THE MESSENGER

September 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 Worship9:00 Contemporary Worship11:00 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.



September Communion Offering

Our September Communion Offering will go to the 6th Annual "Serve Our Schools (S.O.S.) event." First UMC will partner with the two other United Methodist Churches in McAllen to sponsor S.O.S. in our community! This event will be held October 1 at two McAllen ISD schools, Jackson Elementary and Garza Elementary. The offering will help pay for the Celebration Breakfast for volunteers, supplies and plants for landscaping at the schools where we go to serve!

We will be serving where the schools have an identified need! We will do things such as landscaping and gardening, building raised flower beds, organizing, cleaning, and library work, assembling shelves and more if needed.

Plan to join us, Saturday, October 1st at 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon! At 8:00 a.m. you will sign-in, join in a celebration breakfast, receive your assignment, wrist band, and an S.O.S. t-shirt. You have the opportunity to work at either of the two schools, but First UMC is the host for volunteers at Jackson Elementary, which is fairly close to the church.

S.O.S is another opportunity for us to "go out" and serve in our community and invite others to join us! To be the church OUTSIDE our walls! This will be a day to help the McAllen ISD schools get off to a good start in the new school year. We need volunteers who are willing to take part in this half-day service event at our schools, helping with multiple projects. We need all types of volunteers, not only gardening, landscaping, etc., but in other capacities as well, such as planning, organizing, preparing, registering people and passing out t-shirts, snacks, etc on the morning of the event. Every little bit of time and energy makes a huge difference!

We will have Registration Forms at the entrances of the church or you will be able to sign up online. You can turn your form in at the church office, e-mail or call Susan Hellums at the church. Encourage others to sign-up and join us!

Please prayerfully consider both your gift to the Communion Offering and your gift of service on Saturday, October 1. This is an important community event impacting our church, schools and community!

Pastor's Perspective

The Lord God took the human and settled him in the Garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. -Genesis 2:15

From the very beginning, human beings have been about the business of tending to and growing things. We grow gardens. We grow children. We grow marriages. We grow businesses. We grow lives. Growing is symbolic of health, life and vitality. The same is true for the church. We work to grow the



Senior Pastor, Ricky Sanderford

scope and reach of the church, to do our part in increasing the kingdom of God in the hearts of people.

I see signs of growth in the ministry of our church. Age level ministries with our youth and children are growing. While we have do have a numerical increase, live body count is only one way of measuring growth. For example, we now have a youth praise band, Room 205. Our youth are serving in leadership for our worship services every 5th Sunday. They are helping to feed hungry children on the weekends through our backpack and food ministry. Our children

THE MESSENGER - First United Methodist Church - McAllen, Texas

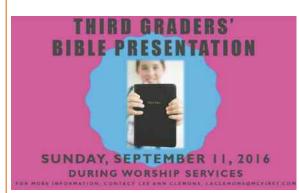
Children's Ministry



WOW – Word On Wednesday Resumes on August 31st

Every Wednesday children (3 years old through 5th graders) are invited to an afternoon of fun at FUMC! Through games, music, art and MORE the children will learn about God's promises lived out in the stories of the

Bible and promised to us for TODAY. Our theme for the fall is "Oh the Places You Will Go…with God's Promises". We will journey through the stories of Creation, Moses and the Ten Commandments, Daniel and the Lion's Den, and Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, just to name a few. Every first Wednesday will be Mission Possible Kids Day, a time for the children to focus on special mission/out reach projects. Our first MPKids project is going to be a Top Secret Mission for the animals at the PAWS Center. The children will not want to miss this! Contact Lee Ann Clemons, Iaclemons@mcfirst.com, for more information about Children's Ministry at FUMC McAllen.



Sunday, September 11th New Bibles will be Presented to Third Graders September 11 will be a

special day at FUMC for third graders and their families. This year's third

graders will be honored as they receive new Bibles during worship services. Parents of third graders are asked to email Lee Ann Clemons at laclemons@mcfirst.com to let her know which service (8:30, 9, or 11 a.m.) their child will be attending that Sunday.

Acolyte Training

All children in 3rd through 5th grades are invited to participate in our Acolyte Program. There will be a training on Sunday, August 28 at 12 noon for children interested in acolyting during the 11:00 am worship services. Meet Lindsay Runnels in the Koinonia Room immediately following the service for a 20-30 minute training/practice.

Communion Helper Training

All children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade are invited to participate in our Communion Helper Program. During Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month young children participate in the communion service by holding baskets to receive the empty communion cups. There will be a training on September 4th for all children interested. Meet Lee Ann Clemons in the Fellowship Center at 10:15 am that morning.

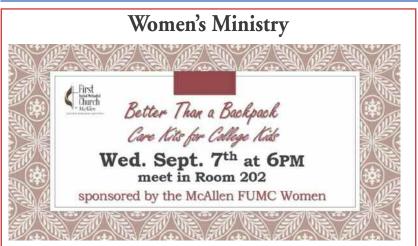
New Special Needs Ministry and Helping Hands

We are happy to announce the formation of a new ministry team for the purpose of finding ways to serve families with children or teens with special needs. The team, made up of Donna Gibson, Whitney Hellums, Kat Moore, Rebecca Villarreal, and facilitated by Lee Ann Clemons, is in conversation about how best to reach out to and support these families and their children.

Erik Carter, PhD., in his forward for Lorna Bradley's book, Special Needs Parenting: from Coping to Thriving writes...

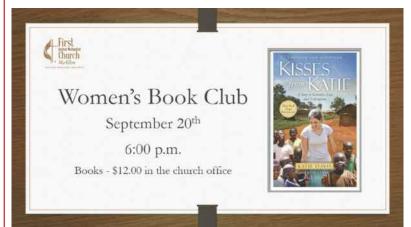
"We were never meant to walk alone. Along life's journey, our pathways are rarely predictable. Great joys and deep challenges mingle in unanticipated ways. Ordinary experiences are interrupted by the extraordinary that catch us by surprise. Plans we lay out for ourselves don't always materialize as we hope. Parents know this ebb and flow well. Parents of children with special needs perhaps know it best. These parents were not meant to walk alone. More than one in four families in the United States has a member with a disability. Millions of families living in every community across the country include a son of daughter with special needs - children with diagnosis like autism, Down syndrome, learning disability, health impairments, and many others. The faith of these parents – and the relationships they develop with others - can provide a rich source of strength and support as they navigate the joys and challenges of raising a child with a disability. What might it look like to support these families well?"

We at FUMC McAllen want to do just that, support these families well! The Special Needs Ministry teams invites you to join them at an informational meeting introducing their new program, Helping Hands. Helping Hands will be a group of people who will serve God by helping His children. With adequate training and preparation, they will be called on to help as needed, for example...one-on-one guiding of children during Sunday School or other children/youth events, sitting with children during worship services, playing games and reading with children during parent support group sessions. DO come to this informational meeting on Tuesday, October 4th, at 6:00 pm to learn more about it and to decide if this might be a way for you to serve in the church. We need you!



Better than a Backpack!

The women of FUMC McAllen are excited to begin a new project, Better than a Backpack...Care Kits for College Kids, to let the college students affiliated with our church family know that we care about them and are praying for them. Two packages containing encouraging words and other goodies will be mailed to them this semester, one at the beginning of the school year and another before final exams. Thanks to the generous response from the Dessert Auction, the ladies have raised just over \$700 to help with expenses for the first packages. If you would like to contribute to this project, send your check to the church office and mark it "for Better than a Backpacks". We will be sure that it goes toward purchase of the items or mailing costs. Come join us to assemble the care packages on Wednesday evening, September 7 at 6:00 p.m.



New Women's Book Club Books are in!

Mark your calendar for the next Women's Book Club gathering on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:00 pm. Dina Wilson will lead our discussion of the book Kisses from Katie. In December of 2006, 18-year-old Katie Davis from Brentwood, Tennessee, traveled to Uganda for the first time. She was immediately captivated with the people and the culture. This book tells about her experiences and the blessings that flowed from them. The books are in the church office for purchase (\$12.00).

LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDAR! APRIL 21 - 23, 2017 • SPRING MYSTERY TRIP Details will follow.

Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

I pray that the summer months were filled with fun, joyous, and relaxing times. I pray everyone was safe and children and parents are adjusting to the school/work routine, once again.

September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness month. Ovarian cancer is a disease in which malignant (cancerous) cells are found in the tissues of the ovary, whether on the surface, near or within the ovary where female hormones and eggs are produced. I just want to bring to light some of the facts about this cancer as there is no specific screening test for this type of cancer and early detection is critical for a good prognosis. "In women ages 35-74, ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths. An estimated one woman in 75 will develop ovarian cancer during her lifetime. The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be over 22,280 new cases of ovarian cancer diagnosed this year and that more than 14,240 women will die from ovarian cancer this year." Some of the symptoms may include abnormal bloating/swelling, persistent or pressure pain in the pelvis or abdomen, trouble eating or feeling full quickly, constipation, and urinary symptoms (urgency or frequency). It is important consult with a physician if you experience these symptoms or have any other unusual symptoms and especially if you have a family history of ovarian and breast cancer. For more information on ovarian cancer, please visit www.ovarian.org, www.ovariancancerawareness.org, and www.TexasOncology.com.

Furthermore, I want to encourage all who can to come out and support the Ovarian Cycle Rio Grande Valley even that will be held at The Gym at Uptown on Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. You can register at:

ovariancycle.kintera.org/RioGrandeValley2016. Lastly, I want to continue encouraging you to live a healthy lifestyle, making good food choices and increasing your physical activity on a daily basis. Have a Blessed September!



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.

Back-to-School Celebration THANK YOU!

Sunday evening, a group of enthusiastic brothers and sisters in Christ gathered for fellowship, hands-on service, breaking bread (fried fish!!!), and raising funds for a new ministry at First UMC!

Thank you to all who gave funds, donated school supplies, and came together to assemble the fourteen Teacher Supply Boxes for two schools! What a blessing they will be to the teachers of Escandon and Jackson Elementary in McAllen ISD! The boxes were filled with items that teachers need for teaching throughout the year.

Thank you to the Fish(ing) and Dinner Team, what a wonderful dinner! Thank you to the servers who served the dinner and the bakers who baked items for the dessert auction. More than \$700 was raised for the new Women's Ministry project, "Better than a Backpack...Care Kits for College Kids"!

What a great evening! To God be the Glory!



















Installation of District Superintendent

Please join us in welcoming our new district superintendent, Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez and his family to El Valle district.

A service celebrating the appointment of our new district superintendent and a welcoming reception to follow will be held Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. here at First United Methodist Church.

Our new Bishop, Robert Schnase will be here also.

Let's Help BUILD a HOUSE!

Save the date: Fri. & Sat., 10/14 & 10/15 We have the opportunity to complete the building of a NEW home for a family in Peñitas. We are excited to be partnering with Buckner in the Rio Grande Valley. They have called and given us the opportunity to assist in completing this home for the Ruiz family!

There will be more information coming soon. We will follow the direction of the Buckner Construction Coordinator in the project.

Registration instructions will be available soon! Hope you will plan to join us for this opportunity to assist in providing a deserving family with a new home! Questions? Call Susan Hellums at the church.



There will be a **Basic** and Advanced Lay Servant training on September 17, First United Methodist Church, 228 S. Main St., Donna TX 78537-3228

The Basic Class will be LEARNING & LEADING. This is an excellent opportunity for those who wish to take the basic course to become certified as a lay servant.

For those wishing to continue their certification and become an advanced lay servant we will be offering the Advanced Class, "LAY SPEAKERS PREACH". This course is designed for those who are called upon to preach in a pastor's absence.

In order for you to receive the materials you need for either class, we would like to have the registration turned in to us no later than August 27th. This will give us time to order the books and send them out to you. The cost for each class is \$30.00. Make checks payable to EI Valle District.

Contact: Larry Reser, 2816 Regency, Brownsville, TX 78526-1186



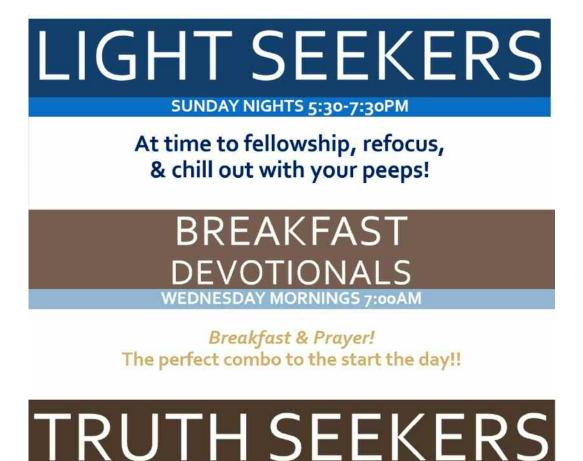
New Look – Same Ministry

The FUMC McAllen Youth Ministry is experiencing growth and change. On Tuesday, August 16, 2016, parents and youth met and voted in place a Youth Council. The Youth Council will be responsible to help plan and organize mission, fundraising, and fun events for the year. It is exciting to see the youth take ownership and be so passionate about their ministry. Our new officers are as follows: Sydney Ramon – President, Quinn Sullivan – Vice President, Jack Summers – Secretary, Zach Moore – Treasurer, Maddy Moore –

Missions Chair, Emily Payne – Hospitality Chair, Chase Brown – Cathey Middle School Representative, and Charlotte Beck – Morris Middle School Representative.

We are also excited about the new ministry where our youth are the focus – Friends In Faith; where adults and youth are connected through prayer. Each youth will be paired with an anonymous adult (individual, couple, or family) to be encouraged with notes, a birthday card, and with prayer throughout the school year. Before the school year ends, we will have a get together to reveal our Friends In Faith to the youth. As of August 17th, we are in need of twelve more adults to be part of this ministry. Please pick up a form at the office or in the church foyer and sign up to be part of this rewarding ministry.

Want to help the Youth Ministry with their fund raising? We have t-shirts and decals for sale, stop by Veronica's office and buy one or two! Thank you for your support and prayers.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 5:30-7:30PM

At time to study the Bible, reflect in prayer, & challenge each other.



Sharing Our Story by Merelyn Voss

The life that God blessed John and me with is one of faith, and love. John and I met later in life in Wisconsin, each of us with children of our own. It was in 1966 that

we tied the knot. Neither one of us had a great or easy first marriage, so when we fell in love, everything changed, including the size of our hearts. We worked hard with our family, farm and teaching but could not help but feel like it was time to give back to God. That is the key reason for us serving in Missions for 15 years. We started in 1980 in Honduras building schools, to working alongside Navajo UMC and 95% of the Navajo tribe students who went on to higher education, HPI, Jamaica, Louisiana to Armenia in 2006. While we usually had different jobs, John and I always went together. That unity is what made us an even greater team. We each had skills that God would turn from ordinary to extraordinary without us being able to see it at the time. When I was assisting a pharmacist in Honduras in Spanish, which I do not speak, I came across very poor, sick yet grateful and proud persons. How are you supposed to tell a patient that they need to take a medication 3 times daily, when most of them were having one meal a day? I met a woman who came for miles by a small boat with a smile on her face to have her bandages replaced. She told us that we were angels sent for them. I know God is big and just hope He is pleased with John and me. Our life in missions was not easy, but the experiences you have with so many different residents and volunteers is life changing. That is when you can see God turning the ordinary to extraordinary. John and I always talked about how we were the ones who felt privileged and honored to be used by God.

Our Sympathy to...

The family of **George Peisen** following his death on August 3, 2016. Services were held on Saturday, August 6th at FUMC McAllen. The family can be reached at 112 E. Jackson, McAllen, TX 78501

The family of **Leigh Ann Krouse** following her death on August 1, 2016. No Local services are planned. Michael's address is 2105 Daffodil, McAllen, TX 78501.

The family of **Marilyn Sugg** following her husband, **Marvin's**, death on August 15, 2016. No Local services are planned. Marilyn's address is 4901 Daffodil, #141 McAllen, TX 78501.

Nancy Hennig following the death of her brother Ray Bishop on August 18, 2016. Nancy and Stan's mailing address is: P.O. Box 129, Penitas, TX 78576.

Fall Bible Study Opportunities

Young Adult Bible Study - All young adults are invited to join in fellowship, and study every **Thursday evening at 7 p.m.** They study topics that have strong relevance in the lives of young adult Christians, and will be studying Adam Hamilton's Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask beginning later this month. Dinner is provided, and it is held at the home of Robert and Tanya Perales, 401 West Vine, McAllen. Childcare is available at the church.

Basic - Many Christians struggle with some of the most foundational practices of Christianity; everything from prayer and worship, to reading the scriptures and stewardship, are stumbling blocks for countless Christians, regardless of how long they have been Christians. At First UMC McAllen, our goal is to help our community love God, share Jesus, and grow in faith. Providing a way to get people actively practicing these Christian practices is critical in achieving that goal. BASIC will help Christians not only understand, but learn to actively engage in these Christian practices that God has used for thousands of years to speak new life into His people. Books are available in the office and classes begin **Tuesday, September 13th, at 6:15 p.m**. For any guestions, please contact Pastor Robert.

Half Truths - The Friendship Sunday School Class invites all to join them on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m beginning September 11 in a study of Adam Hamilton's *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*. We've heard certain phrases all of our lives like, "Everything happens for a reason" and "God helps those who help themselves". Although they capture some element of truth, when compared to the wisdom found in Scripture, they're really just popular sayings that miss the point. Join the Friendship Class in this five week study in the Social Room.

The Class Meeting - Gary Montgomery will lead a study of Dr. Kevin Watson's, the Class Meeting, guide to the theory and practice of the Wesley class meeting, an essential element of truly Wesleyan spirituality. This book is for people who are looking for ways to develop deeper discipleship. The class will meet on **Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. beginning September 13th**, with hopes to lead into a co-ed First Group. Books are available for purchase in the church office.

New FUMC Men's Group - A new men's group is forming at FUMC McAllen for service, study, and fellowship. All men are invited to attend an informational meeting on **Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m.** For more information contact Gary Clemons at 821-7739 or gclemons@kw.com.

Brown Bag Bible Study - The Brown Bag Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 12 noon in the Koinonia Room. All are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy the study led by Pastor Robert Perales. They are currently studying the book, You Lost Me, which focuses on why young adults are leaving the church. Books are available for purchase through the church office. Later this year, during Advent, they will be studying Rev. Jorge Acevedo's book, **Sent**.

DISCIPLE I - DISCIPLE is a program of disciplined Bible study, drawing upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible. The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. This 34-week study will be led by Susan Turlapati on **Thursday mornings beginning September 15th**. The class will gather for **coffee and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. with the lessons starting promptly at 10 a.m.** The workbook may be purchased in the church office. Calendar of Events

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
We If you would like to b musical praise If y There w September will be sin	e welcome back our F e part of the MOTET C s, join us for practices rou have questions you will be a Kick-off Cover 7. We will eat and get ging this year! The Mo	Welcome Back irst UMC MOTET CHC hoir that blesses our 1 at 7:30 p.m. on Wedne can call the church off ed Dish Dinner on Wed a preview of some of th otet Choir is under the companist is Teresa Pera	DIR! 1:00 a.m. service with sday evenings! fice! Inesday, ne music we direction of	1 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	2	3
4 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	7 Breakfast & Devotionals Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Better than a Backpack Care Kits for College Kids Motet Choir Rehearsal	8 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	9	10
11 Third Grade Bibles Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	12 Tai Chi Exercise Class	13 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group The Class Meeting Basic	14 Breakfast & Devotionals Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Men's Group Motet Choir Rehearsal	15 Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bile Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	16	17
18 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers New District Superintendent Installation	19 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen	20 Morning Walkers Exer- cise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Women's Book Club	21 Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	22 Morning Walkers Exercise Disciple I Bile Study Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	23	24
25 EarlyTraditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	26 Tai Chi Exercise Class	27 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon	28 Breakfast & Devotionals Prayer Shawl Ministry Brown Bag Bible Study WOW - Word On Wednesday Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	29 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Young Adult Group	30	For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com

THE MESSENGER September 2016

Pastor's Perspective (continued from page 1)

are engaging in sharing the love of Jesus through Mission Possible, Nothing But Nets and other activities of WOW (Word on Wednesday). We give bibles to our 3rd graders, but also take the next step and have a class that meets for several weeks to teach them about the bible.

Some women in the church have come together and started a women's ministry. They are fellowshipping together, doing book studies, playing games and have now begun a ministry to provide support in the form of care packages, etc. for those young people headed off to college. Inspired by their efforts some men have come together and said we need to have a more organized men's ministry. I hope by the date of this publication plans will have been set in place for an early morning men's group.

I'm excited to see the energy in our congregation. As any experienced Rio Grande Valley gardener will tell you fall and winter gardens are the best in our part of Texas. I pray and hope that as we head into the fall and winter seasons our part of God's garden will grow and flourish here at FUMC. I invite you to be an active part in the life and ministry of our church. Ask me or any of the staff what you can do to help God's garden grow. See you in worship and around the community.

Grace and peace, Ricky

Harvesting the Fruit Update

Interested general contractors have responded to our architects and each contractor has been provided with a set of questions. Each contractor will be interviewed before one is selected to work alongside our architects. By the date of this publication, those interviews should be complete. Work has begun on construction drawings. This is a process that will take several months.

Also, we are still forming several sub-committees for input into specific areas of our sanctuary. We'll have small groups to work on nursery space, audio/visual, music/choir space, furniture/equipment, landscape, interior finishes/colors and others groups as needed. If you have expertise or a desire to work with one of these small groups let chair Thomas

Davidson, one of the pastors or the church office know. This will be an exciting and busy next few months! Thank you for your continued support.



First United Methodist Church 4200 N. McColl Rd. McAllen, TX 78504

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 6:15 p.m.
Keystone Room



Let Us Pray

Come together with fellow Christians to pray for guidance and blessings for our church, church family, and our military family. We also pray for blessings of renewed health and strength for those recovering from illness, and blessings and hope for those who are struggling with problems.

> Bring your prayer needs for family or friends, and we will pray together.

We meet in Room #202 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. We offer two times, 10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m., to meet different needs.

> Light snacks will be provided. Open to all church members and friends.