



# FUMC Post-Harvey Update

**"Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord."**



**Church Update #12 ~ Pastor Laura Becker  
December 18, 2017**

Grace and Peace be with you in the name of Jesus Christ!

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*



*December 8, 2017*



*December 20, 2017*



*FUMC Rose Garden*

We are just days from marking the coming of the Christ Child. Delighted that we will be worshipping in our home sanctuary. There are still boards covering the broken windows, temporary chairs have replaced pews, logistical details have substituted form, every room has some clutter to be reorganized, and God's people are finding their footing. We certainly have evidence that change from yesterday to today is a paradoxical messy beautiful gift just like the gift of a child.

We have the opportunity in this season of pregnancy to witness the birth of a 'new' community. A community that is tied to its lineage and history, but a community that is able to do a new thing for the sake of deepening our care for one another and creating a more just environment for families to dwell.

I will be forever grateful for my sister, my clergy friend, and a stranger who provided shelter to our family in the first six weeks after Hurricane Harvey. Many of us have a new appreciation for the trials of being displaced and dependent on the care of others. The pictures above remind me of Mary and the time of pregnancy that is covered in mystery. I bet she wondered who would give them a place to stay and could she deliver safely when the time came.

The covering of snow makes me wonder. Wondering what will be, what is underneath, how long will it stay, and when will it go...the roses above speak promise to me. Promise of new life and blooms unexpected.

May you be filled this season with hope for what always finds season to bloom. Peace, Pastor Laura

*The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. <sup>2</sup> It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.*  
*Isaiah 35: 1-2 (KJV)*

### **WORSHIP PLAN:**

- a. Christmas Eve Morning is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will have ONE WORSHIP service in the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Handicap accessibility is at the Live Oak Entrance and back parking lot entrance near the rose garden. In addition to the church lot, you are welcome to park near the church at local businesses.
- b. Christmas Eve Service will be 7:00pm, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary.
- c. Please continue to worship as you are able and remember if you are out of town or unable to attend that your church in Rockport can receive offerings on our website at [www.fumcrockport.org](http://www.fumcrockport.org) (Click the ONLINE GIVING icon) or you can mail gifts to P.O. BOX 1045 Rockport, Texas 78381.

### **New Information:**

1. **County Harvey Recovery website** is under-construction but has some answers to common questions. <https://www.aransascountry.org/harvey/about/qa/>

### **Ongoing Information:**

1. **First Learning Tree** is open with current enrollment at 122 children.
2. **Restoration Management Company Updates-Dec 5th:**
  - a. Working on finishing punch list
  - b. Main Kitchen appliances are ordered.
  - c. Metal roof to be installed.
3. **District and Conference Ministries Continue:**
  - a. [www.riotexas.org](http://www.riotexas.org)      [www.coastalbendumc.org](http://www.coastalbendumc.org)
  - b. **UMVIM Leaders**– training can be scheduled in your church or if your putting together a UMVIM team, please contact Frank Rojas, Conference VIM Coordinator: [vim.riotx@gmail.com](mailto:vim.riotx@gmail.com) / **512.422.0210**; Lisa Bowen, Costal Bend VIM Coordinator: **936.264.6744**/ [lisa@serendipitybridge.org](mailto:lisa@serendipitybridge.org) / **361.442.9056**; Abel Vega, RTC Mission Vitality Center – Director of Outreach Vitality [avega@riotexas.org](mailto:avega@riotexas.org) **or 210.408.4514**
  - c. **Gene Hileman, Disaster Response Coordinator-Rio Texas** Conference UMC, 210-557-8698: A Case Management program will be headquartered in Sinton at the First United Methodist Church. UMCOR will have a similar program headquartered in Victoria.

## **Action Items for Congregation:**

1. Check in. Call or email the church office and let us know how you are. 729-1659 or [pastor@fumcrockport.org](mailto:pastor@fumcrockport.org)
2. Find one thing you can do to serve. Keep taking care of yourself and each other. Pray for all.
3. Ministries and programs will return as rooms are reset and leaders are ready to lead. Look for news as we move into 2018.
4. Attend a Ministry Workshop Event "Know Your Ministry" on January 20<sup>th</sup> at Grace UMC in Corpus Christi. 9am-12:30pm.
5. Keep checking in on all our information: email, Facebook, website, etc.
6. And, please update any contact information and current mailing address.

## **Ministry Partners for Relief and Recovery**

*These are the churches who have reached out to us and said 'God is calling us to help Rockport FUMC'*

Wellspring United Methodist Church – Georgetown, Texas  
Grace United Methodist Church – Corpus Christi, Texas  
John Wesley UMC – Victoria, TX  
First United Methodist Church – Georgetown, Texas  
Laurel Heights UMC – San Antonio, Texas  
Midge Hall United Methodist Church – Longmeanygate, Leyland, England  
Halifax UMC – Halifax, Pennsylvania  
St. Philips UMC – Round Rock, TX  
Our little church in Rockport, Ohio  
UMCOR  
Wylie UMC – Wylie Pirates  
Gruene UMC  
El Valle District UMC  
Coastal Bend District UMC  
Family Life Church - Sugarland, TX  
First Methodist Mansfield, Tx  
FUMC and Wesley Nurse – Goliad, Tx  
FUMC and FBC Portland - TX  
Thoburn United Methodist Church – St. Clairsville, Ohio  
Ellisville FUMC  
Stonebridge UMC – Sunshine Kids  
The City of Sachse, Texas  
Vermeer Charitable Foundation  
Gutshall Charitable Foundation  
Eastlawn Methodist Church –Pascagoula, MS  
*Please let us know if we missed your church!*