

Whether You Like Bacon Or Like Salad: Everyone Loves 3 Little Pigs

1. As they entered the front doors, students were greeted with **radical hospitality** from staff and church members saying "Welcome." 2. David Corman greets the students. He also instructed them on Boogie the Big Bad Wolf and singing *Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolf?*
3. The cast on stage during the finale.
4. The UT-Permian Basin Vocal Ensemble.



Through the co-production of UT-Permian Basin and 1st-UMC, on January 24 & 25, every E.C.I.S.D. second grade class experienced the beauty of our sanctuary and the musical genius our Minister of Music and Evangelism, David Corman. In his capacity as adjunct professor at UT-Permian Basin, David conducted the UTPB Vocal Ensemble in the operetta that he wrote based on *The Three Little Pigs*. (Even costumed as Wolves and Pigs, many of the singers were recognizable as members of our sanctuary choir.) According to David, he combined elements of Romeo and Juliet/West Side Story, music from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, for the story, and ended with LL Cool J's rock version of *Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolf?* The 13 performers turned all of that into a howling good time for 2,500 students and their teachers. Most students were awed by the sanctuary windows; some knew the story told in the windows and explained to other students. One child asked if the nuns were here. When told there were no nuns here, the child replied, "Good." As they boarded their school buses, the kids called the performance "Awesome! Fun! So Cool! Wow!" According to David, "I wanted this place to be a safe place, a fun place, a place of peace and love and reaching out to those little guys so there is a memory that is really up, joyful, fun and not negative." By all accounts, that prayer was answered.



Wild Game Dinner—Approximately 130 attended our 9th Annual Wild Game Dinner. It's an event with a two-fold purpose: give back to the men in our community, and share life together. While the participants feasted on venison sausage, posole, roasted pig, corn bake, and quail legs, they were able to swap stories about the outdoors and hear from Natalie Wolff, the Executive Director of the Texas Brigades. A big thank you to all the volunteer cooks, servers and to Scout Troop 91 for all their help.

Colin Proft

(Photo: Texas Brigade Executive Director Natalie Wolff)

Please go to the FUMC-Odessa FaceBook to see more wonderful photos of this event



Todd Salzwedel
Senior Pastor

I have been so touched by the notes that have been sent to let me know who joins me in prayer each day from 2:23 until 2:26 as I and many other delegates from around the world prepare for the upcoming General Conference. I have an alarm that goes off each day on my phone at 2:23 reminding me to do the same. I admit that I

don't always stop and bow my head in silent prayer, but I do take notice of the time and I'm reminded of the importance of the work we do in the name of the church and God.

General Conference will be held February 23 — 26 in St. Louis, Missouri. General Conference (GC) is best understood as the legislative body of the church. While this upcoming conference is a special called session, we generally meet every four years. At GC, petitions are submitted and combed through which seek to help us in our task to make disciples of Jesus Christ all across the world. They deal with the structure of the missions around the world, institutions of learning and the laws of our church. To be sure, it is an enormous task, and one I am blessed to be a part of.

This year, we have a special called General Conference which on one hand deals with a complex issue in the church centered around human sexuality. For some, this is a matter of biblical authority and our call to sexual purity.

For others, the issue is one of love for neighbor and how we are called to live that out. Personally, I understand the arguments of both, but think the issue is bigger than whether clergy are allowed to conduct same sex marriages or not. Instead, I think it gets at the core of who we are and how we respond to society in times when culture and faith seem to clash. In some sense, seeking the truth of God and how we live that out are being called to question.


There are many resources you can find online about this ongoing debate, and I would direct your attention to www.umc.org if you want more information about the history and continued struggle over such issues. You will find a wide variety of opinions and possible solutions everywhere you look. But the only body that can set policy and church law for the United Methodist Church is the General Conference. And even then, what happens at General Conference isn't necessarily the final word...law has to be ratified by the conferences all over the world. But I'll tell you more about that next month! I think I've given you enough to pray about for the coming month!

Blessings, and remember that regardless of what some people might say or do, on February 28, 1st-UMC will still be about the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. We will be committed to inviting people to life changing relationships with God and one another. We will be the church guided by the spirit and word of God, and I can't think of any place I'd rather be! — Pastor Todd

D6 Sunday School Studies for February 2019

ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT – Authenticity & Accountability

This special topic examines key components of authentic faith. It devises practical ways to incorporate biblical accountability in our lives. Students create a plan to strengthen faith, encourage friends and more effectively share our faith with others.

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
	Authentic Faith	Accountability	Disciplined Living	Intentional Faith
	Psalm 103: 1-14 Ephesians 2:1-10 Romans 7: 15-25	Galatians 2: 11-14 2 Peter 1:1 1 Samuel 15:17-31 Psalm 51:1-17 Galatians 6:1-5	1 Cor 9:24-27 Titus 2:1-14 Daniel 1:1-21 Proverbs 23:1-9	Philippians 3:7-14 Hebrews 12:1-4, 12-14 2 Timothy 2:20-26

PRESCHOOL – Heaven's Heroes of Faith: Noah, Moses, Rahab, Joseph

This unit proves examples of faith in the Scriptures. Students examine biblical accounts of heroes of the faith. Everyone will be challenged to consider personal choices to exhibit faith as we live out the truth, *I Can Live By Faith*.



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

Kallan Grewell
Sophomore at Permian High School.

Involved in:

Varsity Woman's Choir, Varsity Panther Paws Dance team, Crystal Ball, Odessa Symphony guild

Favorite Movie: *Mamma Mia*

Future Plans: Go to Texas Tech and become a professional dancer.

Involvement at FUMC: Has attended 1st-UMC her whole life; baptized as an infant. Member of Confirmation Class, 2017. Volunteered for 5 years at VBS, has been attending ECHO youth group for 5 years, also a regular attendee of Sunday school; served as a liturgist and has also served communion; attended 5 camps and a mission to Port Aransas with the youth group.



Kallan (in the pink shirt) helps remove Hurricane Harvey debris from a yard in Port Aransas.

Kallan's comments on the 2018 Port Aransas Mission Trip:

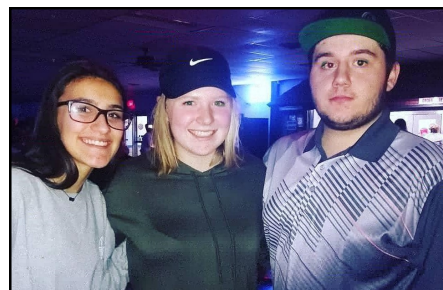
"It was fun getting to know everyone on the mission trip because we were a smaller group. We had time to listen and find out how God has been working in our lives."

Why do you attend ECHO youth group?

"All the great fellowship helps me get through the rest of my week."

How is God working in your life?

I don't think I would be where I am today without God. So often I get discouraged in dance but when I pray He gives me encouragement to help me know that this is a talent He gave me and I need to pursue.



ECHO Youth kept busy during Christmas break: pictured here are some of the 24 students and 5 adults participating in Cosmic Bowling. At another outing, 31 students ice skated at the mall.



The 1st-UMC Foundation Kids and parents came together to celebrate the New Year, by watching a movie together in their pajamas, while eating yummy movie snacks. Happy New Year!!

Do You Know The Connection Between Methodism And Welch's Grape Juice?

The many people responsible for Communion during the 9:00 traditional worship service recently gathered in the chapel to brush up on this sacrament.

Here are a few of the questions and answers, as stated in **This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion**.

United Methodist Church recognizes **two sacraments**, baptism and communion. These two acts are special to the church because Jesus commanded them and participated in them.

What is correct name of Communion?

This particular sacrament has three names: The Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, and the Eucharist.

The Lord's Supper reminds us that Jesus Christ is the host and that we participate at Christ's invitation. Jesus invites us to take part in **the special meal** he ate with his disciples the night before his crucifixion, and other meals he shared in homes and on hillsides.

Holy Communion invites us to focus on the self-giving of the Holy God which makes the sacrament an **occasion of grace**, and on the holiness of our communion with God and one another.

Eucharist, from the Greek word for thanksgiving, reminds us that the sacrament is thanksgiving to God for the gifts of creation and salvation.

Who can partake of Communion in our church?

Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources with **Discipleship Ministries**, says we Methodists practice "open communion" ... means that all of the baptized are welcome to receive. However, he continues, "United Methodists do not practice 'wide open communion'. There are actual conditions, 'We are instructed to use the invitation as it appears in our ritual to make clear whom Christ does invite to his table: those who 'love him, earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to be at peace with one another.' We serve all who present themselves, not questioning their integrity in response to the invitation."



For Traditional Worship some prepare the elements. Kimble, Dee & Marsha Melton, Colby & Lisa Brazill, J'Nevelyn & Larry Melton, Pastor Karin Carlson, Betsy Triplett-Hurt, Chris Guerrero, Peggy Wallin, M

This Holy Mystery also advises the church to be inclusive, even if they belong to a different church. They are not barred from receiving, but "should be baptized as soon as possible." In a church, Even baptized infants are invited.

What is needed for a Communion? The elements, the bread and the cup.

The Bread: "The use of a whole loaf is preferred by the church as the body of Christ and, with the cup, fellowship in that body." (1 Corinthians 10:17) Unleavened bread is acceptable. The bread should be without frostings, nuts, raisins, artificial colors, etc.

The Cup: "A single cup or chalice is preferred. It means dipping the bread into the juice. The cup best represents Christian unity, but many churches use two cups for different congregations. Pastor Karin said the



Acolyte training 2019

We had an wonderful group of children that had the opportunity to learn the duty of an Acolyte for this year. The children are very honored and excited to learn more about their new responsibility!
—Assistant Family Ministry Director, Melanie Taylor

Train up a child in the way of the Lord, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. From *Worship Ministry*. "Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' The light is a symbol of Jesus' love for his community. Many people have found out that Jesus was not just a teacher, but a servant, the light of the world. Christ is for all people. Jesus' service at the Passover is a symbol of his love. This symbolizes the light of life where believers are

Why? Many Questions Answered During Communion Training



...s, some serve the elements: Russell & Beverly ...
...e, Lynn Correa, Becky Guerrero, Toni Petit,
...ot pictured: Lee & Brett Emerson, Buzz Hurt &
...Marty Farris, Jayme & Natalie Wilson

...baptized present are all invited,
...urch. Those not baptized are not
...be counseled and nurtured toward
...ddition, there is no minimum age.

...n service? There are two

...loaf best signifies the unity of the
...when it is broken and shared, our
...ns 10:16-17). Either leavened or
...The loaf should be plain bread (no
...oring, or other additions.)
...may be used for intinction—which
...ice." The use of a common chalice
...individual cups are used in many
...ne kneeling rails will be used

during the season of Lent. This means the juice will be served in individual cups as congregants kneel at the railing.

Why do we serve grape juice and not wine?

Ever the historian, Pastor Todd Salzwedel explains the connection of Welch's Grape Juice and the United Methodist Church: In the 1880's before Prohibition, Thomas B. Welch was a communion steward at Vineyard New Jersey Methodist Episcopal Church. By that time, he was a retired Methodist preacher. To combat the epidemic of alcoholism, Welch perfected a grape juice pasteurization process that allowed churches to serve an alcohol-free substitute for Communion wine. Thus, began Welch's Grape juice. (www.umc.org/methodist history and Welch's Grape Juice)

Who conducts Communion?

Communion is one of the responsibilities and duties of a pastor. During the worship service "lay persons as well as other clergy may assist the pastor in giving the bread and cup." (*The United Methodist Book of Worship*)

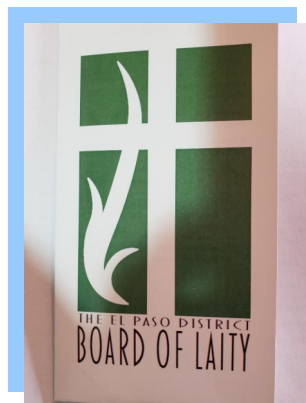
Contact Pastor Karin if you would like to become a member of the Communion team.

What happens to the leftover bread and juice?

You won't find the bread and wine being eaten as regular food or being thrown away since it's been consecrated. Communion stewards have three options.

- 1) Communion may be taken to those who can't attend worship. This includes those in nursing homes, hospitals, etc. It is usually the Pastor who does this, but others can be trained to do it.
- 2) The consecrated elements are consumed at the end of the service in a reverent manner.
- 3) The consecrated elements are returned to the earth. Here, at 1st UMC, the juice and bread are scattered in the courtyard or along the narrow plant beds on 5th Street.

...n the way he should go: and when he is old, he will
...c. Proverbs 22:6
...atters: *A United Methodist Guide to Worship Work:*
...m the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence
...ds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our
...carried by Acolytes into the worship service as a
...coming into the presence of the worshipping
...y congregations use two candles on the altar to point
...as both a human being and God. At the end of the
...is carried out into the world to show that Jesus
...people everywhere; The acolyte leaves the worship
...stor's direction, carrying out the lighted candlelighter.
...the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world
...are to serve.



The Board of Laity is the engaging arm of the El Paso District that encourages discipleship through training and empowering Laity, or church members. To assist in training Laity session include:

- Lay Servant Classes
- Safe Sanctuaries
- Church Committees

Our first training:
Lay Leader/Laity Leadership
Feb. 23, 2019 from
1:00 - 3:00
Monahans United Methodist Church



The Spice of Life group last met on Thursday, January 17. We had a very good, home-made lunch compliments of Russell Kimble, and Steve Meador. Beautiful table decorations and the door prize were compliments of Marsha Melton. Thank you

once again to all our volunteers for all the love and work you put into making Spice of Life a wonderful outreach ministry. We are truly blessed.

We celebrated several Birthdays this month. What a blessing it is to share in the joy of another year with our family, and friends!

The program was given by Marsha Melton. Marsha continued her talk about our recent trip to the Holy Land. She also brought a picture book that her daughter gave her that contains hundreds of pictures of the various places we went while on our pilgrimage to the Holy Land. If you didn't get to go, Pastor Todd is already putting together another trip in January 2020. It's not too early to begin planning and paying towards going on this pilgrimage which is truly a "Trip of a Lifetime." I was also surprised by my Mother who came to visit us and celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary on January 18. What a blessing she always is!

We invite you to 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, 11:30 am– 1:00 pm.

Blessings to you all, Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor



L-R: Jody Wallin, Jean Stinson, Buddy McDonald and Frizella Whitiker

Welcome New Members



Welcome to new members, Graham Prickett and Joyce Claiborne-Garrand joined in the Traditional Service on January 6, 2019.

Thank You, Members

Once again, 1st UMC fulfilled our commitment to the Conference by meeting our Shared Ministries obligation of \$94,986.90.

Our Christmas Eve Offering of \$19,149.26 allowed us to support the ministries of Rev. Arthur Raj in India, Brandon Hembree Family in China and Holly Stallcup with Now She Rises.

Memorials

**In Memory of
Gloria Lambert**

**Given by
Toni Pettit**

Betsy & Buzz Hurt
Nell & Glenn Smith
Margie & Bill Jackson
Lori & David Nelson
Sherry & Richard Buck

Children's Clothes Closet

**In Memory of
Sara Bennie**

**Given by
Sherri & Bob Murray
Shonna & Jim Harper**

**In Memory of
Ken Hankins**

**Given by
Lynn & Randy Correa**

**In Memory of
Betty Thompson**

**Given by
Lynn & Randy Correa**



Samaritans By Grace

**In Memory of
Gloria Lambert**

**Given by
Nancy & Dub Riley**

Sanctuary Choir Fund

**In Memory of
Gloria Lambert**

**Given by
Nancy & Dub Riley
Lura & Dick Sivalls**

**In Memory of
Jane Reid**

**Given by
Doris Mason**

With Deepest Sympathy

*To the friends and family of
Jane Reid*

Disciple Fast Track

—Remember Who You Are
12 Week Study of the letters of Paul

**2nd Sunday of the
Month
11am & 12pm**



Pulled Pork and Pulled Chicken

**Plaza Area &
Dining Hall**

**Bring a Side Dish
Come and Go**

**A-M Bring a side dish to feed 8-10 people
N-Z Bring a dessert to feed 8-10 people**

Begins February 6

**Parks 9:30 a.m.
FUMC Room 102 6:00 p.m.**

Sign up: fumcodessa.org

432.337.1527

Check us out on

facebook

Video clips, photos and the sermon are posted each week on
our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOdessa/>

*Be sure to 'like' and 'share' the posts with your friends and
family.*



**General Conference
February 23-26**

**Pray Everyday
at 2:23 to 2:26**

General Conference

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



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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.*

ODESSA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

Lenten Lunch Series

"Were You There"

11:30 a.m.—12:45 p.m.

Date	Location	Preaching	Scripture
03/06/19 Ash Wed.	*First United Methodist Church 415 N. Lee St.	Tim O'Neal	Matthew 27:29
03/13/19	Westminster Presbyterian Church 4901 Maple Ave.	Clark Raca	Matthew 27:32
03/20/19	Highland United Methodist Church 1808 N. Dixie	Christopher Hagger	Matthew 27:38
03/27/19	First Presbyterian Church 1401 N. Sam Houston	Vaughny Taylor	Luke 23:27
04/03/19	Bethany Christian Church 4522 N. Everglade	Dawn Weeks	John 19:25-27
04/10/19	Central Baptist Church 1416 N. Texas	Ron Hankins	Luke 19:38
04/17/19	TBA	Ed Williamson	Mark 15

*Ashes will be imposed at service



A S H
Wednesday

March 6, 2019

**Imposition of Ashes
Worship service
6pm Sanctuary**