

December 2021 Newsletter



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

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Have A Blessed
CHRISTMAS

This monthly newsletter is published by
First United Methodist Church of Rockport,
801 E. Main Street, Rockport, TX 78382.

Send address changes to:
P.O. Box 1045, Rockport, TX 78381

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**“First United
Rockport, TX “**



Methodist Church of

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

Rev. Frank Baik, Senior Pastor.....x2248
Annette Mahaffey, Business Manager.....x2574
Paul Klemm, Director of Music/Facilities Mgmt.....x2577
Pat Best, Administrative Assistant.....x2576
Kathy Wilson, RN, Wesley Nurse.....x2578
Alfredo Gonzales, Custodian.....x2501
Madaline Brown, First Learning Tree Director.....x2584

Giving for His Glory

OCTOBER FINANCE

Church

*Giving:	\$ 22,099.57
Castaway's:	\$ 8,000.00
Market St Apartment Income	\$ 4,675.00
Total Income:	<u>\$ 34,774.57</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 35,928.90</u>
OCTOBER Net Income	<u>\$ 1,154.33</u>

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

First Learning Tree

Income/Tuition	\$ 74,310.41
Tx Workforce Covid-19 GRANT funds	\$ 12,921.20
Regular Expenses	\$ 73,351.62
OCTOBER Net Income	<u>\$ 2,338.54</u>

Church & FLT Combined through OCTOBER

Year-to-date Net Income Without PPP Grant	\$ 2,660.15
FLT-TX WORKFORCE GRANT Applied	\$ 54,684.06
PPP Grant applied **	\$ 148,995.00
Year-to-date Net Income with Grant	<u>\$194,469.90</u>

CASTAWAYS METHODIST VOLUNTEERS

Once again October was an outstanding month for our Methodist Volunteers! Their work and commitment are a huge support to the ministries of FUMC Rockport...Join the team and be blessed as you work together for God!

OCTOBER 2021

Sales Total	\$16,447.00
Admin Fee to Castaways	<u>\$2,535.83</u>
Total deposit to FUMC	<u>\$13,911.41</u>

Total Distributions

General fund:	\$ 8,000.00
FUMC Reserve fund:	\$ 2,622.01
UM Castaways Volunteers fund:	<u>\$ 3,289.40</u>
	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

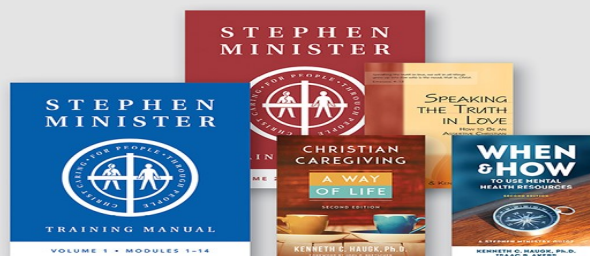
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CASTAWAYS VOLUNTEERS!!

2021 Benevolent Bucket Offerings

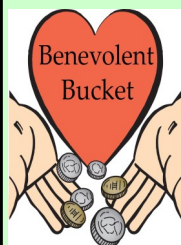
January	Human Relations Sunday	\$50.00
February	Teen Challenge	\$555.00
March	UMCOR	\$216.00
April	Native American Min. Sunday	\$223.00
May	Peace with Justice Sunday	\$74.00
June	Perpetual Help Home	\$345.00
July 4th	"Undie Sunday"	\$3,238.00
August	Good Samaritans	411.00
September	UMCOR—International Relief	425.00
October	World Communion Sunday	147.00
November		
December		

Stephen's Ministry

If you would like to be trained as a Stephen's Minister, and be trained to give grief support, please talk to Pastor Frank. I believe there will be many in our community seeking comfort from loss, and healing from broken hearts. We can prepare ourselves by training Stephen's Ministers, and relaunching the grief support ministry.



BENEVOLENT BUCKET—DECEMBER



Benevolent Bucket is a special offering taken up on the first Sundays of each month. On December 5th, the Benevolent Bucket is designated for [Methodist Children's Home](#). Your contributions will help us to assist more people in our community.

Music News



NEWS FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR, PAUL KLEMM

Thank you to everyone that came out on November 13th to hear the Southern Plainsmen Quartet. They commented several times to me throughout the evening how gracious and friendly everyone was. It was really a wonderful night. I am talking with them now about scheduling them again next fall!

On December 19th at the 10:45 Worship Service the Chancel Choir will present the Cantata:

The Seven Noels

By Pepper Choplin

The Seven Noels will lead the listeners through the Christmas Story, using the tune of a favorite carol:

The first noel, we long to hear. For the sound gives us hope through out sorrow in fear.

The second noel, the prophet did say, "Take comfort, my people, prepare the way."

The third noel, young Mary would hear when the angel would say to her, "Do not fear."

The fourth noel was in Bethlehem on the night when the baby was born to them.

The fifth noel, the angels did say to certain poor shepherds...

The sixth noel: Through the night, a noel was proclaimed in the skies...

The seventh Noel calls God's people to lift praises and adoration through the finale, "Beautiful Worship Noel."



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ONGOING NEEDS

- **Adult Chaperones** to Assist with Youth Group Ministry (Contact Annette: amahaffey@fumcrockport.org)
- **Office Angels**: To help at the Reception Desk (Greet visitors, answer phones, fold publications).
- **Castaways Workers**

Sign up online at: <http://www.fumcrockport.org/volunteers/>

OR CONTACT: The Church office to learn more: 361-729-1659 pbest@fumcrockport.org

Health Ministry Team

NEWS FROM KATHY WILSON, RN, WESLEY NURSE

Nurses Notes – December 2021

Dear friends,

I'd like to start my message this month with a few announcements:
The diabetic support group will be meeting in December on the 14th, at 12:30 p.m. in the Rec. Room. We will be enjoying a potluck of diabetic-friendly holiday dishes. If you or a loved one has diabetes, please join us as we fellowship and learn how to manage diabetes.



The Walk the Walk walking class ended in November. This group has been a part of the Wesley Nurse program since August 2013. I would like to extend a thank you to all who participated and became part of the “support group that walked”. Virginia Russell, who will always be in our hearts, and Myrtle Lee, were two faithful walkers, that I would like to highlight for all they brought to this group. These ladies brought friends and family along with them to be a part of the class. Cumulatively, these two ladies ages are over 190!! The example they set to lead a life of lifelong health, is one that I aspire to follow.

A dear friend told me when I moved to Rockport to accept the position as the Wesley Nurse, “Life is like a book. Some chapters sad, some happy, and some exciting. But if you never turn the page... You will never know what the next chapter holds.” This chapter as your Wesley Nurse has been one of my favorites. However, my time has come to turn the page. My tenure as the Wesley Nurse for Rockport First United Methodist Church will soon be closing on December 17th, 2021. My heart overflows with gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside of each of you, to be a part of the faith journey, and to help encourage one another on a path of better health. It has truly been an honor and humbling experience.

But just like starting a new book, there is a new beginning. There are plans by Methodist Healthcare Ministries to hire a new Wesley Nurse. I'm very excited to watch this new chapter unfold for the new nurse, and for the Health Ministry Team, the church and our community. The possibilities for caring for the mind, body and spirit will continue, and be stronger than ever.

My prayers continue for the church and the community we serve. May God bless all of you, and enjoy the Christmas season, and a healthy New Year!

Blessings to all,

Kathy Wilson, RN, Wesley Nurse

3 John 1: 2 “Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”

Growing in Christ

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FIRST LEARNING TREE



Our annual Trunk or Treat was a great success, and we could not have done it without you!

Due to COVID-19 last year, we could not have our regular trick or treat field trip downtown. Therefore, the church and FLT came together to give the children our own treat with a Trunk or Treat.



It was so successful, we had to do it again this year. Thank you for all of your help.

The children had so much fun, and we could not have done without you.



Ministry Leaders

FROM TRUSTEES CHAIRPERSON, KATHY DANIELS

This will be my final newsletter as Trustee's Chair. These past 3 years have been a whirlwind of activities and then Nothing, as we felt the grips of the Covid Pandemic at the Church. One of my favorite phrases is "This to shall pass", and it has. Once again we are alive and thriving as we move forward with many new happenings at the Church. The Trustees have accomplished many projects during this time and still there is work to be done. Jeannie Coe will be your new Chair. After working with her on many projects, I know that she is not afraid of hard work or of making decisions. Many of you have volunteered in some aspect these last 3 years and I hope that you will be able to assist Jeannie if the need arises.



Listed below are many of the projects that were completed or are in the works during the 2019 - 2021 Trustees tenure:

Main Street Foyer Updated	Both Ladies Rooms were painted, updated, and new stalls installed
Nursery was painted	Kitchen Area was updated
Exterior of the Church was painted, except the Ed. Wind and side along Church St.	The entire front wall of FLT was repaired
All flower beds were cleaned, mulched, weeded, replanted and rock installed in the breezeway area	The Atrium was painted and flower pots replanted
The Office next to the Business Office was remodeled	The hot water heater was replaced in the Janitor Closet
The Cross Talk Sunday School Room was updated (Thanks to those wonderful folks!)	The hot water heater for the dishwasher was replaced
Instillation of artificial grass on the old FLT playground	All 3 HVOC Units in the Fellowship Hall were replaced
Beginning of the replacement of some of the glass in the Stain glass Windows in the Sanctuary to match the windows above the Choir	Our Library finally came together (Thanks to all that made that happen)
And many, many repairs to the leaks in the roof	The Prayer Room was refurbished
	New drapes in the Fellowship Hall were installed
	The FUMC signs on Main St., Live Oak and Church St. were hung
	Repairs to Cross and Flame signs on Main St and Live Oak
	Repairs to FLT playground

I've received several remarks concerning the folding doors in the Fellowship. I know that they are an eyesore. The bid we received to replace both set of doors was \$30,000.00. This is an ongoing search and we hope to find a solution in the near future.

As you can see, even though its been a very unusual time at the Church, life goes on...

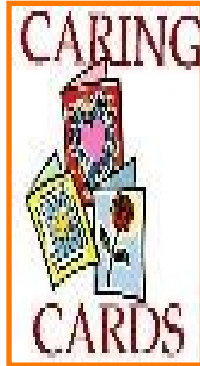
I have cherished serving the Church during this time. It was always my goal to make our Church feel as welcoming as possible and to make all members feel like they were home when they walked through the front door.

Blessings and love to all,
Kathy Daniels

Serve the Lord with Gladness

CARING CARDS

The Caring Cards ministry is an important connection that bonds our church family together. We appreciate those who continue to supply us with beautiful handmade cards. If you like to make cards and wish to contribute, we welcome handmade cards to send for birthdays and anniversaries. You can bring them to the church and leave them at the receptionist desk.



If you have questions please call Gail Hanson at 361-549-4244.

PRAYER TEAM

Come join us!
9:00am every Tuesday in the Banner Room

This dedicated group comes to the church to pray for prayer requests, church staff, ministries of the church, the community, and the world. Please come if you would like to join this group in prayer. Prayer requests can be filled out on the friendship card, called in to the church office at 361-729-1659, or filled out at online at the church website www.fumcrookport.org



If you have any questions please contact:
Lynne Ruf at 361-816-5912.

CASTAWAYS

Hello Church Family,
It is my honor to be the new Event Coordinator for FUMC-Rockport. My husband Ted and I moved here in May 2021 from Dayton, Texas after our retirement. I am a retired Principal with 35 years of experience in the Texas Public Schools. Service is a major part of the fabric of my character, so I gratefully accepted the offer of this position. Please call, text or email me with your ideas and suggestions for how to make our events memorable, festive, and honorable as the needs of each individual event requires. I covet your input as we move forward. Thank you to all who have graciously assisted me thus far. Your ideas and smiles are a positive influence, and you are truly appreciated.

Blessings,

Kathy Norland

bknorland@hotmail.com

936.334.2024



CASTAWAYS

We are blessed to have several new volunteers and now have a great team representing our church at Castaways.

We would still like to train a couple of more people as cashiers to fill in during vacations and illness.

There's always room for one more, so if you want to walk the floor or sort and price just come on by.

Lately we have received some very nice donations and we thank you for that. Annette



FUMC Rockport-December 2021



12/2 Clayton Black
12/2 Trey Rider
12/3 Christine Freund
12/3 Holly Francis
12/7 Noble Chapman
12/9 Lilly Hoose
12/10 Charlene Morin
12/10 Bill Phemister
12/10 Brian Brust
12/12 Ruth Crough
12/12 Madeline Jamison
12/13 Ann Schick
12/13 Kay Stone
12/14 Georgia Townsend
12/17 Graham Painter
12/21 Nancy Miller
12/24 Time Chapman
12/29 Kaitlyn Jamison
12/31 Ava House



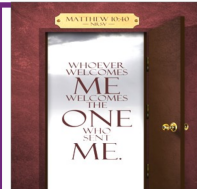
ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

12/14 Steve & Mary Huhman
12/17 Bronson & Linda Hamilton
12/28 Rob & Jeannie Coe

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021

HAS GOD DONE SOMETHING AMAZING IN YOUR LIFE?

Others would benefit from reading about it—You can share your testimony in the newsletter!
(If you want assistance with editing, we can help) Email to: PBEST@fumcrockport.org



CROSS TALK - ADULT BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS, 9:15 AM REC RM

FUTURE SAVE THE DATE: Disciple I Bible Study

- **Starts January 2022 on Monday afternoons**
- Great opportunity to get an overview of the Bible from Genesis to Revelations.
- 24-week study with 12 weeks Old Testament, 12 weeks New Testament.

If you are interested in more information please contact Richard Hyde at 832-649-0665
or email Richard Hyde: rw.hyde60@gmail.com



Women In The Word

We have begun our Advent study and have 24 women joining us each Wed.
At 1pm in FH3.

It is so exciting to be in fellowship with other women. This group is very
supportive of one another and enjoys our times together.
Our study ends Dec. 8th.

**Our mission project during our Advent study has been collecting books, new and gently
used, to donate to the Learning Center here on our campus.**

Our first study for 2022 is Acts, Awakening To God in Everyday Life by Melissa Spoelstra.
This study begins Jan. 5th at 1pm in FH3. If you are interested in joining our group please contact
Donna Hyde at 832-457-2279 or Donna-hyde@att.net.
Several books have already been ordered and received but more can be ordered so please sign up
before hand. This lesson will be \$20.

Just Thinkin' John Gay

The Call to Jim Alpheson

The church year was fast coming to a close, and new leaders from the congregation were needed. That process falls on the Lay Leadership Committee, which met in early September. Open positions were carefully considered and matched to people, not an easy task. But the Committee members felt good about the decisions made, and the job of contacting nominees fell to me. If their response was positive, final approval would be no more than a formality at a Charge Conference.

Calling well over a dozen of nice people can be indeed a pleasant time. And it was! Almost all quickly said “yes”, frequently leaving time for a little chat. A few needed a bit more information about the responsibility, but with my encouragement, accepted. Only one or two were unable to take on these duties. One even suggested being considered for an additional position for the next year! T

his important function for any church, regardless of its size, brought me to doing some more thinking. How important, I thought, is each congregational leader during these times! For example, our country is painfully divided today, with more derision and disdain and old-fashioned hate than I can recall in all my octogenarian years. And now our global Methodist church is almost certainly headed for a splitting into two or more non-friendly factions. Local churches and their pastors will be forced to make some unsavory and difficult decisions, and undoubtedly some people will leave their church families. The decline of Methodism, both worldwide and locally, may take a steep curve downward.

And there is little that we, the ordinary pew sitters can do. Just sit and watch.

Or is that really true?

Earlier I described my pleasant duty of calling people to serve their church. I then remembered the calling, the choosing, of twelve men from the large crowds following the young rabbi from Nazareth to be his closest disciples. These men would learn, not only from what their rabbi taught, but also from observing what he did and how he handled himself in some very trying situations. Some of them blossomed from being unschooled fishermen into becoming learned and wise and eventually leading the small group of new believers into a world changing movement.

We all know the names of Peter and Andrew, of James and John, of Philip and Matthew. They were all called to be followers and to be do-ers. Jesus called them to go out and to be with people and to explain who Jesus was and to help them understand what Jesus was saying.

And in a sense that was my duty when I was calling all those potential new leaders of our church family. They were being called to be a member of a committee or to have some leadership role.... and also to be with people and to help make the message of Jesus more meaningful.

But most of us are not being called to be a such-and-such in our church, not to have some special title. That realization brought me to another thought. Most of us are called by Jesus simply to “be.”

Just to be like Jim Alpheson. Who?? Jim Alpheson!

No, Jim is not a member of our church. And I didn't call him. But Jesus did. You see, Jim Alpheson, would be the modern name for one of the Twelve, James son of Alphaeus. I believe he was only mentioned as being one of the disciples. Never are we told about who he was or what he did, which brings me to another thought.

Continued on next page

FUMC Rockport-December 2021


- Continued

I think that many of us are meant to be Jim Alpheus.... called simply to “be.” We are called, like James son of Alphaeus, not to be anybody special, but to go out and be present with people, to encourage, to share a few moments, to help when needed.

No, this James never made the biblical headlines, but Jesus saw him to be somebody who would do quiet important things without personal recognition. Our church, every church, needs Jim Alpheus!

We are all called to “be.” And with an army of Jim Alpheus in our church, in every church, there will be no decline, no disintegration during crises. Instead there will be revitalization, new growth, and excitement.


Here’s to you, James son of Alphaeus



Counseling
AVAILABLE

Methodist Health Ministries Counselor
Kimberly Beck, LPC, Behavioral Health
Call for Appointment: 361-658-9708

OFFICE HOURS



Counselor’s Hours:
Mon. - 1/2 day - Mornings, Tues. - All day

OUR YOUTH **COULD USE YOUR HELP!**

If you are available for 2 hours, once a week, YOU can make a difference in the life of our

Youth at First United Methodist Church!

Please call Annette Mahaffey, Youth Minister:

361-729-1659, XT 2576 or

Email: amahaffey@fumcrookport.org



Annette Mahaffey, Director of Youth



NEWS UPDATE!

Where: Youth Rec Room
When: Wednesdays Time: 6 to 8 pm

We have live testimonies, play games, and have lots of fun learning to live Biblical Values. Hope all 6th through 12th graders can join us!

- 12/1 Uniqueness/Acceptance
- 12/8 Fears Hang-ups/Abilities
- 12/15 Self-Confidence/Independence
- 12/22 No Youth Group
- 12/29 Reaching Out/Accountability

Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
Annette Mahaffey
Youth Ministries Director



KUDOS TO OUR KIDS!

SPOTLIGHT on Our FUMC Youth

Carol Baik

Our Youth Highlight this month is: Carol Baik, she is a senior at Rockport -Fulton High School. Her favorite subject is Culinary Arts. Her favorite food is her Mom's Braised Ribs. Her favorite vacation is when she went to Taiwan to visit her Grandparent's. Carol likes musicals and her favorite musical is Les Misérables. She can sing and enjoys cooking.



She's keeping her options open for after high school. She's considering working for a year or two and then going to college.

We love Carol at Youth Group...she's funny and personable.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS:

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - Communion Weekly
- 9:30am Adult Sunday School
- 10:45am Traditional Worship Service - Communion Monthly on first Sundays

- www.fumcrockport.org/worship
- Facebook: First United Methodist Church Rockport Tx
- Instagram: FUMCrockport

*Let us know you're worshipping with us from home by filling out the online Friendship Card.
You can find the link on our home page @ www.fumcrockport.org*

PRAYER:

- PRAYER WITH PASTOR FRANK:
Mon-Thur @ 8:30 AM: In-person in the Sanctuary or on facebook.com/fumcrockport
Fri @ 8:30 AM on facebook.com/fumcrockport
- PRAYER REQUESTS can be sent to www.fumcrockport.org/prayer

SMALL GROUP AND BIBLE STUDIES:

Sun: Cross Talk, 9:30 AM, Rec Rm

Tue: Mid-Week Reflection with Pastor Frank, 11 AM, Rec Rm #6

Wed: Women In the Word Bible Study: Wednesdays, 1p-3p, with Donna Hyde (FH 3)

Thu: Disciple Fast Track Bible Study, Facilitated by Richard Hyde, 1 PM, Rec Rm

Fri: Bible Study with Pastor Frank, 6 PM, Parsonage, in person

Sign up for Small Group Bible Studies @ www.fumcrockport.org/bible-study

GIVING:

- Give online at fumcrockport.org/give
- Mail to PO Box 1045, Rockport TX 78381

For the latest updates, check our website at fumcrockport.org



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

of Rockport

Always Growing in Christ

December 2021 Newsletter

WORSHIP SERVICES AT:

9:00am (Communion every Sunday)
9:15am Adult Sunday School
10:45am (Communion every First Sunday)

COME JOIN US!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1045
801 EAST MAIN
ROCKPORT, TEXAS 78381-1045
(361) 729-1659
www.fumcrockport.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®