



# First United Methodist Church

McAllen, Texas

Church Family,

Last Sunday was our first live-stream of two worship services (9:30am and 11am) and it was such an exciting day for me and Pastor Jon. Something changes when we know you are with us, right then, as we lead worship. It went so well that we have assurance that in two weeks, on October 25, when we re-open for in-person worship, we're going to be ready to go on livestreaming as well!



If you missed it, here is a link to our YouTube channel where you can find Contemporary and Traditional services, as well as devotionals, sermons and music.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIWPmYPhfYIOk0yyym2qCRg/featured>

Ready for some *more* good news?

- Yesterday was Susan Hellum's birthday! And what was she doing? Leading dozens of people who came to put thousands of pounds of non-perishable food into bags for our food pantry. Here's the birthday girl with just some of the bags her team had already assembled!



- This church is full of amazing, passionate believers. I wanted to share with you the news that when our praise band, Witness, learned of cuts to staff salaries and pay,

they all agreed to serve, *for free*, from here on out. WOW! There have been many tears of amazement, joy and thanks as we've shared the news of this amazing generosity with our staff and leadership.



- This is Opal Womack, one of the three amazing women Donna Gibson took communion to last week. If you don't know Opal, she used her offering to God to make almost 800 blankets that she donated to the church to give to those who need them. She had tears of joy as she took Communion. We invite you, if you are able, to take extra communion to those you know who can't come out to worship with us in person.





- Are you a youth at FUMC? Do you have a student in youth ministry? Pastor Jon and I would love to invite you to a zoom get-together next Sunday at 1pm. We'll share some important youth news and talk about dreams for the future.



What are you dreaming...

**FUMC McALLEN  
YOUTH MINISTRY**

**YOUTH  
MINISTRY  
MEETING**

**SUNDAY**

**OCT. 18TH**

**1:00PM**

On ZOOM

*All parents & students are encouraged to participate.*

- Pastor Jon and I continue to greet and welcome the teams that play on our soccer fields. Last Tuesday night, we met 5 teams, with players from age 4 all the way up to 18. These teams, the players and parents all express their deep gratitude for the wonderful fields we have created and maintain for their use. When FUMC moved from the downtown campus to this location 18 years ago, one of the dreams was to provide recreation fields to bless our community. What a joy to know that dream is realized, every evening and weekend as the community comes together on our fields.







- Children's Sunday school is meeting on Sundays via Zoom! There are two classes- one for K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders and one for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Kids are loving seeing their teachers and each other. This is open to everyone and it's a great way to invite the children you know who don't have a church home to join us.



Join us:

**Sundays**  
**at 10:00 a.m.**  
**via Zoom**

- Our feeding ministries were featured in an article by Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF). TMF is the group that lent us the money to build our new sanctuary. They also have a charitable arm and we received a grant that allowed us to increase our feeding ministry **tenfold** in the pandemic. But...money is only half the story. Our kind-hearted members have done 10x the work in sorting, packaging and delivering food to the hungry! If you'd like to read the article, you can find it here: <https://www.tmf-fdn.org/blog/questions-that-spark-dreams/>
- We're hard at work on our return to in-person worship on Sunday, October 25. We will have two services: Contemporary (9:30am) and Traditional (11am). The services will look different than what they were prior to COVID. We'll be spaced apart, wearing masks and we won't be singing together. But there will be sacred, moving music, live sermons, prayers and the chance (finally!) to be together again as the body of Christ. Worship services will continue to be live-streamed from now on. And God doesn't give extra points to people who show up in person. So if you have a compromised immune system or other health concerns, please continue to worship online with us. It all "counts" the same with God. If you'd like to see a humorous but informative video about how we are COVID-busting at FUMC, follow this link. <https://youtu.be/mETJXnZPTOs>

I've only been here three months, but every day, I thank God for bringing me here to be your pastor. The ways you give and serve are humbling. Each day, I see another example of your generosity, talent and sacrifice. From folks who go out to say hello to kids on the soccer fields, to people who mow the lawn to those who donate their time and talents. This is an amazing church family and I love that we are always looking outward, working with God to transform lives.

Pastor Laura

STAY CONNECTED



