



This Saturday: Focus On Your Marriage



Scott Wilson speaks from his heart.

It was appropriate that Valentine's Day just happened to be the Sunday for Scott Wilson to give his testimony about attending last year's **Focus on Marriage** simulcast. Scott told the congregation that there are three things that "really touched his heart," that have stayed with him since the seminar, three things that have made his marriage to his wife Jayme, even better. First of all, Scott prays for Jayme every day. Secondly, he learned

not to push your own way of doing things on your spouse. Let them figure out the best way for them. And last of all, he listens to Christian music all the time, at his work as well as in his home. Being surrounded by "the word" all day makes everything go better in his life.

Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen notes that the event is designed to put relationships in a spiritual perspective and that participants can expect to hear "ways to have the best and healthiest marriage you can have" — it is not just for couples who have problems with their marriage.

The *Focus on Marriage* event will be shown live via satellite on a screen in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., and the cost is \$20 per person which includes lunch.

Speakers include Kirk Cameron, the actor best known for his role in the TV series "Growing Pains;" Gary Thomas, best selling author whose books include several on marriage and relationships; Francis Chan, nationally known pastor of Cornerstone Church in California; and Gary Chapman, internationally respected marriage and family life expert.

Pastor Terry said the event provides another opportunity to put our mission statement into practice. "Invite a friend, neighbor or business associate to join us as we follow Christ, who empowers us to make a difference," he said.

Focus On Marriage
February 27 - 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Lent Begins



Rev. David Weyant imposes ashes on the forehead of Colby Brazile during the Ash Wednesday Worship Service, February 17. All Lenten activities are listed on page 3 and also at www.fumcodessa.org.

Children's Ministry

MARCH 5 - 8PM-8AM



All Children K-6th Grade

IT'S GONNA BE AN ALL NIGHTER!
Lots of Fun, Food, Games, Worship &
MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Cost \$10.00 per person

Invite your friends to join us for an exciting & adventure filled night!

Sign-up at Sunday School or online @
www.sharinglifeodessa.com

Must Sign-Up by March 2nd

For more information or if you are interested in serving at this event, contact Cindy Lewis at 337.1527.

What Would You Give Up To Have The Greatest Life Ever?



**Terry Tamplen
Senior Pastor**

“Jesus replied, ‘I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property for My sake will receive now in return a hundred times over and in the world to come, they will have eternal life.’ Mark 10:29-30

In this scripture, Jesus says, “Your sacrifices will be rewarded not simply one hundred percent, but a hundred times over, and as a special bonus, you’ll celebrate forever with God in eternity.”

Here is a great spiritual principle: *Sacrifice is the investment to greatness.*

Jesus is saying if you sacrifice one house for my sake, one hundred doors are going to be opened. If you sacrifice one relationship that’s keeping you from a close relationship with me, you’re going to see a hundred relationships where love will surface that is so much more vibrant. If you sacrifice one habit that is destroying you for my sake, I’m going to give you a hundred new habits that will enrich your life.

If you sacrifice your riches for my sake, you will experience a depth of richness in your life that you could never have dreamed of. That’s amazing!

As a pastor, I can’t promise you when you’re going to get that return. That’s not my role or yours to worry about. Our role is to sacrifice. God’s part is the one hundred times over.

Let’s make this very personal. Let’s imagine that you could walk up to Jesus and say, “Jesus, I want my life to be the greatest it can be. What do I need to sacrifice – give up?” What would Jesus say to you? My guess is we already have a good idea about it. We’ve been struggling with it and dealing with it. We know how difficult that is to give that up.

If you don’t know, let me just give you some triggers to get you thinking.

If you are a teenager, you may need to sacrifice the comfort of some of your friendships that you know aren’t good for you.

If you’re in the marketplace and you’re working too much to build a reputation, you may need to sacrifice the illusion of success to discover what significance is by Jesus’ definition.

If you’re addicted to something, you may need to sacrifice your pride and beg a friend to help you be released from the prison you’re trapped in.

If your life is about having stuff—and you’re materialistic—and your home and your car and your toys and your trips, you may need to make sacrifices and lose your grip on possessions so you can cling to God.

If you’re trying to be someone with the primary motivation that you’ll be recognized by others, you may need to sacrifice your **self-centered** motive to be more recognized.

If you’re in a bad relationship that’s filled with tension—a marriage, dating, friendship, whatever—you may need to sacrifice your ego and admit your failures so God can bring you healing.

I don’t know what it is for you. I can tell you that God promises blessings beyond our expectations when you and I sacrifice for the sake of a healthier relationship with God.

That sacrifice is the investment for greatness!

Terry

6 Practices
of a
Fruitful
Congregation

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission & Service
- Extravagant Generosity
- Sharing Love

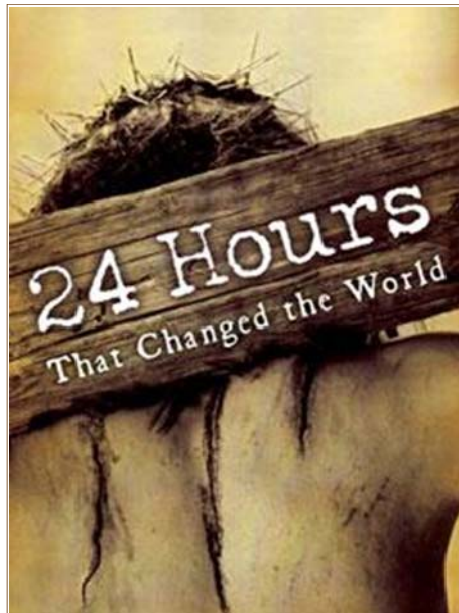
DAVE’S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Yes! You can still join the class!

13 Week Class-Sundays Starting Feb. 21st @ 6:00
sign-up now at www.fumcodessa.org

Lenten Sermon Series

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this series of sermons, we'll explore the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Whether you are a long time Christian or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you will experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you never have before.



Passionate Worship

Feb. 28: Agony is NOT Defeat

March 7: Condemned by the Righteous

March 14: Jesus, Barabbas & Pontius Pilate

March 21: The Torture and Humiliation of the King

March 28: The Crucifixion

April 4: V for Victorious



Holy Week Services



MARCH 28



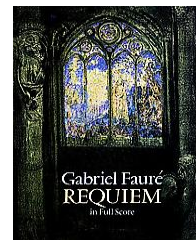
Palm Sunday

APRIL 1



Maundy Thursday

APRIL 2



Good Friday



Lunch 11:15 a.m. – Noon
Worship 12:05 – 12:45 p.m.

Suggested donation for meal \$5.00 per person

Intentional Faith Development

- Mar 3 St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 1321 Monahans St.**
Speaker Rev. Rick Enns, Asbury United Methodist Church: "Christ is our King" Psalm 8: 5-8
- Mar 10 Highland United Methodist Church, 1808 N. Dixie**
Speaker Rev. Greg Morris, Crescent Park Baptist Church: "Christ's Rejection" Psalm 118:22
- Mar 17 First Presbyterian Church, 1401 N. Sam Houston Ave.**
Speaker Father Joe Uecker, St. Joseph Catholic Church: "Christ's Betrayal" Psalm 41:5-9
- Mar 24 Mackey Chapel United Methodist Church, 306 W. Clements St.**
Speaker Youth Director Yolanda Fish, First Presbyterian: "Christ's Suffering" Psalm 69:7-12
- Mar 31 Sherwood Baptist Church, 505 E. 42nd St.**
Speaker Rev. R. T. McNeil, St. James Missionary Baptist Church: "Christ's Crucifixion"
Psalm 22:1-18

Valentine's Love Delivered One Hug, Card, Candy, Bear And Strawberry At A Time

The children were very busy on Valentine's Day making some very special deliveries to Sherwood Place and Buena Vida Nursing Home. They were on a mission to share smiles, hugs, and a little love with each person they had the privilege to meet. I know that as a church family you would have been so proud of our children that day! **They surprised twenty-five different people**, giving them their handmade cards, candy, and a teddy bear. For the children, it wasn't just about handing out a card and leaving. They talked to each person and, most importantly, listened to them. They gave hugs and made the people smile by singing songs to some and reciting valentine poems to others.

As we were leaving, we saw him from a distance, a gentleman who the children had given a bear to earlier. He was sitting in his wheelchair, alone in the hallway. He was hugging this bear—the same bear that the children had given him. You see, he didn't know that we could see him hugging the bear. It was just him and his bear... it was as if he was hugging his best friend. I



believe that was God's way of helping the children understand why we serve and that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40. These children made a big difference on this Valentine's Day in the lives of people who just needed a little **LOVE**.

—Cindy Lewis, Children's Ministry

Special thanks to Shirley Abernethy for donating all of the bears that helped make that special day possible for the children and for all the people who received the bears to hug.



Sharing Love



329 dozen strawberries: that's how many our youth dipped into melted chocolate and boxed up this year as the traditional Valentine's fundraiser for youth trips. The Fellowship Hall was a beehive of activity as the assembly line created the delicious expressions of love. Pictured here, above: Terry Gage stirs while David Forsyth waits to fill his bowl. Ryan Franklin, Erin Scharlach and Kaitlyn Riley dip the strawberries into chocolate. Tyler Chavez delivers strawberries to be boxed. Courtney Carlson hands four boxes of strawberries to church receptionist Judy Morrell. The youth shout out a big THANK YOU to everyone who purchased strawberries and to the volunteers who helped make this possible.



Spice Of Life: February birthdays Mildred Bridwell, Wilma Tune and Dorothy Gibson admire the beautiful Valentine cake. The monthly meeting's theme was *Recipes for Love in Jars of Clay* and was presented by Johnnie Williams. Johnnie also made the beautiful and delicious birthday cake.



Mary Sue Carey was surprised with a birthday cake by her compadre-servants at the Food Pantry. Monday, February 8 was Mary Sue's birthday. For her, though, it was just another Monday of serving at the Food Pantry. This long-time faithful, active member has worked with the Food Pantry since its beginning. Pictured (L-R) are Les King and Mary Sue Carey; (front row) Sue McDonald, Sue Wright, Evelyn Reynolds, Gene Johnson, and Buddy McDonald; and (back row) Phil Szenasi, Don Wright and Carole Millsap.



Enjoying an Odessa Jackalopes hockey game is the latest fun outing for Life Together. Getting in on the action are Hadley Whytlaw, Joshua Lewis, and April Contreras. They had fun learning to say, "Go, Jackalopes!" Brian Whytlaw and son, Grady, and Jessica Contreras and daughter, April, watch the game.



LIFE Together Ministry is the ministry at First United Methodist Church geared towards 20s and 30s and their families. In addition to fun and family outings, the group has two Sunday School classes: New Adventure and Mosaic Sunday School.

New Adventure Sunday School Class is a great chance for new beginnings and a fresh start for those who are looking for a place to get more plugged in at FUMC. This class is full of energy, Bible study, and real life applications. It meets in the Resource Room (located next to the nurseries).

Mosaic Sunday School Class is a dedicated group who journey together through the Bible and learn and grow with each other. It meets upstairs.

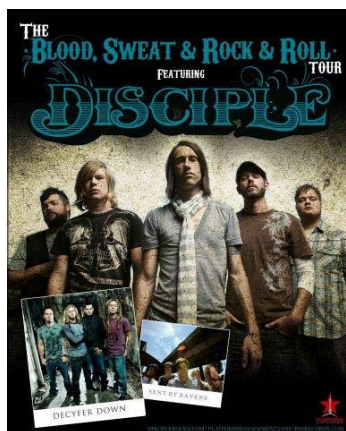


Christian Bands Stage Rock Concert

Outreach has many facets. Church member David Alvarez is using contemporary music as his means of reaching the younger generation. David puts together concerts for young people in Odessa and Midland in the way of Christian music. His own band, *3Nails*, is a group of local musicians who bring Christian Rock to the Permian Basin. He wants kids to hear "music with a positive message and also music which kids relate to."

Last year, David was asked by MainStreet-Odessa to produce a concert for a youth stage at the July 4 Firecracker Fandango. He did so with Christian rock bands. It was such a success that MainStreet has asked him to book another youth stage this year.

It is through that positive effort that MainStreet has asked David to put together another Christian rock



concert on **Tuesday, March 23** at the **Ector Theater**. The Christian bands for this concert are *Disciple*,

Decyfer Down, and *Sent by Ravens*. Purchase tickets through MainStreet Odessa, 432-335-4682. Tickets are \$20 each, or \$15 for groups of 25 or more.

MainStreet is monetarily supporting the concert, but David is asking for *your* support with good old-fashioned hard work. He needs anyone who can lift 70-pounds of band equipment and who is over the age of 18. Four people are needed to help load-in bands from 10:00 a.m. until finished; four people are needed to help with set changes during the show; eight people are needed to load-out the bands after the show.

If you can help in any way, please contact David Alvarez, 432-238-1448. If you want to help provide tickets for our youth, or any young people, contact MainStreet-Odessa, 335-4682.

Birthdays March 1—March 31, 2010



March 1
Bobby Schneider
Holly Stallcup

March 2
Bob Bacon
Melissa Lewis
Julie Marshall

March 3
Garren Schneider

March 4
Vicki Terrell

March 5
Carra Schneider
Virgil Trower
Bill Watts

March 6
Dan Ferguson
Stan Smith
T.J. Sparks

March 7
Barbara Browning

March 8
Katie Wiggins

March 9
Lora Kirkland

March 10
Carson Coulter

March 11
Stacie Ahrlett
Johnnie Williams

March 12
Jake Alvarez
Janelle Blount
Chris Johnson
Becki Smith

March 13
Christian Baza
Anne Shugart
Vicki Tamplen

March 14
Tricia Elrod
Summer Wright

March 15
Henley Graves
Amelia Lyons

March 16
Josh Weaver

March 17
Anne Doran
Lady Hawkins
Sheila Patterson

March 18
Ken Brumelle
Kelby Giesler

March 19
Terry Tamplen
Dylan White
Natalie Wilson

March 20
LeNee Grice
Aubrey Nall
Dan Smith

March 21
Mark Owens
Nancy Rodman

March 22
Oscar Ramos
Keith Trower

March 24
Tommy Doran
Paul Girard
Sally Pond
Rebekah Scott
Nancy Stewart

March 25
Bill Harden
Doris Ann White

March 27
Andy Rolls
Mackenzie Smith

March 28
Sandy Claiborne
Maggie Furst

March 29
Michelle Rea

March 30
Gary Sims

March 31
Johnny Hall



Children's Clothes Closet
In memory of
Pauline Bissey
Given by
Chrystal Fouche

Sanctuary Renovation Fund
In memory of
Gary Callaway
Given by:
Ginger & Craig Abbott
Susan & Donnie Butler
Sue & Don Wright

Sanctuary Renovation Fund
In memory of
Irene Berger
Given by
Fidelis SS Class

Our heartfelt sympathy to...



...Dottie, Paul, Kyler & Jaden Chavez for the loss of Dottie's mother, **Linda Laughlin**

...family and friends of **John Taylor**

Samaritans by Grace feed those who are hungry.

Every Sunday

10:00—assemble sack lunches in kitchen

10:30—deliver lunches to Noel Plaza

How can you help?

Buy groceries during the week.

Prepare lunches.

Deliver lunches.

Share God's love with hungry souls

Call the church office, 337-1527

Children's Clothes Closet needs:

CHILDREN'S SIZES 4 to 20

Gently worn clothes

New underwear

New socks

ECISD school uniforms

Especially khaki pants

Questions:

Robbie Brazelton

634-0685



Children's Clothes Closet



**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 43
ODESSA, TEXAS
79761

www.fumcodessa.org
Enjoy The Cultivator On-line

Join Us This Sunday	
8:00 AM	Early Bible Class
9:00 AM	Traditional Worship —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Sunday School, all ages
11:00 AM	Contemporary Worship —Fellowship Hall

First United Methodist Church, Odessa, Texas, founded in 1890, is a community of Christians who have pledged to support this church with their presence, their service, their gifts and their prayers. We dedicate ourselves to spreading God’s Word throughout our community and to providing meaningful worship experiences, fellowship, and opportunities to fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ through a variety of ministries. As United Methodists, “our doors, our hearts and our minds are open to all those who seek God’s Grace.”

The *CULTIVATOR* is a monthly publication whose exclusive purpose is to help FUMC-Odessa accomplish its Mission by communicating and “cultivating” the presence of Christ in the lives of this congregation.

***The Cultivator* Needs Your Help.
Tells Us What You Think By
Completing The Enclosed Survey.**

In just a few months *The Cultivator* will mark its *seventh* year of continuous publication. By August of this year, about 180 issues of the every-other-week publication will have been produced and distributed. Even though the church staff is heavily involved in the publication process, since its onset, the creation of *The Cultivator* has been a lay-driven process. The 180 issues total over 100,000 separate copies that have flowed to the FirstUMC membership as well as its visitors and other constituents.

Those involved the publication believe it is time to take a fresh look and seek the input and feedback of those who read *The Cultivator* and those who may not read it so often.

Consequently, we have prepared a short survey for you to complete and return to *The Cultivator* so that we can carefully evaluate what you tell us.

Instructions for Completing the Survey
The survey form, printed on pink paper, is located in the *inside centerfold* of this issue. Please answer each question (front and back) by placing a circle around the choice that most closely matches your answer. We have two open-ended questions for you to provide us with written comments, suggestions or feedback. Please take time to thoughtfully answer those questions, also. Once you have completed the questionnaire, you may return it by mail using the self mailer, by folding along the dotted line. **[YOU NEED TO PROVIDE POSTAGE]** You may also place your complete survey in the offering plate or hand-deliver to the church office.