

Congratulations To Ordained Deacon, Pastor Karin

With gratitude and gratefulness, Rev. Karin Carlson thanks the congregation of First United Methodist Church for supporting her journey to become an ordained Deacon. The official vote was conducted October 16, via Zoom, during the Executive Session of the 2020 New Mexico Annual Conference. The Annual Conference and the vote were delayed several times due to the on-going pandemic. The unanimous vote of ordination means Pastor Karin is fully committed to lifetime servant leadership and now has "full authority of an ordained Deacon of the United Methodist Church."

Deacons and Elders are both charged with "word and service" for a congregation. She describes a Deacon as the bridge from the church to the world, with Deacons focusing on "social justice and compassion" outside of a church. In contrast, Rev. Jay Armstrong, along with all other ordained Elders, are charged with "order and sacrament" within a church.

The journey for Karin began in 2011 when she felt there was "more than her teaching and tennis coaching position at Odessa College" but she didn't know what that "more" was. She credits then senior pastor Rev. Terry Tamplen with helping her discern what/where her journey should go. "I have learned that the summons is a God's calling. All Christian believers are ministers, yet some are called into ordained ministry. The discernment path in the UMC is a long and intentional process. It is a path that has revealed not just my character, but more so about God. I am amazed at how my whole life has prepared me for this. Truly, the past five years serving at both FUMC and Mackey Chapel has affirmed my love and passion for all people and concentration or desire for mobilization. Serving in different cultures and different sizes of churches at the same time really provides the opportunity to choose to **love like Jesus**. I believe it has prepared me to testify that being the salt and light in this world requires the understanding that **relationships** are the key to obeying the Great Commission to **'GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing**

them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Matthew 28:19-20

Now, I reset boundaries for a healthy and well lifestyle that glorifies God. My family has sacrificed a lot and I could not have survived this journey without my incredible husband Jim, and both of our amazing daughters, Courtney and Megan." Karin's hope and prayer is to continue to advance the Gospel by using her adaptive leadership style and passion of people. "I will always be a coach because I love people and believe in people, yet now I coach in new field." As a means to do so, she is eager to continue her dual-



Rev. Karin Carlson, husband Jim, and members of Mackey Chapel-UMC gather prior to worship. Note Pastor Karin's stole denoting her as an ordained Deacon.

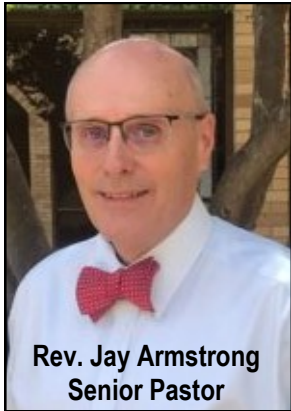
appointment here at FUMC-Odessa and Mackey Chapel-UMC, until it is time to go and be where God needs me. She views her ordination as a celebration of God.

Other than now being allowed to wear the stole of a Deacon--which drapes over the left shoulder and fastens under the right arm-- her daily activities continue at a steady pace. Wearing the Deacon's stole is an outward sign of her ordination. There is one more ceremonial event to be scheduled. The pandemic is delaying the Rite of Ordering of Ministry which is the worship service. According to the Book of Worship, this high order ordination is conducted by the Bishop of the Conference. Three years ago, Bishop Earl Bledsoe laid his hands on the shoulders of Deacon candidate Karin Carlson as a sign of sending her into ministry for a provisional period of three years. According to the Book of Worship, in ordination of a Deacon or Elder, "a bishop lays hands on the head of the candidate as a sign of the impartation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for what is intended to be a lifetime of ministry."

—Betsy Triplett-Hurt

Thank you, FUMC, for being the anchor, the Body, prayer warriors, and opening the doors to explore. That's who FUMC is. You will always be part of my story of God's glory.

~ Rev. Karin Carlson



Rev. Jay Armstrong
Senior Pastor

Friends,
People want to know what the future looks like before it arrives. That is why we have political pollsters. They try to divine what the outcome of an election cycle will be before the votes are counted. Sometimes they try to create the outcome of the polls and the future that they want by defining the pool of people they ask by who is more likely to give them the answer they want

to hear, or by asking the question in such a way that it pushes you in a direction they want you to go.

When people do not know the future, they act irrationally. You saw that a couple of weeks when companies came out with great earnings reports, but the market jumped up and down, and down, and down. That does not make much sense, except that people were not focused on the evidence in front of them and were instead focused on the uncertainty of tomorrow.

We may or may not know the results of the election at this point. It was not that long ago that we had to wait for about a month to have a winner declared. Even if we know the result, we still do not know our earthly future.

What I do know is that there is someone you can count on.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever that when we are faithful, God is also faithful. God calls the United Methodist Church to be faithful to his call to make disciples. We are faithful when we undergird our ministry with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.



At this moment you are being asked to pray, to discern for your family, and then be bold in your gifts to the world of Jesus Christ through First United Methodist Church of Odessa. You are being asked to return your prayer card on November 8th. I know that you will be faithful.

That is only the beginning. We are in unprecedented times. Like all other churches, we do not know what the future of our church looks like. I know that when we are faithful, God will be faithful. There is a need for all of us to undergird our ministry at First with not just our gifts, but with our prayers, our presence, our service, and our witness.

For the rest of the year and into early 2021 we will put together a start up plan for our church's rebirth following the covid-19 pandemic. I hope that you will be a part of that plan then join and take up a piece of that plan as your ministry. There is no doubt that God in Christ Jesus is greater than all adversity. If we are faithful, Christ will be faithful.

In Christ, Pastor Jay

Masks And Social Distancing Allow Local United Methodist Youth To



We had a total blast here at ECHO YOUTH in October! Pictured, the youth are playing 9 Square In The Air, Basketball and Puzzle Racing! It has been really cool to get back into the swing of things and bring back FUN again on Wednesday evenings! THANK YOU for all of your continued support



and everything you do for us here at FUMC ECHO! — *Caleb Eckel, Family Ministry*



We had such a great evening on October 14. A big shout out to the youth for hosting and cooking for everyone. We had youth from three youth groups and youth groups involved from Mackey Chapel, Morristown, and Youth from Asbury University.

The UM youth played a great meal and worship service. Caleb Eckel led the worship the evening and Rev. Jay Armstrong from Asbury UMC, gave a message on the importance of making a difference.

Overall, it was a great evening so excited to be doing this combined youth event.



Remembering Our Saints...

Keith Bailey
Charles Berlin
William Jackson
LaDoyce Lambert
Joe Moss
Sarah Pond
Deby Rinker
Thomas Rodman
Lonnie Sims
Lura Sivalls

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, and 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 10 candles represent our 1st UMC-Odesa saints.

Memorial

Sanctuary Choir

In Memory of
Lura Sivalls
Given by
Booster Sunday School Class

Enjoy Safe Fellowship

UM youth feast night at Highland UMC on 10/24. A shout-out to the ladies at Highland UMC for a delicious meal for us. A total of four churches joined together for this event. The churches involved were: Echo Youth from FUMC and Momentum Youth from Highland UMC and Ascent UMC.

ed games, ate a
hiped!
worship music for
Raul Garcia,
ave a message
r young people to
eat night. We are
g these
nts every month!



The courtyard inside Highland UMC was swarming with dozens of active teenagers gathered to enjoy a time of food and fellowship. Inside, the kids kept busy playing foosball and ping-pong. Fun and games were just a part of the evening activities. The worship service provided the true meaning of gathering together in Christian fellowship.





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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
Empowers us to make a difference.***

Special Dates In November

November 8 Consecration Sunday

Bring your pledge cards to church



November 22

10am One Worship Service (limited seating)

Includes final performance of *Amahl & The Night Visitors*. **Reservations necessary. Call the office to reserve your seat (432-337-1527)**

11:30 Causal Meal Enjoy a meal in the dining hall.

12pm Deck the Halls Help Deck the Halls by adorning the sanctuary and fellowship hall for the season of Advent