

MOMENTUM

CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

Beloved Sanctuary Cross
Soon To Be Visible, Again



Schematic of new video screen in the sanctuary
Updated screen allows Cross to be visible when the screen is lowered.

The multi-million dollar Momentum campaign began in October 2014, with much of the 3-year effort focused on the construction of The Bridge. That construction project is by and large completed, with The Bridge congregation eagerly awaiting the official Certificate of Occupation so they can begin moving in. In light of that, at the Church Council meeting on August 17, funds were approved to begin the part of Momentum campaign for improving several items in the sanctuary. The main area of interest is updating the vide screen which currently obscures the center cross to have less of a visual impact on the cross, raising the cross to be more visible, updating the audio and video equipment, relocating the media booth in the balcony, and upgrading lighting to LED. Work will begin in September and should be completed within a couple of weeks.

A Big THANK YOU From Our Children's Center For Extravagant Generosity



This year's congregational giving of back-to-school supplies stocked the storage bins of our own Children's Center. Your donations are used every day by the more than 100 kids enrolled in our 5-day child care center. The generous donations ranged from crayons and construction paper to baby bibs and zip lock bags. Happy young artists are shown creating masterpieces.





Todd Salzwedel
Senior Pastor

As Christians, we are taught to be compassionate for others and to lend aid and comfort where we can. But as you watch the news and observe the events all around the world ranging from natural disasters to the ravages of poverty and war, the amount of need out there can become overwhelming.

The desire for us to be the hands and feet of Christ is often an example of our sympathy for others. It turns to empathy though when those needs hit closer to home or our loved ones are impacted.

Many of you have asked how we might respond and help those affected by the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. I'd like to humbly offer a few suggestions.

Pray – While it seems simple on the surface, prayers for those directly affected, first responders, and loved ones is a great way to start. Our prayers focus our energy on ways that God might be encouraging us to respond as well as an opportunity to truly empathize with others in need.

Donate items or build survival kits – Over the next several weeks and months, there will undoubtedly be a great amount of need for the most basic of items. There are already several organizations around town that are taking up collections to be delivered to affected areas. Some people are building survival kits to be taken down soon.

Consider Volunteering – There are several ways you might be able to be engaged with hands on mission along the coast. Maybe you'd be willing to deliver collected supplies. Maybe you'd like to be a part of some rebuilding efforts in the



coming weeks and months. If that is your interests, I'd be happy to help find possible ways for you to serve.

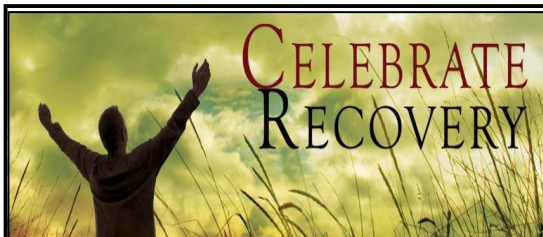
Donate to UMCOR – One of the best ways worldwide to support people and communities in need is through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Every penny you donate to UMCOR for relief efforts due to Hurricane Harvey will be utilized for those affected by its devastation. None of the money you give will go to administrative costs. Rather, every donation goes directly for those affected by helping to provide food, clothing, shelter and other needs.

As a United Methodist, I am so proud that UMCOR represents each of us to provide the services they do. When you think of the most tragic of situations (tsunami's, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.), it is often UMCOR who stays long term to manage the ongoing efforts to rebuild communities and lives. They do so in the name of the church as a tangible reminder of God's presence in all of our lives.

I've seen firsthand the amazing efficiency, care, and determination of UMCOR when I served as pastor in Ruidoso, NM during a devastating flood. While it was scary to go through the events, the outpouring of love from so many from so far away provided the strength and motivation to pick up our lives. UMCOR was a major part of that gift of hope!

Please consider how God might be calling you to provide that hope for others. And if you have loved ones who have been directly affected, please know they are in my prayers.

*Blessings,
Pastor Todd*



CELEBRATE
RECOVERY

**What's Going on at
Celebrate Recovery for SEPTEMBER?**

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

Our Lessons for the month of September focus on **Getting a SPONSOR** and taking a **MORAL inventory**.

Having a Sponsor is a very important part of recovery. Having someone whom you trust to share your life issues.

Principle 4: Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

Step 4: We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord."

Lamentations 3:40

Two Locations And Times For One Great Study

When is a Bible study more than a Bible study? The answer from students of previous Disciple Fast Track studies is simple: it becomes 'more' when you participate. **Cherell Bivens** participated in the 2016-2017 Disciple Fast Track

study because, *"I am a new Christian and eager to learn more about Christ. It taught me more than I expected. Not just from the Bible, but of fellowship and more."*

Another student, long-time Christian **Mary Jane Smith** echoes Cherell's comments, *"I wanted a deeper study of God's word, and this was a perfect opportunity. It was most definitely worth the time and effort. I would tell others that this is not just an opportunity for a deeper walk with our Lord but an opportunity to share personal experiences and hear how others have handled questions and fears we face in this day and time. You get to know others in this wonderful church that you might have never crossed paths with."*

Building on the enthusiasm of the previous in-depth, 24-week study, Disciple Fast Track #2 has two different class times at two different locations.

DISCIPLE

FAST TRACK

Disciple Fast Track #2
Begins September 13
Sign up now (432)337-1527
"Into the Word, Into the World."

Beginning Wednesday, **September 13**, the morning study meets at Parks Methodist Retirement Village, 111 Parks Village Drive, just off of Faudree Road and Eastridge Blvd. That study begins at **9:30 a.m.** The evening class at **6pm** will

meet at the downtown campus building.

The Disciple Fast Track #2 subtitle is "Into the Word, Into the World." Having the morning study away from the main church building certainly brings the Word into the world of those who cannot come to 415 N. Lee Street. Many of our members live in Parks Methodist Retirement Village. These 'saints among us' have a wealth of experience to share with younger members, or anyone of any age, who might study with them in the mornings.

The first 12-weeks of the #2 curriculum focuses on Genesis and Exodus. The second 12-weeks of Disciple Fast Track continues in January, 2018, with the books of Luke and Acts. **Contact Pastor Karin at karin@fumcodessa.org, for more information.**



September 10 is the kickoff for Family Ministries new curriculum. For a preview of the exciting and pertinent D6 2Gen Curriculum, go on-line to <https://d6family.com/d6curriculum>.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Fall 2017



The D6 curriculum supports a grace-based perspective for families to understand that our faith is not a checklist but a relationship with Jesus. Each quarter teaches a biblical worldview, apologetics, and a special topic. The design is an intentional and relevant focus about life transforming discipleship.

September: (OT) Women of faith influence nations

October: (Special Topics) Identifying integrity in heroes of the faith

November: (NT) Effects of being in Christ

We ask the church to pray and reach out to families as God grows the body of Christ. Grace and Peace to you. ~ Karin Carlson, Family Ministries Pastor



Summer Outreach Keeps Students Busy

This August has been great for ECHO youth ministry here at FUMC! August 4-6, we attended *Rock the Desert* with a group of over 30 Students and Adults. At *Rock the Desert*, we were able to listen to great Christian music artists from all over the world.

FUMC ECHO has joined together with four other area United Methodist youth groups from The Bridge, Asbury-UMC, Highland-UMC, and St. Luke's UMC in Midland. We have begun combining youth events for bigger outreach. For our first event on July 31, we rented out Sherwood Park's swimming pool and picnic tables. More than 100 students attend. On August 9, we also had a fun trip to Balmorhea State Park.

Echo has had its official Kick Off Party at the home of Tammy and Tommy Hawkins on August 16. Thank you to the Hawkins for allowing us to

use their home, swimming pool and providing the BBQ!

Following the school calendar, we started weekly ECHO meetings on August 23.

We are also happy to announce our official small group leaders for this upcoming year: Becky Eckel and Jordan Groening are the middle school leaders, Heather Kincaid and Caleb Eckel are the 9-10th grade leaders, Mary Blain and Tamara Stumpner are the 11-12th grade leaders. Sara Dyrstad and Shay Vanley will also be leaders in the youth ministry.

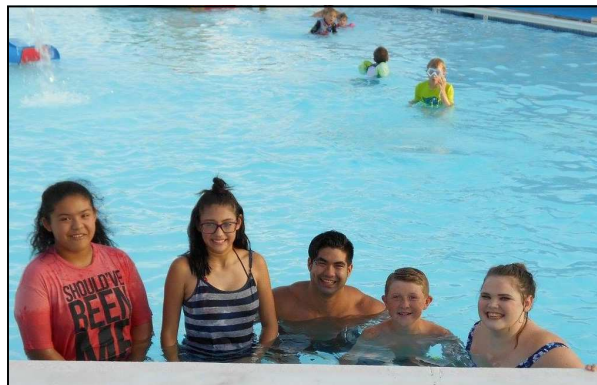
This year one of the goals for FUMC ECHO Youth Ministry is to do more serving in the Odessa community. Thank you for all of your continued support. – *Caleb Eckel, Student Ministry Pastor*



ECHO Youth join the thousands of other Christian music fans at *Rock The Desert* concerts.



Balmorhea State Park provides a nearby road trip for 38 ECHO students and friends before they start back to school.



Student Pastor Caleb Eckel is surrounded by some of the 100 students enjoying the first-ever combined United Methodist youth group's swimming party at Sherwood Pool.



Answers To Prayer Often Come Through Small Gestures

As we have launched the new school year and our Wednesday night Children's Ministry, I want to take a moment and brag on two of our students.

My oldest daughter, 5 1/2 year old Abigail, has had a rough time being dropped off at school. We started at one school then six days later she got accepted to Compass Academy. This change meant adjusting to another drop off in a new place. Upon dropping her off in the gym the first day at Compass, a teacher had to physically hold her back as I left. Knowing that on day two I would not be able to take her all the way in, I prayed that it would go smoothly and that she would have a calmness.

When we parked, we saw FoundationKids, Allie and Lexie Allgood. Abigail was excited to see familiar faces. As we crossed the street and made our way to the parking lot for them to go into the school, Allie and Lexie each held Abigail's hand; told her it was going to be ok; and, walked her in to school with zero issues. This was a double blessing.



Lexie, Abigail, and Allie walking to school

As a parent, I was humbled that an older student would take my child's hand and walk her in. As a children's pastor, I was proud to know that these were two of our students bestowing an incredible act of kindness to the new kid at school.

The church is not the building. The church is the people. This is what the church looks like for children.

As all of our children are beginning school, let us encourage them to be the church at school. There is community within a church and

I am both thankful and proud of the community the children are a part of here at FUMC.

— April Cole, Children's Minister Pastor

Children's Ministry Parent's Night Out

Every Third Friday

6:00- 8:30 pm

Sept. 15

RSVP

\$5 per child

april@fumcodessa.org

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

Remembering Rev. David Weyant At Camp Sunshine

These pictures and news article are from the August 7, 2017 edition of the New Mexico UMC Conference newsletter.



"As part of Camp Sunshine, we planted two trees in David Weyant's memory. David started Camp

Sunshine about 39 years ago. Robert is the camper planting the tree. He came to Camp Sunshine for the first time with David 39 years ago. Mary Schul is Camp Dean. Our theme is Christmas and Go Tell It on the Mountain." *Submitted by Cheri Lyon, New Mexico Conference*

Camp Sunshine is part of the Sacramento Camp summer schedule. At Sunshine Camp, individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities have the opportunity to let their personalities shine. Campers will laugh, play, worship, and make friends while they experience the love of God in a safe space. David Weyant (1941—2016) was a Methodist minister, serving in many area churches before becoming the El Paso and Odessa District Superintendent.

Cupcakes For A Good Cause



The staff of our Children's Center baked a tableful of tempting goodies to help one of their own. More than \$500 was raised from the bake sale on Sunday, August 20 to help defray medical expenses of a childcare employee. Church members are pictured above opening more than their wallets but also their hearts to help.

The United Methodist Women began the fall schedule with a salad luncheon on August 10. Youth Minister Caleb Eckel presented our program on where he grew up and his direction for our youth here at FUMC-Odessa.



Caleb enlightened us with a little history of where he was raised as a young boy in New York. They were a very poor family. His dad was a minister and they did a lot of missionary work, and moved around a lot.

As Caleb grew up, he felt God calling him into the ministry as well. He graduated with a degree in Religion Education and Youth Ministry.

Then God brought Caleb to FUMC-Odessa in 2016. He is a big believer in community: serving the community, outreach, developing community

YOUTH MISSION STATEMENT

Welcomes all students
to establish a relationship with God.
To grow in faith, service, and community through
activities, fellowship, friendship, unity,
by developing healthy life skills and spiritual discipline.

projects. Basically, "Be A Presence In Our Community." Many of our youth at FUMC-ECHO, were not attending church. Caleb has made a big example of how important it is to attend church along with the youth activities, and now they are coming to church.

In other business, Gene Johnson and Cheryl Ferguson presented information on the 45th New Mexico United Methodist Women's Annual

Conference that we are going to host here at FUMC October 26-28. There will be 75 -100 women attending this conference. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact Gene Johnson.

On behalf of UMW, *In God We Trust*,
Blessings,
Marsha Melton

~ Memorials for August ~

In Memory of Kathryn Howell

Given by
8:00am Sunday School
Class
Arlyne Ragan
Larry Kincade
Barbara & Rick
Browning

In Memory of Danny Norris

Given by
Betsy Triplett-Hurt &
Buzz Hurt

In Memory of Shelly Weaver

Given by
Robert L. McCamey, Jr.

Youth & Family Ministries

In Memory of Shelly Weaver

Given by
Jana & Jubal
Zimmerman

FUMC Sanctuary

Choir Fund

In Memory of Danny Norris

Given by
Stephanie Latimer

In Memory of Katheryn Howell

Given by
Lura & Dick Sivals

FUMC Youth Ministry

In Memory of Katheryn Howell

Given by
Stephanie Latimer

Children's Clothes Closet

In Memory of Katheryn Howell

Given by
Tammy & Tom Hawkins
Shonna & James Harper
Jonnie & Larry
Hackleman

In Memory of Shelly Weaver

Given by
Tammy & Tom Hawkins
Jonnie & Larry
Hackleman

In Memory of John B. Mason

Given by
Jonnie & Larry
Hackleman

In Memory of Danny Norris

Given by
Tammy & Tom Hawkins
Barbara & Rick
Browning
Jonnie & Larry
Hackleman

In Memory of Jean Armstrong Johnson

Given by
Jonnie & Larry
Hackleman

In Memory of Ana Riley

Given by
Tammy & Tom Hawkins



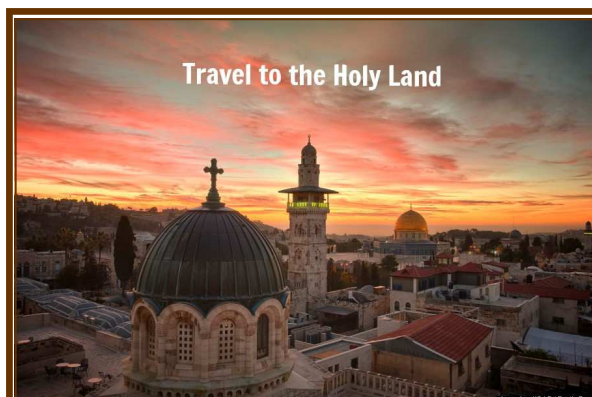
It's NEW!!
Small Group Bible Study
for
Local College Students



Sundays 6pm
3947 Scott St.
Odessa, TX



For info contact
Colin Proft
colin@fumcodessa.org



Interested in traveling to Israel in 2018?

Q&A Session with Pastor Todd
Sunday, **September 10, 2017**
10 am – Sanctuary
12pm – Fellowship Center

www.fumcodessa.org



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 for registrations.



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

Get Ready To Perform Radical Hospitality!



Our United Methodist Women are hosting the 45th New Mexico United Methodist Women's Annual Conference, October 26-28.

There will be 75-100 women attending this conference. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact UMW president, Gene Johnson at jgene53@yahoo.com.



**KIDS
HOPE
USA®**

Become a Mentor for a child at Cavazos Elementary

**Information will be given in the
September 10th worship services**

**Contact the church office
for more information
432.337.1527**