

THE Reason For The Season

With the backdrops of the new nativity made from Israeli olive wood and the sanctuary's stained-glass window depicting the birth of Jesus, our youth and children created a living nativity on Sunday, December 23. The sanctuary was filled with adorable kids costumed as shepherds, wise men, angels, animals found in the manger and, of course, Mary and Joseph. Youth read Scriptures telling of the birth. Our scholarship choir students presentation of *Mary, Did You Know* was part of the joyful musical fusion of our traditional worship and fellowship worship services. Please turn to page 5 for more celebrations of the Advent season.



This is a story of family ties, acting on God's opportunities, and living out our church mission statement. Traditional Worship Director David Corman's son, Cpl. Andrew Corman is the Midland-Odessa coordinator for the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys For Tots program. Andrew told his father that after all of the local initial requests for toys had been filled, there were many boxes of toys that would be taken to the Lubbock distribution center. Not wanting to miss the chance to help others, David quickly went into action, beginning with our church walls. Some of our Children's Center families and staff received toys. Our partnership with Cavazos Elementary meant families connected with that school had a little brighter Christmas. Our connection with Mackey Chapel lead to conversations with the Odessa Ministerial Alliance...which lead to providing toys for two homeless families in Family Promise, which lead to local

churches distributing toys to hundreds of kids who might not have had a joyful Christmas morning.

All of this transpired in a matter of days the week before Christmas. Ask David how many pickup truck loads of boxes he delivered! These details provide the short-term result. The long-term result is that our church will now act as the storage facility of

Toys For Tots and provide a larger distribution network as we live our mission to make a difference in our church, our community and our world.



Boxes lined the church hallways awaiting distribution.



Pastor Todd, Cpl. Andrew Corman, David Corman talk Toys For Tots.



Church Council members display some of the toys.

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.



Family Ministry Director Caleb Eckel wants the congregation to know the fabulous students active in Echo Student Ministry. This month's student is **Jack Carney**.

Jack Carney
Senior at Odessa High School.

Involved in
Orchestra; is an Eagle Scout, active in our church's Boy Scout Troop 91, participating in many community service projects.

Favorite animal:
dogs

Future Plans: Joining the Navy.

Involvement at 1st-

UMC: Volunteered for VBS; has attended youth group for 2 years; has gone to camp; and mission trip at Port Aransas. Has served as a usher, greeter, and



Jack Carney is pictured having fun at the Corpus Christi aquarium during the 2018 Mission trip to Port Aransas.

communion.

2018 Port Aransas Mission Trip:

"It was a lot of fun hanging out with the youth group in Port Aransas. We worked hard, bonded closer together and met a lot of interesting people."

Favorite youth group moment: "I really like the youth group here. I've made a lot of close friends and I like learning about God."

How is God working in your life? "I'm having a better relationship with my dad."



Christmas caroling was yet another way our Youth celebrated the holiday season. They are shown here bringing Christmas cheer to Parks Retirement Village residents, Clarice Claiborne and Genelle Thompson.

D6 Sunday School Studies for January 2019

ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT – Romans 2 of 2 Living Free In Christ

Part 2 of the study of the book of Romans outlines the practical results and benefits of being rescued from the bondage and penalty of sin. Christians can distinguish the various aspects of living in the manner God desires for those who are in Christ.

D6 2GEN CURRICULUM	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
	Living In The Spirit	Transformed Living	Submissive Living	Selfless Living
	Romans 8: 1-39	Romans 12: 1-21	Romans 13: 1-14	Romans 14: 1– 15:7

PRESCHOOL – I Can Obey God

Students will be challenged to consider the truth I Can Obey God as they examine biblical accounts of followers of God. Students will be encouraged to identify and practice choices that exhibit obedience to the Lord and His ways.

LEADERSHIP: Blessed Are The Flexible and Focused

HAPPY AND JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

We are thankful for the teams of loving leaders that God calls to serve at FUMC and outside of the church walls and into the cities. This past year in my readings I have come to embrace a newer more apostolic definition of *leadership*, “**energizing a community of people towards their own transformation in order to accomplish a shared mission in face of a changing world.**” (*Canoeing the Mountains*, Tod Bolsinger)

The power within this style of leadership is that it is relational and adaptive.

FUMC is beyond blessed with the lineage of leaders that have and currently are serving the Church. (*Below are the 2019 Lay Leaders.*) It is amazing to see the fruits of the labors of the harvest that began over 100 years ago. Our challenge today is to keep planting seeds of love and faith for the Kingdom of God. This is why each church needs all people to live out their discipleship by serving at the church and outside of the church. Absolutely, we are to **connect** with others and **grow** in the God’s Word. Yet we are also called to **serve** in the church and **go** outside of the church (on mission) to connect with the unchurched.

When we begin to build that relationship with them we proclaim the Good News of the Gospel by serving them and growing with them in God’s Word. This is healthy discipleship.

Is serving and going on mission risk-taking? *Yes.*

Is it scary? *Can be.*

Is self-less? *Absolutely.*

Can you do this? *Yes, but not alone!*

This is why we equip the saints and develop leaders. The *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* leaves no doubt as to the “priesthood of all believers.”

Paragraph 134 in the *Book of Discipline* states, “The United Methodist tradition has recognized that laypersons as well as ordained persons are gifted and called by God to lead the Church.”

Many people are an essential part of leadership at FUMC. They partner with the pastors to be advocates for the laity at FUMC.

Ultimately, we all need to keep in mind that in all that we do, we need to:

1. Keep Jesus Christ at the center
2. Make disciples of Jesus Christ
3. Develop lay leadership

I am excited to be in ministry and leadership with FUMC. I pray that God will equip us for this ministry and give us wisdom to perceive His will. I have no doubt that God will bless us as we work for his Kingdom together.

Yours in Christ,

Karin Carlson, Associate Pastor

2019 LAY LEADERSHIP

Church Council Chair Barbara Browning;

Lay Leader-Betsy Triplett-Hurt;

Leaders- Susie Schnaubert, Nancy Stewart, Ann Moore, Larry Hackleman, Larry Melton, Mike Forrest, Connie Nichols.

BUILDING TRUSTEES: Brett Emerson, Scott Coulter, Brad Watts, Colby Brazile, Dan Ferguson, Danny Pool, Gabe Grewell, Gary Sims, Chas Weatherby.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Cindy Fowler, William Stewart, Terri Woodward, Tammy Hawkins, Gary Leathers, Jo Forrest, Craig Van Amburgh, Connie Grewell, Larry Johnson

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Josh Stumpner, Judy Hayes, Dan Brazelton, Kevin Wilson, Gary Moore, Jim Brown, Clyde Shugart, Glenda Adams, Nancy Sims

NOMINATION & LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE: Julie Brown, Danny Schnaubert, Sara Dyrstad, Mary Ann Miles, Tricia Elrod, Tyson Voigt

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES for 2019

Jody Wallin, Connie Grewell, Joni Vincent

Celebrating The Season

Family Advent Night was a great kick off to the Christmas season ! Everyone had a wonderful time decorating Christmas cookies, making Christmas ornaments, and playing games with each other... And let's not forget about the awesome chili cook off and mac and cheese throw down (Yummy)!!!

Spot Light Children's Ministry: Our wonderful and lovely ladies at FUMC, we greatly appreciate their helping hands with the children's ministry. Thank you for helping children understand the Word of God, all of your help has made a huge impact in the children's ministry, thank you for your commitment and dedication to the children

1st-UMC family and friends had an awesome time serving the Odessa community by passing out hot chocolate, and candy canes at the Lighted Christmas Parade. The children had the opportunity to greet individuals and invite them to fellowship with us in the future! Once the parade began we all sat down and enjoyed the evening as a church family. The Children's Family Ministry is looking forward to more opportunities in 2019 to serve our community.— *Melanie Taylor, Asst. Family Minister Director*

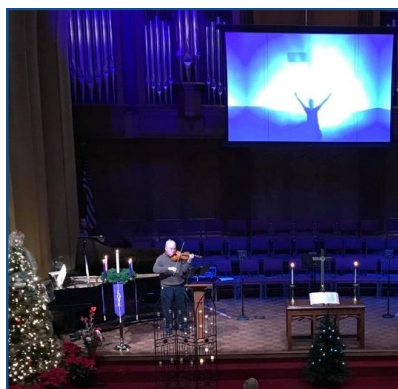


The photo backdrop was a big success at Family Advent Night. Youth and Children Ministry staff are seen posing for group pics. Kids also handed out hot chocolate to warm Christmas Parade watchers.



Photos Above
1. Our choir
2. Our youth
3. Violins, cello, and make joy

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE on December 11 was special worship service to remember the sadness, sorrow, pain and grief that can be a part of this holiday season. The candles of this candle light service serve as petitions to God for loved ones who are no longer with us.



Many 1st-UMC families participated in the candle light service during the four weeks of



Angels lead the shepherd to the Christ child during the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 23. The children of the church participated in this wonderful Christmas pageant at both services.



All the children who attended the service were invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant.



ve:
r students sing *Mary, Did You Know*.
h read scriptures
drums, guitars and our Steinway piano
ful music



ated in the lighting of the Advent
of Advent.



So...How adorable are our Christmas Pageant cast members? Very adorable.



The Spice of Life group met on Thursday, Dec. 20. We had a wonderful turnout with about 40 in attendance!

Russell Kimble and Debra and Steve Meador prepared a wonderful, home-made, Christmas dinner complete with beautiful decorations compliments of Marsha Melton. Thank you all so very much. We are truly blessed.

Our program was given by our illustrious choral director, David Corman. We were blessed by



Jody with December birthday boy, Joe Moss.

his wonderful spirit and talent. He truly gave us a wonderful Christmas present by blessing us with his presence and talent.

If you haven't come to Spice of Life in a while (or maybe ever), we hope you will 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*

Christmas Celebrations



Jesus first, Others second, Yourself last, aka J.O.Y. Bible study celebrated the season with a J.O.Y.-ful gift exchange of items expressing J.O.Y. Lynn Correa hosted (standing: Kay Whitefield, Mary Jane Smith, Marty Farris. Seated, Betsy Triplett-Hurt, Lynn Correa, Toni Pettit, and Joy White.

DISCIPLE 3 FAST TRACK: REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE SPRING 2019

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 6 |
9:30-11:00am
Parks Senior Living, Club House

Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 6 |
6:00- 7:30pm Room B5
Books \$14



United Methodist Women enjoy great food and beautiful table decorations, Thursday, December 13.

Eleanor Eckel attends her first worship service on Sunday, December 23 to watch the Christmas Pageant.

She is held by her proud mother, Becky.

Her proud daddy is Family Ministry Director Caleb, who was co-directing the Christmas Pageant.

Becky's parents are seated by Eleanor.

She was born December 10.



Memorials

In Memory of Gloria Lambert

Given by

Barbara & Rick Browning
Betty Love
Michael & Dana Ashton
Hugh & Johnnie Williams
Stephanie & John Latimer
Kay & Doug Whitefield
Doris Mason

In Memory of Eileen Hinds

Given by

Grace King

Children's Clothes Closet

In Memory of Sara Bennie

Given by

Jim & Julie Brown
Dan & Robbie Brazelton

In Memory of Gloria Lambert

Given by

Dan & Robble Brazelton
Randy & Lynn Correa

In Memory of Charle Scott

Given by

Randy & Lynn Correa

In Memory of Grover Beakley

Given by

Randy & Lynn Correa

Stephen Ministry

In Memory of Gloria Lambert

Given by

Jim & Julie Brown

Samaritans By Grace

In Memory of Gloria Lambert

Given by

Fredda Black

Honorariums

In Honor of

Joel V. Roberts

Given by

Judy Hayes

In Honor of

Judy Hayes

Given by

Joel V. Roberts

In Honor of

2018 Church Council

Given by

Barbara & Rick Browning

Food Pantry

In Honor of

Buddy & Sue McDonald
Given by Jane & Art Scharlach

In Honor of

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Brazelton
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Pipes

Given by

Barbara & Rick Browning

Choir Notes



In January, FUMC and UTPB will sponsor a children's opera, "The Three Little Pigs". ECISD will bus every second grader in the district (approx. 2500 students) for six performances in the FUMC sanctuary on Thursday and Friday January 24 and 25.

There will also be a public matinee performance on Saturday, January 26 at 2:00pm. I wrote the comic libretto (in English) to the music of Mozart, and it is 45 minutes in length.

It will feature the UTPB Vocal Ensemble and Karen Eychaner on

piano. I will conduct and direct the production. Billy Baker, a former member of FUMC choir will be the Technical Director. Several students in our college scholarship program have roles in the opera: Emily West (Stick Pig), Deyanira Carrasco (Mama Pig), Destinee Altier (Brick Pig), Jacob Corman (Big Bad Wolf), Isaac Torres (Opera Wolf), and Ben Corman (Opera Wolf). Come out to the public performance on the Saturday, January 26 for a peak back to your childhood and a good laugh! — *David Corman, Director of Traditional Worship*



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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 **L**ove others, **I**nvite them to join us as we **F**ollow
Christ, who **E**mpowers us to make a difference.*

Men's Wild Game Dinner 2019 is lining up to be another great outreach event, geared primarily for males, but is truly for **anyone** who loves the outdoors. A variety of wild game is the basis for the menu and a big reason many people attend.

Drawings for hunting paraphernalia is another big attraction. However, the overall lure of the event is the opportunity to hang-out with the guys.

Outdoorsman Pastor Todd Salzwedel will be right at home as the Master of Ceremonies. The featured speaker is a representative of the nationally recognized conservation group, *The Texas Brigades*. *The Texas Brigades'* mission is to educate and empower youth with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy.



**Saturday
Jan. 26 6:30 PM
Fellowship Center
217 W. 5th St.**

To Register
www.fumcodessa.org
Or 432.337.1527

The Texas Brigades is a combination of educational programs, including eight summer camps: Bobwhite Brigade (quail), Buckskin Brigade (deer), Bass Brigade, Waterfowl Brigade (ducks and geese), Ranch Brigade (cattle), and Coastal

Brigade (marine life). The importance of this program is represented by its cooperating partners, including Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Wildlife Association Foundation, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The *Texas Brigades* program is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please go to the website, www.texasbrigades.org to learn more about this important program.

It's easy to register for the Wild Game Dinner 2019. Either call the office at 337-1527 or use the church's website, fumcodessa.org.