

December 2022 Newsletter



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

VISIT US ONLINE FUMCRockport.org

www.facebook.com/fumcrockport

Pastor's Appreciation

Dear Church,
Thank you for your thanks, generosity, gifts and cards in October. I am truly blessed to be your pastor. I want to be faithful to God, and call people into relationship with this Awesome God that is so worthy of all our praise. — Pastor Frank

Angel Tree

We are getting Presents for Children of Prisoners through Angel Tree. We have **30** children who need gifts this year, and you will see them soon on a tree in the Narthex. If you like to help contact families to make sure they want to participate, put names on Angels, keep track of who is getting gifts for whom, bake some brownies, or helping to facilitate a pick up, please talk to Pastor Frank!

Stewardship

Thank you for supporting FUMC this year and enabling ministry. This is the time of year when try and figure out if we will have budgeted enough to meet the needs of our ministries next year. Do you have a plan for giving next year? It would help us greatly for our planning if you shared your giving plan with our Business Manager. And based on all our pledges, we can know if we can meet all the needs. Thank you in advance for supporting the church and the work of God on earth.

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



Like us on Facebook!
First United Methodist Church of Rockport, TX

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

Rev. Frank Baik, Senior Pastor.....x2248
Patty Impens, Business Manager.....x2574
Paul Klemm, Director of Music Ministry.....x2577
Kathy Norland, Administrative Assistant.....x2575
Alfredo Gonzales, Custodian.....x2501
Madaline Brown, First Learning Tree Director.....x2584

Martial Arts Discipleship



Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB)

Prayer and Spiritual Warfare are part of Martial Arts training.



Three promoted to White Belt!

Oliver's Martial Arts (Jui Jitstu)

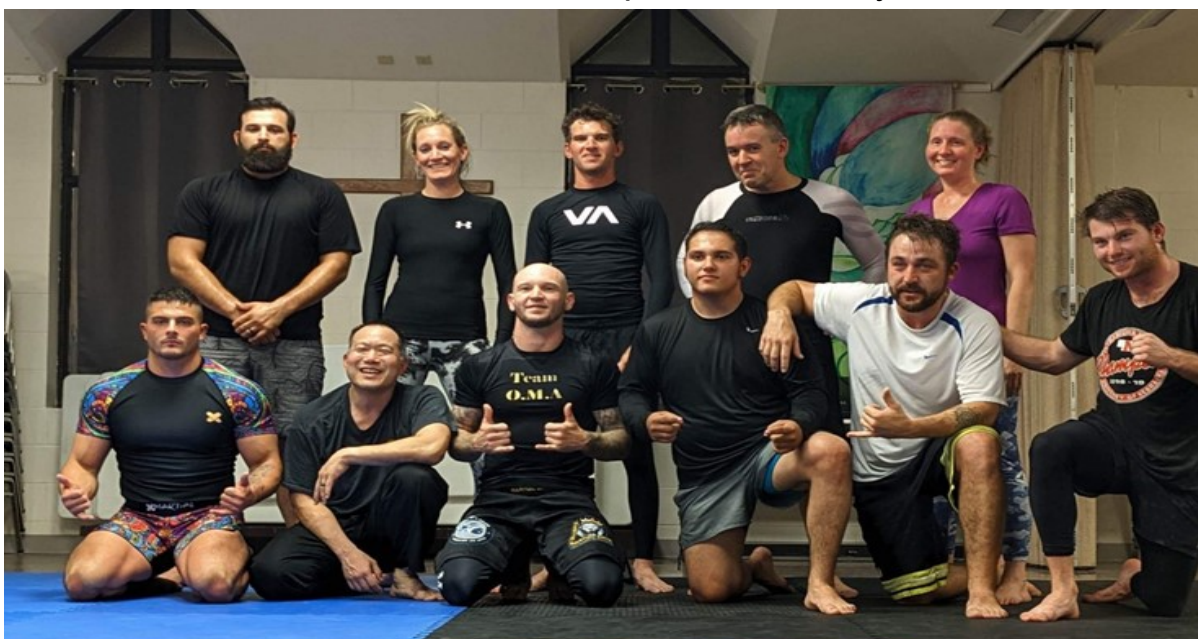
These classes meet at FUMC-R on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

The Kids Class meets at 6pm on Thursdays.

Parents Night pictured below.

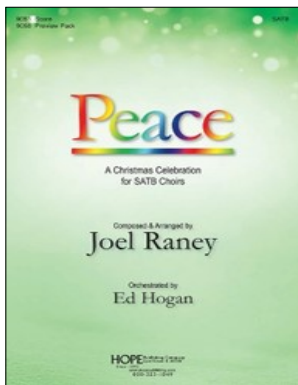


Adult Class at 7:00 pm on Thursdays



Music Ministries Update

Paul Klemm



On December 11th at the 10:45 am Worship Service the choir will present a Christmas Cantata by Joel Raney titled "Peace." It's a gospel-flavored piece that reflects on the promise of peace delivered by the angels on the night of Jesus' birth.

The choir has worked so hard on this cantata. They began when we first came back from our summer break in August. The music is fun and uplifting. Please make plans to be at church on the 11th, you will be blessed with wonderful music. I encourage you to invite friends as well. There is no need to wait until Christmas Eve to

invite friends to attend church with you!

Beginning in January I am going to offer basic music classes again. There is no expectation to sing in the choir afterward. In fact, there is no performance expectation at all. It's just about learning a little about music. Class start date and time is still flexible. If you're interested in participating, let me know and we'll decide what works best for everyone.

Subscribe to the Church's Emails

If you wish to subscribe to the church's emails, such as What's Happening This Week, general information or the monthly newsletters, please do the following:

Log onto the church's website at www.fumcrokport.org

Click on
Subscribe to our Newsletter
Complete the online form

This will allow you to subscribe to the church's email mailing list.

You may unsubscribe at any time.

Poinsettias

Order poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary in memory of someone you love.

Make a donation in honor of someone you love to benefit the Angel Tree Prison Fellowship Ministries.

Order forms are available beginning November 27th.

Angel Tree

FUMC Rockport-November 2022

Wesley Health Nurse

Geralyn Matejcek

Hello Church Friends,

I am happy to introduce myself as your Wesley Nurse. My name is Geralyn Matejcek and I have lived in Rockport since February 2018. I was born in Atlanta, Georgia the third child of four and we made it home to Texas, landing in Gonzales, as soon as my father was discharged from the Air Force.

I graduated from Gonzales High School and married my high school sweetheart, Joseph. He is a general contractor, and we were married 34 years ago in the Methodist Church in Gonzales where we raised and baptized our children. Our oldest child, Maggie, lives in Kyle and works in the building industry. Our son, Mason and his significant other, Cierra, live in Lamar. Mason is a guide specializing in fly fishing and duck hunting. Our parents and extended families are in Gonzales so we visit there often.

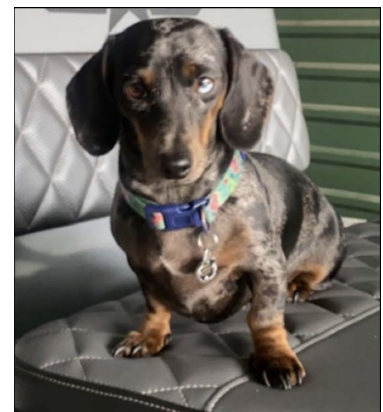
Joseph and I enjoy the beach, traveling, yardwork, our patio and grilling. We spend days off on the boat and Joseph fishes as much as he can. I enjoy my yard, plants (mostly plumerias and succulents), CrossFit, live music, live plays, and my pets. I have the cutest weenie dog named Pearl and a feisty tuxedo cat named Frida. We have a retired Labrador named Buster and three grand dogs, Gizmo, Lilly, and Riggs.

I completed my nursing education through the Victoria College and the University of Texas at Arlington. My nursing experience has been in acute care in the hospitals in small rural communities. I have worked in different areas, including labor and delivery, surgery, emergency medicine, and most recently the pediatric surgical recovery room at Driscoll. I believe my management and nursing experience will serve me well in this new position. I am currently in the orientation period and expect to complete this by the first part of February.

I have always known Jesus and I look forward to growing my faith and relationship even further as I embark on this new journey. I know that God opened this door for me, and me exactly where He needed me to be. I am looking forward to serving the community members in addition to the church members. I am enjoying meeting all of you and please bear with me as I learn your names and work through this orientation period. God bless you all this Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Please stop by my office to say hello.

Under His Wings,
Geralyn Matejcek, BSN, RN

“Serving Humanity to Honor God”



FUMC Rockport-November 2022

On the Sidewalk

By Dr John Gay, Church Member

The day is sunshiny, and Christmas garlands and red and green and yellow lights and silver tinsel add their own musical air of light and color. Two women with shopping bags are walking slowly ahead of us. They stop at one large store. We continue, you and I, going cautiously forward. Without a word we start a little eavesdropping.

We are in Rockport, a small town always eager to be known as being both quaint and charming. At one time it was a small seacoast town with various festivals and year round weekend visitors, but now it has become much larger, a major tourist destination for much of Texas. It is December 2072. We are in the middle of the Church Street Mall, its streets lined with small shops, boutiques and cafes. The women in front of us have paused at one store distinctively different and much larger than the others. It is of old brick, tall, with some stained glass windows. The surrounding buildings are much smaller, painted white or yellow, their merchandise displayed behind wide picture windows. This old brick building seems to have an air of bemused matronly dignity while overlooking its children.

“This is an interesting building,” we hear one woman say. “Wonder what its story was.”

“Don’t know.” She then notices a plaque on the brick wall. “Hmmm, let’s see what that says.”

“Oh, this was the old Methodist church.”

“Hmmm. Wonder what happened.”

“Oh, I remember,” her companion says, “my neighbor’s family used to go to it, but it seems it folded years ago. I remember someone saying that at that time a lot of mainline churches had been declining, and this one finally had to close.”

“What a shame.”

“Now I remember someone saying that the Methodist problem was that they were Bible readers,” half joking.

The other laughed, “Bible readers? And they closed the church for that?”

“Well, it seems that there was some argument about what a few passages in the Bible said or meant, and people got so upset that a bunch left the church. And I suppose it never recovered.”

“Wonder what the squabble was over.”

“Don’t know. It must have been something important at the time. You know, it seems to me that churches like to think of themselves as being family. And families sometimes argue, but they don’t just split up and go their separate ways over something that in time will get resolved.”

“You’re right. But enough...let’s see what they have.”

The two come to the steps going up into the old building.

FUMC Rockport-November 2022

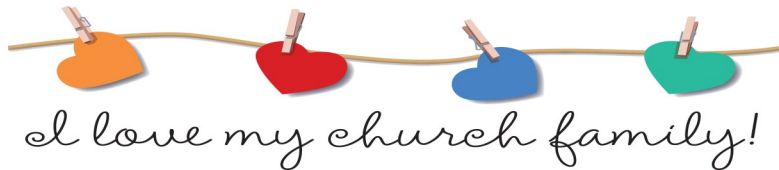
On the Sidewalk (continued)

“Watch your step here. Let’s see what’s inside.”

The women disappear into the old church building. Their words remain with us.

“Watch your step here.” As a church it’s time to be very careful. We don’t want to take a step we’ll later regret and stumble and fall and get hurt. Shall we hold onto the rail of the Great Commandment?

“Let’s see what’s inside.” When our church looks within, what might we see tucked away? Will there be humility and good humor (words which have the same Latin root), with the ability to laugh at ourselves? When we look at life inside our church, will we find connection with and acceptance of others not quite like most of us? An on quiet display over there in a corner, will we discover a generosity of joy and compassion? And in fifty years, what will there be in the old brick building at 801 East Main Street, Rockport, Texas?



Loads of Love Ministry

By Abby Cruz

Loads of Love is for families and individuals in need of clean clothing, blankets, etc. Our community is very generous and loving, but we have no funding or ability to help people do laundry. So many children sleep in dirty sheets and blankets because rent is more important or utilities need to be paid.

I took my Walk to Emmaus two weeks ago and God put this ministry heavy on my heart. I’m going to be the hands and feet of the Lord. I want to give my time and be in the laundromat, and of course, share a little Jesus.

This ministry will begin on January 3rd, 2023. Every Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, Loads of Love will be at the Laundry Depot at 619 S Bronte St in Rockport. There is no cost to anyone in need, and laundry soap is provided.

This is a ministry of love by me in conjunction with the First United Methodist Church of Rockport. We are a team working together to continue doing God’s work in our community. If you have any questions or want to help with Loads of Love, contact me at 512.815.1385.

First Learning Tree's Trunk or Treat

Thank you to all who helped with Trunk or Treat!



Special guests included:
Cruella Deville
Bam Bam & Wilma



Are you lost without your vehicle key fob? If so, stop by the office. We will play a game of you describe it and we will give it to you if you're right.

Castaways is **closed** for the Christmas holidays from December 23rd to January 1st

First Learning Tree

JOIN US FOR

Christmas Caroling

AT GULF POINT PLAZA
1008 ENTERPRIZE BLVD, ROCKPORT, TX

Tuesday, December 13th,
at 6:00PM

First Learning Tree



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

LAS

POSADAS



PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN OF FIRST LEARNING TREE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, AT 6:15PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PLEASE BRING A FLASHLIGHT AND

JOIN US FOR COOKIES AND COCOA FOLLOWING THE EVENT

First Learning Tree: What is Las Posadas?

Las Posadas is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of the United States during the Christmas season. It commemorates the journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem when they search for shelter suitable for Mary to give birth to baby Jesus. The Las Posadas celebration occurs from December 16th to 24th.

The focus of Las Posadas is a small child dressed as an angel who leads a parade of children through the streets. Adults follow the parade. The angel child stops at homes to ask for shelter for Mary and Joseph. They are refused until they reach the one location which says yes. This tradition calls for the children to break open a piñata filled with candy, toys and/or money. The custom is for the piñata to be the form of a star to symbolize the guidance of the three wise men to baby Jesus.

Please join us on Tuesday, December 20th at 6:15 pm to witness our First Learning Tree children doing their version of Las Posadas. Be sure to bring a flashlight. Stay for cookies and cocoa following the celebration. ¡Feliz Navidad from the children and staff of First Learning Tree!



Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Las-Posadas>

Church Office Updates

Business Office Update

Patty Impens

As we approach the end of the year, please be aware that the last day for the church to accept nontaxable donations is Sunday, December 25th. The reason for it being earlier than you might expect is because monies are deposited weekly. With the holiday, we will make a deposit on December 27th. Another deposit will not be made until January 3, 2023.

Once we close out the year, annual giving statements will be distributed in person or by mail at the end of January. This document will be used in preparing your 2022 income taxes. Happy holidays from the FUMC-R Business Office!



Technology Update

Ted Norland

Praise the Lord for His favor as a new technology server for the church was delivered last week. Work is ongoing to prepare it for use to the Glory of God, along with our staff and church members. This enables us to eliminate using a desktop and provides a deeper layer of technology security for the business of the Church.

Please allow me to remind you that the holidays are prime times for scammers to trick people out of proprietary information and money. Follow the old adage, "If it looks too good to be true, it more than likely is too good to be true." As always, I am



Did you know?

The FUMC-R Facebook page reached **804** people last week!

The What's Happening email of November 16th was opened **201** times with a 40.9% open rate!

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Clayton Black (2)

Trey Rider (2)

Christine Freund (3)

Christine Brou (5)

Melinda Brou (8)

Brian Brust (10)

Bill Phemister (10)

Bette Mae Adams (12)

Ruth Crough (12)

Madelyn Jamison (12)

Ann Schick (13)

Kay Stone (13)

Linda Collins (14)

Georgia Townsend (14)

Grant Brou (16)

Tim Chapman (24)

Kaitlyn Jamison (29)

Anniversaries:

Bronson & Linda Hamilton (17)

Rob & Jeannie Coe (28)

A Sneak Peak at the United Methodist Church Liturgy for December

December 4th

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 18th

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 11th

Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 25th

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalms 98
Hebrews 1:1-4, 5-12
John 1:1-14

Cross Talk Sunday School

9:00 am—Rec Room

Current Study



Understanding the Bible
Adam Hamilton

See John & Ginger Gay for
more information

ADULT
Sunday School



December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Castaways is closed from 12.23.22 to 1.1.23</p>	<p><i>Benevolent Bucket -> UM Children's Home</i></p>		<p>FB Prayer Castaways Disciple 3 Lions Club</p>	<p>FB Prayer Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Cross Talk SS Traditional Worship Living Water Worship</p>	<p>5</p> <p>FB Prayer Yoga Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FB Prayer Prayer Team Community Table</p>	<p>7</p> <p>FB Prayer WITW Castaways FLT Chapel Praise Band & Choir Wacky Wednesday</p>	<p>8</p> <p>FB Prayer Castaways SPRC Staff Luncheon Disciple 3 Lions Club</p>	<p>9</p> <p>FB Prayer Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>April Men's Walk to Emmaus Team Meeting Cantata Rehearsal FUMC-R Emmaus Gathering</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Christmas Cantata</p> <p>Cross Talk SS Traditional Worship Christmas Potluck Luncheon Blue Christmas Service Living Water Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>FB Prayer Yoga Prescription Assistance Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>FB Prayer Prayer Team Staff Open House PEO Community Table</p>	<p>14</p> <p>FB Prayer WITW Castaways FLT Chapel Praise Band & Choir Wacky Wednesday</p>	<p>15</p> <p>FB Prayer Castaways Wesley Nurses Meeting Disciple 3 Lions Club</p>	<p>16</p> <p>FB Prayer Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Cross Talk SS Traditional Worship Living Water Worship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>FB Prayer Staff Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>FB Prayer Prayer Team FLT Christmas Program</p>	<p>21</p> <p>FB Prayer Castaways FLT Chapel Praise Band & Choir Wacky Wednesday</p>	<p>22</p> <p>FB Prayer Castaways Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>FB Prayer Church Offices Closed Christmas Blessings from the FUMC-R Staff!</p>	<p>Christmas Eve 24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm Family Worship 7:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Cross Talk SS Traditional Worship Living Water Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>FB Prayer Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>FB Prayer Prayer Team</p>	<p>28</p> <p>FB Prayer FLT Chapel</p>	<p>29</p> <p>FB Prayer Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>30</p> <p>FB Prayer Church Offices Closed Happy New Year from the FUMC-R Staff!</p>	<p>New Year's Eve 31</p>

FUMC Rockport-December 2022

Giving for His Glory

OCTOBER 2022 FINANCE

Church

*Giving:	\$ 27,270.76
Castaway's:	\$ 8,000.00
Market St Apartment Income	\$ 0.00
Total Income:	\$ 35,270.76
Total Expenses	\$ 42,579.49
Oct Net Income	- \$ 7,308.73

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

First Learning Tree

Income/Tuition	\$ 66,578.43
Regular Expenses	\$ 98,320.70
Grant Applied	- \$ 74,167.45
Oct Net Income	\$ 42,425.18

Church & FLT Combined through October
Year-to-date Net Income \$ 33,626.09

If you are traveling please consider going to our church website to give online at www.fumcrokport.org.

*Thank you for participating in the work for Christ!
 Your gifts are honored and you are blessed by celebrating the gifts you have been given...Please contact the church office if you have any questions in regards to Stewardship or your offerings.*

Blessings,

Patty Impens

CASTAWAYS METHODIST VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU UNITED Methodist Volunteers!! Your hard work and commitment are a huge support to the ministries of FUMC Rockport...help by joining this team and be blessed as you work together for God!

October 2022

Sales Total	\$ 14,957.88
Admin Fee to Castaways	- 2,045.56
Total deposit to FUMC	\$ 12,912.32

These funds were distributed as follows:

\$8,000.00 to the FUMC General Fund
\$2,582.46 to the Castaways Volunteers Mission Fund
\$2,329.86 to the FUMC Capital Reserve Fund

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CASTAWAYS VOLUNTEERS!!

2022 BENEVOLENT BUCKET OFFERINGS

UMJanuary	UMC Human Relations Sunday	\$0.00
February	UMCOR—Denver Fires	\$ 140.00
March	UMCOR Relief Funds	\$ 158.00
April	FUMC Rockport Emergency Assistance Fund	\$457.00
	SPECIAL EASTER giving to Afghan Refugee Assistance	\$98.00
May	Native American Ministries Month	\$76.00
June	Peace with Justice Sunday	\$27.00
July	Undie Sunday	\$3,273.00
August	Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans	\$70.00
September	UM Student Day	\$45.00
October	World Communion	\$111.55
November	Harvest Sunday (Hunger)	
December	UM Children's Home	

BENEVOLENT BUCKET—DECEMBER 2022



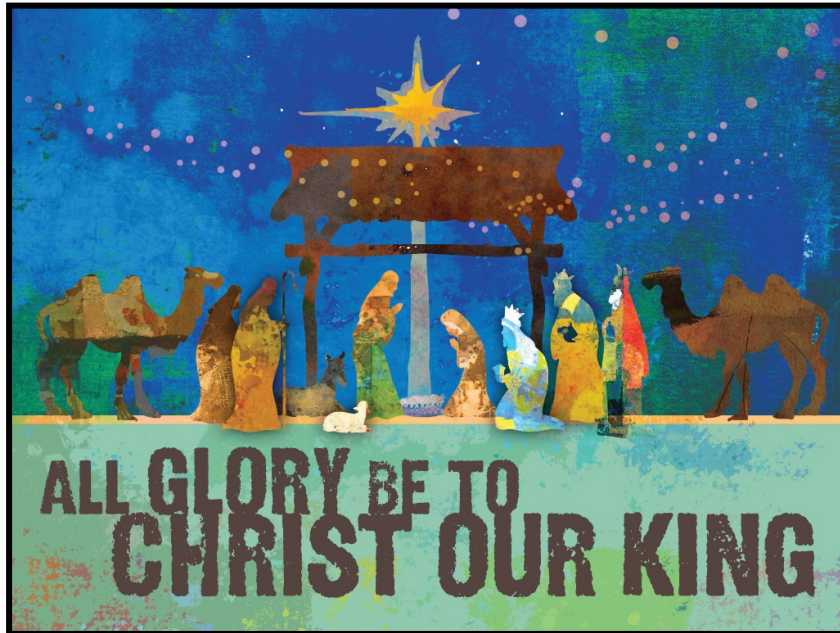
Benevolent Bucket is a special offering taken up on the first Sundays of each month. In December, the Benevolent Bucket is designated for the UM Children's Home . Please drop your donations into the baskets at the Altar or turn them into the Church Office. Thank you for blessing others!

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

HAS GOD DONE SOMETHING AMAZING IN YOUR LIFE?

Others would benefit from reading about it—You can share your testimony in the newsletter!

Email to: admin@fumcrokport.org



**Merry Christmas
from the
FUMC-R Staff!**

First United Methodist—Rockport Church Staff

The Reverend Frank Baik
Senior Pastor
Facilitiespastor@fumcrokport.org

Madeline Brown
Director of First Learning Tree
info@fltree.org

Alfredo Gonzalez
Custodian
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Linda Hamilton
Accompanist

Patty Impens
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Paul Klemm
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Kathy Norland
Administrative Assistant
admin@fumcrokport.org

Ted Norland
IT Manager
tnorland@fumcrokport.org

Christy Linsley
Children's Church Leader

Cassidy Sanchez
Patty Torres
Nursery Care

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



SUNDAYS:

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service—Communion Every Sunday
- 9:15am Cross Talk - Adult Sunday School
- 10:45am Traditional Worship Service - Communion Monthly on First Sundays
- 6:00pm Living Water Worship (Spanish)

- 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-Thu @ 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, 9:15am , Rec Rm

Mon: Disciple Class # 1, Facilitated by Stephanie Clark, 1pm, Rec Room

Wed: Women In the Word Bible Study: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm, with Donna Hyde (FH 2 & 3)

Thu: Disciple #3, Facilitated by Richard Hyde, 1pm, Banner Room

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

November 2022 Newsletter

WORSHIP SERVICES AT:

9:00am	Contemporary Worship Service
9:15am	Cross Talk - Adult Sunday School
10:45am	Worship (Communion every First Sunday)
6:00pm	Living Water Spanish Worship

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®