

## Worship In The Time Of The Coronavirus Pandemic

The worship service of **Sunday, March 15**, was like no other in our church's history...all because of the federal government declaration of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Senior Pastor Todd Salzwedel opened the service by reminding the congregation that the church has always offered hope in times of difficulty.



JeanneAnn Walthall, Alice Salzwedel, and Connie Grewell sign "Peace be with you" as a no-touching version of sharing of the peace.

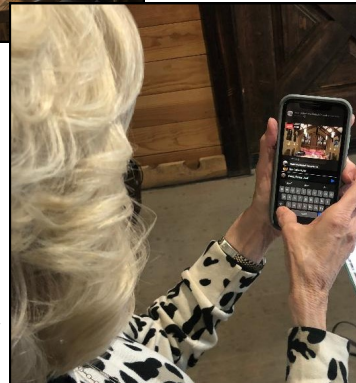
He encouraged three guiding principles. First of all, pray for those infected with COVID-19. Secondly, be prudent in our actions. Although communion would have been served on Sunday, it was not as a precautionary measure. Another precautionary measure was to have congregants come forward to the chancel to place offerings and connection cards in a bowl instead of passing the collection plate from person-to-person. Last of all, Pastor Todd urged us to have sympathy and prayers for those who are fearful of the turmoil of our times. Another precautionary action occurred prior to the traditional sharing of the peace. Christine Findley, who is certified in American sign-language and signs for the Fellowship worship service, taught the congregation to say, "Peace be with you" in sign language. Even without the usual hugs, our congregation was able to convey our communal love and concern for each other.

The worship service of **Sunday, March 22**, was like no other in our church's history...all because of the Texas Governor's declaration and the Mayor of Odessa's declaration concerning public gatherings during the Coronavirus Pandemic. On March 19, Governor Greg Abbott mandated that not more than 10 persons may gather in public places. Our church staff and volunteers quickly mobilized to make it possible to livestream the 9am traditional worship service and the 11am fellowship worship service through our church's Facebook page.



This photo is from the church Facebook page showing Pastor Todd as he preaches from the empty sanctuary.

Five members of the 8:00 Bible class gathered in a member's home. Lynn Correa's mobile phone was used to listen and watch the service. The class met one Sunday together but decided to stay at home for everyone's safety.



Members shared comments with each other and Pastor Todd, while viewing the service. The Governor's mandate is in effect until April 30. As of April 15, the printing of this issue, two people in Ector County and two people in Midland County have died of COVID-19. It is unknown when the restrictions on gatherings will be removed. In the meantime, Pastor Todd and Pastor Karin continue updating our congregation with emails and Facebook postings. *Please turn to pages 4 & 5 for photos of Holy Week and Easter worship services.*

**As of March 25, 2020**

Dear Friends,

This is truly an amazing time in the life of the church! As we FERVENTLY PRAY and LIVE into FUMC's vision to *be a community that welcomes all people into life-changing relationship with God and others*. Keeping you updated is important to us.

As of March 25, 2020, the chart lists what is scheduled. We are working diligently to convert our ministries "out of the building" (online, phone calls, etc.) while obeying social distancing. You are important to us! We encourage you to check your email regularly and go to our website

[www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org) for current updates. The website also has a link to Sunday's Worship services as well as recordings of sermons <https://www.fumcodessa.org/sermons-2/>

- **Sunday Worship services** will be available on First United Methodist Church Odessa's Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOdessa/>. Our media and worship teams are incredible. As we move to great online worship and discipleship experiences, instructions will be provided to you with simple steps on how to engage online.
- For meetings, small groups and special sessions, we will use "**ZOOM**" video conferencing. The leader of the meeting will email you a link to join the session if it pertains to you.
- All other announcements, decisions, and additional spiritual growth and faith formation suggestions and opportunities

will also be shared through email, Facebook or voicemail.

**We have several opportunities for you to continue your giving which include:**

- Electronic giving
- Using bill pay service through your online banking account
- Mail in your offering to FUMC, 415 N. Lee Ave., Odessa, TX 79761

**Communication is very important at this time, so please ensure:**

- We have your current email on file
- Like us on Facebook. Search Facebook for First United Methodist Church Odessa

**Be empowered and equipped with Family Ministry:**

- **REMIND App**—Daily reminders to parents
- **FOUNDATION KIDS**—Search Facebook for FUMCFoundationKids
- **ECHO YOUTH**—Search Facebook for [echo.sm](http://echo.sm);
- Instagram: @echostudentministry; YouTube search Caleb Eckel
- Call the church office at 432-337-1527 if you do not currently receive the weekly announcement.
- Share the names of members that are not able to access electronic notifications if you know of any.

Praying for God's blessings and peace to be with you,

*Pastor Todd, Lead Pastor*

*Pastor Karin, Associate Pastor*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9am Online Worship	Email Announcements	10am Coffee Talk <i>Pastor Todd with Staff *ZOOM</i>	6pm FOUNDATION KIDS <i>Deep Blue Message</i> John 13:14	1pm ECHO YOUTH Trivia	Email Announcements
11am Online Worship	1pm ECHO YOUTH Lesson	1pm ECHO YOUTH Trivia	7pm ECHO YOUTH Message <i>Small Group</i> *ZOOM or Text	FOUNDATION KIDS <i>Outreach</i> Mail cards to nursing home	FOUNDATION KIDS <i>Joke of the Day</i> Make up joke & call someone to spread laughter
	FOUNDATION KIDS <i>Family Activity</i>	FOUNDATION KIDS <i>Deep Blue Activity</i> John 13:14 Memorize & Poster			



Todd Salzwedel

When I was in high school, there was a song I really liked called “Changes.” The melody and feeling of the song just spoke to me. And throughout the rest of my life, every time we experience some sort of change, I can hear that song in my head as a sort of background soundtrack. In

some ways, it’s a never ending soundtrack as we consistently experience change in our lives.

Truly, we’ve experienced a number of changes in how we are operating as a country and in our community. No one could have predicted how we have engaged in ministry and worship in the past month. Changes! And yet, I couldn’t be more proud of the staff and church in how we’ve responded! Further, I’m so very proud to hear of the many ways in which people are learning to engage and fellowship with one another in these

times! Changes!

One change that I did not enjoy sharing in the manner I did was the change of appointment for my family and I. Beginning July 1, we will become the new Senior Pastor family at First UMC in Lubbock. Please don’t misunderstand, we are excited about the upcoming move to Lubbock and the opportunities it will provide. At the same time, our hearts grieve to move from a church and community that have truly become our home over the past three years! Changes!

What I know is this – God is with us in the midst of whatever life throws at us. And as I get older, I realize that change affects me more than it once did. But, I am reminded through my kids and my faith that when God calls, He will provide!

God continues to provide for all of us in this time we find ourselves, and we will emerge transformed and different! We will be changed! We will be stronger and more amazing than ever, because in the midst of immense pressure, God makes beautiful things! Blessings!

## Rev. Jay Armstrong Assigned to FUMC-Odessa

Here is a brief introduction to Rev. Jay Armstrong, in his own words in an email to Pastor Todd. Rev. Armstrong appointment at our church begins July 1, 2020.

My name is Jay Armstrong. I was born an Okie, but grew up in an Air Force family that made its way to Alamogordo, NM. I finished Jr High and High School in Alamogordo while my faith was nurtured and grew at Grace United Methodist Church.

After graduating I went to New Mexico State where I pursued a degree in Electrical Engineering.

After my sophomore year I continued with making progress toward my degree, but also started working at University United Methodist Church

as the Youth director. It was that work that began to point me away from Electrical Engineering and toward full time ordained ministry. Having finished all of my calculus classes, differential equation and statics I made the decision to pursue full time ordained ministry and switched majors. I finished with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Human Resources management.

Having finished school I married my beautiful and smart wife, Laura Ruth Thomas. We packed and made our way across country to Duke University. I pursued and received my Masters of Divinity degree.



Rev. Jay and  
Laura Ruth Armstrong

My only disappointment at Duke was that graduate students were not admitted to Duke Basketball games with their student I.D.s. Still, I am a rabid Duke Blue Devils basketball fan, and will have to account for rooting for the devils when I pass through heavens gates.

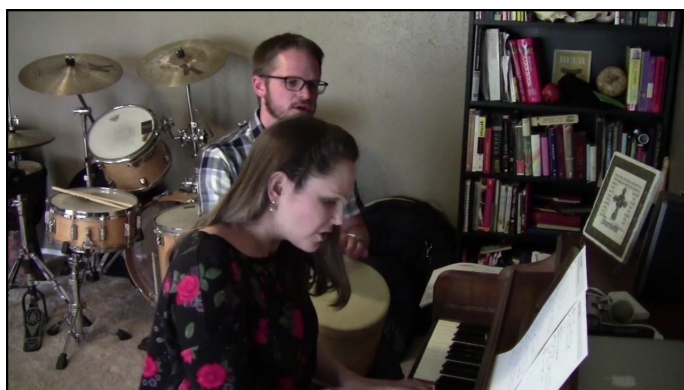
I have served the Clondcroft United Methodist Church, Zia United Methodist Church in Santa Fe, Belen United Methodist Church, and Paradise Hills United Methodist Church in Albuquerque.

My wife Laura is a CPA and currently the Business Manager and Human Resources Manager for Bisti Fuels outside of Farmington, New Mexico. I have two children. They include a son who is a PA in a couple of Emergency Rooms in Mississippi, and a daughter who has a Masters in Industrial Engineering and is currently using the knowledge gained to raise my 15 month old grandson, Boaz.

Finally, I am orthodox in my beliefs, and believe that God still has hope for the world with all of its chaos. He called us in Jesus Christ to make disciples and build the kingdom. I love my work. In His Service, Jay Armstrong



# Inspiration And Hope Of Resurrection Sunday Overcome



Photos are from Facebook.

Photos to the left: Pastor Todd in the sanctuary for Maundy Service's Dinner with the Disciples. Tyson and Jennifer Voigt performing in their home.

Upper photo: The Corman family singing in their home for Good Friday service.

**T**he Holy Week services of **Maundy Thursday**, **Good Friday** and **Resurrection Sunday** were like no other in our church's history...all because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Even though the congregation was separated by social distancing, congregational expressions of communal love were experienced through social media, mainly Facebook.

Maundy Thursday's "Dinner With The Disciples" was changed from a meal served in the Fellowship Hall to a presentation on Facebook. In the presentation, Pastor Todd welcomed viewers and read scriptures describing the last meal Jesus had with his Disciples. Then the voices of eleven church men were heard as pictorial representations of each disciple were seen on screen. Fellowship worship leader Tyson Voigt and his wife, Jennifer, were videotaped in their home as they sang and played hymns which connected the commentaries about the Disciples. The voices of the Disciples were: David Corman—Andrew; Jeb Harris—Bartholomew; Tyson Voigt—James, Son of Alphaeus; Greg Wood—James, Son of Zebedee; Jim Carlson—John; Jacob Corman—Matthew; Ben Corman—Peter; Simon Severance—Phillip; Jody Wallin—Simon the Zealot; Bynum Vincent—Thaddaeus; Brad Watts—Thomas.

Instead of the traditional full sanctuary choir presentation on Good Friday, our congregation was treated to a musical "Stations Of The Cross." Traditional worship leader, David Corman and his wife, Kimberly, sons, Ben and Jacob, and daughter, Grace sang hymns and read scriptures from their home.

Pastor Todd made a very untraditional Resurrection Sunday worship setting into a videotaped traditional Easter worship service. Many previously recorded Easter services choir pieces were skillfully woven together to provide the comfort that comes from our church's traditions and our Christian faith's traditions. One church tradition is for the 8:00 a.m. Sunday School Class to adorn the cross with flowers from class members' yards. Nursery owner and class co-leader Lynn Correa and her husband Randy were eager to provide the beautiful cross for the altar which served as a backdrop for Pastor Todd's sermon inside an empty sanctuary.

Thanks to previously recorded Easter services, the congregation was once again inspired by seeing and hearing the glorious Hallelujah Chorus sung by our choir at the conclusion of the service.

The flower adorned cross was shared with the Fellowship worship service. The Praise Band's



# Challenges Of Coronavirus Pandemic



Other photos: Simon Severance at the control board in the sanctuary on Saturday, April 11. Greg Wood confers with Pastor [Name] prior to videotaping the Easter sermon. Photos to the Right: Praise Band recording Easter music and the cross filled an empty Fellowship Hall with reminders of the hope that is Resurrection. All of these presentations have been made possible with the technical expertise of staff member Simon Severance and church member Greg Wood. These two have worked tirelessly to set up cameras and lighting; research and archive videotaped services, record weekly sermons in the empty sanctuary and fellowship hall; whittle down hours of video to create the hour-long services, and then upload those services to Facebook on Sunday morning. This labor of love is all because of their love and devotion to the church and our God.



As you scroll through the church's Facebook page, it is the prayer of everyone involved that you will find the hope and inspiration that is needed in these unprecedented times.

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

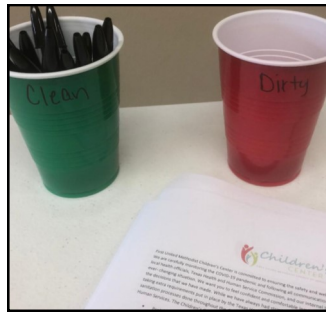


## Children's Center Cleans And Cleans And Cleans Some More



Children's Center Director, Wendy Dancer, demonstrates the new check-in procedure for the Children's Center. She is taking the temperature of Finance Director Marcy Ortiz. All persons, parents and children and staff members are checked as they enter our facility. If a person has an elevated temperature, they are not allowed into the center. Wendy is shown posing while mopping the hallway after the Center is closed for the day. Daily cleaning with

germicides and other potent cleaners is now part of the duties of everyone. The photo shows the green cup with sterilized pens that are used by parents to sign in children. Used pens are placed in the red cup to be sterilized. A row of booster seats have tags showing those that have been cleaned and are ready to be used.



The Children's Center continues to rise up to the challenges of operating a daycare during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Center Director Wendy Dancer and her staff are following the strict guidelines outlined by various licensing agencies. Basic procedures include taking the temperature of each person who enters the one-entry to the daycare center. Sterilized pens are in one cup for people to use to sign in. After use, that pen is placed in a separate cup to be sterilized before being used again. Other precautions include daily mopping of all floors in the nursery

area, all bathrooms in the nursery wing, and according to Wendy, "all walls in nursery rooms and everything that a child could touch during the day."

Wendy says she and her advisory council comprised of church members confer every Monday to review policy and procedures for the coming week. This is done due to the quickly changing mandates and the local reaction to the COVID-19 shelter-in-place. Wendy says that, so far, there has not been any staff lay-offs and is cautiously optimistic that there will not be.

## Memorials as of March 30, 2020

### In Memory of Carolyn Harper

Given by  
Nancy & Gary Sims

### In Memory of Robert Malinowski

Given by  
Caroline Ater Howard  
Nancy & Gary Sims  
Lori & David Nelson

### In Memory of LaDoyce Lambert

Given by  
Caroline Ater Howard  
Builders Sunday School  
Class  
Lori & David Nelson  
Patty Godwin

### In Memory of Guilda Woodward

Given by  
Lori & David Nelson

### In Memory of Joe Moss

Given by  
Caroline Ater Howard  
Builders Sunday School  
Class  
Tina Dobson, Gail Rauhut,  
& Judy Lac

### Sanctuary Choir Fund

#### In Memory of LaDoyce Lambert

Given by  
Doris Ann White  
Doris Mason

### In Memory of Joe Moss

Given by  
Doris Ann White

### Children's Clothes Closet

#### In Memory of Jim Milson

Given by  
Lynn & Randy Correa

### In Memory of Telene Johnson

Given by  
Lynn & Randy Correa

### In Memory of Liz Midgley

Given by  
Robbie & Dan Brazelton  
Julie & Jim Brown

### In Memory of LaDoyce Lambert

Given by  
Julie & Jim Brown  
Lynn & Randy Correa

### In Memory of Geri York Nickel

Given by  
Lynn & Randy Correa

### In Memory of Carolyn Harper

Given by  
Julie & Jim Brown

### In Memory of Robert Malinowski

Given by  
Julie & Jim Brown

### In Memory of Bill Johnson

Given by  
Lynn & Randy Correa

### Mackey Chapel

#### In Memory of Robert Malinowski

Given by  
Martha Farris  
8:00am Sunday School  
Class  
Lynn & Randy Correa



**Rhonda Elder**

her husband, Rev Larry Elder have served in several churches. He currently serves as senior pastor at Hope Community Church. She is also a photographer and artist. She and Larry have two grown children and two grandchildren, all of whom are involved in missionary work. Rhonda is eager to meet everyone and continue to serve God through working in a church.

### Welcome To **Rhonda Elder**.

Rhonda is our new receptionist, as of April 14. While she is new to our church, she is not new to working in a church. In fact, she was born in Waxahachie, TX while her father was in Bible college. Growing up as a preacher's daughter, she lived in numerous New Mexico communities, graduating from Los Alamos High School. She and her

### *New Baby*

Alice Melodyrose Dyrstad

Born March 11, 2020

Parents are Sara & Brad Dyrstad

Proud Grandparents are  
Terri and David Woodward

### *With Deepest Sympathy*

To Jane & O.T. Garza  
for the loss of Jane's mother  
*Helen Hammond*

To Dick Sivalls, Stephanie, John and  
Reagan Latimer, Tracy & Kelly Sivalls  
for the loss of  
*Lura Sivalls*

To Hylance Golden  
for the loss of her sister  
*Ruth Miles*



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SERVICE  
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79761

### Bring A Friend This Sunday

8:00 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
9:00 AM	<b>Traditional Worship</b> —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	<b>Sunday School, all ages</b>
10:16 AM	<b>The Bridge Worship,</b> —3901 E. Yukon
11:00 AM	<b>Fellowship Worship</b> —Fellowship Center

Currently services are streamed on-line on Facebook or [www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)

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.*

## Good News To Make You Smile...



**Samaritans By Grace** continue to serve the hungry every Sunday, with all the proper precautions. Behind those masks are the smiling faces of Peggy Dean and Pastor Todd in the front, with Mary Blain and Jim Brown in the back. With the downturn in the oil patch, SBG is now averaging 20 lunch sacks and bottles of water each week.



**GOOD NEWS!** On March 20, Congregational Care Minister Jody Wallin shares a photo with Pastor Todd of "ringing the bell" on his last day of chemo and radiation. The Texas Oncology tradition of ringing the bell is a celebration for all cancer survivors. Jody began his battle with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma cancer in October, 2019.