

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH,
LAKE JACKSON,
TEXAS



**First Church strives
to be like Jesus!**

- Praising God!
- Teaching God's Word!
- Loving one another!
- Strengthening families!
- Sharing the Good News!

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The Messenger

Volume 41, Issue 14

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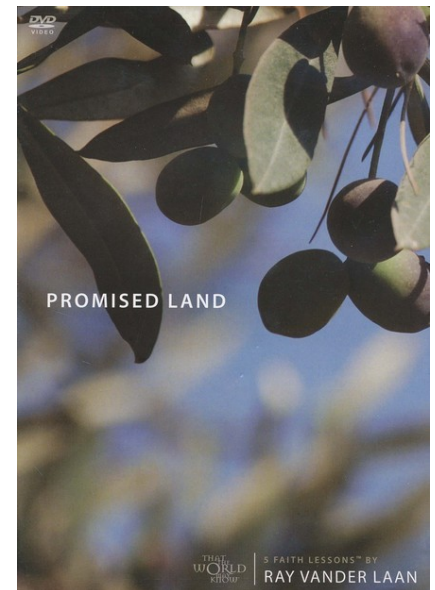
A New First Church Bible Study “Faith Lessons on the Promised Land”

Welcome to an exciting adventure guaranteed to make the Scriptures come alive like never before! Ray Vander Laan, historian and teacher, takes viewers to archaeological sites few people ever see, where the geographical and historical contexts of the Bible takes on powerful relevance for present-day believers. Ray's video teaching series takes you on a journey to the places of the Bible where many Faith shaping events in history took place. You will love the way he shares unique historic and cultural facts which will amaze and enlighten you. This is the closest thing you will ever experience, short of actually being there, to taking a Holy Land trip. In this series we will discover how God guided His people to a specific place (The Promise Land) to impact the world both in ancient times and today.

Join us on Wednesdays in the Asbury Room at 6:00pm for dinner and a video. The course is free with only a donation for dinner. Free childcare will be available on a reservation basis only. For childcare or to make reservations contact 979-297-3046 or if you need additional information please e-mail Bill Stell at billstell@swbell.net.

Filmed on location at these biblically significant sites:

1. Standing at the Crossroads -Tel Gezer
2. Wet Feet – Jordan River
3. First Fruits – Tel Jericho
4. Confronting Evil – Tel Beth Shemesh
5. Iron of Culture – Tel Azekan



**Join First UMC - Lake Jackson
on Facebook and get connected!**
**Stay in touch with friends and family,
check out the latest events and more!**

CHURCH UNIQUE (The Matthew 5 Launch)

DESPERATE FOR GOD! Matthew 5:3



**Pastor
Charles Geller**

**Find Pastor
Geller and
First Church on
Facebook!**

Are we desperate for God? Is He more important to us than the air we breathe? There is a story about a young man that journeyed to a remote village to seek the guidance of a spiritual mentor. He went to the town square to find the location of this cogent and wise man. They told him that he could find the spiritual guide down by the river. They said that he would be the one sitting by the river meditating.

The eager young man found the guide just where they said he would be. As the young man viewed the old man's posture, he noticed that the old man was just sitting there by the roaring river with his eyes closed. The young buck went up to the man and whispered into his ear, 'Sir, I have come that you might teach me all you know about Jesus.' To the young man's surprise, the old guy did not move. He did not even blink. It was as if he did not even hear the young man. The young man raised his voice and almost shouted in the man's ear, 'I have come that you might teach me all that you know about Jesus.' Within a second, a twinkling of an eye, the old man reached up and grabbed the young man behind the neck and pushed his head underneath the water. The old guide left the young buck's head under the water until he was just about to turn blue. He quickly raised the boy's head from under the water and snapped his head around until they were eyeball to eyeball. The mentor asked the mentee, 'What did you want most while you were under the water?' The young fellow gasping for oxygen said, 'I wanted air.' The old man riveted his eyes on the boy's eyes and said, 'when you want Jesus as much as you wanted air to breath while you were under the water, come back and see me.'

'Blessed (joy-filled) are you when you realize that without God you have absolutely nothing, nothing at all.' Jesus said it this way, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' When we realize that without God we have poverty of spirit, then are we ready to move forward in our walk with Jesus Christ. This towering uncommon man from Nazareth, will not allow us to have half-hearted commitment. He will not settle for just a little bit of commitment. He wants all of us. He demands 'a sold out heart.' He does love us right where we are; however, He loves us far too much to leave us there. He sees the very fabric of our souls, and desires for us to become the person He has created us to become! Too many times we are satisfied to stay in our pool of self-contentment; however, He will not allow us that luxury. He has a mission for us. He is calling us to develop the very character of Jesus Christ. He knows, and we come to realize, that this is only possible by His grace (free undeserved gift). Our 'sold-out-ness' to him contains a desire to 'look' just like Jesus in character. This desire means that we must be desperate for God. We must realize that without God we don't have a chance for success, self-satisfaction, happiness, and most of all joy! Let me ask a simple, but life changing directional question. Do we and does our church desire God more than the air we breathe? Do we realize that without Him we have nothing, nothing at all? Are we willing to think His thoughts and die to our own desires?

Church Unique (The Matthew 5 Launch) will help us discover our true hearts!

Peace! Pastor Geller

Look for upcoming information on Pastor Bill Stell's retirement party.

**The luncheon will be scheduled on July 31st
after our combined service, "The Gathering."**

A Revival of the AGAPE Visitation Ministry Team

With the retirement of Pastor Stell, First UMC will become a single pastor church, led by Pastor Geller. Due to his increased workload and responsibilities, it will become even more important to have lay participation in church ministries. Visitation with our members who are hospitalized is a very central element of the work of First UMC. A visit, a Scripture, a spoken word, or prayer helps bring comfort and hope to those who are recovering from an illness or injury. The church needs lay persons who are willing to be a part of this important ministry. Pastor Geller will offer guidance for those of you who may be called to minister in this way. Please contact the church office (979-297-3046) and let them know of your interest in serving as a member of the Agape Visitation Ministry Team.



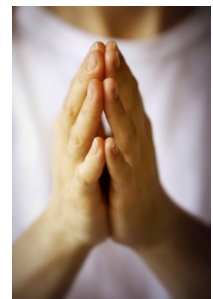
Sincerely,
Sharron Shockley, SPRC Chair

Please Consider Joining the First Church Prayer Ministry

People are hurting in many ways and life has a way of bringing us to our knees. Sadly many people don't know how to pray or believe that even if they prayed that God would really listen. They do however believe that if someone else prays for them, it will make a difference. I know this from over thirty years of receiving phone calls at the Church from people, which are often not associated with a Church, whose lives are in a mess and they want someone to pray for them. Other times we become aware of difficulties and struggles taking place in the life of our fellow Church members. We are not always sure how to help, or even if they would accept our help, but we are sure they need our prayers.

For these reasons we want to take the prayer ministry up a notch by getting more people involved and creating needed opportunities for prayer. Let me tell you about one of the ways we have planned. We feel strongly that a once a month Prayer and Healing service is needed and we want to start it on Sunday August 7th at 12:30pm. I hope you will join us as we experience what it really means to come before God in prayer for the needs of His people. Maybe you feel God is calling you to be involved in this ministry as a Prayer Partner, yet you feel inadequate for the job. You shouldn't because all we are really doing is talking honestly with God about the things on our hearts and lifting up the prayer concerns of others. Trust me, you will learn as you go and we will assist you by periodically offer training in prayer methods and styles.

The prayer requests are coming in and we desperately need your commitment. If you are interested in helping with this monthly Sunday Prayer and Healing service, please contact Joel Dobbins at dobbinsjoel@yahoo.com or call 979-299-1053 OR Jerry Higgins at jerryhiggins39@yahoo.com or call 979-798-7122.



Thank you for your prayerful consideration!
Pastor Bill

The Results Are In... FUMC Blood Drive

FUMC Blood Drive - Thank you for Your Support!

The results are in! Thank you for sharing the gift of life with those in our community. We look forward to seeing you at our next blood drive.



Total 42 Donors Whole Blood 28, Double Red Cell 4, and Red Cell Plasma 1

FUMC College Student Ministry



Summer with the Son
College Bible Study
Special Guest Speakers
Special Guest Worship Leaders

Bring a friend!

First Church Youth Center @ 404 Azalea Lake Jackson
 Doors open Thursday nights at 8pm for FUN!

Keep in Touch...

As your college students are headed off to school, please be sure to update their address, email & phone numbers with the Church Office. We want to ensure that they continue to receive all communications regarding First Church. Please stop by the Church Office, or call us at 979-297-3046.

Thanks!

Joy Ministry - Care for Children with Special Needs



WE'RE WILD ABOUT OUR JOY VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to you we had a very successful week. We had 14 children who loved playing, learning about God's love and singing! We appreciate you showing JOY and LOVE to our crew.

Thanks again: Beverly Barnhardt, Beth Gray, Aaron & Sharon Zimmerman, Shelly Donahue, Chelsea Leatherwood, Melanie Donahue, Spencer Cannan, Jaylene Alanis, Jordyn Bustillos, Jamie Owsley, Randy Donahue, Karen Bowman and our great teen helpers really helped us out !!!

Be JOYful Always!
 Kimberly Bowers
 Joy Ministry Director



**God
 Loves
 You!**

In Our Prayers...

Gene Shaw
 Kathy Geller
 Theresa Moss
 Barbara & Ken Miller
 John Motes
 Kay Alcott

Viann Smith
 Wilda Guess
 Darline Kelley
 Ryan Vollemaere
 Brad & Jenny McCoy
 Bill & Joyce McCutchen

**If you or someone you know
 would like to be added to
 our prayer list, please
 contact the church office.**

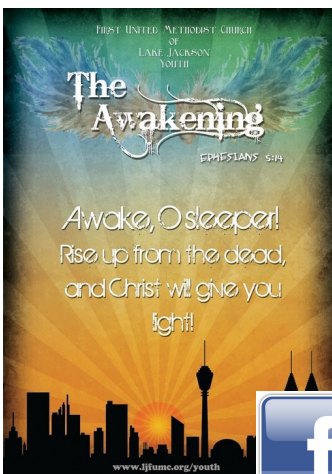


The Fall Sunday school year is starting soon! We are looking for wonderful people to work with our children! If you would like to help in any way, please contact Mindy Standlee @ 297-3046 ext 108!

We had a GREAT TIME at VBS!

Thank you to ALL the adults and teens that served and worked so hard to make it a wonderful experience!
 And thank you to all the parents for trusting us with your kids!
 I'm proud of all our kids for singing on Sunday morning & praising God in a powerful way!

The Awakening - Youth Ministries



Join The Awakening
 FUMC Youth on Facebook!

Summer is here and we have tons of fun activities planned! Come and join us...

Upcoming July/August Events:

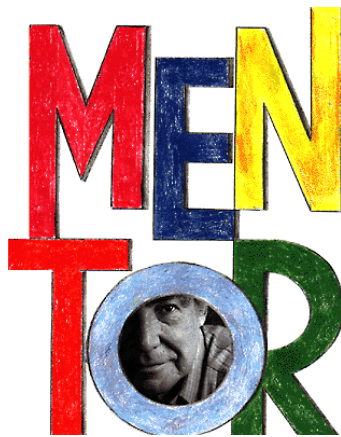
- Galveston Trip! Join us July 21st... we'll meet at the church at 9:00 am. Bring money for lunch and souvenirs.
- Lazer Tag... July 28th. Meet at the church 6:30. We'll be back at the church by 11:00pm. Stay tuned for the cost.
- Etiquette/Gentlemen Class - Saturday, August 6th from 5-7pm.
- Movie Day: August 11th - Meet at the Youth Center at 11am. Bring money for tickets and snacks.

* Contact Joshua Johnson at 979-417-1040 for more information!

MENTORING PROGRAM WITH RASCO MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL CONTINUE THIS FALL

First United Methodist Church will continue its partnership with Rasco Middle School this fall. FUMC is dedicated to sending mentors to Rasco to share in the lives of their wonderful students.

All it takes to contribute to the life of a young person is time. Young people spell love, 't-i-m-e'! If you are interested in being part of this outreach, please contact Pastor Geller at 979-297-3046 or cggeller@aol.com.



Taking the Word to the World Bible Study

Join us for the "Taking the Word to the World" Bible Study at the Lake Jackson Chick-fil-A every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am. Come enjoy breakfast and study God's Word with Pastor Geller



121 Highway 332 W # A
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

For more information, email Pastor Geller at cggeller@aol.com



Lost and Found

Have you recently misplaced any of your keys, eyeglasses, bible, or other items???

We have collected items dropped in the parking lot or left behind in the sanctuary, please stop by the church office to claim your possessions.

LJFUMC Bread Ministry:

Calling all bakers: We need your help for the First Church Bread Ministry! If you can bake 8 Mini-loaves about once a quarter then you are a perfect fit!



For more details please contact Mary Florence Platt at 979-233-3375 or maryfloplatt@gmail.com.

Girl's Night Out:

Ladies, please join us Friday, July 22 at 6:30pm at the Edgewater Grill {Surfside}. For more information contact Mary Helen Israel at 297-6968 or the Church Office 297-3046



Pot Luck Lunch: Sunday, July 31

Join us after "The Gathering" joint worship service for a special time of fun and fellowship. We'll start eating immediately after the service is over. Suggestion for what to bring are based on your last name:



- A-G. bring a salad,
- H-P, bring a meat or main dish
- Q-Z bring a side.

Dessert will be provided!

Lend a Helping Hand

We have two families that are in need of a car, if you are able to help, please contact the church office at 979-297-3046, or Suzanne Sargent at 979-297-4766



First Church Kitchens

First church is working hard to keep the kitchens clean and safe. Signs are posted requesting you to please label all food you are storing with your name AND date using the labels provided in the kitchens, prior to August 1st. Any questions, contact Ann Orr at 979-297-8501.

First Church Calendar of Events

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
6:00 pm - Faith Lessons on the Promised Land [AR]
6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
6:00 pm - Youth Study/Game Time [YC]

Thursday, July 21, 2011

9:00 am - Youth Trip to Galveston
9:00 am - SLP Summer Session
6:00 pm - Finance Committee Mtg. [Lib]
6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
8:00 pm - College Bible Study [YC]

Friday, July 22, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
Breakfast [VH]

Sunday, July 24, 2011

ROOTS SUNDAY
8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
8:30 am - First's Foods [VH]
9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]
10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]
5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [YC]

Monday, July 25, 2011

7:00 pm - Troop 325 Mtg. [VH]

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

9:00 am - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
9:00 am - SLP Summer Session
9:30 am - Bridge Group [AR]
9:30 am - Taking the Word to the World Bible Study [Chick-Fil-A]

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
10:00 am - Friendship Club [AR]
6:00 pm - Faith Lessons on the Promised Land [AR]
6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
6:00 pm - Youth Study/Game Time [YC]

Thursday, July 28, 2011

9:00 am - SLP Summer Session
6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
6:30 pm - Youth Laser Tag Night
8:00 pm - College Bible Study [YC]

Friday, July 29, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
Breakfast [AR]

Sunday, July 31, 2011

THE GATHERING
9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am - Joint Worship
Service [Sanctuary]
12:00 pm - Potluck Lunch
5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [VH]

Monday, August 1, 2011

6:30 pm - Stephen's Ministry Mtg. [Lib]
7:00 pm - Troop 325 Mtg. [VH]

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

9:00 am - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
9:30 am - Bridge Group [AR]
9:30 am - Taking the Word to the World Bible Study [Chick-Fil-A]
6:30 pm - Ministry Coordinating Team (MCT) [WP]

Wednesday, August 3, 2011

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
7:00 am - Methodist Men's
Breakfast [VH]
6:00 pm - Faith Lessons On the Promised Land Study [AR]
6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
6:00 pm - Youth Study/Game Time [YC]
7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [CR]

Thursday, August 4, 2011

11:00 am - Clergy Covenant Group [WP]
6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
8:00 pm - College Bible Study [YC]

Friday, August 5, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
Breakfast [VH]

Saturday, August 6, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
5:00 pm - Youth Etiquette and Gentlemen Class

Sunday, August 7, 2011

DINING WITH THE KING
8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
8:30 am - First's Foods [VH]
9:00 am - Contemporary
Worship [Sanctuary]
10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am - Traditional
Worship [Sanctuary]
5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [YC]
6:30 pm - Carpenter's Hands [Rm. 14]

First Church Attendance

Dates	July 3	July 10
Sunday Services	274	303
Sunday School	115	143

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Experience the Journey!

First United Methodist Church
404 Azalea
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**THE SON IS SHINING THIS
SUMMER
AT FIRST CHURCH!**



Join us at First Church this Summer for a lineup of fun filled Sunday
Worship Services! We have all kinds of fun activities
planned for the whole family.

Date	Services	Event	Information:
July 24th	8, 9 & 11 am	"Roots Sunday"	Focus on outreach... join us as we focus on outreach! Invite a friend or family member.
July 31st	10:30 am Joint Service	"The Gathering"	Sunday School will be at 9:15am. We will all gather together for a special joint Worship Service! A covered dish luncheon will follow the service.
August 7th	8, 9 & 11 am	"Dining with the King"	Come dine with the King on a special Communion Sunday.
August 14th	8, 9 & 11 am	"Sweets for the Soul"	Bring a picnic lunch and gather together as a Church Family! First Church will provide free ice cream.
August 21st	8, 9 & 11 am	Launch Sunday... Up Up & Away!	It's time for school again... we'll gather together as we get ready to send the kids back to school.



**Join First UMC - Lake Jackson
on Facebook and get connected!**