

April 2024 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

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www.facebook.com/fumcrockport

We made it through another Lenten season and what a wonderful time for us to assess ourselves and make adjustments. I pray that you had a chance to “Let Go” of whatever might be holding you back from a closer relationship with Christ as you took the time to repent and reflect remembering that “God did not send his Son to condemn the world but to save the world through him” (John 3:17). As we move forward into April, I want to continue to live in the hope of Easter with a 3-week sermon series called “Love reigns!”

There’s never been a greater love story than the story of God sending His only Son to die for sinners and rise to life again! It was Jesus’ love for us that held him on the cross and his love reigns in our lives when we put our faith, hope, and trust in him. So, the next 3-weeks we will explore the hope that is found as we encounter a love that reigns over our past, present and future. I hope you can join us as we encounter Christ through his great love with “Love Reigns.”

Every Sunday I share what is happening around the church with our “Church Alive” and the church schedule for the coming week. One of the events on this weekly schedule is Jiu-Jitsu which is offered in our fellowship hall Monday through Thursday. Many of you do not know much about this amazing ministry and I wanted to share it with you.

Jiu-Jitsu is a Japanese martial arts discipline and system of close combat that can be used in a defensive or offensive manner. It is a wonderful way to improve physical fitness, improve mental clarity and focus, strengthen self-discipline and determination and a wonderful way to make new friends.

Michael Barlow is the lead instructor for Team OMA submission fighting which is the Jiu-Jitsu club we open our fellowship hall to. Michael brings so much to our community through this organization with his low to no cost opportunity to learn Jiu-Jitsu, which is allowing some of our lower income families to enjoy this amazing experience. Michael is a devout Christian and teaches his students to stay focused on and trust God in all areas of their lives through prayer and scripture.



This monthly newsletter is published by
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Madaline Brown, First Learning Tree Director.....x2584
Geraldyn Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....x2578
Sarah Melton, Director of Children and Youth.....x2575

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Thursday March 21st Team OMA had an awards ceremony and promotion with a visit from their professor Mack Oliver. I was so blessed to be invited to this ceremony and wanted to share with you some pictures! Also to let you know that this is a ministry you can be a part of whether it be taking a class or just stopping by to encourage the students and teachers.

I just love that our doors are open to the community for ministries, studies and worship opportunities. FUMC Rockport is truly a beacon of light in our little part of heaven!!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mel



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"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." -Genesis 1:28

God speaks to me through the clouds -- always has. Perhaps for you, you feel closest to God at the beach or the lake. For me, and perhaps for you, nature is the most real sign of God's presence. Our spiritual journey is still more of a mystery than understanding. But day by day, one step at a time, with God's help, the understanding grows, if we will take the time to listen for his guidance and read his holy word. Caring for and loving the environment is to love God. With our spiritual eyes opened, we can see that a single dandelion is more valuable than the gold crowns of kings.

God of life,
We praise you for the beauty of creation, its richness and variety;
yet, through greed and ignorance, we scar your world with plastic waste
and throw so much away. Make us more like Jesus,
treading gently on our common home, and breathe your Spirit on us,
that we may care more deeply for your Earth. We ask this through Jesus
Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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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 Kris 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!

MUSIC NEWS

You may have noticed that the choir is a little larger than usual. That's especially true of our back row. We have been blessed this year with quite a few members of our Winter Family. Unfortunately, they are going to begin heading home soon. More than ever we really need help in the choir.

I know I've said this before, but if you've ever thought about singing in the choir, now would be a great time! You don't have to have an amazing voice. All we're looking for is a



willingness to join us.

The choir is a bunch of friends that get together for an hour or so on Wednesday Evenings to sing to the Lord! What could be better than that?

If you've thought about joining the choir in the past, but there was reluctance for one reason or another, come talk to me. We can probably work it out.

Paul



Choir News

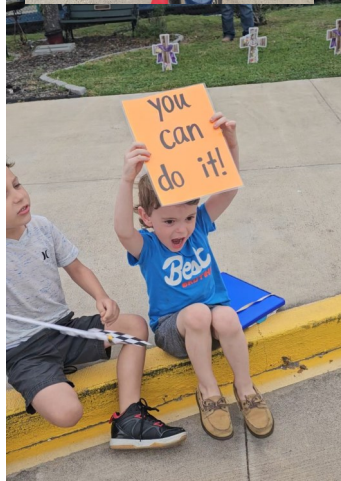
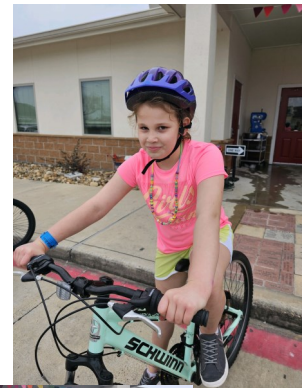
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FIRST LEARNING TREE

St. Jude Trike-a-Thon

This year, we hosted our 6th annual “St. Jude Trike-a-Thon”, and it did not disappoint. Every year our students raise money to support St. Jude Children’s Hospital, and ride laps on their bikes/trikes at First Learning Tree during Spring Break.

Our goal was to raise \$1,200, but we raised \$1,525. Thank you to everyone who participated and celebrated our students.



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FIRST LEARNING TREE

APRIL EVENTS

1st—April Fools Day



8th—12th Week of the Young Child—"Every Child is an Artist"!



22nd—Earth Day - Class Recycling Contest!



26th—ASK is Here!



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES—



BIRTHDAYS

Bob Meador (1)
Paul Bearden (5)
Pat Speck (5)
William Spears (12)
Carl Lechlitner (14)
Nick Jamison (18)
Tiffany Parr (18)
Cole Armstrong (20)

Kevin Jamison (20)
Dale Motsinger (22)
Myrtle Lee (23)
Edwina Garrison (25)
Michael Greenway (26)
Angela Freund (28)
Maya Day (30)
Mike McLaughlin (30)

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Annette Fowler (1)
Bob & Adeline Dunlap (11)
Mark & Wendy Bryan (17)
Ray & Ellie Saenz (19)



Coastal Bend Emmaus



Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches



The next Walk to Emmaus is a Woman's walk and is scheduled for June 20th through 23rd. Right after that, there will be a Men's walk on August 1st through 4th.

Here are some frequently asked questions about the Walk to Emmaus:

Is the Walk to Emmaus for all Christians?

Yes! While the Walk to Emmaus program is operated under the umbrella of the United Methodist Church, all Christians are welcome to attend.

I am already active in my Church. What does the Walk to Emmaus offer me?

Walk participation allows you to be involved on a broader level, connecting with other Christians who are also building the community for Christ.

How much walking is involved?

The "Walk to Emmaus" refers to the Bible Gospel of Luke 24:13-35, when Jesus walks alongside two disciples following his resurrection. As a Pilgrim, you only walk from the conference facilities to the dormitory next door for example. Golf carts, drivers and other assistance are available if you have mobility issues.

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Are walks Coeducational?

No. Separate Walks to Emmaus are provided for men and women pilgrims.

Are Walks Activities Confidential?

Yes. Walk team members often share deeply personal aspects of their spiritual lives. Walk participants are expected to keep all information shared during the weekend confidential. To maintain this confidentiality, taking, sharing and posting photos and/or videos of Walk activities are not allowed.

Are there “Secrets” surrounding Walk Activities?

There are no secrets. There are wonderful surprises waiting for pilgrims willing to participate fully in the weekend. Walk speakers often share very personal and private details of their lives. Walk participants are asked to maintain the confidentiality of those shared life stories.

I'm certain there are more questions yet. Please come see me, Pastor Mel or anyone else that has already been on a Walk.

De Colores

Paul



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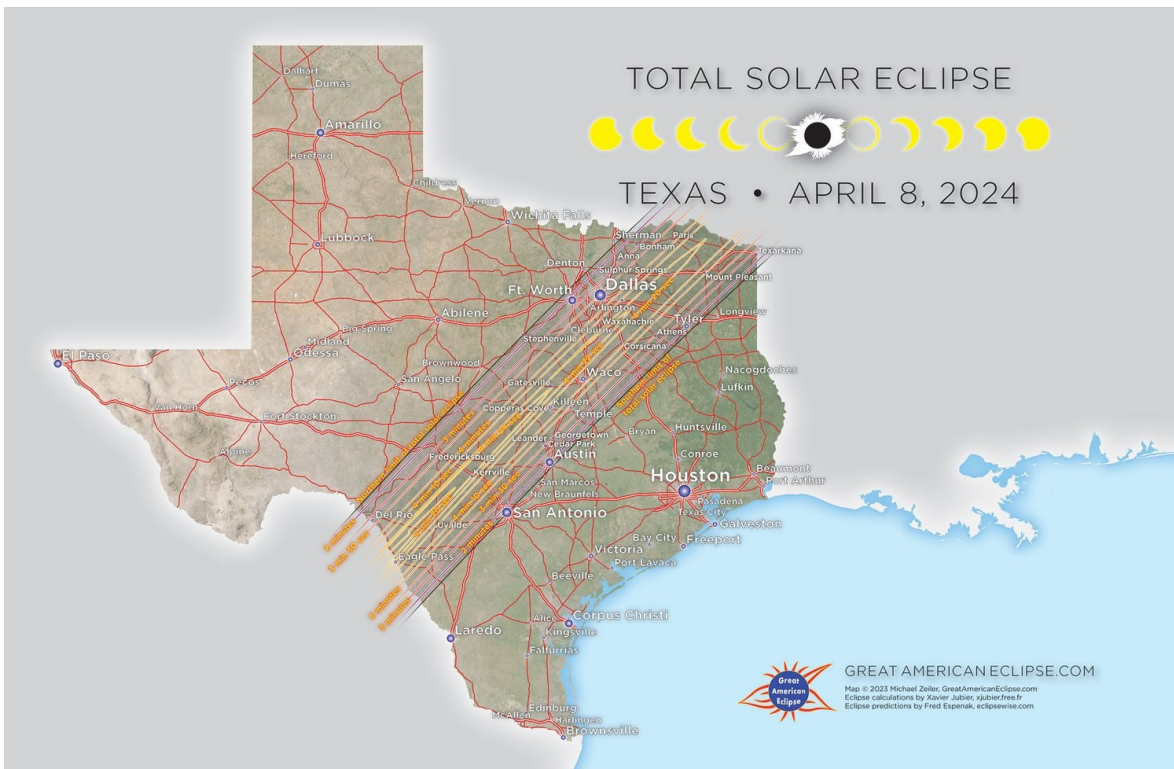
The Solar Eclipse in Texas on April 8th 2024:

Enters State: 12:10pm
Totality Begins: 1:27pm
Totality Ends: 1:49pm
Exits State: 3:06pm

Through Texas, the speed of the Moon's shadow will accelerate from about 1580 miles per hour to about 1850 miles per hour.

Here in the Coastal Bend, we will see a partial eclipse, 93.5%.

**DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE ECLIPSE
WITHOUT PROPER EYE PROTECTION!**



April 2024 Newsletter

Hi Church Friends,

Can you believe it is already April? The wildflowers are beautiful, and I love how all my plants are coming back to life.

The Diabetic Education and Support Group continues to meet at 12:00 noon on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Recreation Room. This month we will meet on April 9th and will be playing My Plate Nutrition bingo. We recently had nutritionist, DeAnn Hill, and MHM's pharmacist, Dr. Lopez speak to the group about the new diabetic medications and nutrition. Please feel free to join us any time for more healthy eating and nutrition information.

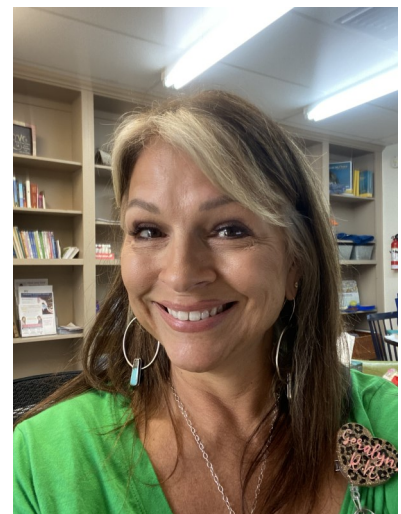
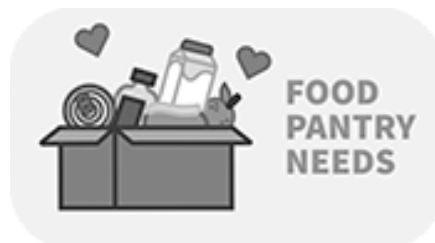
Also, our Seniorcise chair exercise class meets on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Maggie Allen leads chair yoga on Tuesdays. There are modifications for every level of ability. You can stand or sit to participate in the class. We had a great turn out and are having a lot of fun. I hope you can join us soon!

My practice continues to grow! I feel extremely blessed to be able to continue to bless others with your help! I had a total of 92 patient encounters in February and 78 encounters in March. I continue to see a great need for housing assistance, gas cards, and always food and clothing. I spend a great deal of time assisting clients with navigating their many needs focusing on mind, body, and spirit.

My emergency food pantry is running a little low on supplies. I could use pop top soups, canned meats, peanut butter, crackers, and bottled waters. I serve hot meals to unsheltered individuals several days per week. The members of the community who are unhoused come in and love to have a cup of coffee, a warm meal, a place to feel loved, and a prayer. My husband, Joseph, keeps the freezer stocked with stew, chili, spaghetti, etc. but with the increase of individuals and meals served, Frozen tv dinners could help with keeping this part of my ministry moving forward. I truly appreciate all the donations and support.

Update on patients that you guys have been helping me support. I have 3 patients, 2 of whom were unsheltered, and 1 who was very close to living on the street. They are all now working or receiving disability, and they all have housing. That is a God send for sure!

Also, MHM's Medical Legal Partnership has been instrumental in helping individuals with their disability cases and they were also very supportive of a young, single mother with 4 girls. She needed assistance preparing for her child support hearing case.



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February was an extremely busy month. I helped host an event at Good Samaritan's. Individuals who receive any type of government assistance can qualify for a free cell phone. We were able to distribute 5 cell phones and 2 of those individuals were veterans.

I also set up a booth showcasing the Wesley Nurse program, advertising the services I can assist with and the classes that I offer at the Aransas County Health Fair. That is always a fun event and a great way to connect with other organizations in the area.

We held Friends and Family CPR in February with 14 church members who were trained in compressions only CPR and AED training. We also received Narcan training which is used in case of an opioid overdose. Thank you all who attended and thank you to Patricia Arnold for offering this service to us for free of charge.

I spoke at the Aransas County Retired Teachers meeting about heart health and the WN program.

Then to finish the month I assisted with the Food Handler's course where 58 individuals received their certification. Methodist Healthcare Ministries also sponsored a purse bingo table for the Odyssey after school learning and care program. We always have a great time there!

Wooh! February was a busy month!

Don't forget we are serving at Community Table on April 2! It's a fun event and we get to connect with so many members of the community.

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. My door is always open and God bless you all!

Enjoy the pictures of a few of the recent events!

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as ransom for many" Mark 10:45 NLT



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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

Giving for His Glory

FEB 2024 FINANCE

Church

*Giving:	\$ 21,037.24
Castaway's:	\$ 10,000.00
Total Income:	\$ 31,037.24
Total Expenses	-\$ 60,556.69
Feb Net Income (Loss)	-\$ 29,519.45

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

First Learning Tree

Income/Tuition	\$ 99,078.82
Regular Expenses	-\$110,830.26
Grant Applied	\$ 11,777.44
Feb Net Income (Loss)	\$ 26.00

Church & FLT Combined through February

Year-to-date Net Income (Loss) -\$13,764.69

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!

February 2024

Sales Total	\$ 17,641.85
Admin Fee to Castaways	-\$ 2,573.82
Total deposit to FUMC	\$ 15,068.03

These funds were distributed as follows:

- \$ 10,000 to the FUMC General Fund
- \$ 3,013.61 to the Castaways Volunteers Mission Fund
- \$ 2,054.42 to the FUMC Capital Reserve Fund

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CASTAWAYS VOLUNTEERS!!

2023 BENEVOLENT BUCKET OFFERINGS

January	Wesley Health Nurse	2,939.00
February	Church Emergency Assistance Fund	471.00
March	UMCOR Relief Fund	
April	Habitat for Humanity	
May	Community Table	
June	Peace with Justice Sunday	
July	Undie Sunday	
August	Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans	
September	Prescription Assistance	
October	World Communion	
November	Community in Schools	
December	Children's Coalition	

DID YOU KNOW?

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

The official theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics."

Earth Day 1970



President Richard Nixon and First Lady Pat Nixon plant a tree on the White House South Lawn to recognize the first Earth Day.

The seeds that grew into the first Earth Day were planted by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. An ardent conservationist and former two-term governor of Wisconsin, Nelson had long sought ways to increase the potency of the environment as a political issue.

The extraordinary attention garnered by Rachel Carson's 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, the famous 1968 *Earthrise* NASA photograph of the Earth from the Moon, the saturation news coverage given to the Santa Barbara oil spill and the Cuyahoga River catching fire in early 1969 led Nelson to think the time was ripe for an environmental initiative.

As a result of interactions with his staff and with Fred Dutton, a prominent Democratic operative who had been Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign manager, Nelson became convinced that environmental teach-ins on college campuses could serve as such a vehicle.



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, FH 1

Children & Youth 9:15, Classroom next to Nursery

Mon: Disciple #1 with Maggie Allen, 10:00am Banner Room

Disciple #2 with Stephanie Clark, 1:00-3:00pm, Rec Room

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

Lively Bible Study, 4:30 pm, FH 2

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

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

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY MAY 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



**Which is prettier?
Kitty
Or
Flowers
Who could choose?**

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