

RealLife

I CAME THAT
YOU MIGHT
HAVE LIFE AND
HAVE IT
ABUNDANTLY...
JOHN 10:10



first united
methodist church

RealLife@FUMC

New Opportunities Beginning at First United Methodist Church, Harlingen

*Real People, discovering a
Real Relationship with Jesus
Christ, that make a Real
Difference in the world.*

Last year, First UMC defined several goals for ministry to work toward in 2013. These were approved at our annual church conference in December of 2012, and we have been working on them since then.

The greatest area of concentration for us was in the area of creating, nurturing, and expanding our discipleship (Christian Growth) areas within the church. It was our goal to provide quality and intentional ministries for all ages of our congregation in regard to Christian growth. We desire for people to not

only know *about* God, but to develop a life-changing relationship with God and others.

Our plans for these new ministries will be unfolding over the 2013 - 2014 year. We will begin implementing some of these as early as September of 2013 and others will take time to develop and take hold.

Our over-arching name for this discipleship ministry is **RealLife@FUMC**. Following the wording of our Vision Statement, we hope to create ways for each of us to experience and grow in the **RealLife** offered by Jesus Christ.

While there is a new name, and we will be offering some new programs surrounding it, the idea of small groups is not new to Christianity and not new for this church. Whether we call them small groups, Bible studies, Christian Education, or Sunday

School, the purpose is the same. We need to be connected in groups as the Body of Christ.

We hope you will join us as we take seriously the command of Jesus Christ to "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations."

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First UMC to be honored
by Loaves and Fishes



2013

For years FUMC has supported Loaves & Fishes in many ways. From volunteer work to in-kind donations, from contributions to many forms of service - our church has a rich history of supporting its mission to bring Help & Hope for the Hungry, the Homeless & the Hurting. On Saturday, September 21, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the TSTC Cultural Arts Center the First United Methodist Church - Harlingen will be recognized as one of 5 honorees at the 8th Annual Autumn Gala Recognition Dinner.

We cordially invite all of our church family to attend this exciting event. Tickets are \$125/person and tables can be secured for 8 persons at \$1,000 each by calling Loaves & Fishes at (956) 423-1014. Platinum, Gold and Silver level sponsorships are also available.



4:12 Student Ministries

Serving our 6th - 12th Grade Students

At 4:12 Student Ministries, we want students to grasp two inherent truths of what it means to be a Christ-follower. As Christians we are to: 1. Love God and 2. Love people. We are working to make sure we are a Gospel-centered youth group and that everything we do centers on Jesus Christ. Our Youth Director, Ashley Moreno (ashley@fumcharlingen.org) is dedicated to serving Christ through her ministry to our students. There are several exciting things happening... don't miss out!

4:12 Kick - Off Event - Sunday, September 8, 2013

Fall is upon us, and we can hardly contain our excitement to get things going again! We are going to have a Fall Kick-Off Event on Sunday, September 8, from 5:00-8:00 PM in the Raimond Christian Center at the church. We'll grill burgers and have fun on a few inflatables in the gym. Invite your friends! You don't want to miss this!

Weekly Programming

★**RealLife Groups** (Sunday School) for Middle School and High School Students in the Raimond Christian Center at 10:00 AM every Sunday

★**4:12 Live** (Starting September 15) - Our main youth group gatherings on Sunday evenings
Middle School will meet from 5:00-6:30 PM in the Raimond Christian Center
High School will meet from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Raimond Christian Center

★**Campaigners** (Starting September 4) - Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 PM
Along with Lucho Llanca and the Harlingen Young Life staff, we are teaming up for a Wednesday evening Small Group experience. This is for both Middle School and High School Students.

★**Breakfast Small Groups** - For Sr. High Students
Cardinals - Tuesdays, 7:30 AM at El Pato
Hawks - Thursdays, 7:30 AM at Chick-fil-A

★**Service, Special Events, Camps, and more!** There are a lot of exciting things being planned this year..., don't miss out!

★**Parent Meeting** - September 28, at the Parrish's home. Contact Ashley for details

Children's Ministries

Children's Church

Each Sunday during our 11:00 AM Contemporary Service, we offer a Children's Church for pre-school and Elementary children in our Fellowship Hall. After the opening song of the service, the children are invited to meet the leaders up front in the Sanctuary and go downstairs. Parents can pick up their children following the service.

The Children's Church includes singing, movement, Bible time, crafts, games, and a service aimed at our kid's developmental level. Give it a try and have some fun!

If you would like to serve in this area, we can always use more help... Jet Throckmorton coordinates our adult volunteers and Ashley Moreno is the coordinator for our youth volunteers.



RealJoy Children's Choir

New this fall! During the 10:00 AM hour on Sundays, our pre-school and elementary aged kids are invited to work on a musical to present during the Christmas season. It gives the children a chance to use their talents and learn more about the meaning of Christmas. This year, the musical is entitled, **The Great Christmas Giveaway**. This class is led by, Lori Payne, Lori Rodgers, Kathleen Garant, and Lisa Roberts. It will be a blast, and you'll want to see your child on stage!



J4J (Jammin' 4 Jesus)

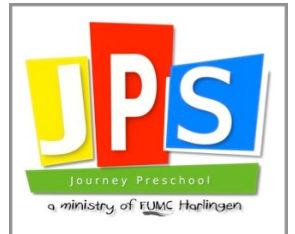
J4J is our mid-week ministry for pre-school and elementary aged children. It takes place each Wednesday afternoon from 3:45 - 5:15 beginning September 18, 2013. During their time together, the children get homework help, have snacks, participate in recreation, crafts, and activities, and have a Bible time. We'd love to have you join us this year. You can sign up online or sign up when you bring your children. We hope to see you there!



Journey Preschool

Journey Preschool is our day care ministry at the church. Ashley Barker is our director and is doing a great job of providing a quality program for families who need day care for their children. If you have questions regarding the school, you can contact Ashley at ashleybarker@fumcharlingen.org.

This fall they will once again be holding their famous **Pumpkin Patch**. If you would like to volunteer to help with this fundraiser/community outreach please contact Ashley Barker.



Nursery/Childcare

If you have infants or toddlers, we have a safe, loving staff available in our nursery. Lisa McCallum is the coordinator of our nursery and is doing a great job of creating an atmosphere of loving care. We try to provide childcare for all of our activities to make sure that you can participate with us, even if you have small children.

If you would be willing to help in this ministry of care, please contact Lisa McCallum for details. *While your down there, check out the new mural on the wall which was created by Brenna Cavazos - it is very cool.



Adult Ministries



RealLife@FUMC Groups

We are beginning to establish a ministry of groups at First UMC. The reason? We believe that the Christian life is best lived out in community! We grow better in circles than in rows. There will be several different ways to "try it out," but we hope you'll try something new this fall. After all, if God is really as important as we say he is... he ought to become a priority in our lives. We think this will be an exciting and important addition to our church!

If you are interested in being a part of a Home Small Group (we are looking to form these now) you may register your interest online at: www.fumcharlingen.org
Join us as we work at Loving God and Loving Others!

Sunday RealLife - 10:00 AM

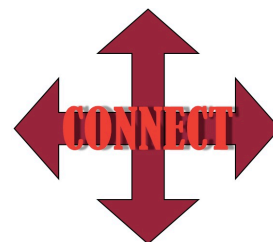
One of the first steps for us is to reclaim the opportunity to have groups on Sunday mornings. As you know, we have adjusted our Sunday Schedule to allow a full hour between worship services: 9:00 - Traditional; 10:00 - Groups; 11:00 - Contemporary. We hope that you will take advantage of this hour to meet new folks, learn more about God, and spend time in fellowship.

We've got things for your kids... you're already coming... so try out our Sunday RealLife Group at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. During this time we will meet together for a DVD curriculum, and then divide into discussion groups to share thoughts and ideas. It is low key, everyone is welcome, and you'll enjoy it. Give it a try! If you already have a group that meets... keep it up! Sr. Adults are invited to join in the Friendship Class in the Pletcher Parlor at 10:00 AM each Sunday.

Wednesday Connect Service - 7:00 PM

Beginning Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 7:00 PM, we will be starting a Wednesday evening teaching and discussion service called, CONNECT. Open to all... David will lead a lesson each week, and then we'll divide into small discussion groups to discuss and share around the table. Childcare will be provided.

We hope that this might be an "entry point" for people new to the idea of small groups or to Bible Study. It is a new opportunity for us to connect with God and connect with others!



Other Opportunities

Pastor's Bible Study - Thursdays at 10:00 AM in the Pletcher Parlor (Starts September 19, 2013)

David will be leading a Bible study each Thursday morning at 10:00 AM. This year we will be going through the Biblical book of Genesis. ALL are welcome to attend.

Women's Bible Study - To Be Determined

Once this group is ready to go we'll share the information with you.

Financial Peace University - Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

This changes EVERYTHING! Your money. Your story. Your life! Learn God's ways of handling money with Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*! The average household turnaround is \$8,000 in just three months!

FREE PREVIEW: Monday, September 9, 2013 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

CLASS BEGINS: Monday, September 16, 2013 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

*Class is 9 weeks long. For more information, please contact John Topp: 956.421.5750

www.daveramsey.com



Chancel Choir and Bell Choir

If you would like to be a part of our Traditional music choirs, you are invited! Marcus Phipps is our Traditional Music Director.

Beginning September 18, 2013 - Bells will practice at 5:30 PM and Choir Practice will be at 7:00 PM.

Contact Marcus Phipps for more information: marcusphipps@me.com

2nd Chance Thrift Shop

We have a dynamic bunch that work at our Thrift Shop each week, and they would love to have you join them.

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - They do sorting, cleaning, and preparation

Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - The shop is open for business!

*They also need donations... got something to share? Bring it in!

First United Methodist Church

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Susie Lerma, Bookkeeper
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Making A Real Difference... Outreach & Missions

Backpacks for Hunger

For the third year in a row we are providing backpacks for hungry kids in our community. We started with a modest list of 12 children in one school three years ago, and since then, we have increased that number to 75 children in 3 local schools. Each week we fill a backpack with food for the children to take home with them on Friday - they take it home, bring it back on Monday and we do it again for the following Friday. It is a simple, yet effective way of ministering to a need here in our local community.

You can help by bringing small jars of peanut butter to the church (we put this in every backpack) or new this year... you can "adopt" a backpack by giving \$200 to cover the cost for the school year.

Want more information? Contact Jet Throckmorton (jet@fumcharlingen.org)

Adopt-a-School

Not only do we give backpacks to students at 3 local schools, we have also adopted these campuses for the year. This year we have: **Bowie Elementary, Travis Elementary, and Stuart Place Elementary Schools.**



This adoption includes Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts, prayer for our schools, and we also do a Christmas gift giveaway for children identified by the school counselors. Pray for each of these schools daily, and watch for details about the gift giveaway in November.

Care Corps

Darlene Topp, our Care Corps Director coordinates volunteers to those in our congregation that are unable to join us because of health or mobility issues. This is a vital ministry of the church to let these folks know that we have not forgotten them.

We plan on beginning another round of training and equipping those who may be interested in this ministry. If you would like more details, please contact Darlene Topp at secretary@fumcharlingen.org.

This is a service that will bless you even more than those you serve.

Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner

Please plan on joining us for our 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Day Outreach Dinner at First United Methodist Church in Harlingen.

Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2013, we will serve members of our community a home-made dinner and invite them to enjoy the fellowship and hospitality of our church.

We especially target those who rely upon Loaves and Fishes ministry for their meals... The Loaves and Fishes staff take a well deserved break on Thanksgiving, and we have stepped in to fill that gap.

Each year we have seen our numbers grow and it has proven to be a day that our volunteers are blessed by.

There will be sign up information as we get closer, but we hope you'll mark your calendar for this year and plan on helping us in some way. What better way to give thanks, than to share our blessings with others!

Special Events

We Care at First UMC

We are working hard to make sure we are being a positive force within our community and the world. Here are a couple of other ways we plan on doing that this year:

Trunk Or Treat



On Halloween, October 31, 2013, we will hold a **Trunk or Treat** festival in our 4th street parking lot. Decorate your car and yourselves, and join us

for a safe family Halloween alternative for families in our community.

Operation Christmas Child



Last year we collected boxes for the Operation Christmas Child (a part of Samaritan's Purse organization)

for the first time... we collected 250 boxes! This year, we're going to do it again. We'll be collecting boxes to ship to children around the world on November 18 - 24, 2013.

If you would like more information on this ministry please go to: www.samaritanspurse.org

We will provide more information of our church's effort in October.