



CULTIVATOR

Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation
Volume 15, Issue 3
March 2017

Do Good *For Christ* For 40 Days

On March 1, our church joined Christians worldwide in continuing the centuries' long tradition of Ash Wednesday to begin the season of Lent. In an evening worship service in the sanctuary, Pastor Terry Tamplen used ashes to make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead. The imposition of ashes is an outward sign of repentance.

According to the United Methodist Church website, "Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. Today, Christians tend to focus on their relationship with God. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry." umc.org/what-we-believe.

There are many ways to personally acknowledge the season of Lent, with fasting, service, or prayer being the most accepted methods. Many people also give up something for Lent. However, nowadays during Lent a more common practice is for Christians do something for Christ. We are being asked to do something for Christ this year. For the first time, our church is participating in the Christian non-profit organization, Rice Bowls, to provide food for orphans in the name of Christ. The South Carolina-based non-profit organization incorporated in 1985 and since then has provided millions of dollars to alleviate world hunger by affiliating with Christian orphanages in Africa, Central America, India, and the Philippines. More information is available at www.ricebowls.org.

FoundationKids ministry continues to grow, as each Sunday the second story of the main building is filled with the joyful sounds of our Children's Ministry in action. This recent picture captures a young lady enjoying the red icing off a donut during the opening session of Sunday School classes for the children. While the kids enjoy the donuts and activities, their parents are grateful for the Bible-centered curriculum.



The Family Ministry team is evaluating the recent **email survey** sent to church members.

The goal is to design how our church and families can partner together for inter-generational faith development. Your participation in

this survey is another simple act of doing something good *for Christ* during the season of Lent. If you are seeking information for your family for Lent, explore the United Methodist Church website. It's a long web-address, but one filled with excellent family-oriented devotionals for Lent:

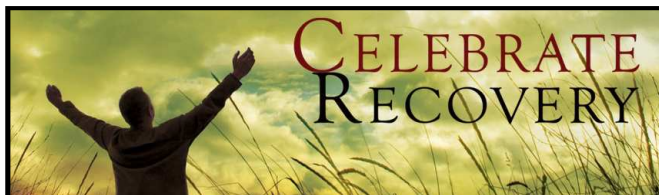
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/2017-family-study-for-lent>



Old-fashioned piggy banks in the shape of rice bowls are being distributed to small groups, Sunday School classes, big kids, little kids, young and old.

Everyone is asked to put their change in a bowl. On Palm Sunday, all of the bowls will be collected and smashed. Then the pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and, perhaps dollar bills will be counted. A check will be written to Rice Bowls, which in turn, sends the money to the orphanages so they can purchase food.

Our existing church outreaches and ministries will be highlighted during Pastor Terry's sermons during Lent. This Lenten season's new outreach is another example of putting our mission statement into action: we exist for **LIFE...to Love** others, Invite them to join us as we **Follow Christ**, who **Empowers** us to make a difference.



What's Going on at Celebrate Recovery for March?

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

- March 6** **Testimony** by members of Celebrate Recovery: Hear a message of Hope and Courage
- March 13** **LESSON: Daily Inventory**
 Step 10: We continue to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
 "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" 1 Corinthians 1
- March 20** **Testimony:** Listen to those who have struggles, and relate them to the struggles that we have.
- March 27** **LESSON: Relapse**
 Step 11: We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and power to carry that out.
 "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly." Colossians 3:16

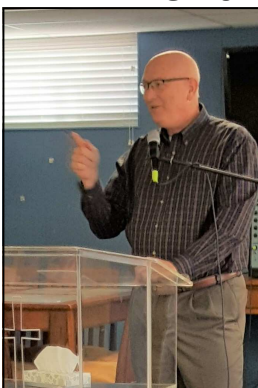
United Methodist Women Enlisted As Mighty Prayer Warriors



Pastor Terry Tamplen was the guest speaker at the February meeting of The United Methodist Women. Pastor Terry's message was titled, "How to Pray For a Miracle"

He began by calling on all the church members for prayers for our new pastor, specifically for a pastor that has a shepherd's heart and a servant's heart. He went on to tell us to be passionate when praying for a miracle, so that our prayers are coming from within.

"You have not, if you ask not," he said. He mentioned that in the downtown area that visibility will always be our challenge. We need leadership to grow. He went on to say that the Conference, (the District Superintendent and Bishop



Pastor Terry is pictured asking UMW to pray for our new pastor.

Earl Bledsoe) are taking a strong interest in finding our new pastor.

Congregational Care Pastor Jody Wallin mentioned for us to be in prayer and all work together toward this journey we are on.

UMW member, Gene Johnson, ended our meeting reading *I Stand By The Door*, by Sam Shoemaker.

I stand by the door.
 I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out.
 The door is the most important door in the world.

It is the door through which men walk when they find God.

The next UMW meeting is **March 9, at 9:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The program is on *God is With Us*.

- Marsha Melton

Next Step On the first Sunday of each month, FUMC will offer a Next Step Class. It is a brief one time only class, that will review the vision, mission, and core values of FUMC. This meeting will give greater clarity about who FUMC is as a congregation and help people to grow and serve as a follower of Jesus Christ as they continue on their faith journey. There will be two classes offered each first Sunday of each month. The first will be immediately following the 9 a.m. worship service in the Church Parlor. The second will immediately follow the 11 a.m. worship service also in the Church Parlor. Each class will last about 30-45 minutes depending on the discussions. Refreshments will be available for each session. Childcare will be provided for the 10 a.m. class. Are you ready for your "Next Step?"

Foundation Kids: Learning To Good For Christ All The Time

The third Sunday of each month, our **Foundation Kids** leave the classroom and put their beliefs into action by helping Samaritans By Grace feed the hungry. Kids are pictured filling the lunch sacks with sandwiches and other food items.

The lower picture shows the children holding hands in prayer with those gathered in Noel Heritage Plaza. The kids then served the lunch sacks and bottles of water.



**Children's Ministry
Parent's Night Out**

**March 10, 2017
6:00—8:30 pm**

RSVP
\$5 per child april@fumcodessa.org



Please bring plastic eggs and candy for the Foundation Kids' Easter Egg Hunt that will take place on Palm Sunday.

Drop them off with Children's Pastor April Cole.

Echo Student Ministry

Check out all of the fun & fellowship at
Echo Student Ministry FaceBook,
TheBoathouse.Grace

Mar 1 Ash Wednesday Fusion Service,
Youth hangout until 8pm

Mar 8 ECHO YOUTH FEAST/nerf gun

Mar 15 NO ECHO—SPRING BREAK

Mar 22 ECHO YOUTH

Mar 29 ECHO YOUTH, Pastor Terry's
Testimony



02/01/2017



(Photos L-R) Having Fun at ECHO Youth group playing Santa's Biggest Beard! Echo students pictured with the band Bread of Stone from Iowa. A few Echo students with rapper Shonlock.

A total of 15 students and 3 adult leaders attended the KINGDOM Youth Conference this past weekend! It was a great experience with music, dancing, worship, speakers and bonding time!



Transitions Within Our Church Family

Congratulations to Karin Carlson and her six year journey to become a minister.

At the February 21 meeting of the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, she was recommended to the Executive Session of the NMAC for Commissioning as Deacon and Provisional Residency membership in our Annual Conference. Karin's commissioning ceremony is set for Friday afternoon, June 2 in Las Cruces, NM.

According to the United Methodist website, "**Deacons** are ordained United Methodist clergy who lead the church in relating Christians to their ministries in the world through worship leadership, preaching, teaching, nurturing spiritual vitality and leading ministries of service, love, and justice.

Deacons are appointed to their places of ministry by the bishop of their episcopal area. The appointment may be initiated by the bishop, the district superintendent, the deacon, or the agency requesting the service of the deacon (full or provisional member). While deacons must have an appointment, they do not itinerate."



Karin serves our church as our Family Ministry pastor. Both she and our Youth and Children's Pastors are pioneering Family Ministries at FUMC. She and our Children's Pastor attended the International Children's Pastors

Conference in Florida in January to "Anchor Deep" for an intentional discipleship focused family ministry. The goal is to develop a multi-generational strategy to accomplish the Great Commission by partnering with parents.

She also serves as the pastor at Mackey Chapel United Methodist Church.



Children's Center has a New Director



Wendy Dancer was named the Director of the Children's Center after Cindy Lewis stepped down at the end of January. She has lived in Odessa most of her adult life. She is blessed with an amazing husband and three wonderful daughters that in turn have given her three beautiful grandchildren, which many of you

know because they also love it here. She began work at First United Methodist in the Mother's Day Out program and as a church nursery teacher in October, 2009. She has served as the nursery coordinator since April, 2013. Wendy became the preschool teacher for the Children's Center in 2013. From there she became the teacher specialist, assistant director, and now holds the current position of director. Wendy said "I always knew God had more for me but knew without a doubt that it would be at this church. I will carry on the vision and legacy that Cindy Lewis had for the Children's Center since it was first opened, while still bringing my own ideas on how to serve the children and parents in our care. My hope is to help build relationships between the Children's Center and this church so that the parents and staff may also know what a truly wonderful church we have while still maintaining the top quality care that the Children's Center has become known. I am so grateful for all the opportunities that First United Methodist has given me. I feel like it is not just a church but a community full of people I can think of as family."



Odessa Ministerial Alliance
Lenten Luncheon Series 2017
Theme: Perspectives on the Cross



Mar 8 St James Missionary Baptist Church, 2212 East 11th

Speaker Larry Hood, Lutheran Church of the Risen Lord
 Character Peter

Mar 15 Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4901 Maple Avenue

Speaker Rev. Buddy Monahan, Westminster Presbyterian Church
 Character Simon of Cyrene

Mar 22 Bethany Christian Church, 4522 N. Everglade Avenue

Speaker Rev. Andrew Arp, First Church of the Nazarene
 Character Judas Iscariot

Mar 29 Refugee Ministries, 1211 E 57th Street

Speaker Yolanda Fish, Odessa Ministerial Alliance President
 Character Mary Magdalene

Apr 5 All People Worship Center, 2000 W. University Blvd

Speaker Rev. Greg Morris, Bethany Christian Church
 Character Disciple on the Road to Emmaus

Apr 12 Highland United Methodist Church

Speaker Rev. Christopher Hagger, All People Worship Center
 Character Roman Soldiers

Suggested donation for meal \$6.00 per person
Schedule: Lunch 11:15 a.m. – Noon
Worship 12:05 – 12:45 p.m.

FUMC-Odessa Holy Week Services

April 9—9am & 11 am Palm Sunday

Foundation Kids Singing, Confirmation Service,
 Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.

April 13—6pm Maundy Thursday Service

Entering The Upper Room - Fellowship Center

April 14—6pm Good Friday Service

Service Of Darkness, dramatization - Sanctuary

April 16 Resurrection Sunday

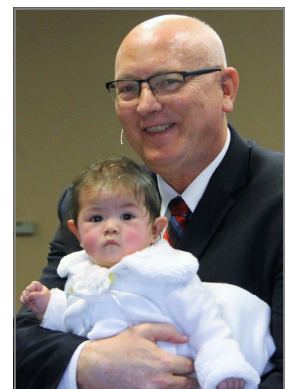
9am—Sanctuary Choir and Lone Star Brass, Sanctuary
 11am—Praise Band, Fellowship Center

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



Welcome New Members

Pastor Terry Tamplen welcomes **Cherie and Leldon Hensley** as they joined our church during the traditional worship service on February 12.



Pastor Terry welcomes Noemi and Luciano Rodriguez as they joined our church during the Fellowship service on February 12. Daughter Kacy was, also, baptized during the service. Noemi's parents were in Odessa from the Philippines to enjoy the celebration.



Loralyn Joy Massey

February 7, 2017, 5lbs 2oz.

Proud Parents are Jessica & Waylon Massey
Proud Grandparents are Shari & Michael Santorelli

Cherell Bivins was Baptized in the Contemporary Worship Service on February 26. She has two children, Allyson who is 4 years, and Kaison who is 7 years.



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

Troop 91 Presides Over Traditional Worship Service On Boy Scout Sunday



The bright, eager, and ever so polite members of Troop 91 did an outstanding job on Boy Scout Sunday. They were greeters, lay reader, ushers, and communion servers. Our church chartered Troop 91 April 26, 2011 years ago. Three of its members are now Eagle Scouts. Ten of the young men are working hard to fundraise money to attend the National Scout Jamboree in July in West Virginia .

Memorials for February

In Memory of
Marcy Russell
Given by
The Challengers Class

In Memory of
Donald Ray Mahan
Given by
The Builders Class

Children's Clothes Closet

In Memory of
Marcy Russell
Given by
Wednesday Night Ladies
Bible Study

In Memory of
Rev. David Weyant
Given by
Marsha & Dee Melton

In Memory of
Eria Mae Hansen
Given by
The Wesley Class



Deepest Sympathy

To Anne and Clyde
Shugart,
for the loss of Anne's
mother
Marcy Russell

To Hylance Golden
Mahan,
for the loss of her
husband
Donald R. Mahan, Sr.

The friends and family
of **Eria Mae Hansen**



To Mary Jane & Beau
Wright,
for the loss of Beau's
brother
Mike Short

To Glenda Harris,
Christi Simmons,
Claryssa & Samuel,
and the Chastain family
for the loss of Glenda's
husband
Jerry Harris

To Fae Jones
for the loss of her
grandson
Mark Jones, II





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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."

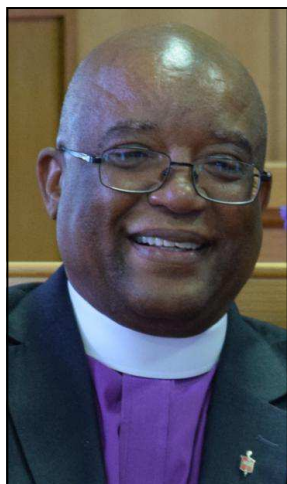
The *CULTIVATOR* is a monthly publication whose exclusive purpose is to help FUMC-Odessa accomplish its Mission by communicating and "cultivating" the presence of Christ in the lives of this congregation.

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.*

Save The Date To Meet Our Bishop: MARCH 19



Our church will be blessed with a sermon given by **Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe on Sunday, March 19 at 9am & 11am.** He was born in Marlin, Texas. He graduated from Levelland High and from South Plains College (Levelland, Texas) with an A.A. degree; West Texas State University with a B.A. degree in English and Spanish; the M.Div. degree from Perkins School of Theology/SMU, where he was a Benjamin E. Mays Scholar. He earned the Doctor of Ministry degree at Drew University. He was ordained deacon in 1983 by Bishop Finis A. Crutchfield, and elder in 1987 by Bishop Benjamin R. Oliphint in the Texas Conference. Earl Bledsoe was the first elected to the episcopacy in July 2008 at the South Central Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Dallas Area. He is currently assigned as episcopal leader of the New Mexico/Northwest Texas Annual Conferences, headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Earl enjoys fishing, hunting, reading, technology, and traveling with family.

On April 6, 1985, Leslie Jean Bray and Wilbert Earl Bledsoe were married. Leslie is a licensed social worker and is totally blind. Together they have six adult children: Gregory Earl, Erika Yvette, Felicia Renee, Roderick Lynn, Erik Jada, and Letitia Gail. They also have 12 grandchildren: Broderick Rashad, Amanda Grace, Gregory Earl Jr., Nicholas, Jasmine, Randy Jr., Alexis, Hannah Gabriel (deceased), Sara, Lindsay, Christopher, and Abigail, and two great-grandchildren: Aiden Devon and Khia Renee.