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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, —3901 E. Yukon
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 **Love** others, **Invite** them to join us as we **Follow**
Christ, who **Empowers** us to make a difference.*

JOIN US AUGUST 12

*This Fellowship
Meal* is a great way to
get to know your
church family better.

**2nd Sunday of the
Month**

11 am or 12:15 pm



**Plaza Area &
Dining Hall**

**Bring a Side Dish
Come and Go**



CULTIVATOR

Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation
Volume 16, Issue 8
August 2018

Youth Mission Trip: A Journey Of Gratitude



We had a great time in Corpus Christi and Port Aransas during our 2018 Mission Trip. We helped out at Costal Bend food bank, Gulf Coast Humane Society and with the organization 'New Day Port A'. We sorted food, cleaned dog kennels, cleaned up the beach and helped with Hurricane Relief efforts. We bring back with us all the gratitude we received from the people and organizations we helped and pass it on to you. None of it would have been possible without your prayer support and financial generosity. I also want to thank Becky Eckel and Connie Grewell for being such great leaders.—*Caleb Eckel, Youth Pastor*



FoundationKids at Sacramento

The happy campers from our **FoundationKids** are pictured along one of the sites at Camp Sacramento, NM. Although he is not in the photo, David Nelson joined Jamie Wilson and Kelly Allgood as sponsors for the July 9-13 trip. Enjoy more camp photos on Facebook at fumcfoundationkids.org.

"We had a fantastic time at camp and are extremely thankful for all the prayers and support. We have a good group of 4th-5th graders and while several of them are moving up to the Echo Youth, I am excited to see what God will continue to do in and through them."
—*April Cole, Children's Pastor*



Todd Salzwedel
Senior Pastor

Have you ever noticed how much our lives are tied to the school calendar, regardless of whether you have children in school or not? Many of us are finishing up planned trips for the summer, making that last trip to the lake, or planning the final week long getaway with grandchildren before the kids kick it into high gear for school

in August. I can assure you, it's the same at our house!

With the beginning of the school year, we also begin to pay attention to what lies ahead on the horizon. For some, it means a new athletic season or round the clock band camps and rehearsals. In the case of about 40 of us here at the church, we will be preparing for pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October. In anticipation of that, I will be leading a few classes covering the history, geography, and current reality of the Holy Land. These classes will be open to all who would like to attend, whether you



are going on the trip or not. They will be held on August 29 and September 5 in two different locations and times. If you would like to attend in the morning, we will gather at Parks Retirement center at 9:30 in the morning. If the evening works better for you, we will meet at the church from 6 to 7:30. I hope that the turnout will be significant and please invite your friends!

As I anticipate the trip that many will experience in a few short months, I am drawn to think of the vision that Moses was given by God about the land flowing with milk and honey. It's a story we know well and is filled with excitement for the future, anxiety about the struggles ahead, and uncertainty as to how it will be accomplished. In many ways, the story serves as an archetype for our own lives, the life of our church, and the community we call home.

Recently, I've had occasion to have discussions with a number of people who have deep knowledge and foresight about the economic and social future

of Odessa. On one hand, the conclusions that are being reached seem unbelievable (60,000 oil field workers and an additional 138,000 residents by 2024), an economy less affected by the traditional boom/bust pattern, and a substantial impact on the infrastructure and educational systems in our community. In many ways, these projections can cause us to experience the same feelings the Hebrew people might have experienced on the precipice of entering the Holy Land.

In the case of the Hebrew people, they not only paid attention to the immediate needs they recognized, but they dreamed and prepared for the future. The envisioned a home where they could worship God live according to the commands of God. Over time, their preparations allowed them to build a temple by which they honored God. And to this day, Jerusalem is referred to as the "center of the world".

I wonder if we are being presented with opportunity to grasp a God sized vision as people continue to pour into our area. Are there ways that we need to be preparing ourselves and our

Israel Study

Led by Pastor Todd

Wednesday, August 29

Parks – 9:30 a.m.
FUMC Room 102 – 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 5

Parks – 9:30 a.m.
FUMC Room 102 – 6 p.m.

This sort of dreaming requires us to think well beyond what we generally think of in the church, but I also think that it provides an opportunity for the church, the people, to provide a phenomenal witness to those who might feel like strangers in a strange land. Much like my family quickly came to understand this to be our home, help me as we listen for the voice of God to guide us to bold and amazing visions regarding the future of our church and our community! And with God's blessing, may it be that we are truly a "city on a hill" in which the light of Christ shines brightly! — *Pastor Todd*

community, not just economically, but in a way that helps others to truly make Odessa home where they might live out their day to day lives and grow in their relationship with God and one another? How might First UMC be a part of that vision?

Holy Baptism



On July 22 in the Fellowship Service, Luke Williams was baptized July 22 by Rev. Todd Salzwedel and Rev. Karin Carlson.



Luke is the son of Kelli & Joe Williams, and is a member of the Echo Youth Group and Praise Band. Luke Williams is surrounded by his loving family.

Memorials

**In Memory of
Robert Bacon**
Given by

Diana Choban
Gail Jackson
Betsy & Buzz Hurt
Nell & Glenn Smith
Gloria & LaDoyce Lambert
Jane Hext

**Children's Clothes
Closet**

**In Memory of
Robert Bacon**
Given by
Jo & Michael Forrest

**Spice of Life
In Memory of
Robert Bacon**
Given by

Dorothy & Walyn Gibson

**Children's Ministry
In Memory of
Debbie Williams**
Given by

Nancy & William
Stewart



*To the family and friends of
Robert Bacon*

*To Jayme & Scott Wilson;
Natalie & Noah
For the loss of Scott's grandmother
Evelyn Watson*


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



**Like
Us!!**

www.fumcodessa.org

Mark Your Calendars For These Important Dates To Remember



Annual Salad Luncheon
“We Are All David in this Goliath World”

Thursday, August 9
FUMC Dining Room
11:30am to 1:00pm



SUNFLOWER BIBLE STUDY
Ephesians & Galatians

1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 2pm
 Begins September 4

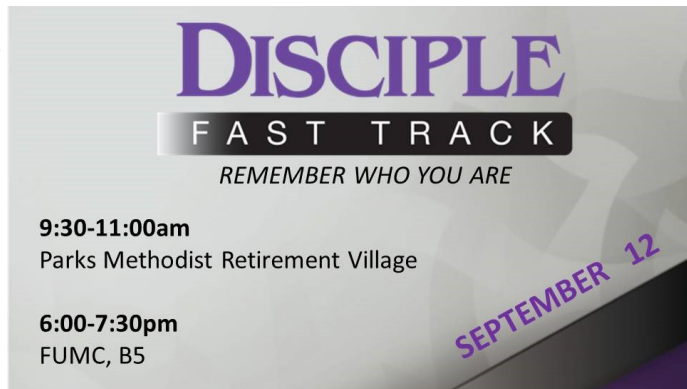
All are welcome to join!

Parks Senior Living – Main Office

What is Disciple Bible Study?

Disciple Bible Study is a program of intensive, disciplined co-ed Bible study open to all adults. Groups meet weekly for about 75 minutes for 24 weeks beginning in September. Disciple contains three elements that have

been identified as key to Bible study: it is conversational, puts Scripture in context and provides opportunities for application.



DISCIPLE
FAST TRACK
REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

9:30-11:00am
Parks Methodist Retirement Village

6:00-7:30pm
FUMC, B5

SEPTEMBER 12

DISCIPLE 3 FAST TRACK: REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

This study examines the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. Participants will find common themes, including calls to remember, calls to repent, calls for renewal, and calls for community.

In the first half, study focuses the Major and Minor Prophets (except Daniel). In the second half, study with the focus on the New Testament letters traditionally attributed to Paul.



08 22 2018
6PM

Countdown to
Echo Youth
FoundationKids
Ministry Kickoff

FAMILY MINISTRIES YEAR 2...THE CHURCH PARTNERING WITH HOMES

A parent has 936 weeks between a child’s birth and graduation! We do not want you to miss what is happening during the critical phases of growing up. First UMC’s aim is to equip the homes to be the ministers.

We have teamed with family ministries at Highland Park UMC in Dallas for resources and coaching as we move forward in Year 2 of 6 with Family Ministries at First UMC. Year 1 launched Family Ministries with Deuteronomy 6:4-9 as the umbrella Scripture for the whole church. Next, the D6 Curriculum began in kids, youth and an adult Sunday School class. The parents are equipped with a Devotional for their home that compliments Sunday’s D6 lesson. Now we are now ready to take another step in partnering with parents to help them raise their family in the Christian faith.

This September parents will receive a PHASE CARD. A “phase” is defined as a time frame in a child’s life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future. Each phase card outlines a child’s development (front of card) and how First UMC would like to partner with the home every step of the way and help families grow as deeply devoted

followers of Jesus (back of card). The goal is to summarize and simplify an overwhelming amount of research to child development, so the average leader and parent can understand children better. Our hope is that by the 13th grade each child will be equipped in the following areas: Scripture, prayer, worship, community, service, drugs & alcohol, human sexuality and relationships. The plan is intentional but is a really simple plan. There are 6 *phases* of family ministries:

Nursery/Preschool, Elementary, Confirmation, Middle School, High School, and College.

PHASE CARDS AVAILABLE AFTER SEPTEMBER 4

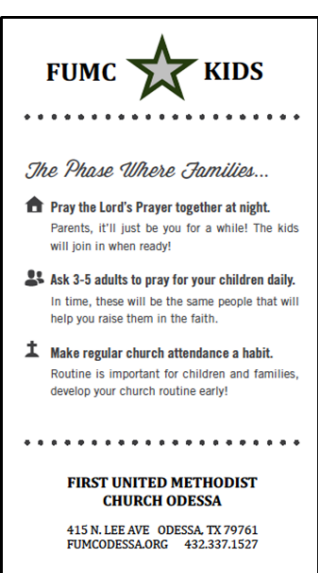
Parents, please pick up the PHASE CARD outside of your child’s room or ministry area. Make copies so they

are visible throughout your day.

Church, please pick up a pack of the PHASE CARDS. Pray for the homes for each phase. Serve with a particular phase. I hope that each child knows they have 5 people that have been praying and investing in him/her by graduation. This is D6 Family Ministries at First UMC... intergenerational ministry! —Karin Carlson, Associate Pastor



NURSERY & PRESCHOOL
THE PHASE WHERE...
a child grows from a speck
INTO THE MOST SPECTACULAR
BABY
IN THE WORLD...
INTO A SPECTACULARLY
CURIOUS PRESCHOOLER...
WHO JUST WANTS TO KNOW:
“WHY?”




FUMC KIDS

The Phase Where Families...

- Pray the Lord’s Prayer together at night.
Parents, it’ll just be you for a while! The kids will join in when ready!
- Ask 3-5 adults to pray for your children daily.
In time, these will be the same people that will help you raise them in the faith.
- Make regular church attendance a habit.
Routine is important for children and families, develop your church routine early!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ODESSA
415 N. LEE AVE ODESSA, TX 79761
FUMCODESSA.ORG 432.337.1527

ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT – The Apologetic of Truth				
Truth is under attack in our culture. Scripture asserts the existence and sets the standard of universal truth. Students can discern what is true, defend the concept of universal truth, and affirm the teaching of Scripture as reliable and authoritative.				
	Aug 5	Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 26
	Absolute Truth	Divine Truth	Preserving Truth	Defending the Truth
	Psalms 119:89,142,160	2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21	1 Peter 1:25, Matthew 5:18, 24:35	Malachi 3:6, Ezekiel 24:14, Genesis 6:6-7, Exodus 32:14, Jonah 3:10
PRESCHOOL – Origin and Facts About God’s Word				
Students will explore facts about God’s Word as they learn <i>The Bible is God’s Word</i> . This unit provides examples for students to examine and be reminded of the value of God’s Word in their lives.				

Ladies Summer Study So Much More Than Mere Reading



The morning session of the Ladies Summer Study pauses for a group picture before tackling their final study of the summer. Not pictured is the evening session facilitated by the Serendipity Small Group.

Each summer, our church conducts a women’s Bible study. This summer’s seven-week study was *He Speaks to Me: Preparing to Hear from God* by Priscilla Shirer. The study focused on what we need to do to prepare ourselves to hear God when He chooses to speak. Priscilla used 1 Samuel 3 as the basis for the study. The ladies completed 5 daily homework lessons each week, conducted discussions over their homework lessons, watched a video related to the lesson, decided on and implemented an outreach project in their groups and formed prayer groups to bond and pray for each other. —*Barbara Browning, lead facilitator of morning session, along with Mary Jane Wright.*

- Putting the lessons into action was accomplished by each table group selecting a mission. The projects are as diverse as the wonderful women who truly are the hands and feet of Christ.
- Children’s Clothes Closet:** donations for clothes and socks.
 - Adopted an Alzheimer’s patient:** providing weekly meals to the family.
 - Life Center:** 24 bags with boxes of diapers and wipes for newborns.
 - The Well:** Partnered with Dress For Success to provide ‘job-interview’ appropriate clothing for women seeking jobs and are also providing a field trip for their kids. .
 - Boys & Girls Club Library:** monetary donation for support.
 - Rays of Hope, Children’s Grief Center:** donations of stuffed animals and monetary support.
 - Watito, Girls in Africa:** monetary support for personal hygiene supplies.

We exist for LIFE...To LOVE others, INVITE them to join us as we FOLLOW Christ...
...who Empowers us to make a difference in our church, our community and our world.

Making A Difference In The Lives Of Children



Our church’s relationship with children in foster care continues with the latest effort to help with **school supplies**. These dozens of backpacks, glue sticks, pencils and notebooks are just a few of the donations given by generous and caring members. The supplies will be distributed through the Rainbow Room, which is located within the Children’s Protective Services offices. It is a repository of clothing and supplies for kids who are placed in foster care. Thank you to Deby Rinker for organizing this ministry.

The Children’s Clothes Closet is an essential partner with Ector County Independent School District in providing clothing to students. Your donations provide more than something to wear. It provides positive self-image, relief to a family struggling to make ends meet and assurance to children that God loves them and God will provide. *Robbie Brazelton said “Unfortunately there are children in need in good times and bad no matter the economy, and we are so grateful for all the clothes, donations and volunteers. Our prayer is to continue lifting each child’s self esteem with the clothes they are given. We ask for God’s presence and grace to help these*



CHILDREN'S CLOTHES CLOSET

Cleaning Out Your Closets this Summer?

Donate New or Gently Used
Boys and Girls Clothes
Regular Clothes and School Uniforms

School begins August 20

K-12 Grade sizes
Bring to Church Office
432.337.1527

children through their day.”

The Children’s Clothes Closet began in 1997. Thanks to continued dedicated volunteers and generous hearts, thousands of children have benefited through this ministry.



LIKE WORKING
BEHIND-THE-SCENES?

WE ARE IN NEED OF



MEDIA

Volunteers

ALL AGES WELCOME



Miss a Sermon?



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