCH FAMILY

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



Rosalyn Vega  
July 3, 2013



Don & Jeanne Preston  
August 21, 2016



Cilia Martinez  
September 9, 2016



Bob & Linda Whitis  
September 18, 2016



Crystal Solis  
September 18, 2016





# Calendar of Events

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

# OCTOBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For calendar updates, visit <a href="http://fumcmcallen.com">fumcmcallen.com</a>						<b>1</b> S.O.S.
<b>2</b> Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	<b>3</b> Tai Chi Exercise Class Trustee Meeting	<b>4</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Finance Committee Helping Hands Info Meeting	<b>5</b> Breakfast & Devotionals Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Study Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bible Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	<b>10</b> Tai Chi Exercise Class	<b>11</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group Administrative Board Meeting	<b>12</b> Breakfast & Devotionals Trunk or Treat Planning Meeting Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bible Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's Bunco Night Young Adult Group	<b>14</b> House Build	<b>15</b> House Build
<b>16</b> Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	<b>17</b> Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen Nominating Committee	<b>18</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Book Club	<b>19</b> Breakfast & Devotionals Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bible Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	<b>24</b> Tai Chi Exercise Class	<b>25</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	<b>26</b> Breakfast & Devotionals Prayer Shawl Ministry Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group Disciple I Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	<b>31</b> Tai Chi Exercise Class Trunk or Treat					



# THE MESSENGER

October 2016

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

September 28 with regular meetings beginning October 5.  
Guys, come check it out.

Three big service opportunities come our way in the month of October.

- October 1 – Serve our Schools (8am-noon)
- October 14-15 – New home completion for a family in a local colonia in partnership with Buckner International
- October 31 – Our Annual Trunk or Treat

I encourage everyone to be part of one or more of these service opportunities. A great number of people are blessed with the love of God through these outreach ministries including those who participate.

Finally, beginning Sunday October 9 I will begin a sermon series Living Lite. I am convinced that the biggest challenge to a vibrant flourishing relationship with God is our relationship with the world and all that the world tempts us with. We'll spend four weeks looking at the challenge of not being too weighed down with worldly pursuits and how we might discover the freedom of living lite upon the earth so that the Lord can secure our steps.

See you in church and around the community!  
Grace and peace, Ricky

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
of each month at 10:00 a.m.



### Come Together and Let Us Pray

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



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



## First UMC shares God's love!

Besides the Teacher Supply boxes, we were able to purchase items for 75 backpacks!

Thank you to our YOUTH  
for assembling the backpacks!