

The Rockport Beacon

A Publication of the First United Methodist Church of Rockport



December 2018 Newsletter

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The Greatest Gift Has Already Arrived

*"Thanks be to God for his
incredible gift!"*
2 Corinthians 9:15

When I think of significant events throughout history and how well celebrated those events are, no event in history seems to come close to the enormous amount of word and song that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus' arrival is truly a gift that continues to inspire word and song. Frankly, it is the greatest gift ever conceived, given, and received. If this is true and we accept it to be so, the next few weeks are especially important as we recall this great gift, honor its great value, and receive it anew.

Imagine the Magi receiving a sign that pointed them toward the birthplace of a child expected to change the world, even save it. I wonder if they continued to follow the life of Jesus as diligently as they had prepared for his coming? How did they honor the gift of Christ beyond the gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Did they find themselves year after year revisiting the story of their journey to Bethlehem? Can they teach us how to reopen this great gift every year? I believe so.

I've heard people describe their most memorable gifts and recount the thoughts and feelings present as the gifts were revealed. Whether large or small, young or old, expressions about great gifts articulate like this: "I remember the feeling of overwhelming joy when as a five-year old I found the bike by the Christmas tree." "It was a complete surprise but what made it such a great gift was that it was personal and came out of the giver's knowledge of me." "It was exactly what I wanted even though it wasn't on my list." "It was made with love."

Romans 6:23 reads, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in

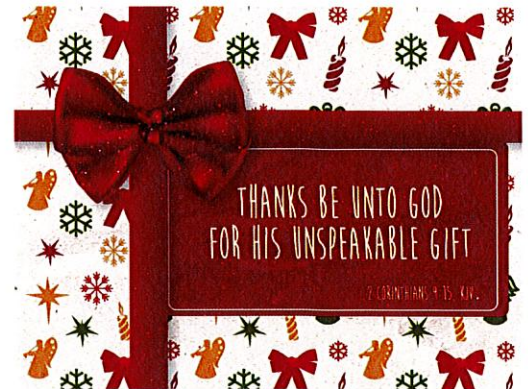
Christ Jesus our Lord." What a gift! Overwhelming joy, a complete surprise, personal, based on the Giver's knowledge of us, exactly what we wanted even though we don't put it on our list, and it is made with love. Indescribable to the tee as Paul wrote but recognizable as the Magi spoke. The mysteries of God's gifting are as fresh as each new person who seeks to open such gifts. I hope to join the likes of N.T. Wright who reminds us signs of the gift come in 'an echo of God's voice in the creation and stars that surround us' (Simply Christian). Paul reminds us to seek in this way in Romans 1: 20, 'for since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that humans are without excuse.'

I hope that this Advent season will find us actively seeking the gift of Christ and that we are open to it anew. My prayer is that as we receive the great gift of love in Christ Jesus, indescribable and clearly seen; my prayer is that our hearts will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and moved to share the good news of eternal life, forgiveness of sin, and overwhelming joy in Jesus. Friends, may we look for signs of God's great gift to the world and help others to see Jesus has already arrived. Amen.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave
his one and only Son, that whoever
believes in him shall not perish
but have eternal life."*

John 3: 16

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Laura



Church Events

- Dec 5—Men's Breakfast
- Dec 5—Blue Christmas
- Dec 10—Staff Christmas Open House
- Dec 11—FUMC hosting Community Table
- Dec 13—Caring Cards
- Dec 16—Bistro Christmas Brunch
- Dec 18—Storytelling 101
- Dec 24—Christmas Eve Services
- Dec 24, 25, 31—Offices Closed



Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Worship
Weekly Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Worship
Monthly Holy Communion
First Sunday

Children are always welcome in worship here! Children's bulletins and other activities are available in the Family Area, located inside the Live Oak entrance.

ADULT CLASSES

9:15a.m. - New Beginnings FH1
9:15a.m. - Cross Talk..... Rm 7

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Nursery (0-4 yrs) Nursery
9:15 a.m. Elementary (K-5th) Rm 5
12:00 p.m. Youth (6th-12th)..... Rec. Room

FH = Fellowship Hall

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Cross Talk Class - 9:15 a.m. @ Room 7

The Cross Talk class is known for its discussions of biblical material. Dr. David Murrah and Dr. Jeannie Coe are the two who help lead the class. During Advent the class will discuss Adam Hamilton's series on Joseph. Adults of all ages are welcome to join in.

New Beginnings Class - 9:15 a.m. @ Fellowship Hall 1

The New Beginnings Class uses the Uniform Series Adult Bible Studies as their guide. Leaders rotate, and this fall the focus is on God's World and God's People.



Bistro Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 16th
9:15 —10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Hosted by the Cross Talk Class

Lectionary Readings

Our worship life is organized around the Revised Common Lectionary—a system of reading through the entire Bible in a 3-year cycle. You are invited and encouraged to use these scripture passages in your devotional time.

December 2 - First Sunday of Advent

*Benevolent Bucket to Benefit Youth Group

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-55

OCTOBER 2018 CHURCH GIVING

**Giving:	\$23,549.01
Castaway's:	\$ 8,000.00
Total Income:	\$31,549.01
Expenses:	\$36,414.10
OCTOBER Net Income:	(\$ 4,865.09)
Year to date Net Income:	(\$40,882.18)

** Identified giving, Sunday School offerings and unidentified giving (cash received when we pass the offering plates)

Please keep your church and your church staff in your prayers and consider how you can answer God's call to stewardship of your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Our church and community are blessed by all you have to offer. If you are traveling, you can go to our church website to give online at www.fumcrockport.org.

Blessings,
Susan Jamison

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Send address changes to The Rockport Beacon, P. O. Box 1045, Rockport, Texas 78381.



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"First United Methodist Church
Rockport, TX "

First United Methodist Church of Rockport Phone No. 361-729-1659

Rev. Laura Hewett Becker, Senior Pastor	x2248
Susan Jamison, Business Manager.....	x2574
Stefany Simmons, Director of Communications.....	x2575
Paul Klemm, Director of Music.....	x2577
Karen Snyder, Administrative Assistant.....	x2576
Kathy Wilson, RN, Wesley Nurse.....	x2578
Alfredo Gonzales, Custodian.....	x2501
Kimberly Head, First Learning Tree Director.....	x2584

NEW SMALL GROUP FORMING

Let's look at some loved and very familiar Biblical passages and together uncover nuances and new meanings lost in translations into English. The Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, The 23rd Psalm, and others will bring new messages of comfort and wisdom as we explore the delightful scholarship of Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey, a brilliant linguist and extraordinary theologian. Day of the week, time, and place will be the choice of participants. John Gay will get us started, then come the fun discussions! There is a sign-up sheet on the front desk to indicate your interest. For more information, don't hesitate to call John at 361-729-2521 or write at johnandgingergay@gmail.com.



Birthdays

12/01	Connor Kelly	12/12	Madelyn Jamison
12/02	Clayton Black	12/13	Ann Schick
12/03	Christine Degner	12/13	Kay Stone
12/03	Holly Francis	12/14	Linda Collins
12/03	Darcy Huggins	12/14	Georgia Townsend
12/05	Christine Brou	12/16	Grant Brou
12/06	Dennis Richardson	12/16	Jude Murphy
12/07	Peggy Berry	12/17	Graham Painter
12/07	Noble Chapman	12/21	Nancy Miller
12/08	Melinda Brou	12/23	Peter W. Walker
12/09	Lilly Hoose	12/24	Tim Chapman
12/10	Stacey Hooper	12/27	Cindy Kelly
12/10	Brian Brust	12/28	Doug Gibbs
12/10	Charlene Morin	12/29	Kaitlyn Jamison
12/12	Ruth Crough	12/31	Ava Hoose
12/12	Bette Mae Adams	12/31	Amanda Duran (FLT)

Anniversaries

12/17	Bronson & Linda Hamilton
12/21	Corey & Leah Murphy
12/24	Ryan & Alicia Luchsinger
12/28	Jeannie & Rob Coe
12/28	Jeannine & Will Larson



Staff Christmas Offering

The FUMC Staff Parish Relations Committee has elected to continue our Church tradition of providing an opportunity for you to express a special "Thank-You" to our Church Staff this Christmas. If you wish to participate in this bonus gift, please send your check payable to FUMC or cash donation with a notation of "Staff Gift." Your gift needs to be received by no later than **Wednesday, December 12** in order to be distributed before Christmas. Checks or cash may also be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 9 or delivered to the church office to Attn: Susan Jamison.

Living Water Bible Study

(Spanish)

Sundays at 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



Alfredo Gonzales leads a time of Bible Study and worship on Sunday evenings in Spanish.

Methodist Men

Wednesday, Dec 5, 7:00am
Fellowship Hall



Come join us for fellowship and an inspirational message. All men are encouraged to come and bring a friend. We are seeking nominations for the upcoming year for officers. Please come spend an hour with your brothers in Christ. For more information please call Kevin Jamison, Interim President at 361-229-9535.

Crazy Quilters

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall Room 1



Join us for fellowship and making projects. All experience levels welcome.

Choir

Join us each (or any) Wednesday Evening from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. as we fellowship and sing God's Praises. We have fun as we learn new music and gather to help lead the congregation in worship. For more information, contact Paul Klemm at 361-463-0712 or music@fumcrockport.org

Caring Cards:

An Evening Social with a Purpose

Thursday, December 13, 6:00 p.m.
Room 5



Calling all "scrapbookers" or anyone who would enjoy making greeting cards. We will be making cards on the evening of December 13th at 6:00. Come join us, we have a lot of fun! If you have an interest in being involved in a second group that would meet in the day, or if you have supplies you wish to donate please contact Lynne Ruf 361-816-5912.

Nurses Notes: December 2018

Walking Classes:

Mon/Tues/Fri
8:25-9:00 a.m. 2 mile
9:00-9:30 a.m. – 1 mile

Tuesday/Thursday
11:00-11:30 a.m. – 1 mile

Health Screenings:

Wesley Nurse visits Good Samaritans on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. for health screenings and education.

Diabetes Support Group

Tuesday, December 11th 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Rec Room

Come and join this dynamic group as we manage our way through diabetes.

Storytelling 101

Tuesday, December 18th @ noon, Youth Room
Lunch will be provided

Your story may be based on fact or fiction, heartfelt or embellished. Remember your story is YOUR story. The hope is you will be surprised, inspired, and moved to action by the insights and benefits you may discover in the process of storytelling and story listening. Come and enjoy food, fellowship and fun.

Blessings and good health to all,
Kathy Wilson, RN, Wesley Nurse



Prescription Assistance Report

October 1 to October 31, 2018

Clients	22
New Clients	14
New Clients Unable to Help	4
Forms Filed	15
Volunteer Hours	93.25

Estimated Cash Value of Medications
Saved for Clients:

1 month supply	\$ 6,326.00
3 month supply	\$18,978.00

Mobile Health Clinic

Monday, December 10th
9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-3:30p.m.

Volunteers are needed to be greeters for the patients of the mobile health clinic. Morning and afternoon shifts available. Welcome those visiting the mobile clinic, get them a cup of coffee or water, or direct them to Prescription Assistance. Please contact Kathy Wilson, Wesley Nurse, if you would like to help out in this way. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the receptionist's desk. Thank you for your support of this important outreach ministry.

North Texas Neighbors

God put it on the hearts of some folks at Christ UMC in Plano, TX to send us some love to aid in our recovery post-Harvey. In November they presented us with a check for \$6,000 to be shared between FUMC and First Learning Tree. Praise God, and thank you friends!

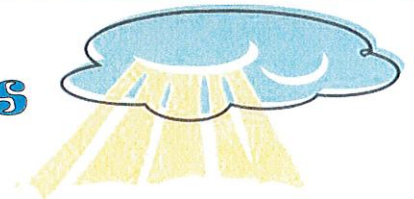


Retired???

Kathy Daniels might be retired from her former career as the Director of First Learning Tree, but she's staying active with her church family! Not only has she committed time to chairing the Health Ministries Team, but now she's also volunteering as an Office Angel on Wednesday mornings. Praise God, and thank you Kathy!



GLORY SIGHTINGS



A Note of Thanks

Dear friends,
Thank you so much for the many expressions of care and concern during my surgery and recovery. I felt the love. God is good.

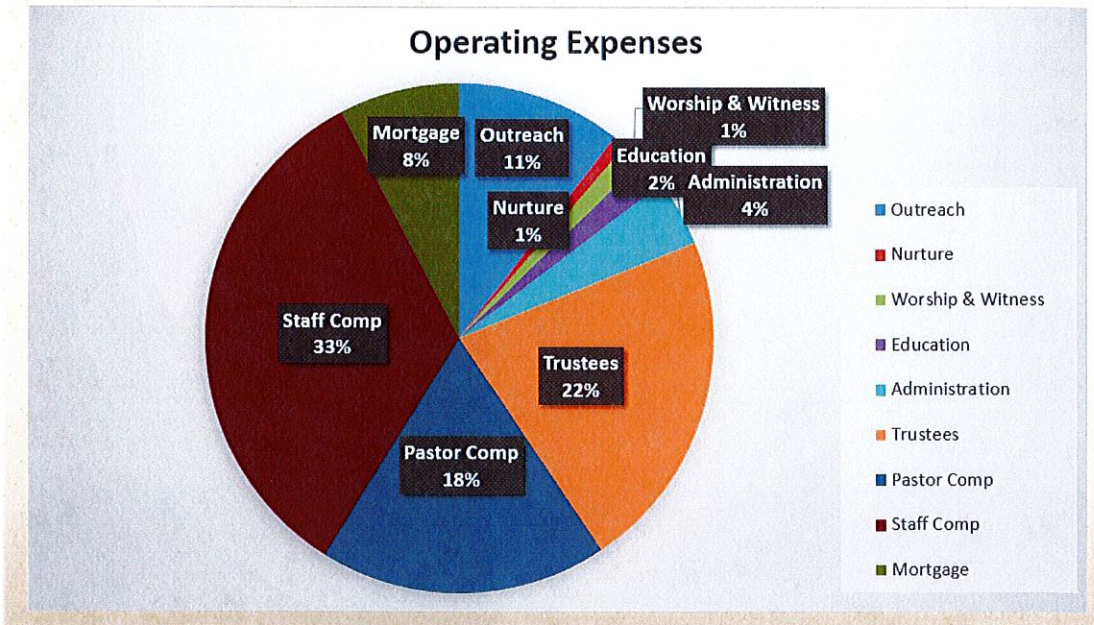
Ed Hegen

Submit your GLORY SIGHTINGS
Stefany Simmons at ssimmons@fumcrokport.org

2019 Planning At the Church Council meeting on October 23, 2018, the below proposed budget for 2019 was approved and the proposed priorities as listed below were agreed upon.

Proposed Budget 2019

Current Financial Statement
 Adopt 2019 Budget - \$461,693.85



2019 FUMC Proposed Priorities

Moving from Facilities and Grounds Recovery to more People Recovery

- Emphasize ... home bound communion and visitation
- Continue Prayer ministry and Card Ministries
- Develop new leaders and attend to guests???
- Faith Formation in Children: Bridge with school and Sunday school, chapel, etc.
- Teams will be built as volunteers called forth

Build/Update Communication that reaches the FLT family & community

- Increase media presence
- Continue using all kinds of medians to reach a variety of ages and means
- Collaborate with FLT in ministry events and spiritual formation plans
- Signage

Continue to support the Health Ministry Outreach of our church

- Educational opportunities
- Support Groups
- Partnerships with local agencies
- Rx Assistance

Administrative Diligence

- Finance - Audit of Finance Post Harvey and maintain healthy cash flow
- SPRC - normal goals to care for Pastor and Staff
- Trustees – continue oversight of new property and old property maintenance

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Community Table— FUMC hosting on December 11th

Community Table serves a free meal twice a month to anyone in our community who desires to come eat and fellowship together. FUMC is hosting the dinner on December 11th. Volunteers are needed to cook, serve, clean tables, make tea and coffee, dishwashing, and clean up. This is a wonderful ministry, and we need your help to serve our community. Volunteers of all ages are welcome and needed. Food handler permits are required for the kitchen, but no special requirements are needed for all other jobs.

On December 18th, there will also be an interdenominational Christmas meal and FUMC will provide green bean casseroles. At least 6 volunteers are needed to help on this date as well.

Please sign up on the reception desk in the Main St. foyer or on the church website Call Gary Stone if you have any questions at 719-568-8493.

Thanks,
Gary stone



Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans

507 S Ann St, Rockport, TX
Mon-Wed-Fri 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Good Samaritans is collecting items for Christmas baskets. Volunteers are needed, especially to help at the reception desk. Please call (361) 790-9828 if you are able to help. Good Samaritans is an organization established, built, and manned by volunteers; it exists to help citizens of Aransas County who need "a hand up." Thank you for helping!



Christmas Food Baskets



List of Needed Items

- Canned Vegetables - 16 oz.:**
green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables
- Canned Fruit - 16 oz.:**
pineapple, peaches, fruit cocktail
- Instant Potatoes**
- Stovetop Stuffing**
- Gravy Packets**
- Candy Canes**
- Cranberry Sauce - 16 oz.**
- Cash donations help to provide the turkey, margarine, rolls and fresh fruit**

FUMC Youth Group

6th-12th graders: Meet us in the Rec Room at 12:00pm noon on Sundays

- December 2 – 12 p.m. Youth Fellowship
- December 9 – 12 p.m. Service Sunday
- December 16 – 12 p.m. Youth Fellowship
- December 23 – 12 p.m. Worship Experience



Calling all Youth!

**Middle School and High School
Midwinter 2019**

Dates: February 15-16, 2019

Place: Camp Zephyr, 151 FM 3162, Sandia, TX

Registration Forms will sent to churches by Thanksgiving week.

Early Bird Registration: \$110 before Dec. 31 after Jan 1 \$ 130

FINAL DEADLINE: Feb. 1, 2019

Theme: In and Through the Fire based on Daniel 3

DECEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 BENEVOLENT BUCKET 8:00 AM Worship (Communion) 9:15 AM Crosstalk Adult Class 9:15 AM New Beginnings Adult Class 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) 12:00 PM Youth Fellowship 6:00 PM Living Water Bible Study (Spanish)	3 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 10:30 AM Prayer Team (Rm 4) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (Conf.Rm) 1:00 PM RX Assistance (Conf.Rm) 8:03 PM Rockport Young Life (FH)	4 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 11:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2)	5 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM Castaways Day 10:00 AM Crazy Quilters 6:00 PM Blue Christmas Worship Service 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30 AM Castaways Day 11:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2)	7 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2)	8
9 8:00 AM Worship (Communion) 9:15 AM Crosstalk Adult Class 9:15 AM New Beginnings Adult Class 10:30 AM Morning Worship 12:00 PM Youth Fellowship 6:00 PM Living Water Bible Study (Spanish)	10 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM Coastal Bend Mobile Health Center 9:00 AM-11:00 AM Staff Christmas Open House 10:30 AM Prayer Team (Rm 4) 1:00 PM Coastal Bend Mobile Health Center 1:00 PM RX Assistance (Conf.Rm) 8:03 PM Rockport Young Life (FH)	11 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 10:00 AM Diabetic Support Group (FH3) 11:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 4:30 PM FUMC hosting Community Table	12 8:30 AM Castaways Day 10:00 AM Crazy Quilters 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 8:30 AM Castaways Day 11:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 6:00 PM Carving Cards: an Evening Social with a Purpose	14 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2)	15
16 8:00 AM Worship (Communion) 9:00 AM Bistro Christmas Brunch in Fellowship Hall 9:15 AM New Beginnings Adult Class 10:30 AM Morning Worship 12:00 PM Youth Fellowship 6:00 PM Living Water Bible Study (Spanish)	17 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 10:30 AM Prayer Team (Rm 4) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (Conf.Rm) 1:00 PM RX Assistance (Conf.Rm)	18 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 11:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 12:00 PM Storytelling 101	19 8:30 AM Castaways Day 10:00 AM Crazy Quilters 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 8:30 AM Castaways Day 11:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2)	21 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2)	22
23 8:00 AM Worship (Communion) 9:15 AM Crosstalk Adult Class 9:15 AM New Beginnings Adult Class 10:30 AM Morning Worship 12:00 PM Youth Fellowship 6:00 PM Living Water Bible Study (Spanish)	24 Church Offices Closed 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Worship Service 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Traditional Worship Service	25 Church Offices Closed	26 8:30 AM Castaways Day 10:00 AM Crazy Quilters	27 8:30 AM Castaways Day 11:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2)	28 8:25 AM 2-Mile Walking Class (FH2) 9:00 AM 1-Mile Walking Class (FH2)	29
30 8:00 AM Worship (Communion) 9:15 AM Crosstalk Adult Class 9:15 AM New Beginnings Adult Class 10:30 AM Morning Worship 12:00 PM Youth Fellowship 6:00 PM Living Water Bible Study (Spanish)	31 Church Offices Closed	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px;"> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Staff Christmas Open House</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Monday, Dec 10, 9:00-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>FUMC and FLT Staff Members invite you to our Christmas Open House. We will be in the Church Administrative Hallway with lots of holiday goodies!</p>  </div>				



A Publication of the First United Methodist Church of Rockport
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"Let Your Light So Shine..." Matthew 5:16

Mission Statement

*Growing Families in Christ
through Nurture, Outreach, and Witness.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

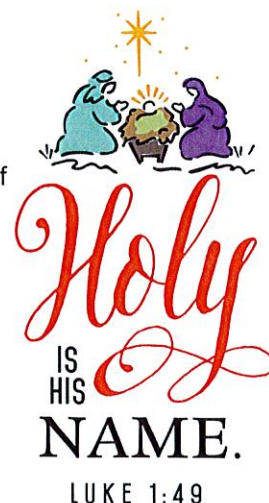
Wednesday, Dec 5, 6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Worship Service

A Service of Hope and Healing. This service is designed to quietly honor the lament of wounded hearts and lay our grief at the throne of God.

Monday, Dec 24, Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Family Worship Service: Designed for children, young families and all who are young at heart!

7:00 p.m. Traditional Worship Service: Celebrating Christ's Birth with Communion and Candlelight.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™