



First United Methodist Church

BROWNSVILLE

Welcoming... Worshiping... Witnessing...

July 1, 2018

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." That is what Jesus told his disciples when they were sweeping children aside so that they could move on to more "important" things for Jesus' day. What this tells us is that children are extremely important to Jesus, so as the body of Christ, children are extremely important to First United Methodist Church!

This month we are preparing for one of our most important mission opportunities through Vacation Bible School. Children from our church and the surrounding community will be taught and shown the love that Jesus has for them and how we express that here in our church. We will be able to host as many children as we have volunteers for, which makes it essential that we have as much of our church invested in this ministry as possible. It does not matter what life stage you are in, if you are willing to take the time to help you can! We need group leaders helping get the children around their stations. We need people helping with decorations. We need people holding doors open for families with multiple children. We need people specifically praying for each day and child. If you have not already signed up to help, FUMC needs you!

This is the time for us to come together and serve with the many gifts that God has given us to make a spiritual impact in our neighborhood. These children are a priority for us because Jesus says the kingdom of God belong to them! If you do not have July 30 - August 3 highlighted on your calendar do it now. Ask how you can help, start inviting children and families to register, and pray. Pray that through this outreach more children might know Jesus. And pray that First Methodist might serve and love kids just like Jesus does!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Phillip

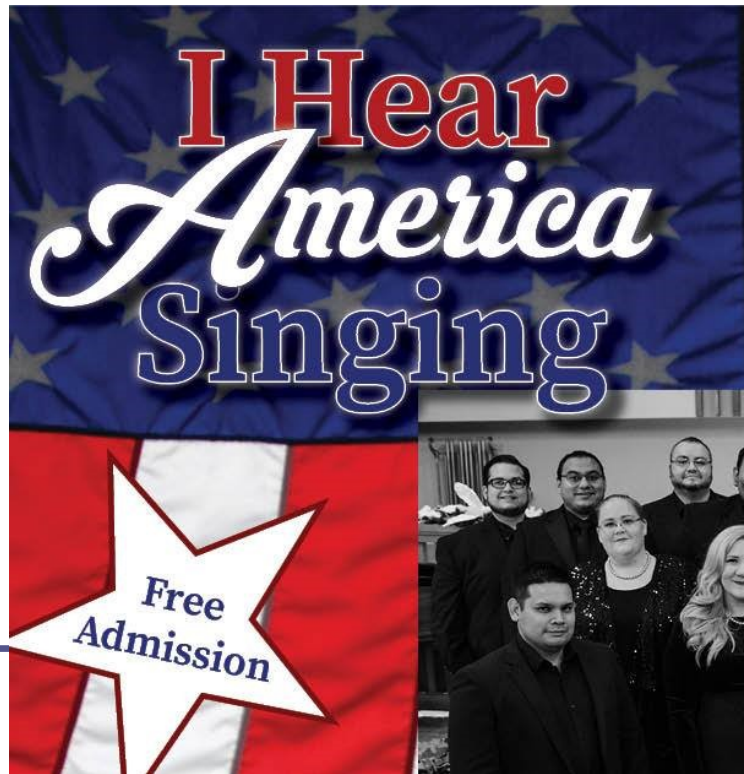
Rev. Phillip Hoeflinger





Altar Rail for July

July Altar rail will be for Vacation Bible School. While we do have funds in the budget there are extras that we need to make this an outstanding mission and outreach for our church. We will use the money for crafts, publicity, food and decorations. Please consider donating so that we are able to purchase the things we need to make this a memorable occasion for the children who come to Vacation Bible School. For some children this is the only contact they will have with a church.



“Pasion” is a choir of approximately 20 people dedicated to promoting excellent choral music throughout the RGV. FUMC will be hosting them as they perform their patriotic concert titled “I Hear America Singing”. It is free and open to the public.



Kids Nite Out will be Friday July 13th from 6 pm to 10 pm. Call the church office by Thursday July 12th to reserve your place. There is no cost for Kids Nite Out.

Good Neighbor News



Like all months, Good Neighbor Settlement House has had its ups and downs this month but, thanks be to God, mostly ups. Good Neighbor provided 6826 units of service to its clients last month and volunteers gave us 1,673 hours of service in May. Among these this month are a number of hard working youth from First Baptist Church Brownsville who dedicated about 1,500 service hours in one week working at our facility, cleaning up our grounds, preparing our garden patches to grow herbs and vegetables this fall and other chores that staff has not had time to get to.

Staff has been working hard on a presentation to the Good Neighbor board of directors, candidates for the board, and anyone interested in Good Neighbor. The session, to be held on Saturday June 30 from 8:30 until noon at Good Neighbor, will discuss current Good Neighbor programming and consider ideas from those in attendance for future service opportunities. Good Neighbor staff is blessed by the work it does but needs to hear about additional services needed by the community we serve. Please call Good Neighbor at 542-2368 if you want to attend so we can have a count for lunch.

Finally, we are planning a Founder's Society to show Good Neighbor's appreciation for those folks who donate regularly to Good Neighbor. Membership would be on an invitation only basis. Our current thinking is that Society members would receive regular updates on activities at Good Neighbor and get together for a social activity at Good Neighbor from time to time.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our work with the unfortunate. If you are interested, please stop by or call us at 542-2368. May the blessings of our risen Lord be with you this month and always.

Hello Church,

As you already know we are preparing to open our hearts, minds, and doors to the children of our community thru VBS between July 30th and August 3rd. This is a great opportunity for outreach and service and we need every one of us to be involved in some way. We will need volunteers to work directly and indirectly with the children during the week of VBS; We will need helping hand that can do the physical set up necessary to start each evening on the right foot; We will need workers willing to do help get the many spaces that will be used in our campus VBS ready; We will need prayer warriors who will lift up all those who will come thru our campus,
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participants and volunteers that God's spirit might be ever present in all that happens; and we also need items that you can provide ahead of time. The theme of this VBS is "Rolling River Rampage" and we are hoping to make our church into a river camping wonderland for the week of VBS. If you have any camping, boating, kayaking, fishing gear (big, small, or very large) that we could borrow to achieve this will be appreciated.

Also, we would like help with donations for our snacks:

Snack pack Jell-O cups, Boxes of goldfish, graham crackers, bags of large marshmallows, Hershey chocolate bars (for s'mores)

We thank you for being an active part of this ministry in any way you can. There will be sign up sheets in the Welcome Center for ways you can help.

VBS Celebration

August 5th

Join us for church on Sunday as our VBS Children and Staff celebrate with song during the service and with a Wet Celebration after service with water slides, hot dogs, watermelon and games as we end our ROLLING River Rapids with a celebration for all and get to know those who attended our vacation bible school. Look for more news coming up in next months newsletter .



July Birthdays

7/1	Judy Brewer	7/16	Stephen McCleary
7/2	Dianne McCleary	7/19	Laura Gilmore
7/5	Richard Houston	7/20	Jacqui Hardin
	Willie Teo Ong	7/23	Isabel De La Torre
	Charles Bergman	7/25	Rina Erwin
7/9	Colleen Ferguson	7/27	Fred Dawson
7/11	Merriwood Ferguson	7/28	Jenica Kilgore Russell
7/12	Manual Andrew Russell, Jr		
7/15	Samuel Hoeflinger		