

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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 ам	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.



Farewell Blessing of Children's Pastor April Cole

Children's Pastor April Cole and her husband, Garreth, are pictured here in the Fellowship Service receiving a Farewell Blessing from Pastor Todd. April laid a great foundation with the D6 curriculum and her ministry was celebrated in each service on August 19.





CULTIVATOR

Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation
Volume 16, Issue 9 September 2018

Family Night Cupcake Wars Begin School Year Activities





(Top photo) It is hard not to smile when cupcakes abound, which is verified by these smiling faces at the August 22, Family Night Cupcake Wars. Teams of two children, two youth, and two adults enjoyed the friendly competition.

enjoyed the friendly competition.

(L) Nursery worker Allison Sanchez joins the fun with one of our adorable nursery children.

See details on pages 4 & 5

Family Ministries Is More Than Sunday School

TWO Great opportunities for kids at fumc!



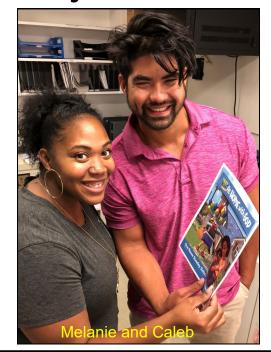
D6 SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM AGES PRESCHOOL -5TH GRADE!

NEW DEEP BLUE CUTTICULUM & LOTS OF FUN activities every wednesday 6-7:30PM ages preschool -5TH grade!



THERE IS ALWAYS NUTSERY FOR THE BABIES EVERY SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MELANIE OF CALEB 432.337.1527

Family Ministry Director Caleb Eckel and Assistant Family Ministry Director Melanie Taylor look over the exciting Deep Blue activities for Wednesday nights. See details on pages 4 & 5.



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Todd Salzwedel Senior Pastor

tell? I surely can. Not only do the mornings at my house start earlier, but people's schedules have become more jam packed with activities and commitments. As you page church is no different! I hope you will join me this

month celebrating the many exciting ministry opportunities that have taken place as summer wraps population attended the National Day of Prayer up, as well as the exciting news centered on our Family Ministry program (children and youth)! We impact on an entire community. This year, we are are truly a blessed people, and God continues to guide exciting and fruitful ministry in our midst.

I also want to put a few things on your radar. together with our neighbors in the Basin! First, in the October Cultivator, I will give information as to how you can follow the progress of the pilgrims that will travel to the Holy Land October 15. I would ask that you begin to pray for them now that God might bless both their journey and experience, but also those who live in the Holy

C chool has started...can you Land. It can be a tough place to live and minister.

In addition, please plan now for two events coming up in the spring of 2019. As we did last year, we are planning on a Sunrise Service on **Easter** morning at Ratliff Stadium. Easter this year falls on April 21st. We are also working on a major National Day of Prayer event for the whole city. through the Cultivator, you will Our very own Tamara Stumpner will be heading up see that the schedule here at the the arrangements, and we are looking for community and church leaders who would like to make prayer a central focus for our homes and community. I served in an area in which 30% of the town's event, so I know it's possible and has amazing setting a goal of more than 1000 participants! So mark May 2, 2019 on your calendar as we pray

Enjoy the rest of the Cultivator, and give God thanks for all that He is doing in our midst! Pastor Todd

each child a gift

sent. They are

thankful every

year for our

prayers and

If you want to

make a donation.

please place them

in the labeled box by the front door

of the Sanctuary

and Fellowship

Methodist Women

of this church are

building.

The United

donations.

includes the items

bag which

we have

Time to gather warm gifts of love.

September is the month United Methodist Women begin their mission project for the Four Corners Native American Ministry, representing Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. Since 2011, our congregation has helped the UMW gather scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves for the children on the Native American reservation.

When our items arrive

at Shiprock-UMC,

UMW is helping **Four Corners Native American Ministry!**

Please donate hats, gloves, mittens & scarves through November 5th in both

services or in the church office.

Thank you from the United Methodist Women!

deeply grateful for they are passed out to the pastors in the area, which include 15 churches. They your continual support, caring hearts and generosity to have a Christmas program and at the program they give help this ministry move forward. —Robbie Brazelton

FirstUMC-ODESSA CULTIVATOR



The Spice of Life group last met on August 16th, and had a great time together. Russell Kimble, and Steve & Debra Meador prepared a wonderful home cooked meal, complete with two cakes to choose from for dessert. Are we spoiled, or

what! We are so very blessed to have our excellent kitchen crew who are always willing to feed us so well!

Our birthday honorees this month were, L-R Barbara Janssen, Janice Chowning, Marlene Moss, Lura Sivalls, and Genie

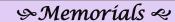
Marsha Melton decorated our table, and Marlene Moss provided a beautiful door prize. This month, Jody Wallin gave a short devotional for the program.

If you are in the age group of near or early retirees or later, we

hope you will 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 joined us. We always meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 – 1:00 in the Rodman Fellowship Building, Dining Room.

Blessings to you all,

Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor



In Memory of **Ruth Jones** Given by Greg Parks & Family

> In Memory of **James Russell** Given by

Shonna & Jim Harper Challengers Sunday School Barbara & Rick Browning

In Memory of Bea Bacon Given by Betty Bacon In Memory of Robert "Bob" Bacon Given by Gwen & Jake Collins

9000

Betty Bacon



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Spice of Life In Memory of Robert "Bob" Bacon Given by

8:00am Sunday School In memory of Ruth Jones Given by June & Jerry Hogue

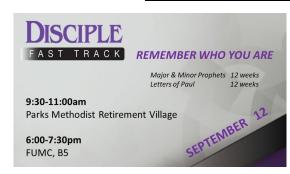
With Deepest Sympathy

To Susan & Donnie Butler; for the loss of Susan's mother Gwen Hawley

To Anne & Clyde Shugart; For the loss of Anne's father Tames' Russell

To the friends and family of Ruth Lucille Jones

9000





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United Methodist Women Of Three Odessa Churches Gather

UMW had a nice luncheon with good food and great women..

The United Methodist Women of Mackey Chapel-UMC and Asbury-UMC were also represented.

UMC were also represented.
Our program on "We are All David in this Goliath World" was about how David's strength and faith enabled him to face his Giant, and that with our faith in God, He will give us our strength to help us fight our Goliaths.

David contrasts God's everlasting nature with the Come join us!

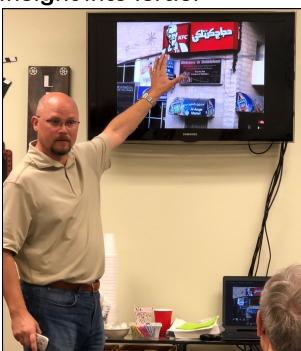
fleeting lives of his people. Nothing lasts unless it is rooted in God's unchanging character. If our most impressive deeds fade as dust before

God, where should be place our confidence? Only in a relationship with God can we find anything permanent. His love never fades and nothing can take it away.

Our next meeting is **Thursday**, **September 13**, at 9:30am in room 102 at the church.

Come join us!

Insight into Israel





Pastor Todd is shown on August 29 talking to folks gathered at Parks Methodist Retirement Village. The first of two informative presentations serves two purposes. It is an overview of the spiritual, political, and history of Israel, open to all learners. It is also a preview for members of the congregation going with Pastor Todd on a tour of Israel, October 15, 2018.

If you look closely, you'll notice that Pastor Todd is pointing to a KFC sign, one of many American products in Israel. If you have really good eyes, you will see that Pastor Todd is also referencing the Welcome to Bethlehem sign which requests Prayers for Peace.





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.



FirstUMC-ODESSA CULTIVATOR Page 3

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.



Sisters in Christ: The J.O.Y. Bible Study kicked off its new year by creating thank you baskets for a weekend retreat hosted by Daughters Of The King. Daughters Of The King is a West Texas organization of women from various churches in our area, with a heart for helping women who are wounded in spirit, body and mind. In May, Daughters partnered with FUMC to host a Woman's Empowerment Luncheon.

Seated, L-R: Tanisha Lewis, Kristi Hunter, Marilyn Smith. D.J. Homer, Lois Webb, Evelyn Dixon. Standing, L-R: Lynn Correa, Kay Whitefield, Jean Stinson, Sue Drainer, Mary Jane Smith, Toni Pettitt, Joy White, Rev. Karin Carlson, and Gilda Grant.

Every Sunday, FoundationKids partner with Samaritans By Grace to feed the hungry by distributing sack lunches in Noel Heritage Plaza adjacent to our church. Kindergarten and 1st Graders are shown handing out bottles of water and sandwiches. The younger kids are eager to help pass out the food, while the students in 4th and 5th grads help assemble the lunches when it's their turn to serve.







On Wednesday, August 22, our echo Youth enjoyed the fellowship at Mackey Chapel-UMC's Back to School Bash. The youth are shown united in prayer as Pastor Karin prays over them and the Odessa College Volleyball team.



FAMILY MINISTRIES...THE CHURCH PARTNERING WITH HOMES

SEPTEMBER 2018 OT: INFLUENCE OF GODLY LEADER-

ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT - 1 Kings

CHOICES: We will identify the universal challenges and temptations experienced by the kings of Israel and how they relate to the contemporary culture. Students will evaluate the consequences of these leaders; actions, and be encouraged to follow their good examples, stand for what is right, and avoid their mistakes.

Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30
Choosing God's Way	Seeking God's Presence	Following Wise Counsel	Confronting Sin	Standing for Truth
1 Kings 2:1-4;3:3-15	1 Kings 8:1-61	1 Kings 12:1-33	1 Kings 16:29-17:7; 18:1-18	1 Kings 18:19-46

PRESCHOOL – Worship (Building of the Temple)

This unit provides an introduction to Solomon and the building of the Temple. Students will be introduced to the truth I Can Worship the Lord as they examine various forms of worship and are challenged to integrate worship in their daily lives.



Get to know Melanie Taylor, our Assistant Family Ministry Director

Graduate of Round Rock High School From: Austin, TX

Attended Austin Community College

Interests: music, going to the gym, arts and crafts, family.

Favorite color: yellow

Favorite ice cream: cookies and cream

Favorite food: Chick-Fil-A

Involved with 1st-UMC-Odessa: Children's Center Teacher, D6 Sunday

School, Foundation Children's ministry and greeting, and Nursery

Favorite Bible verse: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

How is God in working in your life: God is building me up for a better future, and building my relationship with my husband. He is preparing me for things I could never imagine, especially through this job as Assistant Family Director, and building my husband's relationship together.



Contact Melanie or Caleb about After School Kids A community collaboration for elementary aged kids to learn more about God's Word, develop their faith, and create incredible friendships.



FAMILY MINISTRIES MOVING FORWARD AND UPWARD

soul, and with all your strength.

command you today shall be in your

diligently to your children, and shall

talk of them when you sit in your

house, when you walk by the way,

when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a

eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the

doorposts of your house and on

your gates Deuteronomy 6:4-9

sign on your hand, and they shall be

"And these words which I

heart. ⁷ You shall teach them

as frontlets between your

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: [a]

The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is such an exciting time for the Kingdom! School has started, the economy is thriving, and many, many new people are moving to the Permian Basin. Yes, this disrupts the rhythm of our "norm" yet it also reminds us to stop and remember whose we are in Christ. He says, "Be suu, ana know that I am God; I will be According to Caleb, "My primary role in FUMC exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." --Psalm 46:10.

Maybe think of this like in sports, when the athlete and/ or team's rhythm gets disrupted by the opponent, a "time out" is called in order to take a breath and get focused back on the game they trained and know how to play. Now, they can move forward with confidence.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:10-20 a little more specifically to suit up, stand firm and walk it out. This is exactly where we are as disciples and even more so at 1st UMC.

The vision of Family Ministries began 3 years ago for intergenerational

discipleship and "the church partnering with the home." At that time, the team of members and I did not know exactly how this would look like, but we intentionally focused on children and the homes. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 basically screamed at us to be a church that equips the people to partner with homes. We prayed, planned, then moved on it. Thus began the D6 Movement at 1st-UMC.

The D6 movement is a missional movement for the church to partner with homes (not just 1st-UMC members but all homes in Odessa. The beauty is that many of you are already doing this and do not even know it. Yet, the time is now for 1st-UMC to go deeper and wider into the community. It all starts at home...your church home and your physical home.

A recent alignment of the D6 missional movement. Last month, we transitioned *forward*

to the Children and the Youth Ministries being melded into the Family Ministries. Caleb Eckel will be directing Family Ministries, and Melanie Taylor will be teaming with Caleb in the leadership for Family Ministries. Melanie's primary responsibilities are children (birth through 5th grade).

rather than just youth. I have felt a calling to be more involved with Children's ministry for a year. At Jefferson UMČ in Ohio, I had previously served as the youth and children's director for four years. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to be the new Family Ministry Director and look forward to working alongside Melanie." Coordinating their separate activities so all age groups brings a clear focus of streamlining the path for spiritual growth in children from birth all the way through 12th grade.

The renaming to Family Ministry reflects that the

activities are not just the children's growth but their parents or legal guardians. Churches only get 1 or 2 hours of the 168 hours a week to minister to the children. So, we want to equip the parents to be ministers.

Part of the plan is to have quarterly Family Night events. On the front page you see all smiles with a night created for parents to come be with their children and participate together along with church members. The next Family Night event is Family Advent Night on November 28th at 6:00pm...everyone mark your calendars!

This is where we at 1st UMC live out "being a community that welcomes all people into life changing relationships with God and others." This is the D6 Movement!

Praise God for such a time as this! —Pastor Karin, Associate Pastor