



MAKING LOVE MORE THAN A WORD: On Wednesday, January 22, the children's Scripture reading from our Deep Blue Bible curriculum was Mark 6:12, "So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives." The children lived out this Scripture by painting beautiful door hangers for our neighbors across 4th Street at Lincoln Tower retirement home. The children were honored to be a part of helping to change the hearts and lives of others by spreading God's love! — *Melanie Taylor, Assistant Family Ministry Director*

Ash Wednesday is February 26.



This marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days prior to Resurrection Sunday which is April 12.

This year our church offers two opportunities

to reflect on the beginning Lent. **At 11:30 a.m.**, we host the first lunch and worship service for the Odessa Ministerial Alliance's Lenten Lunch series. See page 2 for list of sermons and locations.

At 6:00 p.m., a worship service will be conducted in the sanctuary. The imposition of ashes will be part of each gathering.

Saturday Breakfast, Feb 15

Tarence Taylor, affectionately named "T," is the husband of our Assistant Family Ministry Director, Melanie Taylor. His talent of cooking is turning into another outreach of our church. His latest endeavor is the simple gesture of feeding breakfast to anyone who would like to come on Saturday morning, February 15.

T says his prayer is "to help someone who might be going through something or is lost and needing help getting on the right track."

Volunteers are always welcome.

Simply show up to the church kitchen at 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast is served 9:30—11:30.

With faithful servants and interest, this will become an on-going outreach which will be on the **second** Saturday of the month, after February.



Journeys

Travel to the Holy Land isn't the only thing going on this month! On February 26th, we will begin the journey of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service here at the church. In addition, First UMC will again participate with other area churches for the weekly Lenten lunches on Wednesdays (see *the Lenten Schedule on page 3*).

We have some special things planned for the Lenten season at FUMC, and we know that you will be blessed in both the traditional and contemporary services. In fact, we have some very special plans at the 11:00 am service for Lent...but for now, just know “*it’s coming*”!

*Blessings,
Pastor Todd*

Prayers for Israel Pilgrims

Shannon & Dan Rowe
Shari Santorelli
Anne & Clyde Shugart
Crystal Silva
Alice Salzwedel
Margaret Weaver
Mary Elaine Williamson
Polly Williamson
Vicki & Greg Wood

Clergy

Todd Salzwedel
Skip Hodges
Ed Williamson
Burt Palmer
Chuck Harrison
Vaughny Taylor
Goodie Goodloe

CREDO

It's time for confirmation!

Confirmation: It is also a time for a congregation to celebrate their young people's commitment to "live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ," and to renew their commitment to do the same. —UMC.org

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

Odessa Ministerial Alliance
2020 Community Worship & Lunch Series
Theme: *Simple Things*



- Feb. 26** **First United Methodist Church 415 N Lee**
Preacher: Karin Carlson
The Palm Branch John 12:12-19
 Imposition of Ashes at end of worship service
- March 4** **Connection Christian Church 4241 Tanglewood Lane**
Preacher: Ron Hankins
The Whip of Cords Matt 21:12-22 John 2:13-17
- March 11** **Mackey Chapel UMC 306 W Clements St.**
Preacher: Vaughny Taylor
The Fig Tree Matt 21:18-21
- March 18** **First Presbyterian Church 1401 N Sam Houston**
Preacher: Gene Collins
The Alabaster Flask Matt 26:6-13
- March 25** **Bethany Christian Church 4522 N Everglade Ave**
Preacher: Joe Weaks
The Cup and The Bread Matt 26:26-29
- April 1** **Highland United Methodist Church 1808 N Dixie Blvd.**
Preacher: Tim O'Neal
Thirty Pieces of Silver Matt 26:14-16; 27: 3-8
- April 8** **Central Baptist Church 1401 N Texas**
Preacher: Todd Salzwedel
The Cross and The Tomb Matt 27:32-60

Lunch 11:30—Noon
 Worship 12:05—12:45

Suggested donation for meal \$6.00 per person

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

Something Old, Something New



Jennifer, Tyson and Gwen Voight

Greetings from the Fellowship Service! Ever since Jennifer and I assumed the role of Worship Leaders for the 11am Contemporary Worship Service, we have felt tremendous support and encouragement throughout the congregation of FUMC Odessa. Thank you so much! After surviving (and loving!) our first Advent season as Worship Leaders, we thought this would be a perfect opportunity to share with you some of the exciting endeavors taking place at 11am.

Though it is a contemporary service, it is steeped in tradition. For example, we include at least one hymn every week, many of which were written by Charles Wesley. We read Scripture and pray corporately throughout the service. And all lyrics are vetted for theological accuracy.

We want to keep it fresh. The service features a wide variety of musical styles and settings, and we seek to balance well-known greats with fresh musical jewels. While we are particular about adhering to the original melodies of hymns, we also enjoy unique musical settings of them, such as the Kemper Crabb arrangements you heard during Advent.

Our favorite new tradition: once per quarter we have a musically themed Sunday! In August, the theme was Bluegrass, and included songs such as Hank Williams' "I Saw the Light" and the classic "I'll Fly Away." In November, in honor of Mackey Chapel's Anniversary, we had Gospel Sunday, and featured some of the great musical traditions of the African-American community.

Our next themed Sunday will be in late February: "Throwback Sunday!" Bring an instrument and join us in a campfire-style setting of songs from your youth-retreat past!

Finally, we want to share with you a vision for the 11am service as we prepare to transition. As you know, *"First United Methodist Church is a community that welcomes all people into life-changing relationships with God and others."* Starting the first Sunday of Lent, we hope to pursue this mission in a fresh format - a format that cultivates community, welcomes all people, changes lives, builds deeper relationships, and glorifies God. We hope you'll join us. In the words of praise team member Joe Williams, **"...It's Coming!"**

In the words of Paul from Colossians 1:9, *"...[W]e have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..."* Please, pray the same for us. Blessings! *Tyson Voight, Worship Leader Fellowship Service*

CELEBRATING

Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a time for every purpose under heaven.

The "season and the time" for our **Methodist Women**, our **KidsHope** **Pantry** volunteers, is undergoing a

At its January meeting, the **UMW** any more meetings unless needed. *the organization was not disbanding* they will be facilitated via emails or of that decision, a request for funding group to visit our church shut-ins v ever-serving group of devoted wor

Our **Food Pantry** outreach has tr times during the decades since its 1940's. For years, church member to distribute food in grocery sacks requested help. In 2016, our Food moved to the new West Texas Food food from that large, modern and r At first, the dedicated team of church continued the practice of helping fa sack of non-perishable groceries. Texas Food Bank recently has stre distribution method so that volunteer needed in that capacity. It is more of volunteers to gather to systematically non-perishables which are then distributed times.

In the meantime, as "a time for heaven" continues to be pursued by generation, our Children's Ministry Taylor says the FoundationKids with Texas Food Bank the first Tuesday. The children and their parents will food packs that are given to school Food2Kids program. Melanie says gives the children and their parents serve together as a family. Our church to serve God's people beyond our serve in their community. My prayer to help build the foundation of giving generations to come!"

Another outreach of our church the **KidsHope**. Originally this one-on-one program involved church members students at Cavazos Elementary. In 2010 there was no organized mentoring throughout the school district. That through the very active ECISD Educational efforts to enhance public education merging into the efforts of the school

MINISTRY and LOCAL MISSIONS...for generations to come

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The fruitfulness of UMW, Kids Hope and the Food Pantry is rooted in the richness of FUMC's tradition of obedience to serve God. This is why we can celebrate and know that it just may look different today. God is still calling FUMC to invite and lead women in spiritual growth, leadership development, transformative education and service and advocacy. God is still calling FUMC to partner with our local school system. God is still calling us to feed the hungry. May we respond as today's church body to continue serving God in the city and beyond.

*The transitions of UMW, Kids Hope and the Food Pantry are intentionally moving in a direction to reach people for "God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven." **The ministry staff wants you to lead in FUMC men, women, and family ministries. Please check your email for a survey created in Survey Monkey.***

Also, the Food Pantry will now have families with children serving together (as described at the left). FUMC is still partnered with Cavazos Elementary School with One Accord. One Accord was established in 2011 for churches to partner with a specific school through prayer. Tammy Stallcup initiated this vital partnership of prayer. Cavazos has been our partner school since 2011. Please pray every day! FUMC was led to more than prayer with the Kids Hope program. A huge success yet the season for this program is complete. Now, we partner with ECISD and two major initiatives by the Education Partnership of the Permian Basin.

BOOKWORMS READING INITIATIVE: Volunteers are needed to cover 61 classrooms, PK, K, and 1st, in all 28 elementary schools across ECISD. The impact of this reading initiative will impact and touch the lives of over 7,100 students in ECISD.

6TH GRADE AVID LEADERSHIP COACHING NEED: To support our middle schools, through the work of the Middle School Engagement Action Network (MSEAN) of the Education Partnership of the Permian Basin, volunteers are needed to serve as AVID Leadership Coaches. There are numerous reasons why this effort is critical for the success of our students, district, and community.

Here are a few.

Immediate Need: Per the 2018-2019 state accountability ratings, all 6 of our middle schools rated either a "D" or an "F," (Nimitz - D, Bonham - F, Bowie - F, Crockett - F, Wilson and Young - F, and Ector - F). Although the district is doing yeoman's work around their efforts to improve all schools, and they have assembled a dynamic team, they cannot do it alone. As with any major challenge that we face in our lives, careers, and teams, none of us can do the heavy lifting alone. We all need support in accomplishing great things. Hence, our middle schools need your support.

Intermediate Need: As we have discussed, kids may physically drop-out of school in high school, but many of them mentally drop-out in middle schools. If we are to achieve our goals of "building a community where students love to learn, teachers love to teach, and people love to live," while "creating the highest performing educational region in the state of Texas," then part of this work is to ensure that all freshmen enter high schools prepared. This starts with ensuring that our middle school students are fully supported, and don't lag behind.

Long-Term Need (Workforce Development): to build and establish relationships with students in our schools, starting at the 6th grade (or before), to begin building our workforce connections and pipelines. As of 2018, ECISD had over 16,000 secondary students enrolled (7,589 6th-8th graders and 8,642 9th-12th graders). Our workforce is sitting in an Algebra I classroom right now.

The need for volunteers is 210 total (35 per campus x 6 campuses = 210).

If you are willing to serve as a Leadership Coach, please contact Debbie Lieb at 456-9012 or Deborah.lieb@ectorcountyisd.org, or ECISD Volunteer Coordinator.

—To God be the Glory! Karin Carlson, Associate Pastor



Our Spice of Life group met on Thursday, January 16, 2020. We had a great turnout with around 35 in attendance! Russell Kimble prepared a wonderful, home-made meal of green, chicken

enchiladas with rice and beans and several yummy desserts. Dee Melton assisted him in the kitchen. Our beautiful decorations were compliments of Marsha Melton. Thank you all so very much.

The program was given by Jody Wallin. His program reflected on starting the year out right by



Jody Wallin poses with those celebrating January birthdays, Larry Anderson, Marsha Melton & Glen Smith

taking a personal inventory by looking at the past, present and future. God is the “I Am” God. He is here “now” to help us in our daily lives. God tells us not to think of him as the “I Was” God. Rather, God is the “here and now” God. May we all take comfort in knowing God is always with us!!!

If you haven’t come to Spice of Life in a while (or

maybe ever), we hope you will 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



Do you know a child in K-5th grade who would like to serve as an acolyte at 9am?

Contact Melanie for more information

No experience needed. Training will be provided.



Volunteer to Serve

As disciples at FUMC, we are all called to serve as part of our connection in Christ. There are many ways to serve, so let us help you find your niche. Contact Karin at karin@fumcodessa.org or 432-337-1527 to sign up and be trained.

- ✝ Greeter
- ✝ Usher
- ✝ Communion Server
- ✝ Children—Wed. 6-7:30 pm
- ✝ Youth—Wed. 6-8pm





Generations of faith surround Price William Emerson who was baptized in the 9am service on January 26. Price is the infant son of Lee & Brett Emerson, brother to Forrest, Charlie & June, and grandson of Jo & Mike Forrest.

westtexas
FOOD BANK

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OUTREACH

Every 1st Tuesday

6:00-7:30pm

411 S Pagewood Ave. Odessa, TX 79761

Parents please plan to join your child

*The children will not have Bible Study on the 1st Wednesday of each month

Memorials

**In Memory of
Phil Stinson**

Given by

Kay & Doug Whitefield
Jo & Kenneth Luncford
Dorothy & K.D. Cheairs

**In Memory of
Liz Midgley**

Given by

Betsy Triplett Hurt & Buzz Hurt

Children's Clothes Closet

**In Memory of
Liz Midgley**

Given by

Robbie & Dan Brazelton





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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.*

Thank You, Extravagant Generous Congregation!
Once again, our church paid 100%
2019 Shared Ministries: \$92,886.01.

Shared Ministries is an allocation for each church to support our mission together. Each local church contributes a portion of its budget to Shared Ministry which supports the ministry of our annual conference, the global church and special funds set up by the denomination to move our ministry further. The United Methodist connection means we can do more good together than we can do alone.

A second Thank You goes for the
Christmas Eve offering of \$22,899.01.

These gifts of generosity are divided between our church's Reserve Fund and the Methodist Children's Home.