

The Shepherd Serves His Flock, One Last Time



Calling each person by name, Pastor Terry Tamplen served communion bread to everyone attending his final worship service for our church, April 30. He urged us to continue to "make a splash" in the name of Jesus Christ.



Favorite hymns, joyful music, a sentimental communion, and the symbolic passing of the baton created a powerful and spirit-filled final worship service for retiring senior pastor Terry Tamplen on April 30, 2017. The Traditional sanctuary choir blended beautifully with the Fellowship praise band, which represented the best of the two worship services conducted by Pastor Terry every Sunday.



Friends since seminary college, Rev. Arthur Raj traveled from India to attend the celebration. Arthur thanked our church for our sustaining support. To end the service, Pastor Terry handed a relay-race baton to Family Ministry Pastor Karin Carlson. Karin will serve as interim lead pastor until the conference-appointed senior pastor Rev. Todd Salzwedel arrives in July.

An old-fashioned potluck luncheon followed the worship service.
Please enjoy the fun pictures of that event on the FUMC-Odessa FaceBook page, www.fumcodessa.org.



Terry Tamplen,
Senior Pastor
125th Anniversary Celebration
November 2015

A Big Thank You!

Dear friends,

The mantra I most often quote is, "The Best Use of Life is Love, The Best Expression of Love is Time, and The Best Time to Love is Now!" Perhaps one of the greatest truths I have discovered over and over again in my 32 years of pastoral ministry is this: people spell love, t-i-m-e.

The Bible has at least two words

What am I saying? The for time. One is chronos which is where we get our word chronology. It is the second to second, minute to minute, hour to hour, day to day, kind of time. The other word is kairos and that's the kind of time I'm talking about here. It is God's time – it happens mostly when we're not absorbed with the past or consumed with the future, but when we choose to give our undivided attention to something or more especially someone in the here and now. Jesus made time for all people. He made time to turn water into wine for a young couple whose wine ran out. He made time to heal the sick, to bless the children, to feed the multitudes, to have lunch with a "wee little man" who was despised by others. He made time to write on the ground when a woman was about to be stoned and he made time to visit with a thirsty Samaritan woman by a well. He made time to teach, he made time to raise the dead, he made time to pray, to walk on water and to still the storm. Jesus turned chronos into kairos wherever he was and if his lifetime wasn't sufficient to convince us that God loved us, Jesus made time to die for us. "He who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us, that we might truly live!" The resurrected Christ made time to restore and renew his followers and to send them out "as the Father sent me, so I send you" to make kairos t-i-m-e with people who are longing to be loved and to find hope in this time limited world.



Vicki and I will always be thankful for the wonderful "t-i-m-e" we have shared over the past 14 years. With you we have experienced God's love and shared God's love in radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. We have all seen God make a difference in our lives as we have loved and invited others to join us, as we follow Jesus the Christ, who empowers us to love in the now of t-i-m-e. To God be the glory!

Thank you to everyone who was able to come from FUMC, The Bridge, Mackey Chapel and beyond and make Sunday, April 30, another God t-i-m-e for our family to spend with you. Thank you Church Council and everyone who helped to plan and prepare for Sunday's celebration, we felt your love so strong. Thank you to all of our staff for all the ways you led so well and for the lovely altar flowers. Thank you FUMC for your extravagant generosity in your love offering and cards.



Thank you for the bound copies of the *Cultivator* that will always hold the tangible reminders of God's grace among us for 14 years. Thank you for every encouraging word, smile, hug and gesture that you shared. Thank you for so many sweet gifts and blessings. Thank you for

being you and being Jesus to us once again as you have for so long. We love you so much! Thank you for your faithful and supportive love.

Now, may we as disciples of Jesus Christ, always know the joy of God's presence each and every day – in both receiving and giving the greatest, most precious gift of all – t-i-m-e.

Until next t-i-m-e, Pastor Terry



Doing Good For Christ For 40 Days Of Lent = Living Our Mission

Thank You, Church! for choosing to be a small part of something big. We accepted the challenge of doing good for Christ for the 40 Days of Lent. Our first effort was on March 1: the offering from the Ash Wednesday worship service of \$1,042 was given to the local Jesus House to provide food for the hungry.

Our second effort reached around the world as rice bowl-shaped piggy banks were taken by church members— young and old —during the Lenten season, with the quest of “filling a bowl to fight hunger.” The rice bowls were smashed open by our Youth and Disciple Study class on Holy Wednesday.

We collectively gathered \$2,988.25 which equals 8,964 meals that the Rice Bowls organization will use to provide meals to children in Christian-based orphanages in 8 countries. More information about this project is at www.ricebowls.org.



Praise Songs, Prayers And Scriptures Undergird The Bridge



After being delayed a week due to lots of rain creating a muddy parking area, high winds could not keep members of FUMC and The Bridge from gathering at The Bridge on Palm Sunday afternoon. Praise songs began the special time, followed by prayers being said in what will be the Kids Area, the Common Area and the worship area. After that, each person was given a marker to write their favorite Scripture on particular places of the floor or the walls. When the building is completed, the scriptures will be hidden by flooring and sheetrock. Never the less, the Scriptures and prayers will remain part of the foundation of the building at Yukon and Grandview. The pictures show Larry Hackleman writing “Love one another” on the floor: Cade Geisler watching Charlie White and his brother, Braxton as Braxton writes on the floor. Stephani Sheen and her son, Davis, signing off on Scriptures from Isaiah 41, “Fear not, for I am with you always.” and Acts 17, “For I know the plans I have for you.”

The Bridge pastor Donnie Williams invited everyone to write on the floor and walls and, of course, prayers are always welcome. Plans are for The Bridge to open the new facility in July.

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2017



On Palm Sunday, these 13 Confirmands were asked by Youth Pastor Caleb Eckel, "According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?" They unanimously answered, "Yes!" (L-R) Chase Claiborne, Mason Claiborne, Aubrey Nall, Brewster Henderson, Kallan Grewell, Rev. Terry Tamplen, Kyla Chastain, Bryndle Meinkowsky, James Chastain, Destin Neal, Joseph Neal, Caleb Eckel, Lucas Williams, Trace Meinkowsky, Claryssa Simmons. James, Kyla, Kallan and Brewster were also baptized.



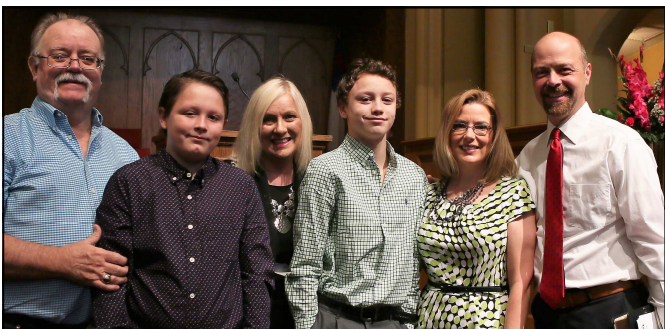
Mason and Chase Claiborne with parents, Robert and Sandy



Kallan Grewell with parents Connie and Gabe, brother Perry, granddad Charlie Grewell



Kyla and James Chastain with Grandmother, Glenda Harris



Destin and Joseph Neal with parents Kimberly and Ronnie



Brewster Henderson's parents Trey and Brandi and siblings Sloane and Declan



Aubrey Nall with parents Kyrsten & William, siblings Connor and Evan



Bryndle and Kanen Meinkowsky with mother, Renee Meinkowsky



Claryssa Simmons with parents Christi and Samuel Simmons



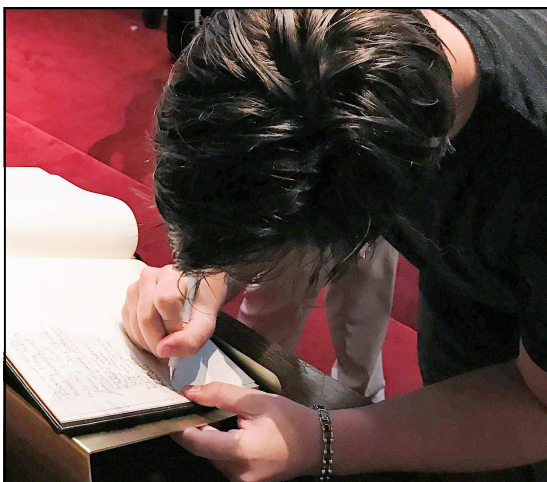
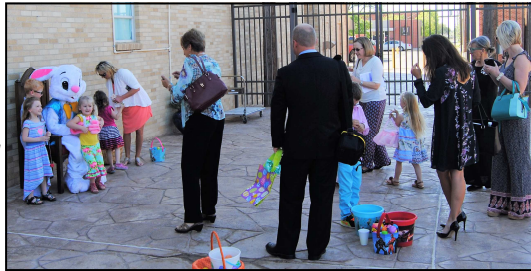
Luke Williams with parents Kelli and Joe and sister, Marlee

Many Activities Celebrate A Joyful Palm Sunday



The Foundation Kids enriched the Traditional and Fellowship worship services by waving palm branches as they processed into each service.

The kids sang "*Hosanna, loud Hosanna and Here Is our King.*" The Foundation Kids also got to show off just a tad as they amazed the congregation by citing all of the books of the Bible from memory. In between the 9:00 service and the 11:00 service, a fast and fun Easter Egg Hunt provided lots of entertainment and treats for this group of children involved in our Family Ministry. The ever-popular Easter Bunny provided the perfect photo opportunity for well-dressed kids and parents.



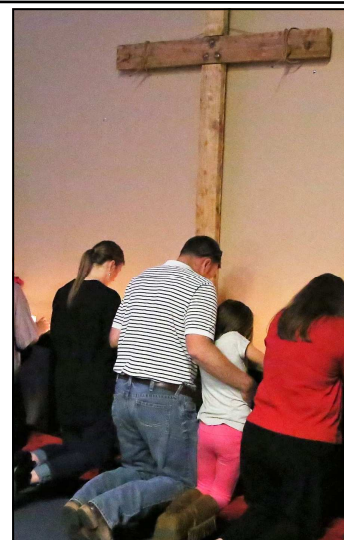
Adding his name to the church Bible: Brewster Henderson, Kallan Grewell, Kylah Chastain and James Chastain were baptized on Palm Sunday. As is

customary with new members, Brewster is pictured writing his name in the sanctuary Bible that is on the altar. Everyone then enjoyed the reception given in honor of the Confirmands.

Entering The Upper Room On Maundy Thursday...

Maundy Thursday is so-named because 'Maundy' means 'command' in Latin.

It was during His last supper with his disciples in the Upper Room that Jesus gave them the great command to 'love one another.'



The Fellowship Center became "Our Upper Room." Many candles, thoughtful songs and readings created a worship service reflecting the elements of the last supper. People participated at stations for communion, hand-washing, individual prayer and intercessory prayer.

The spiritually powerful **Good Friday** worship service was an infusion of the best of the sanctuary choir, the praise band, Odessa College choir students, and congregational members. Scriptures were brought to life by vivid readings, all focused on the events of Good Friday.



Good Friday Brought To Life



The symbolism of darkness at the death of Jesus is represented by the altar at the end of the worship service on Good Friday. The altar is represented by the unveiling of the flower-adorned cross.



Glorious Light Of Resurrection Sunday



presented by removing the cross and candles from day. The symbolic transition from darkness to light is shown at the beginning of worship on Resurrection Sunday.



It was most appropriate that sunshine poured through the sanctuary windows, highlighting the stained-glass creation of the empty tomb. Resurrection Sunday was celebrated with joyful music, baptisms, lilies, and the positive message from "Get Your Hopes Up" sermons.

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



What's Going on at Celebrate Recovery for MAY?

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

MAY 1 TESTIMONY: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is: Love our neighbor as yourself."

This is also FUMC's Celebrate Recovery 4th year anniversary. Come and celebrate with us.

MAY 8 LESSON: YES

Step 12: Having a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you may be tempted." Galatians 6:1

MAY 15 TESTIMONY: Listen to those who have come to Celebrate Recovery

MAY 22 LESSON: SEVEN REASONS WE GET STUCK

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:25

MAY 29 TESTIMONY: Listen to the many that are Growing in Christ While Helping Others.

On June 5th we will begin our fifth year. We will be starting with our first lesson on Denial. This would be a good time to start **your** recovery.

We all have a hurt, a hang-up, or a habit.

Learn how letting God in your life can change your life. God Bless



The program for April's UMW was about Teen Court given by FUMC-member, Tammy Hawkins who is over the Teen Court program-- this

program allows a youth who has a case deferred to Ector County Teen Court appear before a jury of peers and received a constructive sentence. Tammy explained the steps involved when teens have drug and alcohol issues. The students who are brought before a jury of their peers range from ages to 13-18.

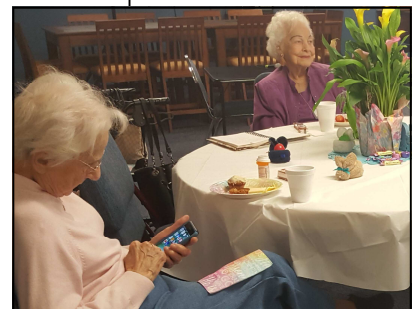
The age of those needing guidance is getting younger. Tammy said, "parents need to say 'no.' It's ok to fail, and you have to be accountable." She went on to say that the students need to think on their own, and that electronic devices seem to be a problem. Speeding and getting a traffic ticket is also a big issue.

Each offender gets community service for any violation. Each offender also has



to do jury duty at the Municipal Court, also.

It opened our eyes as to what challenges parents face raising children today. Abuse and neglect are also a big factor. Teen Court meets every Monday night. The District Judges are big supporters of this program. Tammy has been there 24 years and says that there are lots of success stories.



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



Parent's Night Out

Taking a break for the summer, will resume in September

SIGN UP NOW!

VBS 2017: JUNE 5 - 9

Six more adult volunteers are needed to help out during the days of VBS. Please contact April as soon as possible. April@fumcodessa.org

MISSION ARLINGTON

Calling all 4th & 5th graders!!

We will be taking a short mission trip to Mission Arlington June 13th-16th! Cost is \$125. A \$25 nonrefundable deposit is due by May 7th and the remainder can be paid out however you wish as long as the full amount is paid no later than June 11th. This is a great opportunity for you to do something with an eternal impact during the summer. If you have any questions, please contact April Cole at the church office. 432.337.1527

Stock Sales for Summer Camp and Mission Trips

During the week of May 15th many of the students in our Echo Youth group will be participating in the yearly Stock Sales. Stock Sales is a fundraising event by the youth to help pay for Summer camp and Mission trips. Each student will be calling church members and asking them to buy "stock in their trips." This is a wonderful way to invest in our youth

and support their spiritual growth. You will be mailed a stock certificate as a token of your participation and can mail in your donation or make a payment in the "online giving" section of our website at www.fumcodessa.org.

So please be on the look out for these important phone calls from the Echo Youth group!



RITMO YOUTH CONFERENCE camp at Sacramento is June 19-23. It is not just about getting away for fun. It is about growing in the Lord. Some of the most important and life changing decisions in people's lives have been made at camp. Memories will be made that last a lifetime.



OSAGE NATION YOUTH

MISSION trip will be from July 2-7. A team of 20 youth will participate. While on the Native American reservation those on the trip will be painting houses, doing yard work and running a VBS program for the local children. The students will experience learning about a new culture and serving God while growing closer together.

Holy Baptisms



Loralyn Massey is surrounded by her loving family after she was baptized Easter Sunday. Proud parents are Jessica & Waylon, siblings Dustin & Emmalyn. Grandparents Shari & Michael Santorelli.



Saydigrace and Preslee Wood, daughters of Heather & Jason Wood were baptized on April 23 during the 11 am worship service. Grandparents are Peggy & Jody Wallin.



The Spice of Life group met on Thursday, April 20, 2017. Russell Kimble, Debra Meador and Steve Meador made us a wonderful meal. Marsha Melton provided beautiful table decorations, and Marlene

Moss provided a beautiful hand-made cross for the door prize. Our many volunteers work so hard and do a beautiful job in making "Spice of Life" a wonderful outreach ministry. Thank you all so much!

We celebrated April birthday. (*See top photo*) The program was given by Jody Wallin, and it was based on the theme, "He is Risen!"

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.

Blessings to you all,
Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor



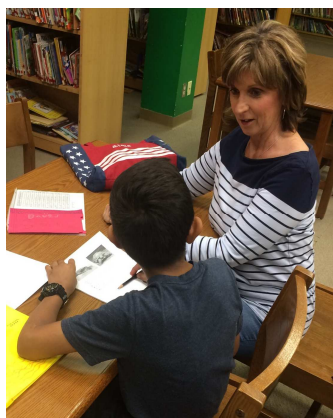
A joyful Happy Birthday was celebrated by 98-year old Eddie Guilbeau at the April Spice of Life luncheon. Russell Kimble, also an April b'day boy, joins Jody Wallin and Eddie.



Some of the fun of Spice of Life comes from faithful helpers Steve and Debra Meador and great cook Russell Kimble. They are great examples of living our mission statement by loving others and making a difference in our church and our community.



KIDsHope ECISD Recognition



FUMC was recognized by ECISD at the Volunteer and Partners Awards Celebration on April 17. The theme was "Make Your Mark" from the book "The Dot." for our members who mentor students at Cavazos Elementary. FUMC has 12 volunteer mentors who spend one hour a week with a student.

Nancy Sims is pictured above with her student.



United Methodist Women
Invites all Women!
Sunday May 14th
10:00am-11:00am
Church Parlor



First United Methodist Church Family,
I would like to start off by saying how grateful we are to be a part of such a close Christ-driven family church, First United Methodist of Odessa. We have been beyond blessed as members, with employment, and friendships that have grown over these several years. We feel the love, support, and prayers from all of you.

The church services to honor Cindy were absolutely heart-stirring. You all have always extended a helping hand in any time of need. Your generous love offering has indeed helped our family plan for and prepare for the months to come for Cindy. In times like this, we identify the true unknowns but one thing is for certain, we know our God is an awesome God! He has a great plan and we have faith in Him.

God bless you all. I will end with a verse from Cindy's new favorite song by Mercy me. "You've been faithful, you've been good. All of my days, Jesus, I will cling to you come what may 'cause I know you are able, I know you can."

We love you all,
Cindy Lewis and the entire family

Memorials for April

In Memory of John B. Mason

Given by
Glenda Adams
Kay Bramley
Doug Bramley

Barbara & Rick Browning
Martha & Paul Crump
Lynda & Bill Fowler
Phillip & Patty Godwin
Jim & Caroline Ater Howard
Grace King
Gloria & LaDoyce Lambert
Janet Lawrence
Sue & Buddy McDonald
Lura & Dick Sivals
West Texas Dermatology Center
Kay & Doug Whitefield
Suzy & Matt Wiggins

Samaritans By Grace

In Memory of
John B. Mason
Given by
Nancy Spano

Children's Clothes Closet

In Memory of
John B. Mason
Given by
Marsha & Dee Melton
Doris McElmurry
Julie & Jim Brown
Robbie & Dan Brazelton

Honorarium
In Honor of
Terry & Vicki Tamplen
Given by
Dana & Michael Ashton

Deepest Sympathy

To Wanda Chenault & Marvin Hamby, Jr
for the loss of Marvin's sister,
Margaret Montague



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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."

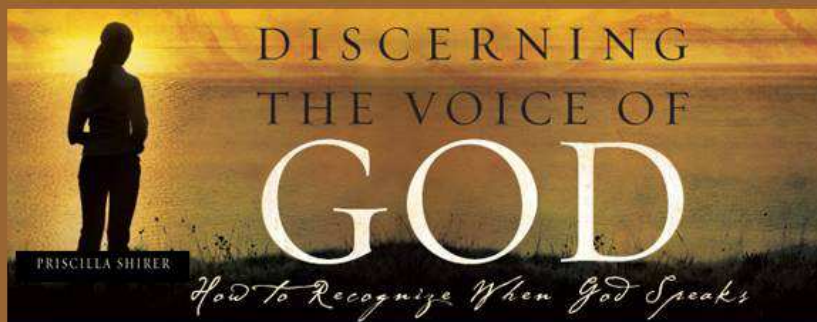
The *CULTIVATOR* is a monthly publication whose exclusive purpose is to help FUMC-Odessa accomplish its Mission by communicating and "cultivating" the presence of Christ in the lives of this congregation.

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.*

WOMEN'S SUMMER 2017 STUDY



Wednesday 9:30 am

Begins June 7

Workbooks \$14

sign up 432.337.1527
or fumcodessa.org