

Soldiers In The Army Of The LORD: Pray Fearlessly



Lots of action at this year's VBS as kids learn about the Armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-20. Through craft projects, song, and dance, the kids learned about the **breastplate of righteousness**, the **belt of truth**, the **shield of faith** and the **helmet of salvation**. Please see more photos of the fun action on the [FoundationKids Facebook](#).

Rise Up, O Men Of God!



"Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings."

A rousing rendition of this beloved hymn by the male singers of the Sanctuary Choir opened the Father's Day celebration for the traditional worship service. Please see page 3 for more photos of honoring our dads. Go to our [FUMC Odessa Facebook page](#) to see the video of this song.

Sacramento Youth Conference Camp

was such a blessing this year. We grew closer as a youth group while also meeting other youth groups and churches from all over our conference. We went on hikes in the mountains, rode



horses, worshipped, ate good food, played a ton of games, heard great messages, had a LOT OF FUN and made memories that will last a lifetime.

I had the blessing to be able to pray and love on so many students, but one of the most special one this year was Kyler Fife, who decided he wanted to work in full

time ministry.

THANK YOU, FUMC for all of YOUR SUPPORT.

These experiences would not be possible without you.

I also say a special THANK YOU to Karin Carlson and Kelli Williams for their leadership! — Caleb Eckel, Family Ministry Director



Echo has been continuing the tradition of the SWIM N STUDIES at the Eckel's house every Wednesday! Swim, study the Bible and eat food! Next Swim N Study July 3 @ 5pm



Summer Mission Trip
Prayers For Safe Travels As Our Youth Go To Port Aransas July 15—19

D6 Sunday School Studies for JULY 2019 GOD'S WORD

ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT – 2 Kings & 2 Chronicles

This brief study of the later kings of Israel reveals the effects of leadership and individual integrity. Students can evaluate the decisions made by good and bad leaders, examine how those actions affected others for generations, and determine to make the hard choices necessary to perpetuate the faith.

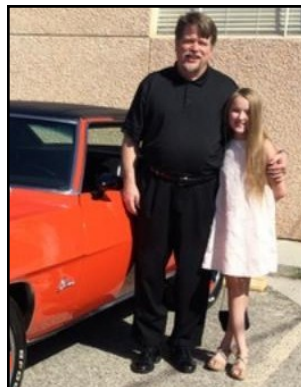
D6 2GEN CURRICULUM	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
	Faithfully Serving In God's Power	The Impact of Choices	Humbly Obeying God's Word	The Consequences of Disobedience
	2 Kings 2:1-15	2 Chronicles 17:3-13 18:1 21:1-6 22:1-12	2 Kings 22:1-20 23:1-3 23:21-25	2 Kings 25:1-21

PRE-SCHOOL — Elijah and The Widow

This unit provides an overview of the life of Elijah and his example of depending on the Lord. Students will learn the truth **I Can Talk To God**. They will examine the concept and value of prayer and be challenged to practice talking to God.

Honoring Our Fathers

On Father's Day, our adorable FoundationKids greeted each Dad with a special bookmarker, letting them know "you are my sunshine; you are my blessing, God loves you." Having fun with the theme of **Hotcakes and Hotrods**, everyone was treated to a delicious stack of pancakes prepared by Katie Rinker, Megan Carlson, BobbiJo Journey, & Christina Ramirez. Dads and their children had portraits made by either a 1969 Camaro or a 1950 Chevrolet.



Church members spent one weekend cleaning and inventorying what needs to be done to make the generous donation of two homes habitable for the Congolese refugees.



Immediate help is needed to finish the two houses. Prayerfully consider giving your time and talents to work on the houses; or give to the special Refugee Fund to purchase materials.

Hard at work: Kevin Wilson and Pastor Todd weld a metal fence. Karin Carlson and Tammy Hawkins pose with 'the guys' after loading discarded carpeting. Julie Brown and Jack Carney power wash the house siding. Karin is seen talking to Dee Melton and then Becky Eckel about 'what's next.' Laura Wardlow scrubs a kitchen drawer.

At the new African Service, worship time is long and joyful on Sunday afternoons. Special occasions are celebrated with



worship and special meals. These pictures are scenes from a recent service commemorating the death of the mother of one of the Congolese. Unable to return to Africa for her funeral, the group gathered here to remember and celebrate her life. The African service meets in the Chapel at 1 pm on Sundays. Come and join them for a beautiful worship experience.



Coming to America: First United Methodist Church in Odessa welcomes our new family from Africa.

From the surrounding area of South Kiva, the refugees are Congolese and belong to a Banyamulenge tribe; mainly living in high peak plateaus located in Uvira, Fizi, and Mwenga zones; in Bukava and Uvira cities, all in the south Kiva province in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the Congo-Rwanda border.

Banyamulenge are a stateless people. Marginalization and displacement of the Banyamulenge, a Tutsi minority group, from their home in the eastern Congo has led to decades of violence in the region. They maybe "stateless," but their remarkable history of agency has already led to the remaking and reshaping of new homes around the world.

Edward Manase has blessed our church with his ministry and has provided a home for refugees who have been affected by the many wars and tragedies. Like many of the other refugees he, as a young child, witnessed the genocide of his people.

Edward was brought up watching the political tensions and conflicts. He was twenty-one years old when his parents were killed in 1998. At twenty-three he went to the refugee camp Zaleka in Malawi and would then spend the next fifteen years at this camp. God had another plan for Edward. Someone saw that he had a special calling. The person saw how generous Edward was with his monthly rations, sharing his rations that consisted of only 12-pounds of corn; 8-ounces of cooking oil; 8-ounces of salt, with very little water to last a month.

This person paid for Edward to attend college at Malawi University Assembly of God. He graduated in 2007. Edward had to get authorization each month and renew every six months to stay in college.

God blessed Edward again when he met a Godly woman in church and they were married. He then was

allowed to live with his wife and not go back to the camp. He and his wife were missionaries and traveled to many surrounding areas. Being on the refugees list,



It's easy to remember Edward Manse because of his beaming, happy smile. Dressed in their work clothes, Edward introduces Pastor Todd to another refugee.



Dressed in his Sunday clothes, Edward smiles as he hugs Marsha Melton in the Narthex as he and members of his congregation gather before their service. Marsha & Dee Melton, Danny Schnaubert, Kevin Wilson and Tommy Hawkins are leaders in providing help to the refugees.



he was able to benefit from the U.S. government's resettlement program to relocate to the United States. Since his wife was not a refugee, she could not come with him, at this time. She remains in Malawi tending to the many churches they established there.

On November 29, 2018, Edward boarded a plane to New York and then to Nashville, Tennessee. He had with him the appropriate documents in hand and \$191.00 in food stamps to last for three months. He found out living in America was a little different than where he was from. He didn't like the snow, so he then moved to Lubbock, Texas. He saved some money to buy a car and headed for

Odessa to work in the oil field.

Edward never lost his faith and knew that God was leading him to a church that would welcome him and his family - here at First United Methodist Church in Odessa, Texas.

His calling now is to help more refugees. To get them needed help, so they too, can work and live in America. He definitely found the right church.

We welcome and love our new family from Africa.

Edward's heart is to reach all for the Kingdom of God, for the refugees and the underprivileged are his mission.

Thank you Church for being so helpful and generous.

Thank you, Edward and your family, for blessing our lives and our church.

"In God, we trust." -- Marsha Melton



The Spice of Life group met again on Thursday, June 20. There were about 30 in attendance. Russell Kimble cooked a great meal for us, and Dee Melton assisted him in serving it all up and making everything just right! The meal was hamburger steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, and rolls. Beverley Kimble made individual servings of Key Lime pie that were great. Thanks everyone for your hard work, dedication and for such a wonderful meal!

Our birthday honorees this month were Mary Ann



Miles and Walyn Gibson. Kudos again go to Marsha Melton who decorated our tables with beautiful decorations and furnished the candy treats, as well as the door prize. Jody Wallin gave a short program based on a Father's Day and D-day theme.

If you haven't come to "Spice of Life", we hope you will come join us next month and give us a try. I believe 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 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Blessings to you all,

Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor

Annual Conference Update

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK was the theme of the 144th Session of the New Mexico Annual Conference of the UMC attended by Rev. Karin Carlson and Lay Delegates Jody Wallin, Connie Grewell and Joni Vincent. "Bishop Earl Bledsoe kept the order and set the tone by challenging everyone to love others like God has loved you. To do so we must ask, seek, and knock for God's counsel and guidance for the Methodist Church and our own personal spiritual walks. It was definitely the most Spirit-filled Conference I have attended." said Pastor Karin

Praises: Reappointments were approved for Rev. Todd Salzwedel (FUMC), Rev. Donnie Williams (FUMC/The Bridge) and Rev. Karin Carlson (FUMC/Mackey Chapel)

Pastor Todd is on Envisioning Team, District Leadership Team, Alternate Delegate General Conference 2020; Pastor Karin is Vice-Chair El Paso District Board of Missions & New Church Development; Conference Chair-Small Membership Church

Committee; District Committee on Ministry & District Leadership Team; Alice Salzwedel is on Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits; Braedon Salzwedel is on Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

Awards: Both First UMC and Mackey Chapel received special recognitions for High Performing Churches and Shared Ministries. Mackey Chapel was awarded the One Matters Award for the El Paso District.



"THANK YOU" TO OUR SUMMER HELPERS:

Samaritans By Grace is very grateful to everyone who signed up to help on Sundays in June.

Longtime Samaritans by Grace members Jim Brown, Buzz Hurt & Rick Browning pose with summer helpers Woody & Terri Woodward and Mary Blain. Not pictured are Peggy & Ken Dean and members of the Mosaic Class. Additional hands were needed when the regular Samaritans were gone. SBG provides sack lunches to the hunger every Sunday.

Memorials

**In Memory of
Stephanie Stevens
To Celebrate Recovery**
Given by
Michelle & Jeff Rea

**In Memory of
Georgene "Genie" Miller**
Given by
Sally Allen

To Children's Ministry
**In Memory of
Sue Riley**
Given by
Nancy Spano Riley & Dub Riley

**In Memory of
Charles Spano**
Given by
Nancy Spano Riley & Dub Riley



Holy Baptism



Jack Carney and Pastor Todd

Jack Carney was baptized during the Fellowship worship service on Sunday, June 23. Jack is active in our Echo Youth ministry, helping in many aspects of church activities. Jack graduated from Odessa High this year. He plans to attend Odessa College this fall.

New Baby

Jonah Silas Wood, 5lb 15oz

June 25, 2019

Proud Parents are Tiffany & Aaron Wood
Proud Grandmother is Celeste Dale



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help Feed the Hungry
FUMC Food Pantry serving
out of the

West Texas Food Bank
2nd & 4th Mondays
9am to 11am.

Please contact the church
office at 432.337.1527 if you
are interested.

Summer Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Beginning June 7



Love Packs

Supplies Needed



Cookie snack pack
Vienna Sausage-small cans
Peanuts-pack
Raisins-box
Cheese Crackers-pack
Peanut Butter-pack

Trail Mix-pack
Apple Sauce-individual
Hand wipe cloths
Silverware Picnic Pack
Small bottled waters
Gallon zip baggies



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

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (Contemporary Version)

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.