

## Bishop Bledsoe Comes To Listen and To Lead Discussion

FUMC-Odessa hosts Bishop Bledsoe on October 14, 10am-12pm, as he tours the conference to discuss 'Our Way Forward' to approach the challenges for our denomination. We will share and discuss with each other what our common, shared mission is - what are we called to do and be together. We will also discuss the challenges at the denominational, conference and local church levels. This is an opportunity to bear together our hopes and fears as we strengthen our connection. Hope to see you there.

### NM Conference E-Newsletter:

This past Saturday, the first of our Bishop's Itineration events took place at First UMC in Roswell. After a brief opening of introductions and a devotion lead by the Clovis District Lay Leader, I shared a quick update of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward, which is tasked with preparing some recommendations for our Council of Bishops to consider as a "way forward" through our current debates and conflicts over human sexuality. Bishop Bledsoe then led us in table discussions centered around three vital questions:

- What is our common, shared purpose in ministry?
- How do our denominational debates surrounding gay and lesbian persons impact our ministry in our local settings?
- What does a "way forward" through these debates look like in our local settings?



Following brief table discussions on these three questions, each table was asked to "report out" on their discussions. We heard from a variety of places and perspectives and, to my mind, we spoke and listened carefully and respectfully.

We will certainly not resolve these disputes in a single day, but I was profoundly moved to hear the voices of our people here in the New Mexico Annual Conference share their hopes, their concerns, and, by and large, our deep desire to work together for the building of God's Kingdom.

I look forward to future itineration visits and pray that the tone and tenor of our time in Roswell is repeated and echoed throughout our time together!

*Blessings, Randall Partin,  
Conference Administrator*



**Bishop's Itineration  
FUMC-Odessa  
Saturday, Oct. 14  
10am—12pm  
Fellowship Center**

Rev. Partin diagramed these words as "most used" to answer Bishop Bledsoe.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 TWO GREAT EVENTS

Dr. Marcus 'Goodie' Goodloe  
speaking at FUMC-Odessa.  
9:00 and 11:00 worship services  
*Details on page 3*

Associate Pastor Karin Carlson  
invites you to Mackey Chapel  
at noon  
*Details on page 8*



Todd Salzwedel  
Senior Pastor

The fall is always a busy time in the life of the church. School is in full swing. Holidays are around the corner, and we are trying to finish up the year strong while looking forward to what a new year has to bring!

This fall at FUMC is no different. This month, we will welcome Bishop Earl Bledsoe

as he travels through the conference (see front page article), and he will preach at Mackey Chapel on October 15. A few weeks later FUMC will host the 45<sup>th</sup> NM United Methodist Women's Annual Conference! This will be a gathering of UMW groups from around the conference as they celebrate the ministry and service they provide to their local church and world. That same weekend, FUMC will host a great friend of mine, Dr. Marcus "Goodie" Goodloe, as he shares with us insights about leadership and faith in a way that will inspire each of us. By the way, you'll want to consider purchasing the two books he has authored which will be available here at the church that Sunday.

As many of you are also aware, we are also making preparations for a trip to the Holy Land next fall. One of the many words that we like to use in the church to describe a pivotal and life-changing experience in our lives is transformational. Identifying and experiencing a transformational moment can be

tougher to pinpoint though. From my perspective though, walking and exploring the Holy Land, and literally following in the steps of Jesus provides such an experience! The Holy Land is often referred to as the fifth gospel, and you can't help but be impacted by the history, spiritual significance, and modern day struggles that continue to influence the most contested piece of real estate in history! It is evident when you walk the streets and visit the sites that continues to work and move in this amazing place.

I invite you to consider traveling with me to the Holy Land next fall. I will be making arrangements with the company I travel through in the next few days, and we will begin to register for the trip. I invite you to inquire about the trip if you have questions, and be a part of the informational meetings that will be offered along the way. And a little side note in terms of cost...when registration opens up, there are discounts available the earlier you do register.

I'm excited about all the exciting things that are going on here at FUMC in our children's and youth departments, as well as through adult Sunday School, Bible studies and the varieties of missions and outreach opportunities that benefit not only ourselves, but the community around us. I look forward to the ways in which God will continue to call us into the future to join Him in His ongoing mission in the world!

I couldn't be more proud to be your pastor, and my family and I thank you for allowing us to join you on this journey of faith!

*Grace and Peace, Pastor Todd*



## What's Going on at Celebrate Recovery for OCTOBER?

**Every Monday - 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.  
Student Ministry Building**

Our Lessons for the month of **October** focus on **Moral and Spiritual Inventory**. The **Celebrate Recovery Inventory** will keep you focused on reality and recall events that you may have repressed. *Remember: You are not going through this alone.* You develop your support team to guide you, but even more important, you are growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

We invite you to come and join us. "Fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed. I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

*God wants to comfort and restore you.* "I will look for those that are lost, bring back those that wander off, bandage those that are hurt, and heal those that are sick." Ezekiel 34:16

**The last Monday of every month is meal night.  
We start at 6:00pm and meet in the Fellowship Dining Hall.**



New mentors for our KidsHope ministry are shown during the recent orientation to explain the mentoring program. Our church now has over 16 mentors, each serving one-hour a week at Cavazos Elementary.

## Special Speaker Brings Unique Leadership Lessons

One way that Creative Arts and Outreach Pastor Colin Proft is making a difference in our community is to serve as the Vice Chair of the Leadership Committee for the Young Professionals of Odessa organization. As the name implies, YPO is an active group of young business people, all working to make Odessa a better place to live. The Leadership Committee is hosting the **Esteemed Speaker Series on Friday, October 27th from 6pm - 8pm. Dinner is from 6pm - 7pm, followed by the 7pm presentation. There is a nominal charge for the meal. However, the presentation is free. The event takes place at the Odessa High School Auditorium.**

Dr. Goodloe focuses on the leadership lessons found in the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King. His



Dr. Marcus Goodloe

book, *KingMaker*, "extracts 'leadership lessons' from which people of all walks of life can learn. A remarkably revealing and highly provocative presentation by an emerging young King scholar, who is also committed to educating and empowering 'Kingmakers' for today and tomorrow."

Dr. Goodloe serves as Teaching Pastor at Parkcrest Church in Long Beach, California. He travels around the country mentoring students and educators, business professionals, athletes and entertainers, and faith communities on a range of issues including culture and interpersonal relationships, leadership, team and synergy, character formation, and faith.

**Dr. Goodloe will speak at FUMC-Odessa during the 9am and the 11am worship services on Sunday, October 29.**



The **College Bible study** is continuing to grow and develop. We are just about to complete the "Song of Solomon," which was a five week study on dating and marriage. We'll be launching into a new topic in October. At present, we are averaging four to five students each week.

The study takes place on Sunday nights at my home (3947 Scott Street). I send out a group text and a group Facebook message



each week to remind the group. The study is open to anyone in college. We gather around 6:00 pm and start with a meal. After having a chance to catch up and hear how people are doing, we typically begin the study around 6:45 PM. A big **Thank You to the Builders**

**Sunday School class** for the donation of \$500 to provide food for the meals.-- *Colin Proft, Creative Arts and Outreach Pastor*



## Echo Students

This past month has been a lot of fun at FUMC ECHO youth ministry! We got together with Asbury UMC's youth group at UTPB where we had a cookout and played softball.

We donated food and goods to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We also wrote cards of encouragement to the churches who were affected by the hurricane.

Plus we had choir director David Corman and the sanctuary choir lead us in hymns during a recent Wednesday's youth group.

On a personal note, I've been chosen as the campus coach for First Priority at Wilson and Young Middle School! I've been able to speak to nearly 200 middle school students each week about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how we

can spread it. According to First Priority's website, *"First Priority of Permian Basin is a weekly campus ministry that creates an environment for students to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with their peers at school. This will be done by building a bridge from the school campus to the church where students can be discipled and nurtured in a local body of believers. This will be done with the support of parents, teachers, pastors, and business leaders whose hearts are Kingdom-minded and focused to equip, encourage, and empower junior high/ high school students to reach their peers for Christ as they introduce them back to the local church."*

— Caleb Eckel, Youth Pastor



Sanctuary Choir and echo Student Ministry



UTPB cookout & games day with Asbury-UMC youth group.

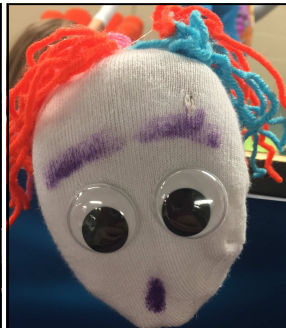
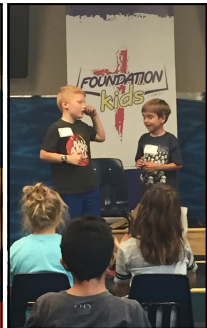


## D6 Is Teaching Diligently To Love The Lord



The Family Ministry's new curriculum, D6, has been going great in the children's department. With each class having the same lesson, it has been good to hear parents talking about the lesson with their children of different ages.

Wednesdays have been so much fun as we've begun teaching the older children how to properly take care of puppets. We started off having them each make their own sock puppet and they have now begun to use real puppets in class. It has been fun seeing each of the students develop personalities and names for their assigned puppet and we look forward to being able to have puppet shows for the younger children in the next few months. We've been blessed to have



Christine Findley teaching the children sign language on Wednesdays as well. Currently we are working on several verses of *Jesus Loves Me* and have even had some of our students lead the rest of the class in signing the words. We look forward to the next few months as we get ready for the holiday season and everything that entails in the Children's Ministry. —April Cole, Children's Pastor

## D6: A MOVEMENT, NOT MERELY A CURRICULUM

God is at work in the churches, families and on a global scale. He invites us to join Him on this incredible mission. The message is about equipping the family at every age and stage. September launched the first wave of FUMC Family Ministries with two paths. Path #1 invites the church to read the book *The DNA of D6-Building Blocks of Generational Discipleship* by Ron Hunter. I designed a practical study of the book for small groups or individuals. Two Sunday school classes are currently leading this classes in this study. And Path #2 launched the D6-2Gen curriculum in children and youth ministries. Families are bringing their kids, averaging 12 youth and 25 children. During the Sunday school hour our church members lead a youth class and 6 classes in children's ministry. THANK YOU!

Join me in celebrating the response to a God movement by praying and being the church that partners with the home! Pastor Karin, Family Ministries



**As a parent, what do you like about the D6 curriculum?**

*I like that it lays a structural foundation for the child and the parent with easy to follow lesson plans, fun pictures, activities and songs.*

Tiffany Wood-Parent and D6 Sunday School teacher

### Fall D6-2Gen Curriculum

September  
October:  
November

Old Testament  
Special Topic: INTEGRITY  
New Testament

*Ruth & Hannah*  
*Enoch-Noah-Daniel-Job-Joseph*  
*2 Thessalonians*



We exist for LIFE...To LOVE others, INVITE them to join us as we FOLLOW Christ...

## Spice of Life



The Spice of Life group met Thursday, September 21. Russell Kimble, and Steve and Debra Meador prepared a great meal as usual. It was great home cooked meal of meatloaf, green beans, and all the goodies to go with it, plus a wonderful sugar

free cake and banana pudding!

I must say the meal was very good. Yum, Yum!!!

Our birthday honorees this month were, Barbara Janssen, Lura Sivalls, Marlene Moss, Jody Wallin, Genie Miller, Phil Stinson, Paul Janssen and Mike Parker. Marsha Melton decorated our tables with beautiful decoration.

Marlene Moss made a beautiful basket flower arrangement for the door prize, and Jody Wallin gave a short program based on the theme of "The Autumn of Your Life."

If you haven't come to "Spice of Life," we hope you will come join us next month and give us a try. I believe you will enjoy the food and fellowship and be glad you came. We always meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Blessings to you all,*

*Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor*

## United Methodist Women Update

United Methodist Women's held their September meeting enjoying a program on Interfaith Sewing given by Mary Jane Malone. Mary Jane blesses our church and Interfaith Sewing by being a faithful participant in both.

In 1976, long-time FUMC-Odesa member, the late Doreen McCreless, was responsible for helping to start Interfaith. Doreen saw a need for literacy and a need for sewing skills. They started in various places with 9 women registered for sewing skills, and 14 men and women enrolled in literacy. The literacy classes were more popular, but the sewing classes began to grow too. Eventually they received 24 machines through donations.

In 1968 they formed a Board of Directors. United Methodist Women have sponsored them from the



beginning. Mary Jane showed us some of the beautiful quilts that have been made. They are funded only by donations. It is now located at 901-A South Grant, having classes three days a week: Monday, Wednesday,

and Thursday 9am - 3pm. Interfaith Sewing is a Christian-based all-women organization, from all cultures.

Dorothy Gibson reminded us how important it is to rejoice - God is always with us.

*--submitted on behalf of United Methodist Women by Marsha Melton*

*See page 8 for details on FUMC's UMW hosting the 45th New Mexico UMW Annual Conference*

...who Empowers us to make a difference.

## Welcome New Members



Gary and Ann Moore joined FUMC on September 10 in the Traditional Service by transfer of membership from another denomination.



Yolanda Sanchez joined FUMC by transfer of membership from another denomination on September 17 in the Contemporary Service.



### Working With The Kids In Our Children's Center

During October, please bring canned goods to Sunday worship services to help the Children's Center support the West Texas Food Bank.

### October 31, 10am Kid's Trick or Treat

Hand out candy to our adorable kids as they walk around the church halls looking for goodies. Donations of candy are appreciated. Remember, **No** candies with *Peanuts*.



**Monday, October 16, 2017**  
**Noon—Chapel**  
**RSVP 432.337.1527**

## Memorials for September

**In Memory of  
Shelly Weaver**  
Given by  
Sandra & Dan Hamilton  
Paula & Scott Coulter  
Kimberly Johnson

**In Memory of  
Kathryn Howell**  
Given by  
Paula & Scott Coulter  
Kimberly Johnson

**Camp Sacramento**  
**In Memory of  
Rev. David Weyant**  
Given by  
Mary Jane & Gary Malone

**Momentum Capital  
Campaign-Sanctuary**  
**In Memory of  
Kathryn Howell**  
Given by  
Lynda & Bill Fowler

**Children's Clothes Closet**  
**In Memory of  
Kathryn Howell**  
Given by  
Mary Jane & Gary Malone

**In Memory of  
Pam Stephenson**  
Given by  
Robbie & Dan Brazelton

## DEEPEST SYMPATHY

*To Hylance Golden Mahan  
for the loss of her sister  
Joyce Sorrell*

*To Nancy Spano & Dub Riley  
for the loss of their grandson  
Geoffrey Spano*

*To Joyce & Virgil Trower  
for the loss of Joyce's mother  
Alice McCraw*



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## Bring A Friend This Sunday

8:00 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
9:00 AM	<b>Traditional Worship</b> —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	<b>Sunday School, all ages</b>
10:16 AM	<b>The Bridge Worship,</b> —at LBJ Elementary 6401 Amber Dr.
11:00 AM	<b>Fellowship Worship</b> —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.***

## Get Ready To *Provide* Radical Hospitality!



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Our United Methodist Women  
are hosting the  
**45<sup>th</sup> New Mexico United  
Methodist Women's Annual  
Conference, October 26-28.**

There will be 75-100 women  
attending this conference.

*Sign up at the church office*

Anyone wishing to volunteer can  
contact UMW president,

Gene Johnson at  
jgene53@yahoo.com.

## Get Ready To *Enjoy* Radical Hospitality!

**5th Sunday  
Friends & Family Meal  
Mackey Chapel-UMC  
306 W. Clements  
Noon**

Bring a side dish. Enjoy a meal and fellowship with  
our friends at Mackey and Dr. Marcus Goodloe.