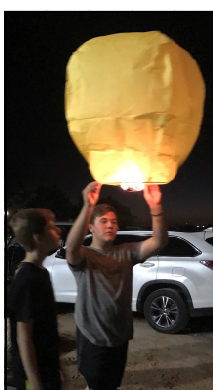


## Youth Lift Up Prayers Of Remembrance



Delicate Chinese lanterns floated into a perfect West Texas night on Wednesday, Oct. 25 as more than 30 students wrote names of loved ones on the lanterns. The symbolic "lifting a name up in prayer" took on a new meaning as the lanterns wafted into the dark sky. Echo Students gathered at Ratliff Ranch for a fun evening of judging Halloween costumes, carving pumpkins, and roasting s'mores.

## All Things New Renews Dedication Of United Methodist Women



First-UMC hosted the **45th Annual New Mexico UMW Conference** with a flurry of activities and inspiring workshops the last weekend in October. Those attending came from as far away as Albuquerque and as close as Odessa to attend this event.



Todd Salzwedel  
Senior Pastor

## Advent Begins With Hanging Of The Greens

It's that time of year again! You know, sleigh rides in the snow, Jack Frost nipping at your nose, and ice skating at the pond in your neighborhood! Okay, maybe that's not the scene here in Odessa, but we are nearing the Christmas season rapidly.

Later this month, we want to resurrect a tradition that at one time was a staple here at FUMC—hanging of the greens. And we want this to be a great time of fellowship for everyone. *There are **TWO FAMILY EVENTS** to adorn the church for Advent.*

**#1** On **Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 PM**, we are inviting the whole church to take part in a time of preparing our church for the Advent and Christmas Season. You may or may not be aware, but Advent is the beginning of the Christian liturgical year, and it culminates in one of the most attended services of the year by visitors and members alike. As a church, we want to make the

church as welcoming and beautiful as we can for those who will be visiting and celebrating the birth of Jesus and what that birth means for us today.

Did you know that a number of the decorations we often adorn our homes with at Christmas have spiritual meaning? They do! For instance, the evergreen trees, holly, and candles represent the eternal nature of Jesus and the call Jesus places on each of our lives to be a light unto the nations. So we want your help as we place these symbols of our faith in the worship spaces of the church and all around.

No matter your physical capability, there will be an opportunity for you to contribute. Young and old will each lend their gift of time and love to this great fellowship together! We'll finish the evening with a 15 minute service that dedicates our efforts and reminds us of our focus in this magical time of year.

Plan to join us here on November 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 for fun, fellowship, and the anticipation of Christmas joy! *Grace and Peace, Pastor Todd*

### **#2 FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT ~ Wednesday Nov. 29 ~ 6:00-8:00pm**

#### **CHILI COOKOFF – CHRISMONS – ART – CORN HOLE – SINGING – PHOTO BOOTHS**

Everyone is invited to join us for a fun-filled night as we kick-off the Advent season!

6:00 pm Jingle Jam and Dinner in Fellowship Center

6:30 pm Arts for Impact, Chrismons (*will be hung on FUMC Christmas trees*) activities, fellowship for all ages

7:30 pm Kids Story time with Pastor Todd | Chili Winners Announced

Advent Dismissal: *This Little Light of Mine*

Cost: \$5 per person Register so we can have enough food and art supplies

432.337.1527 [karin@fumcodessa.org](mailto:karin@fumcodessa.org)

## Uplifting Reports At Annual Conference

The Annual Conference on October 16 was more than a business meeting of our church council with District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Eduardo Rivera. It was an affirmation of all of the blessings bestowed upon 1<sup>st</sup>-UMC as expressed by senior pastor Todd Salzwedel because of the 'heart and commitment of our congregation.'

By the numbers: 13 baptisms; 53 new members for a total of 1,238 members for 1<sup>st</sup>-UMC and The Bridge, from October 25, 2016 to October 16, 2017. The financial report reflected a continued strong, healthy monetary support for the church's mission and ministries. District Superintendent Rivera joined in the praise for the opening of The Bridge, the upgrades to downtown campus sanctuary and nearing completion of The Momentum Campaign that funded the projects.

Dr. Rivera applauded our church for continued 100% fulfillment of shared ministries. The New Mexico

Conference goal is to have all church report income accurately and all churches tithe by 2020. He asked for prayers for other churches not as successful as ours.

Another example of the commitment of our congregation was the recognition of Lay Servants Jody Wallin, Marsha Melton, Benna Babb and Garreth Cole. The approval of their applications to become a Certified Lay Minister means Garreth and Marsha join Jody in the role of preaching the Gospel as needed.

District Superintendent Rivera expounded on the El Paso District Vision: We believe that every person in the geographical span of the district will find a place to Belong, Believe and be Useful. The District runs from Lordsburg, NM to Sanderson, TX, encompassing 1.4 million people. He exhorted us to increase our witness in our mission field which will increase attendance to church by "joining God in doing this impossible job, because nothing is impossible for God."





## The Bishop Listens To His Flock

Seven area churches were represented at the October 14 Itineration for Bishop Earl Bledsoe. The meeting in Odessa was one of six sessions this fall. Bishop Bledsoe was accompanied by District Superintendent Eddie Rivera and El Paso District Lay Leader, Kathy Jewell.

The purpose of the Fall Itineration is to provide face-to-face dialog with the episcopacy and congregations. As part of his presentation, Bishop Bledsoe talked about the Commission on a Way Forward, which is an international United Methodist commission tasked with preparing recommendations for the Council of Bishops to consider as a "way forward" through our current debates and conflicts over human sexuality. More details about that commission are available at <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-news-and-updates>. Our Bishop is one of the governing Council of Bishops who will vote at a called conference in 2019 to adopt or not adopt the report.



Bishop Bledsoe then led table discussions of three vital questions:

+What is our shared, common purpose?

+What are the challenges facing ministry at the local level?

+What would a "hopeful future" look like at the local level?

Each group was in agreement on shared common purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Lively and thoughtful answers to the second question ranged from societal apathy, club sports on Sundays, meeting needs of differing generations, different races, and fear of change. Responses to the third question included congregations truly welcoming new people—especially those who have been hurt; local United Methodist churches working together; open discussions to include agreeing to disagree; be a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

As a delegate to the called special conference, Pastor Todd is planning a local round-table discussion in January 2018 about this complex issue.



As the host church, many 1st-UMC members lead table discussions at the Bishop's Itineration. The diverse group included UMC members from Lovington, NM, Alpine, Ft Stockton, Farwell, and Odessa's Highland and Asbury churches. Pictured in far right photo: dedicated audio-visual board operator, Simon Severance is not only raising up the next generation of disciples, but also AV tech, as daughter Sasha enjoys time with her dad during the meeting.

## The Tale Of Two Worship Centers: Momentum Campaign Is Good Investment

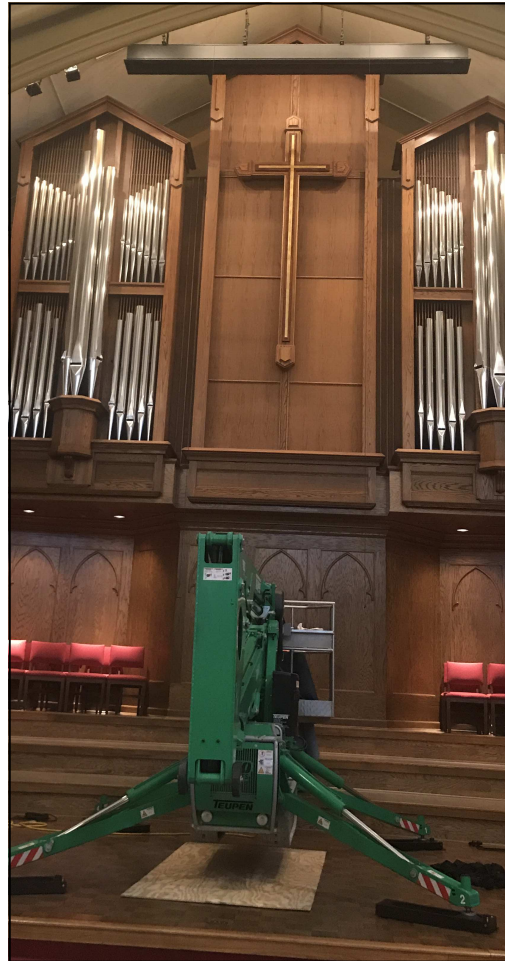


As the three-year Momentum capital fundraising campaign winds up, both campuses of 1st-UMC are realizing the fulfillment of the \$5.3-million goal.

Upgrades to the downtown sanctuary began in mid-October.

The beloved center cross is no longer obscured. A new, smaller video screen and moving the cross up about five feet allows for greater visibility. Former member Jay Stovall created the cross from pews and railings salvaged from the sanctuary fire of 1976.

Other significant upgrades include the lighting and sound systems.



Ryan and Mark Atkins of Atkins Electric work on upgrades to sanctuary.



## College Bible Study Off To Good Start

In his report at the Annual Conference, Outreach Pastor Colin Proft, highlighted the impact of his new small group for college students. Here are comments of one student:

"The Sunday night college bible studies have been a God-send for me. I love the openness of our meetings and the free dinners have been an added plus. I like that we can just sit and voice our thoughts and concerns, and since all of us at the study are college students we can all benefit from each other's questions and inquiries. Colin is always leading us to find our answers in scripture, or at least a scriptural way to find the answers we are looking for. I'm very grateful for these past few Sunday nights of going over the book of Solomon. We dug in that book to help guide us young singles to use as a reference in our dating lives. I could say so much more but, I'm just very thankful for this study group."--Jordan

For info, contact **Colin Proft**  
colin@fumcodessa.org





## Investment For Outreach Mission Of 1st-UMC and The Bridge



The same week that work began downtown, work was being completed at the new campus at 3901 E Yukon, The Bridge. In his report to the Annual Conference, Rev. Donnie Williams stated, "After gathering to worship 266 times in an elementary school gym, we now have a home." These pictures show the crowd of more than 250-people at the 'soft-opening' on Sunday, October 15. **Sunday, November 5** is the official dedication and grand opening of the worship center.

The Bridge uses a multi-purpose area for its worship center, with a spacious, bright sunny foyer providing a welcoming and joyful entry into radical hospitality exuding from worshipers. The multi-purpose Family Life Center is named in honor of long-time 1st-UMC member, Nick Williams. During his lifetime, Nick was very active in all aspects of 1st-UMC and a champion of all things related to our kids.

More information about this exciting new campus is available through [www.thebridgeodessa.org](http://www.thebridgeodessa.org), or Instagram @thebridgeodessa.



CONNECT  
GROW  
SERVE  
GO

## D6: A MOVEMENT, NOT MERELY A CURRICULUM

*There is power in celebrating!*

We celebrate our new pastor, Rev. Todd Salzwedel, as well as being a vital role in launching a new faith community in Odessa, *The Bridge*!

Amidst these movements for Kingdom purposes, family ministries launched with the goal of moving towards *generational discipleship*, a new cultural term for churches.

*We care deeply about every age* and believe that family ministry can accomplish new norms for 1st-UMC. Building a new culture that loves, serves, and values every age can add

more beneficial habits that result in healthy children, teens, adults, and senior adults.

One step moving us in this cultural change is the D6-2Gen Curriculum, being led by 11 adult volunteers to children and youth on Sunday mornings. **This is not merely a curriculum, but a movement to impact not only individual lives but also generations yet to come.**

Praising God, *Pastor Karin, Family Ministries*



*Which five people are investing in you? Which five people are you investing into?*

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

## A Sentimental Spice of Life



The October Spice Of Life was a special time. The traditional meeting date of the third Thursday of the month fell on the same day as the memorial service for Jean Heggemeier. Jean and her late husband, Bill, were founders of the Perky Peers, a monthly out-to-lunch group. Through the years, Perky Peers became Spice Of Life. Two sons and siblings of Jean joined Jean's church family for lunch and time of fellowship. Pictured with Congregational Care Pastor Jody Wallin are son Terry Heggemeier, his wife Cheryl, grandson Jeff Heggemeier and great-grandsons.



**Celebrate Recovery** is a Christian-based recovery program that is based on the eight Principles of Recovery taken from Jesus's eight Beatitudes and from the 12-Step Program. The program is geared to adults, 18 years old or older, and it is designed to work for any Hurt, Hang-up, or Habit.

For more information, please contact Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor, (432) 337-1527.

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



**Like Us!!**

[www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)

## Consecration Sunday November 12

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

worship services

Look for Letter from Pastor Todd  
for Details of this Special Day

**UMW is helping  
Four Corners Native American Ministry!**



Please donate **hats, gloves, mittens & scarves** through November 19th in both services or in the church office.

*Thank you from the United Methodist Women!*



United Methodist




Women



**Sunday November 19**  
**Before & after each service**  
**Main Building & Fellowship Center**



...who Empowers us to make a difference.



### Remembering Our Saints...

Robert Lee Dale, Jr.  
Vesta Poe Ellis  
Jean Heggemeier  
Billie Hill  
Katheryn Howell  
John B. Mason  
Doris Jean Rodolph  
Shelly Diann Weaver  
Rev. David Weyant

United Methodists celebrate All Saints Day on the first Sunday in November.

The candles lit at All Saints Day Worship observances are an acknowledgement that our loved ones in Christ are not gone forever, the light that was lit in their hearts when they came into the family of God continues to shine in the presence of God.

It is with Christian love that nine candles represent our 1st UMC-Odesa saints.



## *Memorials for October*

### **In Memory of Jean Heggemeier**

**Given by**

Jonell & Lonnie Sims

Toni Pettit

Doris Ann White

Rhonda Phillips

Carla & Joe Laughlin

Jonnie & Hugh Williams

Patty & Phillip Godwin

Toni Bryant Manning

Betsy Triplett & Buzz Hurt

Lane Springer

Nancy Dorsey

Lynda & Bill Fowler

### **In Memory of Billie Hill**

**Given by**

Lynda & Bill Fowler



### **Children's Clothes Closet**

**In Memory of**

**Jean Heggemeier**

**Given by**

Robbie & Dan Brazelton

Sue & Buddy McDonald

### **Stephen Ministries**

**In Memory of**

**Jean Heggemeier**

**Given by**

Peggy & Jody Wallin

### **Food Pantry**

**In Memory of**

**Alice McCraw**

**Given by**

Boosters Sunday School Class

### **Momentum Campaign**

**In Memory of**

**Katheryn Howell**

**Given by**

Lynda & Bill Fowler

### **Spice of Life**

**In Memory of**

**Jean Heggemeier**

**Given by**

Sue & Buddy McDonald

### **Sanctuary Choir Fund**

**In Memory of**

**Jean Heggemeier**

**Given by**

Lura & Dick Sivals

The Sunflowers Bible Study

### **In Memory of**

**Patsy Sparkman**

**Given by**

Robbie & Dan Brazelton

### **Honorariums**

**In Honor of**

**Betsy Triplett Hurt**

**Given by**

Grace King



[www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)  
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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.





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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> —3901 E. Yukon
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 **L**ove others, **I**nvite them to join us as we **F**ollow  
Christ, who **E**mpowers us to make a difference.*

## Outreach Opportunities for HOLIDAY HELPERS



### Thanksgiving Baskets for Cavazos

*FUMC will  
provide*

*Thanksgiving care packages to  
families in need at Cavazos  
Elementary.*

*In addition, our Children Center  
workers will also receive care  
packages in appreciation for  
their hard work.*

Will you be one of the *Foster Angels*  
who brightens a  
Foster Child's Christmas?



**Children's Protective Services has  
entrusted to our church the names  
of 50 children.**

**Names will be available Sundays,  
November 12 & 19.**

**Please return your gifts by Sunday,  
November 26.**