

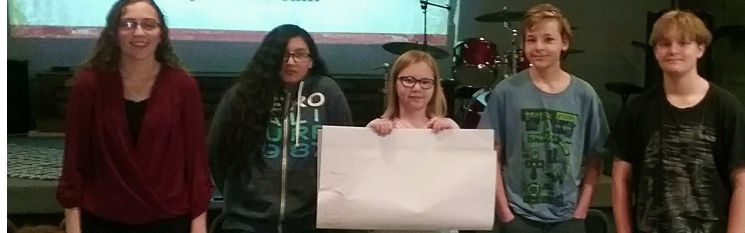
Confirmation: Important Step Forward In Walking With Jesus



2017 Confirmation Class members:

Chase and Mason	Kallan Grewell
Claiborne	Joey and Destin Neal
Garrett and Kyla	Aubrey Nall
Chastain	Brewster Henderson
Claryssa Simmons	Luke Williams
Bryndle and Kanen	
Meinkowsky	

John Wesley's Rule
Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you ever can.



Confirmation for the class of 2017 has just started and we are excited to confirm these 9 students! We have students ranging from 6th grade through 12th. We meet for 2 hours every Sunday where we fellowship with lunch, go through an interactive experience and learn more about our faith. Thanks to Brandi Henderson, Connie and Gabe Grewell for providing lunch for the Confirmands.—Caleb Eckels, Youth Pastor

You've Got Email...from Family Ministry Team@fumcodessa.org

With great anticipation, be on the lookout for an email survey from FUMC's Family Ministry team: Family Ministries Pastor Karin Carlson, Youth Pastor Caleb Eckels, and Children's Pastor April Cole. FUMC wants to partner with parents to help raise your families in the Christian faith.

Luke 2:40-52 is the basis for the overall plan. That's the scripture detailing Jesus's childhood. The Family Ministry team's prayer is to create the same scriptural environments for your family to grow into deeply devoted followers of Jesus.

- A family that practices the Faith together (Luke 2:42).
 - A Community of trustworthy family and friends (Luke 2:44).
 - A Church the whole family can love (Luke 2:49).
- Your answers to the email survey will develop the



Family Ministry mission and vision statements for our children from infancy to college students. There are the usual demographic questions to be answered, such as how many in your household, ages, genders, etc. There are also thought-provoking philosophical questions, such as: What is the most critical need of today's child? Today's family? Today's church? What is the most critical message our church has for Odessa? Other answers are sought to the questions of your interests and concerns about faith sharing, life issues, parenting, and marriage.

As Pastor Karin says in the email survey introduction, "Your feedback and prayers are important. The church has maybe one hour per week with kids. It's not enough! Families and the church can partner together for inter-generational faith development."



What's Going on at Celebrate Recovery for February?

Every Monday - 6:30p.m., Student Ministry Building

February 6

LESSON: - Grace

Principle 6: Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.

"Happy are the merciful." (Matthew 5:7)

"Happy are the peacemakers." (Matthew 5:9)

February 13

Testimony by members of Celebrate Recovery:
Hear a message of hope and courage.

February 20

LESSON: - Crossroads

Principle 7: Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.

February 27

Testimony: Listen to those who choose to admit that they have a hurt, hang-up, or habit, and seek help through our higher power, Jesus Christ.

The United Methodist Women had their monthly meeting in January on the 2nd Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Because of bad weather we had to cancel our Christmas luncheon. So it was rescheduled for January. *This meeting we honored two special ladies that have served in United Methodist Women for many years. **Letha Allen** and **Harriett Berlin** were each presented a gold pin and a Special Missions Recognition Certificate for their service and dedication.*

Celebrate Recovery team leader Marsha Melton gave the program on Celebrate Recovery Program. She explained about how the program works and brought all the components (A Celebrate Recovery Bible, Devotional, Journal, Training material, and the Participants Guides for the Step Studies, and John



Bakers book *Life's Healing Choices*), to show how this program is presented at our church. They spend many hours in training. According to Marsha, "This is a program that can benefit everyone. We all have a hurt, hang-up, or a habit, and through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, He can lift us up. Currently there are 28,000 churches all over the world that have

Celebrate Recovery in them." She commented that she was so glad we are one of them. For the 25th anniversary, Celebrate Recovery teams are even going further and going into communities to help the Veterans, the African Americans, the Native Americans, Sexual Trafficking, and Mental Health. Celebrate Recovery teams are already ministering in the prisons.

"We have this hope..." sets tone for Family Ministries



Karin and April at CPC conference

Anchored Deep is the theme of the Children's Pastor Conference that Family Ministry Pastor Karin Carlson and Children's Pastor April Cole attended in January. *Anchored Deep* comes from Hebrews 6:19, "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain." The conference is sponsored by International Network of Children's Ministry, which is largest independent organization for those seeking ideas and inspiration for family ministries. The week-long conference was in Orlando Florida. April and Karin are looking forward to putting into practice all of the knowledge gained while there.

Wild Game Dinner 2017



Outreach For Men



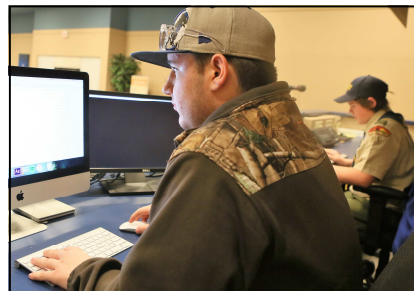
The aroma of quail, deer sausage, and wild pig greeted the attendees of the Men's Wild Game Dinner on January 28. This outreach to men was determined another success as lots of friendly new faces joined with welcoming church members to enjoy a delicious meal. At this outreach event, over 84 men and women attended, 31 volunteers, Boy Scout Troop 91 also helped out.



Brad Watts and Jim Carlson kept the fires going all day to cook the quail and sausages. Russell Kimble orchestrated the meal preparations. Steve Riley and Brad Dyrstad prepare to serve the wild pig. Guest speaker Odessa Mayor David Turner is welcomed by master of ceremonies Craig Van Amburgh



Boy Scout Troop 91 provided much help as servers, audio-visual tech team, and all-round getting the job done.



Church Council: Prayers and Planning For A Smooth Transition

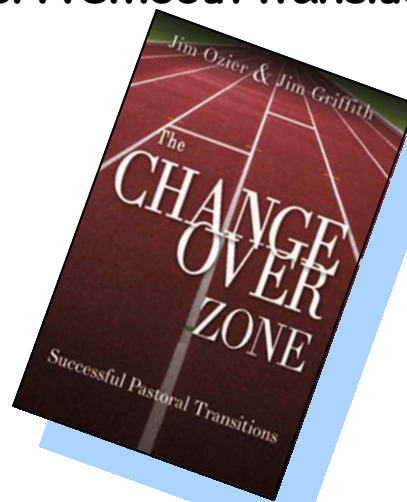
First United Methodist Church **Vision** – *To be a community that welcomes all people into a life-changing relationship with God and others.*

First United Methodist Church **Mission** – *To Love others, Invite them to join us as we Follow Christ, who Empowers us to make a difference.*

Characteristics for New Pastoral Leadership:

- Strong Leadership
- Great Preaching
- Heart for Evangelism/Visionary Growth Orientation
- Spiritual Depth
- Biblical Teaching

John 14:¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.



The January meeting of the Church Council focused on prayer. Staff-Parish Relations Committee chair, Cindy Fowler, reported on a recent meeting with District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Eddie Rivera. She said that Rev. Rivera asked SPRC to be in 'a season of

prayer' as we seek the pastor who will succeed Rev. Terry Tamplen. Prayer cards were distributed in which the desired characteristics are listed for our new pastoral leader:

- **Strong Leadership**
- **Great Preaching**
- **Heart for Evangelism/Visionary Growth Orientation**
- **Spiritual Depth**
- **Biblical Teaching**

The characteristics are a compilation of traits that members of the SPRC believe to be important for our congregation. The cards are to be a prayer guide during the time the New Mexico Conference and North Texas Conference Appointive Cabinets begin to meet in March.

Pastor Terry encouraged the council to read a book by Rev. Jim Griffin, *The Changeover Zone, Successful Pastoral Transitions*. The title refers to the space on a track where relay runners pass the baton from one runner to another. It's an important space and timing procedure to ensure the baton isn't dropped. Terry believes it is an appropriate reading for the transition time our church is facing. Rev. Griffin has been the 'coach' for our church and Pastor Donnie Williams during the creation of The Bridge, our satellite campus.

A CALL TO PRAYER

In Acts 12, Peter, one of the disciples and leaders of the early church, was arrested and King Herod Agrippa planned to kill him. But the church was praying earnestly and God supernaturally delivered Peter to them. God is calling FUMC Odessa to pray intentionally during this month for God to release and deliver to us the kind of pastor/leader for this new season coming up in the life of our congregation.

- ✠ As you look over the information outlined on this page of the Cultivator, please take some time each day this month to begin blessing this new pastor/leader even now.
- ✠ Please pray that God will continue to strengthen FUMC Odessa to be the body of Christ that welcomes all people into life-changing relationships with God and others.
- ✠ Pray that we will continue to love others and invite them to join us as we follow Christ who empowers us to make a difference.
- ✠ God says to us in these days, "Call to me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things you have not known. I am willing and able to do exceeding and abundantly above all that you ask or imagine."

Let us keep on asking, seeking and knocking until we see "Peter" show up here by the power of God for the glory of God! *Pastor Terry*

CONNECT
GROW
SERVE
GO

The Bridge Update: It's Really, Really BIG



The framework for The Bridge is up at the construction site at Grandview and Yukon. As Pastor Donnie Williams says, with a smile, "it's really big and its really exciting to see how God is working to establish the new outreach in north Odessa." Work continues on schedule, with an anticipated move-in scheduled for summer. If you haven't seen the satellite-campus building, it's worth the drive to see our Momentum campaign funds in action. The Bridge continues to meet each Sunday for worship at 10:16 a.m. at LBJ Elementary School, 6401 Amber Drive.



Disciple Fast Track — New Testament For The New Year



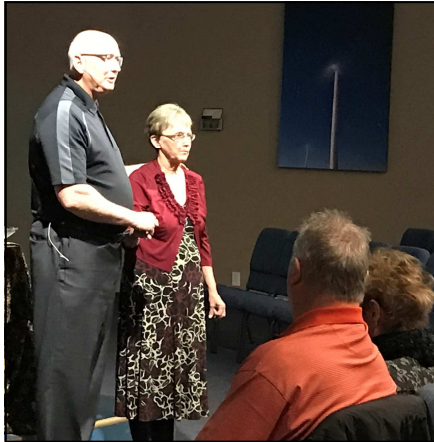
Disciple Fast Track is touted as the ideal comprehensive Bible study for busy people. These two dozen industrious and hardy souls have committed to the 12-week sessions as they work their ways through the New Testament. One group meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and the other group meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Children's Director is Stepping Down



After many years of faithful service to FUMC, Cindy Lewis is stepping down as the Director of the Children's Center. Cindy began her service to FUMC as the Children's Pastor, and was instrumental in starting FUMC's Mother's Day Out program. Then in 2011, she became the Director of the Children's Center. Cindy wants to spend more time with her family, including three grandchildren that she wants to dote on. On **February 12** Cindy will be honored in each service and a love offering will be received.

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



Welcome New Member

Pastor Terry Tamplen welcomes Glenda Harris as our sister-in-Christ after she joined the church, Sunday, January 8 during the Fellowship worship service.



Spice of Life Celebrates



The Spice of Life group last met on Thursday, January 19. We had a very good, home-made lunch compliments of Russell Kimble, Debra and Steve Meador. Beautiful table decorations were compliments of Marsha Melton, and Marlene Moss provided the door prize. Thank you once again to all our volunteers for all the love and work they put into making Spice of Life a wonderful outreach ministry. We are truly blessed.

We also celebrated Mozelle Lowe and Marsha Melton's January birthdays. (See picture.)

The program was given by Jody Wallin. It was based on the recent Presidential Inauguration in that the ceremony has been traditionally deemed,



January birthdays:
Marsha Melton
and Mozelle Lowe

"the peaceful transition of power." Jody talked a little about the various traditions followed every four years in the Inauguration ceremonies, and then tied it to how we can experience "the peaceful transition of power" within our own lives by relying on God and practicing the simple, yet profound saying of: "Let go and let God."

If you are in the 60+ year old category, we invite you to come join us next month. You will enjoy the food and fellowship and be glad you came. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30a.m. – 1:00 p.m..

*Blessings to you all, Jody Wallin,
Congregational Care Pastor*



ECHO youth group has been running strong. We've had great consistent attendance every Wednesday night. We've also been able to enjoy a hockey game, sing carols and give Poinsettias to a few homebound members of FUMC as well as attend the Sandhill Rodeo's Christian youth night!

I am so proud of the community service and presence ECHO and FUMC youth have had in Odessa! Through your support we've been able to impact youth and beyond!

THANK YOU!—Caleb Echols, Youth Pastor.

...who Empowers us to make a difference in our church, our community and our world.

Thank You's From Far And Near

Recipients of the Christmas Eve 2016 offering are grateful for continued support and prayers.

To the First United Methodist Church-Odesa:

We just want to tell you how extremely thankful we are for the offering the church has given Timothy International.

Part of this gift will be used to bring leaders of ministries across the Middle East to a conference we are doing in Jerusalem in 1 week. Some of these leaders are on the front line in Northern Iraq & refugee camps in Turkey and Jordan. These people put their life on the line for the gospel of Jesus Christ. We go in with the team that prays over them, ministers to them personally and take them out of the field of service for a few days of rest and a small retreat. It will be a team of ten, we would appreciate your prayers.

The other part of your gift will enable us to go to Kenya Africa. We are taking a team to help develop an orphan school and a technical training center currently being built in the Masai bush to help equip those who have no education. We have been praying for almost the exact amount of money that you sent.

You have been such a blessing to us over the years. Thank you for your labor, your prayers, and your financial support. Again thanks so much! Blessings,

Rick & Janie Burkhalter
Timothy International



Missionary Brandon Hembree

was home from China during January. Brandon is pictured as he thanked our church during the traditional worship service for its continued support of him and his family. Brandon, his wife, Christine and four children live in Shanghai, China a city of 24 million people.

Brandon says his mission is three-fold: to train Christian preachers, lead a church, and meet visiting foreigners who come to the city. China's government is tolerant of churches, allowing missionaries to exist for the time being. The Hembrees have served in China for six years.

Brandon and Christine are parents of four children Julia, Hudson, Lucas and Justus. Brandon is from Odesa, and calls FUMC-Odesa his church home. He is the son of long time members, Karen and Don Hembree.



Memorials for January

In Memory of
Rev. David Weyant
Given by
Nancy & Gary Sims



In Memory of
Rev. David Weyant
To Samaritans By Grace
Given by
Lynda & Bill Fowler

In Memory of
Doris Rodolph
To Samaritans By Grace
Given by
Lynda & Bill Fowler



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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	Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM	Traditional Worship —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Sunday School, all ages
10:16 AM	The Bridge Worship, —at LBJ Elementary 6401 Amber Dr.
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 **L**ove others, **I**nvite them to join us as we **F**ollow Christ, who **E**mpowers us to make a difference.*

KINGDOMYOUTHCONFERENCE.COM

SEE HEAR BELIEVE SPEAKERS

JOEL BENNETT KEMAL GLASGOW JOSEPH Z.

MUSIC BY

SHON LOCK RYAN JOHNSON BREAD OF LIFE JAVIA VERDE

DATE: 2 / 24 - 25
First Baptist Church
709 N Lee Ave
Odessa TX 79761

info@kingdomyouthconference.com



"Kingdom Youth Conference is the greatest student conference out there because it connects our teens to Jesus and then empowers them to tell others about Jesus. This 2-day event is a missions trip, high energy concert and solid training for students and student leaders with an unforgettable movement all rolled up together!"

Bruce Moore - Christ Fellowship - Tampa FL

Echo Student Ministry will provide a lunch and supper on February 25 to our students.

The costs is \$20 for this 2-Day Youth Conference.

Be at the church by 6:00 pm on Feb 24; 8:00 am on Feb 25.