

# November 2023 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
*of Rockport*

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[www.facebook.com/fumcrockport](https://www.facebook.com/fumcrockport)

November is here and there is so much to be grateful for! First and foremost, we made it through October which was a very busy month with something going on every weekend.

I was blessed to start off my October with a wonderful trip to San Antonio for GERALYN's Commissioning ceremony. It was a beautiful service held at Alamo Heights UMC. I was honored to be able to lay hands on her as she was being commissioned. Then GERALYN, some of her colleagues and I had a wonderful evening out. I am so proud of GERALYN and the work she does in our community. We are truly blessed to have her as part of our team with her huge heart for serving others and passion for her ministry.

First Learning Tree received their pumpkins the morning of October 6<sup>th</sup> and the Pumpkin Patch was open for business!! They did a wonderful job with the patch this year with events held in or around the patch every weekend in October. October 14<sup>th</sup>, I had a chance to bless God's furry and feathered creatures at the Blessing of the Animals. It was my first-time blessing horses and a parrot. The school's Fall Festival was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> and our patch was one of the stops for Halloween in the District. FLT also had a float in the parade. It was easy to see the impact First Learning Tree has on the community of Rockport and what an important ministry it is in our community!

Our annual Church Charge Conference took place on October 22nd, and I'm pleased to say it went very well. I would like to thank our District Superintendent Rev. Laura Brewster and everyone that helped with the presentation for the meeting, those that helped in the budget process, all the leaders that have stepped up to serve in 2024 as well as those serving now. We have a vibrant and active congregation, and I am so proud to be your pastor.

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

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**First United Methodist Church of Rockport**  
**FUMC Phone No. 361.729.1659**

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Paul Klemm, Director of Music Ministry.....x2577  
Kathy Norland, Administrative Assistant.....x2575  
Alfredo Gonzales, Custodian.....x2501  
Madaline Brown, First Learning Tree Director.....x2584  
Geraldine Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....x2578  
Sarah Melton, Director of Children and Youth.....x2575

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## FUMC Rockport-November

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did want to give you an update on our Stewardship Campaign and thank you for your participation in this campaign, it was so helpful with the budgeting process! We had 41 families pledge this year with combined pledges making up \$230,000 of our budget for 2024. This is truly a blessing!

I am so grateful for a day of personal worship on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in October! It was awesome to have the United Methodist Men lead worship on the 29<sup>th</sup> giving me a little break! Thank you all so much for the wonderful worship and yummy food!! We are so blessed to have such amazing and active men's group in our church.

November is another busy month, and I am excited to announce that First United Methodist Church of Rockport will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving worship services on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. This is an ecumenical service lead by local pastors. Please come out to help with the service or just come and enjoy this wonderful worship service. We will also have a display for Christmas on the Beach and will need helpers to decorate and set up our Christmas display on November 29<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined.

We have so much to be thankful for and I am reminded of the words from 1 Timothy 4:4-5 "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." My prayer for you this month is that you can truly see all the blessings in your life, name them, and acknowledge who you received them from, giving God all the glory!

Praise be to our Lord and Saviour,

Pastor Melissa Lind



**Mark the dates!!**

Vacation Bible School is:

December 2nd  
December 9th  
December 16th  
December 23rd

Come learn the story of Advent!

**Volunteers Needed!!**



## FUMC Rockport-November 2023



Our Nursery is looking to hire a teacher to begin expanding our program. This individual will be teaching Sunday School lessons to our 3 months through preschool age group both at 9:15am class and 10:45am

Sunday Service. If you're interested or know someone who may be interested please reach out to me! I will also be asking for a lot of help towards the end of November with our Advent Vacation Bible School coming up right around the corner!

Activity: Thankful Tree

What You Need: Construction paper, scissors, wall tape, crayons or markers

What You Do: Decide which wall in your home you are going to put your Thankful Tree on. Remember—it will be up all month long. Create a simple trunk and branches out of brown construction paper and tape it to the wall. Then, cut out or tear leaves from green, yellow, orange, and red construction paper. Write or draw good things God made and tape the leaves to the tree. You can add to your tree throughout November! At the end of the month, block out some special time to go through the whole tree and remember all that you were thankful for. You can even save your leaves as a memory.

(Note: If you do not have construction paper, white paper will do as well. You can color or decorate the white paper as time allows.)

Say, "Our Bible story was about how God made a really big world with lots and LOTS of good things in it. We can draw pictures of the good things God made on our leaves! When you put your leaf on the tree, I want you to say, 'Thank you for [thing's name], God. You are so good.' God gave us all of these good things, because God is good. Who is good? God is good."



Prayer "Dear God, You are so good! You made a wonderful world for us to live in and filled it with so many good gifts for us to enjoy. We want to thank You for some of those good things. I pray we will thank You for Your goodness every day. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

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## FUMC Rockport-November

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Hi Church Family,

Can you believe it is November? Where has 2023 gone! I can't believe the holidays are right around the corner. They are such a fun and busy time of year and best of all, we get to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The Diabetic Education and Support Group continues to grow, and we meet at 12:00 noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Recreation Room. This month we will meet on **November 14th**. Will, the HEB pharmacist, will bring our education program this month to discuss the new diabetic medications.

The Seniorcise chair exercise class meets on **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday** at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall 1. This is a DVD led chair class that offers modifications for everyone. After the exercise portion of class, we are watching short educational videos related to stroke, high blood pressure, etc. that have been well received. We have been having a great turn out and are having a lot of fun. I hope you can join us soon!

My practice continues to grow! This ministry that God has placed me in brings the greatest joy to my life. This truly is the best occupation I ever could have dreamed of! I had a total of 92 patient encounters for August, 82 encounters for September, and 75 encounters month to date for October. The greatest need I have seen over the last couple of months is gas cards, rent, and utility assistance. The population of unsheltered individuals continues to grow. There are several families including single parents that need furnishings for their apartments. If you would like to assist with that or have items to donate, please let me know. I spend a great deal of time assisting clients with navigating the system to find free or affordable providers along with other agencies to assist them with shelter, food, employment, and clothing. The emergency pantry and closet continues to serve its purpose of helping individuals when Good Samaritans and other community entities are closed. Thank you to everyone who has donated food, hygiene items, adult diapers, mosquito spray, and sunscreen. Those are always greatly appreciated.

### Coming soon:

Blood Drive

Friends & Family CPR

Food Handler's Certification class

Wesley Nurse Families Christmas Blessing/Party

As always, I am open for your input and ideas that will better help me serve the community and congregation. Thank you all so much for your continued support and prayers. They are appreciated more than you know.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

Under His Wings,  
Geraldyn Matejcek, BSN, RN  
Wesley Nurse





## MUSIC NEWS



The choir is continuing to work on our Christmas Cantata, "Joy" by Joel Raney. We will present it to the church during the 10:45 Worship Service on December 17<sup>th</sup>. It's going to be really good, so mark your calendars!

The church is participating in Christmas on the Beach this year. As part of that, the Choir will be at the entrance of the

Beach singing Christmas Carols on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>. As we get a little closer, we'll have the exact times. If you would like to sing Christmas Carols with us, everyone is welcome to join us!

The Band is also going to participate in Christmas on the Beach. The band will play Christmas Music at the Beach Entrance on Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>. Once again, everyone is welcome to join us!

Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, we are going to start a Youth Choir. The music will be a little easier than the music that the Chancel Choir sings. Although, occasionally, the Youth Choir will join the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals will be from Noon to 1:00 on Sunday afternoons and we will provide lunch. We are looking for Youth from ages 8 years to 14. Please let your children, grandchildren, neighbor kids, and anyone else you might come across know. If you're interested in getting involved, we will ALWAYS take volunteers to make lunch for the kids!

Ever wonder if you could make more of a positive difference in our Rockport community? The answer is a resounding "yes." Simply volunteer to help out with Community Table. All it takes is a food handler's license. Joyce Palmer (512.716.9973) and Chris Stumpf (210.268.6855 ) can answer all of your questions and even share a web sight where you can take the test on line. Passing is guaranteed!

### **Christmas in October... and November?**

Yes! You can never get too much of the story of birth of the Christ Child! The Cross Talk Class will discuss the Advent beginning October 22<sup>nd</sup>, extending into November and December. The Group will have two separate Advent series, led by various members using study guides and DVDs. The Group Meets in the Rec Room at 9:15am on Sunday Mornings.  
Come join the fun!

Christ-Centered  
CHRISTMAS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES—



BIRTHDAYS

- Ava Brandon (1)
- Bob D'Amico (4)
- Carol Pifer (4)
- Kathy Daniels (5)
- Max Kluge, Jr (6)
- Dustin Barre (7)
- Alice Porter (7)

- Malik Cashaw (10)
- Lynne Ruf (16)
- Richard Pifer (17)
- Beverly Johnson (18)
- Susie Hale (22)
- Jim Fowler (26)
- Calvin Standefer (26)
- Doris Owens (28)

ANNIVERSARIES

- Carl and Jane Lechlitner (6)
- Dr. John and Ginger Gay (12)
- Craig and Ramona Day (30)



Coastal Bend Emmaus



Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches

COASTAL BEND EMMAUS NEEDS YOU!

If you have been on a walk to Emmaus, but haven't been

involved, now is the time. We are always looking for team members for Walks. In 2024 we have two Men's Walks and a Woman's Walk Scheduled. The Team for the Men's walk in August has not yet been selected. If you're interested in serving, please let me know.

Not ready to serve on a team? There are other ways you can get involved with the community. Every month we have a Gathering. They start at 6:00 with a Potluck Meal. Following the meal, we have a short worship service with communion. This is a great opportunity to see old friends, and maybe make some new ones.

Gatherings will be:

November: First United Methodist Church, Sinton'

December: Island in the Son United Methodist Church

January: Asbury Methodist Church

The "Walk to Emmaus" refers to the Bible Gospel of Luke 24:13-35, when Jesus walks alongside two disciples following his resurrection. If you have never been on a walk, I cannot stress enough how wonderful the experience is. I'm not going to tell you that everyone gets the same thing from going on a Walk to Emmaus. I will tell you that when you leave, your faith will be strengthened, and you'll want more,

# 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! Ed Hegen at 361-813-9298



### Wednesday Rehearsals

Praise Band 5:30pm

Choir 6:30pm

## Seniorcize Exercise Class

Mondays - 10:00 am

Tuesdays - 10:00 am

Thursdays - 10:00 am

Fellowship Hall 1

Bring small hand weights

Water and a Friend

## 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-Novmeber

## October was a busy month for First Learning Tree





# First Learning Tree Fall Festival



# FUMC Rockport-November 2023

## Giving for His Glory

### SEPTEMBER 2023 FINANCE

#### Church

*Giving:	\$ 28,123.22
Castaway's:	\$ 9,079.13
Total Income:	\$ 37,203.13
Total Expenses	<u>-\$ 50,053.27</u>

**AUG Net Income(Loss) -\$ 12,850.14**

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

#### First Learning Tree

Income/Tuition	\$79,915.53
Regular Expenses	<u>-\$91,726.54</u>
Grant Applied	

**AUG Net Income(Loss) -\$11,811.01**

**Church & FLT Combined through August**  
**Year-to-date Net Income(Loss) -\$88,990.68**

If you are traveling please consider going to our church website to give online at [www.fumcrokport.org](http://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!

#### September 2023

Sales Total	\$ 14,139.32
Admin Fee to Castaways	<u>-\$ 2,789.43</u>
<b>Total deposit to FUMC</b>	<b><u>\$ 11,349.89</u></b>

These funds were distributed as follows:

**\$9,079.97 to the FUMC General Fund**  
**\$2,269.98 to the Castaways Volunteers Mission Fund**  
**\$ 0 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	140.00
October	World Communion	20.00
November	Harvest Sunday (Hunger)	0.00
December	UM Children's Home	0.00





# FUMC Rockport-Novmeber 2023

## Small Group Study Opportunities

Sunday 9:15

### **Rec Room**

**Cross Talk** – Beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 9:15am**

Monday 10:00am - Banner Room

**Disciple 1** – 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

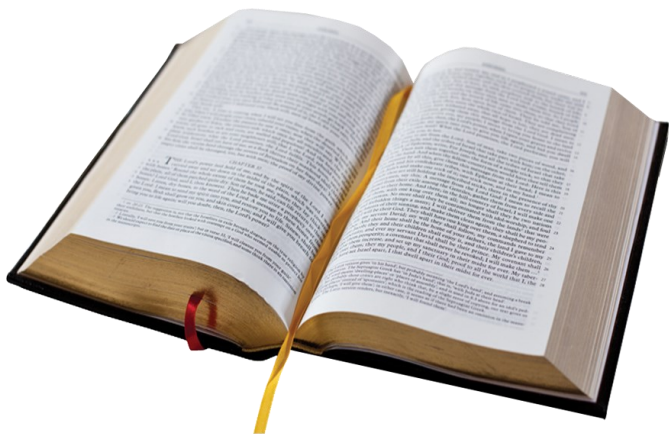
**Women in the Word** – This study you will learn about God's character as revealed in his names.

Wednesday 4:30 - Fellowship Hall

**The Lively Bible Study** – 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.







## 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.fumcrokport.org/worship](http://www.fumcrokport.org/worship)
- Facebook: First United Methodist Church Rockport Tx
- Instagram: FUMCrockport

### PRAYER:

- PRAYER REQUESTS can be sent to [www.fumcrokport.org/prayer](http://www.fumcrokport.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.fumcrokport.org/bible-study](http://www.fumcrokport.org/bible-study)*



### GIVING:

- Give online at [fumcrokport.org/give](http://fumcrokport.org/give)
- Mail to PO Box 1045, Rockport TX 78381

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15TH**

**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](mailto:admin@fumcrockport.org)

**HIRING**

*Someone who...*

- LOVES JESUS
- LOVES CHILDREN
- MOTIVATED
- 18+ YEARS OLD

EMAIL  
CHILDRENANDYOUTH  
@FUMCROCKPORT.ORG  
FOR MORE INFORMATION



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