



First United Methodist Church

McAllen, Texas

Happy September, everyone! August ended with some amazing ministry...



Our students did an outstanding job leading worship this past Sunday. If you missed it, be sure to click here for a link <https://youtu.be/-BKpocDCEM0>. How incredible that our teens and young adults led this entire service for us! Afterwards, Pastor Jon and I prayed a blessing over each of them.



More ways to connect with your pastors are coming on Sunday mornings...

* This Sunday, September 6, Pastor Jon and I will be offering drive-up communion from 8:30-9:30am in the church circle drive. We will give you a communion liturgy to read as you wait, and then communion elements (sealed) that you can take with you or consume with those in your family in a quiet spot on the church property. As always, we ask that you wear masks and remain in your cars, but we are so deeply looking forward to serving you communion for the first time as your pastors.

o Bonus: there will be a Communion offering basket present if you'd like to give towards meeting the needs of those who lost so much to Hurricane Laura. Funds given will help with rebuilding homes and lives.

* Next September 13, there will be a drive-up "meet and greet car parade" from 8:45-9:45am! Pastor Jon and I are excited about this official hello from you, the church family. The organizing team asks that you please plan to wear a mask and stay in your car, roll down your window as you approach. Pastor Jon and I will be in the circular driveway. We are looking forward to the car parade!

Here are a few more exciting things that happened this past week:

* School started! Let's continue to pray for students, teachers, and all those who work at schools and in education settings. The first weeks of school are always a challenge, but even more so this year. Keep the teachers, administrators, and students in your prayers.

* Pastor Jon and I are both now doing weekly "Pop-Up Sermons" on our church social media channels. Each week, you can have a short devotional in English (Pastor Laura) or Spanish (Pastor Jon). Look for these in Facebook and Instagram!



* The Woven Women Ministry took hot, fresh tamales to the Dietary Department at McAllen Medical Center.



* The High School Girls' Book Club finished their summer study last week. Not only did they take time to study, read and discuss, but they wrote out prayers and even shared them with the group. Look for another study to begin in October!



* Our feeding ministries have grown exponentially during this pandemic!

o First UMC Manna Pantry prepares non-perishable food bags (meats, vegetables, fruits, beans, breads, pasta, sauce, etc) for 170 families (before the pandemic, we had 40). Families begin lining up at noon just to make sure they get food at 4:30pm when we open.



o Our partnership with UTHSC Salud de Vida program provides food to 60 families each month

o Our new partnership with ARISE Adelante Community Centers means we are providing food for 445 families in the colonias of Las Milpas, South Tower, Muniz, and Hargill.



o We opened our kitchen and fellowship hall to MERCI CHEFS, a national group that was here for 4 days following Hurricane Hanna. Together, we prepared, packaged and distributed 8900+ meals. Food left from Merci Chefs (4 pallets!) was donated to one of

our Hurricane Disaster Recovery Partners, the Salvation Army.

o Emily's Meals- during the pandemic we've temporarily switched to non-perishable lunches twice monthly. These are driven to the street corners, underpasses and park benches where our homeless brothers and sisters are found throughout McAllen. Volunteers from our church assemble and distribute the meals throughout this pandemic.



Thank you for your faithful, sacrificial giving that makes ministry in a hard time possible. Thank you for making sure God's light is shining in the darkness. And it is- through us. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Laura

STAY CONNECTED

