

First United Methodist Church
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The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas

September 2018



Fall is typically a season for harvesting. Of course, today, in the RGV, it's going to be 102 degrees outside and not one of us is going to take a deep breath of crisp, cool, air and think, 'ah, Autumn is upon us.' I think for us, EFUMC, the Fall is a time for us to nurture growth. It's a time for us to press in to the work God is doing in our church and in our community.

We are seeing God do good things, really good things! Since July, when we changed the worship schedule and moved to 2 services, we have actually seen an increase in attendance. The Crossroads service, (9 am) typically has 35-40 people in worship each week. This is comparable to our regular Fall attendance of both the 8:15am /9:45am services combined. New people are joining, new people are coming to the MeetUp and finding their way into community. Summer Sunday School participation is at an all-time high. We are seeing families who have not been in a while returning. These are excellent places of growth.

Wine and the Word Women's Ministry had an amazing first meeting with more than 20 women present and more than 25 registered who will participate in the course of the 6 week study. Already, there is talk of a Women's Retreat in the Spring. In late September, Wednesday evening Dinner and Discipleship will return and run concurrently with Acolyte training for our children.

One area that we must be intentional about nurturing growth is with our children and youth. These are 2 of the most important ministry areas of any/every church and yet also the difficult to navigate. When new families are looking for a church their first question is, "what do you have for my children?" When you are a church with a small children/youth program that can be a difficult question to answer. Every opportunity is being made for the children and youth of our community to get connected. There is now intentional and excellent programming in the nursery on Sunday mornings as well as Children's Sunday School. Starting September 9th Youth Sunday School start being taught by parents, grandparents, and elders of the church. Weekly Youth gatherings are currently Sunday night from 5pm - 6:30pm. The thing about children and youth ministries is that parents have to bring them. Parents have to help decide and set that priority in the spiritual growth of their children. One thing I learned as a Children's Pastor is that best, most effective way to love a child is to love and encourage their parents well. So, we are starting a Sunday School class for parents starting Sept. 16. Bring your kids to Sunday School, stay for Sunday School yourself. We are hoping to start an evening Parent's Group that will meet Sunday evenings while children are at youth or Children's Choir.

I want to take this opportunity to commend our Rising (Young Adult Ministry). Since the transition between the retirement of our former youth director and now, these 6 – 8 young adults have shown up every Sunday ready to love, lead, teach, and bless our youth. All of them are 18 years or older and more than half of them have completed certification/in process of being certified under the Rio Texas Safe Gatherings Safety Policies. This particular ministry of the church blesses and encourages my heart. Prior to stepping forward to help fill the gap while we search for the right person to lead our youth ministry long term, these young adults gathered every week at the parsonage for bible study and fellowship. Every one of them is in worship EVERY week. Every one of them serves the church in multiple capacities – praise band, food pantry, audio/visuals, and where ever the church asks them to serve. Each of them (that are employed) give and work toward tithing. They are the best possible example for our youth and children. They are the best possible examples to any of us.

Many good seeds have been planted. Much good work is being done. I urge you to prayerfully consider how you will nurture these seeds and participate in this season of growing.

Much love and many blessings
Pastor Michelle



PUMPKINS ARRIVE September 29th at 10:00am

We will be receiving a full truck load of bulk pumpkins, gourds and mini-pumpkins. So grab your friends, neighbors, and school groups and come help unload pumpkins. Lifting pumpkins not for you? We also need help in the kitchen making sandwiches and bringing out water bottles. There is something for everyone!

SOS: we need **bales of straw hay** for the picture area and for a small maze/story area. If you know of sources of hay, please pass that info to the church office so we may contact them. We also need help setting up the **fencing and the pallets on Sept. 15th**. Call Lara Noe at 566-4956 if you are able to help.

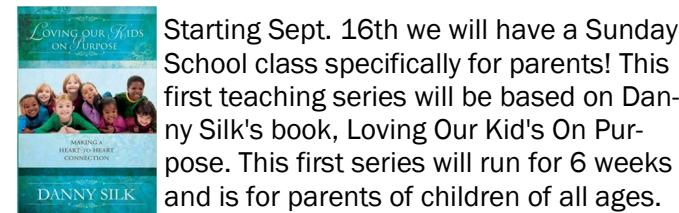
It is not too early to start making our delicious (and best-selling) pumpkin bread. You can pick up the dry ingredients for the bread starting on September 9th.



Let's Grow in God's Word Together! Sunday School Opportunities

One of the best ways for a church to grow stronger is to build community while digging into God's word together! One of the reasons we reconfigured our worship schedule was to create a dedicated time for Sunday School and bible study. I would encourage you to join a study! There is Sunday School for Children, Adults, Youth, and a new class for Parents! It's so important to be in God's word and to be in God's word in community. Take a look below at the studies we will be offering and plan to come!

Our long-standing, ever growing, adult Sunday School class under the leadership of Jackie Billings is currently pairing their study with our 11am worship sermon series Half-Truths based on the Adam Hamilton book by the same name. There is always room for one more. This class is meeting in the youth room but will move to the Social Room on Sept. 9th. There is always room for one more!



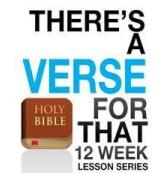
YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL IS HERE!!!

Starting September 9th, our students will begin a year-long journey learning how to read scripture, digging deep into God's story, and start to understand that God's story IS THEIR story too! Each month different parents, grandparents, and elders of the church will take turns teaching our youth God's word and the importance of God's word in their lives.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY LESSONS

Starting in September our Children's Sunday School and Nursery will begin a series that teaches that God's word is our best source of wisdom and encouragement! This series will be taught by Pastor Jenna, our Children's Pastor.



A Note from the Music Ministry

The Chancel Choir is looking forward to an exciting Fall & Holiday season. We eagerly await the return of our Winter Texans and college students and the introduction of new members like you to our choir family.

Hymn Sing!

We invite you to make plans to attend Hymn Sing! Sunday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. The choir and featured choir members will be singing special arrangements of hymns. Plus, we will have congregational singing of lots of your favorites! Start thinking about which hymns you'd like us to sing and make plans to join us.

Holiday Season

We have an active and exciting holiday season planned, including caroling, our annual Christmas Cantata, and our Christmas Eve service. Join us on Sunday, December 23rd at 10:00 a.m. as we once again celebrate the birth of Jesus in this year's Christmas Cantata, "A Night of Rejoicing."

Now is the time to join our ministry!

We would love for you to be a part of our choir family. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. We invite anyone interested in joining us to come to rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. this Wednesday so we can set you up with music and place you in the choir. Questions? Email me at: efumcmusic@gmail.com Whether you are a part of the choir or the congregation, our God is worthy of our praise. As Psalm 98:1 declares, "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things..." Amen.

Blessings, Omar Samaniego

Combined Worship Service and Pot Luck Lunch

September 30th at 10am

We will have one service at 10:00am with a Pot Luck Luncheon immediately following at 11:00am. This will be a special time when we will get a chance to worship as one. As we gather together, we will share in communion as a united faith family. This will give us all a chance to gather as brothers and sisters in Christ and spend time in worship and fellowship with each other. So bring your best dish and stay after the service for a yummy lunch with your church family!



Rummage Sale - Oct. 13th

7:30am - Noon

Start saving your "treasures" for our annual Rummage Sale

Drop off starts:

Oct. 7(10am– 3pm) and Oct. 8-Oct. 11 (9am to 5pm)

If you need to drop off items before Oct. 7th, contact the church office at 381-9806.

We especially could use the following:

- Working appliances
- Electronic equipment
- Gently used clothing and shoes
- Furniture in good condition (best seller)
- Gently used bedding, towels, and cur-
- tains
- Dishes, utensils, pots, and pans
- Knick-knacks
- Tools of all kinds
- Kids' toys, games, books, and bicycles



Missions at Edinburg FUMC

August has come and gone and now it is really time to know that School has Started! We just finished our campaign #24 and we have raised \$1400 as of week three. That converts to 56 pairs for shoes. If you remember, we raised enough money for 690 pairs of shoes last year. That is because the Parental Involvement was able to use the \$25 card and the Buy One/Get One sales at Payless. Even with sales, we are far behind. I know that this year we also did not ask for funds for other back to school campaigns, so I am hoping that you will find it in your heart to "step up" and help our cause. If you have been meaning to do this and have just forgotten, we understand. Life is busy. If you need more information, please don't hesitate to ask. Ed Keebaugh, Pam Bovee, Nan Smith, and Jackie Billings are the founding committee members of this project and can answer just about anything you might want to know about how this program works and the need we are addressing in our community. You do not have to donate at this time only and you can always give to this cause as memorials or other gifts to the church. However, we hope that you will help now so that we can give to the schools as soon as possible to get the year off to a good start for some children whose parents couldn't buy new school clothes and shoes. We ask you to pray about this and then see where your heart leads you. Please also remember, this is in addition to your tithe.

Blessings, Jackie Billings



Congregational Care

Jesus teaches the importance of caring for people in our communities. He teaches that we should visit the sick, the imprisoned, provide for the widow and the orphan. Jesus also teaches the joy that comes in loving those whom God loves by being salt and light to those who are in need of help, hope and encouragement. The Congregational Care Ministry takes joy in visiting those in our community who are ill, homebound, or just enjoy a little extra company. They help bring Holy Communion to those who are unable to come to receive at church and take time to pray and bless those they have come to visit.

If you know of anyone that would like to be visited by a member of our Congregational Care Committee or would benefit from a hot meal, please contact Nancy Murray (309-7376), Jackie Billings (279-7904) or the church office (381-9806).

Programming News!

Sermon Series on An Unhurried Life by Alan Fadling will begin September 23. Wednesday night Dinner and Discipleship returns Sept. 26th 6pm – 7pm

No Youth Sept. 2nd (Labor Day)

Youth Gathering time change Sunday Evenings 5pm – 6:30pm starting Sept. 9th