



## Finding Relevance In *Finding I AM*



The new intergenerational women's ministry, **The Well**, has successfully tapped into an intergenerational yearning of answering the deep cry of one's heart. About 65 women are participating in the six-week study, *Finding I Am*. The seven *I Am* statements of Jesus are found in the Gospel of John. *I Am* the bread of Life. *I Am* the light of the world. *I Am* the door. *I Am* the Good Shepherd. *I Am* the resurrection and the life. *I Am* the way and the truth of life. *I Am* the vine. The spiritually and intellectually stimulating gatherings are a combination of daily "home work"

lessons, a video lecture by author Lysa TerKeurst, table discussions of probing questions followed by a group wrap-up session. To accommodate all busy schedules all the while maintaining social distancing, the study is offered on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. There will be a final celebration of both groups on November 4.

**The Well** women's ministry began last month when a group of young mothers decided to tap into the yearnings of their hearts to become more involved with all generations of women here at our church. These women have been active in our D6 Curriculum which emphasizes all generations learning from each other.



Leaders pictured here are Tamara Stumpner, Tiffany Wood, Lee Emerson, Rev Karin Carlson and Cherie Hensley.

## ENOUGH

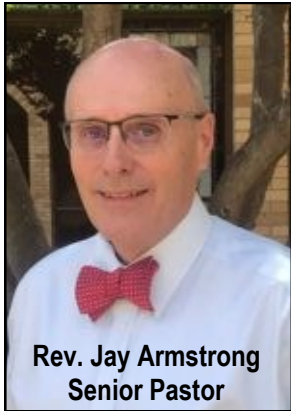
Discovering Joy Through  
Simplicity and Generosity



## Stewardship Campaign

October 11 - November 8

We exist for LIFE...To LOVE others, INVITE them to join us as we FOLLOW Christ who EMPOWERS us to make a difference in our church, **our community** and our world.

**ENOUGH!**

I struggle with the concept of enough. I fear that if we make that the foundation of our lives, we will settle for what we have and what has already been done. I have seen people come to that place in their lives. You know you have arrived at that place when you live on your memories of the past rather than looking forward to what is still possible.

It is true that the focus of our lives and the new things we can or want to accomplish will change with time and age. At one point the accumulation of financial assets may be something that you pursue with earnest, then it may be raising your family up, seeing the world in retirement, growing the presence of God in your life, using your accumulated assets to be a blessing on the world. Until our last breath we should always be pursuing the possible, but you cannot allow them to own you. If they do, then the things that you pursue become your idols and they will never allow you to be content.

Paul had a different take on the world. He wrote,

“<sup>11</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4

Paul is not saying that he has stopped striving or stopped pursuing what is possible. But, his spirit was at peace with whatever success or struggle he encountered. In October, we will talk about finding that place where we are at peace in the midst of our striving.

Beginning October 11, we will begin a sermon series whose theme is *Enough!* It will a part of our Stewardship and Finance Campaign.

Most of the time we think of Stewardship/Finance campaigns with the same fondness with which we think about having a cavity filled. But, I believe that you will find yourself blessed through this series. Make plans to join us in person or in the virtual world.

Pastor Jay

### DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Two Sundays ago we announced that Melanie Taylor, our Director of Children's Ministry, was moving to Austin. We will begin the process of interviewing and hiring a new Director this week. It appears we have some good candidates, but it is not too late to send in a resume and letter of interest to [sylvia@fumcodessa.org](mailto:sylvia@fumcodessa.org).

### Fond Farewell to Miss Melanie

Pastor Jay presented flowers and conveyed the church's appreciation to Assistant Family Minister Director Melanie Taylor. She has held this position for three years. Her husband, Terance



was transferred to Austin with his job, and she will join him there. Everyone will miss her happy smile and his delicious food.

## Memorials

**In Memory of**  
Sonny Schnaubert

**Given by**  
Shelia & Terry Glaiborne



**In Memory of**  
Lura Sivalls

**Given by**  
Meredith & Kenneth Ketron Sr.  
Amy Jo Marshall

**In Memory of**  
Sherry Talley

**Given by**  
Sylvia & Brad Watts



**Sanctuary Choir**  
**In Memory of**

Lura Sivalls  
**Given by**  
Lynda & G. William Fowler  
Boosters SS Class

## Welcome To Our Church Family



Laura Armstrong, pictured here with her husband, Jay, joined by transfer of membership on Sunday, August 30, 2020.

Laura continues in her position at North American Coal in Farmington, NM. She commutes to Odessa one week a month and she is also a member of our choir.

Two joyful baptisms were celebrated on Sunday, August 30 by families who attend the Congolese worship service. Families are pictured here after the baptisms during the Traditional worship service. Gabriella Kayamba is the daughter of Irene & Albert Kayamba. Nicholas Bigirinka is the son of Patience and Moise Bigirinka.

Their son, Wesley and his wife Katie, also joined by transfer of membership. They view the on-line worship service from their home in Biloxi, MS



We had a great time playing games, toasting marshmallows and eating S'mores at our bonfire event

on August 29. It was our last event of the summer before coming back to the church for Cupcake Wars and youth group. We came together with Asbury UMC and Highland UMC in West Odessa to have an evening of relaxation and fellowship.

We are officially back in The Boathouse for ECHO Youth group every Wednesday! ECHO youth group resumed on September 9 following Cupcake Wars. After a summer of Swim N' Studies and outdoor events it was good to be

back in The Boathouse. We are averaging 20 students per week, which is about 60% of our regular attendance. We have several parents and youth that are currently not attending for safety reasons and other students who no longer have a ride to ECHO youth group because of the pandemic. I am confident that as the weeks go on we will be back to normal, but until then we are implementing rules to keep the youth as safe as possible. It has been a huge adjustment, and I trust God will build His church even in the midst of a pandemic. Thank you for your continued prayers and support! We are so blessed that we can meet in person and do youth ministry!—Caleb Eckel Family Ministry



ECHO Youth adjust to worship and gathering safely in era of Covid 19.







**RETURN  
SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
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ODESSA, TEXAS  
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

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.*

## Save The Dates

**November 8—Consecration Sunday**

**November 19-22—Amahl & the Night Visitors,  
a musical collaboration with UTPB and FUMC-Odessa**

**November 22—One Service at 10am & Deck the Halls**

**November 29—1st Sunday of Advent**

### New Mexico Annual Conference



Rescheduled for October 16-17, 2020

**Saturday, October 17  
at 2pm (MST)  
3pm (CST) in Odessa.**

Along with a virtual Annual Conference, there will be a virtual **Ordination Ceremony** for our Associate Pastor **Karin Carlson**.

The ceremony will stream live from Central-UMC Albuquerque website and Facebook. [Centraltolife.org](http://Centraltolife.org) and Central-UMC ABQ on Facebook.



**Church  
Charge  
Conference**

**Saturday, October 10  
Noon  
FUMC**