

First United Methodist Church

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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.