

Two Different Methods Of Outreach Bring Thousands To Our Campus

Food Trucks and Facebook were key components for the very successful Trunk or Treat



(L-R) Halloween cuties came from all over the community to enjoy Trunk or Treat. Lee and Brett Emerson and their children decorated a vehicle. Jessica Massey and her daughter stroll the grounds for treats. A very happy Assistant Family Ministry Director Melanie Taylor and Shay Vanley beam at the turnout. Alice and Pastor Todd pause to smile while handing out treats.

The 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat was absolutely amazing! More than 600 people of all ages came out for a night of fun. Everyone was able to enjoy face painting, Halloween games, arts and crafts, popcorn, cotton candy, yummy nachos, and LOTS of candy. Joy filled the hearts of those watching all the children have a great time. Youth, parents, and even some grandparents dressed up in their Halloween costumes to join in the fun.

The children and youth ministry send a HUGE thank you to everyone who made this event possible by donating candy and food; by decorating your cars; and by volunteering in the kitchen! You all were amazing. We greatly appreciate all of you! Can't wait to see you all next year!!!—Melanie Taylor, Assistant Family Ministry Director

Partnering With ECISD and UTPB Brings Second Graders To Our Sanctuary



David Corman poses with the book that was the inspiration for the operetta, *The Three Little Pigs*.

Greeters are requested to display our church's radical hospitality to 2,000 second-graders on November 14 and 15. The students will enjoy a delightful operetta, *The Three Little Pigs*, written by Traditional Worship Director David Corman and performed by the UTPB Vocal Ensemble. David is also an adjunct professor at UT-Permian Basin so the collaboration between ECISD and UTPB is a natural fit to expose young students to live musical performances. Bringing them into the beauty of our sanctuary is a goal of David. This will be the second time the operetta has been performed in our sanctuary. David says, "I wanted this place to be a safe place, a fun place, and 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."

To enjoy the performance yourself, everyone is invited to the 2:00 public performance on November 16, which is free. Bring a friend and enjoy.

ECISD Performances: Thurs. & Fri, Nov. 14 & 15. 9:00; 11:00 & 1:00; **Public Performance:** Saturday, Nov 16 2:00



Todd Salzwedel

Sometimes, we find ourselves committed to certain obligations and traditions of which we do not know the origin. But, we carry on out of a sense of duty, or maybe when we're trying to feel more spiritual, and nowhere in our society is this truer than in the church!

On November 4th, FUMC will join with four other congregations for our annual Charge Conference. Here is some background of where it came from.

Folks who attend a United Methodist church for a period of time will inevitably hear references to the Circuit Riders – pastors who traveled on horseback from church to church (or charge to charge in United Methodist language). The Circuit Riders were Elders (ordained clergy) who were given spiritual responsibility over a number of churches in a geographic area. For many, this meant they would make it to each church once every two or three months. Incidentally, this is where the tradition of receiving Holy Communion once a quarter came from because only an ordained clergy person could bless the elements. When the ordained pastor showed up, the church would celebrate not only Holy Communion, but Baptisms and weddings that needed to be performed. Often, funerals were already performed, but the pastor would offer prayers of committal and reassurance as well.

But something else would happen each time that pastor showed up – they would have a meeting! At this meeting, leaders of the church would report back all that God had done

in their midst since the last time they met and would prepare for ministry to come in the immediate and far off future. This was a time of vision, discernment, and opportunity. It was equally a time of celebration! In those days, these meetings were called Quarterly Meetings, and they were the predecessor of the modern day Charge Conference.

As time went by and churches grew, more clergy entered the ranks, churches began to insist on a pastor being appointed full-time to churches. It was then that the Charge Conference was born. To this day, it is meant to be a time in which we take care of business, but to more importantly recognize the work of God in our midst, and to prayerfully enter a time of discernment for what God might have for us next.

I think it's important to point out that during the time of Circuit Riders, the church experienced it's most explosive growth ever! This could not have been the result of the tireless work of the pastor, for they were not often present. Instead, it was the work of the laity in the church, committed to witnessing to God's grace and Good News in all aspects of their lives. They invited people to join them, forgave one another, practiced reconciliation, and understood the tie that bound them to one another through communion (with God and one another). Those same values and opportunities are available to us today...if we will but take advantage of them.

I invite you to join us on November 4th at Asbury UMC on University at 6:00 to witness to the goodness of God's grace in our midst! And may we celebrate what God continues to in our lives that we might be a blessings to the whole of Odessa! Grace and Peace, Pastor Todd

Annual Conference Will Make “The Dream Team” Official

Usually, the notice of the Annual Charge Conference announces the routine meeting with the District Superintendent to record the previous year's business of the church and confirm the nominations of people who will be active in committees that are specified in the Book of Discipline. This year's Charge Conference will have all of the routine business plus one new sub-committee for our church. The members of the Family Life

Center sub-committee, a.k.a, The Dream Team, will be confirmed as an official entity working on behalf of FUMC-Odessa. The Dream Team is a sub-committee of the Building Trustees, which is chaired by Colby Brazile. Colby is one of the members of the Dream Team. The group has been meeting informally for several months. Dream Team chair is Scott Wilson. Scott says “Plans are still being planned. We need a

**Church Charge Conference
Monday, November 4, 2019
6:00 p.m.**

Asbury UMC, Odessa

All six Odessa area United Methodist Churches will join **together**. The Charge/Church Conference for each church will be held and a Ministries Celebration worship service will follow.

You are invited to attend.

Family Life Center to provide a state of the art worship center for our contemporary service; to have a large multipurpose indoor center to host many different events; and to provide outreach to those that don't currently attend FUMC. This will also allow our fellowship hall to be used as a true fellowship hall. Hopefully, all of these changes will increase our outreach and numbers downtown so that we can better spread The Gospel to the city of Odessa.”

Answers to questions concerning location, cost and timeline are being compiled. Dream Team members are a composite of Fellowship and Traditional worship attendees, as well as, many different age groups: Josh Stumpner, Colby Brazile, Gary Sims, Simon & Britani Severance, Lee Emerson, Tyson & Jennifer Voight, Sam Howell, Scott and Colby. Pastors Todd Salzwedel and Karin Carlson are ex-officio members.

Marks of a Disciple

Once again church members are asked to remember all of the marks of a disciple as we renew our Discipleship Covenant. The Discipleship Covenant is replicated here as a reminder to complete the form that will be mailed to those who did have the opportunity to fill it out during a worship service in October.

Pastor Todd and everyone on the Finance Committee are grateful our church is in a very healthy financial condition. It is a reflection of all of us upholding our Discipleship Covenant.

Reserve Fund

The ethos of our congregation is that money is transformed and becomes an act of worship when it is given in love and gratitude for the blessings God has given us. We believe giving generously of our time, our talents, and our financial resources is one of the marks of discipleship.

That belief is one of the reasons the Finance Committee recently voted to establish a Reserve Fund for our church. Finance chair, Josh Stumpner, says "the purpose of the fund is to establish a 3-to-6-month reserve to help with unexpected expenditures and the monthly income shortfalls during the summer when church attendance is lower than usual. "It is also one of the many recommendations from CPA's and it is a good business practice." The goal is to accumulate \$350,000 in reserve.

One of the ways of enhancing the effort is the "Second Mile of Giving" that now occurs during Communion. Pastor Todd says the basket for that kind of giving is a good opportunity to get rid of pocket change. It is amazing how that kind of action adds up, as evidenced by almost 61% increase in the amount set aside for the Reserve Fund on Communion Sunday, October 19. As of the end of October, the Reserve Fund has \$1,800.04.



My Discipleship Covenant

Worship (how I love God) – per month

1 2 3 4 5

Small Group/Bible Study (how I love others) – how often

Never Weekly Bi-weekly Monthly

Service/Missions (how I serve others) – how often

Never Weekly Bi-Weekly Monthly

*In what ways do you serve? _____

Giving (my tithes, gifts, and offerings)

I will invest \$ _____ (weekly/monthly/yearly) in the work God is doing at FUMC and abroad!

Prayer (my intimate relationship with God) – how often

Never Weekly Daily Without Ceasing!

This is the covenant I make with God! I realize there are other areas God will be working on in my own spiritual life, but through God's grace, I will move towards being the dynamic disciple God is calling me to be!

Name/Signature

Date

DISCIPLESHIP on Wednesday Mornings is Transformational!

Every Wednesday morning about 20 disciples gather at The Parks Senior Living Center to study the Word of God. In September we began utilizing the *Disciple Fast Track 1* resource to gain a better understanding of the timeline of the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Lead teacher Larry Johnson's goal is help believers of God know the order of all the stories, as well as the thread of Christ that runs through the entire Bible. The purpose is knowing God and His Word are the most important aspects of a Christian's life! Once we know Him, then we put Compassion into Action through serving Him.

The experience of getting into God's Word is priceless! There is no other substitute for actually reading the Bible. Disciple Fast Track disciplines each person to read the Bible for 20-30 minutes each day, five days week. God's Word is transformational!



Bible Class – Oh! Sweeter, more challenging, more rewarding – every week. I've seen things in the Bible that I've never seen before, faced personal challenges that I'm still facing. Thank you, God for sending us these resources at this time! **Clarice Claiborne**

I love this study and I wanted to take it before the upcoming trip to Israel. The maps and charts are so helpful to our understanding for people, places, and the timeline. **Beth Brinker**

I have enjoyed learning more about the time frame of all the events happening in the world during the first 5 books of the Bible. Karin and Larry are very knowledgeable and great teachers. **Sue Jones**

It's a great time of fellowship with folks I don't normally come in contact with. Love Larry Johnson's teaching and charts! A great way to keep me in the Word. **Connie Nichols**

This program is exceptional. The teaching provides a more complete understanding of the lives of those persecuted by God's Word. Mr. Johnson is an excellent teacher having us focus on a broader understanding of life at this particular time of study. Thank you for providing this opportunity to study the Word. **Eddie Brown**

I personally thank Larry Johnson for his excellence in teaching. His knowledge, experiences, preparations and love are infused with kindness and professionalism. He has taught me a wealth of knowledge just from his architect career alone and how he uses the maps and contextual teachings of the Word. It is also a joy to team teach with Larry. His passion for God and God's Word is evidenced in his willingness to serve and continue to learn himself as disciples do. I pray we all are intentional in studying and applying God's Word every day! **Karin Carlson, Associate Pastor**



The 30-plus students involved in Echo Student Ministry were vital volunteers for Trunk Or Treat. This very active group of students helped with games, made popcorn and cotton candy and had a whole lot of fun themselves.



November 2019 DISCIPLESHIP

ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT – God's Insight On Generations

Discipleship is more than a series of lessons. Through this study students will commit to discipleship as a way of life, recognizing that parents are key to the discipleship process. Grandparents are also challenged to take an active role in passing along the faith and teaching appropriate honor of God's Word to the next generation. Students will be challenged to integrate mentoring and modeling the faith first at home and then through the church and community.

D6 2GEN CURRICULUM	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov 17	Nov 24
	Everyday Discipleship	Honoring God's Word	Nurturing Family Faith	Modeling the Faith
	Deuteronomy 6: 1-25	Nehemiah 8: 1-18	Ephesians 6: 1-4	Titus 2: 1-15

PRESCHOOL – Jesus Loves Children

This unit provides a survey of biblical accounts that demonstrate Jesus Loves Children and wants to know them and use them for the Kingdom. Students will explore examples of how Jesus interacted with children and be challenged to make daily choices that exemplify love for the Lord and respect for others because He loves them.



The Spice Of Life program for October was on the History of Halloween. We shared

Halloween's origin and ways to make your celebration even more meaningful. After all, this old fashion holiday actually dates back many, many years to some 2000 years ago.

The word Halloween means "hallowed evening" and was previously known to early European celebrators as All Hallows 'Eve.



October birthday celebrant Lisa Lindsey is assisted by Dee Melton in presenting the delicious birthday cake.

But single women beware, there were mystical rituals in earlier times. Such as when apple bobbing, an apple for every suitor a woman had would be placed in the water, and the apple she ended up biting onto would supposedly represent her future husband.

Spice of Life gathers every third Thursday at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations To New Citizen Of The USA.



Aimee Nyiramugisha poses with a red, white, and blue bouquet of flowers and Old Glory to celebrate becoming a U.S. citizen. Aimee is a member of the refugees from the Congo who worship each Sunday at our church. Achieving citizenship is a requirement of all U.S. sponsored refugees. After living in the U.S. for a time, Aimee succeeded in passing the test in October. Aimee works here in Odessa. She and her family reside in one of the rent-free homes offered by a member of our congregation.



ECHO Youth had such a great time at Fields of Faith. We made our way out to Ratliff stadium on October 3 where we had

the opportunity to worship, sing, pray and listen to testimonies with several other youth groups and FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). Our very own Paige Salzwedel, Jemima Estrada and Samuel Simmons all gave amazing testimonies which was shown on the giant screen at Ratliff. I was so proud that they were willing to share their story with thousands of their own peers. This was an awesome way to experience a youth worship service with multiple denominations participating.

Family Ministry Director Caleb Eckel

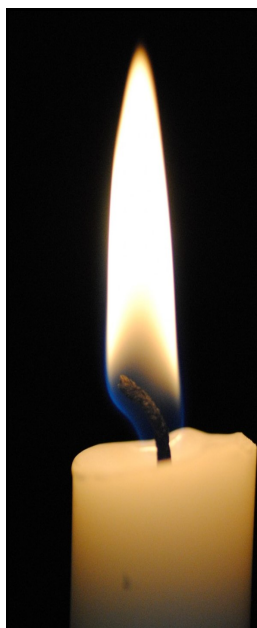
You're Invited

MACKEY CHAPEL
United Methodist Church
306 W. Clements
Odessa, TX 79761

Eighty Second Anniversary

Sunday, November 11, 2018
3:00 P.M.

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



Remembering Our Saints...

Frances Casstevens
 Bob Faulkner
 Mike Halldorson
 Gloria Lambert
 Cindy Lewis
 Georgene "Genie" Miller
 James "Jim" Morris
 S. Graham Prickett
 Edith Jane Reid
 Lula Marie Robertson
 James "Phil" Stinson

United Methodists celebrate All Saints Day on the first Sunday in November.

The candles lit at All Saints Day Worship observances are an acknowledgement that our loved ones in Christ are not gone forever, the light that was lit in their hearts when they came into the family of God continues to shine in the presence of God.

It is with Christian love that 11 candles represent our 1st UMC-Odesa saints.



Our Heartfelt Sympathy to:

*Carl Murdock
 for the loss of his son
 David Murdock*

*Kari Halldorson, Haven &
 Maizy and
 Anne & Clyde Shugart; and
 Wanda Shugart*

*for the loss of Kari's husband
 Mike Halldorson*

Memorials

**In Memory of
 Phil Stinson**

Given by

LaDoyce Lambert
 Cherie & Leldon Hensley
 Janice & Carroll Chowning
 Alissa & Jimmy Goates

**In Memory of
 Fred Clayton**

Given by

Sue & Buddy McDonald
 Marty Farris

Sanctuary Choir

**In Memory of
 Phil Stinson**

Given by

Connie Disney
 Rita Patrick
 Marty Farris

**In Honor of
 Betsy Triplett Hurt**

**Given by
 Grace King**

BAKE SALE

**UMW
 Annual Bake Sale
 Sunday Nov. 24**

All donations
 go to Missions.



**Thursday, Nov. 14
 11:30 a.m.
 Fellowship Hall**



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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.*

FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT

Wednesday, November 20th

6-8pm

Fellowship Center



MAC N CHEESE
THROWDOWN

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
for each!



Games & Singing too!