



RETURN
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PERMIT NO. 43
ODESSA, TEXAS
79761

Bring A Friend This Sunday	
8:00 AM	Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM	Traditional Worship —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Sunday School, all ages
10:16 AM	The Bridge Worship, —3901 E. Yukon
11:00 AM	Fellowship Worship —Fellowship Center

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.

**First United Methodist Church-Odessa
Mission Statement**
We exist for *LIFE*...
*To Love others, Invite them to join us as we Follow
Christ, who Empowers us to make a difference.*



CULTIVATOR

Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation
Volume 16, Issue 7
July 2018

Shipwrecked: Rescued By Jesus = A Great Vacation Bible School



These cuties are some of the sixteen pre-schoolers who attended a very busy Vacation Bible School, June 18-22. *Shipwrecked: Rescued By Jesus* was the theme. Bible stories and activities focused on how Jesus rescues when you are lonely, or worried, or struggling, or do wrong. Please turn to page 4 for more details and photographs from another successful outreach.



CHILDREN'S CLOTHES CLOSET

Cleaning Out Your Closets this Summer?

Donate New or Gently Used
Boys and Girls Clothes

Regular Clothes and School Uniforms

K-12 Grade sizes
Bring to Church Office
432.337.1527

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED!

Rainbow Room is sponsoring a school supplies drive to benefit children in foster and CPS care from Midland, Odessa, Andrews & surrounding counties. Donation boxes will be set up near the main sanctuary and in the fellowship center from July 1-July 29.

Items requested:

- *Backpacks
- *Pens
- *Pencils
- *Spiral Notebooks
- *Hand Sanitizer
- *School Scissors
- *Rulers
- *Glue Sticks



2ND SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP **JULY 8TH**



Family & Friends enjoy
2nd Sunday on June 10

**2nd Sunday of the
Month
11:00am – 1pm**



Plaza Area &
Dining Hall

Bring a Side Dish
Come and Go



2nd Sunday Meal is a great way to meet folks from 1st UMC that you may not already know. It's also a good way to get to know your church family better. About 150 people enjoyed the June meal. A big thank you to the Challenger Sunday School class for grilling the delicious hamburgers! **Join us on July 8th either at 11:00am or 12:15pm!**



Todd Salzwedel
Senior Pastor

I remember a mentor pastor of mine telling me once that summer was the “down” time in the life of the church. It would be a time to collect yourself, plan for the upcoming year, and replenish the soul. When I look at the summer schedules of my family and the folks in our church, I don’t know what that man was talking about!

This past month, my family and I enjoyed vacation at my sister’s home in Hawaii, attended conference (the yearly meeting of United Methodist clergy and lay leaders) for the NM Annual Conference, and I was in class at SMU for a week. So much for “down” time! But in the midst of all the travel and commitment, I was really struck by the thought of being rooted, and how those roots continue to nourish and support us in times of health and drought.

In Hawaii, I loved looking at the beautiful banyan trees. They provided amazing cover for all who simply needed a moment away from the sun, and the beauty of these amazing trees was truly remarkable. God knew what he was doing when he created the banyan! Looking at the tree though, I was really fascinated to look at the root structure. While I have always understood the role of roots for plant life for support and nourishment, I paid more attention to the limbs that grew out from the tree. In the case of

the banyan tree, it turns out that the huge limbs that extend from the trunk have roots directly below each limb to provide support. In addition, there are roots that grow down from the limbs themselves to

connect with roots in the ground providing additional ability for strength and nourishment.

The banyan tree provided an amazing illustration for our own support and nourishment. We understand the need to be firmly rooted in God and the church in order to withstand the storms of life. It’s clear to us we need to be connected with others as well in our journey together. But it is those times when we have extended ourselves, like limbs on a tree, where we feel most vulnerable and transparent. We might take a lesson from the banyan tree to

be firmly rooted in God and one another as we stretch ourselves walking with God.

The storms of life will come, as will the calm that follows. Scorching temperatures threaten to dry us out just as we are nourished by the replenishing rains. What carries us through is our intentional effort to grow deep roots, to be connected with others, and to bolster ourselves along the way. So, during this summer “down” time, remember to tend to yourself and others, and may you find strength in the soil in which you are planted. In this way, we put our trust in the Lord and are confident he walks with us!

— Pastor Todd

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8



FoundationKids pose for a picture at the Abilene Zoo. The day-trip was a fun break from their weekly outreach service at the Crisis Center. They go to Sacramento Camp the week of July 9-13.



FoundationKids happily served others at the Baptist Crisis Center in Midland on June 28. It is such a joy to see them willing to help others and none of them complain about doing anything that is needed. From our oldest vacuuming to the youngest sorting hangers, they all served diligently and with a happy heart. - April Cole, Children’s Pastor

Memorials

In Memory of
Alice Learned
Given by
Stephanie & John
Latimer

In Memory of
Eddie Guilbeau
Given by
Stephanie & John
Latimer

Children’s Clothes
Closet

In Memory of
Berdyne Ross
Given by
Robbie & Dan Brazelton

In Memory of
Eddie Guilbeau
Given by
Robbie & Dan Brazelton

In Memory of
John Bassett
Given by
Lynn & Randy Correa

In Memory of
Janice Jane Jones
Given by
Lynn & Randy Correa

In Memory of
AnEll Crudup
Given by
Lynn & Randy Correa

FUMC Youth program

In Memory of
Janice Jane Jones
Given by
Stephanie & John
Latimer

Honorariums

In Honor of
Karin Carlson
Given by
The Disciple Bible Study
Class

In Honor of
Larry Johnson
Given by
The Disciple Bible Study
Class



With Deepest Sympathy

To the friends and family of
Alice Learned

To Janice & Kevin Wilson,
and Alex
For the loss of Janice’s mother
Janice Jane Jones

To Tamara & Josh Stumpner,
Asher & Lily
For the loss of Josh’s mother
Debbie Williams

To the family and friends of
Shirley Rybolt



Like
Us!!

www.fumcodessa.org

Scan this QRC (Quick Response Code) with your smart phone to link to the online giving page on our website. Use it to make contributions, donations, or to pay for registrations.



Israel Study

Join Pastor Todd as he leads a
study about Israel

August 29 and September 5

9:30-11am Parks Methodist

6-7:30pm Chapel at FUMC

DISCIPLE 3 – FAST TRACK: REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE
BEGINS SEPT. 12

9:30-11AM AT PARKS METHODIST RETIREMENT VILLAGE
6-7:30PM AT FUMC, Room B5

What is Disciple Bible Study?

Disciple Bible Study is a program of intensive, disciplined co-ed Bible study open to all adults. Groups meet weekly for about 75 minutes for 24 weeks beginning in September, focusing on the Old Testament in the first half and the New Testament in the second half.

Disciple contains three elements that have been identified as key to Bible study: it is conversational, puts scripture in context and provides opportunities for application.

DISCIPLE 3 – FAST TRACK: REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

This study examines the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. Participants will find common themes, including calls to remember, calls to repent, calls for renewal, and calls for community.

In the first half, study the Major and Minor Prophets (except Daniel).

In the second half, study the New Testament letters traditionally attributed to Paul.

DISCIPLE
FAST TRACK
Remember Who You Are

No Rest For Our Energetic Youth This Summer



FUMC ECHO Youth and leaders. We had a great group totaling 28, 6 adults and 22 students. (2 not pictured) Thank YOU, for your generous gifts of stocks sales, donations, poinsettia sales and prayers! Our group grew spiritually and bonded closer than ever before. ECHO youth group is truly blessed to have you as our congregation. I would also like to say a personal THANK YOU to our fearless leaders Tyson Voigt, Clifton Garza, Jhorwin Salazar, Marcy Ortiz and Kelli Williams! Blessings, Caleb Eckel



The Spice of Life group last met on June 21st, and we had a great time together. Russell and Beverley Kimble prepared a wonderful home cooked meal for us, complete with 5 different cakes to choose from for dessert. Are we spoiled, or what! We are so very blessed to have Russell and his crew always here and willing to help out!



if you have some physical limitations. It's amazing what a few simple devices can do to make life much easier. It was a great program and everyone there really appreciated and enjoyed everything that Marla told us. I have some extra hand-outs in my office that she left if anyone would like them.

If you are in the age group of near or early retirees or later,

we hope you will come join us next month at "Spice of Life" and give us a try. I believe you will enjoy the food and fellowship and be glad you joined us. We always meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 – 1:00 in the Rodman Fellowship Building, Dining Room. Blessings to you all, Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor

Our birthday honorees this month were, Walyn Gibson and Mary Ann Miles (pictured above with Jody Wallin). Marsha Melton decorated our table, and Marlene Moss provided a beautiful door prize. This month, Marla Miles, daughter of Mary Ann Miles, gave the program. Marla is an Occupational Therapist. She told us and demonstrated for us, all kinds of helpful suggestions and tools that help make life just a little bit easier and more productive



The **New Mexico Conference's Annual Conference** was conducted in Albuquerque this year, June 13-15. Pastors Todd Salzwedel and Karin Carlson were re-assigned to our church. Lay delegates Jody Wallin, Connie Grewell, Kelly Allgood and Marsha Melton attended as our representatives. The website, nmconfum.com/annual-conference-2018, provides many details of the gathering. Connie Grewell has graciously shared her thoughts on the meeting.

I am a diamond! Now before you jump to any conclusions, please know that I am fully aware that what you see might be just a piece of coal. Very often, I agree with that statement; bear with me as I explain.

I am humbled to have represented 1st UMC-Odesa as a lay delegate to the 2018 New Mexico Annual Conference. This is not a position that I take lightly. I recognize and value the magnitude and responsibility that it holds. The decisions and votes that are made at the conference affect each of us in small and big ways. Faithfully, Bishop Bledsoe began each session with a prayer seeking God's will for His church with regards to the current topic of discussion/vote. I praise God for a church that puts GOD first in every decision!

The theme of the Annual Conference was REFINE. Think of the pressure and fire that must take place for a rock to

become a gemstone. In order for the beauty to shine through, there must be a purification process. Do you ever feel that you are in over-your-head? Or, do you feel the weight of pressure which is too much to bear? In times like these, we lean heavily on God's presence to cultivate and improve our circumstance. We ask Him to refine our hearts and minds for the situation.

The conference was a refining time in my life. I took stock of what I do well and what I need to correct. I give my imperfections to God. I trust that He will provide opportunities which will purify my inadequacies and allow His glory to shine bright through me. As a member of FUMC Odessa, I am but one diamond surrounded by many other brilliant diamonds illuminated with the love of Christ! – Connie Grewell, Lay Delegate



Certified Lay Ministers Jody Wallin, Garreth Cole, and Marsha Melton are acknowledged during the Traditional worship service on June 24. Pastor Todd presented to Garret his official certificate of CLM. Jody and Marsha received theirs at the Annual Conference in Albuquerque.

2020 General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegation



Photo courtesy of NMCONF. General Conference Delegates: Rev. Randall Partin & Sid Strebeck Jurisdictional Conference Delegates: Rev. Pam

Rowley & Susan Brumbaugh Alternates: Rev. Todd Salzwedel, Rev. Eddie Rivera, Dan Salzwedel & Heath Husted. Please pray for these servants.



FAMILY MINISTRIES...THE CHURCH PARTNERING WITH HOMES
JULY 2018 OT MORE SONGS FROM THE HEART

ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT – Psalms 2 of 2				
We continue to our study of Psalms. Students can identify with the psalmists in good and bad times, and determine to call out to God for help, thanksgiving, encouragement and worship.				
July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
A Song of Wisdom	A Song of Thanksgiving	A Song of Distress	A Song of God's Love	Song of Worship
Psalms 1	Psalms 34	Psalms 44	Psalms 118	Psalms 121; 127; 130
PRESCHOOL – David the Shepherd Boy (Psalm 23)				
This unit provides an overview of the life of David the shepherd boy and examines the biblical account of Psalm 23. Students will discuss the parallels between young David and their own lives. They will learn the truth <i>God Takes Care of Me</i> and will be encouraged to identify personal choices in response to this teaching.				

Snapshots of Vacation Bible School



One of my absolute favorite things about VBS is watching the church come together to make it happen. We had an average of 60 kids each night and 40 volunteers that made sure it all went smoothly. From those who prepped snacks to those who taught and everything in between, there was no task more important than the other and everyone served willingly and happily.

The children spent each evening singing songs about Jesus, learning that Jesus rescues us, playing games that pointed back to the lesson, and having snacks.

To everyone that taught, brought food, donated snacks, led games, welcomed children, worked security, ran sound, and helped in any way, thank you for doing your part in making this VBS so great and contributing to making sure Jesus was glorified.—April Cole, Children's Ministry



Volunteers are the backbone to VBS. Some of the many servant-hearted members are shown helping in many ways. Sande and Ben McAdams registered kids; Tammy Hawkins gave great hugs and smiles; Luke Williams operates music equipment for praise music and dance lead by Erica Lane Garza and Tiffany Wood; David Nelson kept pace with 2nd & 3rd graders.



Hot Summer Nights: fun way of living our mission statement

As the Outreach Pastor, I've had some time to process the question that every Christian faces - "What is the role of the church in culture?" Though there are many different ways to answer the question of "Christ and Culture", I believe Tim Keller put it best when he said that we are "to be faithfully present in our community." Christians are to be faithful to the Gospel while being fully present in our culture, setting an example through service, speech, and conduct. Hot Summer Nights has been an opportunity to do just that - be faithfully present in our community through service.

The Arts Council and Downtown Odessa Incorporated ("DOI") organizations are appreciative for the simple but effective services we've provided. The DOI has been storing the supplies for the children's area in one of our back rooms. That alone has saved them a tremendous amount of effort and work. Rather than hauling it

to and from the Municipal Plaza, they can simply bring it to a room that is right off the Noel Plaza. We've also become the backup venue if there is inclement weather (they would be able to use our Fellowship Center for the concert). Haley Howie and Lawanna Lambert have been thrilled with how our volunteers have monitored the children's area, and we've been able to shuttle several elderly concert goers to and from the event.

It is a joy to partner with these organizations. Serving at Hot Summer Nights has given FUMC wonderful visibility and face-to-face time with community members. We've handed out about 200 water bottles each night and people are engaging us in conversation. Every week we are creating opportunities to share the Gospel and be present in the community. Our consistent presence is being noticed.

—Colin Proft, Outreach Pastor

Outreach Pastor Colin says, "Nineteen volunteers stepped up over the past four weeks. We've been averaging five people a night, which is a good number for handing out water, connecting with concert-goers, shuttling people in the golf cart, and monitoring the children's play area. The time commitment hasn't been a strain, and the volunteers have been able to both enjoy the concert and serve the community." Hot Summer

Nights is every Friday night during the summer in Noel Heritage Plaza, which is the beautiful "backyard" of our church.



We exist for LIFE...To LOVE others, INVITE them to join us as we FOLLOW Christ...
...who Empowers us to make a difference in our church, our community and our world.