
Faith for The Next Generation

March 2018



First United Methodist Church

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A Word from Pastor Tom:

We are well into the season of Lent, but I wonder, do we really know what it means, the season of Lent? Lent is an intensely penitential time as we examine our sinful natures and return to the God we have, through our own rebelliousness, hurt time and time again. Lent is an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord did for us on the cross.

But ultimately, the purpose of Lent does not stop at sadness and despair, instead it points us to the hope of the resurrection, that beautiful day we call Easter! Make this season of Lent a time of reflection and then come on April 1st, Easter Sunday, to celebrate the victory Jesus has given us over death and despair.

First Church is on the move, loving God, loving our neighbor, and serving the community, and you are invited to become a part of that new growth. There are activities for everyone and places where you can plug into the life of the church so, if you are feeling a bit lost or adrift, let's talk and find ways to deepen our relationship with Jesus.

March promises to be a great month at First Church and I look forward to seeing everyone! Make plans now to attend worship regularly, deepen your prayer life, attend a new study or participate in a new group, and become closer to Christ every day!

SOCIAL MEDIA BLITZ

One of the tingles at February's, *The Table*, meeting was to coordinate a social media blitz campaign. Utilizing all social media outlets, church members post, tweet, call 3 non-church friends, and email 10 non-church friends on March 26th, a simple one-line statement about First Church. The Rodeo Parade on April 7th will reinforce the social media blitz and tell people that First Church is ready to welcome them into our family. First Church is now on *Twitter*, @umc_mesquite and *Instagram*, firstmesquiteumc.

Upcoming Events

March 4 - Sunday

*Ebenezer Worship Center
Dedication, 3:00 pm*

March 6 - Tuesday

*Ladies Learning & Laughing, 7:00
pm, Fellowship Hall*

March 24 - Saturday

*Easter Egg Hunt, 1:00 pm, Opal
Lawrence Park*

March 25 - Sunday

*Palm Sunday, celebrating the
triumphal entry into Jerusalem*

March 26 - Monday

*Social Media Blitz Day, notify your
friends that you love First Church!*

March 29 - Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm

March 30 - Friday

Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm

Looking Ahead

April 1 - Sunday, Easter

April 7 - Rodeo Parade,
preparing the float on Friday
the 6th

April 21 - Church Council

ACADEMY KIDS Vonda Sutton, Director

Monday through Friday, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm, children as young as newborns gather to learn their ABC's and their Bible stories in the Family Life Center. What a blessing to have approximately 100 children every day learning and being cared for at First Church. They also have fun, of course, and they will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday, March 29th!

If you have an opportunity, stop by and experience the ministry happening and you will be blessed knowing that you are part of loving your neighbor and loving the community!



Academy Kids

EBENEZER FELLOWSHIP Rev. Sylvanus Chapman



It is time to celebrate, the Worship Center for Ebenezer will be dedicated Sunday, March 4th at 3:00 pm. Located on the 2nd floor of the Education Building, the classrooms have been transformed into a beautiful space to praise God and proclaim the Good News. You are invited to this important and historic event as First Church continues to carry out its mission in new ways.

ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE – PUSHPAY!

Pushpay[®] is the fast, free, and convenient way to support First Church. Make secure 10 second payments from your iOS or Android smart device. Load your debit or credit card details once, and you're ready to go!

Open Pushpay[®] on your iPhone or Android device, choose First United Methodist Church, Mesquite, and enter your passcode to approve. Done, you have fulfilled one of the membership vows of the church, support it with your *Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness!* Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

BRIDGE KIDS NEWS

Leigh Anne Akins,
Coordinator

What Makes A Hero? The Death-defying Ministry of Jesus, is the study the kids are working with and it is exciting! Join us on the 2nd floor of the Family Life Center at 9:30 am and be a super hero for Christ!

YOUTH NEWS

Claudia Howe,
Coordinator

The Youth have adopted the *Mesquite Tree Nursing Center* and are making Easter Boxet items to give to the residents. Collection boxes are in the Sanctuary and the full list of items needed is in the bulletin. This follows the successful Valentine's activities the Youth had with the residents.