

SEPTEMBER 2023 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

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Wow! September is here!! I know I'm looking forward to cooler weather, football and all the amazing opportunities to learn, grow and get connected through the wonderful activities here at the FUMC. There is something going on almost every day of the week here at the church and around Rockport. I encourage you to subscribe to the Church's Emails, read the weekly Church Alive or Monthly Newsletter to stay connected with what is happening. Some of the things to look forward to this Fall would be the choir is back and preparing for our new worship schedule. If you have a love for God, singing and worship this is a great opportunity for you! If you do not know how to read music, just show up to rehearsal in the choir room on Wednesday evenings. Rehearsal begins at 6:30 PM for the Christmas Cantata and 7:00 PM for Choir.

If you are interested in a small group, there are many opportunities. To start off the week right, on Sunday mornings there are 2 adult small group classes, as well as Sunday School for children and youth from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM. Monday September 18th at 10:00AM there is a Disciple #1 class to attend and last September on Monday's at 1:00 PM Disciple #3 will begin. September 20th at 1:00 PM Women in the Word will resume with a study on "His Names" learning about God's character as revealed in His names. Starting Wednesday September 6th at 4:30 in the evening you can join the Lively Bible Study as they explore the reflection questions form the bulletin. If you are a male and would like to connect with other men within our church, please join The United Methodist Men meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 AM for coffee and fellowship. We also offer Seniorsize Exercise Classes on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 AM. I encourage you to find a small group to study or gather with. It's the best way to build lasting relationships and spiritual connections.

Don't forget that we will be bringing back our early worship service this month. The Sunday morning schedule is 8:00 AM is our more contemporary worship service with Communing served every Sunday, 9:15 AM our small group studies meet, 10:45 AM we will gather for our traditional worship service with Communion on the first Sunday of the month, 6:00 PM Living Water Spanish Worship is held in the sanctuary. We will come together on each 5th Sunday, that is the months that have five Sundays, with a special service. The first 5th Sunday will be on October 29th and the United Methodist Men will be hosting this worship service. Look for more information on these services as we get closer to October.

(Continued next page)

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First United Methodist Church of Rockport, TX

Rev.Melissa Lind, 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
Geralyn Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....x2578
Sarah Melton, Director of Children and Youth.....x2575

FUMC Rockport-September 2023

Pastor Mel - Continued

More amazing stuff to look forward to and put on your calendar are Emmaus men's walk in February and in October the Pumpkins are coming, and the patch will need some help. We will hold a blessing of the animals in the patch, as well as the First Learning Tree's annual Fall Festival. November the Thursday afternoon small group will resume at 1:00 PM and First United Methodist Church will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Services on November 19th at 6:00 PM!

Last but not least please join us on September 10th as we wrap up our Stewardship Campaign by consecrating your pledge cards and stepping into God's will as a community of faith trusting that God has paved our way for a bright future, remembering Proverbs 3:1-10. If you have not received your pledge card, please let us know and we will get one to you.

With Grace and Love,
Pastor Mel

From as long as I could remember, I knew I wanted to either work with Children, animals, or the elderly. Helping others and teaching about Jesus is what I want to spend the rest of my life doing. I want to reach younger groups in society and help them understand what it means to think for themselves and truly understand Jesus.



I have experienced more than most in my short 23 years on this beautiful planet. I was born in Texas but grew up in a conservative military family, so I got to travel and experience so much in my youth. I have gotten to live in Louisiana and Hawaii and go on ghost tours, run through pineapple fields, take hula classes, learn multiple languages, and travel to visit cousins all over America and in Italy. My experiences along with Family and faithful influences have given me the knowledge and opportunity to connect and learn from many different walks of life.



At the age of 14 years old, I was given a diagnosis of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome or EDS for short. I was told that I would never play my favorite sport, soccer again by four different doctors and that I would need to be in physical therapy for the rest of my life. Being a young person with multiple disabilities can be challenging, but I'm competitive. I use the experience I've been given to help those around me.

I have been employed in the United Methodist Church since February 2017, and being at church surrounded by loving people who truly care for you is one of the best therapies in itself. If I'm not at home reading, sewing, or out seeing a doctor, chances are I am with my church friends or volunteering.

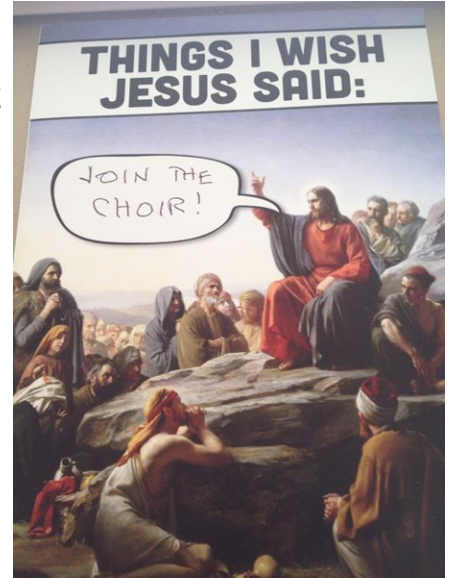
Sarah Melton
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Choir Needs Your Help!

The choir is back and holding regular rehearsals, but **we need your help**. For a variety of reasons, we are only getting from 4 to 6 choir members at each rehearsal. I'm positive it will get better in the next few weeks, but if we had more members, a small group might be 10-12. I'm sure a lot of you are saying, "I can't carry a tune in a bucket." First off, I don't believe you. More importantly, the more we have in the choir, the easier it is to sing.

You don't have to know how to read music. You don't have to have any musical training at all. It's only a little time each week, so come on and join us! Wednesdays at 6:30pm for Cantata Rehearsal and 7:00pm for Choir. We meet in the music room.



Paul



FALL SERIES

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Know God better through a study of His names. Join Women in the Word Bible study as we learn about God's character as revealed in His names; Elohim, Yahweh, El Shaddai and many more.

This six week study will meet on Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall #1 at 1:00 pm beginning Sept. 20. Debbie Chapman will be leading the study. The cost is \$20, which includes the student workbook. This Bible study is open to all women. For more information or to order your workbook:

Contact Debbie Chapman at dcchapman52@gmail.com.

1:00 to 3:00 pm
Fellowship Hall 2 & 3

FUMC Rockport-September 2023

Attendance in Worship Services

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Total</u>
9:00 am	97	107	108	98	89	n/a	n/a	n/a	499
10:45 am	490	443	346	364	274	385	505	383	2807
Online	128	107	104	178	81	83	188	88	1045
Ash Wed	n/a	57	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	57
Good Fri	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35
Total	715	714	558	675	444	468	693	471	4267

Easter Sunrise Service Attendance: 500 (estimate)



Subscribe to the Church's Emails



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

1. Log onto the church's website at www.fumcrokport.org
 2. Click on **Subscribe to our Newsletter**
 3. Complete the online form
- You may unsubscribe at any time.*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES—SEPTEMBER

Birthdays:

Sam Spears (2)
Valerie Smith (2)
Jeannie Coe (11)
David Murrah (13)
Rusty Day (15)
Tom Serota (19)
Karl Fisher (21)
John Gay (21)

Annette Hegen (23)
Bob Dunlap (25)
Ginger Gay (25)
Mary Ware (26)
August Smith (29)



Anniversaries:

David & Mary Rusk (1)
Danny & Susie Hale (5)
Mike & Julie McKain (10)
Tom & Donna Bennet (19)
Clayton & Susie Black (23)
Alan & Paul Barre (28)
Chris & Gail Baker (30)

Coastal Bend Emmaus



Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches

When I was a kid, my best friend was very involved in the Episcopal Church. So, like any good best friend, I went with him. In those days, the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio had very strong Youth programs. There was one that I really loved. The name of

the program was “Happening.” The program ran for 3 or 4 days at a camp in Central Ohio. I ended up going on my first weekend and was thrilled beyond belief what I got out of it. I was beginning to form a relationship with God. I ended up serving on 3 or 4 more weekends before I aged out. I can’t say enough about the program.

In 2013, I worked for FUMC Portland as the Director of Music Ministries for 5 years. Members of the congregation often came up to me to talk about “The Walk to Emmaus.” I always gave my standard response, “I did that sort of thing as a kid, I really don’t need to go.” That worked until finally, a member of the church backed me into a corner. He offered to pay my way, and even clear it with the church for me to miss the weekend. So, I relented. “Fine,” I said, “I’ll go on the walk.”

To be fair, I went with an open mind. When I got there, I hardly knew anyone at all, but that changed quickly. We left the gathering spot and sang songs, played games, and worshipped. The next day it was more of the same, but they included talks for us to listen to. It was a TON of fun. Oh, and the food was not only amazing, but abundant the entire weekend.

At the conclusion of the walk, they asked each of us what we got out of it. Even having been on similar weekends, even being active in my church all my life, even having a firm faith in God... I realized that I had only scratched the surface. The Walk to Emmaus built on everything I knew before and increased my faith more than I ever thought possible.

The Walk to Emmaus is not a Methodist thing, this is truly inter-denominational. There will be people from every walk of life. You will make some great friends on your walk. You will, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, strengthen your relationship with God. Now it’s my turn to back you into a corner. We have had time to build up our scholarship fund. Let me assure you, the cost will be taken care of. If you work a Monday through Friday job, you will only miss one day of work.

The next Men’s walk is scheduled for February 1st through 4th. That’s the weekend after Conference Playoffs and before the Super Bowl!

The Next Women’s Walk is scheduled for June 26th – 29th.

DON’T WAIT. Sign up today to go on the Walk to Emmaus. Please come see me for an application or more information.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



United Methodist Men

All Males that attend this church are automatically members of this group. ***This means you!*** Welcome.

The men's group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We enjoy sharing a light breakfast (unless someone contributes a hearty breakfast LOL). There are many roles that men play in the church. We want to increase our presence and ignite our fellowship within the church and the outside community. **We are Proud to be Methodists.** Let's be visible and active.

See you on Tuesday at 7:30am September 5th. Ed Hegen at 361-813-9298



Wednesday Rehearsals

Praise Band 5:30pm

Choir 6:30pm

Be part of the ExErCiZe craze!

Seniorcize Exercise Class

Mondays - 10:00 am

Tuesdays - 10:00 am

Thursdays - 10:00 am

Educational Wing Rm #13 & #14

Bring small hand weights

Small Group Study Opportunities

In person:

Sunday

Cross Talk

Truth Seekers

Children & Youth

Monday

Disciple 1

Disciple 3

Wednesday

Lively Bible Study

Women in the Word

Thursday

The Thursday Disciple Group

Online:

Bible in One Year

App by Nicky Gumbel

FUMC Rockport-September 2023

Giving for His Glory

JULY 2023 FINANCE

Church

*Giving:	\$ 23,416.66
Castaway's:	\$ 10,000.00
Total Income:	\$ 33,416.66
Total Expenses	\$ 33,515.61

APR Net Income(Loss) -\$ 98.98

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

First Learning Tree

Income/Tuition	\$89,047.35
Regular Expenses	\$91,491.61

Grant Applied
Apr Net Income(Loss) -\$2,444.26

Church & FLT Combined through April
Year-to-date Net Income(Loss) -\$63,120.70

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

July 2023

Sales Total	\$ 16,870.20
Admin Fee to Castaways	<u>-\$ 2,259.30</u>
Total deposit to FUMC	<u>\$ 14,610.90</u>

These funds were distributed as follows:

\$10,000.00 to the FUMC General Fund
\$2,922.18 to the Castaways Volunteers Mission Fund
\$1,688.72 to the FUMC Capital Reserve Fund

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CASTAWAYS VOLUNTEERS!!

2023 BENEVOLENT BUCKET OFFERINGS

January	Wesley Health Nurse	120.00
February	Community Table	100.00
March	UMCOR Relief Fund	824.00
April	FUMC Rockport Emergency Assistance Fund	1,100.00
May	Native American Ministries Month	140.00
June	Peace with Justice Sunday	140.00
July	Undie Sunday	3,175.05
August	Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans	210.00
September	UM Student Day	0.00
October	World Communion	0.00
November	Harvest Sunday (Hunger)	0.00
December	UM Children's Home	0.00

BENEVOLENT BUCKET—SEPTEMBER 2023

Benevolent Bucket is a special offering taken each month. The Benevolent Bucket this month is designated for the **United Methodist Student Day**. Thank you for blessing others!





First Learning Tree

First Learning Tree Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival

As FUMC Rockport begins its Stewardship Program to financially support our church, FLT is also beginning to work on our own fundraiser of the year, the Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival. I too am asking for your support, not financially....all I want is YOUR TIME! What does this mean? You have many choices!

- Your time to unload pumpkins (Oct. 6 tentatively)
- Your time to help organize the Pumpkin Patch (Oct 6-12)
- Your time to decorate the float for the Sea Fair Parade (Oct 7)
- Your time to work a 2 hour shift in the Pumpkin Patch (Oct 8-31)
- Your time to make strings of beads for the children to throw at the parade.(Sept)
- Your time to bake a cake for the Fall Festival Cake Walk or goodies for the Bake Sale.(Oct. 21)
- Your time to help with the Fall Festival (Oct.21)

We all have "Spare Change" to share so why not share your "Spare Time" with First Learning Tree? Last year FLT cleared less than a \$1000.00 from the Pumpkin Patch. This is thousands less than previous years. Why?? Because they had to pay staff to work in the Patch. This is a volunteer job that needs to be managed by both FUMC Members and FLT Parents. So PLEASE, do you have Spare Time to Share?

Please call or email me or sign up for the event of your choice at the front desk.

Kathy Daniels
FLT Liaison
361-463-1217
kdaniels211@aol.com



FUMC Rockport-September 2023

Small Group Study Opportunities

Sunday 9:15

Rec Room

Cross Talk – Beginning September 10th, 6-week study by Kathie Lee Gifford called the Rock, The Road and the Rabbi.

Fellowship Hall

Truth Seekers – Each week, this group discusses the Reflection Questions from the previous week's bulletin.

Classroom next to Nursery

Children's and Youth Sunday School

Monday 10:00am - Banner Room

Disciple 1 – Beginning September 18th. This study will take you through the bible from Genesis to Revelations in under a year.

Monday 1:00pm - Rec Rm

Disciple 3 – Beginning end of September. This study is titled "Remembering who you are". The driving idea in the study is the connection and memory and identity of the people of God.

Wednesday 1:00pm - Fellowship Hall

Women in the Word – Beginning September 20th. This study you will learn about God's character as revealed in his names.

Wednesday 4:30 - Fellowship Hall

The Lively Bible Study – Beginning September 6th. this group discusses the Reflection Questions from the previous week's bulletin.

Thursday 1:00pm - Banner Rm

The Thursday Disciple Group – Beginning November. This group will start with an Advent Study and in 2024 begin a long study possibly on Christian Believers.



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, SEPT 18, 2023

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@fumcrockport.org



**Join us this
Fall as we
study about
God and
worship Him
in spirit and
truth!**

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS:

- 8:00am Contemporary Worship Service—Communion Every Sunday
- 9:15am Small Group Studies
- 10:45am Traditional Worship Service - Communion Monthly on First Sundays



Serving the Rockport Community since 1870

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

PRAYER:

- PRAYER REQUESTS can be sent to www.fumcrookport.org/prayer

SMALL GROUP AND BIBLE STUDIES:

Sun: Cross Talk, 9:15am, Rec Room

Truth Seekers 9:15am, Fellowship Hall

Children & Youth 9:15, Classroom next to Nursery

Mon: Disciple #1 with Maggie Allen, 10:00am starting September 18th

Disciple #2 with Stephanie Clark, 1:00-3:00pm, Rec Room Starting end of September

Wed: Women In the Word Bible Study Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm, FH 2 & 3 Starting September 20th

Lively Bible Study , 4:30 pm, Starts September 6th

Thu: The Thursday Disciple Group 1:00 pm, Banner Room Starts in November

Sign up for Small Group Bible Studies @

www.fumcrookport.org/bible-study



GIVING:

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