

Symbolic Passing Of The Baton Means Pastor Todd Is Off & Running



For months, our congregation has seen a bright red metal baton placed on the pulpit or altar. The relay-race baton represented the symbolic transfer of leadership from former senior pastor Terry Tamplen to interim senior pastor Karin Carlson and, finally, on Sunday, June 25 to our new senior pastor Todd Salzweider (pronounced Sahlz-wee-duhl). With his family by his side, and with the church staff surrounding them, Pastor Karin carefully handed the baton to Pastor Todd. In times prior to his retirement, Pastor Terry referenced the book, *The Change Over Zone – successful pastoral transitions*. The title refers to the critical space on a track where relay runners pass the baton from one runner to another. Terry believed congregational prayer would provide a successful pastoral transition.

As she handed over the baton, Karin referenced John Wesley's Covenant Prayer (page 607, Methodist Hymnal). It is often recited in special worship services as an expression for individuals to affirm their commitment to God. Karin chose the prayer to affirm that "as God's people on God's mission: we are prepared for the passing of the baton—because God is in charge and is the ultimate author of change."



Alice, Braeden, Paege Salzweidel and the church staff watch as Rev. Karin Carlson passes the leadership baton to Rev. Todd on Sunday, June 25.

A graduate of SMU's Perkins School of Theology, Todd comes to us from his most recent assignment of St Stephen's UMC-Albuquerque, NM. He has served churches in Ruidoso and Albuquerque.

Born in Wisconsin, Todd's family moved to New Mexico. He is a graduate of University of New Mexico, with a BA in Economics/Philosophy. His wife, Alice, is a New Mexico native. She is a school teacher

focusing on reading intervention for Kindergarten through 2nd grade students. Son Braeden, 13, is a seventh grader who loves sports...especially football. He plays guitar and percussion and has a great love of history. Daughter Paege, 8, is a third grader. She enjoys gymnastics and cheerleading as well as anything that allows her to be creative. She is energetic and loves to make new friends.

The Salzweidel family enjoys spending time with friends, getting involved with the community, and being together at home or travelling! Todd especially loves attending ball games (he played football, basketball, baseball and golf growing up) and hunting with Braeden and anyone else they can

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Todd Salzwedel
Senior Pastor

talk into going with them!

Todd's prayer for our church is ... "that we continue to be the presence of Christ in the community and abroad."

As an avid reader and student of church history, he has a deep passion for our roots

both in the church universal and the Methodist tradition.

"The Great Commission is a call to action for all baptized

believers, not just the ordained or the paid staff. Instead, it directs our energies to the life saving grace found only in Jesus Christ. We as the church are simply the vehicle God uses for His mission in the world."

"One of the great hallmarks of our United Methodist tradition (as well as all of its predecessors going all the way back to John Wesley) is the understanding that the effectiveness of the church is a direct result of the engagement of the laity. I believe that we make a great mistake when we falsely assume the success of the church is dependent on the staff of the church. Instead, I believe it is our responsibility to complement the work God is already doing amongst the people of the church."

Todd and his family have felt so welcomed by the amazing folks here at FUMC! And they've wasted no time in getting involved in community activities. Paegge immediately began an art camp where she befriended a girl her age with whom she has shared play dates and swimming time together. She is attending church camp for the first time with our brothers and sisters at *The Bridge*.

Braeden has quickly become engaged as well. He arrived in Odessa with the youth returning from church camp at Sacramento Methodist Assembly in New Mexico, and also joined the youth from FUMC on their mission trip to Oklahoma. It's been a great way to meet and make friends in his new home. In addition, he is also participating in the strength and speed camps held at Permian HS in anticipation of playing football at Nimitz Middle School this fall.

"Alice and I felt blessed to be a part of such a vibrant and healthy congregation! We are confident that God have amazing plans for the church and our family! We couldn't ask for a better reception or team of people to join with as we seek to grow in our knowledge, love and service of God! Thank you so much for opening your doors to us that Odessa has quickly become more than just the place we now live...it is quickly becoming home!"

Missio Dei

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The pastoral transition has been "seamless" by being Spirit-filled. The baton was used as a metaphor for God's people on God's mission. Mission is the very nature of the church, in seeking God first and his kingdom. In preparing to lead during this transition, I kept the term *missio Dei* close to my heart. *Missio Dei* is a Latin term for "God's mission" that was emphasized in a Ministry and Mission of Evangelism seminary class. Your witness as a congregation in and out of the walls of FUMC is simply powerful. Carry onward and upward!

The baton is passed to Rev. Todd Salzwedel! It has been an honor to serve you the past two months. Thank you for your prayers, support, and action. I plan on taking time to renew and return on *missio Dei* with pioneering D6 Family Ministries (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). May we praise God and invite others to join us on *missio Dei*!

Sincerely,
Rev. Karin Carlson



Congratulations, Pastor Karin!



A reception in honor of Rev. Karin Carlson was a time of hugs and 'atta, girl' for being newly commissioned Deacon. Pastor Karin was commissioned as a Deacon during the New Mexico Annual Conference in Las Cruces, NM on June 2. She is on a three year path to become an Ordained Deacon. FUMC celebrated her commissioning with a reception held on June 11 at 10 a.m. in the church .



What's Going on at Celebrate Recovery for JULY?

Rev. Karin Carlson's sermon on June 25 asked the congregation:
"Are you lost?
Do you want to be found?"

Our church has invested in a program to answer those two questions, and provides *you* with the direction to find these answers.

The program is **Celebrate Recovery**.

Celebrate Recovery is not only a recovery program, but also a program that will help you deepen your commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our world needs strong Christians, and through this program, strong Christians are growing in numbers.

Our lessons for the month of July focus on Hope and Sanity.

We have the power to change. "For I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me strength and the power." Philippians 4:13

My **HOPE** is that FUMC will take the time to come to the Celebrate Recovery worship and listen to the lessons and hear the testimonies of those it has helped to strengthen their relationship with God. Congregational Care Pastor, Jody Wallin prepares great lessons that make a great way to start your week.

We meet every Monday night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00p.m.. Worship is from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

HOPE to see you there. See what your church is doing for you and our community.

In Christ, Marsha Melton,
on behalf of the Celebrate Recovery Team

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

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

Blessings For Our Missionary Youth



On Sunday, June 25, Pastor Karin Carlson leads the traditional congregation in extending blessings on our youth. The teens and adult chaperones had just returned from the RITMO Youth Conference at Sacramento Camp. The kids barely had time to unpack their bags before heading out on July 2 to the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. According to Youth Pastor Caleb Eckel, a team of 20 youth will participate in the mission trip.

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.

VBS Success!



"Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" —Psalm 34:14b, CEB
That was the scripture basis for

Vacation Bible School's **Hero Central** — where kids discovered their strength in God. More than 60 children enjoyed the June 5-9 week of learning about heroes in the Bible. A huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who made the VBS a success.

...who Empowers us to make a difference.



Midland Baptist Crisis Center



This summer has been a busy one so far and we're only half way through! We've gone to the movies, had an Acolyte outing, and pictured is our trip to the Midland Baptist Crisis Center. Twenty-five children and parents helped sort food, fulfill food orders for needy families, made food bags for the homeless, sorted lots and lots of clothes, and also helped separate socks.

I cannot brag on our children enough when it comes to serving. They always do so willingly and cheerfully and are eager to serve in any capacity.
April Cole, Children's Ministry



Bring a child and enjoy these remaining outings for the summer. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the text alerts, please contact the church office.

July 13 - Bowling

July 20 - Carlsbad Caverns

July 27 - Abilene Zoo



Real live heroes from the Odessa Fire Department were in action to repair our steeple. The church was not spared from damage the week that the city was ravaged with two major storms. The ladder truck was used to repair metal siding on the steeple that was blown loose.



Spice of Life

The Spice of Life group last met on June 15th and we had a great time together. Once again, Russell and Beverley Kimble, prepared a wonderful home cooked meal for us. We are very blessed to have Russell and his crew always here and willing to help out!

Our birthday honorees this month was, Walyn Gibson and Mary Ann Miles. Marsha Melton decorated our table, Marlene Moss made a beautiful door prize, and Jody Wallin gave a short program based on a Father's Day theme.

If you are in the age group of early retirees or later, we hope you will come join us next month at "Spice of

Life" and give us a try. I believe 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 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Rodman Fellowship, Dining Room.

Blessings to you all,

Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor



Discerning The Voice Of God— How To Recognize When God Speaks

The summer women's Bible study is being enjoyed by more than 63 women from throughout the community. The weekly video session is by Priscilla Shirer. In it she explores how to become acquainted with the "Voice" that has spoken from a fire and a cloud, with visible signs and an invisible Spirit, through a burning bush and burning hearts.



(L-R, front row: Sherry Buck, Pastor Todd Salzwedel, Jean Simmons,. Second row: Mary Jane Smith, Kay Whitefield, Marty Farris, Pastor Karin Carlson, Joy White, Betsy Triplett-Hurt, Lynn Correa.

J.O.Y. welcomes Pastor Todd.

The Bible study group, J.O.Y., hosted Pastor Todd Salzwedel at a salad luncheon on Wednesday, June 28, in the home of Lynn Correa. Alice Salzwedel made a brief appearance, too, but was busy getting children Braeden and Paege from one summer activity to another. All this in the first week that they have lived in the parsonage! "Official" welcoming receptions are being planned, but don't be shy to extend our radical hospital to our new preacher and family.

~ Memorials for June ~

In Memory of
Jean Armstrong Johnson
Given by
Barbara & Rick Browning
Betsy Triplett-Hurt

In Memory of
Shelly Weaver
Given by
Nell & Bob Carlson
Joel Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
Ed Wingo, Jr.
Mary Wingo McCaffity
Jamieson C. McCaffity
Susie & Fred Girard
Janet Lawrence
Denise & Michael Wheeler
Shonna Harper

FUMC Children's Ministries

In Memory of
Shelly Weaver
Given by
Staff of Reznik Orthodontics

FUMC Youth Ministries

In Memory of
Shelly Weaver
Given by
Denise & Jay Durell
Margaret McCandless
Stephanie Latimer
J.M. Weaver office staff:
Rachel, Denise, Alma,
Rosemarie, Kristal, Lucy,
Lynn, and Diana
Permian Basin Oral Surgery
Barbara & Claude Mills
Drs. Don L. & Martha Huff
Kathryn Martin
Dale & Jewell Brewer
Venetia Mitchell

Children's Clothes Closet

In Memory of
John Mason
Given by
Jo & Mike Forrest
In Memory of
Shelly Weaver
Given by
Julie & Jim Brown

Family & Youth Ministries

In Memory of
Shelly Weaver
Given by
Jane Hext
Jeanie Holbrook
Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Anderson
Carol Adams
Becky Brantley McCamey
Liz & Tommy Sager
Carly & Michael Sager
Brian Sager
Patsy & Wayne Young
Sharon Baker
Robbie & Dan Brazelton
Joni & Bynum Vincent
Barbara & Rick Browning



~ Deepest Sympathy ~

To John Mark Weaver and
children Holly, Joshua & John,
and their spouses
for the loss of John Mark's wife
Shelly Weaver

Chris and Marta Johnson
for the loss of Chris' mother,
Jean Johnson



Carson and Charlotte "Charlie" Hargis
born June 12
Proud parents Lauren & Chase Hargis
from Westlake, TX
Prouder great grandparents
Nancy Spano and Dub Riley



U.M.W.
Salad Luncheon
August 8





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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.*



July 16 – Colossians 1:9-12

God invites us to grow in knowledge of Him with people who care and nurture us.

July 23 – Mark 10:13-16

God invites us to never lose sight of the awe of His Creation.

July 30 – 1 Kings 17:10-24

The church, God's house, should be the safest place for us as the Body of Christ. This is where we come when we are broken, beaten, and scarred.