

Changes In Staff Positions

Godspeed for Colin Proft

In his remarks of a fond farewell, Senior Pastor Todd Salzwedel praised Colin Proft for his musical talents and dedication to The Word. For the four years of his time with us, Colin elevated musical presentations with his spirit-led gifts of performing on piano and/or guitar as he primarily served as



Colin and Nichole Proft

worship leader for the Fellowship Worship service. As a memento from a grateful congregation, Colin was given a hymnal with his name engraved on the cover. Colin and his wife, Nicole, are moving to Granbury where he will continue to serve the Lord as a worship leader and teach private musical lessons.

August 4 will be the first official Fellowship Worship service under the guidance of Tyson & Jennifer Voigt. However, it won't be Tyson's first time as part of the Praise Band and worship



Tyson, Jennifer & Gwendolyn

service. Tyson and his wife, Jennifer, are regular participants in the 11:00 worship service. Tyson is an adjunct professor at UT-Permian Basin, having

Welcome Jennifer & Tyson Voigt & Simon Severance

his Doctorate of Music Arts, focusing on percussion. Jennifer is an instructor at Odessa College. She has earned a Doctorate of Music Arts in voice. Both received their doctorates at the University of Miami. The couple are the proud parents of infant daughter, Gwendolyn.

While Tyson is replacing Colin as worship leader, another responsibility of Colin's is being taken up by long-time member, Simon Severance. Simon,



Britani, Simon, Sasha & Ilona

his wife, Britani, and two daughters Sasha and Ilona, are familiar faces around both the Traditional and Contemporary worship services. Simon is the Computer

Systems Manager for Schlumberger

and Britani is a realtor. Simon has been a member of the Audio-Visual team for many years, serving during the Traditional and the Fellowship services. Simon and his wife, Britani, take many of the photographs and videos that Simon uses to create 'big screen' presentations for worship services. While Simon's employment will be that of a part-time position, his dedication and devotion to our church is nothing short of a full-time commitment.

Pastor Todd is pleased to find talented, dedicated, and experienced people within our congregation to continue the standard of excellent that is expected during each worship service.

Congo Christians Are Thankful For 1st-UMC



Progress continues on providing housing for the Christian African refugees who attend worship services at our church. During the week of July 26, the first family moved into one of two donated homes. Donations of three houses, time, money, household items and a lot of love have made it possible to provide dwellings for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Edward Manase, leader of the worship service, poses with the first family to move in: the mother Amy and her two children Divine and Tyree. Mother Amy is currently looking for a job. The children are excited to begin school activities at Permian High and at Wilson-Young Middle School.



Todd Salzwedel

Some people know that I am a collector of great sayings and quotes. Recently, I ran across an anonymous quote that read “Success is getting what you want; Happiness is wanting what you get”. Underneath the quote was a scripture reference to Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians 5:18

which says, “In everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Jesus Christ”.

I’ve thought a lot about that quote and reference lately. On one hand, I find it to be highly optimistic and right on par with how we ought to lead our lives. We are grateful for each day that we have, and the gifts that God has blessed us with. But on the other hand, in talking with a trusted friend, I realized that it can also be used (incorrectly, I think) as a way to accept mediocrity. I don’t for a minute believe that God desires from us mediocre effort or faith. In some sense, some people might advocate that whatever happens to us is simply a result of whether God likes us or not, and who are we to argue? It’s like playing the Superbowl and not keeping score...it just doesn’t make sense to me!

Instead, I think God does endow each of us with gifts - not in equal measure necessarily - according to the Holy Spirit in ways that help us to engage with God in His mission here on earth. Taken together, as the Body of Christ, we are invited to make a significant impact on the lives and world around us. Paul gives us some ways in which we might focus on significance in his letter to the Philippians, primarily in the fourth chapter.

The following is a short list of practices to focus on significance, allowing us to maximize our witness for God.

1. Stand firm in the Lord (Philippians 4:1)
2. Be mission-minded (Philippians 4:14)
3. Be open-hearted (Philippians 4:15-16)
4. See giving as an instrument (Philippians 4:17)
5. Care about what God thinks ((Philippians 4:18)
6. Trust God to provide (Philippians 4:19)
7. Let God have His way (Philippians 1:6)
8. Pray (Philippians 1:19)
9. Live consistently (Philippians 1:29-30)

When I look at my life, I find that I am so happy! It doesn’t mean there aren’t goals or dreams that have yet to be realized. It doesn’t mean that everything in my life is perfect or that it has unfolded according to some grand plan I envisioned somewhere in my past. And yet, I recognize that the blessings of my family, my church, my friends and the opportunities I have had in my life help to make me the person I am...and I am grateful!

How about you? Are you happy, or are you more concerned with some other measure you have created in your mind? Do we focus (more often than not) on making a significant difference for the Kingdom of God more than we seek personal recognition relative to others?

In the end, I believe God wants us to take our thoughts and plans to Him. In fact, He wants us to seek Him first in all things (see Matthew 6:33). Sometimes our plans and desires are those of God. Other times they are not. But when we measure our lives by the happiness and joy we experience in God rather than our own sense of worth, I think we will find we desire the things of God first. In the end, we derive our happiness from things that are significant. And significance is eternal. It outlasts us and is reflected in our relationships with other people and Jesus. And what we find significant is revealed by commitment, our trust, and where we spend our time. - Todd Salzwedel, Senior Pastor

Have you been visiting on Sundays and would like to make FUMC Odessa your church home and become a member? Pastor Todd would love to visit with you. Contact the church office at 432.337.1527



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

Madelynne Grace Battershell

Sophomore at Midland Christian High School.

Favorite team: Texas Tech

Future Plans: Medical field.

Involvement at FUMC: Maddie has attended ECHO youth group for the last 2 years. Also attended camp with ECHO for 2 years.

Why do you attend ECHO Youth Group?

"I feel like it is a good environment to enrich my walk with Christ."

The 2019 Sacramento Camp trip:

"I got to see God move in a lot of people. He spoke to me and reassured me of the faith."

How is God working in your life?

"He is helping me convert people to Christianity. He has helped me figure out what I want to do in my life. He is always there for me."



Pictured from R to L Maddie, Caleb, Kallan and Sloane sporting their Sacramento camp shirts

D6 Sunday School Studies for AUGUST 2019 Special Topic

ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT – Power of the Gospel

Our world is in turmoil. Myriad voices offer opposing philosophies and solutions. The Christian worldview argues that Christ is the only answer to the problems of the world. This study proposes the gospel of Christ is the Good News that can remedy the brokenness in individual lives and our world.

D6 2GEN CURRICULUM	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
	The Gospel is Powerful	The Gospel Demands To Be Shared	The Gospel Changes Lives	The Gospel Changes The Culture
	Romans 1:16 1 Corinthians 1:18	Matthew 28:18 Acts 1:8 Romans 10: 13-14	Acts 9: 1-22	Acts 19: 17-20 1 Cor. 6: 9-11

PRE-SCHOOL — Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

Students will explore the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin as they learn the truth *We Are Special To God*. They will be encouraged to recognize their worth in God and respond by living a life of praise and honor to Him.

Student Missionaries Send Post Cards From Port Aransas, July 15—19, 2019

Our echo Student missionaries spent the first day working with the organization A New Day Port A, cleaning around a house, picking up trash and organizing a storage unit.

Our second day of the mission trip, our group spent at Coastal Bend Food Bank. We had plenty of fun making boxes, sorting different supplies and food into categories, and packing up supplies for the needy!

We also spent a lot of time taping up boxes that were opened or damaged. We worked hard!



day before 5 turtles were killed by tangling lines. We filled up 5 garbage bags just off

On the last day the adult leaders had the youth's feet, after they had worked all day, played on the beach. It is an honor serving FUMC ECHO!

Finally we had a great day at the beach! In the water, swam, tanned and relaxed! On the way home we stopped at the famous mega truck stop.

I say a HUGE THANK YOU to all who supported us financially and with prayers! These life-changing experiences would not be possible without you! And thank you to my adult leaders: Gabe Grewell, Joe and Alice Williams, Alice Salzwedel and my beautiful Becky!



Thanks Coastal Bend Food Bank for the blessing of being able to serve!

After a quick rest, we went to the Texas State Aquarium. It was awesome to see all the different marine life!

For our final day of work we cleaned the beaches! We were informed that the



After a week of service for others, the adult missionary leaders honored the students by washing their feet.

019

Foundation Kids Send Post Cards From Camp

ing into fishing
fishing line
honor to wash
day and
g the youth of

We played in
our way home
o, Buccee's!
supported us
hanging trips
THANK YOU
nd Kelli
ful wife

The Elementary Camp in Sacramento, NM was AMAZING. Rev. Carlson and I took children from FUMC and Mackey Chapel, four girls and four boys. The children all had a wonderful time at camp. On the way home, the boys said they wished camp was two weeks long! Saying goodbye to new friends brought tears to some of their eyes, but they made sure to exchange phone numbers with their new friends.



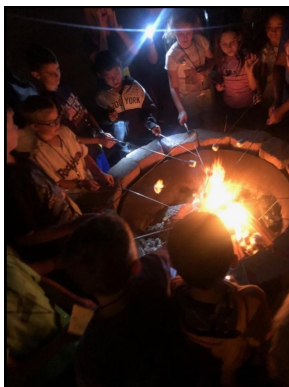
During camp, the children were presented with three opportunities to grow in their faith:

- (1) first time commitment to Christ;
- (2) recommitment to Christ; and
- (3) a call to ministry.

I'm very happy to say our children either made a commitment to Christ for the first time, or re-committed their life to Christ; this was one of my favorite moments. The Holy Spirit was

felt in the room while witnessing the children give their whole hearts to the Lord.

More than ever, I'm looking forward to supporting and leading all the children as they grow on their journey with the Lord.—*Melanie Taylor, Assistant Family Minister Director*



...just as Jesus did for his disciples.



Refugees and the Power of the Gospel

This is the presentation made by Marsha Melton at the July Spice Of Life gathering.

Spice of Life was treated to a talk by Marsha Melton regarding our new brothers and sisters in Christ from Africa. Below is a recap:

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. The Christian African refugees who worship at FUMC are legal immigrants.

Because of the U.S. Government resettlement program, they were legally able to come to America and

have a chance at a new life without the persecution or violence. They have come from a refugee camp in Africa. Some had been there a long time.

They are learning our language and our culture and they help other refugees who come to the USA. They are like us. They want to be able to work and support themselves and their families. Some still have families in Africa. Some of them do speak English, others want to learn.

It is also quite interesting to learn their culture. They are from the Banyamulenge tribe that has lived on the lands of South Kivu Africa for five centuries. It is the home of their grandfathers and their ancestors – the only home they had known, but one that is not acknowledged by their neighbor or government that believes they have no right to live in the Congo and constantly insists that they return to their real home far from the lands of south Kivu. This unprovoked hatred of the Banyamulenge people has been the cause of indescribable suffering and massive killings of their people.

Racial discrimination and stereotyping in their own country, as a minority, the Banyamulenge became the target of government propaganda and then full scale genocide.



Sue McDonald, Barbara Janssen, Lura Sivals, Edward Manase, Leader of the Africa Worship Service, and Marlene Moss pose before the Spice Of Life program detailing Edward's life as a refugee.

Edward's wife Ellen is still in Africa. While living in Africa, Edward and his wife traveled and ministered to underprivileged people. They started churches in Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana; and four churches in Malawi. When he got to the United States, he immediately started ministering and sheltering his people and saving lives. God had a purpose for Edward for his ministry to bring people closer to God. Edward's vision is to reach all in refugee camps for the kingdom of God and the underprivileged.

The Tutsis, the Banyamulenge tribe, have often drawn comparison to the Jews and modern Rwanda to Israel referring to the holocaust and the genocide involving the Banyamulenge tribe.

For decades the Banyamulenge people of the eastern Congo have found themselves foreigners in their own country.

FUMC-Odesa mission statement is: *to love others, invite them to join us as we follow Christ, who empowers us to make a difference.*

We can translate that to: *To love our new refugee family, to invite them to join us as we follow Christ, who empowers us to make a difference.* We can make a difference in their lives by helping. I believe that there are around 40 that will be joining our church.

John Wesley said that God had raised up the Methodist to "reform the nation, particularly the church, and to spread scriptural holiness over the land. That Methodism offers a doorway into the life of God and a means of sharing Christ's ministry to the world.

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church. The people have understood themselves as a people of faith who journey together in covenant with God and one another.

John Wesley's last words before his death in 1791 affirm the faith that had shaped his life. "The best of all is, God is with us." As heirs of Wesley, United Methodists live the belief that "God has been with us, and God is with us, and God shall be with us; and the whole creation will be transformed into God's new heaven and earth."

Engaging our communities begins here.

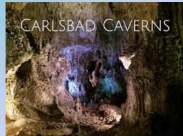
For God so loved the world...and so should we.—
Marsha Melton

We exist for LIFE...To LOVE others, INVITE them to join us as we FOLLOW Christ...

FUMC Children's & Youth MinistriesCarlsbad Caverns Trip Grades 4th-12th

Thursday, Aug 8 Cost \$10

Meet at FUMC by 9am



Contact Melanie or Caleb
for more information
(432)337-1527

FAMILY NIGHT**CUPCAKE
WARS!**

AUG. 21 6:00pm
Fellowship Center



Volunteer at the
Food Pantry

Every 2nd and 4th Monday
8:45am-11:15am

(No training needed. Just show up when you can!)

at the West Texas Food Bank
411 S. Pagewood

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

Financial Peace University begins September 9, 2019

This 9-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! FPU includes your member workbook and a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership.

Class begins **Monday, September 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** and will be facilitated by Mary Blain. If you haven't ever taken Financial Peace before, you can order a membership kit, which includes what

you'll need for the class as well as a year-long membership to the online tools. Cost is \$129.99. If registering as a couple only one kit needs to be purchased. If you have taken Financial Peace before, you can sign up for free and just use the materials you already have. For more information contact Mary Blain at 432.352.0083. Childcare will be provided.

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	Trail Mix-pack
Vienna Sausage-small cans	Apple Sauce-individual
Peanuts-pack	Hand wipe cloths
Raisins-box	Silverware Picnic Pack
Cheese Crackers-pack	Small bottled waters
Peanut Butter-pack	Gallon zip baggies



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



**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 43
ODESSA, TEXAS
79761

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.*

Easter Blessings In July



Pastors Karin Carlson and Todd Salzwedel pose with Scott Randolph, Supervision and Lead Social Worker with Ector County Independent School District. They presented him a check for \$1,942.00 which came from the generous souls attending the 2019 Community Sunrise Easter Service at Ratliff Stadium. The funds will be used for ECISD Community Outreach Center where at-risk students are provided services through social workers and the Homeless Assistance Program.