

The Season Of Lent Is Full Of Traditions



Following tradition, Congregational Care Pastor Jody Wallin and Senior Pastor Todd Salzwedel are shown burning the palm branches used in Palm Sunday Service last year. Following tradition, those palm ashes are used on Ash Wednesday for the imposition of ashes as an outward sign of repentance and confronting our own mortality. Associate Pastor Karin Carlson is shown holding a palm branch during her sermon for the lead-off Community Worship & Lunch Series. The Series theme is "Simple Things." Her specific topic was *The Palm Branch*, based on John 12:12-19. Karin explored the historical significance of palm branches, likening them to the human hands. She challenged the attendees to raise their hands in worship as if waving palm branches, not just on Palm Sunday, but every day. Following tradition, Pastor Todd marks the forehead of pianist Shari Santorelli with the sign of the cross. The remaining schedule of lunches during Lent is shown on page 4. The lunches are hosted by the Odessa Ministerial Alliance.

Saturday Breakfast Feast



Feeding The Hungry on Saturday, Feb 15 was greatly appreciated by dozens of church members and passersby. Chief

Cook, Tarence Taylor was pleased with one man's gratitude for a hot meal. **Next breakfast outreach is Saturday, March 14.** Bring a friend or invite a stranger.

Israel Trip: "It Was Awesome!"



Turn to page 3 to read first-hand accounts from several church members on the recent trip to Israel. The group is pictured atop the Mount of Olives with the Old City of Jerusalem in the background.



Alice & Todd in front of 3rd century synagogue in Capernaum built upon the 1st century synagogue where Jesus worshiped.

From the Holy Land to Holy Lenten Season

I hope, as you look through this month's Cultivator, you get the chance to view a few of the pictures from our last pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Ultimately, I hope that you have had the chance to talk with the folks that made the trip and hear from them about their experience!

We also find ourselves in the midst of the Lenten Season here at FUMC and across the world. I've stated over and over how much I have come to appreciate and need this time of the year in my own spiritual journey. This period helps me to reflect on those areas

of my life that have strayed from where I want them to be and where I believe God wants them to be. It allows me the opportunity to pay special attention to the circumstances others find themselves in. I consider how the actions of individuals, institutions, and groups of people have contributed to distorted views of God, faith, and the influence of the church in the world. Intimately, it causes me to assess my relationships with others and with God.

Unfortunately, for some people, Lent becomes a morose time where we take account of all the things in our lives and the world around us that fail to measure up to our understanding of God's desires. If that is all that Lent encompasses for us, we are failing to recognize the transformative nature of this holy time. When early converts to the faith, or those

seeking to be reunited with the Body of Christ, entered this period of the year, they did so with the full knowledge of the celebration that is the culmination of Holy Week...Easter! It is for that reason that each Sunday during Lent is not counted in the forty days of Lent. Each Sunday is a reminder to us that the power and grace of God far surpasses the areas of our life and world that at times mar our relationships. It is this same power that gives us the hope of resurrection when we celebrate the life of a loved one, that helps us to carry on when we feel overburdened with the anxieties of life, and that empowers us grow into the people God created us to be individually and collectively.

One of the amazing wonders of our faith is that we are able to look back and witness the movement of God amid our own history. Our human tendency is to get caught up in self-judgement and feelings of inadequacy in the eyes of God. Sometimes we counter that by comparing ourselves to others, and seeing how we measure up. But the goal of Lent is much more personal and prophetic – while we might be broken people at times, we are also people redeemed by Jesus Christ and his work and story with us in not finished...it's only just begun!

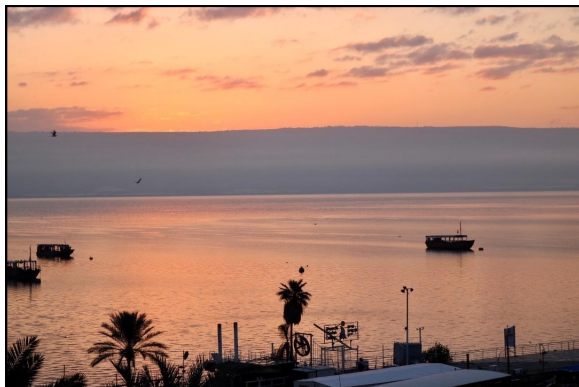
I look forward to joining with each of you during this Holy Lenten season, and know that God will bless us each in our journey together!

Pastor Todd



The Israel Pilgrims as they begin their journey to the Holy Land

Postcards from The Holy Lands



Top (L) Sunrise over the sea of Galilee; (Middle) Paul Lucas places a prayer on the Western Wall; (Top R) Pastor Todd reaffirms the baptism of Alissa Lucas as Rev. Ed Williamson looks on; (Middle) an ancient olive tree in the Garden of Gethsemane; (Bottom) Goodie Goodloe reaffirms the baptism of member of the group from Asbury UMC.

It was an amazing experience – truly the 5th Gospel. Seeing the house where Peter and Jesus were when others lowered the paralyzed man down through the roof to be healed, worshipping upon the Sea of Galilee, going to Western Wall and praying like so many have done for so many years. Taking time to write out a prayer to slip between the stones there – there were so many moments that each captured all the stories I had read, the studies I had done, and now they were right before me. And seeing my wife have water from the Jordon River poured over her by Todd to celebrate her baptism in the same area where John baptized Jesus – WOW! Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, later visited Jerusalem. Upon being told that the steps he was standing on leading to the Temple Mount were the original steps, so Jesus had stood right where he was then standing, he told those with him “I have to tell you, I am more excited stepping on these stones than I was stepping on the moon.” After having been there, I know how Mr. Armstrong felt.... — *Paul Lucas*

All I can say is what a wonderful experience to walk in the setting of our Lord, where he grew up, prayed, taught, and came to this earth and left this earth, all so Special to bear witness in seeing some of the same things he and all the patriarchs witnessed in the Holy Land. — *Clyde Shugart*

I went on the trip to share the experience with Clyde. His faith has always been so strong. But, I will admit it has been a life changing experience for me. I think about the places and events every day. — *Ann Shugart*



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

- March 4** Connection Christian Church 4241 Tanglewood
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 Weak
The Cup and The Bread Matt 26:26-29
- April 1** Highland United Methodist Church 1808 N Dixie
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

**Lunch 11:30—Noon
Worship 12:05—12:45
Suggested donation for meal \$6.00 per person**



Family Ministry Director Caleb Eckel wants the congregation to know the fabulous students active in Echo Student Ministry.

This month's student is **Jemima Estrada**

Jemima Estrada

Sophomore at Odessa High school.

Favorite Book: *Plague Dogs*

Interesting facts: Been in orchestra for 5 years and is now in symphony. Speaks Spanish. Is a really great sketch artist.

Future plans: Plans on attending Texas A&M to be a veterinarian or a zoologist.

Involvement at FUMC: Jemima has attended FUMC-Odessa for 7 years. She has been active in ECHO youth group for 5 years. She was a member of the 2018 confirmation class. Jemima was baptized at FUMC in 2018 following confirmation.



Why do you attend ECHO Youth Group?

"To connect with other students and grow closer to God, as I form new relationships."

Tell us about a special moment you've had during camp.

"In 2016, the year Caleb became the youth pastor, I shared one of my darkest moments with the youth group at camp in Gloreita. I fell to my knees, cried and prayed to God. Afterwards I felt like a weight had been lifted."

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

Kids Deliver LOVE To Neighbors



The **Children's Ministry** truly experienced a Hallelujah moment with the residents at Lincoln Tower retirement home. Last month, pictures of the children creating their "Love" door hangers were featured in The Cultivator. The children were able to deliver their door hangers to the residents on Wednesday, February 12, just in time for Valentine's Day. Lincoln Tower is across the street from our church and the children literally walked out the door and crossed the street to spread their joy. Not only did the children share their creations, they also shared God's love with group prayer with our new friends. The children are super excited to continue spreading God's love and building a relationship with our new friends at Lincoln Tower! —Melanie Taylor, Assistant Family Ministry Director



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

Troop 91 Shines on Boy Scout Sunday

Scouts at Traditional Worship Service



Scouts at Fellowship Worship Service



Here is an edited version of the presentation by Scout Master Joe Williams, February 2, 2020.

FUMC Odessa has been sponsoring a Scout Troop since 2011. Today we also get to celebrate a 100-year partnership with Scouting. In February 1920, the Methodist Episcopal Church entered into a formal relationship with the Boy Scouts of America. Today, the United Methodist Church is the largest sponsor for both Scouts and units in the United States, and in the faith world, represents 25% of charter partners. Sir Robert Baden Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement stated, "Development of outlook naturally begins with a respect for God.....Reverence to God and reverence for one's neighbor and reverence for one's self as a servant of God." The Scout Oath contains three main principles: Duty to God, Duty to others, and Duty to self.

FUMC Odessa sponsors both a Cub Scout Pack for 1st through 5th Graders, and a Boy Scout Troop for boys having completed the fifth grade through age 17. Austin Killam is the leader for Pack 91, and currently has 34 boys and girls enrolled. We currently have 9 boys chartered in troop 91. Since we first chartered, we have had several boys pass through the troop. We have had 11 boys complete their requirements and have received the title of Eagle Scout.



Pastor Todd admires the stole given in honor of the 100-year partnership between the Methodist Church and Boy Scouts of America.

I am proud to be able to say that troop 91 and pack 91 is part of FUMC. For the past several years troop 91 has volunteered at the annual Men's Wild Game Dinner, serving food, and helping clean up, and anything else that they are asked to do. For the past 3 years we have also volunteered, and for FUMC's annual cleanup day, helping to cleanup around the church, or do any of a number of things to help in the maintenance of the church.

The mission of the scouting program is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Much like the man that plants a seedling, cares for it, waters and shapes a tree over time, who never sees the majesty that the mighty oak tree becomes, we may truly never know the impact that this church, or this Scouting program, has on the young people we see come through these doors. But we do know that this program in partnership with the United Methodist Church, has been impacting lives now for over the last nine years here, and for one hundred years across our denomination and country. So, this morning, we want to thank you, FUMC Odessa, for your continued support of the Scouting program. Thank you for helping us to instill Duty to God, Duty to others, and Duty to self as principles each young man can build upon. – Joe Williams, Scout Master Troop 91



Our Spice of Life group last met on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020. We had a good turnout with around 30 in attendance! Russell

Kimble prepared a

wonderful, home-made meal and yummy deserts. Dee Melton assisted him in the kitchen. Our beautiful decorations were compliments of Marsha Melton. Thank you all so very much. Russell surprised everyone by announcing that he and Beverley will be moving away from Odessa very soon. They are selling their home and will be moving to Magnolia, TX.

Russell said his last month to cook for the Spice of Life will be May, 2020. May they find the happiness they are seeking in this move which will take them closer to their two daughters and to their granddaughters. We will miss you both very much! The program was given by Jody Wallin. His program

was on the topic of "Love is in the Air". This topic was chosen because Valentine's Day had just occurred and the season of Lent was just about to start. God's love is everywhere and it available to us all anytime, and anyplace. Jody reflected on one of his favorite maxims, that is, "The best use of life is Love, the best expression of Love is time, and the best time to Love is now." May we all take comfort in knowing God and his never-ending Love is always with us!!!

If you haven't come to Spice of Live in a while (or maybe ever), we hope you will 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 at 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Blessings to you all,

Jody Wallin, Congregation Care Pastor



Jody Wallin stands behind those celebrating birthdays: Caroline Howard, Dee Melton & Dorothy Gibson

New Baby

Haven Monroe Allison

Born January 23, 2020

Parents are Summer & Ryan Allison

Proud Grandparents

Mary Jane & Beau Wright

With Deepest Sympathy

To Karin & Jim Carlson,
Megan & Courtney
for the loss of Karin's father
Robert Malinowski

To Bobbijo & Greg Journey
for the loss of Greg's father
Charlie Journey, Sr.

To the family and friends of
LaDoyce Lambert

To Terri & David Woodward;
Sara & Brad Dyrstad,
Max & Nellie
for the loss of David's mother
Gilda R. Woodward

To Marlene Moss, JeanneAnn
Walthall, Lisa Lively &
Joe Moss, Jr.

for the loss of Marlene's husband
Joe Moss.



ADULT MINISTRIES COMMITTEE TRAINING

Saturday, March 7 2:00—4:00 PM

Highland UMC 1808 N. Dixie Odessa

Under the leadership of Marsha Melton and David Whitaker

- ✦ Address the needs of adults
- ✦ Ministry for, with, and by adults at all stages of adulthood
- ✦ Grow in faith as Christian disciples



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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.*

New Date And Time For Easter Egg Hunt



Your donations of non-chocolate candies will be used at the **Egg Hunt on Wednesday, April 1**. This fun event is scheduled from **6:00—7:30 p.m.** In addition to the Egg Hunt, your kids and friends will enjoy jumpers, crafts, games and food. This is an outreach event for our community.

A great way to serve! Volunteers Needed for this outreach event.

Last year, 300 people attended the egg hunt.

Contact Melanie Taylor at Melanie@fumcodessa.org