

## Prayers Answered In Search For New Senior Pastor

On March 10, Staff-Parish Relations Committee chair, Cindy Fowler received news that Rev. Todd Salzwedel (pronounced Sahlz-wee-duhl) has been appointed to our church.

According to retiring senior pastor Terry Tamplen, we have witnessed the grace and power of a beautiful prayer circle in this appointment. God placed the desire in our hearts to pray specifically for the kind of pastor whom we believed we needed to continue our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. We asked God to empower the appointive cabinet to do the same. The Holy Spirit prayed our prayers of faith to Jesus who lives to make intercession for us, and Jesus prayed his strong prayers to the Father who answered us with Todd and his lovely family. "I feel such a great joy and peace in knowing that I am 'handing off' my position as lead pastor to such a capable,

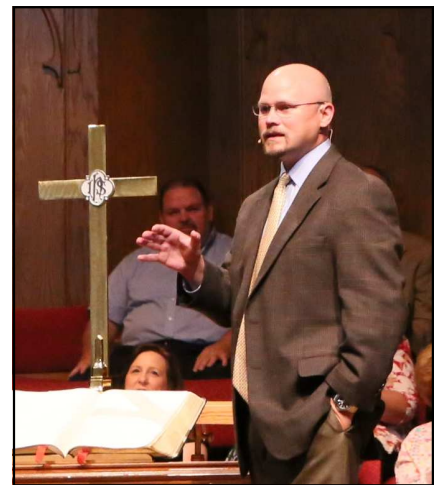


The Salzwedels: Todd, Alice, Braeden, and Paegge

considerate, and compassionate young man as Todd Salzwedel. All praises to God who has once again, 'shown up and shown off', with his faithfulness and goodness to this wonderful congregation of Christ followers... to God be the glory!"

Pastor Todd currently serves as Senior Pastor at St. Stephen's UMC in Albuquerque, NM. His wife, Alice, is a school

teacher. Todd and Alice have been married for more than 16 years, and have two wonderful children, Braeden, 13, and Paegge, who is 8. Todd and Alice have served together in a number of settings and circumstances. They have worked together in youth ministry, served a church in southern Oklahoma while Todd attended seminary at Perkins in Dallas. In addition, they have served various churches in Albuquerque where both of their families currently reside. They are eager to join their new family in Christ in Odessa!



These file photos from July 8, 2012, show Rev. Terry Tamplen greeting Rev. Todd Salzwedel as one of the speakers for the Oil Patch Summer Heat sermon series. In his remarks to us at that time, Pastor Todd linked "generosity with discipleship, and discipleship with relationships. Relationships with each other and with God."

## Come Join A Fond Farewell For The Tamplens



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March 27, 2017

Hello Everyone!

As most of you know, Pastor Terry is retiring and his last sermon will be on April 30. We have chosen that day to have a celebration honoring Pastor Terry and Vicki for their service here at First United Methodist Church Odessa. The following is the information you need to know about this celebration:

1. April 30<sup>th</sup> the worship service will begin at 10:00am. Immediately following the service, we will have a Pot Luck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a special presentation around 12:30pm, so you don't want to miss that!
2. Since it is Pot Luck Luncheon, we need your help with the food. If your last name begins with:  
 A thru D: Please bring a salad/side dish.  
 E thru R: Please bring a main course dish. Such as fried chicken, brisket, or a casserole with meat.  
 S thru Z: Please bring a dessert.

Bring your dish to the Fellowship Hall kitchen before you go to the service. There will be people there to take your dish. Please make sure your dish will serve 10-12 people, and bring it in disposable container.

3. Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am we will set up and decorate the Fellowship Hall and dining room. All volunteers are appreciated and it should only take a couple of hours. We will need help on Sunday morning with making tea and coffee, receiving food that people bring, assisting the handicapped, assisting in the kitchen and serving tables, and clean up afterwards. When everybody does a little, a lot gets done. Contact me to help:

Barbara Browning at 432-528-1118 or email me at [barbbrowning@cablone.net](mailto:barbbrowning@cablone.net)

A basket will be provided at the luncheon for you to bring personal cards for the Tamplens.

Well, I think that about covers it. I want to thank each of you in advance for your help in making this celebration a wonderful and memorable experience for Pastor Terry and Vicki. We have been so blessed to have them both here in our church for the past 14 years and we want to extend God's peace, joy and blessings for their future.

In God's Love,  
Barbara Browning, Church Council Chair





**Please bring plastic eggs and candy for the Foundation Kids' Easter Egg Hunt. Bring to the church by Sunday, April 2. Easter Egg Hunt is 10am Palm Sunday, April 9. Thank you for supporting our kids.**



Melanie Limuel with kids

### **WELCOME NEW NURSERY**

**COORDINATOR: Melanie Limuel** is my name and children are my game! I have worked in child care for over six years and I am pleased to be part of the lives here at First United Methodist. Originally from Austin, I moved to Odessa this past July. Back home in Austin, at my home church, I was involved with the youth department teaching Sunday School, developing youth groups, and praise dancing. I believe my purpose in life is to make a positive impact on children as they grow and God placing me in the path of this church is truly a blessing!

I am eager to see the great things that are in store here at FUMC-Odessa.



Acolytes Declan and Sloane Henderson are coached by Children's Pastor April Cole as they prepare to light the altar candles on March 19. Foundation Kids now serve as acolytes for the Traditional worship service and the Fellowship worship service. Ten Foundation Kids have gone through Acolyte training and rotate serving. If your child is in 1st through 5th grade and would like to participate, please contact April Cole.



Traditional Service

Twenty youth served as a musicians, liturgists, Scripture readers and greeters on Sunday, March 26. John Michael, Perry, Kallan, Luke, Jemima, Chase, Mason, Aubrey, Kanen, Bryndle, Destin, Luke, Garret, Kylah, Claryssa, Cameron, Aliyah, Weston, Brewster and Jordan.



Fellowship Service

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

**April 5 — Hot dogs & S'Mores at  
Ratliff Ranch**



## Bishop Bledsoe Inspires Our Church



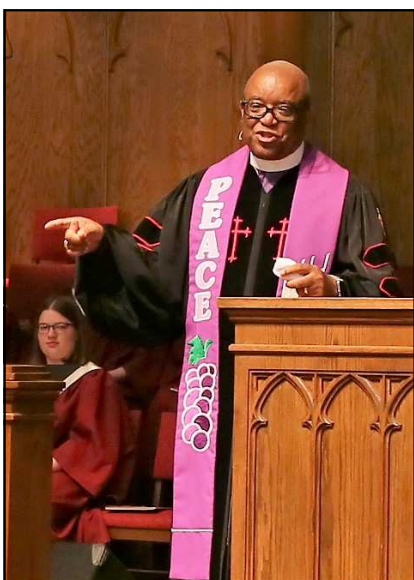
The Fellowship worship service greeted Bishop Bledsoe with a warm reception and lively music. His powerful message of breaking away from vicious cycles resonated with all of our congregations.

Bishop Earl Bledsoe's first visit to FUMC-Odessa was a busy time. The day began with an inspiring sermon at the Traditional worship service.

His visit on March 19 coincided with Pastor Terry Tamplen's birthday.

He honored Terry's birthday wish by joining Terry in serving communion to his flock.

After the 9:00 service, Rev. Bledsoe rushed to join Pastor Karin Carlson at Mackey Chapel-UMC.





**April 9—9am & 11 am Palm Sunday**

Foundation Kids Choir  
 Youth Confirmation Service  
 Gathering of Rice Bowls  
 Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.

**April 13—6pm Maundy Thursday Service**

Entering The Upper Room *Fellowship Center*  
 Bringing Communion To Life

**April 14—6pm Good Friday Service**

Tennebra Service - *Sanctuary*  
 Musical and Drama collaboration with  
 Sanctuary Choir and Odessa College



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

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

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

## Welcome New Members



Carl Murdoch, Mary Ann Miles, and her daughter Marla Miles joined our congregation on Sunday, March 12.

Peggy and Ken Dean joined FUMC through transfer of their membership on March 26, 2017 in the Traditional Service.



**Next Step** Long-time church member Mary Blain poses with new members Allison and Mathew Santiago during the once-a-month NEXT STEP session. The brief class provides an overview of our vision, mission, and core values of FUMC-Odessa. Two classes are offered the first Sunday of each month.  
**Are you ready for your "Next Step?"**

**T**his month's program was *God Is with Us* -- A story by Marsha Melton. A story of how God is with each of us every second of every day; from the time we are born, even before. Quoting Rick Warren, "He picks our DNA." No matter how bad life is, no matter how good life is. Whether we make good choices or bad choices... God is With Us. Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." The central theme of the Bible is God is With Us. Isaiah 7:14.

The next UMW meeting is April 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be on Teen Court by Tammy Hawkins.



Friendship, faithfulness, and quality time with inspiring women are the side benefits of UMW membership.



Table decorations created by members set the loving atmosphere for each meeting. The season of Lent was represented by a cross and candles.



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



### Spice of Life

The Spice of Life group last met on Thursday, March 16, 2017. Russell and Beverly Kimble provided us with a delicious home-made meal. Marsha Melton provided the beautiful table decorations, and Marlene Moss provided the door prize. We are so blessed by all of our volunteers that work so hard to make Spice of Life a wonderful outreach ministry.

We also celebrated Ms. Daisy George's March birthday. (See picture.) The program was given by Jody Wallin and it was based on the traditions behind St. Patrick's day.

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 always meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Blessings to you all,

Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor



### Holy Baptism



June Marie Emerson, infant daughter of Lee and Brett Emerson, and sister to Charles and Forrest, was Baptized on March 26 by Pastor Terry Tamplen in the Traditional Service. She is pictured here surrounded by her loving family and Pastor Terry Tamplen.

### Memorials, as of March 24

In Memory of  
**Charles Mark Jones, Jr.**

Given by  
The Builders Class

#### The Bridge Building Fund

In Memory of  
**Bill Alexander**

Given by  
Lynda & Bill Fowler

#### Children's Clothes Closet

In Memory of  
**Marcy Russell**

Given by  
Shonna & Jim Harper

### Deepest Sympathy

To Doris Mason  
for the loss of her husband,  
**John Mason**

To Kelly & Adam Allgood, Lexi & Allie  
for the loss of Adam's step-father  
**Vernon Chism**  
for the loss of Adam's step-grandfather  
**Charles Chism**





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



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

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

**April 3**     **Testimony:** To hear stories that relate to struggles in your life.

**April 10**     **LESSON: Gratitude**

**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.

**April 17**     **Testimony:** To help us realize that we all have a hurt, hang-up or a habit. That we all can benefit by seeking Gods help.

**April 24**     **LESSON: Give**

**Principle 8:** Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.

"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires"

—Matthew 5:10