

Expressions of the Spirit



FIRST UMC PASADENA

FEBRUARY 2018

Holy Spirit, gift of God

On the first Sunday of the New Year, we remembered and gave thanks for our baptism as followers of Jesus Christ. It was a time to also remember that God infuses us with the Holy Spirit in hopes that we might choose to become the people God has called us to be.

At the end of the sermon, I invited you to pray with me a prayer, if the words were meaningful and you could make them your own.

The prayer I shared was an edited version of a prayer written by Bishop Will Willimon as a resource for that particular Sunday which was "Baptism of the Lord Sunday." We read the story of Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:4-11), then remembered and gave thanks for our own baptisms. Several of you asked if I could share it again. As I do below, I invite you to pray this prayer regularly, especially during those times that you need to be reminded of God's leadership along your life journey.

Holy Spirit, gift of God,
present now and at my baptism,
 blow through my life,
refresh me,
 enliven me,
 empower me
to do your will in the world.

Make me aware of your leading.

Give me the boldness I need
to follow your Spirit,
and to live out my baptism
by daily dying
 and rising again

to new life in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

I pray for each of you that your life might be filled with God's Spirit as you live out your baptism and call as followers of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,

Dr. Will Reed, Pastor

Upcoming Lenten Sermon Series

Create In Me is a six-week lectionary-based (Year B) Lenten series starting on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and ending on Good Friday (Mar. 30). For God to create in us, we must first empty ourselves of unrighteousness, leaving the void for God to fill. Resolve to be emptied out, making room in your heart for God to create a great work; He is not finished with you yet.

Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 pm (bilingual service)

Lent 1—**Sunday, February 18** - Create in Me..... A Penitent Heart

Lent 2—**Sunday, February 25** - Create in Me..... A Life for the Sake of the Gospel

Lent 3—**Sunday, March 4** - Create in Me..... God's Power to do Right

Lent 4—**Sunday, March 11** - Create in Me..... Life Out of My Darkness

Lent 5—**Sunday, March 18** - Create in Me..... God's Words Engraved on My Heart

Palm Passion Sunday, March 25 - Create in Me..... A Life Emptied for You (9:00 am Contemporary)

Cantata: *How Great Thou Art* (11:00 am)

By: David Clydesdale

Special Palm Passion Service (12:30 pm Emanuel)

Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 pm (bilingual service)

Good Friday, March 30 at 7:00 pm (bilingual service)

Easter Sunday, April 1 - Create in Me..... By the Grace of God, I Am What I Am

5th Annual Lenten Art Gallery

Call For Entries! *Create in Me: A Lenten Art Gallery*

Create in Me features works that artistically display the beautiful creations God designs within us when we allow ourselves to be emptied of unrighteousness and opened to His loving plan. The exhibit will run **Thursday, March 29 and Friday, March 30 from 9:00 am-7:00 pm** (an hour break for Holy Week services) **and 8:00 pm-8:45 pm in the Log Cabin**, with an artist's reception March 28 at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in contributing your art, we are collecting pieces now thru **March 21 by 5:00 pm**. Contact Nicole Gray for a drop-off time at NicoleGray@FirstPasadena.org, or pieces may be dropped off during normal church business hours.

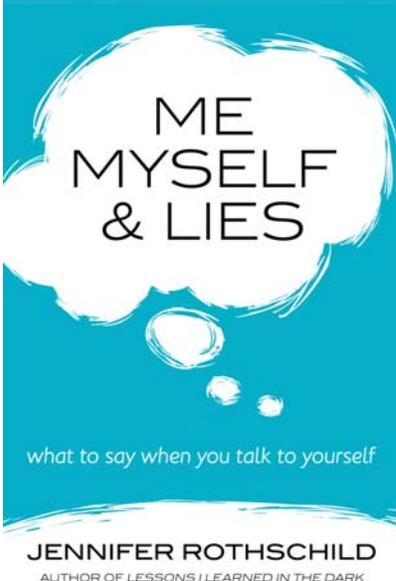


Create in Me: Lenten Devotional

Are you looking for a way to connect with people on a spiritual level, but don't have the time or means to get to a small group? Perhaps you are looking for connection at your fingertips. First UMC Pasadena is looking for ways to build community within our social media outreach. Beginning on **Monday, February 12**, we will offer a 7-week daily devotional that coincides with the *Create in Me* sermon series. There will be two closed discussion groups on Facebook titled *Create in Me*, one for males and one for females. For God to create in us, we must first empty ourselves of things that prevent Him from doing so. Resolve to be emptied out, making room in your heart for God to create great works; He is not finished with us! **The groups will start forming on February 5, 2018.** To make sure you don't miss this opportunity, Facebook message "Create in Me" to either Nicole Sikora Gray or Casey Gray.

Disclaimer: People are looking for a positive and safe environment to grow in their relationship with Christ and others. Comments are subject to deletion if the editor feels they are not in line with this.

Me, Myself, and Lies: What to Say When You Talk to Yourself - A new study for women



Have you ever noticed the things you say to yourself--and believe?

- *I could never do that.*
- *They don't like me.*
- *I am such an idiot.*

You wouldn't talk that way to anyone else, yet phrases like these constantly flow through your mind, leaving you insecure and defeated. Words are powerful, especially the words women speak to themselves. All too often, what we say to ourselves when we lie in bed at night or look in the mirror in the morning is not even close to what God wants us to speak to our souls.

Lacryca Flatt and the Tuesday Women's Night Out group invite women of all ages to engage in this new study by Jennifer Rothschild and learn how to replace the lies with truth. With wisdom and authenticity, this study will help you silence the negative voices in your mind as you learn to speak kindly to your soul, grow in confidence by replacing the lies that shackle you with the

truth that sets you free, and overcome a lifetime of damaging self-talk by practicing godly and biblical soul-talk.

A sign-up sheet is available at the Ministry Center.

Beginning Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 pm | Room 210 | Cost: \$20

Men's Prayer and Study Breakfast

Thursdays, 7:00 am-8:00 am | Kitchen & Fellowship Hall 4

Men of all ages can enjoy a hearty breakfast with Dr. Will Reed and Casey Gray, followed by a devotional study using Dr. Reed's GPS sermon guide.

WHEN LOVE goes the second mile

Capital Campaign Update - January 2018

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| DEBT | as of May 31, 2016 | \$2,309,007 |
| | as of December 31, 2016 | \$2,205,112 |
| | as of December 31, 2017 | \$1,411,916 |

Capital Campaign Commitments \$1.5 million (Note 1)

Total Paid on Commitments through January 19, 2018 \$853,814.84

DEBT as of January 19, 2018 \$1,376,256.57 (Note 2)

REDUCTION in DEBT since May 31, 2016 \$932,750.43 (Note 2)

Note 1 - In addition to signed capital campaign commitments of \$1.42 million over three years (April 2017-March 2020), there are several church members and friends making regular contributions to debt reduction. We estimate that over three years these contributions will add over \$100,000 to our campaign for anticipated total commitments and payments of over \$1.5 million.

Note 2 - Through your generosity in helping reduce our debt, we have dramatically reduced the number of years it will take to pay off the debt. Also, you have saved the church an estimated \$250,000 in interest over the remaining life of the loan. Thus, it is highly possible that we could be "debt free in '23."

Diving into the Gospel of John

Join Rev. Mireya Martínez on Thursday evenings and dive into the Gospel of John. It has been noted by many that the Gospel of John is shallow enough for a child to wade in, and deep enough for an elephant to swim in. So come! Wade, swim, and explore with Pastor Mireya the "I AM" sayings of Jesus that are found in this particular gospel. Together, you'll make connections to stories in the gospel that are directly linked to those "I AM" sayings. The class will meet on **Thursdays starting February 1 thru March 22 at 6:30 pm in Room 208/210**. Bring your bibles and a notepad if you wish to take notes!

A sign-up sheet is available at the Ministry Center.



New Governing Board Members

The Governing Board is the primary leadership body of our church. It provides vision and leadership for the church as it carries out its policy decision making responsibilities for legal and fiduciary issues, personnel, and other overarching issues. The board is also responsible for program policies and procedures. The church membership and staff follow the board's leadership as they implement and lead the ministries and programs of the church.

Each year there are members of our Governing Board who roll off after serving a three-year term and new members who join the board. We are grateful for those who have served their three-year terms well and are rolling off. These include John Allen, Jackie Barmore, Averill Buchanan, Vickie Del Bello, Ted Sullivan and Debbie Sussman. Dennis Cordray faithfully served for one year and is also ending his board service. New board members for 2018 who are beginning three-year terms include Linda Duke, Blanca Gonzales, Sarah Potter, Kelly Sullivan, and Duncan Williams.

The board is chaired by Marc DeChellis and publishes a quarterly summary of its work that is available at the Ministry Center.

Welcome New Staff Members

In January we welcomed two new staff members.



The Reverend Mireya Martínez was appointed as our Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship. Mireya is an ordained Elder in the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and most recently served as the Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Freeport. She is excited to join us and become part of our church family. Mireya wants you all to know that she is a self proclaimed "hope junkie."

Her favorite bible verse and prayer for everyone is Roman 15:13. *If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.*



Kenny Boggs is our new part time Assistant Worship Leader at the 9:45 am Contemporary Worship service. Kenny also serves as the worship leader of Parkgate Community Church. He is employed full time at Amazing RVs, a family business. Prior to attending college, Kenny was a voice student of Nicole Gray at Friendswood High School. Kenny resides in Deer Park with his wife Danielle and their son.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS

Want to learn more about First UMC Pasadena?

Coffee with the Pastors is a casual gathering with our pastors and key staff led by our Senior Pastor, Dr. Will Reed. It is the perfect way to learn more about First UMC Pasadena for our newest members and for those who may be considering church membership.

DETAILS

- Meet clergy and staff
- Learn about our vision and values
- Learn about church membership
- Complimentary childcare is available

2018 Schedule

Sunday, February 25 from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, May 1 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Sunday, August 12 from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Thursday, November 8 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Coffee with the Pastors will take place in the Parlor.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Have some questions? Rev. Mireya Martínez, Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship, can be reached at MireyaMartinez@FirstPasadena.org or 281-487-8787, ext. 3004. You can sign up online at <https://firstpasadena.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/107126>.

Harvey Relief Efforts

Many of you were affected by Hurricane Harvey and are in different stages of recovery. Lili Zamorano, our Disaster Recovery Coordinator, has been visiting many of the surrounding neighborhoods and has encountered many people whose homes are still in a state of disrepair five months after Harvey devastated our area. Lili continues to canvas the area by going door to door, trying to identify people in need of help.

The grant we received from the Texas Methodist Foundation along with partnerships with various organizations continue to help neighbors in need. Recently, mattresses were obtained for a few families through our partnership with Clear Lake United Methodist Church.

Please continue to pray for these efforts, that we may impact lives in a way that is pleasing to God. If you are interested in working with Lili and the church on this effort, please contact her through the church office or at LiliZamorano@FirstPasadena.org.

Building Management and Custodian Update

Maintaining a clean and well-kept church and grounds is just one of the many ways that we can foster a hospitable and welcoming environment to everyone who walks through our doors. In a continued effort to meet these needs, we've hired a professional janitorial and maintenance company to fully provide the necessary services and resources to ensure that we're consistently ready for all events. CPP Unlimited will assign personnel to perform daily tasks and duties including the cleaning of all areas of the church campus, and set-up/break-down for all events. Their on-site hours are Sunday-Thursday, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and Saturday, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.

Part of Casey Gray's role is that of Building and Grounds Manager, and he oversees all facility maintenance, janitorial personnel, and HVAC (a/c and heating). He will now also manage the building room schedule, including event coordination, and set-up/break-down. Please contact Casey at CaseyGray@FirstPasadena.org to facilitate all needs and requests in these areas.



El evento tiene como propósito mantener a nuestras congregaciones informadas del enfoque que tendrá el Ministerio Hispano durante los próximos años de manera que todos podamos trabajar en conjunto para alcanzar la meta que nos hemos propuesto de hacer discípulos de todas las naciones y de aumentar la membresía de los Hispanos de nuestra conferencia. Obispo Scott Jones predicará en esta reunión.

The purpose of the event is to keep the congregations in our conference informed of the approach that Hispanic ministry will have over the next few years so that we can all work together to achieve the goal we have proposed to make disciples of all nations and to increase the Hispanic membership in our Conference. Bishop Scott Jones will preach at this meeting.

Society of St. Stephen Yearly Update

The Society of St. Stephen is starting its 26th year as a ministry of First United Methodist Church of Pasadena.

Through the generosity of our congregation and friends who contribute financial gifts, food, and time, our ministry manages to meet the needs of our very diverse community.

2017 challenged all of us. Hurricane Harvey hurt everyone and everything. We experienced a boom in needs and had to temporarily reduce the assistance amount we offer for rent and utilities.

In 2017, we evaluated our reporting summaries. Previously, we reported by households served. We now will count adults and children per household; in 2017, we served 2993 adults and 3221 children. Our ministry paid out \$30,502.07 in assistance. We distributed 1847 sacks of groceries at approximately 15 pounds per bag for a total of 27,930 pounds.

In November, the Pasadena City Wide Food Drive awarded $\frac{1}{5}$ of its collection to our pantry. Ten church members volunteered to collect and sort food, and our hands on participation showed how much we value their generosity. We've been a recipient of food drive items since 2013, and we are honored. This year we initially received 9000 pounds from the drive; we just received an additional 2500 pounds. Food goes out the door as fast as it comes in so we were delighted for this extra delivery.

An unexpected computer hardware and software failure necessitated our updating our old computer system. We bought a new computer, and we located a purchased pantry software with telephone support. The system is now up and running, and this needed improvement allows future growth and precision.

Our ministry volunteers who greet, interview, and serve our clients are our great treasures on behalf of our church family. They are: Darlene Snow, Patty Hinson, Darryl Cordray, Norma Siggers, Cynthia Sawyer, James Hulme, Randi Pittman, Angie Madole, Max Kehlmeier, Ruth Christian, Agnes Hejtmanek, and Elaine Rosenbaum. The ministry volunteers meet regularly to coordinate office matters.

The ministry volunteers serve the homeless, those facing eviction, those living without utilities in their homes, those needing prayers and a friendly setting, and the hungry. The job takes patience and love, but our office tries to be servants of God.

Currently, the office partners with Lili Zamorano who is coordinating the special Hurricane Harvey relief money from the Texas Annual Conference.

Our operation over the past 26 years has grown and demands more of us these days. We are indebted to our shopping angel volunteers who purchase food when we have needs. They are our hands and feet who grocery shop and bring in items such as peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, and whatever we need. Special thanks go to Reverend Will Reed and Reverend Mireya Martínez who work so hard on our behalf.

The hungry and needy will come to our church. Thanks to our wonderful church family, we have an office in place ready to meet their needs.

Meet our NEW Members



Paul Souza



Ivan Dominguez



Carrie Jenkins



Nikita Flowers



David Guerrero



Lorena Ramirez



Olga Jasso



Lupita Guerrero



Licia Vasquez



Viviam Olivares

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

www.FirstPasadena.org

PHONE: 281.487.8787 FAX: 281.998.1355

Office Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm *Monday - Thursday*

Society of St. Stephen Assistance Ministry 281.487.1774 *Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm*

First Friends Day School 281.487.8170 *Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 6:00 pm*

Christian Life Center 281.487.2843

PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Will Reed,
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Kenny Boggs

WORSHIP LEADER, EMANUEL

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MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

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WEDDING COORDINATOR

Carol Wilson
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Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 1 Diving Into the Gospel of John begins at 6:30 pm in Room 208/210
The Soul Circle at 7:00 pm in the Parlor

Friday, February 9 Sweet Serenades at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Saturday, February 10 Confirmation Retreat begins

Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, February 18 Confirmation Classes Begin at 2:00 pm

Tuesday, February 20 Governing Board Meeting at 6:15 pm in the Cornell Conference Room

Ongoing Ministries & Church Events

Bus Ministry *Sundays, 8:00 am Church Parking Lot*

Traditional Worship *Sundays, 8:30 am & 11:00 am Sanctuary*

Contemporary Worship *Sundays, 9:45 am Sanctuary*

Contemplative Worship *Sunday, February 18, 9:45 am Log Cabin*

Sunday School for All Ages *Sundays, 9:45 am (English) and 11:00 am (Spanish)*

Spanish Worship Service *Sundays, 12:30 pm Sanctuary*

Grief Support Group *Sundays, 2:00 pm Parlor*

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) *Sundays, 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall*

First Fitness Exercise Class *Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am Gym*

Disciple Fast Track *Mondays, 7:00 pm Room 208/210*

Breakfast With Bill (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Tuesday-Friday 7:00 am, Saturday 7:30 am Log Cabin

Un dia a la vez Al-Anon (Hispanic Al-Anon)

Tuesday 6:00 pm Room 226 and Saturday 10:00 am Room 226

Ladies Night Out Bible Study *Tuesdays, 7:00 pm Room 208/210*

Contemporary Praise Band Rehearsal *Tuesdays, 7:00 pm Sanctuary*

Levites Maintenance Ministry *Wednesdays, 8:00 am Log Cabin*

Handbell Rehearsal *Wednesdays, 5:15 pm Room 213*

Youth Dinner and Discussion Group *Wednesdays, 6:00 pm Café and Room 215/217*

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesdays, 7:00 pm Choir Room and Sanctuary*

Spanish Prayer and Bible Study *Wednesdays, 7:00 pm Parlor and Fellowship Hall*

Emanuel Rehearsal *Wednesdays, 8:30 pm Sanctuary*

Diving Into the Gospel of John *Thursdays, 6:30 pm Room 208/210*

Men's Prayer and Study Breakfast *Thursdays, 7:00 am Fellowship Hall 4*

The Soul Circle *First Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm Parlor*

Women's Al-Anon Meeting *Saturdays, 11:00 am Cornell Conference Room*

Ongoing Activities

Strawberry Squares Square Dancing *Mondays, 7:00 pm Log Cabin*

Junior High Open Gym *Tuesdays, 4:00 pm Gym*

Boy Scout Troop #199 *Tuesdays, 7:00 pm Log Cabin*

Prime Timers Luncheon *Wednesday, February 7, 10:30 am Fellowship Hall*

Senior High Open Gym *Wednesdays, 4:00 pm Gym*

Rotary Luncheon *Thursdays, 11:00 am Fellowship Hall*

Open Gym for all ages *Thursdays, 4:00 pm Gym*

Cub Scout Troop #199 *Wednesdays, 7:00 pm Log Cabin*

The header features a light beige background with a subtle floral pattern. On the left, there are several overlapping hearts in various colors and patterns, including one with the word 'LOVE' repeated. A white ribbon is tied in a bow on the right side. Below the hearts and ribbon is a decorative border with a repeating pattern of small red and white squares.

SWEET SERENADES

Presented by First Friends Day School

First Friends Day School is proud to host our 17th Annual Sweet Serenades Fundraiser on **Friday, February 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary**. Our 2-year-old classes, 3-year-old classes, 4-year-old classes and kindergarten class will “serenade” you with great singing and entertainment! We will also have a Silent Auction with beautiful baskets and items you can bid on. This event is open to the public and tickets are \$5.00 per person. We will have our Silent Auction baskets on display in the First Friends hallway the week of February 5 so that church members can come by and look and bid on the baskets. We hope to see you on Friday, February 9 at 6:30 pm. Please call the school office at 281-487-8170 if you have any questions or would like to donate to our fundraiser.

Contemplative Service Series

Recently the Contemplative services have focused on participants' favorite scriptures. We have already enjoyed services on John 3:16, a commonly cited favorite scripture of many, and John 1:1, a favorite of Mary McCullen and Vicki Jones. Please submit your favorite scripture to VickiJones@yahoo.com so that a service can be built around your favorite message from the Bible. Prayerfully consider experiencing the depth of content in the blessings afforded through this unique service series that strives to offer an alternative method of worship that takes us beyond all words and moves our focus inward to what some call the “prayer of the heart.” The service is often interactive and considered an intimate time with God by those that attend. Join us on the third Sunday of each month in the Log Cabin located in the back parking lot of the church.