



First United Methodist Church

BROWNSVILLE

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

September 1, 2018

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, September is here, along with a new season of ministry welcoming, worshiping, and witnessing Jesus Christ here at First Methodist Brownsville! Sunday morning worship continues to be Spirit filled and uplifting as we pray, laugh, sing, and worship the Lord together. Our sermon series, "Praise Through the Storm", will continue through this month as we dispel myths and seek Biblical truth on the difficult subject of suffering. I do encourage you to join us as we journey through this topic and if you can't physically be present, you can download or stream the sermons via podcast on our website.

As wonderful as our Sunday morning gatherings have been I am especially excited that starting this month we are claiming another weekly day for the Lord through "Meet in the Middle!" Every Wednesday, FUMC will provide ministry groups for all ages to deepen and grow relationships with Jesus and one another. It is in our DNA as Methodists to not be content with just Sunday worship, but also be active with a smaller group of Christians to pray, study, laugh, and serve beside. I highly encourage you to take a deeper look in our newsletter for more details of both the existing and new groups that may be right for you on Wednesday!

May the Lord richly bless you this month through His amazing love and grace, and through that love and grace may you richly bless others.

Grace and Peace,

Phillip Hoeflinger

Rev. Phillip Hoeflinger



September Altar Rail Offering for We Care Fund

The altar rail offering for September has been designated for the We Care fund.

The We Care fund is an emergency fund used to help individuals who come to our church office with requests for assistance to cover such expenses as overdue rent, utilities, and other emergency needs including transportation for medical appointments and food vouchers.

We provide this service when we have funds available to do so. If we are not able to assist, we make appropriate referrals to other churches or local agencies who can meet their needs.

We also prepare small food bags which we offer when someone comes in requesting food.

The We Care fund depends solely on your contributions thru the altar rail offering and personal donations. At this time, we are low on funds. As you come to communion on Sunday, we ask that you be generous with your offering so that we can continue to maintain our We Care ministry.

Thank you.

Laura Gilmore



Join us for a Family Game and Movie night on Thursday, September 13 in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. Bring your favorite game, or just come and enjoy snacks and a game or movie. All ages are welcome and there will be child care for the youngest children.



Kids Nite Out will be Friday, September 14. Bring your kids for a fun evening at the church while you do what you need to get done. Call the church office, 956-546-5364, by Thursday September 13 to reserve your child's place. This is free.

Meet in **The Middle**

Wednesday Night's at FUMC Brownsville
where relationship and discipleship happen!

Begins September 5th

Kid's Ministry: 6:30 - 8:00, starts in Fellowship Hall

Kid's will experience three separate 30 minute stations

Kid's Choir: Led by Jan and Mark Fliegel at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall, ages 6 and up. Singing joy filled songs for Jesus!

Kid's Play: Playground and game time.

Kid's for Christ: Activity based on a Bible Story.

Nursery will be open for children 5 and under.

Youth Ministry: 6:30 - 8:00, in Youth Room

Youth grades 6 - 12 can come and have some hang out time. Hester Thompson and Larry Reser will be present with a devotion and prayer.

Parent's Time Out (PTO): 6:30 - 8:00, Welcome Center

A chance for parents to have adult time! PTO will be a time to build Christ centered relationships, play some games, or simply chat with another adult. Pastor Phillip will have a brief devotional and prayer.

Diving Deeper: 6:00 - 7:00, Fellowship Hall Classroom

Want to go deeper into a discussion about how Scripture interacts with our lives? Paul Hecht will lead this new group diving deeper into the scripture and topic preached on Sunday morning.

Cornerstone Class: 6:00 - 7:00, Meeting Room

Group led by David Charles who teaches Bible truths that will inspire, illuminate, enrich, and motivate the learner to grow and share Christ.

THE KEY BIBLE POINTS method will be presented which is an effective way to quickly find key Bible passages.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: 3:00 - 5:00, Welcome Center

An amazing group of volunteers that knit and crochet prayer shawls for all occasions, as well as blankets for new babies in the community. If you are skilled, a novice, or want to learn to crochet or knit come help provide warmth and security in the name of Jesus Christ!

Model for Healthy Living: 1:00 - 2:30, Welcome Center

Healthy living means that all aspects of our lives are in related balance. [Join us for this 6 week class as we work together to look at our life, set attainable goals and celebrate the joy that comes with healthy living.](#) Led by our Wesley Nurse, Jacqui Harden.

Disciple Bible Study: 6:00 - 8:00, Begins Oct. 3rd

An immersion into the Bible and how it all connects together. From Genesis through Revelation you will read, study, and come to understand the power of Scripture! This group is a thirty two week commitment and will be led by Roger and Linda Harvey. *Space is limited, please sign-up in the Welcome Center.*

Women's Bible Study: 6:00 - 7:00, Library

Open group for women studying the Bible and how it relates to our lives. We are studying 1st and 2nd Kings in a book called "Set Apart" by Jessica LaGrone. Led by Mary Reser.

Chancel Choir: 7:00 - 8:00, Choir Room

You are invited to help make a joyful noise unto the Lord! The main requirement to be able to join a choir is the ability to carry a tune. Nearly everyone does this without even thinking about it. Learning to read music can be picked up along the way.

- ◆ Choir gives us the opportunity to be worship leaders
- ◆ Choir fulfills the Biblical admonishment to "sing to our God"
- ◆ Choir allows praise with body, mind, spirit, and voice
- ◆ Choir helps develop concepts of teamwork and cooperation
- ◆ Singing is a gift from God that will last a lifetime

If you have a willing voice, then serve the Lord and join our Choir!



Good News from Good Neighbor

This has been an exciting month for Good Neighbor Settlement House! We have expanded our services to including providing respite services to refugees claiming asylum that have been released by ICE. These services include meeting refugees at the bus station when ICE drops them off and offering them a ride to Good Neighbor if their bus schedule permits. All refugees, whether they come to Good Neighbor or not, are given two packages, one with food and treats to eat on their journey, the other with personal products. Those who come to Good Neighbor are given a hot meal, a chance to shower, clean clothes, and a place to relax and fellowship until it is time to be taken back to catch their bus. We also provide sleeping quarters for those who do not leave until the following day. Thanks to United Methodist Women for providing back packs for refugees to carry their belongings on their journey.

We are talking with ICE and the Brownsville Police Department to coordinate a drop off schedule so that all involved will know when these refugees will be dropped off and need our respite services. At the same time, we are working on a mechanism for letting us know in case there is a variation from the normal schedule.

Last Wednesday evening, Dr. Kazim Hussein hosted a 65th birthday party for Good Neighbor at his emergency center on Alton Gloor Blvd. Several hundred people attended to enjoy stories about Good Neighbor, musical entertainment, and a buffet dinner. Our thanks to Dr. Hussein for his generous continuing support of Good Neighbor.

Staff and Pastor Phillip met with the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church to outline our ministry to the poor and homeless just as we were starting up the Refugee Respite Program. We received several positive comments on our response to a uniquely southern border issue.

In September, we are looking forward to refining and expanding our Refugee Respite Program and continuing an emergency school supply closet where school supplies will be provided free of charge to students having a voucher from their teacher. Thanks again to the United Methodist Women for their donation to help get this program under way this school year.