



FUMC Family Welcomes New Confirmands

Confirmation is a time of transition from childhood to the beginning of adulthood. It is a rite of passage for many of our youth. We were honored to have four young people participate in the process, Summer Holmes, Peri Lane, Robert McDermid and Hamilton Tyler. They spent several weeks with Pastor Melissa learning about what it means to be a Christian and a member of the United Methodist Church. Peri said, "I learned a lot about what our Church believes and I was proud to become a full member." Robert commented, "I am thankful for everyone who has helped me grow in my faith and supported me on my confirmation journey. I'm excited to continue learning and serving others and being a part of my church family."

All the confirmands deepened their friendship with one another and found guidance with their Faith Friends. Each one had a designated Faith Friend (mentor) to assist them through confirmation. It was a spiritual experience for both young and older.

As a church we have watched these young people develop into the people they are becoming as their grow in their faith. We will continue to support them and watch over them for the rest of their lives. Our church is like a large extended family. Summer, Peri, Robert and Tyler have many faith aunts, uncles and cousins to help them and guide them on their faith journey. Welcome confirmands!!



What's Going On In June?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Popsicle Playdate with Mom's Group, Playground, 10 – 11 am
The Grove Youth Group, Youth Lounge, 5 – 6:30 pm
Adult Bible Study, Library, 6 pm

JUNE 3 - 6

Service Opportunity

Mission Nac, Nacogdoches, All day

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

Service Opportunity

Sew Blessed, Scout Hut, 10:30 am

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

One Worship Service Only 11:00 am
Sunday School, 10 am
Pastors Andrew Hook and Melissa Garza Reception,
Parlor, Noon

Service Opportunity

ICAN Sunday

MONDAY, JUNE 8

Service Opportunity

GODTEL 1902 Douglass Rd, 5 – 6 pm, prepare & serve dinner

JUNE 8 - 11

Vacation Bible School, FLC 5:30 – 7:30 pm,

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Service Opportunity

HOPE Evening Food Distribution, 2100 E Main St., 5 – 7 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Popsicle Playdate with Mom's Group, Playground, 10 – 11 am
First Forward Meeting, Parlor, Noon
The Grove Youth Group, Youth Lounge, 5 – 6:30 pm
Adult Bible Study, Library, 6 pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Service Opportunity

Sew Blessed, Scout Hut, 10:30 am

Circle VI Meeting, Noon – 1 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Service Opportunity

Blueberry Festival Cooling Station, Front Lawn, 8 am – 4 pm

The Grove Youth Group, Youth Lounge, 5 – 6:30 pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

Worship, 8:45 & 11:05 am
Sunday School, 10 am

MONDAY, JUNE 15

Board of Stewards Meeting, Parlor, 6 pm

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Service Opportunity

Produce Distribution, west parking lots, packing items starts
at 2:00 pm and produce distribution starts at 3:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Service Opportunity

GODTEL, 1902 Douglass Rd, 5 – 6 pm, prepare & serve dinner

Popsicle Playdate with Mom's Group, Playground, 10 – 11 am

The Grove Youth Group, Youth Lounge, 5 – 6:30 pm

Adult Bible Study, Library, 6 pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Service Opportunity

Sew Blessed, Scout Hut, 10:30 am

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Worship, 8:45 & 11:05 am
Sunday School, 10 am
The Grove Youth Group, Youth Lounge, 5 – 6:30 pm

JUNE 21 - 26

Visiting UMARMY

JUNE 22 - 26

Youth Summer Camp, Lakeview, Texas

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Popsicle Playdate with Mom's Group, Playground, 10 – 11 am
First Forward Meeting, Parlor, Noon

Service Opportunity

Love INC, 917 Ruby Street, 9:30 am - Newsletter Folding

The Grove Youth Group, Youth Lounge, 5 – 6:30 pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

Service Opportunity

Sew Blessed, Scout Hut, 10:30 am

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Worship, 8:45 & 11:05 am
Sunday School, 10 am
Pastor Marlin Fenn Reception, Parlor, Noon
The Grove Youth Group, Youth Lounge, 5 – 6:30 pm

JULY 4TH

4TH of July Ice Cream Social and Community Meet the Pastor,
Stephanie Hughes

SUNDAY, JULY 5

Worship, 8:45 & 11:05 am
Sunday School, 10 am
Pastor Stephanie Hughes, Parlor Reception

A FirstNac Highlight



Hello! I'm Jo Derouen. Four years ago this August I arrived in Nacogdoches with a broken heart, having lost my husband, Craig, 10 months before, but a new Grandson was arriving soon. What joy my two grandsons, Harvey and Henry have been for me.

During this time I was looking for a church. I had come from a United Methodist Church in Sulphur, Louisiana and at this time the Methodist churches were going through the Global votes, so I sat back and waited to see how the churches here in Nacogdoches would vote. I had been attending First United Methodist and when the decision came through, I was ready to make my membership decision. I did it and have not looked back since.

I met Cindy and Chris Hancock at a Saturday Roundtable and found out we were neighbors. Cindy told me about some of the things going on at the church that I might be interested in and I hit the ground running. I have been part of Godtel, one of the most wonderful things to do, feeding those people twice a month and hearing them oohing and awing about their plates of food is GREAT to hear. I also participate in Love Inc, folding the newsletters once a month, help with the Food Distribution, am a member of the School Partnership team, and I'm known as the POM POM Queen in Sew Blessed, making most of the pompoms for the hats that the other ladies knit. I am a member of the Roundtable Sunday School Class, a Greeter, and attend SFA Basketball Games with a group from our church.

It has been a difficult 4 years, but people at First United Methodist Church have listened to me and held my hand as I have stumbled along in this new life. I finally feel I am home here in Nacogdoches and look forward to seeing what happens next with my church community and the other things I enjoy here in Nacogdoches.

Find Your Opportunity to Serve

FIRST FAMILY Claudia Whitley, Team Leader

First Family is all about caring for our church family. That includes helping host special events in the lives of our families, special events in our church, caring for each other in any way and providing personal and pastoral care as needed.

FIRST DISCIPLESHIP Jared Barnes, Team Leader

Our team coordinates meaningful learning experiences that help people of all ages grow in their faith and fellowship together. We oversee Sunday school for adults, children, and youth; small groups; and Midweek classes.

FIRST COMMUNICATION Terri Thompson, Team Leader

Communication is a tool that can couple spirituality with business practices to convey God's grace as we continue to turn our beliefs into our behavior.

FIRST COMMUNITY LeAnn Solmonson, Team Leader

First Community is about being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We focus on serving those experiencing food insecurity, supporting students and teachers in our schools and ministering to those who experience housing instability.

FIRST OPERATIONS Steve Westbrook, Team Leader

One of our key areas in the coming year will be our church building and grounds with a goal of having a facility and surrounding grounds that are well-maintained, meet the needs of the church's ministries and are appealing to members and guests.

THE FIRST EXPERIENCE Lynn Teague, Team Leader

The First Experience teams are all about insuring every person, member and guest find a warm and friendly place to join in meaningful corporate worship.



Message From the Pastor

“My, people come and go so quickly here!” said Dorothy, amazed as Glinda the good witch floated away in The Wizard of Oz. I can feel that amazement. We are experiencing so much transition during May, June and July! I am excited that Tony Cole has joined us as Youth Director, that Tess Ibarra is interning with our children’s ministry, and that Brandon Beavers has rejoined our staff as Praise Team Leader. These are wonderful additions to our congregation’s leadership.

As well, Andrew Hook will lead us in a farewell service June 7. Melissa Garza will lead us in a farewell service

June 14. We will celebrate both of their ministries here in a reception June 7 and wish them well in their new appointments. It’s an opportunity to thank Pastors Andrew and Melissa for their service at First Nac.

I will lead a transition service June 28 as we prepare for Rev. Stephanie Hughes to step into the Senior Pastor role July 1. You will love having her as your Senior Pastor, and she will love serving with you.

You don’t want to miss any Sunday because, if you do, something will likely have changed while you were gone. I’ve learned that transitions are often grace filled. We learn from what we have been through and grow into the creation of a future filled with new opportunities. Nacogdoches First UMC is a great church. We have excellent leaders, a servant spirit, and joyful hearts. God is working here, and we get the chance to embrace what God is doing through us together. The years ahead will be inspiring. The challenges that come in them will be met by a people who know God’s love and know that we are called to work together.

This is a short time with many transitions. “People come and go so quickly here” but the loving grace of God remains constant, and upon that grace we build the path forward.

Pastor Marlin

Focus on the First Five

The First Five represent five essential practices that can help us on our journey to become deeply committed Christians. They certainly are not all of the essential practices but they represent keys to our growth and align with the vows we make to the church.

June Focus: Our Purpose

To build a vibrant, Christ-centered community where ALL are becoming deeply committed Christians.



THE FIRST FIVE

WORSHIP: Pray five times a day and worship weekly.

STUDY: Read five verses of the Bible daily and study the Bible in a small group.

SERVE: Practice five acts of intentional kindness a week and serve with others.

GIVE: Extend five acts of generosity toward others each month and give generously to God through the church.

SHARE: Let others know you are a Christian and invite five people to church each year.

When we practice these actions, we are living out our vows to the church and our commitment to Our Purpose.



We need volunteers and bottled water donations for the water cooling station on the front lawn during the Blueberry Festival, Saturday, June 13, 2026

Contact: Terri Thompson at (936) 554-1721 or terrihompson75965@gmail.com



One Service
June 7 @ 11:05 a.m.

My First | A Gift From a Friend

Hello, I'm Allie McLaughlin, I'm from Nacogdoches and I am a criminal justice major and just finished my first year at SFA. When I'm not in the classroom you can find me babysitting, helping out at FUMC MYF, or going on a walk.

I wasn't raised in a religious household, but I always found comfort in my grandparents' church (First United Methodist Church of Royce City). Whether I was passing out bulletins or helping the congregation finish the Sunday school donuts, church always felt like home. I first heard about FUMC Nac from a friend in middle school who invited me to Wednesday night MYF. From that point forward, FUMC Nac has been nothing short of life changing.

While I attended youth most Wednesday nights starting 7th grade, I always felt like something was missing. At the beginning of my senior year at Nacogdoches High School, that missing piece finally fell into place when I fully surrendered my life to Christ. I did not begin attending Sunday services at our church until the beginning of 2025, but choosing to do so has truly been one of the best decisions I have ever made. The community I have found through FUMC quickly became one of my biggest blessings.

I am eternally grateful for my church and for all the grace and compassion they give freely. Thank you to my church family at First United Methodist Church of Nacogdoches.

- Allie McLaughlin



Thank You FirstNac Family



**Good
Things**
at FirstNac



Thank You FirstNac Family

As my season at FirstNac comes to a close, I am full of gratitude for the blessing it has been to serve among you. It feels fitting that our congregation has spent this season watching the Tree of Life take shape in the Narthex. Like that growing work of art, I have had the privilege of witnessing faith deepen its roots here. Stretching wider in compassion, growing stronger in discipleship, and reaching outward in service. I have watched you respond to the community's needs with generosity. You embody a faith that is deeply rooted in love of neighbor as yourself.

Thank you for entrusting me with the sacred privilege of caring for your children and youth. It has been one of the greatest joys of my ministry to laugh, worship, and journey alongside them. To our youth: thank you for being silly, kind, fun, and wonderfully you. To the parents and families who supported Family Life Ministries, thank you for your partnership and trust. Ministry with young people only flourishes because of caring adults who faithfully show up.

I am deeply grateful to my Lay Consultation Team, Lynn Teague, Mike Coffee, Tina Smith, and Steve Westbrook, for walking alongside me through the final leg of candidacy with wisdom and faithful dedication.

To the Primetimers, Women's Circles, and every member who welcomed me, invited me along on excursions, and affirmed my call—thank you. The single pastor's life can be a lonely one and you made sure that I belonged.

And to the extraordinary staff of FirstNac UMC: you are truly among the church's greatest gifts. I am grateful for your wisdom, humor, and deep well of knowledge.

Most importantly, to the “pastor types”... my mentor pastor, Pastor Andrew, thank you for your guidance, encouragement, and the honor of serving alongside you. To my Oracle, Pastor Lorraine, and the gracious Pastor Marlin, thank you for your wisdom, patience, and care.

Finally, thank you all for allowing your church home to be part of my becoming. I leave grateful for the seeds we've cultivated together, and I look forward to watching from FUMC Somerville as God continues to grow this beautiful Tree of Life called FirstNac. Mil gracias.

- Pastor Melissa



Please join me at a special unveiling of the Tree of Life and a showing of my art on Friday, June 12, from 4-6 p.m., upstairs at Java Jack's. Come and see what you have created!

Update From the Board of Stewards

The FUMC Nac Board of Stewards met on Monday, May 18, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor to support the church's mission: "To build a vibrant, Christ-centered community where ALL are becoming deeply committed Christians."

Following the opening prayer, Scott Bowyer shared a fantastic devotional titled "Time for a New Season," which moved everyone. During the minister and pastor reports, updates included preparations for Vacation Bible School, UM Army's scheduled visit from June 21-27, and discussion surrounding the upcoming pastoral transition in June and July. The board also reviewed summer worship plans, including the remaining preaching schedules for Melissa and Andrew, a possible sermon planned for the incoming pastor on June 21, and volunteer needs for upcoming church ministries and outreach efforts.

Financial and committee reports focused on volunteer recruitment, Mission Nac involvement, and planning for the June 13 Blueberry Festival. Trustees discussed the sidewalk project leading to the Scout Hut. SPR discussed plans for welcoming a new Youth Director and Summer Children's Ministry staff member. First Forward shared preparations for community-wide events around the Fourth of July, specifically the ice cream social on the church lawn. Other discussions circled around bottled water donations for the Blueberry Festival and outreach coordination. The meeting concluded with a benediction from Pastor Marlin.

As a reminder, all church members are welcome to attend the monthly board meetings to hear about the work being done on behalf of the church. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 15th at 6:00pm in the Parlor.

You are receiving this edition of the FirstNac News, a requested printed newsletter to help us communicate better as a church. If you prefer to receive an electronic version only, please let the church office know and we will remove you from the mailing list.

First United Methodist Church
201 E Hospital Street
Nacogodches, TX 75961

The FirstNac News is published monthly by the Communications Team of First Forward.



Need to talk to a pastor?

When there is a hospitalization, a death in the family or any other time you may need urgent pastoral care, we encourage you to use these numbers.

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm: 936.564.8308

Evenings and Weekends: 936.564.8308