

December 2023 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

VISIT US ONLINE fumcrockport.org

www.facebook.com/fumcrockport

I would like to start out by saying thank you for the wonderful Pastors appreciation held on October 29th! The cards and gifts made me feel so special and loved! You all are an amazing congregation, and I am so blessed to be your pastor!!

Nine months ago, I was appointed to FUMC of Rockport, and I am reminded of that very first meeting we had on March 12th. I was so nervous and excited upon walking into the rec room that evening, not knowing any one and being put on the spot. You all had so many questions, hopes and dreams for the church that you shared with me that evening. As I took in the conversation there were a few big takeaways that stood out to me, one being that you all would really like to see more children at the church, that you have missed the presence of kids and youth within the congregation. This is something I felt confident that God would help us to build together and that night I began to pray for the children to come. Upon my arrival in July, I could see that we already had a nice little group of young people affiliated with the church and began to look at ways to better serve and minister to them. With the hiring of Sarah Melton as our new children and youth minister, children's Sunday school classes being offered, the new children choir, reestablishing acolytes and VBS for Advent I believe we are building a great foundation in ministering to the children of Rockport. But I am reminded that as the children come, we will need all of you to help with this ministry, because Sarah, Paul, and I can do only so much without your help. As you are very much aware, children are a huge responsibility and that if you really want children to be a part of this congregation, we need you to actively participate in this ministry for it to work well. Mark 10:13-16 says, "People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." From this scripture you can see how important children are to the kingdom of God and that it is our responsibility to foster a loving, warm, and welcoming environment to all the children we serve. I believe the gifts and strengths our congregation has are those of real and valuable personal connections. You are the ones that will make a significant difference to the children that come to our church, you are the ones that these children will look up to as examples of how to live a positive Christian life.

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
FUMC Phone No. 361.729.1659

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
Geraldyn Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....x2578
Sarah Melton, Director of Children and Youth.....x2575

FUMC Rockport-December

How can you help with the children's ministry of FUMC? We need volunteers!! You can help with our Vacation Bible School that is being held 4 Saturdays of December, the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM. There are many ways to help with VBS, from preparing food, doing crafts and activities with the kids or just helping with wrangling the kids in. We also need volunteers to help with children's and nursery Sunday school classes, as well as food prepared for the lunches we serve the kids Sunday after their choir practice, around 12:30 PM every Sunday. As the program grows, we will need more volunteers and I hope you will consider being an active volunteer with our children and youth ministry.

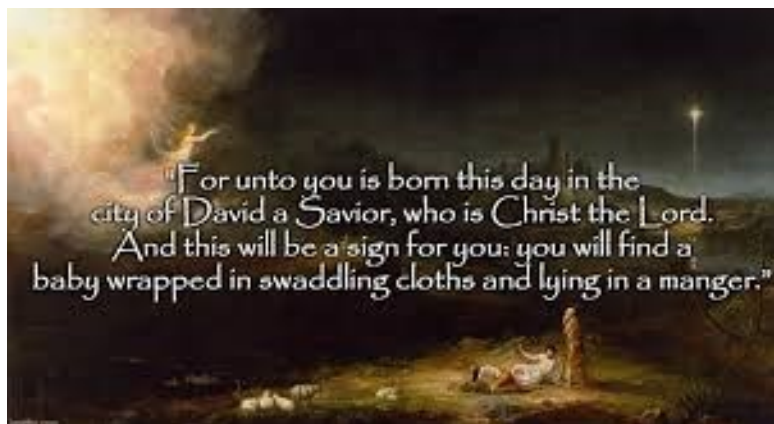
December is a very busy month with so much going on here at the church and around Rockport. We will be one of the nonprofits hosting a display for "Christmas on the Beach!" As a nonprofit host we need to man the gate two times. Our dates to man the gate will be December 8th from 6:00- 10:00 PM and December 12th from 6:00-9:00 PM. We will need volunteers to help these evenings to welcome visitors and pass out flyers. December 12th is also the Christmas Community Table, and they will need help serving our community friends dinner that evening.

As we look to our Christmas worship services, we have several opportunities. I am so looking forward to our Christmas Cantata on December 17th at 10:45 AM, there will not be an 8:00 AM service that day, come and celebrate this year's cantata "Joy!" Christmas can be a difficult time of year for some of us due to a loss or past experiences. We would like to invite those who may have challenges throughout the Christmas season to join us for a special worship service called A Blue Christmas on Wednesday December 20th at 5:00 PM. This will be a time to find hope in our time of grief.

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday! We will hold a 10:45 Sunday service and will hold two Christmas Eve services at 5:00 and 7:00 PM. Come as we celebrate together the birth of our Savior and King!

Finally, December has a 5th Sunday, which means we will have a special 5th Sunday service! We will only hold our 10:45 AM service, no 8:00 AM service, this day, then you are invited to the join me at the parsonage for an open house from 2:00 PM to 5:00PM. This will be a great opportunity for fabulous fun, food, friends, and fellowship. I look forward to our time together!!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Melissa Lind



FUMC Rockport-December 2023



It's so easy to get distracted amid the chaos of the holiday season. Losing focus on the real meaning of the season is a struggle in a world in which so much attention is paid to materialism, gifts and secular celebrations. With our Vacation Bible School kicking off and our church members not only putting in so much work for our kiddos, but are doing so much in our community and i'm so proud to be part of it. The following Christmas prayers for family encourage people to focus, instead, on Jesus this holiday season:

"Dear Lord, please help my family and I to remember the true meaning of Christmas — the celebration of Your Son's birth. It was an event that transformed the world, and I ask that You help us remember what Jesus' birth and life truly mean this holiday season. Thank you, Lord, for Your faithfulness and love. In the name of Jesus, I pray, amen."

"God, as we inch toward Christmas, please continuously renew my mind, and help me and my family to remember that the real meaning of the season is Christ Jesus. Thank You for sending Jesus into the world to save me from my sins. Please don't let me get distracted by gift-giving, cooking, and other traditions. Instead, help me to keep my focus on Jesus. In Christ's name, I pray, amen."



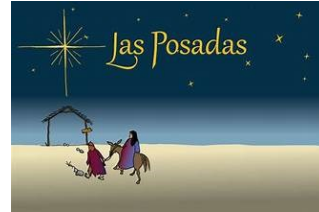
FUMC Rockport-December

Upcoming Events

Dec 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd VBS



Dec 7th FLT Las Posadas—6:00 pm



Dec 8th Christmas on the Beach
Dec 12th Christmas on the Beach



Dec 17th Christmas Cantata — 10:45 am



Dec 20th Blue Christmas—5:00 pm



Dec 24th Christmas Eve Services 10:45 am, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm



Dec 31st New Year's Eve Service—10:45 am
Open House at Parsonage—2:00 to 5:00pm



MUSIC NEWS



December is finally here! This month the Chancel Choir will present the Christmas Cantata, "Joy!," on December 17th at the 10:45 Worship Service. I can honestly say that this cantata has been one of the most fun to put together. In the Words of Joel Raney, the composer of "Joy!": "There are many definitions of the word "gospel," but two

favorites are: (1) the story of Christ's life and teachings as narrated in the New Testament, and (2) impassioned, rhythmic, and spiritual music rooted in African-American churches of the American South. I've wanted to bring these two definitions together in a musical work for a long time, because what's more joyful that the good news of Christ's birth and what sounds more joyful that gospel music?"

Joy! Tells the story of Christ's birth through six choral anthems in a variety of styles based on familiar Christmas carols and original material. There are upbeat blues-gospel numbers as well as slower ballads in a gospel groove, plus one calypso tune.

Mark your calendar for this one. There will only be one worship service for this one; December 17th at 10:45. You'll be glad you came!



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 Time Is Here!

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 22nd, 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!



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES—



Kay Stone (13)
Grant Brou (16)
Arley Chapman (16)
Tim Chapman (24)
Kaitlyn Jamison (29)



BIRTHDAYS

Clayton Black (2)
Trey Rider (2)
Christine Freund (3)
Noble Chapman (7)
Ruth Crough (12)
Madelyn Jamison (12)
Ann Schick (13)

ANNIVERSARIES

Bronson and Linda Hamilton
(17)
Rob and Jeannie Coe (28)

Coastal Bend Emmaus



Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches

COASTAL BEND EMMAUS NEEDS YOU!

The Coastal Bend Emmaus Community will not have a monthly Gathering in December. We have decided that December is already busy

enough for everyone, let's not try to add one more thing to the month. We will resume our monthly gatherings again in January.

As we look forward to 2024, it's going to be a big year! Beginning in January we will welcome a few new members to the Board of Directors, including our own Pastor Mel who is going to serve as Assistant Spiritual Director. I will (Paul Klemm) continue as the Community Music Director.

We are holding three Walks to Emmaus this year. The first, a Men's Walk, is on February 1st – 4th. As of this moment, we already have quite a few pilgrims for this walk. There are still some spots open, but don't wait! If you're interested, or know someone that might be, let Pastor Mel or I know as soon as possible.

In June we will hold a Women's Walk. We already have a few pilgrims for this walk and are expecting to fill all the pilgrim slots we have. Again, let us know if you, or someone you know might be interested.

The final Walk to Emmaus this year will be in August. This is also a Men's Walk. The Team Selection Committee will begin putting a team together for this one soon. If you've already been on a walk, but have never served on a team, let me assure you that in many ways, you'll get as much from serving on the team as you did from your original walk! If you are interested in serving, let us know so that we can get your name to the committee.

Gatherings will begin again in January with the first being at Asbury Methodist Church on January 13th at 6:00. Gatherings are a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones as well. Each gathering begins with a Pot-Luck meal and finishes with a short Worship Service. These gatherings are open to the public, regardless of if you've been on a walk or not. In fact, we encourage anyone that is "just thinking about" going on a walk to attend. You'll learn a little more about the community and the weekend. De Colores, Paul



BROTHERS
IN CHRIST

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.



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-December

Come join us for some Christmas Festivities! We will be Christmas caroling at Gulf Pointe Village on December 5th at 6p.m.. Also, you are invited to our "Las Posadas" on December 7th at 6p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Our FLT students will be searching for a place for Jesus to be born, and sing Christmas songs. It is going to be so much fun. We hope to see you there.



Baptism of Zaylie and Athena





YAY!! The 11th, in Recent Years, Rarely Annual, Chili Cook Off is Coming Back! Mark your calendars now for Sunday, February 26th!! More information to follow!

“Help, I’ve Fallen and I Can’t Get Up. No, Wait... I CAN Get Up!!”

Noon, Wednesday, 13 December

Jeannie Coe is presenting this fun, interactive presentation as a Lunch and Learn event. She has done his presentation previously; some participants have reported they have been able to use what they learned to get up off the floor. We’re all at risk for falling, so we hope you will take time for yourself in the hustle and bustle of the Holidays. We hope you will plan to join us. Bring your own lunch, coffee, tea and dessert will be provided.

Christmas Photo Opportunity!



Are you the photographer in your family... and then you are never in the pictures?

Let’s Solve that and get you in the Picture!!

The Altar Guild will have our beautiful church Christmas Poinsettia Tree set up in the Live Oak St. church entrance on Sunday, 17 December for the Choir’s Music Cantata. Dress up, and bring you, your family and your cell phone(s). We will have someone to take your picture with the Poinsettia Tree after the Cantata. This will also give us a start of updating our Church Directory. And it will give you a great picture to share in Christmas letters/cards, Facebook, etc. Who knows? Santa and Mrs. Claus might even show up for the photo op!! There might even be cookies!

Giving for His Glory

OCTOBER 2023 FINANCE

Church

*Giving:	\$ 27,011.41
Castaway's:	\$ 9606.62
Total Income:	\$ 36,618.03
Total Expenses	<u>-\$ 45,051.22</u>
OCT Net Income(Loss)	<u>-\$ 8,433.19</u>

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

First Learning Tree

Income/Tuition	\$96,535.22
Regular Expenses	<u>-\$120,304.76</u>
Grant Applied	
OCT Net Income(Loss)	<u>-\$23,769.54</u>

Church & FLT Combined through October

Year-to-date Net Income(Loss) -\$119,920.38

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!

October 2023

Sales Total	\$ 14,908.43
Admin Fee to Castaways	<u>-\$ 2,900.15</u>
Total deposit to FUMC	<u>\$12,008.28</u>

These funds were distributed as follows:

\$9,606.62 to the FUMC General Fund
\$2,401.66 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





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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS FRIDAY DECEMBER 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

HIRING

Someone who...

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

EMAIL
CHILDRENANDYOUTH
@FUMCROCKPORT.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION



First United Methodist—Rockport Church Staff

Reverend Melissa Lind
Pastor
pastor@fumcrockport.org

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

Sarah Melton
Director of Children and Youth
Ministries
Childrenandyouth@fumcrockport.org

Paul Villarreal
Accompanist

Patty Impens
Business Manager
fumc@fumcrockport.org



Paul Klemm
Director of Music & Facilities
music@fumcrockport.org

Kathy Norland
Administrative Assistant
admin@fumcrockport.org

Alfredo Gonzales
Custodian
Maintenance@fumcrockport.org

Cassidy Sanchez
Nursery Care

Geralyn Matejcek
Wesley Health Nurse
gmatejcek@mhm.org